



News From the 'Woods

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

Important Dates	A Letter from the Principal – January 2025
<p>Important Dates:</p> <p>January 6 - Students Return from Winter Break</p> <p>January 6-17- FastBridge Winter Benchmark</p> <p>January 15- BOE meeting at 6pm at Admin Center</p> <p>January 20- No school- MLK day</p> <p>January 27- Parent Virtual Erin's Law Presentation</p> <p>January 28- Cookies and Canvas Night (registration required)</p> <p>January 31 - Erin's Law Virtual Student Assemblies</p>	<p>Dear Worthwoods Families,</p> <p>Welcome to 2025! We are happy to welcome our students and staff back to what we know will be a successful 2nd half of our school year. We have a lot to look forward to and even more learning to accomplish!</p> <p>Weather</p> <p>Please be mindful of the daily temperature as students will be going outside for recess each day (weather permitting). We ask that students dress appropriately to ensure they are warm outside. As we move into the winter months, this includes hats, gloves, and scarves!</p> <p>Chromebooks</p> <p>Students in grades 1-5 will begin bringing home Chromebooks each weekend and/or on days where the forecast is calling for inclement weather. Chromebooks do not need to be used unless E-Learning is implemented. Students should come back to school with a charged Chromebook.</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 serious 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.</p> <p>SEL: Unit 2: Managing Emotions</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Please remind your child what they are doing on their computer at school is monitored. Inappropriate use of technology</p> <p>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>Erin's Law</p> <p>In compliance with Erin's Law, which aims to prevent child assault and abuse, Worth School District 127 has partnered with Childhood Victories to provide our student and parent presentations. All Worth School District 127 parents are invited to attend a Virtual Parent Information Night via Zoom on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm. A link to the presentations will be posted on the district website and shared via School</p>

Messenger. Childhood Victories will livestream the grade-level presentations on Friday, January 31, 2025. Students will be watching the presentation in their classroom with their teacher. Illinois law allows parents to opt their children out from participating in an Erin's Law presentation. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Linda Esposito, will send a parent letter, including opt-out information, on January 20, 2025. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Zoom.

Meal Ordering

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 February is due January 24.

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



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

- ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**
read well by the end of third grade
- MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**
pass important courses
- HIGH SCHOOLERS**
stay on track for graduation
- COLLEGE STUDENTS**
earn their degrees
- WORKERS**
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

 **Attendance Works**
Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence
www.attendanceworks.org

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 18.
 - 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

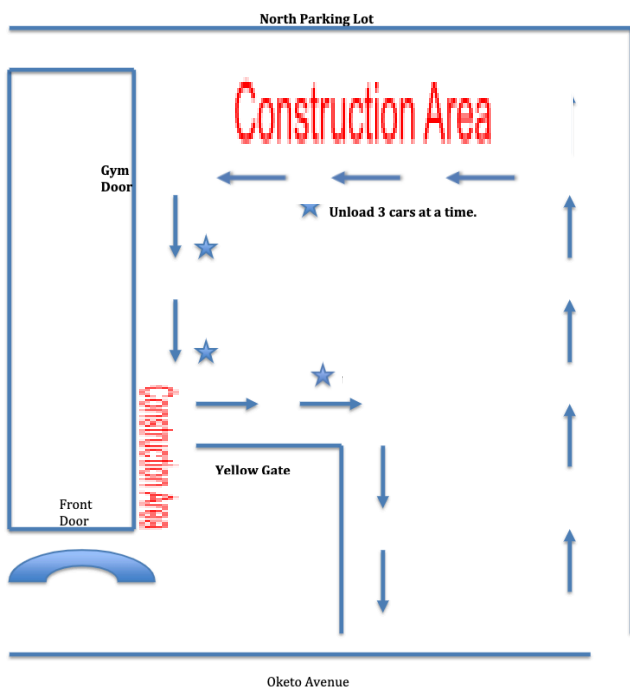
*Staff are dismissed after student dismissal—no Professional Development.

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.

