
August 2018 Newsletter

Novak Elementary

401 29th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302

<https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/school/novak/>

Ph: 319-447-3300



From the Principal

Dear Families,

What a great start to the 2018-2019 School Year! We are excited to welcome our returning families and anxious to get to know our new families.

Since we are about a week into the school year, many of you may have already attended parent meetings. For our early childhood families, you were able to meet your child's teachers through a home visit. Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to sign up for Seesaw. All of our teachers use this tool to communicate with families. It's a little bit like a protected Facebook for the classroom. Students and teachers post pictures and messages about classroom activities. Teachers can grant individual permissions for families to only see posts from their own children. You can learn more about Seesaw by watching this short video. [Introduction to Seesaw](#)

In addition to Seesaw, I invite you to follow Novak on Facebook and Twitter. Facebook is just *Novak Elementary* and Twitter is @Novakelem

A few changes to watch for this year include different state-required assessments and changes in the report card. For the past four years we have been taking a state reading test called FAST. This is for ECBP, kindergarten, and first through fifth grade. This year we are adding another part to the reading test, as well as a math test. Due to the addition of these state-required assessments, we are discontinuing some other exams, such as NWEA reading and math for second, third and fourth grade. Your child's teacher will explain the assessment changes at conferences.

Last spring we let you know that Linn-Mar is moving from trimesters to quarters for grading purposes. This means that you will receive a report card for your child in January and May. We will still have conferences in October and February.

At the end of last year, the Building Leadership Team created our school mantra: *Seek challenges, choose to grow*. All staff promote a growth mindset with children. We believe that all children are capable of learning at high levels with hard work and persistence. When a child is heard to say, "I can't do it", an adult responds with, "You can't do it, YET."

During the days leading up to the first day of school, the staff were busy getting ready to welcome all the children back to Novak. Our focus this year is "learn their story". We believe that all children and adults have a story that makes them unique. Learning more about each other helps us to work together more effectively.

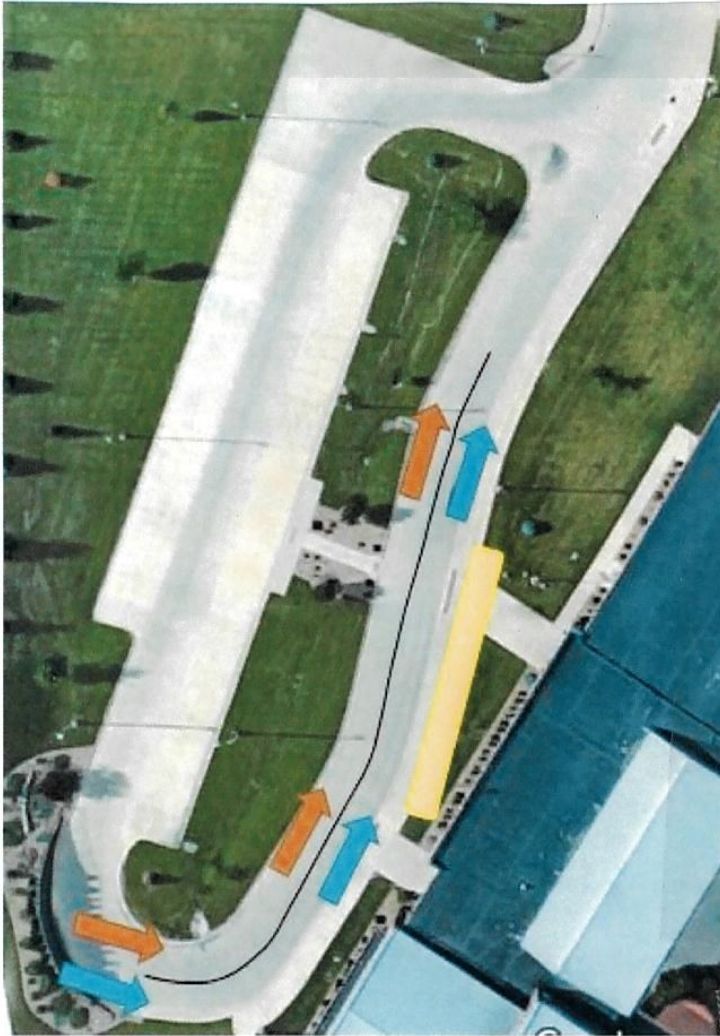
We look forward to getting to know each of your families better this year. Please contact me with any questions, concerns, or just good news.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Donnell

Novak Families,

Please see images below that show our morning drop-off and afternoon pickup procedures. We appreciate your help and cooperation when dropping off or picking up your student. Please remember that the south lot and pick-up lane is only for staff and buses. Thank you.






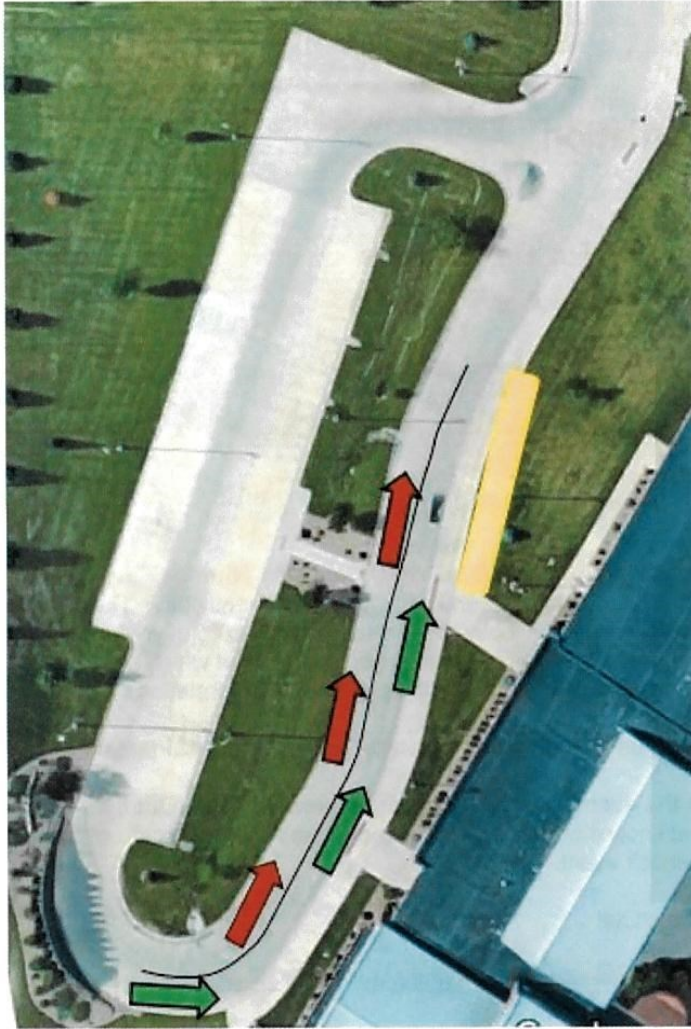
Morning Drop-Off:

The cones designate two separate lanes during morning drop-off. The inside land (nearest the grassy island) is only for those driving through and leaving the Novak lot. The outside land (nearest Novak) serves only as the drop-off lane. Please see the diagram.

Please remember that once in the drop-off lane, there is no leaving the vehicle, no passing and your student needs to exit when your car is in the designated drop-off zone.

Key:

-  Exit Lane Only (No dropping off of students)
-  Drop-off Lane Only (please stay in line, do not exit your vehicle and no passing)
-  Drop-off Zone (once your car is alongside this highlighted area, students exit)



Afternoon Pick-Up:

There are only two designated lanes when picking up students after school. This limits traffic driving through the center lane. We understand this may delay your departure, but it is necessary to ensure the safety of our students.

Please remember you should not park or exit your vehicle at any time during afternoon pick-up. Our staff will help assist your student getting in your vehicle.

Key:



Lane #1



Lane #2



Dividing Cones



Student Loading Zone

Novak Social Media Links

We have several places we share information on social media. Please use these links to connect with Novak.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Novak-Elementary-2035236950090900/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/novakelem?lang=en>



Linn-Mar Emergency / Weather Alerts

To receive text alerts from Linn-Mar Community School District please go this link and sign up. You will receive alerts regarding emergencies, early outs, etc.

<https://www.linmar.k12.ia.us/district/cancellations-and-delays/>

You may sign up for all district alerts or alerts for individual schools. Weather delays, early outs and cancellations are also on local t.v. and radio stations, as well as the Linn-Mar website.

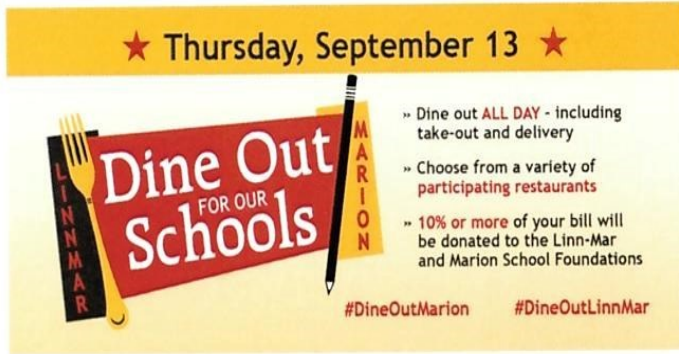
Calendar of Events

- 8/30 - 3rd Grade Parent Meeting 5:30 pm
- 8/30 - 5th Grade Parent Meeting 6:15 pm
- 9/3 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day**
- 9/5 - NO SCHOOL - ECBP/LL
- 9/6 - Volunteer Workshop 8-10 am
- 9/6 - 1st Grade Parent Meeting - 5:30 pm
- 9/6 - 4th Grade Parent Meeting - 6:15 pm
- 9/7 - School Pictures
- 9/11 - PTO Grandparents' Day 7:00 am
- 9/11 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
- 9/13 - Volunteer Workshop 8-10 am
- 9/13 - Volunteer Orientation 9:00 am
- 9/18 - Stride with Pride
- 9/18 - PTO Ice Cream Social
- 10/3 - NO SCHOOL ECBP/LL



Dine Out For Our Schools - September 13th

Visit www.linnmarfoundation.org or Linn-Mar Foundation Facebook page for dining locations



Skip the kitchen and join us for a community-wide Dine Out For Our Schools event on Thursday, September 13th. Dining options to choose from all day, and includes dine-in, takeout and delivery!

10% - 20% of your total bill will be donated back to the schools. Proceeds will be directed to the Linn-Mar and Marion School Foundations which benefit K-12 students in the two school districts.

We launched our Dine Out program last academic year and it has been a great success! Thank you for Dining Out for the kids!

Part-Time Accountant/Administrative Assistant

The Linn-Mar School Foundation is seeking a part-time accounting and administrative professional to join our non-profit organization. The Foundation, established in 1985, is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which raises private funds for public education to benefit the Linn-Mar Community School District. This position provides accounting and administrative support to the Executive Director and Foundation Board of Directors.

It is a great opportunity for someone who is interested supporting our non-profit mission of helping enhance educational excellence in the Linn-Mar Community School District.

[Full job description - Apply today!](#)

[Job description link](#)

<https://www.linnmarfoundation.org/home/part-time-accountant-position/>

Shelley Woods
Executive Director
Linn-Mar School Foundation
319.730.3638 direct
linnmarfoundation.org



We are happy to have all of our Novak students and families back for another school year! Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions!

319-447-3300

