

Aitkin Community Education



**2024 SPRING ACCENT - AITKIN, MN
SEE REVERSE FOR SCHOOL ACCENT ON EDUCATION**

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

Go to **www.ISD1.org**
 Click the **“Community Education Tab”**.
 Click on the **“Online Registration”** link.
 Follow the online registration instructions.

REGISTER BY MAIL/DROP-OFF:

You can also register by mailing payment to the address below. Please list the Class, Participants name, Email, and Phone number on an attached note.

Aitkin Community Education

225 2nd Ave SW

Aitkin, MN 56431

Checks payable to: Aitkin Community Education

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

Contact Lara Parkin at:

LParkin@isd1.org or **(218) 927-7736**

To improve communication, Aitkin Community Education will be utilizing Facebook as a way to get information out quickly to as many people as possible. There will be new information posted there that might not appear in the Accent, or that might be announced before the next Accent can come out. Please consider “liking” Aitkin Community Education on Facebook to get the most up-to-date information.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings!

It is over halfway through the school year and what a year it has been! So much JOY in our schools! Community Education has been busy with youth sports, bus trips, and adult classes, but yet we have found time to create a really fun lineup of programs for March and April! We plan to change the mailing schedule for our summer Accent so that we can get you the information a little sooner. So please make note that the next Accent will be sent out May 1st. All submissions will need to get to us by April 1st. Keep letting us know what you want to see offered and we will do our best to accommodate! This issue of the Accent is proof of that! We have several classes and bus trips that were created because of recommendations made to us! On another note, I want to personally thank all of the adult volunteers that have made a difference in our schools so far this year! We have Book Buddies, Grandfriends, quilters, cribbage players, classroom tutors, art instructors...all making a difference in the lives of our kids. The smiles on the faces of both the kids and adults is contagious. So thank you again to all our volunteers! YOU make a difference! Have a wonderful Spring!

Lara Parkin

Community Education Director

lparkin@isd1.org



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Dates: The dates of each class are listed on the registration system. Please register at least 5 days prior to the first class meeting or by the stated deadline.

Late Registration: Please contact Community Education to check on the possibility of late registration. Do not simply show up to the class as it may be full or cancelled.

Reservations: Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with payment. You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is completed.

Minimum Enrollment: Most classes have a minimum enrollment. If we do not reach that minimum and we have to cancel, you will be notified via phone or email.

Attendees: You do not need to be an Aitkin School District resident to attend Community Education classes!

Your Input: Your input is valued! Please let us know how we can improve our program offerings.

Refunds: All fees will be refunded if class is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. If you need to cancel your registration, please contact Lara Parkin directly. Refunds will not be given within 48 hours of the start of the class, or after the class has begun.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The community Education Advisory Council represents the citizens of District #0001. The council meets quarterly to help identify, coordinate, and evaluate the educational, recreational, social, and cultural opportunities for district residents of all ages. Council members welcome your ideas and suggestions.

MEMBERS

Lara Parkin	Rev. David Becker
Tracy Becker	Jessica Palm
Ann Espeseth	Justine Nordick
Janice Hawkins	Jen Burgos
Holly Mindrum	Brian Leitenger

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Lara Parkin - Community Education Director/ Kids Club Coordinator

Renee Larson - Community Education Assistant

Amanda Ashton - Aitkin Children's Center Secretary

Community Education office hours vary during the summertime as we are outside for many of our activities. Please call our office and leave a message. 218-927-7736 or email us at lparkin@isd1.org

COMMUNITY EDUCATION'S MISSION

Aitkin Community Education's mission is to improve/enhance the quality of life for our residents of Independent School District #0001.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION'S GOALS

- To identify the needs of the community with the help of the Advisory Council, feedback from the community, and by conducting surveys.
- To act upon the needs of the community.
- To work alongside other community agencies.
- To provide support services like Early Childhood enrichment, Before and After school programming (Kids Club), and after school study hall.
- To assess programs for their effectiveness by completing yearly evaluations of our ongoing programs.
- To increase physical activity amongst our community with afterschool programs, as well as evening and weekend programs for youth and adults.
- To provide educational opportunities to people of all ages.

PUBLICATION DATES

The next publication is scheduled for May 1st, please send all the information to Lara Parkin by April 1.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PHOTOS

We are always looking for photos from the community and from our events! Email them to **lparkin@isd1.org** Please include your name and contact information.

AGE Friendly MN

A grant has allowed us to open the “Fab Lab” to the public. The grant is through Age-Friendly MN, and looks at making our systems and communities more inclusive and responsive to older adults. It is a movement to prepare for an aging population and to ensure older people are valued and integrated into communities at a new level. We are currently offering woodworking projects along with using the high tech embroidery machine. Register for classes online.

Embroidery

Come embroider items on a variety of fabrics. Choose from the design of your choice.

When: March 5, April 9, May 7

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Cost: \$15 or free if over 65

Max Participants: 14



Woodshop

All projects and ready for you to assemble. All projects will be seasonally themed!

When: March 4, April 22nd , May 20th

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Cost: \$15 or free if over 65

Max Participants: 14



Welding

In this class, we will start with gas welding (for those interested in jewelry and crafting), MIG welding, and stick welding (for those with heavier projects). Safety training will occur prior to each session preceding the first use of a piece of equipment. Metal cutting practices and safety will be embedded throughout. Following welding practice pieces, students will produce a project of their choosing within the parameters of proficiency and material supply. Classes will be offered 2x/week. Participants can come as often as they wish, but do not need to attend all sessions.

When: Every Tuesday and Thursday March 12 - April 18

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm

Where: High School Metals Lab

Cost: \$25 for all sessions (or free if over 65)



Better Together / Special Olympics

Better Together

Better Together is programming designed for all ages and abilities in an effort to make a more inclusive community. All programs are FREE to the public and no registration is required. Better Together is a collaboration between Aitkin Community Education, Aitkin DAC, and Oakridge Homes. It is made possible through generous local donations.

All events will be held at Rippleside Elementary School at 6:00 pm unless noted otherwise:

March 11th - Charcuterie Snack Art

March 25th - 5 card bingo

April 22 - Earth Day Fun

May 27 - Planting Party (at DacWorks - 1115 2nd st NW)



Special Olympics Track

To register as an athlete or a coach, go to specialolympicsminnesota.org

We will have an introduction meeting and practice on April 1st. Monday Practices will be at 6pm on April 8, 15, 29, and May 6th at the Aitkin High School Track. Friday Practices will be at 4pm on April 19, 26, and May 3rd at the Oakridge Homes Parking lot.

For more information about Better Together or Special Olympics, call Mary at 218-928-8135 or Pam at 218-927-4813.



Youth programming

Creepy Crawly Fun

Join some Long Lake naturalists after school at Rippleside and meet some of our live critters! They will start by meeting some live animals and will leave with a craft that they made.

When:

Session 1: March 11th, 3:10-4:30pm

Snakes and Scaley sidekicks!

Meet our live reptiles, learn about reptiles of Minnesota and leave with a springy snake!

Session 2: March 18th, 3:10-4:30pm

Amazing Amphibians!

Meet our live amphibians, learn about amphibians of Minnesota and leave with a racing salamander craft!

Session 3: March 25th, 3:10-4:30pm

Friends below your feet!

Meet some invertebrates, learn about what makes them unique and leave with painted insect rocks!

Who: boys and girls in 4th-6th grades

Cost: \$20/session

Max participants: 20

Shotgun Sports Class

Come out to the range and try shotgun sports for the first time or work on perfecting your game. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged to attend the class. We will focus on trap, skeet, and sporting clays disciplines. Students are encouraged to try all three disciplines and learn techniques that will make them a better marksman across all three. Students will need to provide their own eye protection, ear protection, and shotgun. Only 12 and 20 gauge ammunition is available through this program. Participants will shoot a total of 5 rounds across the 3 sessions. Additional rounds and ammunition can be purchased at the range. Once completing the community education registration all participants must complete follow-up forms and registration with the Scholastic Clay Target Program. All participants are eligible to participate in the MN SCTP state shoot on 4/27 as well as summer 2023 practices with the Aitkin County Elite Sharpshooters (ACES) team. Watch for parents meeting date and time on eleyo registration page.

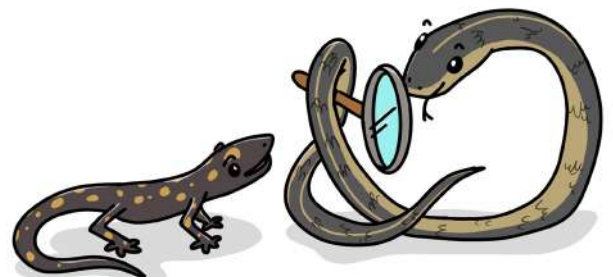
Who: Grades 5-12, MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate not required

When: Group 1: 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 - 3 pm to 5 pm
Group 2: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 - 11 am to 1 pm

Where: Wealthwood Gun Club, 23573 420th Place Aitkin, MN 56431

Fee: \$30, includes SCTP registration, range fees, and ammunition

Instructor: Aitkin County Elite Sharpshooters (ACES)



Youth programming

Elementary Art Club

We are excited to have a new artist share his knowledge and passion with us for a 6 week session! Join Franklin Real as he teaches fun art projects and techniques.

When: Fridays April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17

Time: 3:10-4:30pm

Where: Rippleside Art Room

Cost: \$50

Who: Grades K-6

Max Participants: 15 students



Running Club

Spring is a great time to learn the joys of distance running! Learn about technique, training, and possibly get ready for a 5K race!

When: Mondays March 18 - May 13

Time: 3:10-4:30

Where: Rippleside Art Room

Cost: \$40

Who: Boys and Girls in grades 2-6

Instructor: Julie Miller



Chess and Cribbage Club

Come learn the basics of each game and progress through to strategy of game play. Snack will be provided each day.

When: Thursdays March 14 - May 9

Time: 3:10-4:30pm

Where: Mrs. Dotzlers room

Cost: \$40

Who: Grades 3-6



**AITKIN YOUTH
BASEBALL**

PLAYERS IN GRADES K-6 ARE STILL
NEEDED FOR IN-HOUSE TEAMS!

GAMES ARE PLAYED 1-2 DAYS A
WEEK AT CONNIE LUECK FIELD
STARTING THE END OF MAY
THROUGH MID JULY.

**REGISTER AT
WWW.AITKINBASEBALL.COM**

\$65 PLUS 5% COMMUNITY ED FEE



Aitkin Youth Fastpitch Softball

In-House League

- ♦ In House Fee: \$40
- ♦ Fee Includes T-shirt

- ♦ Register by March 14th



Rookies

Completed Grades 1-2

- Mondays & Wednesdays
- May 20 - June 26
- 5:00-6:30pm
- Location: The Roost (Behind Rippleside)

Minors

Completed Grades 3-4

- Mondays & Wednesdays
- May 20 - June 26
- 7:00-8:30pm
- Location: The Roost (Behind Rippleside)

Majors

Completed Grades 5-6

- Mondays & Thursdays
- May 21 - June 27
- 5:00-6:30pm
- Location: Varsity/JV Fields

Big Dreamers

Going into or completed Kindergarten

When: Mondays, July 8-29
Time: 6:00-7:30pm
Where: The Roost (Behind Rippleside)
Fee: \$20 (Includes T-shirt)

Big Dreamers is a fun atmosphere to learn the basics of softball. We will cover hitting, throwing, base running, positions, beginner catching and sportsmanship.

The last session, we will have "Big Sisters" (older AYF players) join us for a softball game where the Big Dreamers each have a Big Sister to shadow them throughout the game.



****These players do not need to attend Try-out day****

Player Assessment/ Try-out Day

Saturday, March 16th

Aitkin High School Gym ♦ 10am-4pm

Rookies: Check-in & Warmups 9:30am
Tryouts begin 10:00am

Minors: Check-in & Warmups 11:00am
Tryouts begin 11:30am

Majors: Check-in & Warmups 1:00pm
Tryouts begin 1:30pm

If you are unable to attend tryouts, please contact aitkinyouthfastpitch@gmail.com.

Practice Day ♦ March 9th

AHS Old Gym will be open from 8:00am-Noon for all ages to dust off your gear and prepare for tryouts.





Aitkin Youth Fastpitch Softball

Flying Gobblers Travel Teams

- ♦ Travel teams play weekend tournaments and some weeknight games in June-July.
- ♦ Any 8u-12u girls who wish to participate in travel ball, must also play in the in-house league.
- ♦ All 8u-12u girls must attend tryout day on March 16th. See previous page for details.
- ♦ USA Softball has changed the age guidelines this year. Please double check your age group.
- ♦ All travel players will need black pants, red belt, red socks and plastic cleats. Metal cleats are allowed for 14u and older.
- ♦ Registration will be after tryouts.
- ♦ Tryouts for 7th-12th grade will be held at a later date.
- ♦ Jerseys will be provided for 8u and 10u to use and return at the end of the year. 12u-18u will use the same jerseys from last year. New jerseys will be available for purchase for those who need them.

Flying 8s

Ages: Born Sept 1, 2014 - Aug 31, 2016
Where: The Roost (behind Rippleside)
Fee: \$60
When: TBD



Flying 10s

Ages: Born Sept 1, 2012 - Aug 31, 2014
Where: The Roost (behind Rippleside)
Fee: \$80
When: TBD

Flying 12s

Ages: Born Sept 1, 2010 - Aug 31, 2012
Where: The Roost (behind Rippleside)
Fee: \$80
When: TBD

Flying 14s

Ages: Born Sept 1, 2008 - Aug 31, 2010
Where: Aitkin Varsity/JV Softball fields
Fee: \$100
When: TBD

Flying 16/18s

Ages: Born Sept 1, 2004 - Aug 31, 2008
Where: Aitkin Varsity/JV Softball fields
Fee: \$100
When: TBD

After you register,

Check us out on www.aitkinsoftball.com

All schedules and team communication via SportsEngine app



Adult Programming

Pickleball 101

This course is designed for someone who has never played pickleball or has minimal experience. You will learn the rules and basics to start playing the fun game that is sweeping the nation!

When:

Session 1 - Saturdays April 13 and 20
from 1:00-2:30 pm

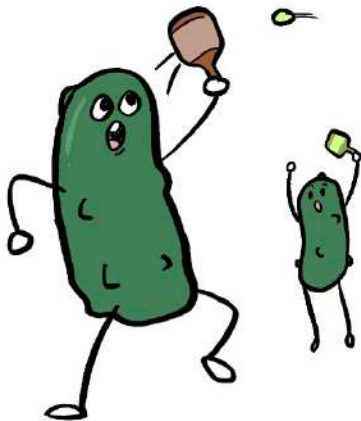
Session 2 - Saturdays April 13 and 20
from 2:30-4:00 pm

Where: Rippleside Elementary School (enter through door 7)

Cost: \$15

Max Participants: 8/ session

Instructors: Members of the Aitkin Area Pickleball Association



Adult Beginner Golf

Do you want to learn to golf, but are intimidated at how to even start the sport? Come learn the basics with other beginners. We will start each evening with a short lesson on the driving range. We will then split into foursomes (3 rookies and 1 skilled golfer in each group) for a 9 hole round.

When: Wednesdays May 15, 22, 29 June 5

Time: 5:00pm

Where: Cuyuna Rolling Hills

Cost: \$100 (includes driving range lesson, four 9 hole rounds, and cart)

Max Participants: 15

Online Cooking Classes

Login in to Zoom from the comforts of your own home, follow along with the instructions, and have dinner ready by the end of class! Ingredients and instructions will be emailed to you in the days prior to the class.

Pretzel Crust Pizza & Pretzel Knots with Beer Cheese Dip

When: March 22

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$36



Sounds Bath Meditation

Join Cindy Horbach as she creates a relaxing sound bath meditation using Singing Bowls. Bring either a mat, blanket, reclining chair to relax in/on.

When: Thursday March 14

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Where: Rippleside Elementary Music Room

Cost: \$28 for adults, \$20 for students age 13-18



Adult Programming

Creating Slideshow Presentations (for Dummies)

Learn to create Presentation Slides using Google Slides or Microsoft Powerpoint. Bring your laptop or ipad to create alongside the instructor.

When: Thursday March 21

Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

Where: Aitkin Fab Lab

Cost: Free

Instructor: Carolyn Karstens

Creating Spreadsheets (for Dummies)

Learn to create Excel or Google Sheets spreadsheets to track anything! Budgets, personal finance, Bucket list/Travel lists. Bring your laptop or ipad to create your sheets alongside the instructor.

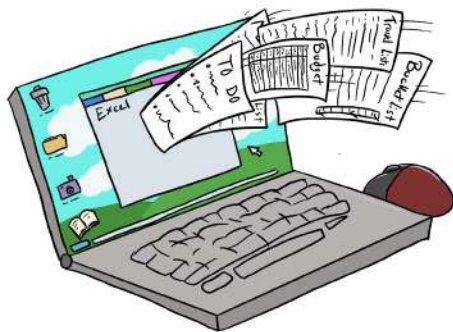
When: Thursday April 18

Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

Where: Aitkin Fab Lab

Cost: Free

Instructor: Carolyn Karstens



Firearm Safety Instructor Training

Help the next generation become safe hunters by becoming a Firearm Safety Instructor! Taught by the DNR, this course will certify you to help us teach monthly courses this summer.

When: Wednesday April 10

Time: 5:00-9:00 pm

Where: Aitkin High School Media Center

Cost: Free

Instructor: Amber Ladd

A Matter of Balance

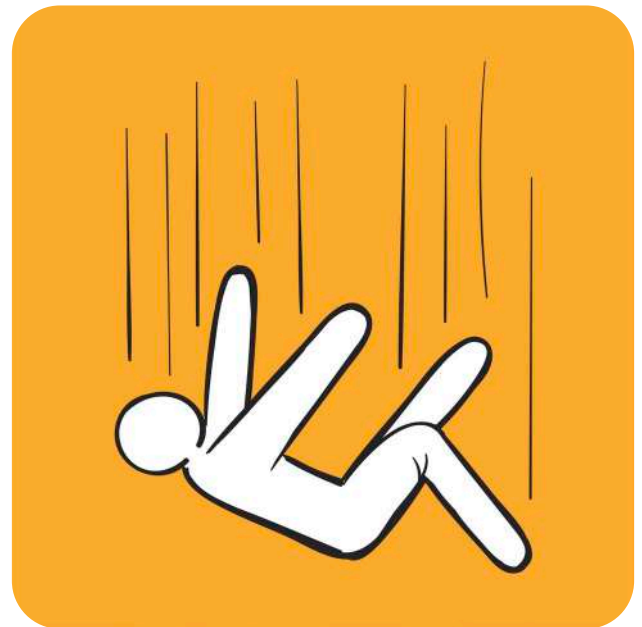
Each year, nearly 3 million older people are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries. Come learn about some risk factors as well as things you can do to keep you and your loved ones safe. This class is appropriate for any older adult or those who are caretakers. Instruction by the Riverwood Physical Therapy department

When: Thursday May 2nd

Time: 4:00-5:30 pm

Where: Rippleside Elementary School Room 140

Cost: Free



Spring Planters Class: Make & Take Class

Create your own beautiful potted plants container. Information will be given on plant selection, soils, and caring for your plants.

When:

Session 1: Saturday May 4th 10am-Noon

Session 2: Sunday May 5th 2:00-4:00pm

Where: The Green House Aitkin

Cost: \$15 plus plant materials

Instructors: The Green House Staff

Max Participants: 10

Bus Trips

Finding Nemo Jr. -

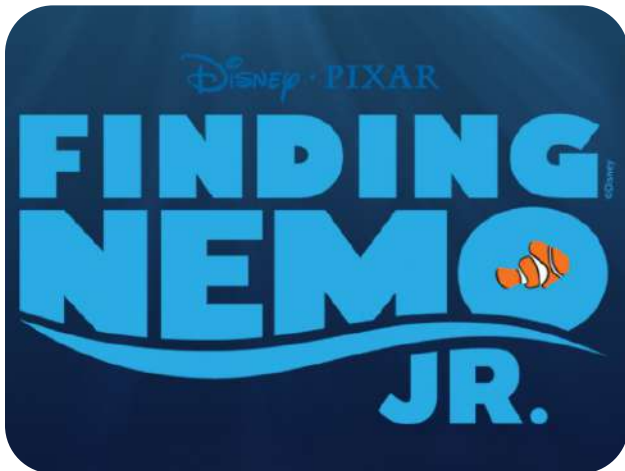
Duluth Playhouse presents a one-act musical adaptation of the beloved Pixar movie Finding Nemo. We will take a school bus to Duluth in an effort to save on cost. Bus will leave Rippleside Elementary at 10:30am and will go to the Duluth Rose Garden where you can enjoy the scenery of Lake Superior, and have a picnic lunch before heading over to the Playhouse.

When: Saturday April 27th

Time: Show is at 2:00pm

Where: Duluth Playhouse

Cost: Adults \$40, youth under 18 - \$20



James J Hill House and State Capitol Tour

Built for railroad titan James J Hill, this mansion was once the largest private residence in the state. Go on an hour-long guided tour to learn about the history of the house, the Hill family, and the incredible era. Following the tour, we will load the bus and head up to the State Capitol for a guided tour there also! We will have time between tours to get lunch at one of the many food trucks or for a picnic lunch on the Capitol lawn.

When: Thursday March 28

Time: Bus leaves Rippleside at 8am, returns about 6pm

Cost: \$60/person (includes coach bus and 2 tours)

Beautiful The Carole King Musical at Chanhassen

The soundtrack of a generation inspired this Broadway Smash Hit! For nearly six years, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical thrilled Broadway audiences with the inspiring true story of Carole King's remarkable journey from teenage songwriter to Rock & Roll Hall of fame music legend. Coach Bus will leave Rippleside Elementary at 8:15am

When: Saturday May 11

Time: Lunch at 11am Show at 1:00pm

Where: Chanhassen Dinner Theater

Cost: \$120/ticket (includes lunch, performance, and coach bus)



What Is Screen Time?

SCREEN TIME IS THE **TOTAL** TIME SPENT BY:



WATCHING TV



ON A COMPUTER



PLAYING VIDEO GAMES



USING A SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

DID YOU KNOW?

Toddlers exposed to more screen time had higher rates of speech & language delay.

For every 30-minute increase in daily handheld screen time, there was a 49% increased risk of expressive language delay!

American Academy of Pediatrics (2017). Handheld Screen Time Linked with Speech Delays in Young Children

Screen time has also been linked to: obesity, behavioral problems, a loss of social skills.



HOW MUCH SCREEN TIME?

American Academy of Pediatrics Recommends:

Birth to 2 years- **NO** screen time
2-5 years of age- Up to 1 hour daily
School Age Children- 1-2 hours daily



SET GUIDELINES

Set device free zones and family rules for screens



- No devices in bedrooms
- Turn screens off an hour before bed
- No devices during dinner time

STAY INVOLVED

- Research games and apps to make sure that they are **appropriate** and **high quality** at www.common sense media.org
- Watch videos with your child and talk about them
- Encourage hobbies outside the online world



PRIORITIZE PLAY!



We know the best way to help children learn and grow is to **play and interact with them!** Children develop speech, language, and social skills through playing with peers and adults. Have fun during everyday interactions like bath time, meal time, and at the grocery store.

Screen time will not promote your child's development, but we can't ignore that, allowed occasionally, it can help you get through a busy day. Whenever possible, when your child watches media on your phone or tablet, talk about it or even re-enact it together!

SOURCES:

- American Academy of Pediatrics (2017). American Academy of Pediatrics Announces New Recommendations for Children's Media Use. Retrieved from <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/american-academy-of-pediatrics-announces-new-recommendations-for-childrens-media-use.aspx>
- American Academy of Pediatrics (2017). Handheld Screen Time Linked with Speech Delays in Young Children. Retrieved from <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/Handheld-Screen-Time-Linked-with-Speech-Delays-in-Young-Children.aspx>
- Canadian Pediatric Society (2017). Screen time and young children: Promoting health and development in a digital world. Retrieved from <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/screen-time-and-young-children>
- Christakis, D. A. (2009). The effects of infant media usage: what do we know and what should we learn? Review Article. *Acta Paediatrica*, 98, 8-16.
- Zimmerman, F. J., Christakis, D. A. & Meltzoff, A. N. (2007). Associations between Media Viewing and Language



www.the-speech-therapist.com

Aitkin Music

Aitkin Choir will perform the musical Bye Bye Birdie this Spring. The dates are Thursday April 4th at 7:30 p.m., Friday April 5th at 7:30 p.m., Saturday April 6th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday April 7th at 2:00 p.m. People will be able to purchase tickets online with a credit card beginning on Monday March 11th.



2023 - 2024 High School Music Calendar

Monday March 11th - Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest in Crosby
Tuesday March 12th - Instrumental Solo/Ensemble Contest in Crosby
Monday April 1st - Sunday April 7th - "Bye, Bye Birdie" Musical Week
Monday May 13th - 7th & 8th Grade Choirs Spring Concert
Friday May 17th - Concert Choir/Handbells/ Madrigals Pop Concert
Friday May 31st - Graduation (Required performance for Concert Choir/Band and Handbells)



AITKIN HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 6TH

12:30PM-3:20PM GRADES 7-12

4:00PM-6:00PM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER SPONSORED BY
RIVERWOOD HEALTHCARE CENTER
FROM 4:00PM UNTIL GONE.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

This is an interactive event to provide tips,
strategies, and education on a variety of health
and wellness topics.

*Some topics include: ATV safety, oral hygiene, mental health,
hair care, acupuncture, financial wellness, therapy dogs,
cleaning supplies, holistic remedies, and more!*

Thank you to our event sponsors!



High School Happenings

Girls who Math

On November 8, 2023, nine female Aitkin High School students spent Sonia Kovalevsky (SK) Day at the University of Wisconsin-Superior campus. Sonia Kovalevsky (1850-1891) was the first female mathematics professor in the world and she paved the way for other women in the field of mathematics. SK Day is an event created with the goal of increasing the number of girls continuing their studies in mathematics after high school. The event featured a keynote speaker who is a mathematical statistician for the Environmental Protection Agency. The event also provided two math workshops, a campus scavenger hunt, and a career exploration showcase for the students. The career exploration showcase provided eight different examples where women in the Duluth/Superior area are using math and their math-related degrees every day. Some of the careers featured were in the areas of meteorology, healthcare, marketing, sales, data analysis, and environmental sustainability, with companies such as WDIO, Essentia, Maurices, Cirrus Aircraft, Amsoil, & ALLETE.



Students from left to right: Kaydence Parker, Alyx Gerhart, Justice Husby, Hannah Rasmussen, Sophie Morris, Mallory Leitingner, Laurel Larson, Kendall Ratz & Riley Belmore.

One Act Play

The 2024 one act play, "The Perfect Ending" took first place at subsection competition on Saturday January 27th. Seven schools competed. They went on to take 3rd at Sections on February 2nd.

2024 SnoDaze candidates: Taryn Olson, Gracesen Klein, Kenna Garard, Erica Querinuzzi, Nathan Trotter, Jackson Cline, Tyler Franke, Randy Papenfuss, Nick Karr, not in pictured: Camille Parenteau



Knowledge Bowl / AHS Happenings

Knowledge Bowl

Aitkin Gobbler teams took 1st and 2nd place out of 27 teams at a regional Knowledge Bowl event in January! Placing second overall were the freshman rookies Tanner Koonce, Tolo May, Aaron Morris and William Vogtlin. Our champion team featured Zander Peterson, Will Henline, Eliot Christensen and Reese Wendlandt.



Community Clean-Up Day

Are you elderly, live within walking distance of Aitkin High School, and would like your yard cleaned up this spring??

Our high school Juniors and Seniors will be doing a Community Clean up on May 8th and are taking names of those who would like to get a little yard help!

Call Renee at 218-928-8341 to get put on our list

FOCUS AREAS	GOALS	OBJECTIVES
Student Growth and Achievement	Goal 1: Continue with standards-based curriculum that will help all students achieve the goals of the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) at ISD #1.	<p>Objective 1.1: We will annually assess to determine if we are meeting the goals of the WBWF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children are ready for school. • All third-graders can read at grade level. • All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed. • All students are ready for career and college. • All students graduate from high school. <p>Objective 1.2: Continue to utilize Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) programming districtwide to address the growth and achievement of our students.</p> <p>Objective 1.3: Annually create career pathways that target emerging workforces.</p>
	Goal 2: We will achieve the goals of the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act for all students in the school district.	<p>Objective 2.1: We will annually evaluate the success of meeting the goals of the READ Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten. • Support multilingual learner and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals.
	Goal 3: Provide resources and curriculum that will improve learning opportunities to meet the individual needs of all students.	<p>Objective 3.1: Annually increase our focus to raise student expectations on performance based on WBWF data.</p> <p>Objective 3.2: Continue to provide opportunities to foster an environment that promotes respect for all people.</p>
Staff Development and Support	Goal 4: Meet the yearly growth goals of WBWF and use data to drive staff development.	<p>Objective 4.1: Continue to provide ongoing support for professional development.</p> <p>Objective 4.2: Continue to review student data on a regular basis to drive instructional practices.</p>
	Goal 5: Build and maintain a professional culture that will promote growth of both staff and students.	<p>Objective 5.1: Continue to provide opportunities for staff development in the use of technology tools to enhance teaching and learning.</p> <p>Objective 5.2: Continue to provide opportunities for staff development for Minnesota state standards implementation to enhance teaching and learning.</p> <p>Objective 5.3: Continue to provide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) opportunities for students and staff to have positive interactions.</p>
Safe Learning Environment	Goal 6: Grow a culture of safe learning and respect for all people.	Objective 6.1: Continue to review programs that provide a safe environment for all grade levels.
	Goal 7: Implement tools and systems for behavior and mental health interventions.	<p>Objective 7.1: There will be a schoolwide effort to utilize our PBIS and our MTSS programs to address the needs of our students.</p> <p>Objective 7.2: Continue to work with local agencies and strengthen our supports for ISD #1 students.</p>

Please note: All Goals and Objectives have timelines and action plans developed by administration. The work is scheduled out over 2024 - 2029.

FOCUS AREAS	GOALS	OBJECTIVES
Family and Community Outreach	Goal 8: Increase community and business partnerships.	Objective 8.1: Identify community relationships that can support the district's ability to accomplish our goals.
	Goal 9: Implement and communicate the Strategic and Facilities Plan that support the district priorities and identify the needs of our district.	Objective 9.1: Develop a Strategic Action Plan and align it with the Facilities Plan. Objective 9.2: Share the Strategic Action Plan with the community.
	Goal 10: Promote the positives of ISD #1 on a regular basis.	Objective 10.1: Utilize a variety of communication tools to share our goals and success stories within our community. Objective 10.2: Develop a brand and marketing strategies.
Finance and Facilities	Goal 11: Address safety and facility needs and upgrades.	Objective 11.1: Work with recently created Facilities Plan to identify and address facility needs. Objective 11.2: Annually evaluate and update security and the safety plan.
	Goal 12: Promote financial stability.	Objective 12.1: Allocate resources responsibly to align with prioritized learning needs.
	Goal 13: Create a plan for the future of Aitkin Public School Facilities.	Objective 13.1: Meet with various stakeholders within the Aitkin community to move the discussion of building on the land purchased for building the future of ISD #1.

Please note: All Goals and Objectives have timelines and action plans developed by administration. The work is scheduled out over 2024 - 2029.



AITKIN

Aitkin School Board Officially Adopts Five Year Strategic Plan

The plan was developed with strong community participation

At their school board meeting on December 18, 2023, the Aitkin Public Schools Board formally adopted a new strategic plan that will guide the district for the next five years.

The process involved a number of ways for community stakeholders to be involved including Internal and External Surveys. Listening Sessions were held with community members, staff, and students. A Strategic Planning Committee made up of almost 30 stakeholders assisted in the development of the new plan. Gail Gilman, Director of Strategic Planning and Board Leadership with the Minnesota School Boards Association assisted in the development and facilitation of the planning process and provided guidance to the district throughout.

Connecting with community members during this process allowed for a greater understanding of the community and what role the school needs to play within the district. Students and Staff also took an active role during the development of the belief, mission, and vision statements. The plan is community inspired and community focused.

The new Aitkin Public Schools Strategic Plan provides a series of belief statements that will guide decision making in the district as well as a new mission statement and vision statement to update what Aitkin Public Schools stands for. The new mission statement for Aitkin Public Schools is **“To inspire and prepare our students with the tools and skills to succeed in an everchanging world.”** This mission statement will be updated throughout district materials to set a new course for Aitkin Public Schools.

A new Vision Statement was also adopted by the district, one that came directly from community members who served on the Strategic Planning Committee. **Strong relationships. Innovative education. We are ISD #1** is the new vision of the district which puts a focus directly on student achievement, which is one of the newly established focus areas for goals.

Focus areas for the Strategic Plan include:

- Student Growth and Achievement
- Staff Development and Support
- Safe Learning Environment
- Family and Community Outreach
- Finance and Facilities

Aitkin Public Schools will continue to provide updates on the details of the strategic plan as well as communicating benchmarks and achievements that are part of the plan. For more information and to review the strategic plan, visit www.isd1.org.

Daniel J. Stifter

Aitkin Public School Superintendent We Are ISD #1

AITKIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2029



CORE VALUES

- Excellence - empower students to be their best self
- Responsive - able to adapt to the changing educational environments
- Safety - provide for a safe school environment
- Respect - appreciate the uniqueness of each individual in our thoughts, actions, and relationships
- Integrity - doing what is right - even when it is not easy

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- We believe in academic excellence for all.
- We believe compassionate and curious minds are developed when students are engaged socially, emotionally, academically, and physically.
- We believe building caring relationships with students and families are the foundation for successful schools and communities.
- We believe in individualized and innovative educational experiences.

MISSION

To inspire and prepare our students with the tools and skills to succeed in an everchanging world.

VISION

Strong relationships. Innovative education. We are ISD #1.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS

**Student
Growth and
Achievement**

**Staff
Development
and Support**

**Safe
Learning
Environment**

**Family and
Community
Outreach**

**Finance and
Facilities**

2023-24 Aitkin Public School Calendar (REV 4/4/23)

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	H	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug 15-16 Operations						
Aug 21 New Teacher Inservice						
Aug 22-25 PBEC New SpEd Staf Inservice						
Aug 28-30 Back to School Inservice (3.0)						
Aug 31 Kindercamp						

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	STUDENT DAYS					
3	H	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1st Qtr Begin Sep 5						
Sep 5 AHS First Day of Class						
Sep 8 RES First Day of Class						
Sep 5, 6, 7 RES Entrance Conference						
TU-TH 7:30-3:30, WE 11:30-7:30						

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	NS	NS	21
22	23	24	25	26	NS	28
29	30	31				

OCT 19-20 NO SCHOOL						
Oct 27 NO SCHOOL						
OCT 26 AHS ONLY-PM Conf 3:45-7:45						
Oct 27 AHS AM Conference/PM Data Day-RES Data Day						

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	NS	NS	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	NS	NS	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1st Qtr Ends Nov 3 (41 Days)						
Nov 6 2nd Qtr Begins						
NOV 9-10 NO SCHOOL						
Nov 9-RES Conferences 7:30 to 7:30 (1.5)						
Nov 9 HS Grading/Data Day (1.0)						
Nov 10 Data Day/Staff Workshop (.5)						
NOV 23-24 NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving						

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	NS	23
24	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	30
31						

DEC 22 - JAN 2 NO SCHOOL						
WINTER BREAK						

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
NS	NS	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	NS	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2nd Qtr Ends Jan 18 (42 Days)						
Jan 22 3rd Qtr Begins						
JAN 3 - SCHOOL RESUMES						
JAN 19 - NO SCHOOL						
Jan 19 - Teacher Inservice (1.0)						

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	NS	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

FEB 19 - NO SCHOOL						
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March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	NS	NS	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	NS	NS	30
31						

3rd Qtr Ends Mar 22 (42 Days)						
Mar 25 4th Qtr Begins						
MAR 7-8 NO SCHOOL						
Mar 7- Conference 7:30 to 7:30 (1.5)						
Mar 8 Teacher Inservice/Data Day (1.0)						

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	NS	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	NS	27
28	29	30				

APR 1 NO SCHOOL						
APR 26 NO SCHOOL						
APR 26 Teacher Inservice (1.0)						

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	NS	28	29	30	NS	

4th Qtr Ends May 30 (44 Days)						
MAY 27 NO SCHOOL						
MAY 31 GRADUATION						
MAY 31 Teacher Day (.5)						

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

STUDENT DAYS - 169						
TEACHER DAYS 11/180						

Aitkin High School: (218) 927-2115
Rippleside Elementary: (218) 927-4838
District Office: (218) 927-2115
Alternative School: (218) 927-3421
Community Education: (218) 927-7736
ECFE: (218) 927-2115 EXT 2202
Kids Club: (218) 927-7736

District Fax: (218) 927-4234
High School Fax: (218) 927-2630
Rippleside Fax: (218) 927-4608

District Website: www.isd1.org

Aitkin School District #0001
 306 2nd St NW
 Aitkin, MN 56431

Human Rights Officers:

Aitkin Children Center - 218-927-7735

Mr. Andy Dokken - Rippleside Elementary
 218-927-4838

Ms. Lisa DeMars - Aitkin High School
 218-927-2115 ext. 3403

Counselors at Aitkin High School

Sammy Croatt will be working with grades 7-9 and Meredith Sander will be working with grades 10-12. Both assist students in the areas of academic counseling, career counseling, and personal/social development.

School Board Meetings:

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, except in January and February when the board meets on the second Monday because of holidays. Meetings begin at 7pm and are held in the high school Media Center. After the pandemic, all meetings have been live streamed on the schools youtube channel.

AITKIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Your tax deductible contribution to the Aitkin Education Foundation builds toward a vision to enhance the mission of the Aitkin Public Schools.

All students in the Aitkin Public Schools will benefit from a variety of enrichment opportunities and other activities funded at the discretion of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Foundation gifts may support curriculum enhancement, or help improve important programs such as sciences, library, band, and choir.

Go Gobblers! Your support may also help assure the strength of extracurriculars and athletics, from speech to basketball. Gifts to the Foundation help assure that you can continue to cheer on the Gobblers.

Please consider the Aitkin Education Foundation in your annual or estate giving.

Donate online, or make a check payable to:

Aitkin Education Foundation
 Mail to: Aitkin Education Foundation
 306 2nd ST NW
 Aitkin, MN 56431

Stay tuned for upcoming AEF activities. For more information on the AEF, please check us out at: <http://home.isd1.org/aitkin-education-foundation.html>

School Board Members:

Jen Burgos	jburos@isd1.org
Roland Hill	rhill@isd1.org
Cindi Hills	chills@isd1.org
Dawn Houser	dhouser@isd1.org
Brian Leitingner	bleitingner@isd1.org
Holly Mindrum	hmindrum@isd1.org
Kassie Peterson	kpeterson@isd1.org

AITKIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024 ACCENT ON EDUCATION

2024 SPRING ACCENT



SEE REVERSE FOR COMMUNITY ED ACCENT

MAIL TO: POSTAL PATRON

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AITKIN MN 56431
PERMIT NO. 55

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
306 SECOND STREET NW
AITKIN, MN 56431
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