The Mustang Memo
August 23, 2026

Principal's Corner:

First Week of School

- During our first three days of school, students will settle in thro ugh welcoming classroom activities, assemblies, and guided rotations to practice key routines like morning arrival, lunch, and recess. Standard academic and specialist schedules will officially begin on Thursday. We are intentionally designating this first week (and more if needed) to build strong relationships and establish clear expectations so every student is set up for a successful school year.

Communication

- You can expect to receive twice-monthly newsletters from me, grade-level, specials, Title, and Special Education teachers. Additionally, weekly progress reports will be sent for students identified as at-risk or persistently at-risk on FAST Screeners, as well as for all 4th–6th graders once graded assignments begin.

Book Blast

- Mark your calendars for our exciting Book Blast launching on Monday, September 14th! Look for details coming home soon on how every student can earn fun prizes and add brand-new books to their home library.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is free again this year and served until 8:15 a.m., though LeGrand students should eat before boarding their bus to Gilman. Please ensure your child is dropped off early enough to eat in the cafeteria and arrive in their classroom on time for instruction.

Lunch/Breakfast Menus

Volunteer Opportunity

We are seeking parent and teacher volunteers to work the concession stand at our September 11 home football game, with 25% of proceeds (up to $250) directly funding things like elementary field trips, recess equipment, and assemblies. Please sign up using this link, plan to arrive at the concession stand by 6:15 PM, and let gate staff know you are a concession volunteer when you arrive. Thank you for helping us out!

5th & 6th Grade Band Kickoff & Rehearsal Schedule

- **Student Information Sessions:** Miss Hummel and Mrs. Mullikin will visit 5th and 6th-grade classrooms the mornings of **August 31 and September 1** to chat with students about joining band.
- **6th Grade Rehearsals:** Start **Wednesday, September 2** (rehearses every Wednesday and Friday).
- **5th Grade Rehearsals:** Start **Thursday, September 10** (rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday).
- **Location & Transportation:** Rehearsals take place around 8:00 AM in the High School band room in LeGrand. On band days, all bus riders and LeGrand-resident students will start their morning directly in LeGrand, with students transported back to Laurel around 9:00 AM.

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- **Lesson Format:** Staff is actively finalizing the lesson setup, which may include small group or individual pull-out instruction with Mrs. Mullikin during rehearsal blocks.



Important Dates & Events:

- Monday, August 24, 2026 — 2-hour early out
- Tuesday, August 25, 2026 — 2-hour early out
- Thursday, August 26, 2026 — We will start our Day 6 Rotation with Thursday being Day 1
- Tuesday, September 1, 2026 — First Day for Preschoolers
- Monday, September 7, 2026 — No School, Labor Day
- Monday, September 14 — Book Blast Kickoff
- Monday, October 5, 2026 — No School, Teacher Professional Development
- Monday, October 12, 2026 — No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences; 12:00 - 8:00 pm

The Mustang Memo
August 23, 2026

School Contact Information

- Kim Tarbell, Elementary Principal — ktarbell@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
- Jordan Rubenbauer, School Secretary — jrubenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us

- Amy Harper, Elementary Counselor — aharper@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
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- Staff Directory

Parent Handbook

The Mustang Memo
September 6, 2026

Principal's Corner:

First Two Weeks

- The first two weeks of school are off to a great start! Our staff has been working hard to establish clear classroom routines that set students up for success, while keeping behavior expectations consistent across the entire school. During Thursday's staff meeting, we began training on how to best handle different behavior situations—whether they are managed in the classroom or by the main office. We still have more to cover, but it was a solid start. Moving forward, if a behavior concern comes up, your child's teacher will call you if it is handled in the classroom, and I will be the one calling if it is managed by the office so we can work together to support your student.

Good Things Happening in the Building

- There is plenty of positive momentum building across the school right now! Since preschool kicked off on September 1st, it's been fantastic watching our youngest students settle in and adapt so well to their daily routines. In the cafeteria, students are quickly getting the hang of lunchroom expectations, making mealtimes run smoother with each passing day. A big shoutout goes to Mr. Goodrich, Mr. Burns, and our custodial team for their seamless teamwork—their rapid setup and teardown between breakfast, lunch, and PE ensures gym classes can start immediately without losing a single minute of action.

Volunteer Opportunity

- We are still looking for four parent and teacher volunteers to work the concession stand at our September 11 home football game! 25% of proceeds (up to $250) directly fund elementary field trips, recess equipment, and assemblies. Please sign up using this link and plan to arrive at the concession stand on time.

Fast Testing

- We will begin our FAST testing on Wednesday, September 9th, and wrap up on Friday, September 18th, with makeup tests taking place the following week. To give your student the best opportunity to succeed, please ensure they get a good night's sleep and start their mornings with a healthy breakfast. These assessments are an essential tool for our team, helping us determine which students may benefit from additional diagnostic testing, targeted academic interventions, or advanced learning opportunities.

Book Blast

- Mark your calendars for our exciting Book Blast launching on Monday, September 14th! Look for details coming home soon on how every student can earn fun prizes and add brand-new books to their home library.

Squishees and Personal Toys

- Please leave all Squishees and personal toys at home, as they have become a major distraction in our classrooms and on the school bus. We are seeing a high volume of students attempting to trade and swap these items throughout the day, which frequently leads to lost property, hurt feelings, and disputes that staff cannot monitor or manage. Going forward, any squishy toys brought to school or on the bus will be held in the main

office for a parent or guardian to pick up. Thank you for your support in keeping our school day focused, safe, and disruption-free! *(Note: If your child requires a fidget as part of an official sensory accommodation plan, please contact their teacher directly.)*

Grandparents Day will be Friday, September 25th, 12:00 -12:45. Check out the links for more information.

- Format of the Day
- Sign-up Document

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is free again this year and served until 8:15 a.m., though LeGrand students should eat before boarding their bus to Gilman. Please ensure your child is dropped off early enough to eat in the cafeteria and arrive in their classroom on time for instruction.

Lunch/Breakfast Menus

5th & 6th Grade Band Kickoff & Rehearsal Schedule

- **6th Grade Rehearsals:** Start **Wednesday, September 2** (rehearses every Wednesday and Friday).
- **5th Grade Rehearsals:** Start **Thursday, September 10** (rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday).
- **Location & Transportation:** Rehearsals take place around 8:00 AM in the High School band room in LeGrand. On band days, all bus riders and LeGrand-resident students will start their morning directly in LeGrand, with students transported back to Laurel around 9:00 AM.
- **Lesson Format:** Staff is actively finalizing the lesson setup, which may include small group or individual pull-out instruction with Mrs. Mullikin during rehearsal blocks.

6 Day Cycle:
Monday- Day
Tuesday- Day 2
Wednesday- Day 3
Thursday- Day 4
Friday- Day 5

Important Dates & Events:

- Monday, September 7, 2026 — No School, Labor Day
- Monday, September 14 — Book Blast Kickoff
- Wednesday, September 16 — School Board Meeting, 6:00pm

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September 6, 2026

- Friday, September 25 — Grandparents Day, 12:00 - 1:00
- Monday, October 5, 2026 — No School, Teacher Professional Development

- Monday, October 12, 2026 — No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences; 12:00 - 8:00 pm

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 — POP Fundraiser Kickoff
- Wednesday, October 21, 20126 — School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Friday, October 23, 2026 — End of the 1st Quarter

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The Mustang Memo
September 20, 2026



Lunch with the Principal: Office lunch dates are officially underway! Our kindergarten crew—Kyle, Caleia, Nash, Koen, and Barrett—filled me in on everything: Bigfoot, sharks, and Spider-Man. We listened to music! Apologies if they came home hungry; we had a lot to catch up on!





Homecoming Dress- Up Days



Monday, September 21	Pajama Day
Tuesday, September 22	Anything But A Cup
Wednesday, September 23	Celebrity Day
Thursday, September 24	NEON Day
Friday, September 25	Mustang Spirit Day

Fast Testing

All Fastbridge testing is complete, and we are now looking at data to determine intervention and enrichment needs.

Book Blast

Our Book Blast event has been a massive hit! Thanks to your support, **68% of our students** have participated so far.

- **Prizes Distributed:** The first 35 participating students have already received their prizes.
- **Upcoming Deliveries:** Remaining prizes will be handed out as soon as our book shipment arrives in a couple of weeks.

The Mustang Memo
September 20, 2026

- **Special Winners:** A huge congratulations to **Dakoda Holcomb**, **Leticia Morales**, and **Brycen Vasquez** for winning the mini treasure chests filled with cash, coins, jewels, and candy!
- **EPIC Treasure Chest Winner:** Still to be announced on Monday, September 21, 2026

Courtney Arndt's Girls Basketball Skills Camp

- Happening October 5 in LeGrand on the no-school day! Grades 3–5 meet 9:00–10:30 AM; Grades 6–8 meet 10:30 AM–12:00 PM. Check the attached flyer to sign up today!

Grandparents Day

- Please remember to turn in Grandparents Day forms. If you need a new one please reach out to Jordan in the office at 641-476-3342 or jrubenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
  - Format of the Day
  - Sign-up Document

6 Day Cycle:
Monday- Day 5
Tuesday- Day 6
Wednesday- Day 1
Thursday- Day 2
Friday- Day 3

Important Dates & Events:

Thursday, September 24	Homecoming Pep Assembly, 9:00 am
Friday, September 25	Grandparents Day, 12:00 - 1:00
Monday, October 5, 2026	No School, Teacher Professional Development
Monday, October 12, 2026	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences; 12:00 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday, October 13, 2026	POP Fundraiser Kickoff
Friday, October 16, 2026	Kindergarten to Center Grove Orchard 5th-grade to the Capital
Wednesday, October 21, 20126	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
Friday, October 23, 2026	End of the 1st Quarter

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The Mustang Memo
September 20, 2026

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Parent Handbook

The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026



Read & Rise event from Oct 20–23 (8:10–8:40 AM each day) for K-2 students and parents/grandparents. Complimentary donuts, orange juice, and water provided.

Oct. 20 Preschool
Oct. 21 Kindergarten
Oct. 22 1st-grade
Oct. 23 2nd-grade

Please click on the link for more information.

Construction Update & Campus Traffic Plan

Preconstruction work with Estes Construction began on Monday, September 28th, across our Laurel and LeGrand sites. Updated construction maps for both campuses are now available [link].

Here is what parents and community members need to know for the Laurel campus:

- **Parent Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** Continues as normal on Weisenburger Street on the west side of the school.
- **Bus Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** Buses will still use the circular drive before and after school.
- **Staff Parking:** Much of our usual east-side staff parking will move further west near the old bus barn.

Important Notice: Free & Reduced Meal Carryover Ends October 6th

The 30-day temporary carryover for Free and Reduced School Meal benefits ends on **Tuesday, October 6th**.

Here is what you need to know:

- **Status Change:** Temporary meal benefits carried over from last school year expire after 30 operating days. If a new application is not on file by October 6th, student accounts will automatically switch to paid status starting on the 31st day.
- **How to Re-apply:** Building secretaries have sent email notices to affected families. If you received an email and wish to continue receiving benefits, please submit a completed application to the District Office as soon as possible. Applications submitted after the deadline will be processed quickly, and approved benefits will apply immediately.

The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026

If you have any questions or need assistance with your application, please contact Janine Anderson at 641-498-7481.

Reminder: 2025–26 Registration Fees

If you still owe school fees for the 2025–26 school year, please contact our building secretaries to get those taken care of. Either secretary can process payments for students in either building:

- **Ms. Grabenbauer:** agrabenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
- **Ms. Rubenbauer:** jrubenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us

Thank you for helping us keep student accounts up to date!

6 Day Cycle:
Monday- Day
Tuesday- Day 3
Wednesday- Day 4
Thursday- Day 5
Friday- Day 6

Important Dates & Events:

• Monday, October 5, 2026	No School, Teacher Professional Development
• Monday, October 12, 2026	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences; 12:00 - 8:00 pm
• Thursday, October 15, 2026	Picture Retakes; first thing in the morning
• Friday, October 16, 2026	Kindergarten to Center Grove Orchard 5th-grade to the Capital
• Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Preschool Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40 POP Fundraiser Kickoff
• Wednesday, October 21, 2026	Kindergarten Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40 School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• Thursday, October 22, 2026	1st-grade Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40
• Friday, October 23, 2026	2nd-grade Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40 End of the 1st Quarter
• Monday, October 26, 2026	2nd Quarter Begins
• Wednesday, October 28, 2026	Report Cards Sent Out
• Monday, November 2, 2026	No School, Teacher Professional Development
• Wednesday, November 18, 2026	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

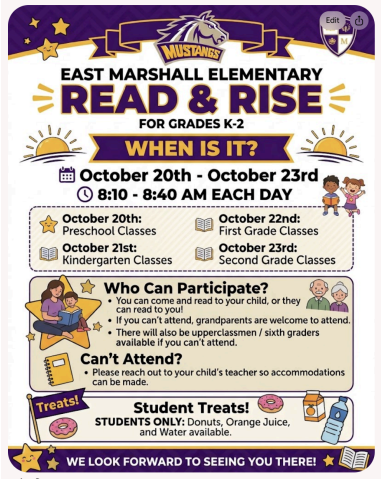
The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026

- November 25-27, 2026
  Thanksgiving Break, no school
- Monday, November 30, 2026 — K-3 Concert in LeGrand
- Wednesday, December 16, 2026 — School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, December 17, 2027 — 5th & 6th-grade Band Concert in LeGrand, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 23, 2027 — 1:20 Dismissal
- Thursday, December 24 - Jan. 1, 2027 — Holiday Break - No School
- Monday, January 4, 2027 — No School - Teacher Professional Development

- **School Contact Information**
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The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026



Read & Rise event from Oct. 20–23 (8:10–8:40 AM each day) for K-2 students and parents/grandparents. Complimentary donuts, orange juice, and water provided to students.

Oct. 20 Preschool
Oct. 21 Kindergarten
Oct. 22 1st grade
Oct. 23 2nd grade

Please click on the link for more information.



Mustang Wrestling Club:

Calling all K-8th grade youth wrestlers. Youth Wrestling Club will start on November 2, 2026. If you are interested, please check out the QR code below.

Practices will be held on Monday at the high school:

K-2 6:00 - 7:00 pm

3-8 7:00 - 8:00 pm



Fall Parties will be held in the afternoon on Friday, October 30.

Please note:

Preschool & kindergarten are the only grade levels that will be bringing Halloween Costumes. Please watch for communication from your child's teacher.



Wednesday, October 14, 2026, we had a brief groundbreaking ceremony. Some students helped turn the earth with shovels. Thank you to Mrs. Weather for capturing some photos!

The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026

Construction Update & Campus Traffic Plan

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Thank you for helping us keep student accounts up to date!

Six Day Cycle
Monday- Day 5
Tuesday- Day 6
Wednesday- Day 1

The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026

Thursday- Day 2
Friday- Day 3

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

October Breakfast Menu
October Lunch Menu

This Week:

• Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Preschool Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40
• Wednesday, October 21, 2026	Kindergarten Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40 School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• Thursday, October 22, 2026	1st-grade Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40
• Friday, October 23, 2026	2nd-grade Read & Rise; 8:10 - 8:40 End of the 1st Quarter

Important Dates & Events

• Monday, October 26, 2026	2nd Quarter Begins
• Wednesday, October 28, 2026	Report Cards Sent Out
• Friday, October 30, 2026	Fall Parties
• Monday, November 2, 2026	No School, Teacher Professional Development
• Tuesday, November 3, 2026	Responsibility Assemblies: K-2 - 2:00 - 2:30 3 - 6 - 2:30 - 3:00
• Wednesday, November 18, 2026	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• November 25-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break, no school
• Monday, November 30, 2026	K-3 Concert in LeGrand
• Wednesday, December 16, 2026	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• Monday, December 21, 2027	5th & 6th-grade Band Concert in LeGrand, 7:00 pm
• Wednesday, December 23, 2027	1:20 Dismissal
• Thursday, December 24 - Jan. 1, 2027	Holiday Break - No School
• Monday, January 4, 2027	No School - Teacher Professional Development
• Tuesday, January 5, 2027	Second Semester & Third Quarter begin

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School Contact Information

The Mustang Memo
October 19, 2026

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The Mustang Memo
November 2, 2026

Shout-outs

- Thank you again to Alex Ferneau and Rachel Wolken for planning the Read & Rise Event. We had a great turnout (Thank you to all who attended) and our students and families enjoyed the event.
- Thank you to all the parents who came in and helped with the Fall Parties. It was great seeing parents in the building.



Big shout-out to Mr. Hooley and the *Shrek* cast! They will be previewing a few scenes for our elementary students on **Tuesday, November 3rd at 9:00 AM**.

Catch the full show at the **LeGrand Old Gym**:

- **Friday, Nov. 6:** 7:00 PM
- **Saturday, Nov. 7:** 5:30 PM (Dinner Theater) | 7:00 PM (Musical only)
- **Sunday, Nov. 8:** 2:00 PM



Mustang Wrestling Club:

Calling all K-8th grade youth wrestlers. Youth Wrestling Club will start on November 2, 2026. If you are interested, please check out the QR code below.

Practices will be held on Monday at the high school:

K-2 6:00 - 7:00 pm

3-8 7:00 - 8:00 pm

East Marshall Booster Club

Hey Mustang families! Quick reminder as holiday shopping kicks into gear: our East Marshall Booster Club store is open 24/7. If you're looking for Christmas gift ideas—or just want to upgrade your winter fan gear—we've got hoodies, hats, bags, and plenty of spirit apparel for the whole family. Every purchase goes right back to supporting our kids, so head over to **our store** and cross a few people off your list early!

The Mustang Memo
November 2, 2026

Important Notice: Free & Reduced Meal Carryover Ends October 6th

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Thank you for helping us keep student accounts up to date!

Six Day Cycle
Monday- Day
Tuesday- Day 3
Wednesday- Day 4
Thursday- Day 5
Friday- Day 6

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

November Breakfast Menu
November Lunch Menu

This Week:

- Monday, November 2, 2026 — No School, Teacher Professional Development
- Tuesday, November 3, 2026 — High School Musical (Shrek) Presentation

The Mustang Memo
November 2, 2026

9:00 - 9:30 am
Responsibility Assemblies: K-2 - 12:40 - 1:10; 3-6 - 1:10 - 1:40

Important Dates & Events

• Wednesday, November 18, 2026	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• November 25-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break, no school
• Monday, November 30, 2026	K-3 Concert in LeGrand, 6:45
• Monday, December 7, 2026	No School - Teacher Professional Development
• Wednesday, December 16, 2026	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
• Monday, December 21, 2027	5th & 6th-grade Band Concert in LeGrand, 7:00 pm
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• Monday, January 4, 2027	No School - Teacher Professional Development
• Tuesday, January 5, 2027	Second Semester & Third Quarter begin

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Parent Handbook

The Mustang Memo
November 16, 2026

Shout-outs
Thank you to all the wonderful elementary parents (Karlina Johnson, Sierra Augspurger, Alex Ferneau, Taylor Wilson, Breanna Sawyer, Blair Ulery, Erin Nues, Brittany Medina, Abbye Bro, Rachel Wolken, Emily Zesch, Leighann Ruopp, and Amanda Dougherty) who attended our SIAC committee meeting! We truly appreciate your thoughtful feedback—both what is working well and where we can grow—as we continue to improve.

October Responsibility Certificate Winners:
We had 35 students who received "Responsibility" certificates at our Responsibility assembly. Students who received certificates got to play in the Rock Paper Scissors Tournament. Dakoda Holcumb won the K-2 Rock Paper Scissors tournament, and Ross Wehrman won the 3-6 tournament. Their pictures are also displayed on the bulletin board outside the Elementary office and in a Facebook post.

Dressing for Chilly Recess Weather
As temperatures begin to drop, please help us make sure your child comes to school dressed for the colder weather. Recent mornings have started in the 40s, and temperatures often stay right around there when students head outside for midday recess. While we are keeping our fingers crossed for a few more mild days, November in Iowa rarely stays warm for long! Sending your student with a warm coat and layers—and labeling their outerwear with their name—will help keep everyone comfortable during outdoor play. Have a great weekend!

Weather Closings, Delays & Early Outs When weather impacts our school schedule, we notify families immediately via **JMC text alerts** and local media. Please make sure you're signed up for JMC texts, and check **KCCI, WHO 13, or ABC 5**—or listen to **KIX 101.1, KDAO 99.5 & 103.7, or ENERGY 106.7**—for the latest updates.

Reminder: Share Your Feedback on a Potential Four-Day School Week

East Marshall CSD is exploring whether a four-day school week would be a good fit for our district. No decisions have been made yet, and we want to hear your thoughts, questions, and concerns on how this change could impact students and families.

Please take a few minutes to share your perspective by completing the East Marshall CSD 4 Day Week Parent/Community Survey so we can make the best decision for our community!

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November 16, 2026

East Marshall Booster Club

Hey Mustang families! Quick reminder as holiday shopping kicks into gear: our East Marshall Booster Club store is open 24/7. If you're looking for Christmas gift ideas—or just want to upgrade your winter fan gear—we've got hoodies, hats, bags, and plenty of spirit apparel for the whole family. Every purchase goes right back to supporting our kids, so head over to **our store** and cross a few people off your list early!

Check Your Lunch Accounts

Don't forget to add money to your child's lunch account soon! Since JMC isn't sending low-balance alerts yet, please monitor your balance closely to avoid dipping into the negative after day one. If you have any questions, please contact your building secretary.

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November 16, 2026

Six Day Cycle
Monday- Day 6
Tuesday- Day 1
Wednesday- Day 2
Thursday- Day 3
Friday- Day 4

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

November Breakfast Menu
November Lunch Menu

This Week:

- Wednesday, November 18, 2026 — School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

Important Dates & Events

- November 25-27, 2026 — Thanksgiving Break, no school
- Monday, November 30, 2026 — K-3 Concert in LeGrand, 6:45
- Monday, December 7, 2026 — No School - Teacher Professional Development
- Wednesday, December 16, 2026 — School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Monday, December 21, 2027 — 5th & 6th-grade Band Concert in LeGrand 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 23, 2027 — 1:20 Dismissal
- Thursday, December 24 - Jan. 1, 2027 — Holiday Break - No School
- Monday, January 4, 2027 — No School - Teacher Professional Development
- Tuesday, January 5, 2027 — Second Semester & Third Quarter begin

The Mustang Memo
November 16, 2026

School Contact Information

- Kim Tarbell, Elementary Principal — ktarbell@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
- Jordan Rubenbauer, School Secretary — jrubenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
- Amy Harper, Elementary Counselor — aharper@e-marshall.k12.ia.us
- Elementary Office Phone Number — 641-476-3342
- Staff Directory

Parent Handbook