Dodgeland Elementary Newsletter December 2026

Important Dates

- December 8th: 5K, 1, 2 Winter Concert @ 6:30pm
- December 9th: 3, 4, 5 Winter Concert @ 6:30pm
- December 14th: Candy Cane Day
- December 15th: Holiday Character Day
- December 16th: Winter Wonderland Day
- December 17th: Channel your Flannel Day
- December 18th: Merry and Bright Day
- December 21st: Pajama Day
- December 22nd: Ugly Sweater Day
- December 22nd: 5th Grade Santa on Trial
- December 23rd - January 1st: Winter Break
- January 4th: School Resumes

Cold Weather

With the weather getting colder please make sure your kids are dressed appropriately for the weather. We have limited extras in the office for kids to borrow.

If you need assistance please let the office or your student's teacher know and we will make a trip to the Purple Purpose room! Or contact the HS office to schedule an appointment to visit yourself!

Miss Patti

Its Official!!!

Miss Patti is back! Her contact info is below if you need something from the office!

(920) 386 4404 ext. 1010

rupnow@dodgeland.k12.wi.us

Principal Message

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe how fast this school year is flying by! With the crisp winter chill settling in and the cozy season ahead, I wanted to share a few friendly reminders to help keep our school community warm, healthy, and ready to learn.

Bundle Up for Outdoor Fun: Winter weather is officially knocking on our door, and our students love getting outside for fresh air and recess whenever the temperature allows! Please make sure your kiddos come to school dressed in layers and packed with their full winter gear each day—including a warm coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and boots. Friendly tip: Writing your child's name on their tags helps keep our Lost & Found empty!

Need a Hand with Winter Gear? We want every single student to stay warm and enjoy the winter season. If your family could use a little extra help getting coats, boots, hats, or gloves for your kiddos this year, please reach out to me or our front office. All requests are kept completely confidential, and we are always more than happy to help connect you with available resources.

Keeping Our Classrooms Healthy: As we head into cold and flu season, thank you for partnering with us to keep everyone well! If your child isn't feeling their best, please take a quick look at our school newsletter or the family handbook for a refresher on our illness policies and when to keep kiddos home to rest.

Thank you so much for everything you do to make our school such a wonderful, supportive place. Stay warm, stay healthy, and have a fantastic week!

Warmly,

Mrs. Huelsman

Power School Fees

School Fees can easily be added and monitored via the PowerSchool Parent Portal. You are now able to log into your PowerSchool Parent Access Portal and see what fees are still owed. You no longer have to search through RevTrak to find what fees you may need to pay throughout the school year. Below are directions on how to access, monitor, and pay assigned school fees.

1. Log into your PowerSchool Parent Access Portal.

   https://dodgeland.powerschool.com/public/home.html

   • If you do not have a PowerSchool Parent Access Account, please reach out to your student's school office. They will assist you with getting an account created for you.
   • All school fees are tracked and managed via the Parent Access Account. Student Access Accounts do not have access to PowerSchool Fees.

2. Once you are logged into your PowerSchool Parent Access Portal you will see the dashboard for your student(s). You will be able to select the student you want to look at or manage.

   • Select the student you want to review the fee for.
   • Click on Balance in the left side navigation.

Every Monday an automated email goes out to parents with unpaid fees attatched to their accounts

Instructions on how to pay fees HERE

Cold/Flu Season

We all know how important it is for students to be at school. Missing school affects their learning and can cause anxiety when they return in trying to get caught up. However, when students are ill they should be kept home. Sick children need quiet rest to recuperate. We are unable to provide the down time they need here at school. When they return to school they should be well enough to participate in normal school activities unless a written statement from the physician limits participation.

Below is from our Elementary Student/Parent Handbook for your reference:

Keep Your Child Home If He/She Has:

-Fever - A temperature of 100 degrees or more.

-Diarrhea - Increased number (3 or more) of abnormally loose stools in the last twenty-four hours. Abdominal cramping may accompany loose stool.

-Persistent or Uncontrolled Cough - if your child is unable or unwilling to appropriately wipe their own noses or cover uncontrollable cough or sneezing, the child should be kept home to protect others from exposure.

-Vomiting - If your child has vomited during the night or that morning.

-Eye/Nose Drainage - yellow/green thick and draining.

-Sore Throat - Especially when fever, redness, and/or swollen glands in the neck are present.

-Earaches - Especially if history of ear infections exists. If a child has an elevated temperature, is tugging or digging in ear, and/or is sitting holding affected ear in hands.

-Appearance/Behavior - child looks or is acting differently than usual, unusually tired, pale, lacking appetite, or is irritable, whiney.

-On antibiotics less than 24 hours.

Illness Protocol

When children become ill at school they report to the nurse's office. If any of the above listed conditions are present, office personnel will contact parents, guardians or their designees if the child is too ill to remain at school. Ill children should be picked up PROMPTLY once the contact person has been notified. The school does not have the capability to keep ill children at school. If the parent/guardian is not available, the contact person listed as the Emergency Contact will be notified. At least one of the persons listed under Emergency Contacts should live within a 15-mile radius of the Dodgeland Schools and have transportation resources, in case they are called upon to pick up an ill child. Please keep the Emergency Contact information up to date!

Any student that is picked up early from school due to illness must stay home from school for 24 hours symptom free without medication the following school day unless it is a Friday. This day is medically excused by the school nurse. Any student absent from school may not participate in extracurricular activities that day or evening as well.

PCOW

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AT SCHOOL

Our school partners with the Psychotherapy Center of Waunakee (PCOW) to provide mental health support for students during the school day. PCOW therapists can help students with things like stress, anxiety, depression, friendships, family changes, grief and loss, self-esteem, and other life challenges.

Having a therapist at school makes it easier for students to get support without having to travel to an outside office. If you think your child could benefit from therapy, please reach out to Jen Johnson at Dodgeland (920-386-8293) or PCOW to learn more.

PTC

PARENTS, TEACHERS, COMMUNITY

Our PTC has been doing amazing things for our teachers and students!! We want to give a huge thanks to everyone who has supported our PTC and our School!

The Next PTC Meeting will be December 7th @ 7:30pm. The link to the Google Meets is below!

GOOGLE MEETS LINK

How to Support Learning at Home

Holiday breaks are a wonderful time for rest, but the change in routine can sometimes feel overwhelming for kids and families alike. Staying connected and offering simple ways to learn at home helps children feel secure, supported, and ready for when school starts back up. As the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) shares in their guide on supporting learning during the holidays, keeping young minds growing doesn't have to feel like homework—everyday moments like cooking together, reading a favorite book, or playing outside are easy, joyful ways to help kids thrive.

READ THE ARTICLE HERE

Pick up and Drop Off

Safety is our primary concern for student drop-off and pick-up procedures. We ask for your patience and cooperation to ensure children are dropped-off and/or picked-up safely each day. Please use caution and patience while driving to ensure student safety.

Drop Off Reminders:

- If you are walking your student into the building you MUST park in the parking lot and walk up. This way we can keep the line moving and traffic off of Hwy 26!
- Cars should NEVER drive behind the school or drop off @ the Big Playground

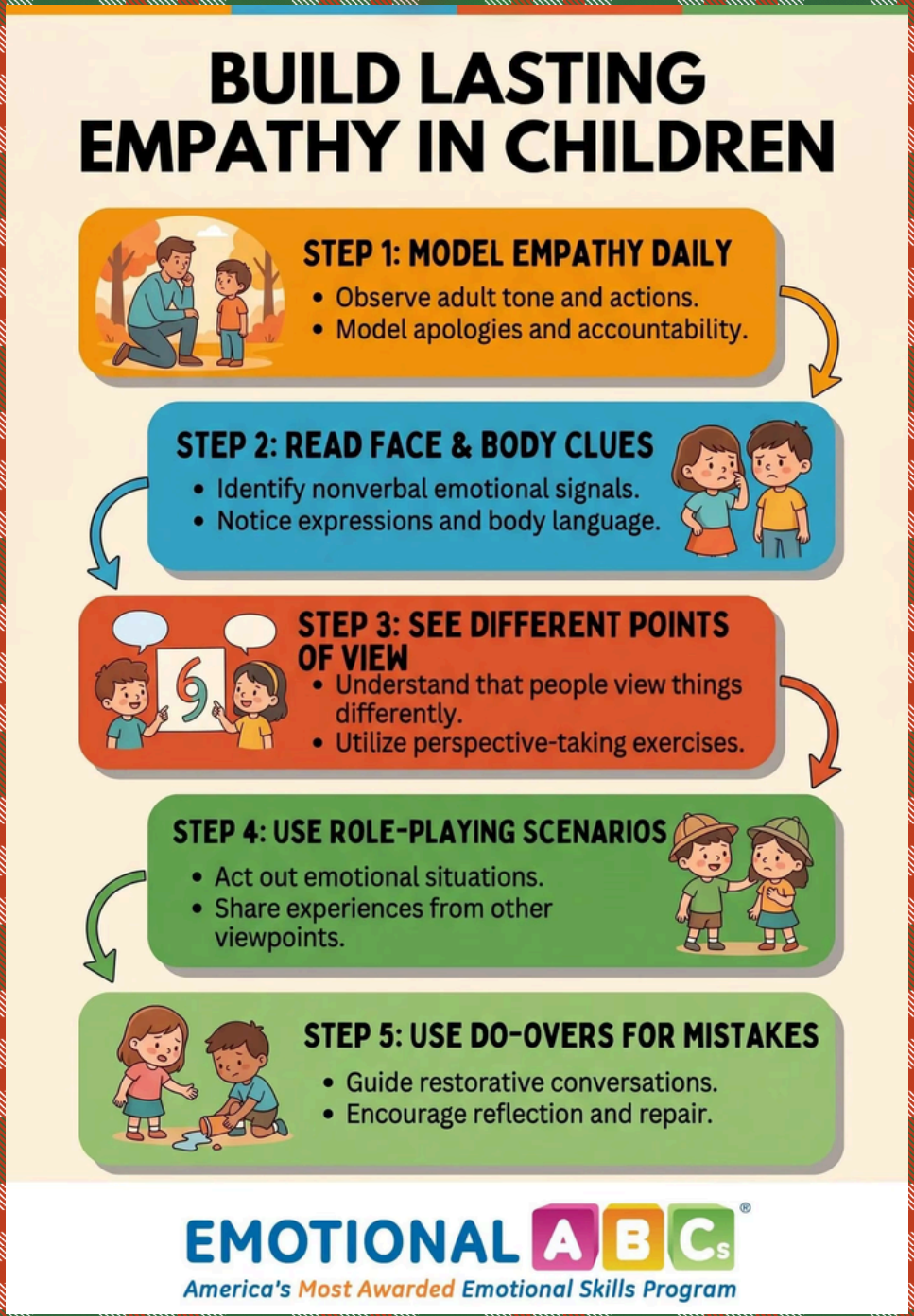
Pick Up Reminders:

- Please keep your focus on picking up your student(s) and moving the line along. This way we can keep the line moving and traffic off of Hwy 26!
- If you are parking in the lot to pick up, Parents MUST walk to the front sidewalk to pick up and escort your student(s) to your car!
- If picking up a MS/HS student please move to the MS/HS entrance to pick them up so we can keep the line moving for more elementary parents!



The Clinic Parking lot should NOT be used as a shortcut or pick up zone at anytime!

Emotional ABC's



Empathy is a skill children develop through everyday practice—and small moments at home make a big difference. In their article "8 Steps for Building Social Awareness to Help Children Grow Empathy," Emotional ABCs highlights easy ways to help kids recognize and care about others' feelings, such as pausing during storytime to talk about characters' facial expressions, playing emotion charades, and using gentle "do-overs" when unkind words happen.

Read the Article Here

Zones of Regulation

Supplemental Activities for Elementary Ages

ZONES OF REGULATION

The ZONES of Regulation



Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad	Happy	Worried	Overjoyed/Elated
Bored	Focused	Frustrated	Panicked
Tired	Calm	Silly	Angry
Sick	Proud	Excited	Terrified

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Adapted from *The Zones of Regulation 2-Storybook Set* | Available at www.socialthinking.com

Here at Dodgeland, we use The Zones of Regulation visual to help students recognize, name, and manage their feelings throughout the day. By categorizing emotions and energy levels into four simple colors—the Blue Zone (for low-energy states like feeling sad, tired, bored, or sick), the Green Zone (where students feel calm, happy, focused, and ready to learn), the Yellow Zone (for heightened feelings such as being worried, frustrated, silly, or excited), and the Red Zone (for intense emotions like anger, panic, terror, or extreme elation)—kids gain a shared, concrete vocabulary to express what is going on inside. Rather than viewing any zone as "bad," this framework teaches children that all feelings are natural and helps them build practical self-regulation strategies to navigate big emotions and return to a calm, focused state.

December Breakfast/Lunch Menu

Breakfast

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30	1 Muffin and String Cheese, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Toast and String Cheese	2 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk.	3 Sausage and Buttered Toast, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Bagel and Cream Cheese	4 Cereal with String Cheese, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: UBR Bar
7 Yogurt with Graham Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Mini Cinnamon Rolls	8 Egg and Cheese Slider, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Sausage and Cheese Slider	9 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk.	10 Pancakes with Syrup, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Bagel with Cream Cheese	11 Cereal, String Cheese, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: UBR Bar
14 Confetti Pancakes, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Mini Cinnamon Rolls	15 Egg and Cheese Slider, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Toast and String Cheese	16 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Juice, Milk.	17 French Toast with Syrup, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Bagel with Cream Cheese	18 Cereal, String Cheese, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: UBR Bar
21 Yogurt, Graham Crackers, Fruit, Juice, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Mini Cinnamon Rolls	22 Mini Donuts, Fruit, Juice, Milk.	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL

Lunch

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30	1 Chicken and Noodles, Green Beans, Carrots, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	2 Hamburger on a Whole Grain Bun, Oven Fried Potatoes, Creamy Coleslaw, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	3 Chicken Stir Fry, Brown Rice, Lentils, Roasted Zucchini, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Ham and Cheese	4 Chicken Patty Sandwich, Coconut Curry Chic Peas, Carrots, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Egg Salad
7 Cheese Quesadilla, Refried Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	8 Chicken Pot Pie, Mushrooms and Onions, Peas, Assorted Fruit, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Patty Melt. Sandwich Choice: Ham and Cheese	9 Beef Macaroni with Tomato Sauce, Spinach, Green Beans, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	10 Chicken A La King over Brown Rice, Stewed Tomatoes, Corn, Assorted Fruit, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Beef Shepards Pie. Sandwich Choice: Ham and Cheese	11 BBQ Pork Pizza, Roasted Cabbage, Carrots, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey
14 Mini Corn Dogs, Wax Beans, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	15 Soft Shell Taco's, Refried Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Chicken Salad	16 Chicken Patty Sandwich, Pumpkin Casserole, Peas, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Ham and Cheese	17 Ground Beef Stroganoff, Roasted Zucchini, Carrots, Assorted Fruit, Milk. MS/HS Choice: Hot Ham	18 Chicken Nuggets, Whipped Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey
21 Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Broccoli, Carrots, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	22 Mozzarella Dippers, Marinara, Cauliflower, Peas, Assorted Fruit, Milk. Sandwich Choice: Turkey	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 	1	2  Workout Wednesday	3	4 Purple Pride 
7	8 K, 1st, 2nd Winter Concert @6:30pm 	9 3rd, 4th, 5th Winter Concert @6:30pm 	10	11 Purple Pride 
14 CANDY CANE DAY Wear Red & White	15 Holiday Character Day  Dress as your favorite Holiday Character!	16 WINTER WONDERLAND Wear Blue & White or Snowman & Snow Flakes! 	17 Channel your Flannel! Wear your best Flannel!	18 Merry and Bright! Wear your best Shiny/Bright outfit!
21  Pajama Day!	22  Ugly Sweater Day!  5th Grade Santa on Trial Performance	23 WINTER Break! STARTS!	24 Merry Christmas No School	25 No School
28 WINTER	29	30	31 Break!	1

School Resumes January 4th!

Dodgeland's Purple Purpose

Dodgeland's National Honor Society has organized a safe welcoming room for ALL students in every grade level to come and receive FREE supplies (clothing, school supplies, hygiene products and more).

Open to the Community, by appointment. Please contact the High School Office.



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