

# Comet Connection

2024-2025  
Back to School Issue

## Cameron School District

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## District referendum and building updates

The Cameron School District is very appreciative of the recent support of the April 2024 referendum and the continued support of our community! Some of our related projects are complete and some are still in progress, but will be completed soon! Here are a few updates on the projects.

### MS/HS fire alarm system

The Middle and High School fire alarm system has been replaced with a new system that is 100% up to code!

This includes a new main control system and all new sensors and alarms.

### MS auditorium stage lighting

The Middle School auditorium has all new LED lights and a control panel. This system replaces the original lighting system that was installed when the Middle School was built in 2000. The original system had not been working for the past couple of years and was not cost effective to update. The lights are complete and working well!

### MS windows/MS/HS roofing and building envelope repairs

The hardware and seals have been fixed on the middle school windows and resulted in noticeable improvements in both the classrooms and offices this past winter. The high school and middle school roofing replacements are nearing completion as well as the masonry repairs on the exterior of both the high school and middle school.

Within these projects, we have greatly extended the life of both the middle and high schools.

### HS; MS HVAC improvements and secure entrance remodeling

Much of the HVAC work occurred in the middle school and will result in greater efficiency as we transition from pneumatic to digital controls. This will be completed prior to our heating year.

### Building office renovations

Both the middle school and high school office renovations have been quite comprehensive and will give a completely new look to these areas as well as how our visitors enter the buildings. Visitors will now enter directly through the main office areas before entering the main part of the building. In essence the high school and middle school office entry procedures will mirror what exists at the elementary school.

The elementary office will have better viewing of visitors as they enter. All offices will now have adequate areas for school nursing, conference areas, storage and general administration. While we may be finishing up an item or two into the new school year, the substantial completion for these projects will occur prior to the new school year.

**Referendum updates** *continued on back*

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*Our school, where staff, students excel... parents and community care.*

## Elementary School—Back to school information

### Elementary “Welcome to School Day” All Aboard—4<sup>th</sup> grade on Wed., Aug. 28

#### 4 year old kindergarten

4 year old kindergarten teachers will be doing group presentations in the 4K pod all day on the hour starting at 9:00 am. Presentations will be about 20-25 minutes and then 20-25 minutes for students to explore their classroom, practice hanging their backpack, finding names, putting school supplies away etc.

*Times are: 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm.*

Feel free to come at any given time on the hour mentioned above. There is no need to sign up for a time.

#### KG–4th Grade • 9 am – 7 pm scheduled appointments

Students and their families can schedule a 20 minute conference through Skyward Family Access. Office staff will be available to collect money for meal accounts,

discuss transportation questions, health or medication needs, emergency contact information and free/reduced lunch status.

#### 4 year old–4th Grade photos

Individual pictures for students will be taken. The photographer will be here from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm. There is not a scheduled appointment for this. You may bring your child any time between those hours to have their school picture taken. Students that do not have their picture taken during Welcome Day will have it taken on retake day. Information on retake day will be sent home with students during the school year.

Letters regarding classroom placement and instructions for scheduling a Welcome Day visit were mailed to elementary families in the beginning of August. If you have questions or did not receive a letter, call the elementary office at 715-458-5710.

### ES ‘24–‘25 fees

Thank you to the Cameron Elementary PTO for purchasing Home/School Communication folders for each student. Students will receive these during their Welcome Day Visit. *Replacement cost is \$1.00.*

**Headphones:** Kindergarten and new students will receive their first pair of headphones at no charge. A notice will be sent home with your student during the school year if they need to be

replaced. *Replacement cost is \$5.00.*

**Assignment Books** (4th grade): Students will receive an assignment book at no charge. Students will receive during their Welcome Day Visit. If a replacement is needed during the school year a notice will be sent home. *Replacement cost is \$3.00.*

**1<sup>st</sup> full day of  
school for K – 4<sup>th</sup>  
is Thurs., Aug. 29  
• All Aboard is Sept. 3**

### ES hours/schedule

#### 4K–Grade 4

**7:45 am doors open.** Students should not arrive before 7:45 am.

**7:45 am breakfast.** Students not riding the bus to school need to arrive by 8:00 am if they are eating breakfast.

**8:15 am classes begin.** Students should be in their classrooms by 8:15 am for the start of the school day. Students arriving after 8:15 am must report to the office with a parent to sign in.

**3:14 pm end of school day.** Buses depart Elementary School.

#### All Aboard pre-school

**Morning session:** 8:00–11:00 am. Doors will open at 7:45 am. Students should not arrive before.

**Afternoon session:** 12:00–3:00 pm. Doors will open at 12:00 pm. Students should not arrive before.

### Elementary office hours

Beginning August 5 the Elementary Office hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Families are welcome to pay for meals/milk break prior to the school year starting.

### Student supply lists

You can find supply lists at [www.cameron.k12.wi.us](http://www.cameron.k12.wi.us) click on ES school or on Skyward's Family Access.

## ES Drop-Off procedures

Please follow the morning drop-off procedures that have been developed. Safety of our students is our first priority.

- Use the entrance designated for the public parking lot if parking and walking student(s) into school.
- Drop-off lane: park your vehicle next to the sidewalk area designated for student drop-off. Have children exit the vehicle on the side next to the sidewalk. Driver should stay in vehicle.
- Drop-off time is very busy and can be congested. Think safety and be alert! Please refrain from texting or talking on your cell phone.

## ES Dismissal Procedures

- Students will wait in their grade level pods. When buses are ready to board, a teacher will escort bus riders to the front doors.
- Doors to the elementary school will remain locked at dismissal time. Students being picked up will exit through the main entrance after buses depart.
- If you are picking up a student, plan to arrive when buses depart at 3:14 pm and wait outside the school building. Students will be released when all buses have pulled out of the bus loop.

**Pick Up Lane:** Park your vehicle next to the sidewalk area designated for student pick up. Have children enter the vehicle on the side next to the sidewalk. Driver should stay in vehicle.

## Speech development and screen time

Last school year, our district speech and language pathologists attended the annual speech/language conference. In addition to learning about current issues related to development of communication skills and treatment of communication disorders, information was shared with regarding the issue of 'screen time' and its effects on children's development. Screen time referred to here means passive and noneducational activities such as mindlessly watching videos or shows, scrolling or playing games with no constructive or positive benefit to development or connection to real world applications. Screen time is a total amount per day which includes use of screens during the school day for passive activities.

The following are findings of recent or fairly recent studies regarding effects of screen time on children:

A meta-analysis based on 29,017 children revealed that daily screen time increased from 1.4 hours pre-pandemic to 2.7 hours during the pandemic. (Plamondon et. al., 2023)

Screen use before the age of 2 resulted in significantly lower emotional scores and higher risk of conduct problems, learning problems, and difficulties with impulsivity and hyperactivity independent of excessive use. (Xiang, et. al., 2022)

Children with more than one hour of daily screen time prior to the start of Kindergarten were more likely to be vulnerable in all five developmental domains compared to children reporting up to one hour a day of screen time per day. (Kerai, et. al., 2022)

Children who engage in two or more hours per day are more likely to experience behavioral problems and have poorer vocabulary acquisition. (McArthur, Tough, and Madigan, 2022)

## Phones and watches

Cell phones that are brought to school will be housed in the office during the school day. If a student needs to contact his/her parent/guardian during the school day they must come to the office to use the office phone. Student use of the office phone is for valid reasons only. The use of recording devices are not allowed in bathrooms or locker rooms.

**Phone watches:** Students are allowed to wear these watches during school hours. Families will be expected to turn off the phone and message capabilities during school hours. If a family needs to get a message to a student during the school day, contact the school office.

**Speech development** *continued on pg 8*

## Medication

All medication for students must be administered through the elementary office. Students who need to take medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, during the school day must have the proper medication forms and signatures on file in the elementary office. This form is available in the school office as well as on the school webpage. All medication must come in the original packaging and can only be dispensed according to physician's order or package directions.



## Middle School – Back to school information

### Family Orientation Mon., Aug. 26

There will be an informational meeting for all CMS families with students in grades 5-8 on Monday, August 26 in the CMS Auditorium. Students will receive their school schedules during their grade level times listed on the right. In addition, families will learn more about: daily schedule and routine, behavior management, WIN time, CMS Handbook policies and more. After the meeting students can visit their lockers and

meet with their teachers. Please mark your calendars for the following times:

#### 5th grade families

5:30–6:30 pm

#### 6th–8th grade families

7:00–7:45 pm

*If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Schmidt at [hschmidt@cameron.k12.wi.us](mailto:hschmidt@cameron.k12.wi.us) or 715-458-5810 for assistance.*

MS PTO is hosting  
the first annual  
**Back-to-school  
Cookout Fundraiser**

**Monday, Aug. 26**

(orientation night)

**4:30-7:30**

*No need to rush and cook before getting to orientation. Join us!*

### 5–8 individual photos Wed., Aug. 28

Cahill Studios will take individual student pictures at the MS LMC on Wednesday, August 28 starting at 8:20 am. All students 5-8 will have their picture taken for our Student Information System. Cahill Studios will be sending you important picture day information from the following email address: [no-reply@imagequix.com](mailto:no-reply@imagequix.com) so keep a lookout! All galleries will be delivered to parents via email 2-5 business days after picture day. If you order a Package or a BYOP bundle within seven days of galleries going online, you'll receive a FREE Social Media Image so don't forget to order!

#### Picture retakes

If you are not able to get your picture taken on Wednesday, August 28. We will offer a picture retake day on Wednesday, October 2.

### Bussing and pick up

As busy as we all can be, keeping our children safe is our most important priority. Please enter the CMS parking lot slowly and cautiously. Things to remember to help keep our children safe:

- Stay out of the bus lane from 7:45–8:30 am and 2:30–3:30 pm as busses are dropping off/loading students.
- A reminder: Wisconsin State Law 346.505 reserves handicap parking spaces for people with disabilities.

If you are picking up your child(ren) from the middle school you will need to: park in a stall, walk to the middle school, and pick up your child(ren) in front of the middle school.



### Student schedules

Student schedules will be given out on August 26 at our Family Orientation meeting. Please keep in mind that your schedule may be subject to change as we balance classes, receive new students/withdraw students etc.

### Cameron Middle School hours and arrival time

Middle School doors open at 7:45 am. Students should not arrive before unless they are attending morning homework help in the IMC.

Breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m. Students not riding the bus to school need to arrive by 8:00 am. if they are planning to eat.

Class begins at 8:10 am. Students should be in their classrooms by 8:05 a.m. for the start of the school day. Students arriving after 8:10 am must report to the office with a note or call from a parent to sign in.

The end of school day is 3:26 p.m. The office hours are 7:30–4:00 when school begins.

## First day of school is Wed., Aug. 28

**Grade 5:** Families with a child in 5th grade will have the opportunity for a scheduled Parent/Teacher conference time with their child's homeroom teacher on this day to familiarize them with a new school setting. Please schedule a conference time using the Skyward Parent Portal. Sign-ups will open on Monday, August 12. Students will remain at home for the rest of the day after their conference. Please plan accordingly for these conferences.

*NOTE: Please remember to have your students' individual picture taken in the CMS LMC before leaving.*

**Grades 6-8:** Students in grades 6-8 will have a normal school day. Students will have an opportunity to pay fees, and take care of other school business. The purpose of the first student day is to help students feel more at ease with their surroundings at Cameron Middle School.

## PTO volunteers wanted

The Cameron Middle School is seeking volunteers for our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO is involved in sponsoring and assisting educational experiences that benefit the students and staff at Cameron Middle School. We are looking for volunteers to attend a few meetings during the school year and help plan activities to support the staff and students at CMS. Being involved in the PTO is for any person who is involved with the children of Cameron Middle School and who would like to actively participate in their school experience. Involvement in the PTO means you have the desire to share what you do best, when it works best for you! If you are interested in becoming a member please contact the office 715-458-5810.

## Early bird opportunity

Parents are encouraged to: complete the CMS permission form, update student demographics and emergency information, and pay lunch money prior to family orientation night to alleviate long lines. CMS office is open from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. Please call 715-458-5810 to make sure we are available.

## Personal electronics

Electronic devices (i.e. i-devices, cameras, headphones, laser pointers, etc.) are not allowed by students during the school day at CMS. If a student must have an electronic device at school they are to remain turned off and put away in the student's locker for the entire school day, unless the school principal has given prior authorization. Phone watches are allowed to be worn during school hours as long as all message and phone capabilities are turned off during school hours. Any violation of these guidelines will result in confiscation of the electronic device as described in the CMS Family Handbook. Students will have access to school-owned: desktop and laptop computers, i-pads, cameras, and other electronic devices with the direction and supervision of staff and used for educational purposes only.

## Medications at school

All medications for students must be administered through the MS office. Students who must take medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, during the school day must have the proper medication forms and signatures on file in the Middle School office. All medication must arrive at school in the original packaging and can only be dispensed according to physician's order or package directions.

## Tri. 1 important dates

### Wed., Aug. 28

5th grade P/T Conference (15 minutes with homeroom teacher). Sign-ups open on Mon., Aug. 12.

**6th–8th grade First full day of school** and individual pictures

### Mon., Sept. 2

Labor Day/ No School

### Fri., Oct. 11

Midterm Grades

### Wed., Nov. 6

Skate City Trip

### Thurs., Nov. 7

Parent Teacher Conferences  
12 pm–8 pm

## School-issued electronics

All students in grades 5-8 will be ensured a school-owned Chromebook for the 2024–2025 school year to complete school-assigned tasks. Students and families should read the Internet/Computer and Technology Acceptable Use Policy and will sign a form of understanding in order to obtain a school device. Neglect or misuse of school-owned electronics may result in loss of access to school electronic devices.

## High School – back to school information

### Returning student registration day

Returning students in grades 10–12 will have school registration on Wednesday, August 28. All returning students should stop in the high school office sometime between 8 am–3 pm to complete the following:

- Drop off completed school forms (signed signature sheet, if applicable free/reduced lunch form)
- Pay lunch money
- Pay \$5.00 class fee
- Pick up computer
- Put school supplies in their locker

### High school freshman and new student orientation Aug. 28

Incoming 9th grade students and students new to the high school will have orientation on Wednesday, August 28. Students should report to the high school commons by 8:15 am and orientation will be completed by 3:25 pm. Students should come with school supplies, money for their lunch account, completed signature sheet and class fee (\$5).

A variety of activities are

planned for the day to get students acclimated to the high school. Students will have the opportunity to find their locker and walk through their class schedule. Students will be served lunch and buses will be running.

### Aug. 29 is first day for 9–12 grade students

### HS new student registration

Families who are new to the Cameron School District and have a high school aged child(ren) are requested to stop by the high school office to pick up student registration materials. Ms. Wanink, the

high school counselor will meet with new students to get them scheduled prior to the start of school. Please contact the high school office (715) 458-5909 with any questions or to set up an appointment.

### Post secondary credit

Cameron High School continues to add options for high school students to take courses that will allow students to earn credits for either UW or the Technical School system before they graduate. Students and parents are encouraged to speak with Ms. Wanink to learn more about these opportunities.

### HS supplies

The following are recommended for students in all classes:

- \*Pencils/pens/highlighters
- \*Notebook paper
- \*Folders or three ring binders
- \*Students have access to their class schedules through their Skyward account. Students should have a folder and notebook for each class
- \*Students should have a basic calculator for their math classes. *The math department may recommend a more advanced graphing calculator for advanced math courses.*

### Athletic Season Passes

Season passes for athletic events are available at the high school office. Passes will also be sold at some sporting events. Prices are \$15 for students in grades K–12 and \$25 for adults. This pass will admit you to all home athletic events. Season passes are not good for WIAA tournament games.

### Work permits

The DWD has made changes to the Work Permit process. Permits are no longer available from the school. Parents are now able to get work permits online for children 14-16 years old at [dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit).

**Homecoming is the week of October 7.  
Watch the Comets on Friday, October 11 vs the Colfax Vikings.**



## Senior photos

Please have your senior picture taken soon if you haven't done so already. Senior pictures are due in November to be included in the yearbook.

## 2023–2024 yearbooks

Yearbooks will be delivered during the first week or two of school. Class of 2024 should pick up their copy from the HS office.

## HS new staff

**Mikayla Durand**, English Teacher

**Justice Groothousen**, Science Teacher

**Casidy Landry**, Business Teacher

## Dangers of passing a school bus when amber lights are flashing

Wisconsin State Patrol officials are reminding drivers that speeding up when approaching school buses with their amber lights flashing is dangerous.

"Flashing amber lights are a signal that the school bus is preparing to stop to pick up or drop off children, so drivers need to slow down, pay attention and proceed carefully. Drivers are allowed to pass a moving school bus with its flashing amber lights activated, but they must do so cautiously. Remember, the school bus is transporting our most precious commodity, and speeding up just

### Amber bus lights

*continued on pg. 8*

## State assessments for HS students

This year, in an effort to limit instructional disruptions, we will be administering most of the state assessments on the same day; Tuesday, March 25, 2025. More information will be sent out as we get closer to that date. Following is a list of state tests administered and grades being assessed:

**9th Grade** – Pre-ACT Secure (English, Writing, Reading, Science, and Math)

**10th Grade** – Pre-ACT Secure (English, Writing, Reading, Science, and Math) and Wisconsin Forward Exam (Social Studies)

**11th Grade** – ACT Plus Writing (English, Writing, Reading, Science, and Math)

Seniors will not have to report to school that day.

We have also been selected to give 17 year-olds the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Long-Term Trend assessment on math and reading. The test window for that assessment is March 17 to May 23, and we will communicate the exact date when we know it.

## Individual photographs

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, August 29. More information about ordering school pictures will be mailed to families. All students (even seniors) will have their pictures taken for use with the Skyward student management system.

## Trimester schedule

The HS operates on a trimester schedule. Trimester one ends on Nov. 22; trimester two ends on Mar. 6, 2025 and trimester three ends on June 4, 2025. The school day begins at 8:10 am and concludes at 3:26 pm.

## Direct admit to Universities of WI

Beginning this school year, Cameron HS will be participating in the Direct Admit Wisconsin program. Direct Admit Wisconsin is an initiative by the Universities of Wisconsin to proactively offer admission to qualifying high school students in between their junior and senior years of high school. Direct admission removes the traditional application process and instead uses data provided by the high school to admit students to universities. Participating UW universities each have their own GPA and course requirements. Students are matched with participating UW universities using progress towards graduation, whether they are on track to

complete the required credits for admission to the Universities of Wisconsin and their unweighted cumulative GPA. Currently, 10 out of the 13 University of Wisconsin schools are participating in the program. Students can opt out of this program if they wish. All student data is kept confidential throughout the course of this admissions program. If you have questions about the program, you can find information on the Universities of Wisconsin Direct Admit Wisconsin website ([www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions](http://www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions)) or call Mr. Rykal or Ms. Wanink in the high school office at (715) 458-4560.

## District information

### Speech development

*continued from pg. 3*

Most parents are aware that some of the content children view on screens is concerning or detrimental while other content can be valuable for learning or entertainment. What parents may not be aware of is what children are not doing while they are engaged in screen time.

Screen activities 'cost' children the opportunity to engage in conversation and developmentally-appropriate play with others. This means less time spent developing language, cognitive, and social skills, not to mention physical (motor)

skills if the screen time is passive as it often is.

The more screen time, the less social interaction. (Stiglic & Viner, 2019; Taheri, M. 2013; Ray & Jat, 2010; Bickman & Rich, 2006)

Screen time diminishes the quantity and quality of interactions between children and their parents, resulting in fewer opportunities for the child to practice and develop language. (Mustonen, Torppa, and Stolt, 2022)

Screen use by children ages 3-5 can impact brain development in areas linked to language development, reading skills, and social skills such as complex memory encod-

ing, empathy, and understanding facial and emotional expressions. (Hutton, et. al., 2022)

Screen time during critical periods of development inhibits the development of neuronal social networks. (Heffler, et. al., 2020; Heffler & Oestreicher, 2016; Slobodin, Heffler, and Davidovitch, 2019)

Screens are so much a part of our daily lives now. As parents and educators, we wish to give children the very best start. With that in mind, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following screen time guidelines:

0-18 months: No screens

18-24 months: Less than one hour

2-5 years: One hour max

## Parents/Guardians verify Skyward information

All families are requested to sign into Skyward Family Access prior to August 28 and verify their students information by clicking on the 2024–2025 Student Verification tab. This will guide you through verifying your students information and notify your students school office that your information is correct.

- Families can update student information and Skylert information during the school year by

clicking on those tabs in Skyward Family Access. Under the Student Information tab you can make changes to your address, phone number, emergency contacts, or health information by clicking on the request changes button in the upper right hand corner.

- Families are able to check their student's lunch balance and any unpaid fees/ fines.

*NOTE: If your child becomes ill or gets hurt at school, we will contact the person(s) you have provided. If no one can be reached, office personnel will use their discretion to handle the emergency situation. All student and family information is housed in Skyward which parents have access to. Please keep your information updated in Skyward (phone number, parents' work location and phone number, emergency contacts etc.). If you are unsure of how to make those changes, please call the office and staff will assist you.*

### Amber bus lights

*continued from pg. 7*

to get around the bus before the red lights are turned on is dangerous for all," says State Patrol Lt. Karl Mittelstadt. "Once the bus displays flashing red warning lights, drivers both in front of and behind the bus must stop at least 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the red lights are turned off or the bus resumes travel. Drivers must stop even if the red stop-sign arm on the side of the bus is not extended."

A citation for illegally passing a school bus costs a minimum of \$326.50 and adds four demerit points on a driver's license. When they are passed illegally, school bus drivers are authorized to report the violator to a law enforcement agency and a citation may be issued.

A WisDOT You Tube video <https://youtu.be/IlpXv7ChbKk> explains the new amber light regulation and what drivers should do when approaching school buses.

## Bus drivers needed

*We are looking to hire some bus drivers!*

For details visit [www.cameron.k12.wi.us](http://www.cameron.k12.wi.us), click on Employment Opportunities.



# Legal Notices

1. School districts are required to provide an accommodation of a student's religious beliefs. Please call Joe Leschisin, District Administrator, (715) 458-4560, if you believe a religious accommodation is needed.

2. The school district must notify students each year about electronic paging or two-way communication devices. It is the policy of the School District of Cameron that they are not allowed.

3. Human growth and development instruction curriculum is available, and you, as a parent, may request an outline and inspect the material. Contact the building principal.

4. Prior to October 1st of each year, 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be made aware of the Youth Options for attending post-secondary classes while a high school student. Contact Cameron High School Counselor, Chloe Wanick, (715) 458-4560.

5. As parents, you have a right to curriculum modification allowed by state statute 118.15 (1) (d). Contact the building principal for clarification.

6. Our special education policy is printed elsewhere in this newsletter, as required by law. Contact the Director of Special Education, Dennis Gunnick, (715) 458-4560, for specific questions.

7. School districts such as Cameron have adopted locker search policies, and the Board retains ownership and possession/ control of all student lockers. Each student is notified that their locker may be searched without the consent of the student and without a search warrant.

8. Student attendance policies are made available in student handbooks. Good attendance is a significant prediction of success.

**Nondiscrimination** - It is the policy of the School District of Cameron that no person, on the basis of color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13, WI State Statutes may be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in activities.

This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, national origin, color), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap), and American Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability).

The District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. However, a formal complaint resolution procedure is available to address allegations of violations of the policy in the School District of Cameron.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: District Administrator Joe Leschisin, School District of Cameron, 700 S. 1st St., Cameron, WI 54822, (715) 458-4560.

Inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities, should be

directed to District Administrator Joe Leschisin, School District of Cameron, 700 S. 1st St., Cameron, WI 54822, (715) 458-4560.

## ANNUAL NOTICE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations

- living in emergency or transitional shelters

- abandoned in hospitals

- living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

- migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children or youth who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Cameron School District provides the following assurances to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied homeless youth:

- The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school, even if unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (e.g., academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation) or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.

- Homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and have full and equal educational and related opportunities.

- Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children including special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.

- Immediate enrollment and transportation to the school of origin. "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.

- Written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal and receive prompt resolution of such decisions.

Please contact , homeless liaison for the Cameron School District, at (715) 458-5600 or email [jleschisin@cameron.k12.wi.us](mailto:jleschisin@cameron.k12.wi.us) for additional information about the rights and services described above.

**Access to Public Records** - Section 19.34(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that each

authority adopt, prominently display, and make available for inspection and copying at its offices, for guidance of the public, a notice containing a description of its organization. Per Wisconsin Statute 19.35 the public is also notified from whom and the methods whereby, the public may obtain information and access records in the custody of the district, make requests for records, or obtain copies of records, and the cost thereof.

The School District of Cameron Board of Education has designated the District Administrator as the legal custodian of the public records and property of the school district. The public may obtain information and access to records, make requests for records, or obtain copies of records in the custody of the school district at the following place and time: School District of Cameron, Joe Leschisin, District Administrator, 700 S. 1st St., Cameron, WI 54822. Telephone (715) 458-4560 (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on regular work days). Be it further noticed per 19.35(3)(c) a fee will be charged for research, not to exceed the actual and necessary costs of search, copying, and transcription unless a fee is otherwise specifically established by law.

## Asbestos Notification (NEW)

In compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), this is notice that the Cameron School District has an Asbestos Management Plan at the school district office. The plan is available for inspection by the public, parents, and district employees. The district performs six month periodic surveillance of asbestos in March and September and full re-inspections every three years. For more information please contact the district office.

**Code of Conduct Policy** - The Code of Conduct describes desired student behaviors that would contribute to a safe and pleasant environment. A student that exhibits appropriate behavior could be described as: courteous, honest, respectful, responsible, courageous, etc. Behavior and language which are acceptable result in an environment which is safe, minimizes stress, and maximizes the opportunity for learning. On the other hand, behavior which does not create an appropriate, pleasant environment is not acceptable. Examples of unacceptable behavior include: aggressive behavior which endangers oneself or others, behavior or language which is offensive or disruptive to the classroom or activity, the possession and / or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, the possession of beepers, communication devices, weapons, or look-a-likes.

Behaviors which are not acceptable are initially dealt with by the teacher or supervisor in the area. Further, such behaviors may result in referral to school officials for additional disciplinary action. Discipline may include, but is not limited to: talking with the student, parental contact, detention, suspension from the activity or from school for a period of time, expulsion, and/or any combination of these. The ultimate objective of discipline is the restoration of a relationship that allows for a safe, pleasant environment for everyone. An exception exists for the weapons clause which allows for the instruction of hunter's safety under the direction of properly trained instructors. A more detailed summary of the Code of Conduct Policy is

## District information

printed in the Student Handbook which will be issued as students begin school this year. The Code of Conduct Policy as adopted by the Board of Education is available for review by contacting the District Office at 458-4560.

**Student Records** - The District maintains records for each student attending school in the District. State and Federal law requires that the maintenance of such records assure confidentiality. Accordingly, the following shall apply in the District.

- An adult student, or the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to inspect, review and obtain copies of the student's school records upon request in accordance with established District procedures. The District will respond to such requests without unnecessary delay and in no case more than 15 days after the request is made. Copies of the District's student records procedures are available upon request at the District Office, 700 S. 1st St., Cameron, WI 54822. The regular office hours are 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.
- An adult student, or the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to request the amendment of the student's school records if he/she believes the records are inaccurate or misleading. Complaints regarding the content of student records may be made in accordance with established District procedures. Copies of the District's procedures are available upon request as outlined above.
- An adult student, or the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor student, has the right to consent to the disclosure of information contained in the student's school records, except to the extent that state and federal law authorize disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials determined to have legitimate educational or safety interests in the records.

A "school official" is a person employed by the District who is required by the Department of Public Instruction to hold a license; a person employed by or working on behalf of the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and police-school liaison personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a "legitimate educational or safety interest" if the official needs to review a student record in order to fulfill his/her professional or District responsibility. The District shall transfer a student's records to another school or school district without consent upon request in accordance with state law. District procedures outline the specific reasons for disclosure without consent and are available upon request as outlined above. The District is required by law to make student records available to "law enforcement officers who are individually designated by the school board."

- An adult student, or the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor student has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education for alleged District noncompliance with federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605. Further, the Board of Education has designated the following student record information as directory data: student's name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received and name of school most recently previously attended by the student. This information may be disclosed to any person UNLESS the adult student, or parent/guardian or guardian ad litem of a minor student informs the school that all or any part of the directory data may not be released without the prior consent of the adult student, parent/guardian or guardian ad litem. The District will not release directory data earlier than two weeks (14 days) after the opening of school or receipt of this notice.

**The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**, a Federal law, requires that the School District of Cameron, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight & height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing. The District has designated the following information as

directory information:

Student's name; Address; Telephone listing; Date & place of birth; Electronic mail address; Participation in officially recognized activities & sports; Weight and height of members of athletic teams; Degrees, honors and awards received; photograph; Most recent educational agency or institution attended; Website and newsletter pictures; Major field of study; Dates of attendance; and Grade level.

**Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools** - The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board, a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW,



Washington, DC 20202-4605.

- Required Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) - PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family
3. Sex behavior or attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility

- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The School District of Cameron has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. mail or e-mail, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

## Sponsor a child

The Comet Care Pack Program is providing another year of service to Cameron School students! The Comet Care Pack is a program that provides kid-friendly, non-perishable food for Cameron School students at no cost to them. Nutritious items from a variety of food groups will be distributed at the end of each school week to students in the Cameron School District. Last school year we were able to serve over 60 students.

We will again be ordering the food from Feed My People Food Bank, located in Eau Claire. It takes approximately \$125.00 per year to provide a child with a weekly Comet Care Pack.

Thank you to everyone who made this program become a reality. Your support is greatly appreciated. We will be starting the program again this fall and any

- Collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.

- Administration of any protested information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.

- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

### Notice to Parents

Teacher Qualifications - School districts that receive federal Title I program funds are required by the No Child Left Behind Act to notify parents that they may request, and the district will provide to parents on request and in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including the following:

- whether the teacher has met state licensing criteria for the grade level(s) and subject area(s) taught

- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status through which state licensing criteria have been waived

- the undergraduate degree major of the teacher, and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, including the field of discipline of the certification or degree

- if the child is provided services by parapro-



donations will help to make this a sustainable program.

### I'd like to help the Comet Care Pack program:

☐ I'll sponsor a child (\$125)

Donations in any amount will be used to help support a child in need of this program. *Thank you!*

Please send donation (check made out to Living Water Church, note Comet Care Pack in memo) to:

Comet Care Pack c/o Living Water Church; 411 N. 1st St.; Cameron, WI 54822.

fessionals, their qualifications.

In the School District of Cameron, currently 100% of the certified teaching staff meet state licensing criteria. Parents with questions about their child(ren)'s teachers may direct those questions to:

Mr. Joe Leschisin, District Administrator, School District of Cameron, PO Box 378, Cameron, WI 54822

**Annual Notice of Bloodborne Pathogen Standard Compliance & Exposure Control** - In accordance with the bloodborne pathogen standard (1916.1030), the School District of Cameron hereby serves notice to all interested parties that the school district compliance and control plan for bloodborne pathogens is available for inspection and review at the school district office during the regular business hours (8:00 am-4:00 pm).

**Registration and Fee Payment** - New students in the district should register prior to the start of the school year. Students in grades K-4 register at the Elementary School, students in grades 5-8 register at the Middle School, and students in grades 9-12 register at the High School. This will assist in orientation and make it possible to provide a schedule of classes for the first day.

**Drug-Free—Tobacco-Free** - The School District of Cameron in accordance with Federal and State laws with this publication provides notice that the school premises are drug free and tobacco free. The premises are smoke free



## District information

and there is to be no smoking at any of the programs or events sponsored by the schools. These regulations apply to all public schools and to any school sponsored programs or activities, whether on or off school property. Wisconsin law states that minors can be fined for possession.

**District Medication Policy** - State Law and School Board Policy provide that school personnel may administer medication to students under certain conditions.

- For drugs sold over the counter without a doctor's prescription, we **MUST** have written approval from the parent/guardian.
- For drugs regarding a doctor's prescription, we **MUST** have written instructions from the doctor **AND** written consent from the parent/guardian.

Medicines **MUST** be sent to school in their original container, not in baggies, etc. If your child will need to have medicine administered during school hours, please call the school to request a form. Medicine cannot be administered without proper forms being on file in the office.

**Suicide Prevention** - The District informs its staff annually of the resources and services available from the Department of Public Instruction and other sources regarding suicide prevention.

**Student Bullying** - The District has adopted a policy prohibiting bullying by students in accordance with section 118.46(2) of the state statutes. Copies of the policy will be given to students and sent to parents. A copy of the policy is available by request from the District Office.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CAMERON ANNUAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

## Social Media keeps you informed... and might provide a few giggles :)

We encourage our parents and community to follow us and "Like" us on Facebook. While Facebook helps us get messages out to everyone in a much more timely manner and also helps us to promote many more student activities, awards and other events throughout the school year. You can also follow us on Instagram and Twitter #CameronComets.

## #CameronComets

Upon request, the Cameron School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made.

Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides.

Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Dennis Gunnick, Director of Special Education, Cameron School District, at 715-458-4560 or by writing him at P.O. Box 378, Cameron, WI 54822.

### CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH CHILD FIND ACTIVITIES

Cameron School District is required to locate, identify, and evaluate all children, with disabilities, including children with disabilities attending private schools in the school district, and homeless children. The process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities is known as child find. The school district has a special education screening program to locate and screen all children with suspected disabilities who are residents of the district and who have not graduated from high school. This notice informs parents of the records the school district will develop and maintain as part of its child find activities. This notice also informs parents of their rights regarding any records developed.

The school district gathers personally identifiable information on any child who participates in child find activities. Parents, teachers, and other professionals provide information to the school related to the child's academic performance, behavior, and health. This information is used to determine whether the child needs special education services. Personally identifiable information directly related to a child and maintained by the school is a pupil record. Pupil records include records maintained in any way including, but not limited to, computer storage media, video and audiotape, film, microfilm, and microfiche. Records maintained for personal use by a teacher and not available to others and records available only to persons involved in the psychological treatment of a

child are not pupil records.

The school district maintains several classes of pupil records.

- "Progress records" include grades, courses the child has taken, the child's attendance record, immunization records, required lead screening records, and records of school extra-curricular activities. Progress records must be maintained for at least five years after the child ceases to be enrolled.
  - "Behavioral records" include such records as psychological tests, personality evaluations, records of conversations, written statements relating specifically to the pupil's behavior, tests relating specifically to achievement or measurement of ability, physical health records other than immunization and lead screening records, law enforcement officers' records, and other pupil records that are not "progress records." Law enforcement officers' records are maintained separately from other pupil records. Behavioral records may be maintained for no longer than one year after the child graduates or otherwise ceases to be enrolled, unless the parent specifies in writing that the records may be maintained for a longer period of time. The school district informs parents when pupil records are no longer needed to provide special education. At the request of the child's parents, the school district destroys the information that is no longer needed.
  - "Directory data" includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received, and the name of the school most recently previously attended by the student.
  - "Pupil physical health records" include basic health information about a pupil, including the pupil's immunization records, an emergency medical card, a log of first aid and medicine administered to the pupil, an athletic permit card, a record concerning the pupil's ability to participate in an education program, any required lead screening records, the results of any routine screening test, such as for hearing, vision or scoliosis, and any follow-up to the test, and any other basic health information, as determined by the state superintendent. Any pupil record relating to a pupil's physical health that is not a pupil physical health record is treated as a patient health care record under sections 146.81 to 146.84, Wisconsin Statutes. Any pupil record concerning HIV testing is treated as provided under section 252.15, Wisconsin Statutes.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and section 118.125, Wisconsin Statutes, afford parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") the following rights with respect to education records:
- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of receipt of the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or district administrator a written request that identifies the records(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The school district will comply with the request

without unnecessary delay and before any meeting about an individualized education program, or any due process hearing, and in no case more than 45 days after the request has been made. If any record includes information on more than one child, the parents of those children have the right to inspect and review only the information about their child or to be informed of that specific information. Upon request, the school district will give a parent or eligible student a copy of the progress records and a copy of the behavioral records. Upon request, the school district will give the parent or eligible student a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the district for special education. The school district will respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records. A representative of the parent may inspect and review the records.

- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Cameron School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent. The exceptions are stated in 34 CFR 99.31, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations; Sec. 9528, PL107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and section 118.125(2)(a) to (m) and sub. (2m), Wisconsin Statutes. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosures to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in

## Comet Club Openings

The Comet Club program is designed to provide a safe, supervised, fun, and enriching environment before and after school for children in grades pre-K through 6th grade. The program is available from 6:00–8:00 am and 3:15–5:30 pm during school days and from 6:00 am–5:30 pm on days that school is not in session (M–F). Comet Club is also available for Wrap-Around care for All Aboard PreK students. The hours of care for the Wrap-Around program are

8:00–12:00 pm and 11:00 am–3:00 pm (opposite of their All Aboard session). If you need childcare before and/or after school, your child may attend the before and after school Comet Club program.

Registration materials for Comet Club will be sent out to all families via Skyward in the coming days. If you have specific questions prior to this time, please email Kelsey Winkler at [kwinkler@cameron.k12.wi.us](mailto:kwinkler@cameron.k12.wi.us).

performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Also the district discloses "directory data" without consent, unless the parent notifies the district that it may not be released without prior parental consent.

- The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-4605.

**Reye's (Ryes) syndrome** is a rare but serious condition that causes swelling in the liver and brain. Reye's syndrome most often affects children and teenagers recovering from a viral infection, most commonly the flu or chickenpox. Aspirin has been linked with Reye's syndrome, so use caution when giving aspirin to children or teenagers. Though aspirin is approved for use in children older than age 2, children and teenagers recovering from chickenpox or flu-like symptoms should NEVER take aspirin.

The signs and symptoms of Reye's syndrome typically appear about three to five days after the onset of a viral infection, such as the flu (influenza) or chickenpox, or an upper respiratory infection, such as a cold. Initial signs and symptoms may include continuous vomiting, lethargy, and unusual sleepiness. As the condition progresses, signs and symptoms may become more serious, including: irritable, aggressive or irrational behavior, seizures, weakness, paralysis of arms and legs, confusion, disorientation or hallucinations. These symptoms require emergency treatment. Early diagnosis and treatment of Reye's syndrome can save a child's life. If you suspect that your child has Reye's syndrome, it's important to act quickly.

Always check the label before you give your child medication, including over-the-counter products and alternative or herbal remedies. Aspirin can show up in unexpected places, such as Alka-Seltzer and Pepto-Bismol. Some-

times aspirin goes by other names, too, such as: acetylsalicylic acid, acetylsalicylate, salicylic acid, and salicylate. If your child has the flu, chickenpox or another viral illness, use other medications—such as acetaminophen (Tylenol, others), ibuprofen (Advil, Children's Motrin, Motrin IB, others) or naproxen (Aleve)—to reduce high fever or relieve pain.

If you have questions regarding the use of aspirin for your child contact your healthcare provider. If suspect your child has Reye's Syndrome he/she requires immediate medical care.

**Meningococcal Disease** Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection that can cause severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or a serious blood infection (meningococcemia). Meningococcal disease is often misdiagnosed as something less serious because early symptoms are similar to common viral illnesses. Symptoms may include: high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, vomiting, sensitivity to light, nausea, confusion, rash and fatigue. Symptoms may develop rapidly or over several days. The disease can be fatal in as little as a few hours. Of those that survive 20 percent will have permanent disabilities, including brain damage, loss of limbs, and deafness. Meningococcal disease is spread through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from infected persons. Increased risk of exposure is caused by activities such as kissing, sharing drinks, or living in the same house as a sick person.

Teenagers and college students are at increased risk because of their lifestyle, and account for nearly 30 percent of the 4,000 cases in the United States each year. Up to 83 percent of the cases among teens and college students may potentially be prevented by immunization, the most effective way to prevent the disease. The CDC and other leading health organizations recommend that all 11–12 year olds should be vaccinated with meningococcal conjugate vaccine. A booster shot is recommended at age 16 to continue to protect through the teenage years. If a teenager has missed getting the vaccine, the parents should ask their healthcare provider about getting it now.

Keeping up to date on the meningococcal vaccine is the best way to prevent illness. Students should also get plenty of rest, eat a healthy diet, and avoid sharing drinks.

Join us for the  
**Comet  
Glow Run**  
on Friday, Sept. 27



## Food Service information

The school board approved Universal Free Breakfast! Breakfast will be served at no charge to all students, regardless of their household income. Lunch will be paid based on eligibility.

### Breakfast

**Student:** FREE universally  
**Adult:** \$2.75 • **Milk only:** \$0.40

Elementary served in cafeteria at 7:45 am

Middle school served in MS cafeteria at 7:45 am

High school served in HS cafeteria between 1st and 2nd hours

### Lunch

**Student:**  
 Reduced: \$0.40 ES: \$2.75  
 MS: \$2.95 HS: \$3.05

**Adult:** \$4.65

**Milk only:** \$0.40 • **Ala carte:** \$0.25–\$2.00

MS and HS will be offering two or more reimbursable meal choices daily. Milk only at any grade level during service time is an ala carte purchase (including those qualifying for free or reduced). Purchasing just milk with a meal brought from home or extra milk does not meet the USDA requirement for a school and needs to be purchased.

Middle and High School students wanting to purchase items in addition to the meal offered at breakfast will be charged a separate (ala carte) price for those purchases. An ala carte permission slip must also be signed and turned in to use the funds on the account.

**School breakfast is healthy,** convenient, and helps students do well in school. Research shows that eating breakfast leads to:

- *Improved academic performance, focus and behavior*
- *High scores on standardized tests*
- *Reduced rates of nurse visits*

## 4K–4th grade Elementary WI School Day Milk program

Cameron School District offers an elementary milk break under the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program to Elementary students 4K–4th grade in the classroom outside the breakfast and lunch schedule during the school day. Milk under this program is \$0.40/carton and is drawn from the student's meal account each day they receive milk. A child is entitled to one milk/day under this program. (Anyone qualifying for free or reduced rate lunch will qualify for free WSDMP).

4K Wrap-Around students are encouraged to fill out a meal application to see if they qualify for Free or Reduced rate meals and/or Free Wisconsin School Day Milk Program.

**4K Milk Break:** Full year \$54.80 or families can choose to pre-pay monthly.

**K-4th grade Milk Break:** Full year \$68.40 or families can choose to pre-pay monthly.

**Payment procedures** The food service operates on a pre-payment system through Skyward. We ask that you pre-pay and maintain a positive balance in the meal account. Students will not be allowed to use other student's lunch numbers. Payments can be made in any school office or with a credit card. Parents are able to monitor meal accounts through Family Access if they wish or on-line at [www.cameron.k12.wi.us](http://www.cameron.k12.wi.us).

A Food Service information packet including Free and Reduced Applications, how to apply, frequently asked questions, menu, ala carte permissions slip and other pertinent food service information will be mailed prior to the start of the school year.

\*Please note: if you qualified for free or reduced rate meals last school year and feel you qualify again this year a new application needs to be

## FREE breakfast for ALL students during the school year.

filled out and returned to the school for processing within 30 school days (by Oct. 14). However, if you received a letter from the Food Service department stating that you qualified electronically for free or reduced rate meals through Direct Certification a paper application is not necessary.

Free and reduced meal applications, menus and other food service information can be found on the website [www.cameron.k12.wi.us](http://www.cameron.k12.wi.us) or by calling the Food Service office at 715-458-5821.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or **email:** [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# Cameron School District Calendar • 2024–2025

## AUGUST

M	T	W	Th	F
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28*	29*	30*

## SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

## OCTOBER

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

## NOVEMBER

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	<22>
25	26	27	28	29

## DECEMBER

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

## JANUARY

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

## FEBRUARY

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

## MARCH

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	<6>	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

## APRIL

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

## MAY

M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23**
26	27	28	29	30

## JUNE

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	<4>	5	



## CODES

Inservice Day	[ ]	K-12 Conference Day	[ ]
Vacation Days	[ ]	Elementary Inservice Day	[ ]
*Summer School		End of Trimester	< >

\*\*HS Graduation - May 23, 2025

## GRADING PERIODS

1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester	11/22/24
2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester	3/6/25
3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester	6/4/25

## NOTES:

Parent /Teacher Conferences Nov. 7, Feb. 6 (Noon – 8 pm) • No School for all students.

Elementary Inservice Days Nov. 6 and Feb. 5: No School for students in PreK–4.

Snow make-up: First five days do not need to be made up for students.

Beyond that, make up days would begin on June 5 and follow.

## School District of Cameron

700 S. First St.  
PO Box 378  
Cameron, WI 54822

Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Cameron, WI 54822  
Permit No. 28

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 2024-2025 Back to School Issue

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

ES

**All Aboard-Gr. 4 Aug. 28**

**Welcome Day** (schedule 20 min. meeting);

**Aug. 29 Reg. day** (All board Sept. 3)

MS

**Gr. 5 Aug. 28** (schedule 15 min. meeting);

**Gr. 6-8 Aug. 28 Reg. day**

HS

**Gr. 9 Aug. 28 Orientation all day**

**Gr. 10-12 Aug. 28** (stop in for business only); **Aug. 29 Reg. day**

## Cameron Box Holder

*Our school, where staff, students excel... parents and community care.*

### Referendum updates

*continued from front*

### Last year's property tax increase was unrelated to the April referendum.

It is important to understand the school district tax increase in Cameron this past year was not a result of the April 2023 referendum. For the 2023-24 school year, the District levied \$2,181,040 for debt

payments. This compared to the \$2,184,348 that was levied in the previous year. The District's debt payment remained flat and, thus, played no role whatsoever in the increased taxes.

### Why did taxes increase?

The tax increase was 100% the result of the State's 2023-25 biennial budget. Districts, such as Cameron, who were levying \$10,000 per student in 2022-23, were increased to \$11,000 starting in 2023-24. Why? The Wisconsin Legislature froze increases in the previous biennial budget because of the Federal money that was being provided to public schools for COVID response. Districts across the state, including Cameron, used this COVID funding to make ends meet within their budgets and this re-

sulted in a funding cliff for public education in Wisconsin. The \$1,000 per pupil increase was provided by the state to fill this budget gap. This was the largest such increase since the Revenue Limits went into effect in 1993 and was the cause for the tax increase.

### Cameron's per pupil funding is far below our neighboring districts.

Despite the recent per student increase to \$11,000, our district is still funded at a much lower level than neighboring districts. The following statistics show amounts collected by other area school districts for the 2023-24 school year:

Cumberland = \$12,480.78  
Chetek/Weyerhaeuser = \$12,196.34  
Rice Lake = \$11,951.60  
Barron = \$11,721.81  
Cameron = \$11,000.00

### 1st Home Athletic Events

**Football Game** vs Barron •

Aug. 23

**Volleyball Match** vs. Ladysmith

• Thurs., Sept. 19

**Cross Country Meet** vs. Multiple

Schools • Thurs., Sept. 12