



P.O.W.W.E.R
2024-2025

To promote the welfare and educational values of children and youth at Orchard Hill Elementary School.

Leadership Team

President: Darin Adams

Vice President: Sarah Hess

Secretary: Haley Iehl

Treasurer: Andrew Bolthouse

Hospitality: Nicole Bolthouse

Meeting Schedule Meetings start at 6:30 PM

Meetings take
place in the
Orchard Hill
Cafeteria or
Library

09/10/2024 Initial Meeting, Legislative Review, School Updates

10/08/2024 The Leader In Me: Be Proactive

11/04/2024 The Leader In Me: Begin with the End In Mind

12/10/2024 The Leader In Me: Put First Things First

01/14/2025 The Leader In Me: Think Win Win

02/11/2025 The Leader In Me: Seek First to Understand and then to be Understood

03/03/2025 The Leader In Me: Synergize

04/08/2025 The Leader In Me: Sharpen the Saw

05/13/2025

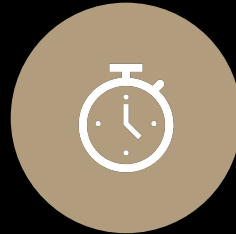
Meeting Format for 2024-2025



START AT 6:30 P.M.



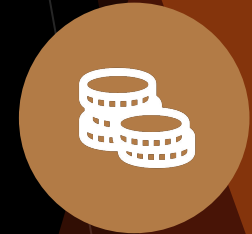
OPENING 5 - 10
MINUTES - THIS WILL
HOPEFULLY INCLUDE
TEACHER'S REQUESTS.



PRINCIPALS CORNER 10 -
20 MINUTES



THE LEADER-IN-ME
TOPIC 15 - 20 MINUTES



BUDGET/ OFFICIAL
PROCESS

Current Fundraisers Planned and Prospective Fundraisers

Spirit Wear	Orders Due Before This Meeting...(oops)
Applebee's (Cedar Falls) night	September 24th All Day
Popsicles At the Park	October 24 th 6:30pm until 7:30pm
Butter Braids	Sales Start Oct 28, Stop Nov 11, Pickup Nov 26
Read-A-Thon	Starting Jan 27, or Feb 10 th
Fun Fair	April 2025
Penny Wars??	February 2025-March 2025 Maybe???
Texas Roadhouse?	Spring 2025??

Current Events/Work Planned

Student Directory

Please have the Google Form completed by 09/15/2024 the link is in the Parent Update

Applebee's fundraiser

09/24/2024

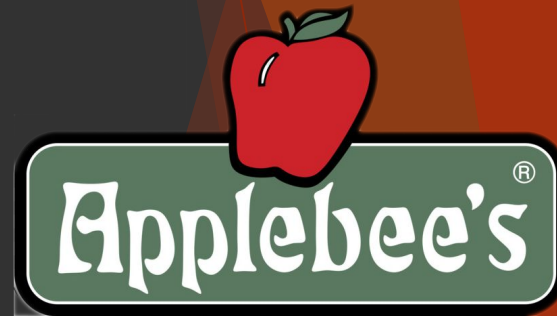
All Day! Just Mention Orchard Hill Elementary 6301 University Ave, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Popsicles at the Park

10/15/2024

6:30pm until 7:30pm

Orchard Hill Playground



Texas Roadhouse Support



- ▶ Texas Roadhouse will be providing bookmarks for leaders who read books.
 - ▶ Staff will be given bookmarks to hand out when appropriate.
 - ▶ The bookmarks can be used for a free kids meal via dine in OR to go ordering.
 - ▶ More than one bookmark can be used at one time.
- ▶ Texas Roadhouse will be providing certificates for leaders monthly in the following categories.
 - Student of the Month
 - Staff of the Month
 - Civic Engagement/Volunteering Outside of School
 - Demonstrating the Leader in Me Principles

Current Popcorn Day Schedule

- ▶ September 6th *prior to the POWWER Mtg
- ▶ October 4th
- ▶ November 8th
- ▶ December 20th
- ▶ January 10th
- ▶ February 7th
- ▶ March 7th
- ▶ April 4th
- ▶ May 2nd (or 9th)





Popcorn Days are funded!

- ▶ Haley coordinated 12 families to support popcorn day at \$100 per month ensuring our leaders will have popcorn once a month.
- ▶ **THANK YOU HALEY!**

Room Parents\Hospitality

- ▶ Tuesday 11/12/2024 -
Parent Teacher
Conference Meal
- ▶ Comments from Nicole

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Anxious Generation

How the Great Rewiring of
Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic
of Mental Illness

Jonathan Haidt

Coauthor of *The Coddling of the American Mind*

Book Discussion

During Spring 2025 we plan on having a portion of one meeting dedicated to discussing the

“The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt

POWVER plans on having some teachers present during the meeting to discuss ideas behind limiting devices in classrooms.

You can check this book out at any local library.

Every Kid Out Doors

- ▶ If you visit National Parks this is a MUST HAVE
 - ▶ Your 4th Grader gets in for free
 - ▶ Parents, Teachers, Troop Leaders, ect can get passes.
 - ▶ All Children under 16 get in for free with the Passholder
 - ▶ 3 adults get in for free with the Passholder
- ▶ The pass is for the 2024 to 2025 school year.
It expires August 31, 2025.
- ▶ <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/>



Upcoming Important Dates



September 18th Picture Day



Homecoming Activities Sept 30th - October 4th



October 11th No School - Professional Development Day

Teacher Request IXL for School Year 2024-2025. (1)

POWVER funded the Teacher Request for IXL from 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at a cost of \$4,306.25

IXL is used as a force multiplier for teachers in these grades to encourage kids to focus on their Math Skills.

Last year, IXL was used by students at Orchard Hill Elementary a total of 2,415 hours.

Teacher Request IXL for School Year 2024-2025. (3)

8,992 skills mastered using IXL,
10,041 skills that were rated proficient,
17,763 skills practiced.

Students in Kindergarten, 1st,
2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades can
use IXL at home. There is a
computer based, I-Phone, and
Android application.

Teacher Request IXL for School Year 2024-2025. (3)

Kindergarten has asked for a subscription to
ToDoMath \$1,349.97

The subscription would be solely for kindergarten
there is a computer based, I-Phone, and Android
application for home use.

Todo Math is more gamified than IXL

Any Questions?

Pending Board Votes

- ▶ Amending our articles of incorporation to shield the organization if involvement continues to decline.
- ▶ The amendments would allow the organization to continue to operate with just one board member.
 - ▶ If we reduce to 3 board members, we can no longer take direct donations as a 501c3.
 - ▶ If we reduce to one board member it would trigger a multiyear spend down.
 - ▶ The amendments do not require us to reduce our current board size and allows it to grow if there is more involvement.
- ▶ I can provide you a copy of the amendments if interested.

Budget

▶ Comments from Andrew

Tree Girls Update

▶ Comments from Sarah Hess





Principals Corner with Ms. Chris



- New Legislation
- New Teachers and Staff
- Ways to Volunteer and Contribute to your school.
- Lunch Schedule
- What is a WIG? What is THIS year's WIG
- Ms. Chris Goals for Orchard Hill this school year 2024-2025
 - ▶ Orchard Hill's Vision: Believe, Achieve, Lead.
 - ▶ Orchard Hill's Mission: Leaders learning in a safe, caring community.





Attendance Policy changes due to SF2435

If you have concerns step one is to reach out to the school staff, teacher/principal/administrative staff. We're here to help you in any way we can to address attendance issues.

Please be kind with the administrative staff, while we all adjust to this. We're just complying with SF2435 and we're here to support you.

The full attendance policy can be located here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3pm9xtfw>



Attendance Policy changes due to SF2435 (reduced to policy relevant to OH Elementary School (2))

- ▶ When your child is absent call/email the school. The absence will be recorded as excused or unexcused absence.
 - ▶ 1. Present - Student is at school or participating in a school activity.
 - ▶ Participation in school activities (fine arts, athletics, robotics, class trip, ect)
 - ▶ In-school suspension, detention/ect
 - ▶ 2. Absent - Exempt (Excused)
 - ▶ Medical Excusal (doctor note, school nurse, health pan, planned medical treatments)
 - ▶ Court Excusal
 - ▶ Attending religious services or receiving religious instruction
 - ▶ IEP or 504 plan affects attendance.

Attendance Policy changes due to SF2435 (reduced to policy relevant to OH Elementary School (3))

- ▶ 3. Absent - Non-Exempt (unexcused)
 - ▶ Any reason not previously listed
 - ▶ Sick, parent confirmed
 - ▶ Watching athletics, show choir, or other school activities (not participating)
 - ▶ Absent (parent excused no reason given)
 - ▶ Family Vacation “Out of Town”
 - ▶ Car Trouble
 - ▶ Arrived to school and classes were “skipped”
 - ▶ Out-of-school suspension
 - ▶ Non-school related activities (gymnastics, hockey, community theater, ect)

Attendance Policy changes due to SF2435 (reduced to policy relevant to OH Elementary School (4)

- ▶ Definition Changes due to SF 2435
 - ▶ “Chronic Absenteeism” is missing more than 10% of scheduled school days or instructional hours, regardless of the reason for the absence (please note the exemptions listed in #2 above). In Cedar Falls, this would be defined as missing the equivalent of 18 days of school.
 - ▶ “Truancy” is missing more than 20% of scheduled school days or instructional hours. In Cedar Falls, this is the equivalent of 36 days of school.

Attendance Policy changes due to SF2435 (reduced to policy relevant to OH Elementary School (5)

- ▶ If your leader has 12 non-exempt absences, there will be an engagement meeting to identify any potential supports to parents to prevent further action. At 24 non-exempt absences there will be a second engagement meeting.
- ▶ If your child does become truant by missing 36 days of school the school notifies the county attorney for the county attorney to enforce compulsory attendance laws.



Megan Carroll 5th Grade!

- ▶ Megan Carroll will be teaching 5th grade at Orchard Hill Elementary this fall! This will be Megan's first year as a teacher and she could not be more excited.
- ▶ Megan worked as a para for the last two years at North Cedar Elementary & went through the Purple Pathway Program at UNI to earn my teaching degree.
- ▶ Megan is originally from Wisconsin, near the Madison area. Megan moved to CF a few years ago with my fiancé and absolutely love it here.
- ▶ One of Megan's favorite things to do in the summer is go to the Cedar Falls Farmer's Market!
- ▶ Megan also loves reading, crafting, and thrift shopping.



Lexi Brown 6th grade!

- ▶ Lexi Brown will be teaching 6th grade.
- ▶ Lexi is a recent graduate from Wartburg College (Go Knights!), Lexi is honored to be teaching close by at Orchard Hill!
- ▶ Lexi has previously worked in the Cedar Falls School District as a Sustainability Steward through Green Iowa AmeriCorps and as a paraeducator.
- ▶ Lexi is an avid runner, reader, and baker/taste tester!

David Voyes Talented and Gifted Program

- David Voyes is very excited to start serving the students and families of Orchard Hill Elementary! Though this David's my 18th year of teaching, this will be David's first time serving as a Talented and Gifted teacher.

For the first 9 years of David's career, David taught high school math and for the past 8 years, I was an instructional coach and worked beside teachers and principals to support students and their learning.

- David was blessed to get to serve at elementary schools the past 5 years, which led to David earning his TAG endorsement so David could continue to serve younger learners.
- David is passionate about learning and helping students grow and lead!





Ms. Annie - Special Education

- ▶ Ms. Annie, is Orchard Hill's new special education teacher! Annie has been teaching 11 years and some of her greatest loves in life are: her family, her dogs, gardening, and Harry Potter.



Staci

Hello! I am Staci Wilkinson! I'm excited to be joining the 1st grade team at Orchard Hill! This will be my 21st year of teaching. I taught reading for 6 years, 1st grade for 11 years, intervention for 2 years and kindergarten for 1 year! I've been all over!

I live in CF with my husband and three children (14, 11, and 🕶️). I love golfing, reading, traveling and crafting! I went to UNI and I bleed purple and gold!

I look forward to meeting the OH families and helping your children grow as learners and leaders!

Here are ways to contribute to your child's experience at Orchard Hill Elementary

Get Involved

You can be involved with POWWER, Orchard Hill's PTO

Lend a hand

Lend a hand at Lunch Duty, socialize with your kids, help open milks and other items kids struggle with.

Volunteer

You can volunteer to help with Popcorn Day, reach out to POWWER for a schedule.

Help with Reading and Math

You can help read in the classroom or help a leader that needs a hand up with math. Reach out to Deb Marchesani to coordinate this.

Mentor/Coach

You can serve as a mentor/coach to a young leader.

Reach out to Deb Marchesani to coordinate this.

If you want to volunteer, please complete the volunteer form located at: <https://tinyurl.com/bderaa24>



Lunch Duty Schedule for Lunch Duty 2024-2025

Kindergarten (and Pre-K)	11:00 - 11:30
4 th Grade	11:30 - 11:50
5 th Grade	11:50 - 12:10
6 th Grade	12:00 - 12:20
1 st Grade	12:10 - 12:30
3 rd Grade	12:20 - 12:40
2 nd Grade	12:30 - 12:50

Lunch Duty Continued

- ▶ Please sign up for lunch duty if you can. It is a valuable way to involve yourself in your kid's day.
- ▶ Kids faces truly light up when they see adults and parents get involved by serving at lunch duty.
 - ▶ Parents
 - ▶ Grandparents
 - ▶ Community Members 18 and older
- ▶ Sign up here
 - ▶ <https://tinyurl.com/bdhax7jv>



What is a WIG? What is THIS year's WIG

- ▶ A Wildly Important Goal (WIG) is a goal that is so important that if it's not achieved, other accomplishments are not as significant. WIGs are different from other goals in a few ways:
 - ▶ Measurable: WIGs must be clear, specific, and measurable.
 - ▶ Prioritization: WIGs help teams prioritize and focus on the most important goals.
 - ▶ Focus: WIGs help teams focus on the bigger picture instead of getting distracted by daily tasks.
- ▶ This year's WIG is: We will increase student proficiency from 71% to 76% by Jan 23, 2024 in reading.
- ▶ It will be measured by: Winter FAST CMBR and early reading scores.
- ▶ It will be prioritized by: Each student will have two lead measures in their leader notebook to track 1-engagement 2- a reading strategy
- ▶ It will be focused on by: Students and teachers tracked at student, class, grade, and building

Ms. Chris's Goals for School Year 2024-2025



1. Increase student achievement in reading and math- all students meeting typical or aggressive growth on FAST assessments



2. Raise overall daily attendance



3. Recertify as a Lighthouse School in November



4. Be systematic with data to inform our instructional decisions.

Connect with P.O.W.W.E.R on Facebook:

Contact us via e-mail: oh.powwer@gmail.com

Thank you for coming to the first
POWVER Meeting.

Please take a few minutes to get to
know the parents around you.

We look forward to seeing you at
the next meeting on 10/08/2024.

