

# SIERSMA SENTINEL

SEPTEMBER 2018

Eric Williamson, Principal (586) 574-3174

24 HOUR ABSENCE LINE (586) 574-3174 – Option 2

Margaret Pantalone – Secretary ext.47907

Monica Holtz – Attendance Secretary/Health Aide ext. 47903

## Siersma School Mission Statement

Siersma Elementary School will create meaningful relationships that foster student achievement.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 12 | Picture Day                       |
|              | PTO Meeting, 5:30pm, Media Center |
| September 21 | Half Day, Dismissal at 11:58 AM   |
| October 3    | COUNT DAY                         |
| October 8-10 | Leadership Camp                   |
| October 12   | Half Day, Dismissal at 11:58 AM   |
| October 17   | Picture Retake Day                |
| October 22   | Mobil Dentist                     |
| October 26   | Half Day, Dismissal at 11:58 AM   |

OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 9  
NO SCHOOL INTERSESSION



### 2018-2019 School Day Schedule

TK, Kindergarten, Grades 1 – 5

|          |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
| Full Day | 8:42 a.m. - 3:54 p.m.  |
| Half Day | 8:42 a.m. – 11:58 a.m. |

MiCI Start and End Schedule is 10 minutes earlier.

Office Hours 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM

For up-to-date information, please visit our website at [www.wcskids.net/siersma](http://www.wcskids.net/siersma)

## Greetings Siersma Community

Welcome Back! I hope all students and parents enjoyed their summer break! ***Our theme for the 2018-2019 school year is We Rise By Lifting Others.*** We look forward to working together as a school community team in order to get the most out of our students academically and socially! I am excited about some new events that will be taking place this year, which we will share throughout the next few months. We sold student T-shirts during the first month of school with our new theme on them.

You will notice a few changes at Siersma this year. I would like to welcome, Sara Helig, Craig Staskowski, Michelle Clarke, Sonia Renaldi, and Marie Brown . Sara will be job sharing with Mrs. Mansour in 4th grade, Craig will **begin the year as a long-term sub** in our open 4th grade classroom, Michelle will be supporting students in math, Sonia is our new school psychologist, and Marie is our new Speech Pathologist. They all come with different background experiences, and are eager and excited to work with our Siersma families. **We are currently looking to fill our** counselor position that Ms. H had last year. She left to take a full time position as counselor at a local high school.

We will have a couple new events this year to help raise money for our student accounts. I will use this money raised to support our Leadership Camp, student activities at school, and student supplies. The two events that Siersma staff will be putting on are: "Pie the Principal for Pyramid Point" all of the money raised from this event will go directly to Leadership Camp, and our 2nd annual "Siersma Sampler!" I will let you know what dates they will be this year as soon as I have them solidified.

Siersma Elementary School will empower students to become successful and productive citizens. From a Balanced Literacy model in Language Arts, to a Writer's Workshop model in Writing, to a Math Workshop model in Math, classrooms will all be individualized to meet the needs of all students. Science and Social Studies topics will be incorporated into Language Arts on a continuous basis, and studied on their own.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you this school year!  
Eric Williamson - Principal

## Siersma Staff

(may change due to enrollment)

Transitional Kindergarten: Lisa Koziara

Kindergarten: Christina Chirco, Karen Mentz

Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Carrie Blake-Gatson

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Jillian David, Andrea George

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Wendy Meissner, Jennifer Nichols, Kelly Watson

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Angela Hamera, Bethany McCaffrey, Danielle Ryntz

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Julianna Bassick, Melanie Mansour/Sara Heilig,  
Craig Staskowski

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nick Mercier, Sarah Miller

MiCI Laura Beauregard, Ginger Krezminski

Resource Room: April Dolezel

ELL: Roberta Whitacre

Speech: Marie Brown

Counselor: Bobbi Hill

Social Work: Melissa Seligman

Teacher Consultant: Donna Morgan

Title I: Anne Sweeney, Stephanie Boos,  
Michelle Clarke

Art: Lori Weeks

Music: Kelly McBride

STEM: Karin Jaberoo

Media Specialist: Kristin Nolan

Physical Education: Maria Piazza

## SIERSMA SPARKLES

Thank you to our custodial staff and summer helpers, led by Linda Mickey, for their hard work throughout the shortened summer. In a very short time they were able to make Siersma SPARKLE.



## Background Checks

Warren Consolidated Schools policy requires that anyone volunteering in any capacity or chaperoning must have a background check on file. It is the policy of Warren Consolidated Schools to secure criminal conviction history information as mandated by Michigan state laws for public school employees and volunteers. One form per school year is required per volunteer. There are two online videos that also need to be watched with a test at the end. If you have completed the videos in the past, you may not need to take them again. Background check forms must be submitted two weeks prior to volunteering.

## Registration Cards

Registration cards were given to each student with their Welcome Back Packet. One is for office use, and the other card is for use by the teachers. The cards are helpful if our computers are not working. Thank you for returning them promptly.

These cards are extremely important. Please be sure they are filled out **clearly** and **completely**. Phone numbers for home and work are essential. Include cell phone numbers. Unlisted phone numbers will be kept confidential. Also of prime importance is the area of the registration card which requests names of persons who can assume responsibility for your child if he/she becomes ill and you cannot be contacted. Please be sure to complete this area including **three** names and phone numbers. Should any information change throughout the year, please contact the office.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As required by state law, Warren Consolidated Schools provide a reasonable amount of paper, pencils, crayons, glue, etc. For your child's convenience, you may wish to supplement this list by purchasing one or more of the above items for their personal use.

A supply list is available on Siersma's website and in the office.



*Please be sure to write the student's name on their personal items such as backpacks, lunch boxes, coats and hats. This will avoid tears shed over lost or misplaced items. We discourage students from bringing expensive jewelry, mementos or toys to school.*

***Last school year we had 72 hats, over 80 pairs of gloves, 8 coats, many hoodies/sweaters, a few pairs of shoes and boots, and lunchboxes. Many of the items were washed and donated to the Foster Child Closet.***

***PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILDS ITEMS.***

## Wearing Apparel

Clothing should be worn in the manner for which it was designed and reflects the activity in which students are engaged. The school assumes that parents will use good taste in deciding what their children wear to school. Children should NOT wear:

Flip Flops

Halter tops, Muscle shirts

Short-Shorts

Shirts with inappropriate logos or messages

# School Picture Day



School Picture Day is scheduled for the morning of ***Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>***. Order forms and information has been sent home.

You can order pictures online at **mylifetouch.com** using Picture Day ID: LM718057Y0  
Yearbooks can be ordered at **ybpay.lifetouch.com**

## Attendance Procedures

Research shows that there is a direct relationship between good attendance and classroom success. Students who have a good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are much more employable after leaving high school. Likewise, poor attendance may be one factor in the student not achieving the minimal expectations of the class.

The limit of accumulated absences both excused and unexcused shall be twenty (20) for the year. Tardies and leaving early count as absences. Exceeding these limits could result in referral to the County Attendance Officer who will seek further action through the court system. In extenuating circumstances, the limit can be extended at the principal's direction.

## EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY

There will be NO early dismissal after 3:30pm on full days and 11:30am on half days. If it is necessary for your child to leave after these times, the office must be notified in the morning.

## Safety Check Absence/Tardy Hot Line



We are continuing the practice of contacting the home for any student who is absent (or running late) when the parent/guardian has not contacted the school regarding the absence. This, as you know, provides a closer check for the safety and welfare of each student at Siersma Elementary School. Please call the absence hot line (available 24 hours) at 574-3174, Option 2.

**Early Arrivals:** Parents should be sure that their child does not arrive at school too early each day. Plan to have your child arrive at the time the safety patrol goes on duty, which is approximately 8:35 a.m. ***Students should not be dropped off and left outside the school before this time.*** If it is necessary for your child to arrive at school before 8:35 a.m., **they must be registered to attend Latch Key.** Students having breakfast can be dropped off at 8:25 a.m.

***Students who are not picked up on time at the dismissal bell must be registered for Latch Key. They are not permitted to wait outside, in the lobby or in the school office. (Due to new legislation, students may not go to Latch Key unless they are registered with the required forms completed.)***

**Early Dismissal:** Parents are encouraged to arrange appointments for their child/children after school rather than requesting early dismissal. The student will be marked absent for early dismissals. It is helpful to send a note to the teacher if early dismissal is necessary.

## **Nurse's Notes / Important Notice / Medication**

We must follow the Warren Consolidated School District's policy of administering medication. Medication, prescription or over the counter, **CANNOT** be given without the proper form completed and signed by the child's doctor. This form is available in the school office.



### **Warren Consolidated Schools Board of Education**

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Megan E. Papasian-Broadwell, Vice President  
Susan Kattula, Secretary  
Brian White, Treasurer  
Leah A. Berdy, Trustee  
Susan Jozwik, Trustee  
Carl Weckerle, Trustee

### **2018/2019 Siersma P.T.O. Executive Board**

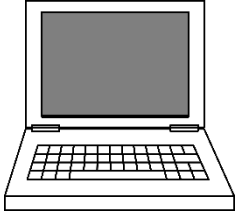
[SiersmaPTOboard@gmail.com](mailto:SiersmaPTOboard@gmail.com)

Amy Morgan – President  
Kristen Trenkler – Vice President  
Edy Olow – Treasurer  
Keya Knight – Secretary  
Zenia Lage – Public Relations

Look for more information from PTO regarding their events this school year.

PTO Website: <http://siersmapto.weebly.com/>  
PTO Facebook: [www.facebook.com/siersmapto](http://www.facebook.com/siersmapto)

# Bond Work



Siersma teachers are receiving new computers and classroom technology. The sound system in the cafeteria and gym are also being upgraded. All of the changes are scheduled to be in by early October. Over the summer, our computers in the computer lab were upgraded.



Siersma Elementary School has qualified for a USDA breakfast and lunch program where **ALL** students, regardless of income, are eligible for both a free breakfast and lunch.

- This is a federally funded program for Siersma Elementary School students.
- All families are **required** to complete the **Household Information Survey** which will affect the level of Title 1 and "At Risk" funding for Siersma.
- There is no need to complete an application for free or reduced priced meals for children at Siersma.
  - If you have children in other Warren Consolidated Schools, you will still need to apply for those students. Include all students in the household on the application, including your Siersma student(s). You can easily do this on line at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com) and follow the prompts.
- The menu will be the same as all other elementary schools.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Nutrition Service Department at (586) 698-4158.

## From the Kitchen

by Ms. Chris



Welcome back to Siersma! I hope you all had a wonderful summer.

Please remember, all food allergies/sensitivities must be on record, along with the doctor's verification in our school office. This is vital information since we not only have lunch daily, but classrooms have snack, parties, etc. Certain allergies can be life threatening, so we need to know!

# Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is provided to students by the school system. It is the responsibility of parents to see that their child waits for the bus in a safe and orderly manner. As in the past, all students are expected to abide by school rules and bus driver directions so as not to endanger themselves or others. Students who consistently misbehave on the bus, or at the bus stop, will be subject to temporary suspension of bus riding privileges. Bus rules are on the back of the bus schedule. Please review these rules with your children.



## **Student Absence/Cancellation of Stop**

If your child is the only student assigned to a stop and he/she is absent, please call the Transportation Office at 825-2960, and let us know so that we can tell the driver not to make the stop. If there is no one at the stop for three consecutive days and we do not receive a call to cancel, it will be put on "Will Call" and the bus will no longer stop there. You will have to call the Transportation Office to resume pick-up.

Also, please call 825-2960, if you need to reach the dispatcher regarding your bus running late. The dispatch phone is answered daily starting at 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

## **Articles Left on Bus**

If your child leaves an item on the school bus, have them check with their driver the next school day. Most items will be kept on the bus for several days, so that students may claim them. Items such as purses, musical instruments and expensive articles will be removed from the bus and held in the Transportation Office or taken to the school office by the bus driver.

## **Special Note: After-school study/play dates...**

Walkers may not ride the bus. Transportation for after-school play dates will be the responsibility of parents/guardians.

Bussers may ride a different bus with a friend only when written permission is given by both families.

A note is also required when a student plans to ride their regular bus for an after-school visit with a friend but gets off at a different stop.

All arrangements must be made between parents the day before. Calls home for the purpose of planning an after-school visit will not be permitted.

Notes must be approved and signed by the principal.

# Title I Information



Siersma Elementary is a Title I school, which means we receive funds from the Title I Part A program. Title I, Part A is a federal supplemental program designed to help children reach high academic standards. In receiving funds from this program, the district is required to inform the parents of any child attending a Title I school of information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. A "highly qualified" teacher is defined as a teacher that meets Michigan's qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level or subject area in which the teacher is providing instruction. We are proud to say that all our teachers are considered "highly qualified".

Siersma has two Title I teachers that provides reading and math intervention 5 days a week to students who need assistance. We also have a part time teacher that meets with students 5 days a week. Title I teachers work with students in small groups on individualized math and language arts skills. Students are identified through various assessments and their progress is monitored throughout the school year.

# **Directory Information, Photographs & Video Taping of Students**

Warren Consolidated Schools has designated the following as Directory Information: a student's name; address; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height; if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; awards received, honor rolls or scholarship; and/or telephone numbers only for inclusion in school or PTO directories.

Directory information is normally made available to news media, non-profit groups, and armed forces representatives for sports and awards recognitions and other public relations or employment opportunities. Other student records and data are NOT included in general Directory Information and cannot be released without written approval of the parent or guardian. If parents wish to have general Directory Information totally withheld from release, they should contact their child's school office staff and obtain a Directory Information, Videography and Photography Withholding Request Form. This request will then become a part of the student's file.



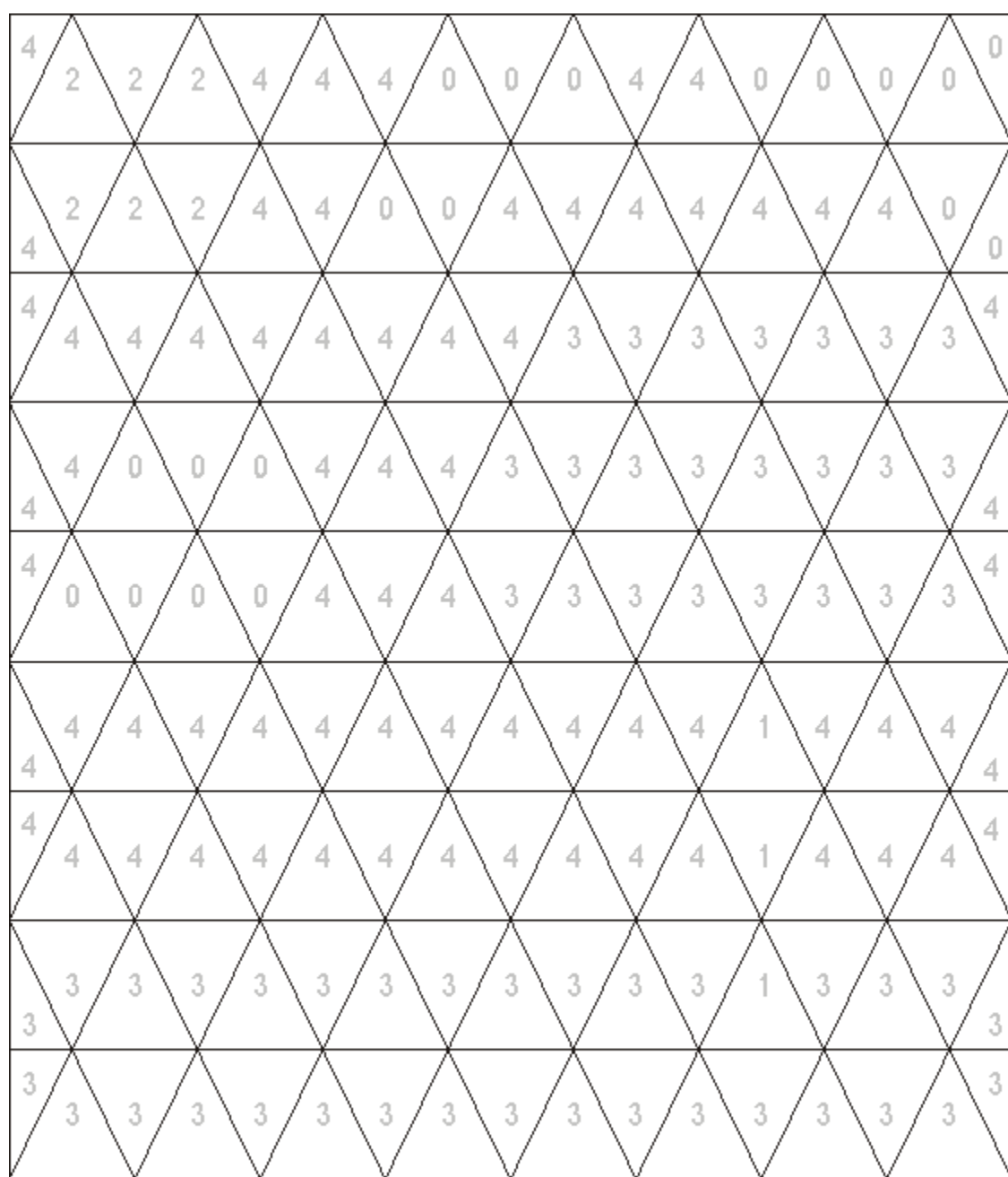
## Videography, Photography, Interviews

Warren Consolidated Schools and the local news media often cover school events for news, public relations, cable TV and other not-for-profit purposes. This would include photographs, video and audio taping, interviews related to regular classroom activities, special school events and activities, concerts, talent shows and concerts.

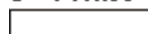
Parents who wish their children to be excluded from appearing in video tapes, audio tapes, photographs or interviews about regular school events and activities should contact their child's school office staff and obtain a Directory Information, Videography and Photography Withholding Request Form. This request will become a part of the student's file.

## **Commitment to Equal Access & Opportunity**

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, age, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Executive Director of Human Resources, 31300 Anita, Warren, MI 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext. 63110.



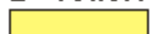
**0=White**



**1=Brown**



**2=Yellow**



**3=Green**



**4=Blue**





## Birthday Treat Guidelines

### NO NUTS!

We understand that birthdays are very important to our students! In order to help you choose appropriate Birthday Treats, we have set the following guidelines.

Birthday Treats must be delivered in the morning before lunch and packaged to be passed out, easily.

- Good: cookies
- Better: prepackaged healthy snacks like Goldfish crackers, pretzels, fruit bars and prepackaged rice krispy treats
- Best: pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. (these must be individually packaged for each student because they will be sent home in the students' backpacks at the end of the day).

**Please do not send in these items. They will be returned to you.**

- Cupcakes with frosting (too messy)
- Drinks
- Sheet Cakes (or any treats that need to be cut)
- Pizza
- Frozen Treats
- Refrigerated Treats

All teachers have been asked to follow these guidelines.

We truly appreciate your cooperation!

Mr. Eric Williamson  
Principal

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## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Under Federal law, parents may request the following specific information about the professional qualifications of their children's teachers:

1. Whether the teacher has met the state qualifications/licensing for their grade level/subjects;
2. Whether the teacher is on a temporary permit or waiver;
3. The teacher's majors, graduate certificates/degrees, and discipline fields;
4. Paraprofessional services and qualifications.

For further information, contact Mr. Williamson at 586-574-3174.

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**SCHOOL HOURS:**      **FULL DAY 8:42 AM – 3:54 PM**  
                                 **HALF DAY 8:42 AM – 11:58 AM**  
MiCI Start and End Schedule is 10 minutes earlier.

For up-to-date information, please visit our website at [www.wcskids.net/siersma](http://www.wcskids.net/siersma)

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## WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

31300 Anita | Warren, Michigan 48093 | 1-888-4WCS-KIDS | [www.wcskids.net](http://www.wcskids.net)

### Board of Education

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### Student Achievement

A focus on measurable student achievement in our Professional Learning Communities.

### High Expectations

Clear expectations for every stakeholder, including students, staff and parents.

### Strong Relationships

Strong relationships among all stakeholders, including: teacher-student, parent-teacher, principal-teacher, and superintendent-board member.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Operating Officer, 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.

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