

September 2023

Worthington Middle School

FROM MS. BAARTMAN & MRS. DIERKS

Hello Worthington Middle School Families!

School is in full swing and full of excitement! We have a few things planned for the Month of September.

Next week will be bus safety week. Students will be reviewing proper bus behavior and rules for safely riding the school bus in their Advisory classroom. On Friday the bus company will come to further train our students on bus safety.

The week of September 18th-22nd will be ALICE week. ALICE is our school-wide intruder response protocol. Students will review the steps of ALICE in their Advisory classes.

The last week of September (the 25th - 29th) will be homecoming week. School is only Monday through Thursday that week and we will have these dress up days.

Monday - Pajama day

Tuesday - Island/beach day

Wednesday - Western day

Thursday - School spirit day

There will be a pepfest in the afternoon of Thursday the 28th. There isn't school on Friday the 29th but be sure to bring your students to the football game at Trojan Field as well as the other games throughout the week!

Thank you for sharing your student(s) with us! We are looking forward to the 2023-34 school year! Remember that we are here to support you and your student(s). Let's work together to have a successful year!

Be Unstoppable,
Ms. Toni Baartman
&
Mrs. Tessa Dierks

Hello,
September!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From Ms. Baartman & Mrs.
Dierks.....1

Humanity Launch Event2

Talking Points2-4



Humanity Launch Event

This year, our 7th graders get to take part in an event that is hosted by the Nobles County Integration Collaborative. This event is focused around creating an inclusive community and school environment. It will be held at the Event Center in Worthington on October 16 and 17 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Team A students will be attending the event on the 16th, and Team B students will be attending the event on the 17th. Other area schools that will also be attending include Fulda, Ellsworth, Round Lake-Brewster, Heron Lake-Okabena, and Adrian.

Throughout the day, students will participate in a variety of discussions and community building activities that may focus on any of the following topics: proper social media use, peer pressure, forgiveness, and trust. High school students will be assigned to a small group of 7th graders to work with for the day. This is a great opportunity for our high schoolers to get involved with our middle school students and set a good example for them. This event is sure to be a fun one, with a lot of hands-on learning for our students!

*Check out the
ISD 518 website:
www.isd518.net, Worthington
Public Schools on Facebook, and
Follow us on Instagram & Twitter
Worthington ISD518*

Talking Points

ISD 518 values creating open lines of communication between school and home. The District invested in TalkingPoints to do just this!. Teachers may begin sending messages to families using this two-way communication system. A teacher can text/message parents and guardians (not students), and those parents and guardians can respond or initiate a conversation with that teacher. TalkingPoints translates messages into 150+ different languages. Families will receive a teacher's message in their preferred language. The parent can respond in their preferred language, and the teacher will receive it back in English. Staff can send announcements and reminders to families, provide PDF attachments, and also send photos and videos!

Any messages will be delivered to a cell phone via SMS text messaging. TalkingPoints will automatically send two or three follow up messaging prompting the download of the TalkingPoints for Families app. Families may choose to download the app, or continue to receive messages through SMS texting. If choosing SMS texting, save the phone number as a contact in your phone.

Student handbook is located on school website and also on your student's iPad! Please take a moment to read.

If you would like the messages you receive to be organized by student, you may prefer to use the TalkingPoints for Families app. Make sure you turn notifications on so you know when you have a message! Access the app through the QR codes or the links below.

[Google Play](#)

[Apple Store](#)

iOs

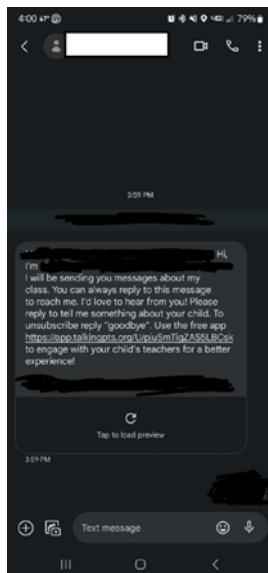


Android



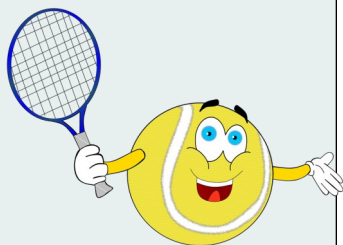
Q: What might the initial contact look like?

A: Remember, you will not be able to message your child's teacher until the teacher has sent out the first message. You will receive a text message, not a phone call. While the message may change, the initial text message will look similar to this:



Q: Can I use both texting and the app?

A: No. TalkingPoints allows only texting or only the app, but not both.



Q: I deleted my app, but I am still not receiving texts. Why am I not receiving text messaging?

A: If you deleted the app, you will have to download the app again and then log out of your account on the app. Then you may delete the app. This will force TalkingPoints to send text messages again.

Q: Why is the phone number I am getting text messages from not local?

A: TalkingPoints pulls numbers from all over the United States to use this program. If you want to verify if that person really does work for the District, please check the [school website](#).

Q: Why are my spouse and I getting different phone numbers from the same teacher?

A: TalkingPoints is programmed to assign a different phone number to each parent/guardian.

Q: I am not getting messages. Why?

A: There may be a chance your current phone number in Campus is a landline phone number. Or, perhaps your cell phone number has changed. Please contact the office to update your phone numbers.



TROJANS