

# JUNE THINK NEWSLETTER

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Dear THINK Academy Families,

Wow! It is hard to believe it is June and the end of the 2023-2024 school year! The end of the school year is filled with many special events to celebrate our students and their hard work. We have recognized students transitioning from 4K to Kindergarten and Kindergarten to First Grade. On Wednesday, we celebrated our 5th grade students as they moved on to middle school. Our 5th grade students will be our high school graduation class of 2031! These are always such special milestones for our students, families and our staff.

In May, students in grades K-4 participated in the yearly THINK Track Meet. It was a great day of fun as students enjoyed participating in the various events! We ended our school year with the annual Talent Show. This is a special tradition as we have students who showcased talents that extend beyond the school day.

This time of year also signifies staff who are moving on to a new chapter. This year, Ms. Olivia Baehman and Mrs. Jessica Kuczynski will be moving on from THINK to new adventures. Ms. Baehman is getting married this summer and moving back to her hometown of Hortonville. Mrs. Jessica will be staying home with her children and is excited to welcome a new baby in the fall. We are truly grateful to each of these educators for the contributions they have made to our school community. Thank you to Ms. Baehman and Mrs. Jessica for all they have done for the THINK community! We will miss you and wish you all the best!

This July we will have changes to how our lawn is mowed at THINK. The School Board has approved the purchase of Automowers which are robotic lawn mowers. There are 18 acres of lawn at THINK and that coupled with the clay soil presents challenges in keeping up with the growth of the lawn. These robotic mowers are water resistant and can mow lawn while it rains. Eight Automowers have been purchased for THINK. I share this with you so that when you see the mowers in action, you have this information. Additionally, I have included the specific information in this newsletter.

Our PTS Board will remain the same next year. Michele Ashbeck and Kim Johnson will serve as copresidents, Tina Lassa will serve as the secretary and Jess Adamski as the treasurer. On behalf of the THINK community, I would like to thank them for their hard work to plan special school events, fundraisers, etc. I would also like to thank Ashley Hartjes for her work in creating the yearbook and organizing Book Fairs. Thank you to Elaine Weckwerth for taking the lead on the fall and spring fundraisers. Many thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraisers this year and volunteered at family events.

Our staff at THINK Academy has again done an amazing job this year! I am so grateful to work with a group of educators who enjoy coming to work each and every day to work with our students. Thank you for your continued support this year. We have had a fantastic year at THINK Academy!

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer!

Respectfully,
Christine Slattery
Principal









# REMINDERS

- TUES. JUNE 11TH @ 10:30 AM THE GREAT BOOK GIVEAWAY IN THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- . TUES. JULY 16TH FROM 4PM 6PM SUMMER READING @ THINK
  - . WED. AUG. 28TH FROM 4PM 6PM THINK OPEN HOUSE
    - TUES. SEPT. 3RD IS FIRST DAY
      BACK FOR STUDENTS
      - THURS. SEPT. 19TH IS PICTURE DAY
      - FRI. SEPT. 27TH -- NO SCHOOL --



# Our school is using ParentSquare!

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are excited to let you know that for the 2024-2025 school year we'll be using ParentSquare to communicate with you at the school, and in your classrooms and groups.

ParentSquare provides a simple and safe way for everyone at school to connect.

With ParentSquare you'll be able to:

- Receive all district, school and classroom communication via email, text, or app
- View the school and classroom calendar and RSVP for events
- · Easily sign up to volunteer and/or bring items
- Securely receive report cards, IEPs and other important student documents

# **Activate your Account**

You will soon receive an invitation email or text to join ParentSquare starting around July 29th, 2024. Please click the link to activate your account. It takes less than a minute.

You can use ParentSquare on any device. You can download the free mobile app for iOS or Android or use the desktop version at <a href="https://www.parentsquare.com">www.parentsquare.com</a>.

Our goal is for every family to join ParentSquare and engage with our school community. Please feel free to ask me any questions.

Thank you so much!





#### Superintendent's Office

Craig G. Broeren, Superintendent 510 Peach Street Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-424-6701 craig.broeren@weps.net

February 27, 2024

Dear Families,

At its regular meeting held on December 11, 2023, the Board of Education took action to approve of a "Universal Late Start Monday" proposal beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Essentially, what this means is that each school's start time for students will begin 45 minutes later on every Monday when school is scheduled throughout the entire school year.

The reason for this change is to enhance the time that our professional staff members spend in their building Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), including the ability to collaborate between buildings. PLC time is a collaborative time for educators to analyze student and assessment data to identify, implement, and engage in best instructional practices that benefit our diverse student population. With the recent passage of Wisconsin Act 20 reading legislation which impacts the elementary level, many changes are anticipated for our reading program that includes the adoption of a new curriculum, additional assessment and analysis required by teaching staff, and increased parent communication. To do this well, we need to provide our teachers with strong support and key professional development opportunities. Across all grade levels, the practice of using PLC time to engage in activities that directly impact student success couldn't be more important.

While many of our schools have had built-in early release or late start time in their schedules for quite some time, the move to a universal common time of release across all buildings in 2024-25 will provide consistency and less confusion for families. A primary reason Mondays were chosen is because there are fewer days of instruction missed due to holidays compared to other days of the week. Below you will find an example of a typical 45-minute Late Start Monday schedule. Additional details will be shared by your child(s) individual school by the end of summer.

WEEKLY S	CHOOL SCHED	ULE BASED ON L	ATE START MO	ONDAYS	
School	Building Opens Mondays	School Start Time Mondays	Building Opens Tue-Fri	School Start Time Tue-Fri	School End Time Mon- Fri
Central Oaks Academy	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	4:00 pm
Grant Elementary	9:15 am	9:30 am	8:30 am	8:45 am	3:30 pm
Grove Elementary	9:10 am	9:25 am	8:20 am	8:40 am	3:30 pm
Howe Elementary	9:15 am	9:30 am	8:20 am	8:40 am	3:30 pm
Mead Elementary	9:15 am	9:30 am	8:25 am	8:40 am	3:30 pm
Pitsch Early Learning/4K	Site times would be adjusted to meet transportation needs – times vary by location.				
THINK Academy	9:20 am	9:35 am	8:40 am	8:50 am	3:45 pm
Washington Elementary	9:15 am	9:30 am	8:30 am	8:45 am	3:30 pm
Woodside Elementary	9:15 am	9:30 am	8:30 am	8:45 am	3:30 pm
Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School	7:30 am	7:55 am	7:00 am	7:25 am	2:40 pm
Lincoln High School	6:00 am	8:10 am	6:00 am	7:30 am	2:53 pm
River Cities High School	7:00 am	8:25 am	7:00 am	7:45 am	2:30 pm

Recognizing that families will need to consider the impact of this schedule and make some adjustments for these Late Start Mondays in the coming school year, I wanted to reach out and inform you early about these changes in order to provide plenty of time for you to begin planning. Please note that elementary families will still have access to the Morning Jumpstart program sponsored through the Boys & Girls Club (Monday-Friday from 6:45 a.m. to the start of the school day, including ON the Late Start Mondays) with an expansion of this program to include Grant Elementary in the coming year. Transportation routes will run as normal, with the exception of being 45 minutes later on Mondays.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, Craig G. Broeren Superintendent

### FALL 2024:

ALL SCHOOLS IN WRPS WILL BE STARTING SCHOOL 45 MINUTES LATER EACH MONDAY. FULL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND HERE. MONDAY DOORS OPEN AT 9:20. TUESDAY-FRIDAY DOORS OPEN AT 8:40 DISMISSAL IS AT 3:45 MONDAYFRIDAY.

### **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB REGISTRATION:**

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA OFFERS REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR FOR THEIR AFTERSCHOOL AND JUMPSTART MORNING PROGRAM MEMBERSHIPS. REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON MAY 13TH AT 8AM FOR THE '24-'25 SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB THROUGH THEIR "PARENT PORTAL" ON WWW.BGCWRA.ORG. THIS YEAR THE JUMPSTART MORNING PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED AT ALL 7 WRPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRANT, GROVE, HOWE, MEAD, THINK ACADEMY, WASHINGTON, AND WOODSIDE). IF YOU ARE USING THE PROGRAM FOR LATE START MONDAYS ONLY, PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE MONDAY'S ONLY BOX DURING REGISTRATION. THE FEE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR IS \$40 FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM AND \$40 FOR THE JUMPSTART MORNING PROGRAM. MORE PROGRAM INFORMATION, FAQS, AND A PARENT PORTAL TUTORIAL ARE AVAILABLE ON THEIR WEBSITE HERE: HTTPS://WWW.BGCWRA.ORG/REGISTRATION OR YOU CAN CALL THE CLUB AT 715-424-2582 FOR ASSISTANCE.









# **PROGRAM DETAILS:**

- 5 year old students are eligible. Once students turn 6 years old they can join the Boys & Girls Jumpstart program at THINK Academy Monday - Friday.
- Late Starts are Mondays ONLY 8:30-9:15am.
- Breakfast is served at 9:20am.

# THINK

# BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM

LATE START MONDAYS 8:30 - 9:15 AM





SIGN UP YOUR STUDENT







#### Summer 2024 - Free Meals for All Kids!

Stressing the importance of offering nutritious meals to children during the summer months, the School District of Wisconsin Rapids announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program.

The Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals to children during the summer when free and reduced-price school meals are typically unavailable. Free meals will be made available to all children 18 years of age and under. Persons over 18 years of age who are determined by a state or local public educational agency to be mentally or physically disabled and who also participate in a public or private non-profit school program during the regular school year may receive free meals as well.

The following locations will be serving free meals this summer:

#### BREAKFAST ONLY (available Monday through Friday)

#### Lincoln High School

1801 16th Street South Dates: June 6 - July 11 (no meals on July 4 or 5) Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Woodside Elementary School

Dates: June 10 - June 28 611 Two Mile Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 8:00 am - 8:30 am

## LUNCH ONLY (available Monday through Friday)

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

#### Mead Park - Near Splash Pad

Dates: June 10 - August 16 (no meals on July 4 or 5) 14th Avenue South between Chase and Alton Street

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Witter Park - Shelter outside of Aquatic Center

Dates: June 10 - August 16 (no meals on July 4 or 5) 681 Chestnut St. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meals are provided to all children regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability and there will be no discrimination during meal service.

Questions? Contact us at schoolnutrition@wrps.net.

Non-discrimination Statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture FAX: 202-690-7442 EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410











Automowers are robotic lawnmowers. They use GPS that enables the mower to work within virtual boundaries with an accuracy down to 2-3 cm. The settings and controls are managed remotely through a smartphone or PC/tablet app. These machines can adjust its mow time with the lawn's growth rate allowing for minimal wear and tear on the mowers. They come with a flexible charging station that they dock themselves into when energy is running low. Safety is no concern with these mowers as the built-in collision sensors stop the blades automatically when they are lifted, or when an object is detected. These mowers also come with anti-theft protection. Lastly, these mowers are water resistant and can mow the lawn even when it is raining. Due to the clay-based soil, moving the 18+ acres at THINK Academy has always presented challenges. The unforgiving terrain generally requires 2 separate mowers and individuals to operate them as the mowers become stuck in the clay causing ruts and making the grass appear unkempt (see



# SUMMER READING PROGRAM

# Lester Public Library of Vesper

Our Summer Reading Program 2024 Starts June 18, 2024, and runs through July 30, 2024.

Stop by the library and register. Summer Reading Registration must be completed by June 14, 2024.

All programs will begin at 12:30pm unless stated on schedule. The programs will be held at the Community Center across from the library.

We also encourage Adults to participate in the summer reading program.



715-569-4669

# NOETIC LEARNING MATH

THE NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTEST IS A NATIONAL MATH CONTEST GIVEN BY NOETIC LEARNING. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST IS TO INSPIRE YOUNG STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN MATH. THIS SPRING, WE HAD SEVERAL STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-5 PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST. WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT LONNA KELNHOFER AND DECLAN TRITZ WERE THE WRPS NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTEST WINNERS FOR THE THIRD GRADE DIVISION! RORY NIEMAN WAS THE WRPS NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTEST WINNER FOR THE FIFTH GRADE DIVISION! OTHER STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CONTEST INCLUDE: BETH ASHBECK, IVORY MANCL, OLIVIA ASHBECK, COLE ADAMSKI (NATIONAL HONORABLE MENTION EARNED), ADRIAN GRAF (NATIONAL HONORABLE MENTION EARNED). LEVI JAMINSKI. AND BECKETT JOHNSON. CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS CHALLENGING CONTEST!





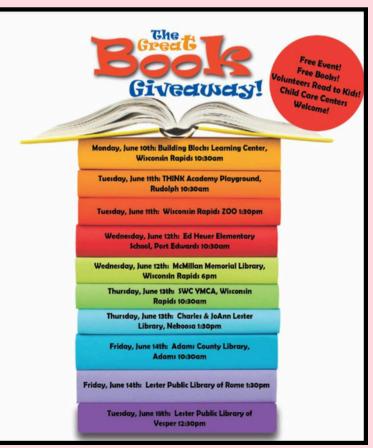
United Way of South Wood & Adams Countie

# Come Pick Your Free Books!

Help United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties fight he "summer slide" by attending the 13th annual Great Book Giveaway from June 10-18, 2024!

/olunteers will be reading to children at each location for approximately half an hour; and afterwards each child can select FREE books to take home and keep. The books vere collected during a book drive held earlier this year.

All children and youth (from ages birth to 12 years), parents, grandparents, caregivers, and day care providers are invited to attend this free event. Families can come to he event together; and day care providers are welcome o come and bring along all the children in their care.



# Teen Summer Reading 2024 June 10-August 10

Register for the program at http://mcm.beanstack.org/ or at McMillan Library.



All you have to do is read what you like in this 10week program full of prizes and fun.

#### **Weekly Prizes**

Every week, read 2 hours and mark off your gameboard. Players who want a chance to win a prize should come in and complete a weekly prize entry form at the Info Desk when they've read for two hours.

Weekly drawing prizes include things like plushies, gift cards, or free books. Winners will be notified by Miss Alicia.

## **Grand Prizes**

Finish 8 out of 10 weeks to be eligible for a grand prize. Gameboard players should submit their completed gameboards as their grand prize entries before August 10th, 2024

Email Miss Alicia at teen@mcmillanlibrary.org with any questions. Hit the QR code to go to our calendar to find out about more free and fun activities for teens 11-18



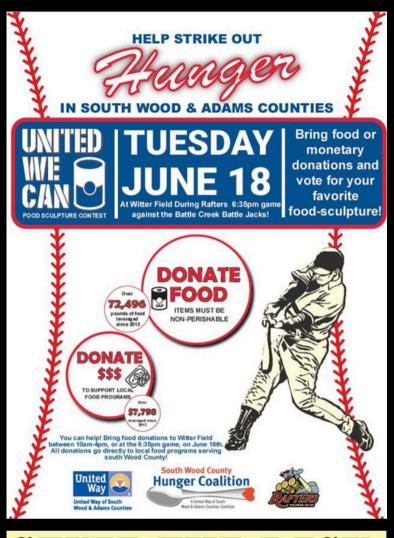








ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT WISCONSIN RAPIDS FAMILY CENTER



# STUFF THE DESK Registration Opens On May 1st!

Students in-need can register to receive a backpack filled with school supplies they need to start the school year.



Select preferred pickup time during registration (pick-up times limited to August 16th and 17th)

 Pick-up will be at East Junior High School, located at 311 Lincoln St., Wisconsin Rapids

Pick-up line on 6th St. (back of school)











CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

CLASS OF 2024!

WE WISH YOU WELL

ON ALL OF YOUR FUTURE

ENDEAVORS!

























# School Supply List 2024-2025

#### 4-Year Old Kindergarten (4K) Kindergarten (5K) \*Tritz Family is donating crayons for all KG, 1,2, 3 Grades No need to label items unless noted-I will do this for you 3 - Plastic 3-Prong Folders \*Backpack - Labeled w/name - BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A 2 - Boxes Water-Based Markers 12" x 10" FOLDER 15 - PENCILS (#2) Sharpened \*Change of clothes (underwear, socks, pants, shirt) in a 1 - Pair of Blunt Tip Kids Scissors labeled Ziploc bag - to be left at school 1 - Pencil box to hold ALL Art supplies \*Optional Gallon Ziploc Bag, 1 Clorox Wipes 1 - Spiral Notebook 2 - Clorox Wipes 2 - Two-pocket plastic Folders - labeled with child's name 1 - Boxes Kleenex 1 - Family Photo 1 - Spiral Notebook with your child's name on the front 1 - Set of headphones or earbuds w/name on them 1 - Family Picture for Friends & Family Book w/child's name on back A - M = Gallon Ziplock Bags 1-4 oz. Bottles Elmer's Glue N - Z = Sandwich size Ziploc Bags 4 - Glue Sticks 1 - Box of 24-count Crayola crayons 1 - Box of 10-count Crayola washable markers 1 - Child size scissors 1 - Box of Tissues

## Grade 1

# \*Tritz Family is donating crayons for all KG, 1,2, 3 Grades No need to label these items. I'll do this for you.

- 1 2" Poly Binder, Black, with clear plastic front cover
- 1 Clear Plastic Pencil Box (approx 2"x8"x5")
- 1 4 oz. Bottle White Glue
- 1 3-ring Flat Pencil Pouch-Clear
- 2 Large Glue Sticks
- 2 Pink Bar Erasers
- 1 8, 16 or 24-ct Boxes of Crayons (primary colors)
- 2 10-ct Markers (classic colors)
- 2 Wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- \*If you are able to, or if you know your child is hard on supplies please send in some extra items. Thanks!

- 12 #2 Ticonderoga Pencils (yellow or black)
  - 5 2-Pocket Heavy Duty Folders
  - 1 Pair Blunt Tip Kids Scissors (no scissor cover)
  - 2 Large container Clorox Wipes
  - 2 Box of Facial Tissues
  - Pair of Wired Headphones Straight plug not L shape (no wireless)
  - 1 Spill Proof Water Bottle (not metal)
  - 1 Backpack (& lunch box if needed)
  - 1 Photo of your child and his/her family
  - 1 Package of 20 sheets of plastic page protectors (heavy ones are appreciated)

# Grade 2

## \*Tritz Family is donating crayons for all KG, 1,2, 3 Grades

- 12 Yellow Pencils (#2 Lead) (Shared Supply)
- 1 Spiral Notebook (Wide-Lined)
- 4 Two-Pocket Folders W/Bottom Pockets (1 of each Red, Yellow, Green, Blue)
- 1 Folder of your choice (Take Home Folder)
- 1 Pair of corded Headphones
- 2 Pink Bar Erasers

- 2 Large Glue Sticks
- 1 Kid's Scissors
- 1 Plastic Art Box
- 1 Box Water-Based Markers
- 1 Box Colored Pencils
- 2 Container of Clorox Wipes
- 1 Box Sandwich size Ziploc Bags

# Grade 3

# \*Tritz Family is donating crayons for all KG, 1,2, 3 Grades

- 1 Blue Spiral Wide-Rule Notebook
- 2 Folders (1 each of Blue, Green)
- 1 2-pocket Heavy Duty Take-Home Folder
- 1 Scissors
- 1 Markers (10 ct)
- 1 Pack of Loose Leaf Paper
- 2 Large Glue Sticks

- 24 #2 Pencils
- 2 Large Container of Clorox Wipes
- 2 Large Box of Kleenex
- 1 Box Ziploc Bags (quart or gallon)
- 1 Ear Buds or Headphones

Small Plastic Art Box

Colored Pencils

# Grade 4

# Colored Pencils and/or Crayons

- 1 Markers
- 1 Pack of Loose Leaf Paper
- 1 Earbuds or Headphones
- 1 Pack of Skinny Expo Markers
- 1 Scissors
- 4 Heavy Duty Folders
- 4 Spiral Notebooks / Folders
- 1 Pocket Folder for Music Purple
- 2 Large Glue Sticks

1 - Box Ziploc Bags

(Last name A-H = Snack Size)

(Last name I-P = Quart Size)

(Last name Q-Z = Gallon Size)

- 1 Clorox Wipes
- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 1- Pack lined 3 x 5 Index Cards
- 3 12 packs of #2 Pencils or Mechanical
- 1 Package of Sticky Notes (3x3)
- 1- Zippered Pencil Pouch or Crayon Box

# Deodorant/Antiperspirant to be kept in student's locker

# Grade 5

- 1 2 inch, 3 ring binder
- Binder page dividers (5 page tabs)

Colored Pencils and/or Crayons

- 1 Markers
- 1 Pack of Glue Sticks
- 2 Heavy Duty Folders
- 1 Pack of Pens
- 3 12 packs of #2 pencils
- 1 Zippered Pencil Pouch w/holes (NO hard cases)

- 1 Pack of Skinny Expo Markers
- 2 Packs of Loose Leaf
- 1 Earbuds or Headphones
- 1 Scissors
- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 1 Box of Sandwich Ziploc Bags

(Last name A-H = Snack Size)

(Last name I-P = Quart Size)

(Last name Q-Z = Gallon Size)

1 - Clorox Wipes

Deodorant/Antiperspirant to be kept in student's locker

# \*\*STANDARD SIZE BACKPACKS NEEDED FOR ALL GRADES BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE WHEELS\*\*

KG – 5<sup>th</sup> STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE A PAIR OF ATHLETIC SHOES & SOCKS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION to be kept at school or sent on gym days!

<u>ALL STUDENTS</u> need to bring a change of clothes to store in lockers, including pants, shirt, socks, underwear in case of "accidents", spills, illness, getting wet on the playground from rain or snow, spills in Art class, mud, etc... WE WILL NOT CALL HOME FOR PARENTS TO BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES. We do not have extra clothing in all sizes.

THIS IS AN EXPECTATION AND A PLAN TO HELP PARENTS out so it is not necessary to bother you at work or home in the event of this need. Please plan ahead. Things happen - We want your student to be prepared and not miss out on instructional time waiting for clothes to arrive. THANKS IN ADVANCE, WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!