

Woodland School August Updates

Summer and Back to School Update Edition

Quote of the Summer

" Summer in Northern Michigan isn't just a season- It's a state of Peace where every lake reflects gratitude."



Woodland Family Updates

📌 Woodland School Back-to-School Newsletter

August 2026

Dear Woodland Families,

Wow! If you're reading this newsletter, you may be thinking, "**Summer has flown by!**" While we still have nearly a month before school begins, we wanted to take a moment to say hello and share a

few important updates as we prepare for another exciting year at Woodland School.

We hope your family has been enjoying the beautiful Michigan summer—whether you've been traveling, spending time outdoors, or making memories with family and friends. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the **2026–2027 school year!**

Welcome to Our New Staff!

We are thrilled to welcome three outstanding educators to the Woodland family!

Mckenna Hamann

Middle School Math

Mckenna joins Woodland after serving as a long-term substitute teacher while completing her Master's Degree in Middle School Mathematics. She has also coached volleyball and recently relocated to Traverse City. We are excited to welcome her enthusiasm for mathematics and student learning to our Middle School team!

Ashley Cassell

Middle School English Language Arts

Ashley is a Kingsley High School graduate who completed her student teaching with TCAPS. She brings a passion for literacy, student engagement, and relationship building, and we are excited to have her joining Woodland this fall.

Jordanae Kimball

Middle Village Teacher (Grades 3–5)

Jordanae has been part of the Woodland community for years as both a parent and substitute teacher. She knows our students, families, and school culture well, making her a wonderful addition to our teaching staff.

Please join us in giving all three educators a warm Woodland welcome!

Transportation Information

BATA Bus Service

The Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) provides daily transportation to and from Woodland School.

Families can find routes and schedules on the BATA website.

Interested in riding the BATA or KAT Bus?

Join us for an informational meeting:

 August 27

 5:00 p.m.

Before the Back-to-School Picnic

Kalkaska Transit

Families living in the Kalkaska area may arrange transportation directly through Kalkaska Public Transit.

Phone:

(231) 258-6808

Volunteer at Woodland!

Our volunteers make Woodland stronger!

Whether you're helping in classrooms, chaperoning field trips, assisting with events, or driving students, we appreciate your willingness to serve.

Please remember:

 A new Volunteer Application must be completed every school year.

Drivers must also submit:

- Driver Contract Form
- Current Proof of Auto Insurance

All required paperwork must be on file before volunteering.

Forms are available in the Main Office and on our school website.

 Join Woodland Robotics!

Does your child enjoy...

 Gaming?

 Building with LEGO?

 Engineering and technology?

Then VEX IQ Robotics may be the perfect fit!

Woodland has participated in VEX IQ Robotics for several years, and our **Wings of Woodland** team recently earned top honors at both the Michigan State Championship and the VEX IQ World Championship!

We're looking for interested Middle and Upper Village families to help launch additional competitive teams this year.

No engineering experience is necessary! Parent coaches receive support and training from experienced Woodland robotics families.

A Robotics Kickoff Event will be held this fall, but families are encouraged to begin exploring now.

Questions?

Contact **Coach Alex Bloye**: abloye@nmc.edu

VEX IQ develops:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Critical Thinking
- Engineering Design
- STEM Skills
- Problem Solving

We hope you'll consider joining one of Woodland's robotics teams!

 Staying Connected

Communication between home and school is one of our highest priorities.

Throughout the year, families can expect information through:

- Weekly S'more newsletters (typically every Monday)
- Director's Message
- Guidance Counselor Updates
- Village/Classroom News
- Woodland School Website
- REMIND text messages from the Director for urgent announcements

Your child's classroom teacher will also share classroom-specific communication during our Back-to-School Picnic and Village Meetings.

 Annual Notifications

Please review the following annual notices included in this newsletter:

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

These notifications are provided annually to ensure families remain informed of their rights and school procedures.

 We're Looking Forward to a Great Year!

Thank you for choosing Woodland School and allowing us to partner with your family in your child's education. We are honored to work alongside you as we prepare for another incredible year of learning, growth, and community.

If you ever have questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Rich Watson, Ed.S.

Director, Woodland School

✉ rwatson@woodlandschooltc.org

☎ 231-947-7474 ext. 102

We can't wait to see everyone at our **Back-to-School Picnic on Thursday, August 27!**

Check out our school website and review the 26-27 school calendar.

[Calendar](#) | [Woodland School](#)



**Welcome Mckenna 6-8
Math teacher!**



**Welcome Ashley 6-8 ELA
teacher!**



**Welcome Jordanae MV
3-5 teacher!**

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Back to School Picnic

Thursday, August 27

5:15-7:00

**Family Council will be
providing hot dogs,
drinks for dinner.**

Timeline:

5:00 BATA Bus Meeting - Outpost

5:15 Picnic Begins

6:15 Welcome and Introduction

6:30 Village Meetings

Things to Know:

- ☛ There will be a Back to School envelope labeled for each family. Please take it with you at the end of the picnic. The packet contains important information and a few forms that must be returned to the main office the first week of school.
- ☛ The Village meetings that begin at 6:30 are an important way to connect with your child's teachers and understand classroom expectations.
- ☛ Classroom assignments will be posted at the picnic.
- ☛ Upper Village students (grades 6-8) will be given their course descriptions and course grids at the picnic.

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOES



EVENT INCLUDES

New shoes and socks for toddlers through grade 12

Eye exams and glasses (if needed)

School supplies (while supplies last)

All services offered at no cost

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SUPPORTERS!



THE
Father Fred
Foundation

Locally founded, locally funded and locally focused.



Become a Hike-A-Thon Sponsor! (1).pdf

[Download](#)

2.8 MB



Every Kid Outdoors

You and your family get free access to hundreds of parks, lands, and waters for an entire year.

everykidoutdoors.gov

Important Information and Upcoming Dates

Important information

Athletics at Woodland

Woodland School is excited to continue partnering with **Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS)** to offer additional athletic opportunities for our students.

Fall Sports

- Middle School Football (Grades 7–8) [LEAP | Traverse City Area Public Schools](#)
- Elementary & Middle School Cross Country

Winter Sports

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball

Spring Sports

- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- MS Baseball

As a smaller school community, we also encourage families to explore local YMCA programs and community sports organizations for opportunities such as baseball, soccer, softball, flag football, and youth football. [Grand Traverse Bay YMCA](#) and our students have opportunities throughout the schoolyear to participate in a variety of activities through LEAP [LEAP | Traverse City Area Public Schools](#)

Woodland Cross Country

Elementary Cross Country (Grades 3–5)

Come run with us! We welcome runners of all abilities.

Race Distance

- 1 Mile

Practices

- Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Requirements

- \$50 participation fee (Scholarships available.)
- Cross Country T-shirt
- Proper running shoes (No spikes)
- Parent/Guardian Concussion Form

For additional information, contact:

Rose Hudson

 rhudson@woodlandschooltc.org

 (517) 403-2080

Middle School Cross Country (Grades 6–8)

Race Distance

- 2 Miles

Practices

- Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Requirements

- \$75 participation fee (Scholarships available.)
- Cross Country uniforms
- Training shoes (Spikes optional for meets)
- Current Sports Physical
- Parent/Guardian Concussion Form

Coaches

- Tim Pierce
- Christina Cole
- Andrew Cole

Questions?

Tim Pierce

 (231) 350-8293

 hornbeamcraft@gmail.com

 Important Upcoming Dates

Cross Country Summer Meet-Ups

Join us every other Monday from **5:30–7:00 p.m.** at Woodland School.

Remaining Date

- **Monday, August 10**

 Woodland School Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

 6:00 p.m.

 Woodland School Library

 Back-to-School Picnic

Thursday, August 27

 Woodland School

Schedule

- **5:00 p.m.** – BATA , KAT Bus Meetings (Outpost) Upper Building
- **5:15 p.m.** – Family Picnic Begins
- **6:15 p.m.** – Welcome & Opening Remarks
- **6:30 p.m.** – Village Meetings

Family Council Dinner

Our Family Council will be providing:

- Hot dogs
- Drinks

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to reconnect before the school year begins.

Important Things to Know

Back-to-School Family Envelope

- Each family will receive a labeled back-to-school envelope.
- Please pick up your envelope before leaving the picnic.
- It contains important school information and forms that should be returned to the Main Office during the first week of school.

Village Meetings- dismissed to main building

- Beginning at **6:30 p.m.**
- Meet your child's teachers.
- Learn classroom routines, expectations, and curriculum highlights.
- Ask questions and begin building strong school-home partnerships.

Classroom Assignments

- Classroom assignments will be posted during the picnic.

Upper Village Students (Grades 6–8)

- Students will receive their class descriptions/ grids during the picnic.
- 8th grade Washington DC Parent Meeting with Ms. Giem at 6:30. Please see attached handout for Vertical Raise fundraising. 8th graders are asked to come to picnic with 20 contacts (emails/ phone contacts of family/ friends of family) to help support our 8th grade trip.

Annual FERPA Notification

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides parents and eligible students with certain rights regarding educational records.

These rights include:

- Inspecting and reviewing student education records.
- Requesting amendments to records believed to be inaccurate or misleading.
- Providing (or withholding) consent before personally identifiable information is disclosed, except where FERPA permits disclosure without consent.
- Filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures to comply with FERPA requirements.

Parents may access the educational records of eligible students if the student is claimed as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Woodland School will respond to requests to inspect educational records within **45 days** and will forward educational records to another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Asbestos Management Plan (AHERA)

In accordance with federal law (40 CFR 763.80), Woodland School maintains an approved Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Plan.

Our facilities are considered **asbestos-free**, with the exception of limited asbestos-containing insulation located on a few older plumbing elbow joints in the former residential portion of the building. These materials are enclosed behind walls, beneath flooring, or above ceilings and do not pose a risk to students or staff.

Additionally, several original steel-clad fire doors are presumed to contain asbestos within their sealed cores. These doors present no hazard under normal use.

The school's asbestos management plan is available for review upon request.

Integrated Pest Management Program

Woodland School uses an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** program to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

IPM emphasizes prevention through sanitation, maintenance, pest exclusion, and other environmentally responsible practices. When necessary, pesticides may be used in accordance with state regulations.

Families have the right to receive advance notification prior to pesticide applications on school grounds or within school buildings.

In emergency situations, such as stinging insect infestations, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to protect student safety. Notification will be provided afterward.

Advance notice postings will also be displayed at school entrances whenever pesticide applications are scheduled.

If you would like additional advance notification, please contact the Main Office.

Support Our 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip!

Do you own a business or know someone who would like to support our students?

We are currently seeking community sponsors to help make our **8th Grade Washington, D.C.**

Educational Trip a memorable experience for every student.

Please:

- Review our sponsorship flyer.
- Share the opportunity with family, friends, and local businesses.
- Contact **Amber Marsh**, 8th Grade Lead, with questions or sponsorship opportunities.

 **Amber Marsh:** marshamber33@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting our students and helping create unforgettable learning experiences!

 **We Can't Wait to See You!** When we open our doors for our first day back to school on September 1!

The Woodland staff is excited to welcome our students and families back for another year filled with curiosity, growth, adventure, and community. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and we'll see everyone at the Back-to-School Picnic on **Thursday, August 27!**

CLASSROOM SUPPLY LISTS

School supplies will start hitting the shelves at local retailers before you know it! Here are supply lists from each village for next year.

Primary Village

All Primary Village students need:

- Inside shoes that can be put on and off without help (can be PE shoes)
- Soft backpack (no wheels)
- Sturdy indoor running shoes for PE
- Complete change of clothing (to be left in your child's locker)

Primary Village teachers ask for a cash donation of \$25 (or whatever is within your means) to purchase classroom supplies in bulk. Checks made out to Woodland School or cash may be turned in to your child's teacher on the first day of school.

Please label all coats, lunch boxes, shoes, etc.

Thank you!

Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Mary, Ms. Melissa, and Mrs. Milne

Middle Village

Personal Supplies for the Middle Village:

- Zip binder
- 3 folders, each with two pockets (to be used in elective classes)
- Sturdy indoor running shoes for PE
- Pencils

Middle Village teachers ask for a package of individually wrapped snacks that they can have in the classroom for when students forget their snacks, and a cash donation of \$20 (or whatever is within your means) to purchase shared classroom supplies in bulk. Checks made out to Woodland School or cash may be turned in to your child's teacher on the first day of school.

Thank you!

Mrs. Kimball, Ms. Goodrick, and Mrs. Hadd

Upper Village

Personal Supplies for the Upper Village:

- Pencils
- Calculator Model: TI-30XS (optional, but desirable, preferably one with a two-line display) *Add your name to it*
- Sturdy indoor running shoes for PE (if you will be taking a PE class)

6-8 teachers ask for a cash donation of \$20 (or whatever is within your means) to purchase shared classroom supplies in bulk. Checks made out to Woodland School or cash may be turned in to your child's teacher on the first day of school.

Thank you!

Mrs. Kreykes, Mr. Milne, Ms. Hamann, Ms. Cassell



8th Grade Washington DC Fundraiser Letter

Download

962.6 KB

Free Community Resource

A free resource from Woodland parents and the founders of Cherry Coast Kids, a free weekly newsletter featuring family-friendly events, programs, outdoor activities, and local places across Northern Michigan.

Warmly,

Kathy McKeon & Therese Neuman

Read and subscribe: [Cherry Coast Kids Weekly Newsletter](#)

Instagram: [@cherrycoastkids](#)



Woodland School Contact information and address

Woodland School

7224 Supply Road

Traverse City, MI 49696

231-947-7474 (phone)

231-947-7667 (fax)

Email: rwatson@woodlandschooltc.org

Website: <https://www.woodlandschooltc.org/>

Location: [7224 Supply Road, Traverse City, MI, USA](#)

Phone: (231) 947-7474



Rich Watson

Rich is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters