



Stardust

Dates To Remember

- Mar. 1** Kindergarten Round-Up 9:00 am
EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm
- Mar. 2** Variety Exp, Café 7:00 pm
- Mar. 3** Family Fun Night, Spec. Gym 5:30 – 8:30 pm
- Mar. 5** Variety Expo, Café 2:00 pm
- Mar. 7** Preschool Registration, Elem. Gym 6:00-7:30 pm
6/7/8th Vocal & Band Concert 7:00 pm
- Mar. 8** **EARLY DISMISSAL** 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm
- Mar. 9** K-5 Vocal Concert 6:30 pm, Spec. Gym
- Mar. 15** **EARLY DISMISSAL** 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm
- Mar. 17** **EARLY DISMISSAL - NOON**
Middle School Play, 7:00 pm Café
- Mar. 18** Middle School Play, 7:00 pm Cafe
- Mar. 21** 7/8 Grade Band Solo Night 4:00 pm
- Mar. 22** **EARLY DISMISSAL** 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm
- Mar. 24** Starmont Fish Fry 4:30 – 7:30 pm
K-12 Art Show
- Mar. 28** Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:45 pm
- Mar. 29** **EARLY DISMISSAL** 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm
- Mar. 30** Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:30 pm
- Mar. 31** **NO SCHOOL**



Starmont Middle School
Presents...

Mystery Club

March 17-18, 2017 High School Café 7:00 p.m.



When an actor, athlete, scientist, gamer, bookworm, and school newspaper reporter can't get anyone to join their own after-school clubs, they band together to form The Mystery Club.

The amateur detective team investigates the crime of their fellow middle school students in these hilarious whodunits, from the aggressively supportive members of the Pep Squad, to the masters of disguise in the LARP Society, to the bigfoot-chasing Cryptozoology Club.

Makeup Day Sequence

As of this writing, we have missed six days of school. We will be making the days on May 24th, 25th, 26th, 30th, 31st and June 1st.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, March 28th from 3:45 – 7:45 pm & Thursday, March 30th from 3:45 – 7:30 pm.



Starmont CSD March Calendar

Wed. March 1

Kindergarten Round-Up – 9:00 am
EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm

Thurs. March 2

Variety Expo, HS Café 7:00 pm

Fri. March 3

Family Fun Night, Spectator Gym 5:30-8:30 pm

Sun. March 5

Variety Expo, HS Café 2:00 pm

Tues. March 7

Preschool Registration, elem. gym 6:00-7:30
pm
6/7/8th Vocal & Band Concert, Spectator Gym
7:00 pm

Wed. March 8

EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm

Thur. March 9

K-5 Vocal Concert, Spec. Gym 6:30 pm

Sat. March 11

Ind. State Speech @ Waldorf University, 8:00 am

Mon. March 13

Speech Banquet, 7:00 pm

Tues. March 14

Wrestling Banquet 6:00 pm, Café

Wed. March 15

EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm

Thurs. March 16

School Board Meeting 5:30 pm
PTO Meeting, Media Center 6:00 pm

Fri. March 17

Noon Dismissal - Mid Semester
½ Day Clerical
Middle School Play 7:00 pm, Café

Sat. March 18

Middle School Play 7:00 pm, Café

Mon. March 20

B/G Indoor Tr @ Luther College 4:00 pm

Tues. March 21

7/8 Grade Band Solo Night 4:00 pm

Wed. March 22

EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm

Thurs. March 23

FFA Banquet 6:00 pm, Café

Fri. March 24

K-12 Art Show
Starmont Fish Fry 4:30 – 7:30 pm, Café

Mon. March 27

Ind. All State Speech @ UNI
G BB Banquet 7:00 pm, Café

Tues. March 28

Parent/Teacher Conference 3:45-7:45 pm

Wed. March 29

EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:00 pm
Teacher Inservice 2:15 – 3:45 pm

Thurs. March 30

Parent/Teacher Conference 3:45-7:30 pm
V G Tr @ West Delaware 4:30 pm

Fri. March 31

NO SCHOOL



Starmont Starlights

A note from.....

Troy L. Heller, Superintendent

As many of you know, there are numerous changes that are happening at the State Capital. I will highlight a few of them; but if you are interested in advocating for your local school district, please Ctrl+Click on the website shown below to find your local legislator's email address:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

Items Passed:

1. Legislators passed the overhaul of the Chapter 20 legislation of the 1970s.
2. Legislators passed State Supplementary Assistance (SSA) at 1.11%...formerly known as Allowable Growth.

Items Working on:

1. Operational Sharing Monies – where small rural districts are paid for sharing positions. We currently are paid for 21 phantom students or about \$140,000 per year.
2. District Cost Per Pupil Equity. Over the years the state has paid districts different amounts of monies for students. This has created in-equities. The below bill is trying to make changes to this concern.
 - Adds to the statewide cost per pupil after the annual calculation of SSA to close the gap between the highest district costs per pupil and the statewide cost per pupil. The increase will be phased in over ten years beginning in FY 2018.
 - In FY 2018, \$5 would be added.
 - In FY 2019, an additional \$10 would be added, totaling \$15.
 - In FY 2020-2027, an additional \$20 would be added annually, totaling \$175 and eliminating the difference between the highest district costs per pupil and the statewide cost per pupil.
 - During implementation, school districts below the newly established statewide costs per pupil would receive additional funding under the current formula (\$1 of property taxes for every \$7 of state aid).
 - During implementation, school districts above the newly established statewide costs per pupil would receive state aid to supplant property tax dollars under the current formula (for every \$8 of increase in the statewide cost per pupil, these districts would supplant \$7 property tax dollars with state aid dollars).

- At full implementation, all school districts in the state would have a district cost per pupil equal to the statewide cost per pupil.

Transportation Cost Per Pupil Equity

- Creates supplementary weighting to offset the cost of transportation costs per pupil to help equalize the amount of per pupil funding each district is able to spend in the classroom versus just getting kids to school.
- The supplementary weighting will be phased in equally over ten years beginning in FY 2018 and will be calculated using the following factors:
 - The three-year average of costs incurred for the transportation of students as required under Chapter 285, excluding those paid from PPEL and SAVE, at a 90 percent factoring.
 - The district's budget enrollment at a 5 percent factoring.
 - The district's route miles at a 5 percent factoring.
- Requires that funding received for the transportation supplementary weighting can only be used for transportation costs incurred in providing mandatory transportation.

Under the provisions of regular school aid formula review, this language will be reviewed after three years and every five years thereafter to provide an opportunity to adjust the formula as necessary.

Proposed Summer Projects:

The Starmont School District is looking into updating numerous items over the summer. Our list below is not all inclusive and not guaranteed but areas that we are currently reviewing.

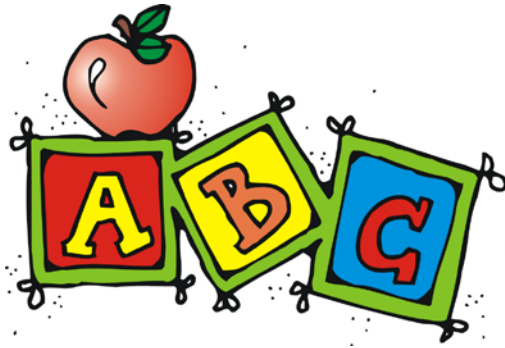
1. Updated Roofs
2. District Fob (Key System) and Updated Cameras
3. Updated Main Restrooms
4. Updated Special Needs Room
5. Updated Locker Room
6. New Softball Lights
7. Resurfacing of Track
8. Possible Purchase of New Bus
9. Other Items (Technology, Gym Updates, Painting, etc.)

AMPI (Sewage)

Over the past 7-8 months, the Starmont School Board has been working with AMPI on a 38-year old contract for our sewage. AMPI contacted me in July, asking to renew this contract, but not willing to renew at the current rate of \$1,200 a year. In fact, the first rate they brought to our attention was in excess of about \$40,000. After working with lawyers, engineers, DNR and other experts, our School Board is ready to sign a contract with AMPI for about \$17,000 until June 30, 2018. We are still waiting to hear back from AMPI but hoping that a more reasonable deal can be worked out. Stay tuned for more information on this topic. Just FYI, if we cannot get a deal worked out with AMPI, we may need to build our own sewage system.

Kindergarten Round Up

Kindergarten round up will be **Wednesday, March 1** from **9:00 am – 1:45 pm**. There will be a parent meeting at 9am in the elementary meeting room. Your child must be 5 years old by September 15, 2017. Please call the elementary office at 563-933-2238 to register your child if they do not currently attend a 4 year old preschool.



Preschool Registration

Preschool registration will be held on **Tuesday, March 7** from **6-7:30 pm** in the elementary gym. Students must be 4 years old by September 15, 2017. Students will be accepted to preschool on a first come, first serve basis.

Family Fun Night

When: This Friday, March 3

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: Starmont High School Gyms and Cafeteria

Why: Play on Inflatables. Games. Food. FUN!

Also: Check Out the Silent Auction in the Café!

Hope to See You There!



Miss Block's Kindergarten

The twenty-five students in Miss Block's class have been counting the days of school. We celebrated the 100th day of school by bringing in one hundred items! We sang songs, wrote and examined numbers!

February was involved with the topic of Presidents, past and present. We focused on Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Singing money songs and identifying coins and their values helps our financial literacy skills.

Mrs. Amanda Sargent from Bank Iowa has been coming to our classroom for Junior Achievement (JA). We thank her for her time and the banks and coin pouches. Our class has learned a lot about wants and needs and saving.

KB is looking forward to March! We will have our music concert, end of the third quarter, conferences and the start of spring.



STAR ART NEWS

Congratulations! Starmont artwork was selected to be exhibited in the 2017 Youth Art Month Show. (YAM) The artwork will be on display along with two hundred other pieces of student work from all over the state of Iowa.

A reception will be held on Saturday, March 25 at the Johnson Wellness Center at Grandview University (1500 Morton Ave, Des Moines). You are invited to bring family and friends to help students celebrate this achievement. Registration and activities will begin at 1 PM, and the awards ceremony will begin at 2 PM.

The Youth Art Month show will be on display at Grandview University's Rassmussen Center (2800 E 14th St) beginning March 10 through March 25th.

Along with the YAM students' one of our students, Miky Martin Hiner, was selected to have her work be displayed to represent the state of Iowa at the National Art Education Association Convention in New York, and a reproduction will be on display at our Iowa Youth Art Month Show.

Fun activities are planned for the YAM celebration on March 25; it's going to be a great event. Please join us in honoring the YAM artist!

Miky Martin Hiner 3rd grade (NAEA Show, New York)



Dylan Popham 2nd Grade (YAM)



Emily Haynes 4th Grade (YAM)



Listed below are other students selected for judging but did not make it into YAM, however, these students will have their work be part of a traveling art show around the state of Iowa for a year.

- Taiden Hason – Kindergarten
- Logan Everitt – 1st grade
- Lucas Kelley – 3rd grade
- Alyssa Kleinlein – 5th grade
- Donovan Goedken – 5th grade
- Oliva White – 6th grade
- Lane German – 6th grade

❖ You can see the artwork posted on Kathleen Sweet's Art webpage under YAM.

STARMONT SPEECH NEWS

Congratulations to the Starmont Speech Students and Coaches. They performed at the Individual District Speech Contest at MFL MarMac Saturday. The following sixteen students received Division I Ratings and will go onto State at Forest City on Saturday, March 11th....Allie Tucker (2 events), Jenna Pitcher (2 events), Tess Knickerbocker, Dasha Kulaha, Cynthia Hamlett, Meredith Tucker, Gabrielle Moellers, Alex Pope, Dillon Piper, Grace Smith, Quinn O'Brien, Isabel Johanns, Emily Duff, John Fletcher, Georgia Gaffney, Taygan Shilhanek.



Starmont FFA Hosts FFA Week Meal Packing Event

As part of the National FFA Week celebrations, the Starmont FFA Chapter sponsored a meal packing event for students 9-12 to participate in. Partnering with Meals from Heartland, non-profit company out of Des Moines, IA, supplies to package 40,000 meals were unloaded and organized by FFA officers on the evening of Wednesday February 22nd. The meals to be packaged consisted of a specific mixture of soy, rice, dried vegetables, and vitamins to be serve as a high protein, nutrient dense meal for families in need.

The event ran the morning of Thursday February 23rd. In a matter of just four hours, Starmont High School students and staff had helped packaged 40,608 meals! All meals were delivered to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo. It is exciting to know that all of the meals will be helping Iowa families in need. Starmont students did a fantastic job participating in this service project that will truly make a difference in the lives of other Iowans.



Prom News - A Night in Paris

On Tuesday, February 14, representatives from the junior class joined Sue Kartman from SMI to explain their plans for prom and to ask for a donation. For the 4th year in a row, SMI has agreed to sponsor an elementary glow-stick dance on April 7 from 6:30-8:00. The dance is free to the elementary students and organized and run by the junior class.



Pictured is Mitchell Hayes, Gabrielle Moellers, Tyler Lynde, Kylee Becker, and Michael Chapman.

The Starmont Post Prom will be hosting a bake sale during the Starmont Fish Fry on March 24. The proceeds will be going to help support all the activities that the committee provides for the students.

Mark your calendar for Starmont Prom activities on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The grand march is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. and run until 5:30 with the music to be played by Josh Brown.

Students will be traveling to the Arlington Community Center where they will be treated to a meal and dance. Following the dance, they will travel to the University of Northern Iowa where they will have the opportunity to use the swimming pool, racquet ball courts, basketball courts, ping pong tables, a rock wall and a hypnotist. Pizza, treats, and drinks will be provided at UNI. All expenses for prom have been raised by the junior class through various fund raising activities and through our awesome communities.

The fund raising activities for the 2016-2017 year included:

Pastry Puffins Sales

Cookie Dough Sales

Working in the concession stand

Cook Book Sales

Elementary Dance (which is sponsored by SMI)

Spaghetti Supper

Bake Sale (March 24)

The post prom committee is a set of dedicated citizens that have taken time out of their busy schedules to ensure that the students have a great and safe prom experience.

A.L.I.C.E Training

Starmont Schools are collaborating with law enforcement and local agencies, Emergency Management Services, and our AEA to develop a plan based on the principles of A.L.I.C.E., a program that prepares schools in the case of a school crisis. The purpose of A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) is to begin the mental preparation necessary to recognize, assess, and respond to threats against our staff and students. A.L.I.C.E. training provides options for maximal survival, increases knowledge so persons under attack can make informed decisions, and empowers faculty, staff, and students to take action as the situation warrants.

On the morning of January 3, law enforcement trained our staff on the A.L.I.C.E. plan. Our staff will continue to be trained, during professional development on Wednesdays, on A.L.I.C.E procedures and other crisis scenarios that could arise. Additionally, we will extend this training to students beginning in March and continuing through the rest of the school year.

We will be in communication as we continue through our planning process.



Senior Financial Aid Information

As post-secondary schools transition to the new financial aid timeline, this year is a transition year for students, families, school counselors, and college financial aid offices. Spring is the time that financial aid offices are working on award letters, a school's official notification of an individual student's financial aid award package. Each school differs in how they are handling financial aid for students so please contact your students' school's financial aid office for details. As an example, here is what I have learned from Hawkeye Community College:

- In the middle of March, students will receive an email to sign up for a MORE session (student orientation)
- The MORE session will occur at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 13th
- Students who have taken NICC courses should bring a list of these courses along with their grades for each to their MORE session on the 13th
- If students would like to see an estimated award letter, call the Financial Aid Office at (319) 296-4020. This information will be based off of this current year's information (not next year's) because Hawkeye's system requires an official transcript not available until the student graduates. Many other schools do not require this so please make contact with your child's financial aid office for details and timelines.
- Starmont sends official transcripts to the school the student lists as their school of attendance once grades are finalized in late May. After this, Hawkeye students will receive their award letter.





Starmont CSD
3202 40th Street
Arlington, IA 50606

Starmont Equity Statement

The Starmont Community School District does not intentionally discriminate on the basis of sex, race and color, national origin, religion and creed, age, marital/parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, or socioeconomic status or familial status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. If you believe such discrimination has occurred and want to receive more information about the grievance procedure, please contact the Superintendent/Equity Coordinator at 3202 40th Street, Arlington, Iowa 50606 or call (563) 933-4598.