



# *Pearl City School District*

## *April 2023 Newsletter*

District Website: [www.pcwolves.net](http://www.pcwolves.net)

"Inspire in everyone a passion to excel"

### **April District Newsletter**

It is hard to believe that we are now in the 4th quarter of the school year. This time of year is filled with activities and testing to include our state assessments (IAR (Grades 3-8); Science assessment (Grades 5, 8, 11); PSAT (Grade 9,10) and SAT (Grade 11) and our local assessments (AimsWeb and MAP). There are also other activities such as Prom, Camp Timberlee, band and music concert, Art Festival, awards night and of course graduation. Please continue to check the district website for updated information. <https://www.pcwolves.net>

### **School Board Elections**

On April 4, 2023, residents of our community have the opportunity to elect three members to the Board of Education. There are five candidates running for the three open seats. In alphabetical order they are Tracy Downs, Jace Kempel, Tim Pauley, Richard Sargent, Nicole Sheffey. To help inform our community, profiles/bios have been placed on our website and included below.

#### **Tracy Downs**

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Tracy Downs and I have been a resident of Pearl City since 2002. I grew up on a farm and attended kindergarten through 12th grade in Scales Mound where I graduated high school before attending Highland Community College and Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Loras in 1998 and began a career in banking that summer. In 2001, I was hired at German American State Bank in German Valley and began looking for a smaller community to buy a home and raise a family. I currently have three children in the Pearl City school district: my oldest son, Jayden, is a junior, my daughter, Kameron, is a freshman, and my youngest son, Clayton, is in 8th grade. They all started at the Pearl City daycare at the age of three and we were blessed for the before and after school care they received over the years. Throughout the entire decade in which I have had children in the district I have been involved in activities at school, made a point to meet teachers and principals, and made an effort to be a positive influence on the district.

My children are active in sports and extra-curricular activities, and I have been fortunate over the last ten years, throughout their childhood, to volunteer coach or assist with the Pearl City Park District baseball and softball summer programs. We have been members of St John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City since moving into the community. I participate as lector and assisting pastor for worship when called to do so and help with youth programs and the grace meals at the church.

I have been in banking my entire career and have in-depth experience across all core business functions and operations. Through my work experience I have developed strong leadership, communication, negotiation, creative, and analytical skills. As the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer at German American State Bank I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of the bank. My responsibilities include developing, implementing, and managing an annual budget and business plan along with strategic planning and innovative thinking. I

believe I can bring a fresh perspective to the Board and my experience and education would further strengthen our Board and the district we serve.

I want to be elected to serve as a Board member. I will actively listen and seek input from parents, students, facility, and community residents to gain perspective on issues facing our district. I want to advocate and support those who feel their voice is not being heard and seek accountability for actions. Along with the other Board members, I will strive to keep the long-term interests of the district, and the interests of the current and future students foremost in any and all decisions while not being passive or accepting of the status quo.

I think one of the biggest challenges in our school today is creating a culture where all students recognize their self-worth and are encouraged to be fully engaged academically, creatively, and socially on a daily basis in the school, within the community, and as they interact with younger students. We need to seek educators with a passion to teach and inspire our children to receive the best education and best educational experience possible during those critical up bringing years. I believe becoming a leader in top level education should be a priority and that we need to develop a greater technology base, enhance and be more creative in our curriculum and seek educators who desire to interact with students beyond the classroom.

I thank you for your consideration and would appreciate your vote.

Respectfully, Tracy Downs

### **Jace Kempel**

My name is Jace Kempel, and I am running for a four-year term as a member on the Pearl City School District School Board. I am a proud 2006 graduate of the Pearl City School District #200 and have chosen to raise a family here with my wife Danielle. We have two children, Collins (5) and Crew (3), who will be attending the Pearl City School District. I'm currently in my 10 th year as an Independent Sales Representative for Pioneer Hi-Bred, selling and servicing Pioneer Brand corn, soybeans, and alfalfa in western Stephenson County. I've been an active Pearl City Lions Club member, as well as a committee member for the Boulevard Bash for 10 years. In the past, I have volunteered as a baseball coach for the summer program and assisted with boys' basketball at various levels in Pearl City.

Much like every small town, our community revolves around our school district. I benefitted greatly from having a great school system to grow up in, and I'd like to be a part of ensuring that all Pearl City students, as well as my own children, have even more opportunities in education and extracurricular activities that I had.

If you look across the state, you will see a lot of small communities like ours that have consolidated school districts in the last decade. There are many reasons for consolidation, such as quality of education, services offered, or to alleviate financial stress. While consolidation has its benefits, there are negative aspects to consolidating that could have a direct effect on our community. For example, in smaller school districts in rural areas, communities are often built around schools. People know one another within the boundaries of the school district, and the school district is what holds the community together. We have a district filled with teachers and staff that excel in their respective classes and a community that stands behind the district. With proper management of funding and resources, in addition to increasing opportunities for our students, I can see the Pearl City School District thriving for many years to come.

I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election and GO WOLVES!

Jace Kempel

**Tim Pauley**

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the candidates running for the Pearl City School Board. Before I get into the reasons of me running for this position, let me provide you a bit of background. I started and completed my primary education at Pearl City Schools, graduating high school in 2002. In 2006 I completed my college career at Knox College in Galesburg, IL with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Finance. I began my career in banking directly out of college and have been a community banker for the last 12 years. I currently serve as President of the Exchange State Bank in Lanark, IL. My wife Jody and I have lived in Pearl City since moving back in the area in 2014. Jody is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher for Pearl City Schools. We have three beautiful, active children: Mason (11), Beckett (9), and Fallyn (7).

This will be my second time running for a seat on the Board of Education (BOE) at Pearl City. I found my first term to be a very rewarding experience. I've had the opportunity to work closely with fellow Board Members and School Administrators on making difficult decisions for the betterment of the students, teachers, staff and school. I want to continue capitalizing on this opportunity as I believe I take in the best interest of the community in doing so. I've learned some valuable lessons within my profession. The worth of having an open mind and importance of being a good listener are two that come to mind that directly impact a Board Member's ability to serve and I believe I exemplify those characteristics.

There always will be many challenges small-town school districts will face. I believe Pearl City Schools has one major challenge in front of them today. The School faces short-term financial concerns as there are multiple capital improvements that need attention. These necessary obligations will create stress to the balanced budget and put a large dent into the school's reserves. The community thrives on the strength of the school and its educators and their curriculum. It is imperative that the school continue meeting the expectations of our hard-working educators to provide the best instruction that our students so deserve. By doing so, I believe it will attract young families to come to Pearl City as it is the goal to young parents to have the best education offered to their kids.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know a little about me and why I want to be a part of the BOE for a second term. Go Wolves! - Tim

**Richard Sargent**

I'm a self-employed business owner. I have lived and worked in the community for 23 year. My wife and I have been married for 29 years, parents of 3 children.

My 3 children graduated from Pearl City High School, The 2 boys where involved in boy scouts. Which they both earned the highest scout award of Eagle Scout. My youngest in the last year has gotten her America Farmer Award. My 2 boys live and work in the Pearl City area. I have a grand son and a grand daughter on the way.

I would like to see Pearl City School add a couple of Tech class Ed and a Home Economics or a Life Skills class. The Tech Ed classes can be add with little or no cost to the community.

**Nicole Sheffey**

My name is Nicole Sheffey, I am a candidate for the Pearl City School Board. I graduated from Stockton High School. I have held a variety of jobs including but not limited to: waitress, construction work, pharmacy technician, night management of grain drying setup, customer service rep, and home daycare provider. I married Scott Sheffey, a Pearl City native, in the summer of 2001. We moved to his family farm in the Pearl City community. We have 3 boys,

Jase, a Sophomore in College at Highland Community College, Levi, a Senior and Wade, a 7 th grader. I am currently working for our farm as a bookkeeper / inventory/ record keeper. I also keep our farms cost of production records for both our grain and hog operation. I have gained a lot of experience running my own business and working with our farms cost of production numbers. A lot of time is spent going over bills and making sure numbers are correct.

We are the 5th generation to live on the family farm and we aspire for our boys to be the 6th generation. I love our rural Pearl City community and really feel this is where I belong. I have been serving on the Pearl City School Board for almost 8 years. I am very proud of our school and our community. I would be honored, to serve our School and our community another 4 years. I would like to see the Pearl City schools remain strong and continue to move in a positive direction so our district is thriving for future generations. I want to continue to help our school stride to maintain a balanced budget. As a board member, I would advocate working together through open and honest discussions to provide high quality education to our students.

One of the biggest challenges facing our school district today is growing financial issues. State funding is always a big question mark. Lack of funds, puts schools in a difficult situation. We also see a very limited supply of new teachers entering into the teaching career path. This is something that could affect the type of teacher we are able to get. We need to continue to attract enthusiastic, passionate, and hard-working teachers. Keeping Pearl City the place teachers want to come! I want to see our school thrive, but in order to do this we need to be financially responsible with taxpayer's money and willing to adapt new ways to attract and keep our dedicated teaching staff.

I feel, I have a lot to offer our school. I believe in making choices that benefit the students' education while also keeping our budget in check. We have kept a balanced budget these past few years but we know this is still a struggle we need to stay on top of. Some choices / decisions may not be as easy as others, but I will promise to make the responsible choice. One of my strongest points as a candidate would be that I am not a "go with the flow type of person". I think for myself. If something doesn't make sense I will ask questions until I get all of the information or figure out the problems, so, I can make the best possible decision. Schools unite a community; we are a strong community! I believe in keeping it that way!

### **Calendar**

The last day of attendance for Pearl City students is Thursday, May 26th . Graduation is set for May 21st at 1:00pm. The 2022-2023 District calendar has also been approved by the School Board. The first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year is August 18th 2023.

Mike Schiffman  
Superintendent



## Spring has finally arrived!!

As your child gets ready for school each day please pay attention to the weather. Students need to have a jacket on most days. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. Some fashions are not for school. Tops should cover the mid-drift and straps should be at least 2 fingers wide. Sandals keep our feet cool, but are not very safe for running and playing.

## Junior High Promotion and Retention Policy

As a reminder, here are the guidelines that will be used for this policy.

The decision as to pupil placement (retention or acceleration) shall be made by the school principal after careful consideration of the following:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Attendance
- Grades
- A student who fails their grade level benchmarks will be considered for retention. Grade Level Benchmarks are the very minimum skills required for students.
- A student who fails mathematics or reading for the year will be required to attend summer school or will be retained at current grade level.



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## **PCEF Offers \$20,000 in Upperclassman Scholarships for 2023-2024 School Year**

Pearl City Education Foundation announces availability of \$20,000 to fund Pearl City Upperclassman Scholarships for full-time College or Trade School students for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. This program is for those Pearl City graduates who have already successfully completed their first year of college, and will be going on into their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year as a full-time college student.

Upperclassman Scholarship Application forms will be available by mid-March at the State Bank of Pearl City, the Pearl City Public Library, or on the Pearl City School's website [www.pcwolves.net](http://www.pcwolves.net)

The deadline for mailing completed applications with required attachments is June 30, 2023. Mail to: Pearl City Education Foundation, Upperclassman Scholarships, P.O. Box 278, Pearl City, IL 61062  
We are unable to consider late or incomplete applications.

Since its 2010 inception, the Pearl City Upperclassman program has awarded over 145 scholarships with over \$90,000 having been distributed to former Pearl City graduates. This program is designed to be perpetual.

Pearl City Education Foundation (PCEF) welcomes donations for our scholarship programs, as well as our program for classroom/teacher's grants. These donations are tax deductible as PCEF has a 501(c) (3) tax status.



## Senior Honors & NHS Induction May 9th

NHS Induction Ceremony will be at 6:00 pm with Senior Honors to follow at 7:00 pm. At senior awards, students will be recognized for scholastic achievement and scholarships will be presented. Seniors and their families are encouraged to attend. More details will be coming soon.

### Senior Finals

Seniors will be taking their finals beginning on May 15th and completing finals on May 18th (last day for seniors).

### Graduation

Graduation will be on Sunday, May 21st, 2023 at 1:00 PM in the High School Gym. More details will be coming soon.



*Academic Awards*

## Spring Testing

All Juniors will be taking the SAT on April 12th. This test is a graduation requirement. The students will take this test offsite.

The PSAT for 9th and 10th graders will also be on April 12th.

During this time, please make sure your students are getting to bed on time and getting plenty of rest. If your child has an appointment during these dates try to reschedule it to the end of the day. If you have any questions, please contact the school at (815) 443-2715.

### **Pearl City Park District**

Is accepting resumes for

#### **Seasonal Maintenance Workers**

Duties include mowing, weed whipping, set up and maintaining baseball/softball fields, painting, grounds keeping etc.

Applicants must be 16+ with a valid driver's license.

Send Resumes to:

Pearl City Park District, 331 W. Devore Ave., P O Box 244 Pearl City, IL 61062

Resumes must be received by April 30th, 2023



**We Can't Mark Our Calendars Yet!**

### Waiting on Confirmation From the New Owners

8th Grade Trip We Hope!  
The 8th grade will be going to  
Camp Timber-lee on  
May 3rd 4th & 5th

# Important Dates to Remember

## April 3rd

School Resumes from Spring Break

## April 6th

Art Show, Book Fair, & Boy's Scouts  
Spaghetti Dinner

## April 7th & 10th

No School

## April 12th

SAT testing for Juniors  
PSAT testing for 9th & 10th Grade

## April 17th

Elementary PTO Mtg. 3:15

## April 19th

5-12 Grade Choir 6pm & Band 7pm  
Spring Concert

## April 19th

Board of Education Meeting  
at 6:30pm

## April 28th-30th

Spring Musical at Pearl City

## Village of Pearl City

Is accepting resumes for

## Seasonal Maintenance Worker

Duties include mowing, weed whipping,  
Painting, etc. Applicant must be 16+ with a  
Valid drivers license.

Please send resumes to:

Village Hall,

302 Station Street, Pearl City 61062

Resume must be received by March 27th, 2023



# Spring Concerts!



5-12 Choir Concert April 19 at 6:00 pm



5-12 Band Concert Apr 19 to follow the  
Choir Concert (approximately 7:00 pm)

## PC Booster Club:

The PC Booster Club is often approached to donate money to sports activities to support our student athletes. We ask for your support of the PC Booster Club. We strongly encourage all parents of student athletes to donate or participate in our fundraisers to accommodate these requests.

## Next PC Booster Club Meeting:

Sunday, April 16th at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria (Subject to change- A school reach will be sent out closer to the date to confirm date, time, and location)

PC Booster Club Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser:



[2023 Registration for PC Booster Club Golf Outing](#) [2023 Sponsorship for PC Booster Club Golf Outing](#) [Facebook Event](#)

We are currently looking for someone interested in leading the Golf Outing and becoming the Point of Contact. Ashley Gronewold is willing to do a transition year. Please let Ashley know if you're interested in becoming the new POC. She can be reached at 815.541.0394,

We are in the phases of planning now and are seeking help! If you're interested in sponsoring monetarily, donating items, or volunteering your time, please email us at [PCBoosterClub@gmail.com](mailto:PCBoosterClub@gmail.com) or text Ashley Gronewold at 815.541.0394.

## Find Us Digitally:

Please find or contact us on the below digital platforms for the most up to date information.

- PC School Website: Athletics- PC Booster Club
- Email: [PCBoosterClub@gmail.com](mailto:PCBoosterClub@gmail.com)
- Venmo: [@PCBoosterClub200](https://venmo.com/@PCBoosterClub200)
- Facebook: [@pearlcityboosterclub](https://www.facebook.com/@pearlcityboosterclub)

## PC Booster Club Contact Information:

Please contact us if you have any questions or ideas.

- Ashley Gronewold, President: 815.541.0394
- Angie Niehaus, Vice President: 815.266.7260
- DJ Scott, Treasurer: [djscott@pcwolves.net](mailto:djscott@pcwolves.net)
- Mel Bremmer, Secretary: 815.821.4715



## March Student of the Month

7th grade: Camdyn Smith

8th grade: Cory Barthel

Freshmen: Nakiya Pickard

Sophomore: Joely Christiansen

Junior: Ethan Petta

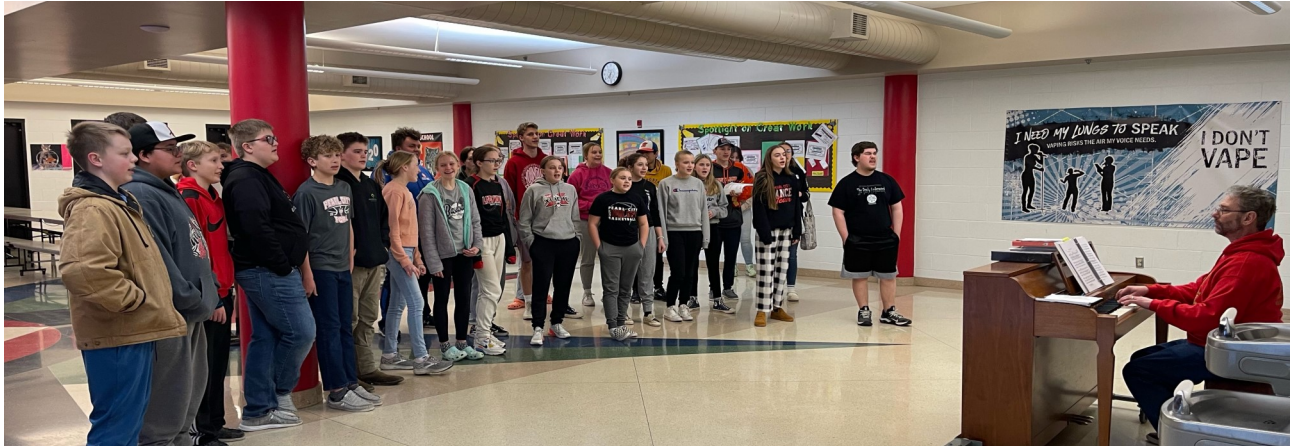
Senior: Laine Rosenstiel

**Top Dog**

Paige Hille



**EPC Drama Presents:**



The year is 1958, and the much-adored rock-and-roll idol -- Conrad Birdie (Dylan Olvera) -- has been drafted into the US army. His songwriter and agent, Albert Peterson (Hudson Groezinger), and Albert's secretary and some-time girlfriend, Rosie (Caylie Schubert), hatch a plan for a farewell performance to take place on The Ed Sullivan Show, which they hope will help sell Birdie's new song "One Last Kiss" and ultimately save Almaelou records from going under. To cap off the performance, Birdie will actually give 'one last kiss' to Kim MacAfee (Nevaeh Gross), an avid member of the Conrad Birdie fan club from Sweet Apple, Ohio. Meanwhile, Albert's mom (Allison Weese) keeps trying to guilt her son into seeing someone other than Rose.

When Albert and Rosie head to Sweet Apple to prepare for Birdie's arrival, things start to unravel. Kim's father (Keegan Strauch) and mother (Natalie Greene) are star struck at the thought of being on The Ed Sullivan Show with their daughter and son, Randolph (Easton Turrell) while Kim's new steady, Hugo (Allyn Geerts) gets jealous at the thought of Kim kissing Conrad on national television. Add to that a zany crew of Conrad-obsessed teens and townspeople, including several junior high students who are stepping into the light for the first time in this production, and a few community members, and you are in for a dynamite show!

Performances are:

**April 28 & 29 at 7:00 PM-doors open at 6:30 PM**

**April 30 at 2:00 PM-doors open at 1:30 PM**

Performances will be in the Pearl City High School main gym.

Tickets are for general seating for all shows and go on sale April 14 from cast & crew or in either the Eastland High School office or the Pearl City Office. See school websites for Details! Tickets will also be available at the door. **Cost per ticket is \$8**

Questions? Please contact Mrs. Graf at [jgraf@pcwolves.net](mailto:jgraf@pcwolves.net)



2023 April



# Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	26	27	28	29	30	Mar 31 1 No School-Spring Break Baseball FS/Jacksonville Softball TBA Softball Tourney in Jacksonville	
No School-Spring Break	2 LWPC Girls Track @ Hazel Green (Southwestern) School Resumes	3 4:00 PM JH Track @ Gal/RR/ED (RR) 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Lena 4:30 PM Baseball @ Orangeville 4:30 PM Softball @ Oville/Aquin	4	5	6 Pearl City Schools Art Show 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Forreston 4:00 PM JHB Track @ Dakota 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Pecatonica 4:30 PM Baseball vs Orangeville 4:30 PM Softball vs Oville/Aquin	7 No School	8 10:00 AM Boys Track @ Oregon 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Oregon 4:30 PM Softball PC Invite
9 No School 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Lena Co-Ed Meet	10 School Resumes 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Pec/Durand 4:30 PM Baseball vs Dakota 4:30 PM Softball vs Dakota	11	12 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track - LW Invite	13 4:30 PM Baseball @ Dakota 4:30 PM Softball @ Dakota	14 HS Large Group Organizational Contest 4:00 PM JH Track @ Le-Win	15 K-11 Show at Freeport Art Museum until 6/24/23 Softball @ WC Invite 11:00 AM Baseball vs Oregon @ LumberKing Stadium	
16 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Forreston 4:00 PM JHB Track @ Dakota	17 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Le-Win 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Forreston 4:30 PM Baseball vs Du-Pec 4:30 PM Softball vs Pecatonica	18 4:00 PM JH Track @ Chadwick (Milledgeville) 6:30 PM Board of Education Meeting 7:00 PM Spring Choir Concert	19	20 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Byron 4:30 PM Softball @ Pecatonica 4:30 PM Baseball @ Du_Pec	21 4:00 PM JH Track @ Le-Win	22 Softball @ Monroe Invite 9:00 AM LWPC Girls Track @ Rockford Christian 12:30 PM Baseball @ East Dubuque	
23 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Milledgeville	24 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Forreston 4:30 PM Baseball vs Le-Win 4:30 PM Softball vs Le-Win	25 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Milledgeville 4:00 PM JH Track @ Pecatonica 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Stillman Valley	26	27 4:15 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Winnebago 4:30 PM Baseball @ Le-Win 4:30 PM Softball @ Le-Win	28 4:00 PM Boys Track @ Oregon	29 10:00 AM Baseball Triangular @ PC	
30	May 1	Notes  <i>*Calendar is subject to change *</i>					

2023 April

Menu



Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	Mar 31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Donut, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Crispy Chicken Sndwich, Broccoli, Pears & Milk	Mini Bagels. Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Fiestada Pizza, Corn, Applesauce & Milk	Uncrustable, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Salisbury Steak, Green Beans/Dinner Roll, Fruit Salad, Dessert & Milk	Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Beef Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Mandarin Oranges, & Milk	No School	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No School	Cherry Frudel, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Quesadilla, Green Beans, Pears, & Milk	Scrambled Eggs and Toast, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Chicken Strips, Baked Beans, Pears & Milk	Mini Donuts, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Corn Dogs, Carrots, range Slices & Milk	Variety Breakfast, Fruit, Juice & Milk Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Corn/Mashed Potatoes, Peaches, Dessert & Milk		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Blueberry Bagel, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Tator Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Pears & Milk	Pretzel/Cheese, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Nachos, corn, Applesauce & Milk	Muffin Tops, Fruit, Juice, and Milk Goulash, Broccoli, Pineapple & Milk	Coffee Cake, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Sub Sandwich, Carrots, Apple Slices & Milk	Long John, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Shredded Chicken Sandwich, Baked Beans, Peaches, Dessert & Milk		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Apple Frudel, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Hamburger, Broccoli, Pears & Milk	Cinnamon Pastry, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Mini Tacos, Corn, applesauce & Milk	Breakfast Casserole, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Peaches & Milk	Muffins, Cereal, Fruit, Juice & Milk Chicken Nuggets, Baked Beans, Orange Slices & Milk	Dutch Waffle, Fruit, Juice & Milk Pizza, Carrots, Mandarin Oranges Dessert & Milk		
30	May 1	Notes	<p><b>*Calendar is subject to change*</b> Lunch is Offer vs. Serve Each meal is provided with Milk &amp; Whole Grain Bread/Breading</p>			