

THE CHEETAH CHATTER

W.C. Giese School



September 2017

Volume 52

Number 1

Giese Cheetah Families,

To our returning families, welcome back! To our new families, welcome to Giese Elementary! The Staff and I are extremely excited to get the year started and hit the ground running. There are some very exciting things getting ready to happen this year!

Let me begin by first introducing myself. My name is Tom Hyland and I am the Directing Principal for Giese. This is my 4th year at Giese and I have truly enjoy the relationships that I have made with all of you. I look forward to serving you and your children.

This year we will continue to use Infinite Campus. This system will allow you to have access to all sorts of information relating to your child(ren). It is crucial that we have to most accurate and up to date information regarding your child. If you are new to Giese or Racine Unified School District, the first step of this process is stopping by the office to pick up your GU-Id number (please bring in a photo ID as proof for security reasons)

Like last year, we are focusing on increasing your child's reading abilities. Our first effort will focus on improving of your child's *Independent Reading Time*. This year, all Giese students will be assessed at the beginning of the year to determine their Independent Reading Level per the Fountas and Pinnell Leveling System. Your child's level will come in the form of a letter (A-Z). When your child receives their letter, they will then choose books to independently read at that level. This will ensure that the books they are reading at school and home are books that they can read successfully and comprehend. Your child will then be assessed around January and once again in June. The goal is to see every child increase their Independent Reading Level and continue on the journey to becoming life-long readers. (A chart titled *Fountas and Pinnell Text Level Ladder of Progress* has been attached to this newsletter to better explain what your child's letter will mean.). Please read with your child 20 minutes a night. This will make them better readers.

We are also excited to roll out our new Reading Curriculum. This curriculum is based on using the Reader's Workshop model. Like ORIGO math, it is designed to have students work in small independent and whole classroom group. The lessons can be differentiated to have students work at a higher pace as well as giving reinforcement skills to solidify what they may need assistance on.

We need your help this year and aren't afraid to ask for it. Please consider filling out a WINGS approval form and sending it back to school with your child. Once the district approves you, please let your child's teacher know that you are interested in helping us out. Past volunteers have helped create bulletin boards, copied papers for teachers, tutored students in literacy and math, and helped assist teachers with Reading and Math Centers.

We are looking to rebuild our PTA. In the past, Joel Schroeder was our President and he did an amazing job. We are looking for a new President to work with our staff, students and families to help Giese grow. If you are interested, please see me,

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, please do not utilize the Giese Staff Parking Lot as a loading/unloading zone with your child. It can be very dangerous, especially for the younger children. Please note the new "DO NOT ENTER" signs on the west end of the Parking lot. This is an "EXIT ONLY" now. You must use the driveway on the east end to enter the parking lot for Giese School. Also, please do not park in the front turnaround as the busses and daycare vans need this space to safely load and unload their passengers. I thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Attendance is such a critical part of your child's success. In order for us to do our job, we need your children at school on time. The state looks at our attendance and tardies. We want to increase our student's attendance rate. Please make every effort to have your child here on time every day. Our breakfast program begins at 7:30 and the school day starts at 8:00. If you know that your child will be late or absent, please call the school at 664-8255 and let us know. Our philosophy at Giese is "EVERY CHILD. EVERY MINUTE. EVERY DAY!!!" We do need your help with this so we all can be successful.



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I hope that your child's 2017-2018 school year is the best one yet. Should you have any concerns or questions, I can be contacted at 664-8252 or via email at thomas.hyland@rusd.org. I look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year!

The following is an important message from Racine Unified School District

RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Under AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), all primary and secondary schools are required to develop and implement a plan for managing all building materials which contain asbestos. Included in the AHERA Act is the requirement to annually notify all workers and building occupants (or their guardians) of asbestos-related activities.

Beginning in 1988, all buildings owned, leased, or "under the control of" the School District were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors, with building material samples analyzed by an independent laboratory. Based on the inspection, the School District prepared and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for managing the asbestos.

Where the asbestos-containing materials are found, the District has in place an Operations and Maintenance program.

The District has accomplished the following compliance mandates regarding the administration of asbestos in school buildings:

- Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. (EMC) was contracted to be the school's consultant for asbestos for the school year.
- The District is continuing with the Operations and Maintenance Program as designed for the School District. This ensures that all asbestos materials are kept in good condition in good condition.
- Periodic "surveillance" in each area containing asbestos has been completed every six months. Also, the buildings are re-inspected by an accredited inspector every three years.
- **In the past year the District did not conduct any asbestos removal activities in your child's school.**

All outside contractors shall contact the lead maintenance person before commencing work. Our goal at the District is to be in full compliance with asbestos regulations.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for review by contacting the District Office. Questions related to this plan or any other asbestos concerns should be directed to the District's Designated Person, Michael R. Broll at 262-631-7106.

Respectfully,

Thomas Hyland
Directing Principal - Giese Elementary

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY CARD INFORMATION

It is very important that each and every Giese Family update their Parent Portal account on the rusd.org website. We no longer have paper copies of emergency numbers, and all information must be entered online.

We need emergency contact numbers of who we can get ahold of you if your child is ill or not picked up after school at the end of the day. Please help us make sure that we have numbers for someone to contact in case of emergency. If you have not set up your Parent Portal yet, you must first pick up your child's activation code from the office in order to set this account up on the Parent Portal. Please bring a photo ID to school to pick up this code. If you do not have computer access at home, please come to school and we can help you get online here. **PLEASE DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

NEW FEE SCHEDULE FOR CONSUMABLE FEES

Consumable Materials & Supplies: 4K **\$22.00**

Consumable Materials & Supplies: K-5 **\$40.00**

In order to have your fees waived, you must fill out the "Sharing information with other programs" form enclosed in the free lunch application.

EARLY RELEASE DATES for 2017-2018

2 Hour Early Release Dates for all schools

Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, May 18

3 Hour Early Releases for Elementary ONLY

Sept. 22, Nov. 10, Feb. 2, March 9, April 20

No School for Elementary Schools ONLY

Sept. 29, March 2



2017-2018 School Meal Information

Community Eligibility Provision Elementary Schools Dr. Jones, Fratt, Giese, Goodland, Janes, Jerstad-Agerholm, Johnson, Julian Thomas, Knapp, Mitchell, North Park, REEC, Roosevelt, Schulte, Wadewitz and West Ridge

Your child's school will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2017-2018 school year. Breakfast and lunch will be available to ALL children at no cost regardless of lunch status.

Students are required to take a hot pack, cold pack and fluid milk to have a complete lunch. If a child does not have all required components of the meal he/she will be asked to pay the a la carte prices for his/her items. Extra cartons of milk and juice are \$.45. Extra hot packs are \$1.70 and extra cold packs are \$1.10. A la carte items must be paid for regardless of lunch status. Children who bring a cold lunch may still purchase a la carte drinks at the above prices. A la carte items cannot be purchased if your child is in the negative or does not have money on their account.

Breakfast is offered at all CEP elementary schools. Please call your child's school for serving times. Breakfast includes whole grain cereal, muffin, breakfast bar, yogurt, string cheese, or similar item accompanied with whole grain graham crackers, choice of hormone-free skim milk and 100% fruit juice. Students need to take at least three (3) different items of the four (4) offered items to have a complete meal.

All lunch menus are available online at www.rusd.org or in the main office of your child's school. Your child's ending lunch balance from 2016-2017, whether positive or negative, will roll over to the 2017-2018 school year. Any negative balances from previous school years must still be paid.

Lunch Payments:

For a la carte items you may send payment in three ways: cash, check, or online payment. When sending your child with cash or check, **please make sure the payment is in an envelope with the child's name and room number clearly marked.** Checks can be made payable to Racine Unified School District. Teachers will collect money in the morning and all money will be sent to the kitchen for deposit. To pay online with RevTrak, go to our District website and on the upper right-hand side, select Quicklinks then Online Payments. You will need to have your student's ID number. Payments made before 8:30 a.m. will be credited to your child's account on that day and payments made after 8:30 a.m. will be credited the following day. Please note that payment online and by check are the most secure form of payment. Negative balance letters will be sent home with elementary school students twice a week.

Please call or email the food service office for information regarding lunch money refunds.

Food Allergies:

If your child has dietary restrictions or food allergies, please contact the District dietitian at 262-664-8701 or dietitian@rusd.org. Proper paperwork will need to be signed by a physician and on file with the dietitian before accommodations are made.

Lunch Account Balance Emails:

Balance Alert Emails can now be sent directly to your home or work email to notify you when your child's account is getting low or is in the negative. Emails will be sent out every three days. Please email the Food Service Department at food.service@rusd.org to sign up for these alerts and include your student(s) first and last names and the school they attend. If your email is already on file with the Food Service software, you will continue to receive the balance emails.

2017-2018 Free and Reduced Meal Applications:

Even though breakfast and lunch is served at no cost to all students, Free or Reduced Meal Applications should still be submitted for children attending a CEP school. If you have children in non-CEP buildings you should include your CEP students on the lunch application. Book Rental fees will only be waived for families complete the Sharing Information with Other Programs page.

Please contact the Food Service Department at 262-631-7082 or food.service@rusd.org with any questions.

2017-18 School Calendar

S = # Student Days, T = # Teacher Days

| Month | mon | tues | wed | thur | fri | | S | T | S | T | S | T |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | EL | EL | MS | MS | HS | HS |
| August & September 2017 | 21/NT 28/PL 4/LD 11 18 25 | 22/NT 29/RT 5 12 19 26 | 23/NT 30/RT 6 13 20 27 | 24/NT 31/ID 7 14 21 28 | 25 1 8 15 22 29 | August 21,22,23,24 - New Teachers Report August 23,24 – RNs Report August 28 – Professional Learning August 29,30 – Returning Teachers Report August 30 – Open House (Elementary, K-8) August 31 – Institute Day September 4 – Labor Day September 5 – First Day of School September 26 – Open House (Middle Schools) | 19 | 24 | 19 | 24 | 19 | 24 |
| October | 2 9 16 23 30 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 4 11 18 25 | 5 12 19 26/PL 27/PL | 6 13 20 27/PL | October 10 – Open House (High Schools) October 26, 27 – Professional Learning (no school students) | 20 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 22 |
| November | | | 1 8 15 22 29 | 2 9 16 23/PL 30 | 3 10 17 24/PL | November 2 – P/T Conf (full day elem ONLY; 2 hr. early release middle and high school) November 3 – P/T Conf (no school students) November 23,24 – Thanksgiving Recess November 10 – End of 1 st Quarter | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| December | 4 11 18 25/HR | 5 12 19 26/HR | 6 13 20 27/HR | 7 14 21 28/HR | 8 15 22/HR 29/HR | December 22 - January 2 - Holiday Recess | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| January 2018 | 1/HR 8 15/MLK 22 29 | 2/HR 9 16 23 30 | 3 10 17 24 31 | 4 11 18 25 26 | 5 12 19 26 | January 15 – Martin Luther King January 26 – End of 1 st Semester | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 |
| February | 5 12 19/WB 26 | 6 13 20 27 | 7 14 21 28 | 8 15 22 29 | 9 16 23 | February 19 – Winter Break | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| March | 5 12 19 26 | 6 13 20 27 | 7 14 21 28 | 8 15 22 29 | 9 16 23 30/SR | March 28 – P/T Conf (full day elem ONLY; 2 hr. early release middle and high school) March 29 – P/T Conf (no school students) March 29 – End of 3 rd Quarter | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| April | 2/SR 9 16 23 30 | 3/SR 10 17 24 | 4/SR 11 18 25 | 5/SR 12 19 26 | 6/SR 13 20 27 | March 30-April 6 – Spring Recess | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| May | 7 14 21 28/MD | 8 15 22 29 | 9 16 23 30 | 10 17 24 31 | 11 18 25 | May 28 - Memorial Day | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| June | 4 11 18 25 | 5 12 19 26 | 6 13/RD 20 27 | 7 14 21 28 | 8 15 22 29 | June 12 - Last Day of School (*may be adjusted for inclement weather) (*may be adjusted if District exceeds required DPI instructional minutes) June 13 – Records Day June 12 - End of 2 nd Semester | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Totals | | | | | | | 180 | 188 | 180 | 188 | 180 | 188 |

School Recess

All Schools Professional Learning – full day

Elementary ONLY Professional Learning – full day

All Schools Professional Learning – 2 hour early release

Elementary ONLY Professional Learning – 3 hour early release

Quarters:

1 – 9/5 to 11/10 (47)

2 – 11/13 to 1/26 (44)

3 – 1/29 to 3/29 (43)

4 – 4/9 to 6/12 (46)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS.....It is very important to notify the office on our attendance phone number at **664-8255** if your child is going to be absent from school. If you do not notify us of your child's absence, we are obligated to call your home.

Wisconsin law allows for **up to 10 days** in a school year to be excused. Beyond this number of absences, medical excuses for absences must be provided and approved.

If your child has a medical reason for an extended absence, written documentation from a doctor is required for the absence to be excused. Any visit to a doctor, dentist, ER, or other health provider may be excused if written documentation is provided to the attendance office. These absences will not be counted toward the 10 days allowed in a school year.

The school day begins promptly at **8:00**. Students who arrive after 8:00 are considered tardy. Please help us begin our school days on time and without disruption from students who arrive late.

If your child is going to be later and needs a hot lunch, please call the main office line at 664-8250 before 8:50 a.m. to order one. Any address and/or phone number changes need to be made on the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus.

Thank you for your help and cooperation with these matters. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Podskarbi, School Social Worker, at 664-8262.

HELP WANTED

Arbor Management, the food service provider for Racine Unified, is looking for very special associates. We are looking for the kind of people who are interested in part time hours on the days that schools are in session and who like to be around children. Shifts vary from 3 to 6 hours per day between 5am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. If interested, please complete an application between 9am and 3pm at the Arbor office located at 3109 Mt Pleasant St., Bldg. 2 Door B. We look forward to meeting you.

EOE M/F/D/V



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

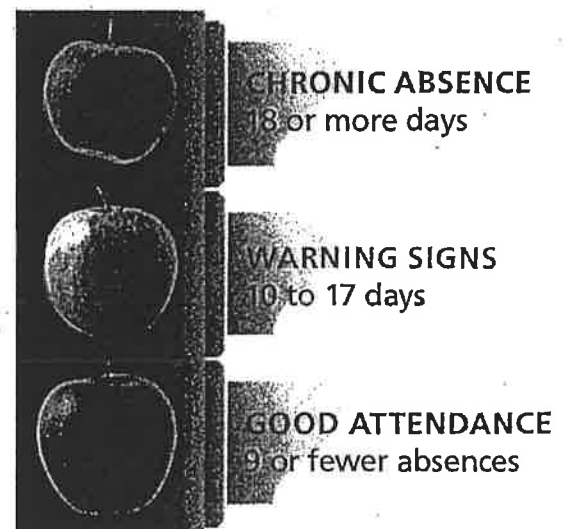
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



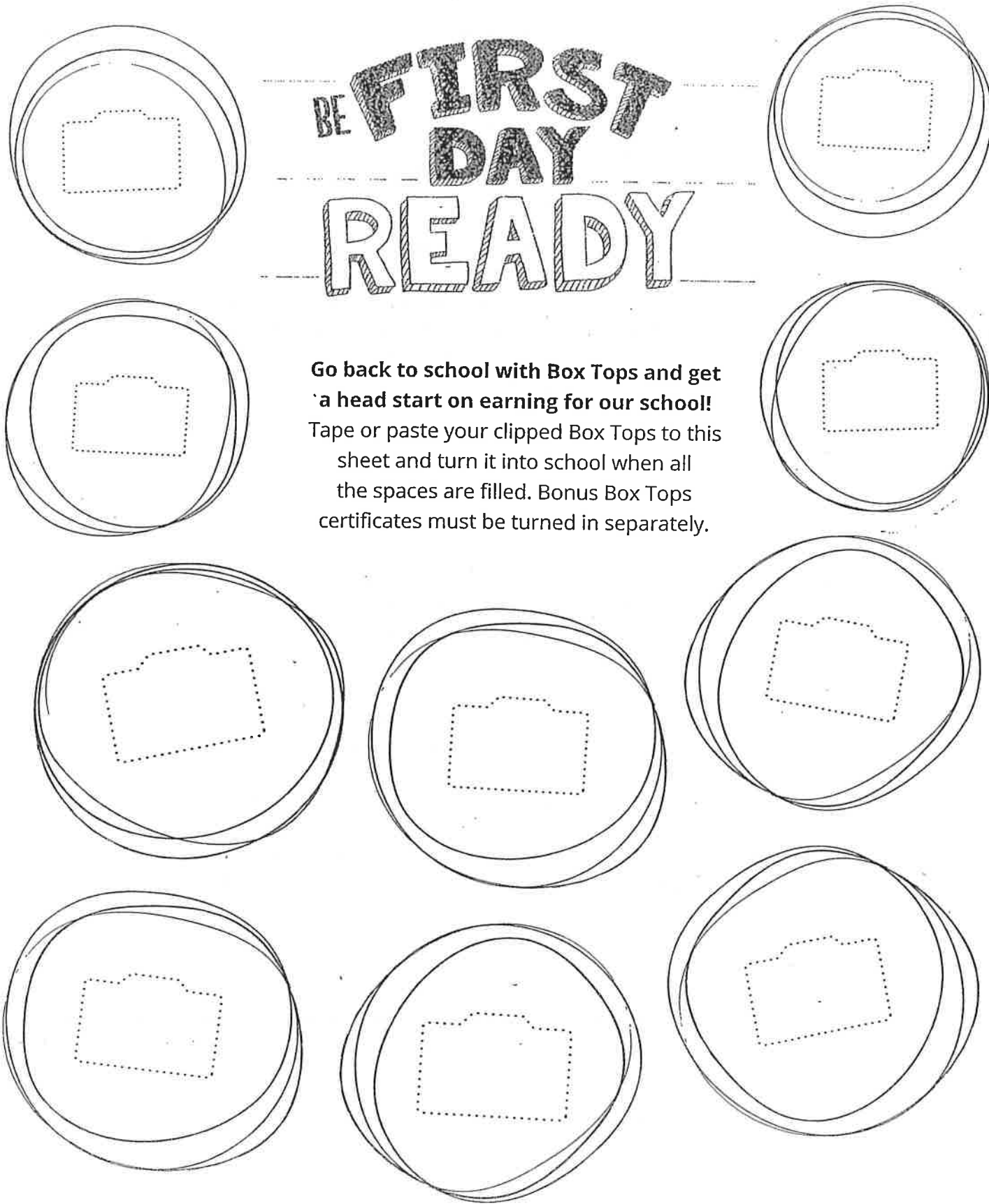
Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



BE FIRST DAY READY

Go back to school with Box Tops and get a head start on earning for our school!

Tape or paste your clipped Box Tops to this sheet and turn it into school when all the spaces are filled. Bonus Box Tops certificates must be turned in separately.



Thank you for helping! Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for our school.
To learn more about Box Tops for Education, go to BTFF.com.

September 2017



Racine Unified Elementary Lunch Menu



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| LABOR DAY | National Cheese Pizza Day | | | |
| 4 Cheese Lasagna Roll with Spaghett Sauce Garlic Toast Celery Sticks Diced Pears | 5 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Baked Beans Baby Carrots Apple Half | 6 French Toast Stix with Turkey Sausage Patty Hash Brown Square Wango Mango Juice Sliced Orange | 7 Hot Turkey & Cheese on Pretzel Bun Cherry Tomatoes Celery Sticks Applesauce | 8 Chicken Drumstick Whipped Potatoes Dinner Roll Baby Carrots Diced Peaches |
| 11 Cheese Lasagna Roll with Spaghett Sauce Garlic Toast Celery Sticks Diced Pears | 12 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Baked Beans Baby Carrots Apple Half | 13 Mac N' Cheese Glazed Carrots Fresh Broccoli Fruit Medley Goldfish Crackers | 14 Eat a Hoagie Day Meatball Hoagie* Hot Peas Spaghetti Sauce 100% Fruit Juice | 15 2-HOUR EARLY Muffin Yogurt Power Pack |
| 18 Beef Burrito* Hot Corn Salsa Cucumber Slices 100% Fruit Juice | 19 Cheese Ravioli with Spaghett Sauce Garlic Toast Fresh Cauliflower Mixed Fruit | 20 Pancakes with Turkey Sausage Patty Hash Brown Square Dragon Punch Juice Vegetable Juice Sliced Orange | 21 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Baby Carrots Petite Banana Imit! | 22 3-HOUR EARLY Sunbutter PBJ 100% Apple Juice Celery Sticks Baby Carrots |
| 25 Salisbury Steak* Whipped Potatoes Dinner Roll Baby Carrots Diced Peaches | 26 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Celery Sticks Mixed Fruit | 27 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Baby Carrots Fresh Cauliflower Pineapple | 28 Beef Tacos* Corn Romaine Apple Half | 29 NO SCHOOL |

This institute is an equal opportunity provider.

This menu follows USDA National School Lunch Program guidelines.


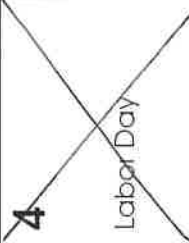


Lunch \$2.65
 (Milk included with meal)
Milk 45¢
 Offered Daily:
 Skim White, Skim Chocolate
 Elementary Menus are pork and nut free.
 *Indicates beef ingredients.

Questions?
 Call Aubor Management, Inc.
 262-664-8700
 dietitian@rusd.org
 Menu changes may be necessary.
 Notice will be given when possible.
 A comprehensive Nutrition
 & Allergy Guide is available on
 the Unified website.



September 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|----------|
| | | | | | 1  | 2 |
| 3 | 4  Labor Day | 5 1st day of School A-DAY | 6 4K 1st day B-DAY | 7 C-DAY | 8 A-DAY | 9 |
| 10 | 11 B-DAY | 12 C-DAY | 13 A-DAY | 14 Grade 5 to Planetarium 9:30-11:30 B-DAY | 15 2 hr. Early Release School dismissed at 12:45 p.m. C-DAY | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Grade 4 to Racine Watershed 8:45-11:00 A-DAY | 19 B-DAY | 20 C-DAY | 21 A-DAY | 22 3 hr. Early Release School dismissed at 11:45 B-Day | 23 |
| 24 | 25 C-DAY | 26 A-DAY | 27 B-DAY | 28 C-DAY | 29 NO SCHOOL Staff Development | 30 |
| | | | | | | |