



WILDCAT NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are off to a fantastic start to the school year! The students have settled into the school routines and are already busy learning and making new friends. A special welcome goes to all of the students and their families who are new to our school. Not counting kindergartners who are almost all new to the school, we have about 25 new students (grades 1-5). We are happy you have all become Wildcats!

Here are some interesting facts about the people in our school:

Students

Total Enrollment = 408

Girls = 191

Boys = 217

Staff

Total Staff

(including part-time) = 67

Certified Positions

(teachers & admin.) = 55%

Support Staff Positions = 45%

Women = 91%

Men = 9%

Average Age = I have no clue...but we're going to claim 29 year, after year, after year!

Thank you for the warm welcome. It has been wonderful to meet so many families at our recent Packet Pick Up and Parent Information Night/Open House. Any input you may have on these two events would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to email me at mkuchar-ski@germantown.k12.wi.us.

I am looking forward to continue building the relationships that were started throughout this school year.

~Go Wildcats!

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PRINCIPAL CORNER

Who can relate to someone better than from the perspective of children? My former students at Magee Elementary wrote letters to the students at Amy Belle as a way for them to get to know their new principal. I will be sharing portions of these letters the first few days of school with the children, but I thought you would appreciate some of their comments as well. Please enjoy the following excerpts from their letters. Hopefully they will give you some insight on me through the eyes of some former students.

"...she is nice and has a great sense of humor." ~ Ben

"I think that you guys know that Mrs. Kuchar-ski is going to be your principal next year. I will give you a head start. She is nice, and a good principal. That's it." ~Dawson

"She memorizes a lot of names." ~ Nicole

"...she makes fair decisions like a State Supreme Court Justice. She is also very organized. When the sledding hill was open she had a day when first grade would be able to use it and when second grade could use it and so on." ~ Caleb

"Mrs. Kucharski will be interactive with you guys and plan fun events." ~Aidan

"You are going to like her because she is always so happy." ~Kayce

"She is fair. She gives you compliments. For example, I won a chess tournament. She said, "Great job, you're much better than I'll ever be." You are going to like your new ruler." ~Jordan

"Mrs. Kucharski is a really good principal and I hope nothing changes her." ~Justin

I will be sharing additional information about myself, personally and professionally as the year goes on. Stay tuned...

I have appreciated the warm welcome that I have already received here from the Amy Belle community! Thank you! I am sincerely looking forward to the upcoming school year and our time together.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WW = Walking Wildcats	BLT = Building Leadership Team			1 Happy 1st Day!	2	3
4	5 No School- Labor Day	6	7	8 Retake or Picture Day Market Day PU	9 PTA Fundraiser Kick Off	10
11	12	13 BLT Mtg, 7:30 am WW	14	15 WW PTA Mtg, 6:30 pm	16	17
18	19	20 WW Spirit Wear Orders Due	21	22 WW	23	24
25	26	27 WW	28	29 WW	30	

EARLY RELEASE & LATE START DAYS

There are FOUR (4) Early Release Days and TWO (2) Late Start Days built into the 2011-2012 school calendar. On Early Release Days, students will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m. Students will not eat lunch at school prior to dismissal. Buses will transport students to their regular drop off points. The dates are:

October 3rd
November 23rd
December 22nd
June 8th

On Late Start Days, school will begin at 10:47 a.m. Buses will pick up students two hours later than their normal pick up time. Students will eat lunch at school. The dates are:

November 28th
May 29th

OCTOBER Dates...

Book Fair October 17th—20th
 Early Release, Monday, October 3rd
 12:20 dismissal—no lunch served
 DI Tryouts October 10th
 PTA Fall Fest October 21st
 No School October 27th & 28th
 October 25th & November 3rd are
 Conference Nights! Do you have one
 scheduled with your child's teacher?

PARENT REMINDER! Germantown High School requires an adult to accompany **ALL** K-8 students who are attending home events at Germantown High School. The administrative team is concerned about the safety and welfare of all children. Please help by supervising your children. Go Warhawks!

TIME TO “PAWS” FOR PRAISE

This section in the newsletter is dedicated to spread all the wonderful thoughts of teachers, students, parents and Amy Belle community members.

From a parent to a staff member “My children truly feel comfortable in their new school. They feel welcomed and part of the community already!”

From a staff member to staff members “I wanted to thank you- my students are so well prepared this year! They are independent, respectful, and full of fantastic learning strategies. I appreciate all your awesome work with them last school year.”

From a student to a staff member “My mom thinks we have the best school in the state. I told her she’s wrong...it’s the best in the whole world.”

BLT FOR 2011-2012

The BLT (Building Leadership Team) for the 2011-2012 school year will include:

Mike Alburg-Parent
 Tom Becker-Parent
 April Smith-Kindergarten
 Rosemary Otzelberger-1st Grade
 Sandy Saari-2nd Grade
 Chris Becker-3rd Grade
 Monica Holmi-4th Grade
 Liz Diedrich-5th Grade
 Maria Kucharski-Principal
 Julia Mink-Special Education
 Jack Osieczanek-Specialists
 Julie Cull-Support Staff
 Jane Boudreau-Support Staff

The purpose of the BLT is to develop strategies for addressing current educational systems or practices in order to produce an improved learning environment. This is done in alignment with the school mission and goals. Members of the BLT represent all areas of the school including parents! You may contact your parent representatives: Mike Alburg at 414/331-8678 or malburg@dyensol.com or mlalburg@ameritech.net or Tom Becker at 414/640-6589 tom@beckertechnology.com. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 13th at 7:30 a.m.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your BLT representative or the principal.

LUNCH AND RECESS SCHEDULE

When is lunch? I always remembered some of my students’ favorite questions on the first day. When is snack? What’s for lunch? When is recess? When is recess? Etc...

This year at Amy Belle the lunch and lunch recess schedule has changed. These changes were designed to ensure a great lunch and recess experience for Amy Belle students. We have reduced the number of students in the lunchroom and playground at the same time. This will help us maintain a reasonable noise level in the lunchroom, have less students using the playground at a time and allow students to take as much time as they need to eat without losing instructional time.

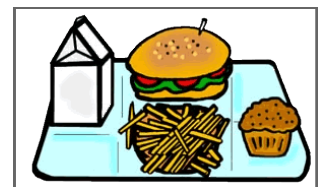
~Maria Kucharski



*Amy Belle School
 Daily Schedule
 2011-2012*

8:47	Students Enter Building
10:10 to 10:25	Grades K, 1 & 2 Recess
11:05	Grade 2 Lunch Hour Begins
11:10	Grade 3 Lunch Hour Begins
11:30	Grades 2 & 3 Recess Begins
11:35	Kindergarten Lunch Hour Begins
11:40	Grade 1 Lunch Hour Begins
12:00	Grades 2 & 3 Noon Recess Ends
	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Recess Begins
12:05	Grade 4 Lunch Hour Begins
12:10	Grade 5 Lunch Hour Begins
12:30	Kindergarten & Grade 1 Noon Recess Ends
	Grades 4 & 5 Recess Begins
1:00	Grades 4 & 5 Noon Recess Ends
2:20 to 2:35	Grades K, 1 & 2 PM Recess
2:40 to 2:55	Grades 3, 4 & 5 PM Recess
3:44	End of Day Dismissal

*Blended Kindergarten—Dismissal at 11:35 a.m.
 Early Release Dismissal 12:20 p.m.—No Lunch Served
 Late Start—Begin Time at 10:47 a.m.*



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please take time to review the Student Handbook that was given out August 16th or mailed. Please discuss the relevant information with your child(ren). Areas of emphasis include the following:

Administration of Medication - Written parental consent on district approved forms is required for all medication administration at school. Forms are available in the office. Parents must bring in medications personally.

Special Request to Leave School - A student who must leave school for any purpose must bring a note from his/her parents indicating the time he/she is to be excused and the reason for the excuse. Please keep such requests to a minimum.

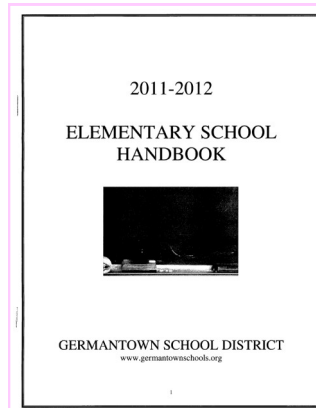
Pupil Absences - Parent/guardians should make every effort to plan family vacations so that they coincide with the established recess periods in

the school calendar. Regular and punctual attendance is critical. Frequent absences are a major cause of lack of success in school. Parents are expected to call the school to inform office personnel of any absence. Absences should be called in before 9:00 a.m., or by simply leaving a message on the answering machine if calling before 8:00 a.m.

Student Dress and Personal Property - Common sense is the key to dressing your children for school. Children should be dressed in such a way that their attire does not interfere with the instructional program of the school. Make sure children have appropriate clothing during the cold weather season. This includes boots, hats, gloves, etc.

Do not bring personal property, such as **electronic or other toys**, iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, skateboards, baseball bats, or sports balls to school.

Internet & Picture Permission - New families are **required** to return a signed sheet (the last page of the handbook) which indicates that the handbook has been read and appropriately shared, grants permission to use the internet in the classroom and computer lab, and allows us to post pictures of students on websites—keep in mind that names are rarely used, just pictures.



AMY BELLE MISSION
WHERE CHILDREN DEFINE THEIR FUTURE THROUGH THE EDUCATION THEY RECEIVE TODAY. THE MISSION OF AMY BELLE SCHOOL IS TO ASSIST ALL LEARNERS TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND ATTITUDES TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

AMY BELLE SPIRIT WEAR



SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS are due **Tuesday, September 20th**

Limited sample sizes are available in the office. We will not be able to exchange orders for different sizes once they have been placed.

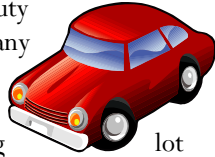
Come on in and take a look!

Need an order form?

They are available in the office or on our website.

PARENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

A teacher will be outside for morning duty after 8:35 a.m. Please be advised that any child dropped off prior to that will not be supervised. Buses will again drop off students in the SOUTH parking lot in the morning. Those students will walk around the east end of the school to the playground until the bell rings at 8:47 a.m. **All car drop-offs** should be in the NORTH parking lot. Simply drive in, drop off, and continue on your way. Please do not block the driveway. The Safety Patrol will start this year with 5th graders assisting in drop off procedure for the morning.



Busing is strongly encouraged regarding dismissal of students, but for those times that you need to pick up your student, please send a note! If an emergency arises and you need to pick up at the end of the day, call the office asap so the teacher can be notified.

For parent pick up, have your name card (given out first day of school) visible on your dashboard. Enter the 2nd driveway of the NORTH parking lot. Follow the car line and your student will be brought to your car by staff when you have reached one of the SAFE pick up spots. Proceed cautiously out of the parking lot.

PICTURE DAY/RETAKE DAY IS COMING...

If you were unable to get your picture taken at PACKET PICK UP, please come prepared on Thursday, September 8th. Forms are available in the office.

WALKING WILDCATS ARE BACK!

Get your walking shoes on and begin your trek around Amy Belle every Tuesday & Thursday. We are starting Tuesday, September 13th and will run this first session for six weeks.

Good health, happiness, and friendships are just around the corner.



**WALKING WILDCATS
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Recess Time**

**Grades 2 & 3—Recess 11:30
Grades K & 1—Recess 12:00
Grades 4 & 5—Recess 12:30**

Dates:
September 13th & 15th
September 20th & 22nd
September 27th & 29th
October 4th & 6th
October 11th & 13th
October 18th & 20th

BUS COMPANY INFORMATION

Bus route information was sent out to you by Riteway Bus Company. Please contact Riteway at 262/677-3282 if you have any questions or concerns. Please be patient with the bus company as they develop school routes.

If your child requires transportation that deviates from the normal bus route schedule on a consistent basis (example: drop off at a neighbor's house for daycare) you will need to fill out a Special Transportation Request form.

Please note that Amy Belle will be dismissing students directly to their buses. We will not be having bus lines in the gym at the end of the school day. Our hope is that our afternoon bus drop off times will be more accurate. The Amy Belle staff is working with Riteway to ensure student safety is at the forefront of this change.



NEW NAMES & FACES AT THE BELLE!

Along with the new school year comes new faces to Amy Belle School. The following teachers/staff members have recently been hired or re-assigned to work at Amy Belle School this coming year:

Maria Kucharski is coming from Kettle Moraine School District to become our new principal at Amy Belle School.

JR Gradel has moved from 4th grade to 5th grade this year.

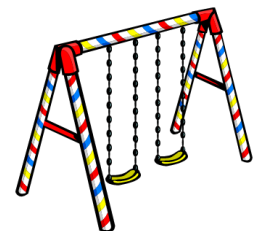
Connie Soyk has been re-assigned to Amy Belle as our additional evening custodian.

Maggie Redies has joined the Phy Ed department from North Carolina.

We welcome **Amber Petersen** as our new Reading Specialist.

We welcome **Eric Vivoda** as our Special Education Teacher.

Also welcome **Jennifer Haag** as our 40% Speech Pathologist.



Congratulations to Mrs. Grosse (formerly Ms. Vissers) and to **Mrs. Bowdish** (formerly Ms. Loberger) on their weddings this summer.



AMY BELLE SCHOOL

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E-mail: aboffice@germantown.k12.wi.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://
WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.GERMANTOWNSCHOOLS.ORG)

Enrollment at Amy Belle

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Kindergarten	20	Mrs. Jorgensen
	20	Mrs. Schaus
	20	Mrs. Smith
1st Grade	22	Mrs. Herden
	21	Mrs. Kiesling
	22	Mrs. Otzelberger-Held
2nd Grade	20	Ms. Kozicki
	21	Mr. Krueger
	21	Mrs. Saari
3rd Grade	26	Mrs. Becker
	25	Ms. Brandl
	25	Mrs. Bowdish
4th Grade	19	Mrs. Holmi
	19	Mrs. Thompsen
	20	Mrs. Wandrey
5th Grade	22	Mr. Erickson
	21	Ms. Friemoth
	22	Mrs. Diedrich
	<u>22</u>	Mr. Gradel
	408 Students	

August 29, 2011

PTA CORNER

Our first PTA meeting of the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Please remember that childcare is provided for your children.

PTA meetings are a great way to get involved in your child's education and a way to meet new people. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

2011-2012 Executive Board

President—Laurette Alburg 262/251-7094 or mlalburg@ameritech.net
1st Vice President—Janice Slawny 262/628-9128 or jslawny@charter.net
2nd Vice President—Patti Claas 262/628-9207 or iammot@charter.net
Secretary—Lori Herden 262/253-3470 or lherden@germantown.k12.wi.us
Treasurer—DeAnna Ayer 262/628-9173 or ayerforce3@aol.com

Wisconsin
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

AMY BELLE DIRECTORY

Remember to turn in your
information asap.

Check out the web page for the Amy Belle PTA!
<http://www.germantownschoools.org>
Click on Schools, Amy Belle & PTA