



The Place to Succeed! Every Student ~ Every Day



Follow Spence Elementary School on Facebook to stay updated!



We are excited to announce our new principal at Spence Elementary, Mrs. Kari Huth!

I am honored to be able to serve the students, families, and staff at Spence Elementary in the School District of La Crosse. In 2000, I graduated from University of

Wisconsin-La Crosse with a degree in Elementary/Middle Level Education with a Minor in Special Education. I continued my education at UW-L and completed my Masters Degree in 2003. I also attended Viterbo University for Educational Leadership to attain both my Principal License (2006) and my Director of Instruction License (2014). Since starting my career in education in 2000, I taught a variety of grade levels at West Salem Elementary for 13 years. I worked in Instructional Services with both CESA #4 and the School District of Holmen for a total of four years working with teachers and administrators in the areas of curriculum, assessment and instruction. From 2017-2020, I served the Cashton community as the Elementary Principal. I look forward to continuing the rich tradition of education at Spence Elementary.

-Mrs. Huth

ANNUAL STUDENT INFO 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 view and update the information we have in our system so that it is accurate for the 2020/21 school year. This will need to be completed separately for each student. It is important that you press submit when you are done updating. We request that all information be updated as soon as possible. Complete instructions are available on the Spence website under Information Verification. **Note that we cannot assign or announce teacher placements until this information update is completed.**

The first day of school is

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

K through 12 school will be virtual for at least the month of September. The earliest date that we may possibly be face-to-face with students in the school building is October 5th. Please watch for updates via email and facebook for further info.

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 19 @ 8am-4pm
AUGUST 20 @ 11am-7pm

Due to the current virtual learning environment, every K through 5 Spence student will have a school-issued iPad for use during the 2020-21 school year.

The distribution of these student iPads will be by appointment at Spence. Families will sign up for an appointment time via skyward. More information is to come on scheduling your pick-up appointment. Please watch your email and facebook for important updates.

LET'S go on an ADVENTURE!

Our theme this year is CAMP SPENCE.

We will incorporate this camping theme into activities throughout the 2020-21 school year. Even while we are virtual learning, our camping theme will be used.

However this school year ends up – virtual, face-to-face, or a combination of the two – we are EXCITED to start the 2020-21 year with YOU!

As we do every year, we want to share our excitement and get our Spence families excited for what is to come for the school year! This year, we will have to do this virtually, and we will deliver!

Please continue to check your email and the Spence Elementary School facebook page for updates on our virtual celebrations to kick off the school year!

Please note at this time that school picture days are still to be determined and will be planned at the District level.



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.

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.**

Thank you

DONATIONS

We thank you for thinking of Spence Elementary for any donations.

At this time, we are most in need of gift cards for school supplies and grocery items.



let's go on an
ADVENTURE



CORNER

The Job of the School Counselor

School Counselors work alongside teachers and parents to help students develop Social and Emotional skills and to help remove barriers to learning.

The Spence School Counseling Program:

- **Classroom Guidance Lessons** that help develop the Core SEL Competencies of Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making
- **Small Group Counseling** to further explore and strengthen the core SEL Competencies in a small group setting
- **Short-Term Individual Counseling** to help meet the social and emotional needs of individual students
- **Parent and Teacher Consultation** is used as a team approach to support students' social, emotional and academic growth
- **School-Wide Programming** to give students opportunities to put SEL skills into practice (Unity Day, The Great Kindness Challenge, Kindness Club, etc.)

How does a student see the School Counselor?

- Self-referral
- Parent referral through phone call, email or meeting
- Teacher or staff referral

**ALL SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES WILL BE
AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY**

Meet Your School Counselor

Hello! My name is Katie Jeseritz, and I am honored to be the Spence Elementary School Counselor. I'm entering my 10th year as a school counselor and my 6th year as a Mustang. I stay busy between Spence and home raising two energetic little girls, Nora (5) and Nessa (3).

I am excited to serve you and your child this year at Spence!

Back-to-School Feelings

As children begin each new school year, they are filled with many emotions. These feelings can range from super excited to worried to sadness because this school year is going to look different.

Please visit the Spence School Counseling Website for a variety of ideas to help your child cope with their emotions and go into this new school year with confidence.

School Counseling Website:
<https://sites.google.com/lacrossesd.org/spenceschoolcounselingwebsite/home>

Or Scan the QR Code Below:



Contact Information

**Katie Jeseritz
School Counselor
(608) 789-8890
Kjeseritz@lacrossesd.org**



After an eventful 2019/2020 school year, the Spence Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is excited to get back to fundraising and community building. Last year Spence PTO raised over \$23,000 through our Fun Run, Butterbraid sales, can cage, and box tops. Through all of these fundraising events, the Spence PTO was able to help fund classroom expenses, field trips, and staff appreciation.

The final months of the school year threw us a few curve balls. Some PTO fundraisers and activities were cancelled. Because of the generous support of Spence families and community through the school year, we were able to fund new needs: Ukuleles for 5th grade graduates and “swag bag” materials for students schooling at home at the end of the year.

In the 2020/2021 school year, PTO will be adapting fundraisers and family events in ways that are as inclusive and safe as possible. One change is that PTO meetings will have a virtual option for attendance. Our hope is to engage and involve more Spence families in PTO meetings through this new format. Every Spence family is welcome to attend a PTO meeting. Meeting dates and details will be shared as soon as they are available.

<p><i>What does PTO do?</i></p> <p>We support the success of every student through volunteering and fundraising.</p>	
<p><u>PTO Officers</u></p> <p>President- Britney Zeimentz Vice President - Emily Vien Treasurer- Nicole Rupp Secretary - Tricia George</p>	<p>Do you have a great idea for a Spence PTO fundraiser or project? We’d love to hear about it! Please contact us any time by emailing spencepto@gmail.com.</p>

2020-2021 School Calendar

School District of La Crosse

807 East Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 789-7600



Start & End

Sept 1 First Day of School
Jun 4 Early Release - Last Day of School

No School

Aug 17-20 New Teacher Induction - No School
Aug 25-27 Staff Development - No School
Sept 7 Labor Day - No School
Sept 28 Staff Development - No School
Oct 12 Parent Teacher Conferences - No School
Nov 25-27 Fall Break - No School
Dec 23-Jan 1 Winter Break - No School
Jan 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
Jan 19 Staff Development/Grading - No School
Feb 12 Convention - No School
Feb 15 Staff Development - No School
Mar 5 Staff Development - No School
Mar 8 Parent Teacher Conferences - No School
Apr 1-5 Spring Break - No School
May 31 Memorial Day - No School

Early Release

Oct 16 Early Release
Dec 4 Early Release
Mar 12 Early Release
May 7 Early Release
June 4 Early Release

Parent Teacher Conferences

Oct 7 4:00-8:00 PM High Schools
Oct 8 4:00-8:00 PM Middle Schools
Oct 12 12:00-8:00 PM All Schools
Oct 15 4:00-8:00 PM Elementary Schools

Mar 4 4:00-8:00 PM Middle Schools
Mar 8 12:00-8:00 PM All Schools
Mar 10 4:00-8:00 PM High Schools
Mar 11 4:00-8:00 PM Elementary Schools

End of Semester/Quarter

Nov 3 End of 1st Quarter
Jan 15 End 1st Semester/2nd Quarter
Mar 26 End of 3rd Quarter
Jun 4 End 2nd Semester/4th Quarter

Total Student Days: 175

January 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September:
Virtual Instruction

October 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Emergency Closing Info

Should more than one school day be lost due to an emergency closing, students and teachers will follow the schedule below:

1st Day Missed = Waived

2nd Day Missed = Waived

After 2 Missed = Minutes will be added

to the daily schedule to extend the day at each level

Calendar Key

- No School
- First & Last Day
- Early Release
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- End of Quarter