



News From the 'Woods

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

Important Dates

Sept 2 - Labor Day NO SCHOOL

Sept 11 - Patriots Day
Assembly- Wear Red, White & Blue

October meal ordering begins.

Sept 18 - Worth 127 Board of Ed. Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Sept 20- Meal ordering due for October

Sept 25 - WW Fall Picture Day

Sept 27 - Early Dismissal @ 1:30 PM (NO PM Kindergarten)

Looking Ahead:

Oct 9 - Meal ordering begins for November

Oct 14 - No School - Columbus Day Observed

Oct 18 - Meal ordering due for November

Oct 31 - Happy Halloween - Student Parade

Nov 1 - Early Dismissal Day

A Letter from the Principal – September 2024

Dear Worthwoods Families,

We can't believe we've already made it through the first weeks of school! Thank you for your continued support to ensure our students are ready to learn each day. We loved seeing so many of our families at Open House. What a wonderful way to get to know new students, teachers, and see where your kids spend their weekdays! This month has a few things in store, beginning with our Patriots Day ceremony. With the help of our 5th graders, we will share in a moment of remembrance for those lost on September 11, 2021 and pay tribute to our first responders who are our everyday heroes. We encourage students and staff to wear red, white, and blue to show our American Pride!

Speaking of everyday heroes, with the support of our local police and fire departments, we have begun practicing our safety drills at school. Students have had the opportunity to participate in a fire evacuation drill and lockdown. We will continue our drills throughout this month and next to include severe weather and bus evacuation. This month we have picture day on September 25th and our first early dismissal day of the school year on September 27th. Please note that PM Kindergarten will not be in session.

A Note From Your Assistant Principal, Mrs. Koehler

Hello Worth Families,
Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I am beyond grateful and excited to be serving as the Assistant Principal of Worth Elementary and Worthwoods this school year. This is my fifteenth year in education. I was previously a special education teacher and an instructional coach. I believe in communication, an open mindset, and making school a positive learning environment for all. I am looking forward to a great school year and I can't wait to see all the amazing things our students can do.



WW Construction Updates

Beginning next week, digging will start on the side addition! There will be trucks entering and exiting the parking lot throughout the day. Please note that morning drop off has changed with all students who are walking to school or parents who park and walk to the door will now be entering through the front doors. The car lane is for car drop-off ONLY.

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 October is due Sept. 20

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/>

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.

Always feel free to contact your child's teachers, myself, or Mrs. Koehler with any questions you have or with anything you or your child may need from the Worthwoods Elementary School community. Please refer to Worth School District 127's web page at www.worthschools.org for all other information. We are looking forward to a successful school year. Your continued support is much appreciated as we begin the upcoming school year.

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.

