




First Day of School: Tuesday, September 3rd

Breakfast is available daily starting at 7:30. (Use entrance I, from playground.) Morning recess on the playground is 7:30 until 7:50 (West playground). Students must be in the classroom and ready to learn at 8:00.

Please remember that all absences need to be called into the Spence office at 608-789-7773. Illness or absence reports only given to classroom teachers may not be relayed to our attendance system.

**The Place to Succeed!
Every Student
Every Day**

 @SpenceElementarySchool

Hello Spence Families!

I hope you have had a fun-filled summer. It will be wonderful to have all the students back in the building soon. This newsletter includes information that will help you and your children get off to a great start this year. We continue to work on growing our positive and supportive culture. This year's theme is "Under the Sea." Let's get ready to swim together as the amazing "school" of Mustang seahorses that we are! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Eide
Spence Elementary Principal
deide@lacrossesd.org
608-789-7773



This year, our PBIS team has turned our Mighty Mustang, Spencer, into a SEAHORSE! We will incorporate an UNDER THE SEA and OCEAN theme into activities throughout the school year.

AUGUST

- 27 – School Picture Day
- 27 – Open House 5pm-6pm

SEPTEMBER

- 2 – Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
- 3 – First Day of School, K-5
- 3-4 – 4K Orientations, by appointment
- 5 – First Day of School, 4K AM & PM
- 27 – NO SCHOOL



ANNUAL UPDATE

Every family needs to complete the Annual Student Information Verification online by logging into Skyward Family Access. Once logged in, you will be able to verify the information we have in our system. This will need to be completed separately for each student. If the student has two households, each household should update their own information. Complete instructions are available on the Spence website under Information Verification.

We cannot assign your student's homeroom teacher until this information update has been completed.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH



SCHOOL PICTURE TIMESLOTS

Tuesday, August 27 • Spence Gymnasium

All Spence Students 4K through 5th

Last Names A through G: 1pm – 2pm

Last Names H through N: 2pm – 3pm

Last Names O through Z: 3pm – 4pm

To avoid long lines, please make every attempt to have your student's photo taken during the assigned timeslot in the afternoon. If this is not possible, you may visit the Spence gym between 4pm and 6pm on August 27 for a photo.

GRADES K through 5 - SEE YOUR CLASSROOM

Tuesday, August 27 • 5pm – 6pm

Kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms will be open from 5pm until 6pm.

Classrooms will only be accessible during this time frame. Thank you in advance for respecting our teachers' time. **NOTE: 4K families will have an assigned orientation time with Mrs. Powell on September 3rd or 4th.**

PTO UNDER THE SEA

Tuesday, August 27 • 5pm – 6pm

Visit your classroom to receive an "under the sea" ticket from your teacher!

Then, visit our PTO in the gym for fishing and fun!



FREE BACKPACKS

Tuesday, August 27

Due to a generous donation, we will have lots of NEW backpacks available for Spence students to pick up during Open House! These will be available on a first come – first served basis, starting at 5pm, and while quantities last.



2024-2025 School Meal Prices

Elementary School Student Breakfast \$1.75 • Elementary School Student Lunch \$2.95

Breakfast and Lunch – The FREE/REDUCED Meal Application **MUST BE** completed each year to verify if you qualify. This application is available in Skyward in annual Student Information Update or on the school district website at <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/free-and-reduced-lunch-application/>

Students must arrive at school between **7:30 and 8:00 am** for breakfast. Do not drop your student off any earlier than 7:30 as there is no supervision in the cafeteria until then.

IMPORTANT Drop-Off & Pick-Up Reminders

Student drop-off begins at 7:30am daily on the west side playground or entrance I for breakfast. Students **may not** be dropped off before 7:30am, as we do not have supervision until this time. **If care is needed prior to 7:30am**, please contact the YMCA for information about the YMCA Surround Care site at Spence.

Pick-up – **DO NOT PARK between the cones** in front of the school until after 2:30pm. This area is reserved for parents picking up students that are ill or leaving for appointments.



HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

The School District of La Crosse takes pride in hiring only highly qualified teachers. This means they all are fully trained, certified, and often experienced in the position they teach. Our faculty consistently has a high percentage of advanced degrees, and we do a good job of retaining some of the top staff in the state and the nation. Life events, such as retirement, childbirth, or illness, sometimes cause a need for a long-term substitute teacher. When this happens, we always make every effort to hire a highly qualified substitute. All are certified teachers, and most are licensed in the area in which they are substituting. In rare cases it may be impossible to find a teacher with a particular certification, such as special education. This may result in the district asking the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for an emergency license for such a teacher.

If you ever have any questions about the certification of any of our staff, please call Shelley Shirel, Director of Elementary Education.

It is the policy of the School District of La Crosse, pursuant to s.118.13 Wisconsin Statutes and PI 9 that no person on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, co/extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ~ ACT OF 2001

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which is also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires that the parents of children attending Title I schools be notified at the beginning of every school year that they may request information about the qualifications of their children's teachers and paraprofessionals. Examples of some of the things they can ask are:

- *Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and has a license for the grade level and the subject area he or she teaches;
- *Whether the teacher has an emergency or provisional license;
- *What degrees the teacher holds and the field of discipline of his or her certification or degree; and
- *Whether the child is being provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

This is part of the law's efforts to ensure that all teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified. In the School District of La Crosse, because of our past procedures and adherence to high standards, **all of our teachers and teacher assistants do meet the highly qualified standards of the law.**

PROCEDURE FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS

On occasion, parents have questions or concerns regarding their child or a situation that occurred in the classroom or at school. We want to hear those. We do ask that you would adhere to the following procedure in order to provide the appropriate staff with the opportunity to address the concern.

First, please contact the classroom teacher or staff member who was directly involved. Should you feel that the situation was not resolved satisfactorily or have additional questions that weren't able to be answered, you may then contact the building principal. The principal will be happy to become involved at that point.

The same applies for concerns at the building level. Please allow the building principal the opportunity to address concerns prior to contacting the Director of Elementary Education.



SPENCE PTO
MANY HANDS,
ONE VISION

2024-2025 PTO Officers

Emily Vien, *President*
Sierra Branson, *Vice President*
Dorsey Koelsch, *Secretary*
Christie Lindberg, *Secretary*
Tricia George, *Teacher Liaison*

2024-2025 Public PTO Meetings

We will meet in the Spence LMC at 6:00 pm with pizza provided. Children are welcome to attend. Meetings are scheduled for September 17, November 19, January 21, March 18, and May 20.

SAVE THE DATE!



2024 PTO FUN RUN OCTOBER 31, 2024



JOIN PTO AT OPEN HOUSE ON AUGUST 27TH

 **UNDER THE SEA FISHING STATION**

Students will get tickets from their teachers when visiting the classrooms. They can bring these tickets to the gym to see the PTO and "FISH FOR A PRIZE!"

 **PARENT PRIZE DRAWING**

 **FAMILY PHOTO BOOTH**