



The Timberwolf Times

January 2026

A Message from the Principal

We are well into 2026 and students have done a wonderful job adjusting back to school after winter break.

We have concluded winter MAP testing and I am extremely proud of the growth our students made from Fall. Currently, 46% of our students (up from 44% in the fall) scored at or above the 50th percentile in MAP Reading. In MAP Math, 56% of our students (up from 53% in the fall) scored at or above the 50th percentile. Our spring goals are 50% of students in Reading and 60% of students in Math will score at or above the 50th percentile. We are extremely close and are on the trajectory to meeting, or exceeding, our spring goals. Our teachers are working tirelessly to meet the needs of each student to ensure they meet their fullest potential. We are excited to see their continued growth over the next few months.



This month we are beginning ACCESS testing for our English Language Learners (EL students). This test assesses their English Proficiency. Students must take it every year (through 12th grade) until they exit. In order to exit, students must score a 4.8 composite (overall) score. It is extremely important that students exit this test by the end of 5th grade. This test has 4 parts, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Please ensure your child is getting a good night's sleep and is ready to do take their time and do their best on this test. Our school goal is to have 12% of our students, who take ACCESS, exit this school year.

I am excited about the start of 2026 and look forward to seeing our Timberwolves continue to excel in school.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro



Kindergarten Families.

Welcome Back, & Happy New Year 2025

In January students will be taking the winter MAP Reading & Math Test.

During the month of January, we will be working on the following units:

Amplify Knowledge:

Students will continue to work on Unit #5 Farms till almost the end of January. Towards the end of January students will start on Unit #6 Native Americans. In this unit students will learn about the first-known inhabitants of North America, tribes of Native Americans, they will learn about the many diverse tribes of Native Americans, they all need food, clothing, and shelter to survive, the importance of the buffalo to the Lakota Sioux, the food, clothing, and shelter of the Lakota Sioux culture, the environment in which the Lakota Sioux lived, the food, clothing, and shelter of the Wampanoag, the environment in which the Wampanoag lived, the food, clothing, and shelter of the Lenape, the environment in which the Lenape lived, aspects of the Lenape culture, Native Americans still live in the United States today, and Native Americans today keep alive some of the traditions and practices of their ancestors.

UFLI:

Students are working on Phonemic Awareness, blending, letter formation, letter sounds, letter names, CVC words, VC words, vowels, short vowels and long vowels.

Eureka Math:

Students will continue working on Math Module #3. In this module students will learn about Comparison of Length and Height, Comparison of Weight and Volume, Comparison of sets within 10, Comparison of Numerals, and Clarification of Measurable Attributes. Students will be working on this Math Module till almost the end of January. At the end of January students will start to work on Math Module #4. In this unit students will work on Compositions and Decompositions of 2, 3, 4, and 5, Decompositions of 6, 7, and 8 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 6, 7, and 8, Subtraction from Numbers to 8, Decompositions of 9 and 10 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 9 and 10, Subtraction from 9 and 10, and Patterns with Adding 0 and 1 and Making 10. Students will work on this unit till the end of March.

In monolingual class for BUF students are working on:

Unit #2 Weather; a study of community response.

Students will be able to independently use their learning to... Dress appropriately for daily weather, Know what to do during severe weather in Illinois (tornado, thunderstorms, snow storms, extreme heat, blizzards, extreme cold), ask questions based on observations to find more information about the natural world, and ask and/or identify questions that can be answered by an investigation.

In our one-way dual classrooms, we are working on:

Lectoescritura:

Students will continue to work on Unit #5. In unit #5 students will learn a total of 9 "new letter names and sounds" that they have been exposed to as well already. And 7 new high frequency words.

Students will work on this unit the first week of February.

The kindergarten teachers,

Ms. Pinto, Ms. Morrison, and Mrs. Calderón.



In language arts, we are working on long and short vowels, building longer words. We are also working on writing sentences each day.

For math we will be working on Module 4-Place Value. Students will be working on tens and ones. We will also be working on comparing 2 digit numbers-greater and less than and word problem.

During our Amplify Unit we will be shifting gears and starting our Astronomy Unit. We will be learning about the solar system: In the first part we will be exploring the Earth, Sun, Moon, Stars and planets. In the second part students will learn about the history of space exploration.

As always, thank you for your cooperation!



2nd Grade

As we begin February we are working on adding and subtracting within 1,000. We are extending our skills we have been working on all year to include 3 digit numbers. We saw many questions like these on our Winter Map Math test. The students all did very well and most met their winter goals on Map Reading, Map math or both!! In Reading we are learning about the Cycles In Nature. We will be looking at non-fiction literature and learning about the seasons, the Earth's rotation, life cycles of plants and life cycles of animals. In Science, Mrs. Perry's class will be continuing to learn about the Landforms on Earth.



3rd Grade

Hello 3rd Grade Families!

We have finished our Winter MAP testing. All students tried their best and we are very proud of each child!

In ELA we are wrapping up our Viking unit. We had a blast completing different Viking quests and learning about Norse Mythology. We are ending the unit writing a paragraph on our favorite Norse character. Our next unit is a book study on, Stella Diaz Has Something to Say, written by Angela Dominguez. We will be working on different activities throughout the book, focusing on figurative language. We will end this unit by writing a journal entry from a different characters' perspective.

In Math we started Module 4 which focuses on Area. We will be using our different multiplication strategies to find the area of rectangles. Please continue to practice math facts at home with your child.



4th Grade

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

We kicked off the new year by wrapping up several units. In math, we are finishing Module 4 and have been learning how to identify, measure, and construct angles using protractors, along with addition and subtraction strategies.

Students were highly engaged in our Eureka literacy unit as active audience participants in game show-style lessons. They took on the

As we move through the winter months, please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor recess activities. Thank you for your cooperation.



5th Grade

Hello 5th grade Families!

Here are some updates for the content we are teaching the second trimester:

[Eureka Math Grade 5 Module 3](#) focuses on [Addition and Subtraction of Fractions](#), extending prior knowledge to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators by finding common denominators, using visual models (area models, number lines) for understanding, and solving word problems, essentially treating fractions like a new set of units for arithmetic operations. Students learn to make like units both pictorially and numerically, and the module connects fraction operations to algebra, preparing them for more complex work with fractions.

Unit 4 of our Amplify curriculum, examines the fiction genre through a classic novel, *Don Quixote*. Students will focus on character and plot, as well as on literary elements such as characterization, while reading a full-length adapted version of *Don Quixote*. It is important for students in the upper-elementary grades to be able to read longer works of fiction and be able to trace the development of plot, characters, and literary elements over the course of a novel; this unit will provide students that opportunity. In addition, this adapted version of *Don Quixote*, written by Miguel de Cervantes during the Renaissance, a period in European history that students will study in the next unit, will expose students to the culturally relevant aspects of the classic novel such as the quixotic nature of the primary character, the relationship between Don Quixote and his sidekick, Sancho Panza, and episodes such as the one involving windmills. Students will also read extended excerpts from another adapted version of *Adventures of Don Quixote* that contains richer, more complex vocabulary and syntax. Students will be able to compare and contrast this more challenging adaptation with the primary text used in this unit.

In Social Studies, students are learning about the American Revolution and how it helped shape the United States. They are studying the causes of the Revolution, important events, and key leaders such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Students will also explore the governmental decisions and laws that came from this time, including the Declaration of Independence and how these ideas and rights are still followed in today's society. This unit helps students understand how historical events led to important changes in government and individual freedoms.



In January, kindergarten is learning how to identify subjects and backgrounds. They are practicing on creating backgrounds for their artworks. We will also talk about craftsmanship and taking our time.

1st grade has been working on a paper sculpture unit. We completed a paper sculpture tool kit as we practiced different techniques. We will also practice making paper diorama sculptures.

2nd grade has been opening up our sculpture center! We have been completing various challenges to practice sculpture techniques with cardboard.

3rd grade will be reviewing the fiber arts center. We are going to complete a weaving challenge and learn plastic embroidery.

4th grade will learn how to sew plushies! Students are learning how to sew using the running stitch and whip stitch to create their plushies. Students will have this as a new choice during centers.

5th grade will be finishing up their museum unit. After our museum unit, we will learn about embroidery and practice embroidery on fabric.



Music

Students in grades 3-5 watched the Wheaton College Opera Theatre perform selections from HMS Pinafore our first week back from winter break. It was the first exposure to opera for most of our students and they were enthralled! I am SO proud of their respectful listening and how they were eager to learn opera vocabulary.

All classes sang about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr using ASL, sang Peace Like a River (Paz como el rio) using ASL, and saw videos of MLK speaking. KG, 1 and 2 learned about the song We Shall Overcome and sang it as well.

KG students are moving and playing instruments to steady beat in music. They are also continuing to explore their 4 voices and are singing together each class.

1st graders are reading and playing rhythms including quarter notes/rests and eighth notes.

2nd graders are reading rhythms including half notes/rests and whole notes/rests.

3rd graders are learning to move to music in $\frac{3}{4}$ time and learning about dotted quarter notes.

4th graders are preparing to start playing the woodwind instrument called a recorder. We are learning how to read notes on the treble staff and will learn how to transfer that knowledge to playing those notes on the recorder.

5th graders are continuing recorder playing and learning music with Low La and Low Sol.

Chorus has started and sound amazing! It was so wonderful to see all of the students who love to sing before school on Fridays. Thank you so much for driving your kids to chorus!



K-2nd Grades have been playing shooting and dribbling games working on those skills.

3rd-5th Grades will be playing 5 on 5 games and learning the rules of basketball and how to work as a team during these games.



SEL

In S.E.L/Health Class all students are learning about disease and illness prevention.



Library

In January, Fourth and Fifth Graders are continuing to focus on how the library is arranged, how to browse the library catalog to look up a book and then how to find it on the shelf.

Primary grades are exploring different types of literature by reading the Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominees. We need to read as many as we can before we can vote for our favorite in March.

We also read about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Primary Cross-Cat

Hello, Families! In January, we began our unit exploring the past and present, and how life in America was different long ago. Through stories and hands-on activities, students will recognize similarities and differences between things from today and things from the past. Also, students will explore organizing sequences of events. In math, we will continue to work on less than/greater than and comparing big and small. In late January, we will visit the West Chicago Public Library and plan our February community-based outing. Also this month, ACCESS testing begins for our English Language Learners.

Intermediate Cross-Cat

In January, we began our unit exploring the past and present, and how life in America was different long ago. Through stories and hands-on activities, students will recognize similarities and differences between things from today and things from the past. Also, students will explore organizing sequences of events. In math, we are finishing up addition and subtraction and moving into working with 2D and 3D shapes and exploring fractions. In late January, we will visit the West Chicago Public Library and plan our February community-based outing.



Upcoming Events

- **January 22nd-February 11th-** ACCESS for ELLs testing
- **February 2nd-** Trimester 3 After-School Club Registrations
CLOSES
- **February 3rd-** Elementary Orchestra Concert (@ 6pm)
- **February 4th-** Elementary Band Concert (@ 6pm)
- **February 4th-** Wear It Wednesday- Duplicate Day (Dress like a friend)





- **February 11th**- wear it Wednesday- College and Career Day:
- **February 12th**- No School-Lincoln's Birthday
- **February 12th**- IK PTO Meeting (Virtual @ 5:30)
- **February 13th**- No School- PD Day
- **February 16th**- No School- President's Day/Emergency Day (if needed)
- **February 18th**- Wear It Wednesday- IK Spirit Day!
- **February 25th**- Spring Picture Day!
- **February 25th**- Wear It Wednesday- Dress to Impress!!
- **February 27th**- No School!!!
- **March 4th**- Kindergarten Registration for 26-27 SY

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