



News From the 'Woods

Worthwoods Elementary | 11000 S. Oketo, Worth, IL 60482 | www.worthschools.org

Important Dates	A Letter from the Principal – October 2024
<p>Important Dates:</p> <p>Oct 9 - Meal ordering begins for November</p> <p>Oct 14 - No School - Columbus Day Observed</p> <p>Oct 18 - Meal ordering due for November</p> <p>Oct 31 - Happy Halloween - Student Parade</p> <p>Looking Ahead:</p> <p>Nov 1 - Early Dismissal Day</p> <p>Nov 5 - No School - Election Day</p> <p>Nov 11 - Veterans Day Assembly</p> <p>Nov 13- End of 1st trimester</p> <p>Nov 15- Picture Retakes</p> <p>Nov 25 - No School - Parent Teacher Conference</p> <p>Nov 26 - No School - Teacher Institute Day</p> <p>Nov 27-29 - No School - Thanksgiving Break</p>	<p>Dear Worthwoods Families,</p> <p>October is a busy month! We kicked off this month with our PAWS Assembly where we recognize all of the students who earned a PAW in the month of September. Students were entered into a raffle and then if picked, had a chance to spin our prize wheel! This month also brings other exciting events. On Wednesday, October 9th we will be participating in the National Walk & Roll to School Day! Students are encouraged to walk or ride their bike to school. There is no school on Monday, October 14th in observance of Columbus Day. We are also excited to celebrate Halloween this month on Thursday, October 31st. Keep an eye out for more information on our Halloween Student Parade and costume restrictions.</p> <p>Weather</p> <p>Please be mindful of the daily weather as students will be going outside for recess each day. We ask that students dress appropriately to ensure they are warm outside.</p> <p>Safety Drills</p> <p>We will be concluding all of our safety drills this month including our fire drill with the North Palos Fire Protection District, bus evacuation, severe weather, and our second lockdown drill with the Worth Police Department.</p> <p>Traffic</p> <p>Safety is our first priority when considering traffic during pick-up and drop-off! Please note that cars are not permitted to park on Oketo and parents/students should not be getting in or out of cars on the street. Also, please be mindful of the crossing guard and follow directions given. Please be patient. Cars are not allowed to pass other cars while waiting. This creates a seriously safety concern.</p> <p>Curriculum</p> <p>Reading: Our students and teachers have been working hard implementing our new reading curriculum Wit and Wisdom. When you are at home reading, ask your child what is something they notice and what is something they wonder? They have been having some really rich academic conversations in their classroom with noticings and wonders. SEL: Wrapping up Unit 1: Mindset and goal-setting</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Please remind your child what they are doing on their computer at school is monitored. Inappropriate use of technology Remind your child what they are doing on their computer at school is monitored. Inappropriate technology use will result in losing their privilege of having a device.</p> <p>Meal Ordering</p>

Parents and guardians need to pre-order breakfasts and lunches for students grades 1-5. If you did not order for September, please make sure your child eats breakfast and packs a lunch daily. Information on ordering can be found on our district website:

<https://worthschools.org/parents/meal-program/>

Meal ordering for November is due Oct. 18

Parent Communication

We ask that all parents enroll in our district communication platform, School Messenger, as we utilize this regularly to communicate important information with parents. If you have recently changed your contact information, or you would like to check, you may follow the instructions listed on the district website:

<https://worthschools.org/parents/communication/>

Attendance



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

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness 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. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



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

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Absences / Sick Protocol

As colder weather is upon us, and more students getting sick, please note that all students must be symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. This includes being fever and vomit free. If your child is absent, please call the office prior to 8:30 AM. All absences MUST be reported.

Please refer to Worth School District 127's web page at www.worthschools.org for all other information. We always welcome parents to reach out with additional questions or concerns!

Sincerely,



Ms. Ashley Toms Bonnstetter
Worthwoods School Principal



Mrs. Alyse Koehler
Worthwoods School Assistant Principal

Important Parent Information

Daily Student Schedule

Grades 1-5
8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Kindergarten
AM: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
PM: 12:15 - 3:15 p.m.

Kindergarten students were enrolled in sessions based on availability at the time of registration.

Phone Information

School Messenger - Worth School District uses an automated telephone system to email and call parents with important information, updates, and information regarding emergency school closings.

Calls are made to the phone number designated by the parent/legal guardian.

Please make sure the school always has your most up-to-date phone number and email.

District Website - www.worthschools.org

Worthwoods Main Office Phone - 708-448-2802

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at 8:30 a.m. for ALL students.

P.M. Kindergarten will take attendance at 12:15 p.m.

Please call the office to report any absences or late arrivals.

If your child is sick, please call the
ABSENCE HOTLINE
708-671-5899

The Absence Hotline answering machine is on 24 hours per day.

Meal Ordering

Meal orders are available for grades 1-8 only. No meals will be provided for K.

If you are in need of assistance with ordering, please call the Nutrition Hotline at 708-671-3903.

Meal ordering information is now available on the district website:

<https://worthschools.org/parents/meal-program/>

Late Arrivals / Early Dismissals

Students who are late for school must be signed-in by school personnel.

Students leaving early from their regularly scheduled school day will need to be signed out in the office.

The designated pick-up person will need to provide a government issued ID to be scanned and returned before the school will release the student for dismissal.

Please call the office to let us know you will be picking up early.

District 127 Early Dismissal Days

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope your child's 2024/2025 school year is off to a great start. This letter is an **essential reminder** of early dismissal dates for staff Professional Development and school improvement. Please review the table below and make special note if your child is in Early Childhood, Pre-K, or Kindergarten.

- **Early Childhood** will not attend in person but will have remote instruction.
- **Pre-K** is not in session for all early dismissal dates.
- **AM and PM Kindergarten** will **alternate attending AM** in person except on December 20.
 - Kindergarten is not in session on December 20.

Date	EC	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1-5, WWWE	WJH
Friday, September 27	Remote	Not in session	AM: 8:30-11:30 PM: Not in session	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
Friday, November 1	Remote	Not in session	AM: Not in session PM: 8:30-11:30	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
Friday, December 6	Remote	Not in session	AM: 8:30-11:30 PM: Not in session	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
*Friday, December 20	Remote	Not in session	NOT IN SESSION	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
Friday, February 14	Remote	Not in session	AM: Not in session PM: 8:30-11:30	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
Thursday, April 17	Remote	Not in session	AM: 8:30-11:30 PM: Not in session	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal
Friday, May 23	Remote	Not in session	AM: Not in session PM: 8:30-11:30	1:30 Dismissal	1:15 Dismissal

*Staff are dismissed after student dismissal—no Professional Development.

Please contact your child's building principal with questions or concerns regarding early dismissal dates.

Drop-Off / Pick-Up Procedures

Arrival @ 8:15 - 8:30 AM

- Grades 1-5 and AM K: Gym Doors
- PM K: Door 1, front door of the building
- Follow the circular pattern towards the back of the north parking lot.
- All students will enter the **Gym doors** starting at 8:15.
- Students should exit from the **passenger side** of the car only.
- Pull as far forward as possible to allow 3-4 cars to unload at one time.

Dismissal @ 3:15

- Grades K-2: Door 1, front door
- Grades 3-5: Gym doors
- Plan to arrive between 2:55 - 3:10 as we **close** the parking lot at **3:12**.
- **Back into a parking spot** or line up in rows at the back of the parking lot.
- The parking lot will reopen once all children have safely cleared the area.
- Cars will be dismissed from front to back.

