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SEPTEMBER 2018 BLUE SAGE ELEMENTARY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September

- 3 No school – Labor Day
- 4 PTO Meeting at 6:30p.m.
- 6 Lunch with the Principal-Bravo Bears
- 12 Safety Day—Practice Emergency Response Protocols
- 12 Mid-Quarter Report Sent Home
- 14 1st Grade Field Trip--Arbor Day Farms (Nebraska City)
- 17 No school – Teacher In-Service
- 19 Cub Circles
- 21 Blue Sage Bash 5:00-8:00PM
- 25 Chipotle Family Dinner Night 5-8
- 26-27 Outdoor Education (5th Grade Students)

Subscribe to both the Blue Sage online calendar and the Elkhorn District calendar to stay informed about important calendar events.
<https://www.elkhornweb.org/bluesage/calendar/>

Spirit Days

Every Friday is a spirit day at Blue Sage. Wear your Blue Sage gear or our school colors (blue and green) to show your BEAR pride!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a great start to the 2018-2019 school year! Your children did an outstanding job during the first few weeks of school. As I visit classrooms and walk through the building, it's energizing to see staff and students focused on learning each day.

I've enjoyed getting to know the Blue Sage students, and I'm looking forward to getting to know the Blue Sage families this coming year. I'm so grateful that Blue Sage will now be part of my story. I started my teaching career in Elkhorn at Westridge Elementary where I taught fifth, second and first grade. I then served as a principal for Schuyler Community Schools, and for the past ten years I have been the principal at Manchester Elementary in Elkhorn. I'm thrilled to start my 18th year as a principal at Blue Sage. My husband, Ryan, and I have three boys Connor (8th grade), Gabe (7th grade) and Asher (1st grade). They have helped to provide some of my best practical experiences!

As always, feel free to email (achrist@epsne.org) or call me (402-332-0125) with any questions or concerns!

Mrs. Christ
Blue Sage Principal



Together we will ensure academic, social, and personal success to craft the best possible future story for our students.



Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures
Just a few reminders to help traffic flow smoothly
and to keep our students and families safe!

- Once you enter our drive-through, it is one way. Do not reverse or back out!
- Always use the crosswalk at the main entrance to cross traffic in the pick up lane.
- The small parking area by our receiving doors should not be used for dropping off students.
- Do not park on the street in front of the school, instead use the parent parking at the entrance of the school if you are getting out to drop-off/pick-up your child.
- If your child is unable to unbuckle/buckle him/herself, please practice at home. This is a skill that he/she needs to be able to do independently.
- Students should enter and exit vehicles curbside.
- All drivers need to follow the rules and pull forward. Pulling forward is the key!
- Do not leave a car unattended in the front of the building during drop-off and pick-up. Please do not get out of your vehicle if you are in the pick-up/drop-off lane.
- Please be patient and be a positive role model for our children. These procedures are in place to help maintain a safe and healthy environment.
- Drive Slowly
- Please volunteer to help at drop off & pick up!
- Stay off your cell phones.



Visitor Guidelines

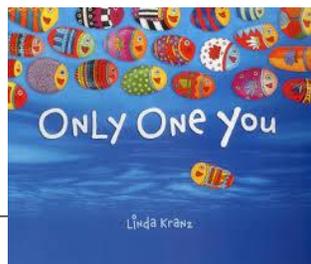
At Blue Sage, the doors will remain locked during the school day, and all visitors will gain access using the security camera/access panel outside of the school's main entrance. Office staff will grant access after you do the following steps:

1. Push the button and wait for an identification request.
2. Give your name and purpose for entering the school.
3. When you hear the door unlatch, enter and proceed to the office.
4. Sign in on the visitor sheet and take a visitor sticker/badge.
5. When leaving the building, return to the office and sign out and place your sticker in the trash can.

If you have brought something that your child has forgotten, please drop it off at the office. We are happy to take it to your child. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to minimize classroom interruptions.

Cub Circles

We will begin our Cub Circles groups this month. Once a month, students will meet within their Cub Circles to discuss different skills. This year, our lessons will go along with the book, Only One You by Linda Kranz. Each Cub Circle is like a family within the school led by an adult. Each group is made up of students from all grade-levels. They remain in the same group and with the same adult until they leave Blue Sage when possible. Through this program, students and staff are able to build positive relationships throughout the school by allowing them to build bonds with students from other grade levels and with other adults in the building.



Safety Day

Safety Day at Blue Sage is Wednesday, September 12. On that day, we will be practicing our emergency response protocols. Elkhorn utilizes the Standard Response Protocol for these types of situations. The Standard Response Protocol is a series of clear, concise actions established to provide consistency in vocabulary and response during emergency situations. This allows emergency response protocols and procedures to be standardized across our entire school district and with the local law enforcement and other emergency response agencies. Our location for reunification in case of an evacuation is Metro Stars Gymnastics. We will practice evacuating the building, but we will not be going to the reunification site.



Every school in EPS is participating in the metrowide #bekind campaign that you will soon be hearing about if you haven't already. The goal of this campaign is for our schools and the metro area to bring awareness to all types of bullying and harassment while simultaneously initiating a campaign centered around being kind. This is meant to be a year long campaign that hopefully turns into a lifetime of choosing kindness for all of our Blue Sage school community members. Each building will be implementing activities aimed at positive behavior and actions while instilling a sense in others that being kind does not cost anything.

We are excited about implementing lessons on kindness into our Cub Circles this year. We have multiple projects that will focus on kindness throughout the school year and staff members will be focusing on modeling kindness and recognizing kids for their efforts. We want to send a message to all that we can be kind and care more about each other, our school, our learning and our efforts in the classroom, on the playground and at home.

#bekindcaremore Activities

August:

- In art class, the students colored and painted their own #bekind signs. Check out the wall opposite the art room to see their creations.
- Each class created a poster that is hanging in the lunch room with positive Post-Its.

September/October:

- Kindness Tree: Teachers will discuss the kindness tree in their classrooms. Students will plan something to do service for others with their family and then bring a picture of them participating in the service to hang on a kindness tree. The kindness tree will be hung at Blue Sage Elementary. This activity will connect with the book "Drops In the Bucket" used by the school counselor.
- Mrs. Christ will read Each Kindness to each classroom.



Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Kindergarten: Spencer Dorius and Bryce Barksdale

First Grade: Tatum Hartung and Jacob Mohring

Second Grade: Ava Buderus and Xoe Roy

Third Grade: Xane Roy and Jackson Rehtmeyer

Fourth Grade: Lillian Volk and Kate Kelberlau

Fifth Grade: Madison Terry

Art: Madison Terry (4th)

Music: Ainsley O'Malley (K)

PE: Claire Richard (K)

Media: Sankeirth Mandava (3rd)



Students will enjoy their lunch with Mrs. Christ on Thursday, Sept. 6.

STAY INFORMED

A newsletter in this format will be emailed to you each month. It is also posted on our website <https://www.elkhornweb.org/bluesage/news/>. If you need to change email addresses, please call the office to let us know (402-332-0125). This newsletter is our main means of communication.



follow us on
twitter

facebook



We are excited to announce that Blue Sage is officially on Twitter and Facebook! Give us a follow @ElkhornPS_BSE and give us a like on [Blue Sage Facebook](#) in order to stay up to date with events, news, and highlights from the classrooms.



Lunch/Recess Schedule

Kdg & First	Recess 11:00-11:15	Lunch 11:15-11:35
Second & Third	Recess 11:30-11:45	Lunch 11:45-12:05
Fourth & Fifth	Recess 11:50-12:05	Lunch 12:05-12:25

Sodexo Lunch Prices 2018-2019

Elem. lunch \$2.50
Adult lunch \$3.85

Breakfast
K-5th \$1.50
Adult \$2.20

Blue Sage Student Treat Guidelines

Birthdays are important milestones in each child's life. At Blue Sage Elementary, we look forward to sharing in the students' excitement over their own special day. Each morning birthdays will be read over the announcements and students will be invited to come select a book from the office to keep. Summer birthdays will be announced on the student's ½ birthday to ensure each student enjoys this special recognition during the school year.

If you would like to send a special treat or token for your child to pass out to classmates, **please send only NON-EDIBLE tokens or treats to school.** Ideas or suggestions may include items such as pencils or stickers. Classroom teachers may also offer other suggestions. This decision has been made with considerable thought given to healthy eating habits, food allergies, and convenience for parents. I appreciate your support as we create a healthy and welcoming environment for every student at Blue Sage.

Party Invitations

Invitations to birthday parties and other events must be distributed away from the school grounds to students for out of school parties according to District policy.



Elementary School Hours

The elementary school day is from 8:15-3:06.

Before School: Breakfast is offered for all children from 7:35 to 7:55 everyday and then students go to Walking Club. Students not eating breakfast may attend Walking Club at 7:55. Morning outside supervision starts at 7:55, so students not attending breakfast should not arrive before that time. A student that arrives to school on time is more likely to make the most of his/her day. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

After School: The dismissal bell rings at 3:06. Students should leave the building to go home upon dismissal unless specifically directed by a teacher to remain. There is no supervision after 3:20, so please make arrangements to have your children picked up by that time.

Arriving Late/Leaving Early: Students arriving late or leaving early must sign in/out at the front office. When a student leaves early, a parent must come into the office to sign his/her child out.

After School Plans



Please have an understanding with your child before he/she leaves home in the morning about what he/she is to do after school. It can be disruptive when classes are interrupted with the delivery of telephone messages, or the need for them to call home to find out what is going on after school. We realize that there are times when the unexpected happen, and in those times, we will be happy to let your child know if your plans changed.

Meeting with Teachers

Parents wishing to confer with teachers are asked to call the school or email the teacher. If the teacher is unable to take your call, we are able to forward your call to his/her voicemail, so you can leave the teacher a message to return your call at his/her earliest convenience.

If wishing to meet in person with a teacher, please schedule an appointment in advance. Often, teachers feel bad when a parent arrives at school to confer with them and they cannot meet with that parent due to other demands and responsibilities. By scheduling an appointment, they will be prepared to meet with you to address your questions and/or concerns.



District Reminders

PRINTED DISTRICT CALENDAR CHANGES

In an effort to ensure families are receiving the most up-to-date and accurate information, the District has discontinued the printing and distribution of a District-wide events and activities calendar.

Visit <https://www.elkhornweb.org/calendar> to view the most current activities and events information on the District calendar or to choose an individual building calendar to view.

SCHOOLMESSENGER MESSAGING AND ALERT SYSTEM

Both the EPS District and each individual building regularly use a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails and phone calls to parents, including monthly information about building happenings, as well as school closings.

SchoolMessenger also allows recipients the option to “unsubscribe” from its mailing list; please understand that by “unsubscribing” you are completely removing your email address from ALL lists, including both District and building specific emails.

If at any time you unsubscribe then later decide you would like to begin receiving emails again, please let your building secretary know.

TECH SAVVY PARENT TIPS

As students and parents get back into the school year, it's important to remember to prioritize time and focus on schoolwork. For students, procrastination generally takes on the form of “multitasking”, which often leads to distractions and wasted time. In order to curb this occurrence prior to it becoming a bad habit that will move with them into adulthood, take a look at a few options for apps and plugins that help reduce the instances of this current trend.

RescueTime: this plug-in tracks how much time is being spent on specific sites and generates reports showing the results. By reviewing these reports, you and your child can see exactly where the majority of their time is being wasted.

Work Mode: *Work Mode* blocks access to all social media feeds during any time frame that the plug-in is turned on. What better way to ensure your child is focused solely on the task at hand than by making the distractions they typically default to inaccessible during the time they need to be focusing on other important things?

For more information on these and other time saving options, visit www.common sense media.org.

DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA

To better serve our communication needs and ensure that all EPS students, families, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community receive necessary information and District updates, all EPS buildings have launched social media accounts. The links to all EPS accounts are below and can be followed for regular updates from the District and buildings.

School	Social Platform Links	School	Social Platform Links
Elkhorn Public Schools	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPS	Fire Ridge	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_FR https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSFR
EPS Young Adult Program	https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSYAP https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_YAP	Hillrise	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_HR https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSHR/
Elkhorn High School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EHS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEHS	Manchester	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_MN https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSMN/
Elkhorn South High School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_ESHS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSESHS	Sagewood	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_SW https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSSW/
Elkhorn Grandview Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EGMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEGMS	Skyline	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_SK https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSSK/
Elkhorn Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEMS/	Spring Ridge	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_SR https://www.facebook.com/Spring-Ridge-Elementary-School-185515498695818/
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_ERMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSERMS/	West Bay	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_WB https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSWB/
Elkhorn Valley View Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EVMS https://www.facebook.com/Elkhorn-Valley-View-Middle-School-557415441267940/	West Dodge Station	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_WD https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSWD/
Arbor View	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_AV https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSAV	Westridge	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_WR https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSWR/
Blue Sage	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_BSE https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSBS		

Elkhorn Public Schools Policy 507.13—Internet Safety Policy was written in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Tech Savvy Parent tips are intended to inform and educate parents of technology that may be available to their students. Tips may feature apps that are educational as well as those that may be a cause for concern to parents.



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