

August 23, 2026



The Mustang Memo

August 23, 2026



Principal's Corner:

First Week of School

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



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School Contact Information

- Kim Tarbell, Elementary Principal
- Jordan Rubenbauer, School Secretary

ktarbell@e-marshall.k12.ia.us

jrubenbauer@e-marshall.k12.ia.us

- Amy Harper, Elementary Counselor
- Elementary Office Phone Number
- [Staff Directory](#)

aharper@e-marshall.k12.ia.us

641-476-3342

[Parent Handbook](#)

September 6, 2026



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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



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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

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6 Day Cycle:

Monday- Day

Tuesday- Day 2

Wednesday- Day 3

Thursday- Day 4

Friday- Day 5

Important Dates & Events:

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



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- Friday, September 25
- Monday, October 5, 2026

Grandparents Day, 12:00 - 1:00
No School, Teacher Professional
Development

- Monday, October 12, 2026
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- Wednesday, October 21, 20126
- Friday, October 23, 2026

No School, Parent-Teacher
Conferences; 12:00 - 8:00 pm
POP Fundraiser Kickoff
School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
End of the 1st Quarter

School Contact Information

- Kim Tarbell, Elementary Principal
- Jordan Rubenbauer, School Secretary
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