

CAMERON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

601 Woodland Avenue, Emporium, PA 15834

Web Address – <http://www.camcosd.org>

NEWS RELEASE – August 14, 2017

Dr. Keith Wolfe, Superintendent of Schools, along with Amy Schwab, District Principal, have announced that the Woodland Elementary and Cameron County Junior/Senior High Schools will open their doors to approximately 580 students on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. The Schools will operate on the following time schedule: (elementary) 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and (high school) 8:00 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. Students arriving prior to 7:55 a.m. are to be in designated areas only. Transportation will be provided to all eligible students. School breakfasts and lunches will be available beginning the first day of school and throughout the school year. Cameron County Schools operate on a “closed” lunch policy.

As soon as possible, parents should enroll any students that have not yet been enrolled to ensure a smooth transition into the Cameron County School system.

The proposed school calendar provides for 180 pupil days (see attached calendar). In the event that it becomes necessary to close school because of severe weather conditions or other reasons, the calendar will be altered for make-up days. A 1-hour Early Dismissal for students will occur on the last day of school preceding Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter recess.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE/EXCUSES

The Board of Education requires that school-aged pupils enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. The educational program offered by this district is predicated upon the presence of the pupil and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation.

The “Compulsory School Age” in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is that period of the child’s life from the time the child’s parents/guardians elect to have the said child enter school as a “beginner,” which shall not be later than the age of eight (8) years until the age of seventeen (17) years or graduation from high school, whichever occurs first. A “beginner” is a child who enters the school district’s lowest elementary school grade that is above kindergarten.

Irregular attendance at school is one of the most common causes of failure. Even though a student may try to “make-up” what has been missed, it is almost impossible to duplicate the experiences, which occur within the regular classroom lesson. The Board believes there is an educational nexus between classroom presence and achievement and that class attendance is relevant to the students’ overall performance, achievement and academic success.

Attendance need not always be within school facilities. A student will be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the

student is receiving approved tutorial instruction, or health or therapeutic services; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; the student is receiving approved homebound instruction.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable excuses for absence from school:

1. Illness of the student
2. Quarantine of the student's home
3. Recovery from accident
4. Death in immediate or near family
5. Religious holidays and religious instruction (with religious instruction limited to a total of not more than 36 hours per school year). The Board shall, upon written request of the parents/guardians, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction. A penalty shall not be attached to an absence for a religious holiday or for religious instruction.
6. Required court attendance.
7. Approved family educational trips.
8. Emergency farm or domestic employment.
9. Approved school/class tours and/or trips. Such days will not be credited against a student's attendance record.
10. Approved medical and/or dental appointments.
11. Approved junior/senior excusal for interviews (job/college admission).
12. Delay or absence of school bus. When the school bus cannot reach certain bus stops because of road conditions and inclement weather, those students not picked up will be marked excused on the school attendance. However, parents/guardians should make every effort to get their child to school when school is in session. Such days will not be credited against a student's attendance record.
13. Other urgent or emergent reasons to be considered by the Principal on a case by case basis when those reasons directly affect the student.
14. Weather emergency as so determined by the Superintendent.
15. Participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H and FFA group upon written request prior to the event.

NOTE: Excused absences are not to be considered "perfect attendance." The only exceptions to this rule are: school related field trips, delay or absence of school bus, school-sponsored athletic participation and absence from school for religious holiday or instruction.

EXCUSES REQUIRED FOR LEGAL ABSENCES:

Students who have been absent from school are required to bring a signed excuse to school the day immediately upon returning after the absence. This excuse is to contain the following information: (1) date(s) of absence; (2) reason for absence; (3) signature of parent/guardian. These excuses are to be presented to the secretary/clerk in the main office before the morning

late bell or upon arrival to school for the day. If excuses are not presented within three (3) days upon returning to school, absences will be considered unlawful/illegal or unexcused. Elementary excuses are to be presented to the homeroom teacher or main office.

If a student has been absent and fails to produce an excuse within three (3) school days after returning, the absence automatically becomes unlawful (illegal) or unexcused regardless of the reasons for absence, e.g. medical excuses that are turned in beyond the three (3) school day limit are ordinarily not acceptable and will be considered illegal.

Students who have reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday and are living with their parents/guardians are also required to present to the office a written statement signed by their parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence.

ILLEGAL ABSENCES:

All other absences are not identified in the Excused Absences list are unlawful/illegal or unexcused, including those absences for which no written excuse is presented to the main office. Unlawful/Unexcused absences and tardies shall include but are not limited to: illegal employment, truancy, parental neglect; oversleeping; car problems; missing the bus; personal business such as work/hair appointments/shopping; babysitting; visiting relatives; hunting; fishing; working at home; general excuses (such as “out of town”, “at an appointment” or “family emergency”) and remaining home to do school work. The building principal or designee may contact parents/guardians to gain further explanation of general excuses.

TARDINESS:

Unexcused/illegal tardies may, when added together, constitute the equivalent of an unexcused/illegal absence from a day(s) of school, which shall trigger the truancy procedures.

INVESTIGATION INTO REPEATED ABSENCES:

Whenever such an excuse indicates illness as the reason for absence or whenever the absence is prolonged or occurs with consistent frequency, the district reserves the right to require a physician’s statement as supporting evidence. The administration further reserves the right to send its authorized school representative to investigate any situation of absence. Students absent due to illness may be examined by the school nurse or physician before readmission to class. A warning letter may be sent to the parent/guardian indicating a concern over the absences and explaining the attendance policy when attendance is noted as being infrequent or irregular, excluding physicians’ excuses, approved educational trips and suspensions/expulsions.

ABSENCES REQUIRING AN EXCUSE FROM A LICENSED PHYSICIAN:

If a student accumulates more than ten lawful parent notes during one (1) school year, the administration shall require that student to provide a medical statement or excuse from a licensed physician for every subsequent absence. Failure to provide the requested medical excuse shall result in such absence being classified as unexcused and/or illegal/unlawful, depending on the age of the student.

EMERGENCY/ILLNESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

It is imperative that the school be able to reach one parent or guardian during school hours in case of emergency, illness or accident. The school must have a way of contacting parents either at home, a neighbor's, or a place of employment. When a child reports to the Health Room because he/she does not feel well, the parent may be contacted to make arrangements for his/her release from school. Usually, if the child complains of a simple headache or stomachache, the health personnel will have them lie down on the cot for a few minutes. If the discomfort does not subside, the parent is usually contacted. An adult must come for the child, as no students are sent home alone.

SCHOOL INSURANCE:

Student accident insurance is available on an optional basis for students enrolled in the Cameron County School District. Additional information will be sent home by flyer at the beginning of each year.

MEDICATION:

Students may need prescribed and/or over-the-counter medication during school hours. If this is the case, the child should bring all necessary medications to the School Nurse's Office in a childproof container. Parents should be certain that the container is labeled with the child's name, dosage, and the time for dispensing. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ASPIRIN OR PILLS TO SCHOOL UNMARKED OR WRAPPED IN PLAIN WAX PAPER. THIS PRESENTS A SERIOUS HAZARD SINCE YOUNGER CHILDREN MAY THINK IT IS CANDY! The school can provide over-the-counter pain-relievers and allergy medication. A note from a parent/guardian must be given to the nurse prior to dispensing.

P.T.O.:

One of the ways that parents can become involved in school activities is by joining the Woodland Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization. Please watch the newspaper and newsletters your child brings home from school for notification of coming events.

SNOW DAY/EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

A decision concerning the closing of schools because of weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances shall be made by the Superintendent of Schools. This decision will be made by 6:15 a.m. If no delay or school closing is called by 6:15 a.m., school will be in session and buses will run as usual.

Parents of students living in outlying areas where weather/road conditions may be more severe, should use their judgement in sending their child/children to school during severe weather events.

Teachers, parents, pupils and all other school employees should attempt to get information concerning the closing of schools or the postponing of the opening of school on the following stations and/or websites:

WLEM/WQKY, WTAJ, WJAC, and WPSU.

A School Messenger message will be sent in the event of a school delay or closing. School Messenger is the school's automated system that releases information by phone to faculty, staff, parents and students when needed. The message may announce school cancellations or delays, along with special announcements or reminders. Please make sure the school is contacted with any changes to phone numbers or addresses.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS:

The student handbook is a great resource for both parents and students. It contains information regarding school programs as well as procedures. It also contains the student discipline code. Behavior that disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated. On the first day of school, each student will receive a Student Handbook/Agenda that will explain the consequences for inappropriate behavior.

CAFETERIA:

The cafeteria program is run by our Food Service Director, Mrs. Tracy Colwell. Under the Department of Education and Division of Food Nutrition, changes have been made to the school lunch program. These changes implemented new meal pattern requirements. The new standards introduced new guidelines for developing menus on a daily basis. This process includes offering choices throughout the week of whole grain products, dark leafy green and red/orange vegetables, legumes, and low fat dairy products. The new standard also target age-grade group components on what portions are allowable for the reimbursable meal. This affects only the first meal. Students who wish to purchase extras or ala carte items may continue to do so.

District Breakfast Program

The Cameron County School District offers "breakfast" to all students in grades K through 12th grade. Serving begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 8:00 a.m.

Elementary Breakfast (K-6) \$.95

High School Breakfast (7-12) \$1.00

Those students who receive reduced or free lunches will also receive a reduced or free breakfast.

District Lunch Program

The Cameron County Elementary School has a closed lunch period, meaning that all students will remain in the building during lunchtime. A bag lunch may be brought to school with the student.

Elementary Lunch (K-6) \$1.80

High School Lunch (7-12) \$1.90

Additional milk, white or chocolate, may be purchased for \$.40.

Each child will have an account. Parents/guardians can deposit as much money as they wish by check, money order, or cash. The money should be placed in an envelope along with your child's name and what you wish to have him/her purchase with the money. You may deposit it in a

collection box in the lobby of the elementary or high school, or you can mail it to the following address:

C.C.S.D. Cafeteria
601 Woodland Avenue
Emporium, PA 15834

You will be able to obtain a printout of what is in the account (to see how much of a balance you have or how the money was spent) by calling 486-4000 ext. 1057 and asking for Tracy. A parent may call to request a restriction on how much a child may spend for breakfast/lunches.

No money will be taken in homeroom or in the lunch line. Money will be accepted only in the collection box, by mail, or in the cafeteria office. Also, lunches may be paid for online by using the student ID number. The web site is: myschoolbucks.com.

If your child is receiving a free lunch and breakfast, he or she must have money in their account to purchase anything extra (for example, a second milk). Any amount will be accepted and you can pay weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or yearly.

**There are some student accounts that have been depleted or over-spent. These accounts will remain unchanged for the start of school.

OPENING DAY:

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY

Students in grades 1 – 6 will report to school on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. Kindergarten students will report on Friday, August 25, 2017. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and Thursday, August 24, 2017. Letters have been mailed to parents of Kindergarten students notifying them of their scheduled orientation time.

Elementary students are discouraged from arriving before 7:45 a.m. Upon arrival, students in grades K – 2 should report to the All-Purpose Room and students in grades 3 – 6 to the gym.

Time	Event:
8:00 a.m.	Homeroom bell rings
8:07 a.m.	Tardy bell rings - LATE STUDENTS REPORT TO THE OFFICE WITH EXCUSE
	Dismissal:
2:55 P.M.	Walkers
3:00 p.m.	Bus Students
3:00 p.m.	Car Riders

Lunch Room Guidelines for Parent Visits:

Woodland Elementary is pleased to have you as our guest for lunch as you visit with your child. For the safety and well-being of all our students, we ask that you please observe the following:

1. Upon arrival, always sign in at the main office and secure a visitor's badge.
2. Please wear the visitor's badge on your upper body where it can be easily seen by school personnel.
3. Visitors are to sit at an assigned table next to the child with whom they are having lunch.
4. Visitors are to limit their interaction to the student with whom they have come to visit.
5. Because the lunch period allows our students time to interact with each other, it provides an opportunity for important social development. Keeping this in mind, we would ask that you would refrain from making excessive visits to lunch. A good rule of thumb may be to visit your child no more than one time per week.

Early Dismissal:

Occasionally, an early dismissal from school may be required due to inclement weather. Children should be advised of where they are to go if it is different from their normal routine. Please make sure your child's teacher is aware of any alternate plans by sending a note well in advance of possible unscheduled early dismissals and clearly state what you wish to happen. If your child will be riding a different bus, a note must come to the teacher, which is then signed by the school administrator and given to the Bus Driver.

CAMERON COUNTY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

Orientation:

A 7th Grade/new student Parent/Student Orientation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. To ease the transition into the high school atmosphere, parents and students are strongly urged to attend. The entire program is intended to take approximately one hour.

OPENING DAY:

The schedule for the first day of school, Wednesday, August 23, 2017, and for all regular days thereafter will be as follows:

On the first day, students report to their first period class by 8:00 a.m. The regular school day for students will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. daily.

Two thirty-minute lunch periods are provided each day during which time lunches are served in the high school cafeteria.

Home Room Assignments:

7-1	A-J	Rm 108	Mrs. O'Connor
7-2	K-Z	Rm 105	Mr. Sestina
8-1	A-L	Rm 159	Mrs. Fragale
8-2	M-Z	Rm 109	Mrs. Garzel
9-1	A-Lamont, D	Rm 129	Ms. Rettger

9-2	Lamont,T-Z	Rm 152	Mr. Faulk
10-1	A-Lininger	Rm 97	Mrs. Trunzo
10-2	Lucanik – Z	Rm 126	Mrs. Les
11-1	A-Kennedy	Library	Ms. Hibbler
11-2	Kiser-Z	Rm 143	Ms. Miller
12-1	A-L	Art Room	Mrs. Groeger
12-2	M-Z	Rm 137	Mrs. Pomeroy