



# Appleton

## Elementary

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### Important Dates

- Valentine's Day Parties**  
February 14
  
- No School—Elementary Planning Day**  
February 15
  
- No School—Contractual Day off**  
February 16
  
- No School—President's Day**  
February 19
  
- PTA Meeting**  
February 22, 4pm, Library
  
- 2nd Grade & SSN Field Trip to Safety Fair**  
February 23
  
- No School—Teacher Work Day**  
March 9
  
- No School—Spring Break**  
March 12–16

### Letter from the Principal:

#### The Team Concept at Appleton

What makes for a winning team? I've been fortunate to have been a player or coach on several winning teams in multiple sports over the years and I have seen some common characteristics that I think defined those teams and ultimately led to their success. From my experience, the same qualities that make up winning sports teams often are the same ones that help a school staff (team) to achieve great results in student growth. Spend some time at Appleton and you will hear staff members or myself often refer to ourselves as "Our Team." Here are just a few of the many winning qualities the team at Appleton demonstrate:

**They focus on improving their "game."** Our staff believes that students grow when we are dedicated to growing as professionals. Staff members take their learning seriously. They consistently take college and professional courses on their own time. Spend hours reading and discussing professional texts. Every month they develop their own staff professional development based on goals for student improvement. They push each other in refining their teaching methods. Our staff loves the game we are in and we are playing to win.

**They are committed to the team concept.** There are no "islands" at Appleton. Everyone is collaborative and supports each other. When internal conflicts arise, they are effectively resolved and team members get past them quickly. Our staff looks for opportunities to help and puts other's needs ahead of themselves. Everyone believes they are responsible not just for the kids in their class, but all Appleton kids are their kids.

**We are passionate about our goal, student growth!** Appleton has earned many awards for outstanding academic growth in our students over recent years. Staff members believe they can grow every kid...a lot! And they are not satisfied until the students want to grow, too. We problem solve obstacles to growth and push for results.

*(continued on next page)*

## Letter from the Principal (continued)

Every year thousands of schools have their staff members take a survey called the Organizational Health Inventory (OHI). It is a scientifically based assessment of 10 categories that reflect on how the staff interacts and approaches educating children. How a school staff scores is highly correlative of how the students in that school will grow academically. Appleton's staff consistently scores in the highest category... because they have a great team concept.

**Go Bookworms!**

Corey Hafey

## It's Cold Outside!

Please send students to school prepared to have recess outside during the winter season. Coats, hats, boots, and gloves are recommended.

Indoor recess will only happen when the wind chill index is 5 degrees or below or it's raining or snowing heavily. During these conditions students will have indoor recess before school, as well.

Before school indoor recess = Kindergarteners, First, and Second Graders are in the South Gym  
Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders are in the North Gym

## Reading Tips

Here are some easy tried and true reading tips you can use at home to help your child become a better reader:

- Stop before the end of the story. Ask your child to predict what will happen next.
- Encourage your child to guess what the next rhyming word will be if you are reading a poem.
- Have your child relate the story to a personal experience she may have had.
- Ask your child how he may have changed the story.

## Boxtops for Education Fundraiser

Please continue to send in box tops for education with your kiddos. Please look for box top items when doing your shopping. We collect those from the classrooms monthly to send in for reimbursement. Over the last 10 years Appleton has earned over \$20,000 by collecting Box Tops for Education.



The advertisement is divided into two main sections. The top section features a dark grey background with a grid of white dots. On the left, there is a logo consisting of four circles (two white, one yellow, one white) above the text "Essentials in Learning, LLC" in a yellow, sans-serif font. Below the text is a yellow pencil graphic. In the center, there is a photograph of a young boy with brown hair, wearing an orange shirt, sitting at a desk and writing with a green marker. On the right, the text "Is your student struggling in school?" is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller white font, it says "Specializing in working with students with learning needs and differences including ADHD and/or executive skills deficits. Also serving twice exceptional students and those preparing for college." At the bottom of this section, the text "Essentials in Learning, LLC" is repeated in yellow, followed by the website "www.essentialsinlearning.com" and the phone number "(970) 210-9271" in white. To the right of the phone number are four circles (two white, one yellow, one white). The bottom section of the advertisement has a yellow background. On the left, the text "If your gifted student is experiencing new or recurring challenges, we can help!" is written in a black, sans-serif font. To the right, there are two photographs: one of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, sitting at a desk and looking thoughtful with his hand to his chin; and another of a woman with brown hair, wearing a blue plaid shirt, looking stressed with her hands on her head.

## School of Choice is Coming

The School of Choice window will open Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. and close Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m. Appleton is currently very full and there will be limited new School of Choice applications accepted. School of Choice acceptance is based on: 1. Space available 2. Time the request is completed 3. If we have the specific programs that your child may require and if space is available in those programs.

- Students who are currently attending a school under the School of Choice policy do not need to re-apply for the coming year. Once a student is accepted to a school under SOC, they will attend that school as long as space is available.
- Students shifting from Elementary to Middle School, or Middle School to High School, will need to apply for School of Choice as they shift from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, or 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. (Fruita 8/9 school is an exception)
- School Of Choice applications will be submitted through an online application process. **All parents/guardians who wish to fill out a SOC application will need to have a current ParentVUE account.** This procedure will eliminate the challenge of physically passing applications from one school to next during the application and approval/denial process, as well as provide parents the convenience to complete their application without coming into a school office or building. The electronic tracking of approved or denied applications will also produce an accurate data base for student enrollment.
- For parents who do not have access to internet via their own computer, each school will provide computer access for parents to apply online as well. Additional computer access will also be provided at designated district buildings.

School of Choice Questions? Call the Appleton office at 254-6400.

## Important Dates for February—No School Feb. 15, 16 & 19

Appleton will not have school for students on Thursday, Feb. 15, Friday, Feb. 16, and Monday, Feb. 19. February 15 is an Elementary Planning Day and there is no school on February 16 as this day replaces

## Appleton Appreciates our PTA Business Partnerships

### Business Members:

Camp 7 (Scott Carlson)

H & H Lining (Heather Kendall)

Madsen Group at Merrill Lynch (Kendra Swanson)

MCC Drug & Alcohol Screening

Caldwell Banker Distinctive Properties (Jen Pederson)

*If you have a business and would like to partner with the PTA, please contact Corey Hafey 254-6400.*

## Papa John's Fundraiser Nights

Order your pizza from Papa John's on the following nights and tell them you are ordering on Appleton's Pizza Night and we get a percentage of sales.

**March 27**

**May 8**

## Safety at Appleton

Appleton is committed to student safety. This year we will complete at least 14 safety drills in an effort to train our staff and students on what to do in case there is an emergency. Our Crisis Team meets often to discuss our safety drill performance and to recommend changes in our safety drill procedures. Many of these drills will be in conjunction with the Mesa County Sheriff's Department, School District 51 Safety and Security, and Local Fire Department members. During these drills, it is not uncommon for parent volunteers to be in the building. If you are in the building when a drill occurs, we may ask you if you would be willing to support the training in an active role. This may entail for example: escorting students to the restroom during a shelter-in-place, taking notes and scribing the communication between law enforcement and office personnel, or watching a door to make sure students don't go outside. Supporting in an active way is never required but very much appreciated when the need arises.

It is fair to say that if you are in the building and agree to support a safety drill in an active role, you may experience first-hand a potentially stressful situation. If you were stationed near the office, it is likely you will witness law enforcement placing staff members in difficult scenarios. This "trial by fire" can seem quite realistic but it is an effective way for our staff to prepare for challenging situations. Of course, it is never our intent to scare students and so their experience during the drill is very different than what it is for the adults.

## Thinking of Opting Out of State Testing? Think Twice

### Thinking of Opting Out of State Testing?

We are now approaching the time of year when we prepare for the state's standardized test (often known as PARCC or CMAS tests). Students and parents frequently groan and wonder what they can do to get out of taking the tests. Often parents consider opting their student out of taking these state-mandated tests. Be sure that you carefully consider your options and their consequences.

When you opt your student out of taking the state's test(s), the schools are missing a chance to see that student's performance on that test. It's a bit like a teacher looking at a jigsaw puzzle with some of the pieces covered up. Those pieces could be simply more of a large blue sky, or it could be some tree branches that do not appear in the rest of the puzzle. Without seeing all the pieces, we may be missing important information.

The teachers do their best to plan appropriate instruction for each and every student, but if we're missing part of the data, it's an incomplete plan. When students are being considered for honors math classes in middle school, formal identification as gifted and talented, or Challenge School admission, students without CMAS scores are missing part of their data. We may have to wait longer for the data to appear in other realms (NWEA, or other tests). The missing data is not considered as a negative factor, but as an unknown factor.

Last spring fifth grade students being considered for 6th grade Honors Math needed to have at least two of the following criteria:

- A 5th grade STAR SS 763 OR i-Ready SS 501
- A 4th grade PARCC Score of Level 4 (Met) or 5 (Exceeded)
- 70% or higher 6th Grade Readiness Assessment

Students missing out on that PARCC score would still have needed qualifying STAR or i-Ready scores and a qualifying score on the 6th Grade Readiness Assessment.

One of the most common methods of formal identification as gifted and talented requires a cognitive test score of 95th percentile or above and at least two different measures from criterion- or norm-referenced achievement tests, norm-referenced observation scales, and/or a qualifying performance evaluation. A Level 5 score on CMAS (Exceeded Expectations) would count as a qualifying score. Without that score, we would have to wait for another qualifying score.

Another consideration is the opportunity to prepare your student for high-stakes testing in high school. CMAS is an opportunity for students to try out an intensive online test without all of the negative consequences. A former Appleton teacher was famous for coaching his students on upcoming tests with these words: "Let's celebrate! It's a test! It's an opportunity to show what you know!"

The decision is yours, but I would encourage you to carefully consider all of the factors.

Sue Jerome  
Gifted and Talented Teacher  
Appleton/Chatfield Elementary Schools