

FALL 2023

WILDCAT NEWS

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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School District

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A Message From Our Superintendent, Mr. Lynn Halverson

The 2023-24 school year is in full swing! We are already halfway through our Fall sports seasons and by the time you read this newsletter, the Winter sports seasons will be just around the corner. Our elementary, middle, and high school students have learned and adjusted to their new routines and come to school ready to learn. Every year, the school year flies by and this year will be no exception. Thank you for your support as we navigate our students through the 2023-24 school year!

School Delays and Closings

Winter in Wisconsin is a beautiful season but it also brings dangerous travel conditions at times.

Wisconsin schools are faced with having to make difficult decisions regarding late starts, early releases, and school closures due to road conditions. Student and staff safety is the sole factor when making these decisions.

In the event of a school cancellation, late start, or early closure, an "all call" via telephone will be sent to all parents. Please make sure that all contact information is updated in Skyward (Family Access). Along with the "all call", local television and radio stations will be notified and a post will be made on the Blair-Taylor Facebook page. If Blair-Taylor cancels school for the day or closes early, all after-school practices and evening events will be canceled.

Remote Learning

For the past few years, Blair-Taylor students have had the ability to learn remotely if school is canceled due to weather. For the 2023-24 school year, we will not offer the option to learn remotely if/when school is canceled. Our school calendar allows for one traditional snow day, therefore, any additional snow days beyond the first snow day will have to be made up at the end of the school year.

Annual Meeting

Please note that our District Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23rd. The budget review will start at 6:00 pm., and our annual meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the United Campus Board Room (I-109). Prior to the annual meeting, we will have our regular school board meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
Lynn Halverson

From the desk of Mrs. Lisowski



Mrs. Beth Lisowski

District Principal
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Elementary:

October 19

Parent Teacher Conferences
4:00 -9:00 p.m.

October 20

No School
Parent Teacher Conferences
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

November 17

No School - Teacher Inservice

November 20 - 24

No School

Middle/High:

October 20

No School - Teacher Inservice

November 16

Last Day of Trimester 1

November 17

No School - Teacher Inservice

November 20 - 24

No School

It's been a busy start to the 2023-24 school year. The students and staff are off and running and we have made it through the Blair Cheese Festival and Homecoming events. I continue to be impressed with the overwhelming community support that surrounds the school district.

Encouraging Good Attendance

Attendance at Blair-Taylor is important for success in school. Research shows that it is nearly impossible for a student to succeed in school without maintaining regular attendance. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- If possible, avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.

Elementary Arrival & Dismissal Times

Arrival

7:45 a.m. Elementary Doors Open

7:45 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served in the elementary commons

8:00 a.m. Classes Begin

Dismissal

3:24 p.m. 4K Dismissal

3:25 p.m. Grades K-1

3:26 p.m. Grades 2-3

3:27 p.m. Grades 4-5

3:30 p.m. MS/HS

3:35 p.m. Buses Depart

Wednesday Dismissal is 1 hour earlier



Changes in Family Information

It is important that the school district maintains current contact information including addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contacts. Please notify one of the school offices if there are any changes.

Lunch & Milk Payments

Any students or parents bringing in money for their child's food service account will now be asked to fill out an envelope that includes their child's name and the amount of money being deposited. There will also be locked boxes in each office where those envelopes can be dropped. Additionally, we are moving away from middle and high school students paying for meals or ala carte items at the point of service.

Winter Weather

When the weather is severe, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and we always follow a set of guidelines to make decisions about whether the school will be open or closed.

The district must make a decision that is the best for all students. We realize, at times, our decisions may not fit with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child(ren). You are always the best judge of their health and safety.

Snow Day Change

Even though we have been able to enjoy our share of warm, sunny weather, Winter is just around the corner. Snow days this year will look different for middle and high school students. The first day that school has to be canceled will be considered a traditional snow day where no classes (in-person or virtual) will take place. That first snow day will also not be made up by the students. Any days canceled after that will be made up at the end of the school year. No virtual programming will be offered for snow days. Our last scheduled school day is Friday, May 31. If we have more than 1 "snow day" this winter, additional days will be added after May 31 to make up those days.

WELCOME NEW BLAIR-TAYLOR STAFF

Alexa Brenner

Hello everyone! My name is Ms. Brenner and I am so excited to be at Blair-Taylor.

I am originally from La Crosse, WI. I live in Ettrick now with my significant other and our two dogs (also, one shop kitty named Dill). I graduated from UW-L in 2019 but decided to go back to school to earn my teaching degree this past year.

I have a passion for helping people of all abilities. I love all things outdoors: fishing, gardening, enjoying the river, and much more. One of my favorite quotes is "starve the ego, feed the soul".

Go pack go, and I am looking forward to a great year!



Becky Brouillet

My name is Becky Brouillet (Bree-et) and I am the new Director of Special Education.

I am incredibly excited to be part of the Blair Taylor School District family.

I live in Whitehall with my 16-year-old son Cooper and our two dogs. I also have a 22-year-old daughter, Isabella and a 20-year-old son, Samuel.

I have worked in Special Education for over 20 years and still learn something new every day.

My hobbies include traveling, kayaking, hiking, and spending time with my family and friends.



NEW BLAIR-TAYLOR STAFF

Jared McCutchen

My name is Jared McCutchen and I am the new 4K-12 Assistant Principal. I grew up in Galesville and graduated from G-E-T in 2002. I attended Viterbo university and graduated with an elementary education degree in 2008. I've taught kindergarten, 3rd, and 4th grades in the past 15 years at Galesville Elementary. I also coached basketball all 15 of those years and have been the head boys basketball coach for the past five seasons at G-E-T. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Amy. We live in Trempealeau and have three girls, Charlee 13, Harper 11, and Ava 8. They attend school at G-E-T where Amy is also the career and college readiness coordinator at G-E-T High School. Some of my hobbies include hunting, fishing, and watching sports, especially the Packers. I rarely miss watching a Packers game and I try to attend one at Lambeau every year. I also really enjoy coaching basketball and watching my daughters in their activities. I am honored to be a part of the Wildcat family and I'm looking forward to a great school year. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself when you see me at school or at some of our great after school events. I look forward to meeting you!



Brian Rogers

I come to Blair-Taylor with 29 years in education. I've spent the last 10 years in Ladysmith where I was elementary principal for two years and a middle school teacher the last eight years. Before that, I was in Stanley-Boyd for 15 years.



In addition, I was the athletic director for four years in Ladysmith. The last six years I was also the Boys' Varsity Basketball coach in Ladysmith.

I have three children. My oldest is Peyton who is going to be a senior at UW-LaCrosse where he is studying to become a phy-ed teacher. Next, is Eli who just graduated from Ladysmith High School and will be attending the University of Dubuque where he will study sports management/marketing as well as playing basketball. Chloe will be a sophomore at Edgar High School.

I will be residing in Onalaska with my girlfriend Michelle, who like me, is a huge Chicago Cubs fan. We've been to three games this summer in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minnesota. I'm looking for to being a part of the Blair-Taylor community.

Kendra Budish

Hello! My name is Kendra Budish and I will be teaching first grade this year. This will be my eighth year teaching. I was born and raised in Arcadia, WI. My family recently bought land in the Blair area and we will be building next Spring.



I graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Mary's University. In 2018 I graduated with a Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership and a Reading 316 license from Silver Lake University.

I have been married to my husband, Jake, for five years. Together we have two children, Finley and Jepsen. We love to spend our time outdoors hunting and fishing.

My family and I are very excited to be joining the Blair-Taylor community!

Patrick Sullivan

Hi! My name is Patrick Sullivan and I am the new elementary art teacher for the Blair-Taylor School District.



I am from Onalaska, Wisconsin, where I currently live with my wife and 2 kids. Although I live in Onalaska, my kids go to the West Salem School District. My son is going to be a senior, and played in the last two division 2 state championship basketball games, and my daughter is going to be a sophomore, and just made the varsity tennis team.

We are a sports family, and I'm thrilled to be joining the rich academic and athletic tradition of the Blair-Taylor School District Family.

NEW BLAIR-TAYLOR STAFF

Lindsay Burgau

Hello Wildcats, my name is Lindsay Burgau and I am the new Elementary Admirative Assistant.

I have lived in the Taylor area for the last nine years. My husband Gunner and I have four children Easton 12, Brewer 9, Jorie 5, and June 1, so you may have seen me around at some sporting events. I worked at the Co-op Credit Union for the last nine years as a member service Representative and Member Contact Agent.

My family and I enjoy being outside, camping, and sports. I'm excited to part of the Wildcat Team and I am looking forward to meeting all the students and families.



Madeleine Reski

I am excited to start serving the community in my role as the new school psychologist for the district.

I grew up in Sioux Falls, SD which is where I found my passion for the field of education. I completed my bachelor's degree in psychology and special education from Minnesota State University Moorhead and graduate school at UW-Stout.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors and working on DIY projects with my friends and family.

I am looking forward to getting to know the families and staff of Blair-Taylor!



Alivia Boe

My name is Ms. Alivia, and I will be working in the middle school as a paraprofessional. I am excited to be a part of such an amazing school and have a great supporting staff.

I grew up in Taylor, but I now reside in Ettrick with my boyfriend Austin. I graduated from Blair-Taylor in 2021. I

enjoy spending time with family and friends as much as possible. When I have free time I really enjoy watching the sunset, duck hunting, bow-fishing and anything outdoors.



Mara Windjue

Hi! I'm Ms. Windjue.

I am teaching English 11 and 12 as well as High/Middle School Art in Blair-Taylor this year.

I attended Winona State University for my bachelor's degree in Studio Art and English Literature. I grew up in Whitehall and still live there now. (I promise I'm trying to get used to wearing blue instead of orange)

Despite the old 'rivalry' I am so excited to be a part of the Wildcat team!



Cassie Hammond

Hi! My name is Cassie Hammond, your new second grade teacher.

I come to you with 24 years of teaching experience. I began my career as a teacher with Western Dairyland Head Start in the Blair-Taylor Elementary School. I then taught in Black River Falls and Arcadia before coming full circle back to Blair-Taylor Elementary School.

I was born and raised in Ettrick, where I continue to live with my husband, Jeff. We have two boys, Tyler 21 and Damen 18.

I am looking forward to being a part of your Wildcats Family!



Michael Lampman

Hello! My name is Michael Lampman, I will be teaching K-5 and adapted physical education.

I am originally from Viroqua, WI and graduated with the class of 2017. I attended the University of Wisconsin La Crosse where I majored in Physical Education with a minor in Adaptive Physical Education.

I enjoy playing basketball and going on walks with my one-year-old Newfoundland, Bear. I am excited to join the Blair-Taylor family! I look forward to equipping my students with skills to stay active throughout their lives.





SUPPORTING CHILD WELL-BEING THROUGH

PEER SUPPORT

WHY THIS MATTERS

Peer support is a form of community care where those with lived experience help others navigate an issue through supportive relationships. Peer support helps fill gaps in the mental health workforce with roles such as recovery coaches, community health navigators, and certified peer specialists. Youth-led peer mental health groups play an important role as kids often turn to their friends and peers first for help. Peer support can be an effective, accessible, empowering, and affordable approach to meeting the mental health needs of families.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Youth who have peers they can relate to and positive teen friendships, have better mental health outcomes into adulthood.¹ Positive outcomes are more likely when people talk with someone who has lived through the same experience.² Because peer support providers have lived experience, they understand the stigma often associated with mental health issues. These experts also tend to be culturally competent and trauma-informed, allowing for a better understanding and more effective support network for families.³

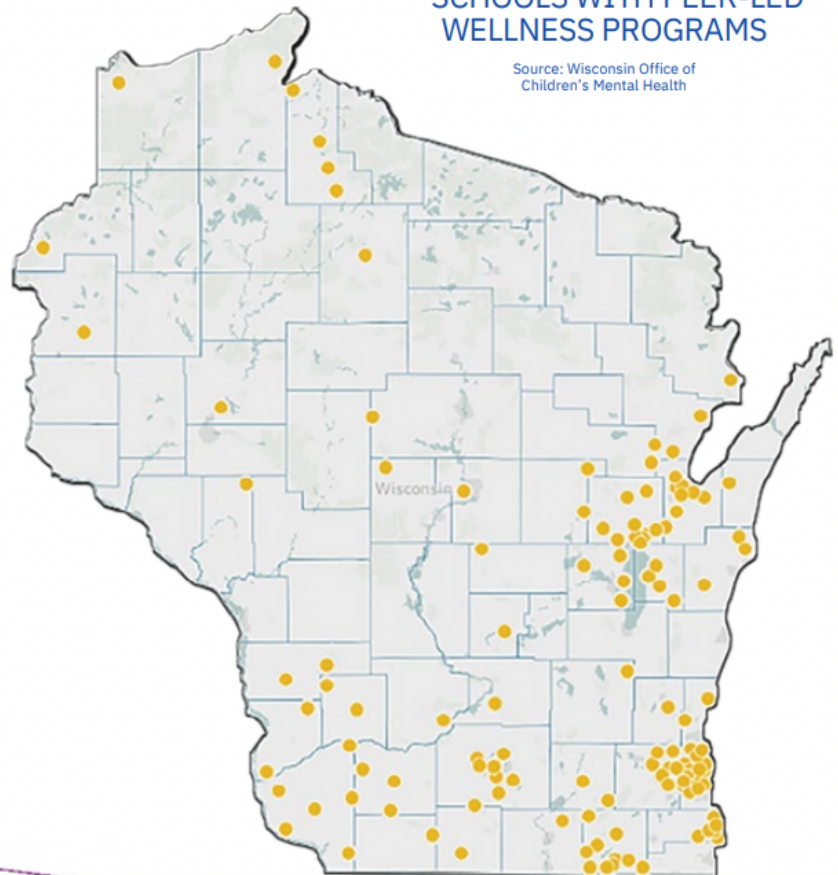
Given the shortage of mental health professionals, especially racially and culturally diverse practitioners, peer support fills a critical gap. Most psychologists have used peer consultations to manage burnout, and the nation's leading mental health organizations support the use of peer support. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration identifies the use of peers as the first essential quality of a comprehensive mental health crisis system.⁴ In addition, peer support has been found to significantly reduce hospital readmission rates.⁵

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WISCONSIN?

Peer support services are growing in many sectors throughout the state. There are family support services to help caregivers, community mental health navigators, and peer-led wellness programs in over 200 Wisconsin schools.

SCHOOLS WITH PEER-LED WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Source: Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health



- continued -

SCHOOL-BASED PEER-LED WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Wisconsin schools are home to peer-led youth mental health groups. Student leaders and adult advisors are increasing mental health literacy in their schools; raising awareness of resources available to youth; and actively supporting their peers in wellness, mental health and suicide prevention activities.

CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALISTS

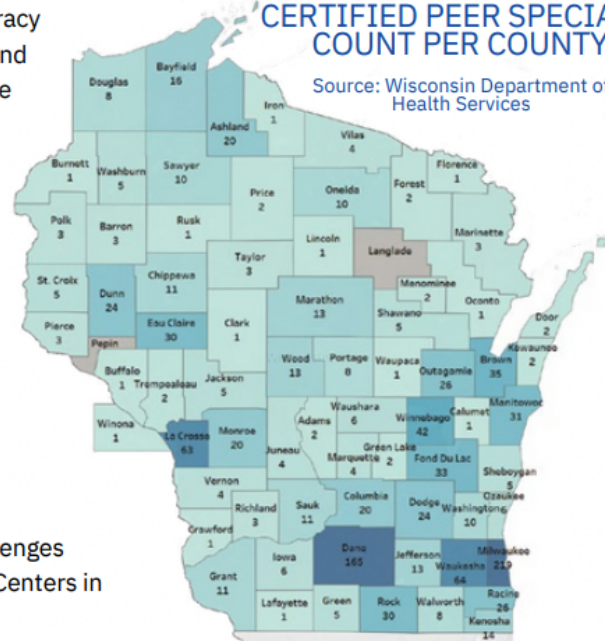
Wisconsin offers a certification program for **Certified Parent Peer Specialists**, those trained to provide peer support to other parents raising a child with behavioral health challenges; and **Certified Peer Specialists**, those trained to support adults with mental health and substance use issues. Certified Peer and Parent Specialists must complete a training course and pass an exam to be certified.⁶ As of 2022, there were over 1,200 people certified for peer support in the state.⁷

PEER RECOVERY CENTERS

Those living in recovery from mental health and substance use challenges can serve as a safe resource for peers. There are 11 Peer Recovery Centers in Wisconsin, eight of which focus on mental health recovery.⁸

CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALISTS COUNT PER COUNTY

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services



WHAT WE CAN DO 9

Ü PARENTS AND YOUTH:

- Support use of [TeenLine](#), a text line run by teens for teens. Text 839863 or Call 800-852-8336.
- Seek out peer confidential support specific to your identity (e.g. [parents](#), [LGBTQ](#), [Hmong](#), or [people with disabilities](#)).
- Consider becoming a [Certified Parent Peer Specialist](#) if you have experience to share.

Ü S CHOO L S

- Create opportunities for youth to provide peer support in whole school wellness and school-based mental health programs (see [map of peer-led offerings in Wisconsin schools](#)).
- Cultivate a [Trauma Sensitive School](#).

Ü POLICYMAKERS:

- Support Medicaid reimbursement rates for peer support services.
- Expand peer specialist programs that offer paid employment for the peer workforce.

Ü PROVIDERS

- Employ peer specialists, following [best practices](#) and implementing [resources](#).
- Explore technical assistance offerings from [Youth MOVE National Peer Center](#).
- Identify peer-based resources that complement clinical care and share with families.
- Evaluate your program's [cultural competency](#).

REFERENCES:

¹ Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Peer Services: Peer Recovery Centers. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/peer-recovery-centers.htm>.

² SAMSHA. National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care – A Best Practice Toolkit. Page 13. <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/national-guidelines-for-behavioral-health-crisis-care-02242020.pdf>

³ SAMSHA. Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale. (2017). Family, Parent and Caregiver Peer Support in Behavioral Health. Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/family-parent-caregiver-support-behavioral-health-2017.pdf.

⁴ SAMSHA INFOGRAPHIC. https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/family-parent-caregiver-support-behavioral-health-2017.pdf

⁵ RI International. (2022). Recovery Innovations Programs and Outcomes. Retrieved from <https://riinternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RIA-Programs-and-Outcomes.pdf>.

⁶ Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Peer Services: Peer Specialists. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/peer-specialists.htm>.

⁷ Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Peer Specialist Initiative. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02541-02.pdf>.

⁸ Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Peer Services: Peer Recovery Centers. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/peer-recovery-centers.htm>.

⁹ Mental Health America. (August 2022). **Youth and Young Adult Peer Support: Expanding Community-Driven Mental Health Resources**. <https://mhanational.org/research-reports/youth-and-young-adult-peer-support-expanding-community-driven-mental-health>



TITLE I Reading Corner with Mr. Nelson

THE 20 MINUTE RULE...

What can you do in 20 minutes? Wash the dishes? Fold the laundry? Advance to the next level of a video game? Go for a walk or bike ride? Scroll through Facebook? I think you will agree a '20-minute' list is almost endless. If you need additional ideas, I bet you could spend at least 20 minutes surfing the internet scanning the multiple sites devoted to this topic.

Most classrooms across Blair-Taylor Elementary School have a nightly reading expectation. Why? We value reading and know it makes a difference. Take a look at the chart. What do you have time for? What can get rescheduled or postponed to make sure reading happens?

1.8 million is a big number and hard for many to comprehend. Change the minute value to a monetary unit. Make it a game format. "Pay" your student for each minute of reading. Allow them to cash in their earnings on a trip to the library, computer time, staying up an extra 15 minutes on a non-school night, etc. Again, the list is endless of ideas your family can create to make this a fun project. One thing is for sure. Everyone's reading stamina will increase, 20 minutes will fly by, memories will be made, and libraries of books will be read.

Do you need books to read? All students have scheduled library check-out times here at school. The public libraries in Blair and Taylor have a rich collection of books and other resources. Several families have donated books to school and are ready to be read. Just ask and make your need known to any staff member.

What's your reading goal this week/month/year? Set aside 20 minutes a day and make it happen.

Have a great month.



Mr. Scott Nelson

Title One / Reading Specialist
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HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

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From the desk of Mrs. Semb

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons cream cheese, low-fat
- 2 flour tortillas
- 1/6 tablespoon Ranch seasoning mix (1/2 teaspoon)
- 1/4 cup broccoli (washed and chopped)
- 1/4 cup carrot (peeled and grated)
- 1/4 cup zucchini (washed and cut into small strips)
- 1/4 cup summer squash (yellow, washed and cut into small strips)
- 1/2 tomato (diced)
- 1/8 cup green bell pepper (seeded and diced)
- 2 tablespoons chives (chopped fine)



DIRECTIONS

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. In a small bowl, stir ranch seasoning into cream cheese; chill.
3. Wash and chop vegetables.
4. Steam broccoli in microwave for 1 minute with 1 tablespoon of water.
5. Spread cream cheese onto flour tortilla, staying one inch from edge. Sprinkle vegetables over cream cheese. Roll tortilla tightly.
6. Chill for 1 to 2 hours before serving (the wrap will hold its shape better).
With a sharp knife slice into circles and serve.



Mrs. Jenny Semb

School Nurse

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Help Your Child Build a Healthy Eating Routine

Eating habits start early – so help your child build a healthy eating routine to last a lifetime.

Follow these tips to help kids and teens get the nutrition they need.



Offer your child a mix of healthy foods

There are lots of healthy choices in each food group! Help your child find a variety of foods they enjoy, including:



Whole fruits – like apples, berries, oranges, mangos, and bananas



Veggies – like broccoli, sweet potatoes, beets, okra, spinach, peppers, black beans, edamame, and jicama



Whole grains – like brown rice, millet, oatmeal, bulgur, whole-wheat bread, and pasta



Protein foods – like lean meats and chicken, eggs, seafood, beans and lentils, nuts and seeds, and tofu



Low-fat or fat-free dairy – like milk, yogurt, cheese, lactose-free dairy, and fortified soy beverages (soy milk) or soy yogurt



Oils – like vegetable oil, olive oil, and oils in foods like seafood, avocado, and nuts



Depending on your family's culture and tastes, your child might enjoy different foods than the ones listed here – and that's okay! You can find healthy foods that work for your family at [Dietary Guidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/DGA_2020-2025_CustomizingTheDietaryGuidelines.pdf](https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/DGA_2020-2025_CustomizingTheDietaryGuidelines.pdf).



Help your child build healthy habits

Getting children involved in their food choices can help get them excited about healthy eating. Try these tips:

- Keep healthy snacks handy — get ideas for healthy snacks at [MyPlate.gov/tip-sheet/healthy-snacking-MyPlate](https://www.MyPlate.gov/tip-sheet/healthy-snacking-MyPlate)
- Bring kids and teens along to the store — let them pick out new healthy foods to try together
- Build confidence in the kitchen — help your child learn basic skills like how to chop veggies, and try making kid-friendly recipes together
- Let kids pack their own lunch — help them make a simple sandwich on whole-wheat bread and choose a piece of fruit and a veggie to go with it
- Help your child eat healthy away from home — talk to them about how to make healthier choices when they're at a friend's house or school



What about picky eaters?

Picky eating is very common in young kids — so don't be discouraged! Over time, you can help your child explore a wider range of healthy foods. Try these tips:

- Offer each new food many times — kids may need up to 10 tries before they get used to it
- Try different prep methods — kids who don't like cooked veggies might love raw, crunchy veggies
- Make new foods easy to eat — try cutting up fruits and veggies into small, bite-sized pieces

References

Boiner, A. (2022). 5 ways to boost your mental health for spring. *Psychology Today*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT DATES

The Blair-Taylor Music Department would like to extend an invitation to you for our concerts this next school year. Make a note of the following dates so you do not miss the wonderful performances from our students:

- **October 23 - Fall Choir Concert**
 - 6:00 call, 6:30 concert begins
- **October 30 - Band Concert**
 - 6:00 call, 6:30 concert begins
- **November 3-4 - NATS Auditions**
 - Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI
- **November 10 - Veteran's Day Program**
- **November 11 - Dairyland Honors Band & Choir**
- **December 15 - Elementary Holiday Concerts**
 - The Kindergarten Program begins at 1:00 pm
 - The 1st and 2nd Grade Program begins at 2:00 pm
- **May 24 - Elementary Spring Concert**
 - The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Program begins at 2:00 pm

All concerts will be held in the United Campus Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you at our concerts this school year!

Veterans Day Program



**Blair-Taylor United Campus
Friday, November 10th @ 9:00 AM
Hospitality Brunch to Follow
Sponsored by FCCLA**

LIBRARY MATTERS

The school year is off to a great start, and we have high hopes for the future. We hope you are as excited about the school year as we are!

Here are a few pieces of news related to the library:

Our schedule at the elementary level is a little different than last year. Each class (K-5) will come to the library twice during the 6-day cycle (30 mins. each time). Students come in for library skills class, as well as having time to check out books. For most classes, this results in having 15 more minutes of library time over the 6-day cycle than they had in the past.

In addition, we've changed the layout of the library. Our goal was to consolidate the books for younger students, as it was hard for them to understand the previous way we organized materials. Now, we basically have a section in the library for books geared to students in lower elementary, and a section with books geared to students in middle to upper elementary. When checking out books, students will be able to travel back and forth between the sections if needed and as appropriate. So far, it seems to be working out well and most students and staff have reacted quite positively to the new layout.



As in the past, we also have times scheduled for middle school students to visit the library for library skills class and/or check-out time. Likely in October, we will start scheduling library visits for students in the Early Learning Center and Childcare Center.

As usual, we have many high school students coming to the library each day for a variety of classes: distance learning, virtual co-op, online/independent classes, study halls, and credit recovery. This trimester, we have about 85 students (some are repeats) reporting to the library for roughly 30 different classes/study halls during the day. We've observed an interesting change. In the past, typically the students reporting to the library to take distance learning classes were juniors or seniors. This year, we've seen a definite increase in the number of freshmen and sophomores reporting to the library for distance learning and/or virtual co-op classes.

LIBRARY MATTERS

Of course, students and teachers alike come to the library as needed to seek resources and help.

Here's a breakdown of how many books have been checked out so far (as of 9/20/22):

Middle/High School Library	624
Elementary Library	1,268

While these numbers are impressive, they're down slightly from this time last school year. Make sure you keep on reading, WildCats!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is scheduled for Oct. 12-24 (weekdays only).

This is considered a K-5 book fair, though we should have a few items that pertain to Pre-K and middle school as well.



Please see below for the hours we'll be open each day for the in-person Fair:

Thurs., Oct. 12, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Fri., Oct. 13, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Mon., Oct. 16, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Tues., Oct. 17, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Wed., Oct. 18, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Thurs., Oct. 19, 7:45 am - 8:30 pm

Fri., Oct. 20, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mon., Oct. 23, 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Tues., Oct. 24, 7:45 am - 7:00 pm

We intentionally scheduled the Book Fair to coincide with three sessions of parent-teacher conferences, so that parents/guardians can stop in with their children, if they so choose. For those families for which this will not work, elementary students are able to shop during a portion of their normal Library Skills class while the fair is running. One other option includes an adult accompanying elementary students to the Fair before or after school. (In the past, we had issues with a number of elementary students skipping breakfast or being late to class, which is why we now require an adult to accompany them.) If families are unable to attend the Fair in person, they are welcome to shop [online](#) instead

We encourage families to set up [eWallet accounts](#) (particularly for elementary students). These accounts allow students to shop without having to bring money to school, reducing issues with students losing money or potentially having it stolen. Please be aware that any leftover money in an eWallet account is treated as a credit toward the individual's Scholastic account.

LIBRARY MATTERS

In addition, please note that we are required to charge sales tax. Many children find this hard to understand. Please help by planning ahead and doing what you can to explain to them that even if a book is \$4.99, they will need more than a \$5.00 bill to pay for it. (What a great opportunity to reinforce math and money-counting skills!)

You may have noticed that over the past few years, we've reduced the number of toys and trinkets available for purchase at the Fair. The main reason for this is because we would like the emphasis to remain on literacy, learning, and building personal libraries at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me (Kimberly Joten, K-12 Library Media Specialist) at jotenk@btsd.k12.wi.us. I'd be happy to talk with you regarding our Book Fair.

[Click here to view our Book Fair homepage.](#) or (<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/blairtaylor elementaryschool1>)

-KIMBERLY JOTEN, K-12 LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Notice of School Board Election (S.120.06(6)(b), Wis. Stats.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to qualified electors of the Blair-Taylor School District that a School Board election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, to elect school board members to the seats currently held by Troy Tenneson and Perry Kujak as District 1 Directors and Michele Steien as District 2 Director, whose 3-year terms expire in April 2024. The incumbents are eligible for re-election.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any qualified elector desiring to be a candidate for this position on the school board shall file a Declaration of Candidacy at the Blair-Taylor School District Office, N31024 Elland Road, Blair, WI not earlier than Friday, December 1, 2023, and not later than Tuesday, January 2, 2024, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The forms may be delivered or mailed to the address noted above prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

District boundary information is available in the district office.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

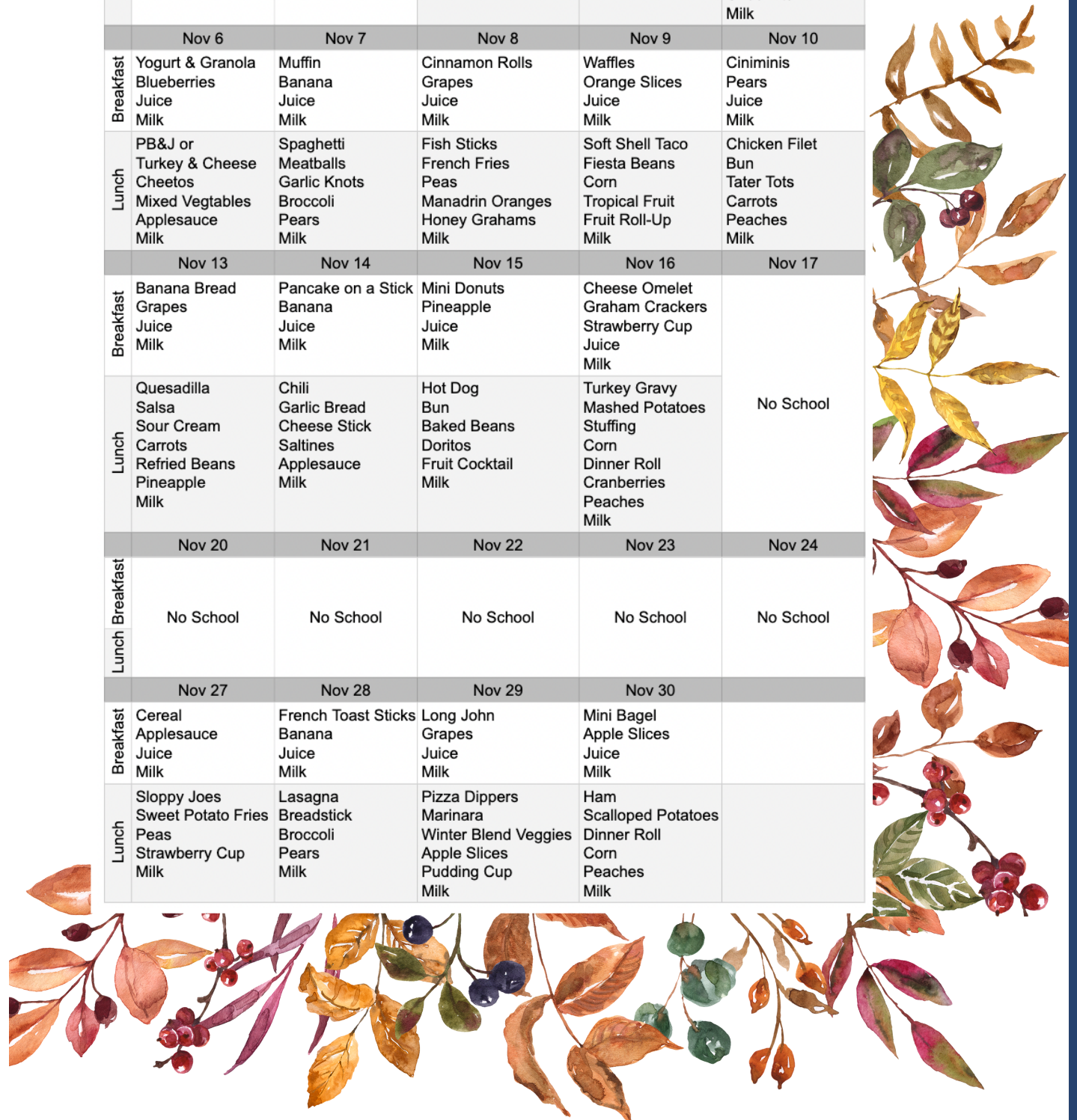
Dated this 21st day of September 2023.

David Thompson, Clerk
Blair-Taylor School District

November 2023 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

As of October 13. Meal offerings may change.

			Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3
Breakfast			Donut Holes Craisins Juice Milk	Pancakes Apple Slices Juice Milk	Breakfast Sandwich Grape Juice Milk
Lunch			Chicken Fries Garlic Pasta Carrots Strawberry Cup Milk	Pizza Green Beans Pineapple Slushie Milk	Corn Dog Baked Beans Deli Roasters Apple Slices Cheez-Its Milk
	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10
Breakfast	Yogurt & Granola Blueberries Juice Milk	Muffin Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Grapes Juice Milk	Waffles Orange Slices Juice Milk	Ciniminis Pears Juice Milk
Lunch	PB&J or Turkey & Cheese Cheetos Mixed Vegetables Applesauce Milk	Spaghetti Meatballs Garlic Knots Broccoli Pears Milk	Fish Sticks French Fries Peas Manadrin Oranges Honey Grahams Milk	Soft Shell Taco Fiesta Beans Corn Tropical Fruit Fruit Roll-Up Milk	Chicken Filet Bun Tater Tots Carrots Peaches Milk
	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17
Breakfast	Banana Bread Grapes Juice Milk	Pancake on a Stick Banana Juice Milk	Mini Donuts Pineapple Juice Milk	Cheese Omelet Graham Crackers Strawberry Cup Juice Milk	No School
Lunch	Quesadilla Salsa Sour Cream Carrots Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	Chili Garlic Bread Cheese Stick Saltines Applesauce Milk	Hot Dog Bun Baked Beans Doritos Fruit Cocktail Milk	Turkey Gravy Mashed Potatoes Stuffing Corn Dinner Roll Cranberries Peaches Milk	
	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24
Breakfast	No School	No School	No School	No School	No School
Lunch	No School	No School	No School	No School	No School
	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	
Breakfast	Cereal Applesauce Juice Milk	French Toast Sticks Banana Juice Milk	Long John Grapes Juice Milk	Mini Bagel Apple Slices Juice Milk	
Lunch	Sloppy Joes Sweet Potato Fries Peas Strawberry Cup Milk	Lasagna Breadstick Broccoli Pears Milk	Pizza Dippers Marinara Winter Blend Veggies Apple Slices Pudding Cup Milk	Ham Scalloped Potatoes Dinner Roll Corn Peaches Milk	



December 2023 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

As of October 13. Meal offerings may change.

	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8
Breakfast	Mini Pancakes Craisins Cheese Stick Juice Milk	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Appleway Bar Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese Stick Raisins Juice Milk	Muffin Cheese Stick Orange Juice Milk	Mini Bagel Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk
Lunch	Chicken Nuggets Potato Wedges Carrots Peaches Scooby Doo Snack Milk	Meatloaf Au Gratin Potatoes Peas Dinner Roll Pears Milk	Meatball Sub Hoagie Bun Baked Beans Sunchips Fruit Cocktail Milk	Pizza Green Beans Pineapple Apple Crisp Milk	Fish Sticks Smile Fries Corn Strawberry Cup Crackers Milk
	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15
Breakfast	Yogurt & Granola Cheese Stick Strawberry Cup Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Cheese Stick Grapes Juice Milk	Cinniminis Cheese Stick Orange Slices Juice Milk
Lunch	Cheeseburger Mac Mixed Veggies Dinner Roll Applesauce Milk	Nachos Taco Meat Cheese Sauce Fiesta Beans Salsa Sour Cream Corn Strawberry Cup Milk	Chicken Tenders Sweet Potato Fries Broccoli with Cheese Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cheeseburger Bun Potato Chips Baked Beans Pears Milk	Ravioli Garlic Bread Peas Peaches Milk
	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22
Breakfast	Frudel Cheese stick Peaches Juice Milk	Cheese Omelet Crackers Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Long John Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk	Cereal Applesauce Cheese Stick Juice Milk
Lunch	Chicken Patty Bun Tater Tots Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Milk	Meatball/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn Dinner Roll Peaches Milk	Pizza Dippers Marinara California Blend Pears Cookie Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup Breadsticks Cheese Stick Crackers Peas Applesauce Milk	
	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29
Lunch Breakfast	No School	No School	No School	No School	No School



January 2024 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

As of October 13. Meal offerings may change.

	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5
Breakfast	No School	Yogurt Cheese Stick Applesauce Granola Juice Milk	Mini Donuts Cheese Stick Raisins Juice Milk	Breakfast Bagel Cheese Stick Orange Slices Juice Milk	Mini Bagel Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk
Lunch		Chicken Tenders Smile Fries Corn Pineapple Crackers Milk	BBQ Rib Hoagie Bun French Fries Baked Beans Pears Milk	Mac & Cheese Soft Pretzel Carrots Apple Slices Milk	Orange Chicken Rice Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie Milk
	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12
Breakfast	Cereal Cheese Stick Applesauce Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese Stick Grapes Juice Milk	Breakfast Sandwich Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Combo Bar Cheese Stick Strawberry Cup Juice Milk
Lunch	Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Baked Beans Pineapple Crackers Milk	Chicken Alfredo Pasta Breadstick California Blend Peaches Milk	Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Cookie Milk	Meatloaf Curly Fries Carrots Dinner Roll Pears Milk	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty Deli Potatoes Appleway Bar Banana Milk (6-12) Juice
	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19
Breakfast	Cereal Bar Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Long John Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Muffin Cheese Stick Grapes Juice Milk	No School
Lunch	Pulled Pork Bun Baked Beans Potato Wedges Pears Milk	Pasta Red/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Green Beans Apple Slices Milk	Chicken Fries Roasted Potatoes Broccoli w/Cheese Strawberry Cup Milk	Patty Melt Potato Chips Carrots Pears Milk	
	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26
Breakfast	Yogurt & Granola Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese Stick Craisins Juice Milk	Frudel Cheese Stick Blueberries Juice Milk	Pancake on a Stick Cheese Stick Orange Slices Juice Milk
Lunch	Breaded Pork Patty Roasted Potatoes Broccoli w/Cheese Fruit Cocktail Milk	Chicken Filet Bun Sweet Potato Fries Carrots Pineapple Milk	Quesadilla Salsa Fiesta Beans Corn Peaches Milk	Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Crackers Peas Applesauce Pudding Cup Milk	
	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31		
Breakfast	Muffin Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk	Mini Donut Cheese Stick Grapes Juice Milk		
Lunch	Corn Dog Baked Beans Doritos Mandarin Oranges Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll Corn Blueberries Milk	Pizza Dippers Marinara Green Beans Peaches Milk		



Blair-Taylor Booster/PTO Club Community Calendar

Information Sheet

Contact Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

COMMUNITY CALENDARS - \$8.00 Each

Number of Calendars ordered: _____ x \$8.00 = _____

Please List All Names, dates, and type of event you would like included on the Community Calendar

**** Note – ALL NAMES must be listed, even if the same as last year ****
**** Please list exactly how you would like it printed on the calendar ****
 (example: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Johnson or Joe & Susan Johnson)

Date	Type	Name

TYPE: B = Birthday A = Anniversary

2024

Blair-Taylor Booster/PTO

It is that time of year again for our Community Calendar...
And we are doing a full update this year!

If you would like a Birthday/Anniversary Calendar, please fill out this form and return it as listed below. We will not be keeping families on the calendar from last year, that do not return a new form.

ALL ORDERS DUE BY OCTOBER 25, 2023

Orders can be returned to either the Elementary, High School, or District Office in an envelope, with payment included. Envelopes should be clearly addressed to: B-T Booster/PTO Club

OR

Mailed to:
 Blair-Taylor Booster/PTO Club
 PO BOX 295
 Blair, WI 54616

Please make checks payable to: B-T Booster/PTO Club

For questions or late orders, contact: Janelle Ekern at 608-386-0365

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
 BLAIR-TAYLOR BOOSTER/PTO CLUB!!**

Sports News with Coach Storlie

WELCOME HOME

Please mark down on your calendar, February 16th if you are a Wildcat basketball fan. On that date, the Boys' high school team will be hosting Eleva-Strum, but also welcoming home three of B-T's State Boys' Basketball squads.

We will be celebrating and recognizing the 1994, 2004, and the 2014 state squads and the players on those fantastic teams. Just before the varsity game the players on those squads will introduced and welcomed back. The 1994 squad finished the season with a 25-1 record, the 2004 team went 24-2 and the 2014 team went 23-4 and were state runners-up in Division 4.

If you were a member of those teams please contact Coach Storlie if you need more details at storlr@btsd.k12.wi.us. It will be a great night of Wildcat basketball and to celebrate those state teams' anniversaries of their trips to Madison.



Coach Randy Storlie

Athletic Director
storlr@btsd.k12.wi.us

Blair-Taylor Middle School Winter Sport Schedule as of October 13th

Please remember that winter sports are scheduled to change due to weather conditions. So please check with the school, or your child's coaches, if sport activities are still on when the weather becomes questionable.

Middle School Boys Basketball 2023

		Bus	Game
Nov 6	Lincoln		4:30
Nov 7	Whitehall		4:30
Nov 9	BRF		4:30
Nov 14	Indee		4:30
Nov 16	CFC		4:45
Nov 27	at Arcadia	4:10	5:00
Nov 28	Gilmanton		4:30
Nov 30	at Whitehall	3:45	4:30
Dec 5	at Mel-Min	3:45	5:00
Dec 7	at CFC	3:30	4:45
Dec 8	at Gilmanton	4:15	5:30
Dec 14	Mel-Min		4:30
Dec 18	at BRF	3:30	4:30
Dec 19	at Lincoln	3:50	5:00
Dec 21	Arcadia		4:30

Middle School Girls Basketball 2024

		Bus	Game
Jan 12	at Gilmanton	4:00	5:30
Jan 15	Mel-Min		4:30
Jan 16	Whitehall		4:30
Jan 18	BRF		4:30
Jan 19	Gilmanton		4:30
Jan 22	at Lincoln	3:35	5:00
Jan 23	at Indee	3:45	4:30
Jan 25	CFC		4:30
Jan 29	Eleva-Strum		4:30
Feb 1	Arcadia		4:30
Feb 5	at Mel-Min	3:35	5:00
Feb 6	at Arcadia	3:50	5:00
Feb 8	at Whitehall	3:40	4:30
Feb 12	Lincoln		4:45
Feb 15	at CFC	3:35	5:00
Feb 19	at BRF	3:45	5:00

Middle School Wrestling 2024

		Start Time
Jan 18	Blair-Taylor	5:00 pm
Jan 19	at Arcadia	5:00 pm
Jan 25	at CFC	5:00 pm
Feb 6	at Mel-Min	5:00 pm

GO CATS

Blair-Taylor High School Winter Sport Schedule as of October 13th

Please remember that winter sports are scheduled to change due to weather conditions. So please check with the school, or your child's coaches, if sport activities are still on when the weather becomes questionable.

Girls Basketball 2024

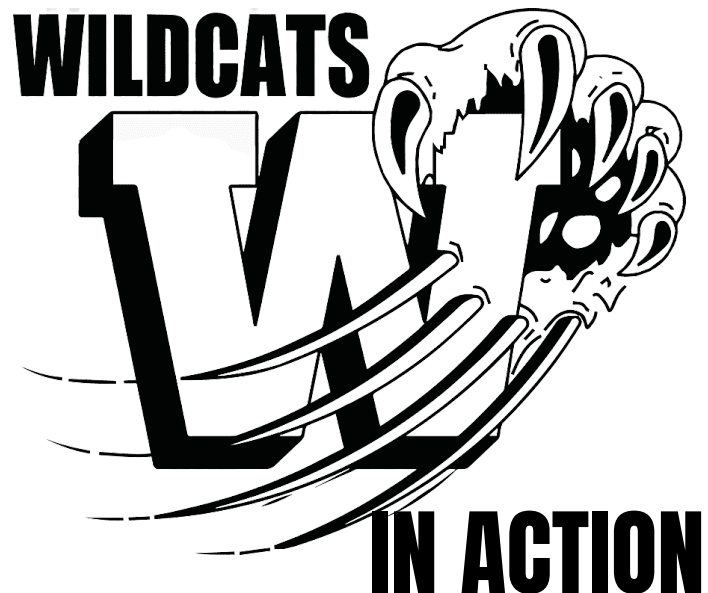
		Bus	Game
Nov 16	at BRF	4:30	
Nov 21	at GET	4:30	5:45 - JV
Nov 28	Mel-Min		
Dec 1	at Augusta	4:15	
Dec 2	De Soto		1:00- V
Dec 12	at Whitehall	5:00	
Dec 15	at Eleva-Strum	4:45	
Dec 21	Independence		
Dec 22	at Onalaska	3:15	5:00 - JV 6:30 - V
Dec 28	Cashton		4:00 / 7:00
Jan 2	at Bangor	4:00	5:45 - JV 7:30 - V
Jan 5	Houston, MN		
Jan 6	Colfax		1:00 / 2:30
Jan 11	at Lincoln	4:30	
Jan 16	at Alma	4:00	
Jan 19	CFC		
Jan 22	New Lisbon		
Jan 29	at Immanuel	4:00	
Jan 30	at Mel-Min	4:15	
Feb 1	Augusta		
Feb 3	Royall at JAG		12:30
Feb 9	Whitehall		
Feb 12	at EPC	3:30	5:45 - JV
Feb 15	Eleva-Strum		
Feb 20, 23, 24	Regional		
Feb 29, Mar 2	Sectional		
Mar 7-9	State		

Boys Basketball 2024

		Bus	Game
Nov 20	Fall Creek		
Nov 27	at EPC	3:45	5:45 - JV
Nov 30	Mel-Min		
Dec 2	DeSoto		2:30 - v
Dec 5	at Augusta	4:30	
Dec 14	at Whitehall	5:00	
Dec 15	at Nekoosa	3:00	5:30
Dec 19	at Eleva-Strum	4:45	
Dec 22	at Indee	4:50	
Dec 27	at River Ridge		11:00 / 1:30
Dec 28	Cashton		4:00 / 5:30
Jan 2	at Bangor	4:00	5:45
Jan 4	at Loyal	3:40	5:45 / 7:00
Jan 9	Lincoln		
Jan 12	Pepin-Alma		
Jan 18	at CFC	4:30	
Jan 23	Greenwood		
Jan 30	at Port Edwards	2:30	5:00 / 7:00
Feb 1	at Mel-Min	4:45	
Feb 3	Royall at JAG	8:45a	11:10
Feb 8	Whitehall		
Feb 13	Immanuel		
Feb 16	Eleva-Strum		
Feb 22	Augusta		
Feb 27, March 1-2	Regional		
March 7-9	Sectional		
March 14-16	State		

Wrestling 2024

		Start Time
Nov 30	at Arcadia	7:00 pm
Dec 2	at Royall	9:00 am
Dec 9	at North	9:00 am
Dec 12	at Osseo-Fairchild	7:00 pm
Dec 14	Mondovi	7:00 pm
Dec 15	at Whitehall	4:00 pm
Dec 28-29	at River Falls	7:00 am
Jan 6	at Kickapoo	10:00 am
Jan 13	at Ithaca	10:00 am
Jan 18	Blair Taylor	
Jan 20	at Sparta	9:00 am
Jan 25	at CFC	
Jan 27	at Indee Tourney	9:45 am
Feb 1	at Whitehall	
Feb 10	Regional	
Feb 17	Sectional	
Feb 23-25	State	





Christmas Project

The Blair-Taylor School District is gearing up for the Holiday Season. In preparation for the season we want to let you know that we will be offering opportunities for families who may need a little additional support with gifts and/or food during this time.

Throughout this process your family's information will be kept strictly confidential. We will work closely with you on when you can pick up gifts and/or food at the school in a discrete manner.

If you are interested in receiving any support please fill out the information below (one for each child) and return it to your school counselor by **October 27th**. You may also call by **October 27th** if you have an interest. We will attempt to fulfill as many requests as possible. However, it will depend on the amount of need and requests. If you wish to sponsor a family in need please contact one of the staff members listed below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Van Schyndel , School Counselor , vanscc@btsd.k12.wi.us , 608-989-2525 ext. 301

Ms. Baures, School Counselor , baureb@btsd.k12.wi.us , 608-989-2525 ext. 300

Mrs. Lisowski , 4K-12 Principal , lisowb@btsd.k12.wi.us, 608-989-9835 ext. 203



Name of parent: _____ Phone Number: _____

Children in the household:

Name:	Age:	Special WishList Item(s):

My child _____ needs the following clothing items:

Size	Item	Circle Which Dept? (Infant, Toddler, Boys/Girls, Juniors, Women's/Men's)
	Socks	
	Underwear	
	Pajamas	
	Jeans	
	Shirts	
	Shoes	
	Winter Gear	

Favorites (color, hobbies/interests, likes/dislikes, etc)

Empty box for writing favorites, hobbies, interests, likes, and dislikes.

My child _____ needs the following clothing items:

Size	Item	Circle Which Dept? (Infant, Toddler, Boys/Girls, Juniors, Women's/Men's)
	Socks	
	Underwear	
	Pajamas	
	Jeans	
	Shirts	
	Shoes	
	Winter Gear	
Favorites (color, hobbies/interests, likes/dislikes, etc)		

My child _____ needs the following clothing items:

Size	Item	Circle Which Dept? (Infant, Toddler, Boys/Girls, Juniors, Women's/Men's)
	Socks	
	Underwear	
	Pajamas	
	Jeans	
	Shirts	
	Shoes	
	Winter Gear	
Favorites (color, hobbies/interests, likes/dislikes, etc)		

School District of Blair-Taylor

N31024 Elland Road

P.O. Box 107

Blair, WI 54616

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WILDCAT NEWS



Wildcats

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