



Golden Star Gazette



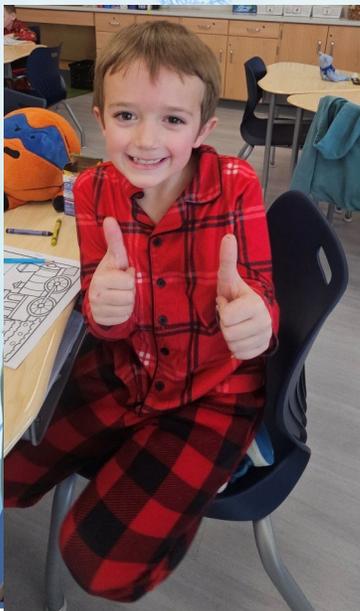
Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

psotero@horseheadsdistrict.com



Winter 2026



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Gardner Road Main Office Reminders:

Building Security - entering:

For the safety of all students and staff at Gardner Road, all doors are locked 24 hours a day. We do welcome your visit to our school. Please report to the main entrance and press the buzzer to your right near the main entrance. You will be prompted for your name and purpose of visit. Then the secretaries will buzz you in. Please remain in the lobby and someone will assist you.

Bringing Items in for your Child During School:

To provide the most consistent learning environment for your children, we do not interrupt the classrooms during the school day. We understand that in the rush to leave the house in the morning, things are forgotten such as homework, lunches, sneakers for gym, birthday/party goodies, etc. If your child needs something during the day, please bring the item into the office, labeled with your child's name and teacher. We will make sure they receive it.

Who to call first?

We as a school, we want to be able to answer any questions or concerns you have in a timely manner. The first contact should be with the staff member most directly involved. Please reach out first to your child's teacher on the following topics: classroom questions, curriculum, student discipline in the class, academic services, or questions about day-to-day things. If this question or concern remains unresolved, then please feel free to contact me as the building principal. I, as the building principal, would be the first point of contact on topics such as; school policy, residency, parent portal, scheduling, or suspension. If you have a question about transportation, please reach out to our transportation department at 739-6338.

Meeting with Teachers:

Please be aware that once the teachers have students in their class (8:35), they are not able to meet one-on-one with a parent regarding an individual concern. Please arrange a meeting with your child's teacher in advance – thank you!

Homework Requests:

If your child is out sick and you would like to request homework, please call the office before 9:00 a.m. It can either be sent home with a sibling, friend, neighbor, or parents can pick up homework after 3:30 in the office.

Gold “Go Home” Notes – Change of Plans:

Thank you for helping us assure students 'go-home' the correct way each day using our GOLD note pads. Knowing that changes occur during the day, we understand that you may need to change your child's 'go-home' plans during the day. We ask that parents call before 12:00 so that we can assure a smooth dismissal and keep all our students safe. Last minute changes delay bus dismissal for all students.

Online District Calendar

To see district & school events in 2025-2026, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm>, or go to the Calendar link in the main menu on the district website. The online calendar allows months to be printed. The district will not be printing a multi-page calendar this year. Our online calendar allows us to update events throughout the year.

Should you wish to exercise your right to make your request to: Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, Horseheads Central School District, Hibbard Road, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607)739-5601, ext. 4211.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patricia Sotero. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patricia Sotero at (607) 739 – 6347.



Dear Parent(s) / Caregiver(s),

Happy New Year to all of our Golden Star Families!

December was indeed a busy month filled with wonderful activities and specialty days. I want to thank our GR PTO for putting together one terrific Holiday Shoppe — it touched my heart to see so many smiles and the joy of

students bringing home something to share with their families. Our GR Staff went above and beyond to create priceless memories; it was simply amazing to witness each day. We had so much fun together and found new, creative ways to learn.

I look forward to celebrating January and February with you as we continue to grow in our learning and as individuals. At GR, we have so much to be proud of every day, and it is a personal joy for me to be part of this dynamic community.

Please visit our Gardner Road Facebook page for many more pictures capturing our events — our newsletter would be 40 pages long if we included them all!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.



In Your Service,

Patti Sotero, Principal

Gardner Road Elementary Contact Information

541 Gardner Road
Horseheads, NY 14845

Patricia Sotero, Principal
Lisa Buchanan, Secretary

Cassie Wright, Attend Clerk

Barb Hinman, Nurse, RN

Robin Plummer, Nurse, LPN

Newsletter in Color: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHGR.cfm>

www.horseheadsdistrict.com

(607) - 739-6347

Shannon Radford, President
Jessica Carswell, Vice President

Nikki Malnoske, Secretary

Autumn Osburn, Treasurer



Gardner Road School Hours
8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:40 AM
Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Elementary Lunches (K-6)

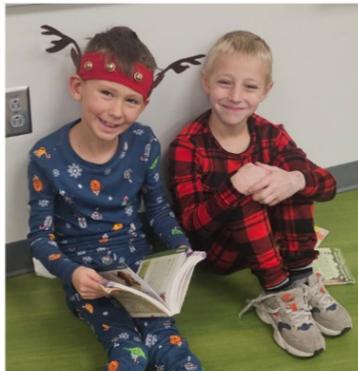


DECEMBER 16, 2025



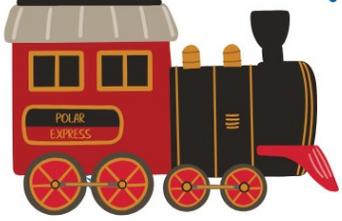
PAJAMA

DAY





Polar Express Day!

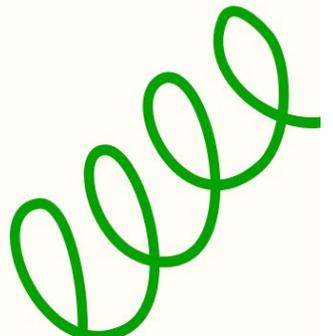
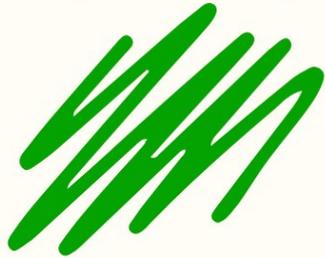


Red & Green Day





ELVES LOVE GR
TOO





WINTER AT GR





SPELLING BEE



COMPETITION

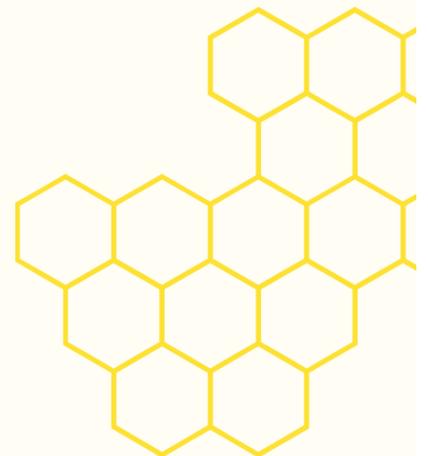
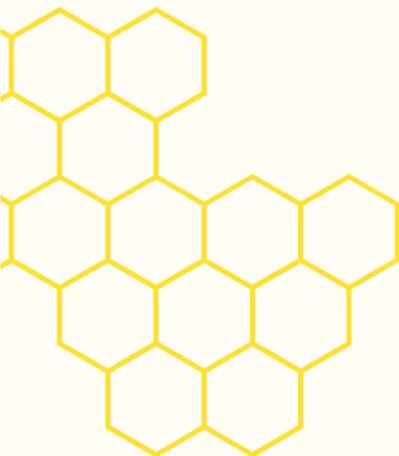
Gardner Road Elementary School is excited to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee again this year! The top performing participants will be invited to the school-wide spelling bee. The top two participants at the school-wide spelling bee will move onto the regional spelling bee in March in Corning. The winner of the regional bee will participate in the National Scripps Spelling Bee.



**JANUARY
30TH**

**DOORS OPEN
AT 4:45.**

**BEE STARTS
AT 5:00 PM**



Fairness

- **Treat people the way you want to be treated**
- **Think about how your actions will affect others**
- **Listen to people with an open mind**
- **Take turns and play by the rules**
- **Tell the truth**



 **Character Matters**
Horseheads Central School District

**JOIN US FOR OUR
PTO MTG
TUES., Jan. 6th
6:00 - GR LIBRARY**



Golden Star Buddies Reminder:

Our school believes all students should follow the golden rule. However, we know that disagreements occur and it is our job to help students through it. We use the following definitions to determine the difference between conflicts and bullying. If any student is involved or sees either, please let a Gardner Road staff member know and they will help you!

CONFLICT:

- * occurs in the heat of a moment
- * is often a difference of opinion
- * two or more students are upset
- * does not happen continue
- * students want a mutual solution

BULLYING:

- * intent to cause harm
- * imbalance of power
- * repetition - bullies often target the same people
- * targeted towards a specific individual

GET READY FOR FUN

BINGO NIGHT

Join us in the Gardner Road Cafeteria for a great
FREE family event!



JANUARY 16, 2026

AT 6:00PM - 7:00PM

PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE CAFETERIA DOORS

HOSTED BY THE GARDNER ROAD PTO

Family Bowling Night

Friday, February 6, 2026

JOIN US FOR
BOWLING IN THE
HALLS OF GARDNER
ROAD. MASTER THE
ART OF KEEPING
SCORE & ENJOY AN
EVENING WITH THE
FAMILY.

PLEASE ENTER
THROUGH THE FRONT
DOORS. "LANES" WILL
BE SET UP AROUND
THE SCHOOL.



Last names
starting with A-L
5:45-6:30pm

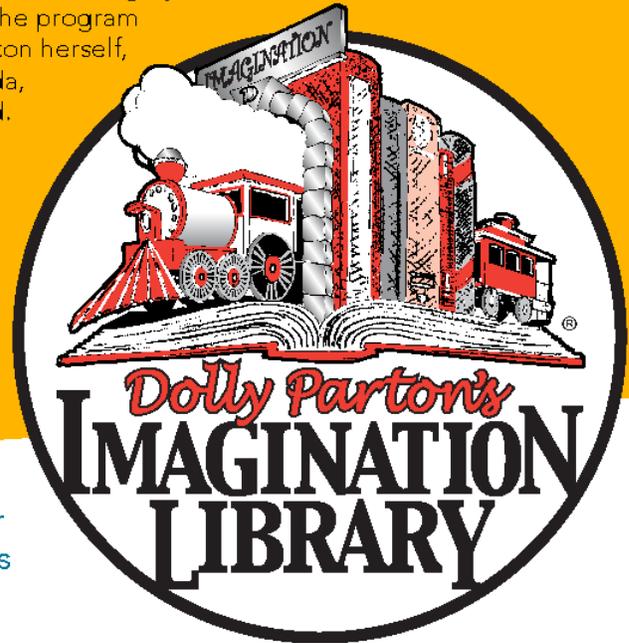
Last names
starting with M-Z
6:30-7:15 pm

Parents & Caregivers

Setting Up Children for Future Success

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five. The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself, and local Program Partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.



As a parent or caregiver, reading with your child is one of the most important activities you can engage in to help set them up for success.

Dolly believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything and be anything. Through her Imagination Library, Dolly wants to ensure every child can feel the magic that books create.

Register your child today and begin receiving one free, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month for your child, birth to age five. These books are personalized with your child's name and mailed directly to your home to create a one-of-kind gifting experience.

“

“The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.”

- National Commission on Reading



Scan Me

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[ImaginationLibrary.com](https://www.imaginationlibrary.com)

Engaging Parents & Caregivers

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library encourages good reading habits for parents, caregivers and their children. When your child receives their Imagination Library books, we ask you to do the following:

Snuggle, ask questions, notice letters, make sounds, have fun!



1

Begin reading with your child immediately

2

Read to your child at least 5 days per week

3

Read books multiple times



Each year, our esteemed Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, a specially selected panel of early childhood literacy experts, is responsible for reviewing hundreds of potential titles for inclusion in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

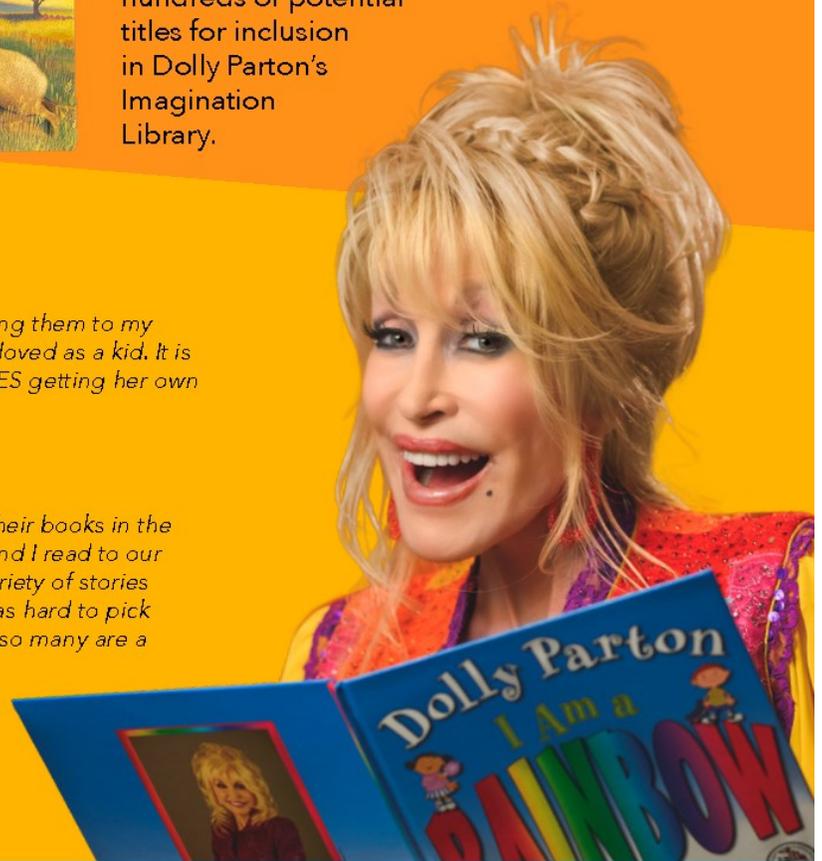
“

Thank you so much for the books! I love reading them to my daughter, some I had never read, and some I loved as a kid. It is an awesome program and my 3 year old LOVES getting her own special mail every month.

- Parent

My kids absolutely love getting their books in the mail every month! My husband and I read to our kids every night and enjoy the variety of stories we get to introduce them to. It was hard to pick just 3 that topped our lists, since so many are a huge hit in our house. Awesome program!!!!

- Parent





Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601 • Fax (607) 795-2405
www.horsehead9district.com

12/11/25 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Horseheads Contact: Hailea Potter, Community Information Specialist/(607) 739-5601, x4295

HORSEHEADS CSD PARTNERS WITH UNITED WAY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER TO PROMOTE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Partnership Aims to Expand Early Literacy Opportunities for Local Families

Horseheads Central School District and United Way of the Southern Tier have teamed up to grow enrollment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that provides free books to children from birth to age five.

Reading with your child is one of the most important early activities for setting them up for lifelong success. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, sponsored locally by United Way of the Southern Tier, delivers an age-appropriate book each month, addressed to the child, creating excitement and helping children develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading. All books are provided at no cost to families.

"Early literacy is foundational to everything we do," said Thomas J. Douglas, superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library strengthen that foundation by giving our youngest learners access to books and the opportunity to build strong reading habits from the very beginning."

"At Horseheads Central School District, we are committed to ensuring that every child not only learns to read but also discovers the joy of reading. Our dedicated staff focuses on building word recognition and language comprehension, yet we recognize that developing strong reading skills is a shared responsibility with families and the community," said Anthony Gill, assistant superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Through our partnership with the United Way of the Southern Tier, we are able to support this shared goal. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library helps put books into the hands of pre-school children and their families, fostering a love of reading at home. We are grateful to the United Way for supporting this important work."

Any child under age 5 in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, or Yates counties can enroll, regardless of family income. More than half of all young children in the local community receive these books each month.

“In the past year, more than 600 children under age 5 living in the Horseheads District received books through this valuable program,” said Maleaha Smith, president and CEO of United Way of the Southern Tier. “Working with the Pre-K classrooms to reach families who have not yet enrolled their children will advance our shared vision of empowering the next generation of young learners.” United Way’s chapter of the Imagination Library has reached more than 11,500 local children since it began in Chemung and Steuben counties in 2018. Another 500 children have been served in Schuyler and Yates counties with the rollout of the Imagination Library in those counties in 2024. To register a child for free books or check availability in your area, visit the Imagination Library website. For more information about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, email United Way of the Southern Tier or call 607-936-3753.



Information From the Health Office



Symptoms for Exclusion: When Students Need to Go Home Sick

Conditions Requiring Temporary Exclusion:

- Fever of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher within 24 hours
- Lethargy (excessive sleepiness) preventing the student from participating in class
- Difficulty breathing or excessive disruptive cough
- Diarrhea within 24 hours
- Vomiting within 24 hours
- Rash with fever or behavior changes or quickly spreading rash
- Open skin sores with/without drainage or crusting that cannot be covered with a bandage or clothing
- Sudden onset of pain that is not resolving
- Abdominal pain that is not resolving or worsening
- Blood or pus drainage from the ear
- Strep throat until treated with antibiotics for 12 hours
- Mouth sores causing drooling the student cannot control
- Other conditions as determined by nursing assessment!

Information about Emergency School Closings & Delays:

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and/or freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run & schools will open 2 hours later than normal.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages and Twitter, and the following local television and radio stations and their affiliates:

Radio: WNKI 106.1, WPGI 100.9, Magic FM 92.7/97.7, WGMM 98.7, WLVI 94.3, WELM 1410

TV: WENY, WETM, Time Warner Cable News

These television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites. Each of our schools and the district have Facebook pages. To see school closings/delays and other information on your news feed, "like" the page(s). On Twitter, follow us at @HhdsSchools.

Additionally, WETM TV has an automated system to e-mail and/or text closings and delays to those who have signed up for the service. Parents may sign up at the following link: <http://www.mytwintiers.com/sms>. Scroll down to "School and Business Closing Alerts." Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

Please note that if schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs. Please also note that when school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally, on school delays, there is no breakfast served.

If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and confusing than attempting to send students home early.

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, nurses, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants.

For information, please visit: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211
e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Kids World: SNOW DELAYS/SNOW DAYS

The YWCA **does not** provide Kids World on **AM snow delays or snow days.**

If the Horseheads Central School District calls for a **Two-Hour Delay** due to early morning weather conditions, there will be NO *morning* Kids World program held at the school.

No program is available at the YWCA when there is a two-hour delay or a snow day. Children are to report to school two hours from their original opening time on snow delays.

Cancellations of ALL After-School Activities:

When a school district cancels all after-school/evening activities due to weather conditions, the Kids World program will still be held at your child's school as scheduled until 6:00 PM. The School will dismiss your child to the Kids World Program. In the event the weather becomes worse, the Kids World Site Supervisor will notify parents and ask if their child can be picked up earlier.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

School is your first and most important job. You're learning about more than math and reading. You're learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you grow up and get a job, you'll know how to show up for work on time every day.

When you're not here, we notice because we care, and we want you to be successful.

A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 25 percent less likely to ever enroll in college.

If you think missing a day here or there won't matter, think again. By missing just one day every two weeks, you would be on track to miss 10 percent of the school year – and that can happen before you know it.

School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it's tempting to stay home but missing a day only makes that worse.

We understand that you will get sick sometimes and need to stay home. The important thing is to get to school as often as possible to help stay on track with your learning.

THE JANUARY - FAIRNESS 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 29 NO SCHOOL	Dec. 30 NO SCHOOL	Dec. 31 NO SCHOOL	1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL
5 <i>DAY 4</i>	6 <i>DAY 1</i>	7 <i>DAY 2</i>	8 <i>DAY 3</i>	9 <i>DAY 4</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 GR Spirit Day Wear Blue/Gold
12 <i>DAY 1</i> KID TALK	13 <i>DAY 2</i> Ainsweb Benchmarking	14 <i>DAY 3</i> Candid/Group Photo Day including All Staff Photo	15 <i>DAY 4</i> BOE Mtg 6:00 at IS End of Marking Period	16 <i>DAY 1</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO 6—7:00 CAFETERIA TOWN HALL MTG Faculty Mtg Library 7:30
19 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <u>MLK Jr. Day</u>	20 <i>DAY 2</i>	21 <i>DAY 3</i> ALL UST MTGS K-4	22 <i>DAY 4</i>	23 <i>DAY 1</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 National Compliment Day (Jan. 24th)
26 <i>DAY 2</i> Full Day off for only 7-12	27 <i>DAY 3</i> CIM K - 2 Mtgs Report Cards go home (Pre K—6)	28 <i>DAY 4</i> CIM 3 - 4 Mtgs	29 <i>DAY 1</i>	30 <i>DAY 2</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 Spelling Script Bee 5:00— Cafeteria Rev Dec. 22, 2025

FEbruary - TRUSTWORTHINESS

2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <i>DAY 3</i>	3 <i>DAY 4</i> GR PTO Mtg 6:00 Library	4 <i>DAY 1</i>	5 <i>DAY 2</i> Kindergarten Screening 10:00—3:00 GR Main Office Capital Construction BOE Tour 8-12	6 <i>DAY 3</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 GR Spirit Day Wear Blue/Gold PTO FAMILY FUN NIGHT Bowling 6—6:45 & 6:45 - 7:30 Cafeteria
9 <i>DAY 4</i> KID TALK	10 <i>DAY 1</i> March CIM Referral Deadline CIM K - 2 Mtgs	11 <i>DAY 2</i> CIM 3-4 Mtgs	12 <i>DAY 3</i> BOE Mtg 6:00 at HS Aud	13 <i>DAY 4</i> School Store 8:20—8:50 Celebrating National SRO Day (Jan. 15) TOWN HALL MTG Faculty Mtg Library 7:30
16 NO SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S DAY H-13	17 NO SCHOOL February Recess <u>Lunar New Year</u>	18 NO SCHOOL February Recess	19 NO SCHOOL February Recess	20 NO SCHOOL February Recess
23 <i>DAY 1</i>	24 <i>DAY 2</i>	25 <i>DAY 3</i>	26 <i>DAY 4</i> <i>READ FOR THE RECORD</i> <i>Marcus Grow by Marcus</i> <i>Bridgewater</i>	27 <i>DAY 1</i> School Store 8:20—8:50