

## Great Start to the Year!

We have had an amazing start to the 20-21 school year. It is so good to have students back in school. We also have many families that chose the virtual option this year. Regardless of which option you chose, all of the students are Lowell students!

## Safety First

*Waterloo Schools is making every effort to keep our students and staff safe in order to continue in-person education opportunities. You may notice some differences in health operations this year.*

Due to the virus we have put the following measures in place:

**Evaluating Sick Students** (When a student reports to Health Office):

**High Risk Symptoms:** *Cough, Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing, Loss of taste/smell*

• If any of these symptoms is present, the student should be taken to a separate area where they will remain **until a family member picks them up. The child MUST be sent home per health guidelines.**

**Low Risk Symptoms:** *Fever (100 degrees or above), Headache, Muscle/Body aches,, Fatigue, Sore throat, Runny nose, Congestion, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea*

• If two or more of these symptoms are present, the student should be taken to a separate area where they will remain until a family member picks them up. The child **MUST** be sent home per health guidelines.

In both situations, **the student must remain at home for 14 days**, about 10 school days from a positive COVID-19 test. If there is a negative COVID-19 test, the student may return as long as no symptoms have been present for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications or if the family can present the school with an alternative diagnosis.

**Exposure to Another Student:**

You will be notified if or when your child has been identified as a close contact (within six feet for at least 15 minutes) to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The following recommendations come from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and other local health officials:

1. Your child must remain home for 14 days since their last contact with the confirmed COVID-19 case. We have determined this date \_\_\_\_\_ as when your child can return to normal daily activities. This date could change if your child's health status changes.
- Keep your child home from school and other activities outside of your home (such as after school activities, trips to the grocery store or playing at another child's house).
1. We recommend that you contact your child's healthcare provider to discuss questions specific to your child's health and to consider testing your child for COVID-19. We recommend your child not be tested until at least 48 hours after their last contact with the confirmed case. If your child does not have a healthcare provider, please contact your local health department for potential assistance. Also you can visit <https://www.testiowa.com/en> about testing options.
2. Please answer the phone if the Health Department contacts you. A contact tracer may be trying to reach you with important information.
3. Make sure members of your household wash their hands often, using soap and water for 20 seconds.
4. Make sure every member of your household covers their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow, then washes their hands afterwards.

*Thank you for understanding that, due to medical privacy laws, we are not able to release the names of the individuals with COVID-19. We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. With your participation, we believe we can create a safe and fun experience for your children.*

**Should you have any questions or concerns, please call 433-1900.**

## Elementary Student Behavior Contract

Each year we go over behavior expectations with students and this year is no different. In the past, parents have signed the behavior contract at conferences. This year we can't do that so below you will find the link to a form. Please fill it out at your earliest convenience.

[Behavior Contract](#)

## Dismissal Procedure

Thank you so much for working to follow our dismissal procedure. All car riders will need to be picked up at the South entrance- by the staff parking lot. You can enter this lot from Cedar Heights by turning on Five Seasons Blvd. Please stay in your car and follow the line around the parking lot to the right. We will bring your students to the car.

If you are changing the way your students is getting home, please call prior to 3:00 so we can make sure messages get to the teachers in a timely manner. We need to hear the change from an adult; not from the student. You could give a note to your student to give to us as well. Thank you for your help with this!

## New Staff

We would like to introduce you to our new staff for the 20-21 school year:

Latisha Leyh- lead teacher

Nicole Staudt- 2nd Grade

Alyssa Hamlyn- instructional assistant

Rebekah Martin- 4th Grade

Melissa Kremer- instructional strategist

Zoie McDearmon- health assistant

Kaitlyn Ralston-Joynt- nurse

Give them a great Lowell Welcome! We are excited to have them on our team!