



Oviatt Elementary News

Preschool - 1st Grade

713 School Avenue, Norwalk, Iowa 50211

515-981-1005

Website: [Oviatt Elementary - District Page](#)

Facebook: [@oviatt elementary](#)

Twitter: [@OviattWarriors](#)

Principal: Amy Gage - agage@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Assistant Principal: Nicole Banegas: nbanegas@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Counselor: Kelly Oliver: koliver@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Welcome to Oviatt - Where The Adventure Begins!

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! I want to take the time to introduce myself as a “new” face for Oviatt. My name is Amy Gage, and I have the honor of being the Principal of Oviatt Elementary. This is my 15th year as an educator, and my 8th year serving Norwalk Schools as an administrator. For the past several years, I have served multiple leadership roles in our district, most recently as K-12 Director of Academic Services and Director & Principal of our Universal Preschool program. Personally, I just celebrated my 15th year of marriage to my husband, Curtis. We are also parents to a daughter, Savannah (8th grade) and a son, Hayden (6th grade). My heart is truly in the classroom, and I am so thrilled to be leading this building of outstanding educators and staff and welcoming our youngest Warriors back to school this fall, whether in-person or remotely.

To say that this year is extraordinary is perhaps an understatement. Much is uncertain, and change feels like it is around every corner. What I can offer at this time as the leader of this building is that our entire staff at Oviatt is fully committed to each child’s academic and social-emotional growth, safety and wellness. We look forward to partnering with you as families to begin your child’s journey as a Norwalk Warrior!

Open House Information:

As our Oviatt students are all new to the building in 2020-21, our staff believes it is important to welcome students and parent(s)/guardian(s) to an in-person open house experience. **Oviatt’s K-1st Open House is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th from 10am-6pm.** Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be able to visit the building, their classroom, grab a snack in the cafeteria, visit the bus rodeo, and check out our new outdoor playgrounds. As a part of our [Oviatt Return to Learn Plan](#), we are putting the following health and safety modifications in place to ensure we create a safe environment:

- Families will sign up with an appointment using conferencing software (20 min. time spots)

- This will be available the week after classroom assignments go live (Aug. 14th).
- Check in at Kindergarten (east side, door #1) & 1st Grade entrances (west side, main door).
- Only parent(s)/guardian(s) in attendance with student - siblings/friends/other family members may not attend.
- Follow physical distancing recommendations in shared spaces both indoors and outdoors.
- Face coverings (nose & mouth) are required when social distancing is not able to be maintained.
- 1 student + parent(s)/guardian(s) in the classroom at a time.

Oviatt will host a separate Open House for our Universal Preschool students on Tuesday, September 1st from 4:00-7:00pm.

New Staff:

There are many new faces at Oviatt this year! Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members to the Norwalk family!

- Nicole Banegas, Assistant Principal
- Kelly Oliver, Counselor
- Kendall Verwers, Nurse
- Anna Bernsletter, School Based Therapist
- Tara Amundson, Teacher Librarian
- Megan Lathrop, STEM
- Jennifer Brandt, Art
- Sara Wolf, Special Education
- Rachel Freland, Special Education
- Anna Wellman, 1st Grade
- Kaylie Jones, 1st Grade
- Sara Osterloh, 1st Grade
- Lauren Stephens, Kindergarten
- Joel Criswell, Custodian

We also have some familiar faces who will be serving Oviatt in a new role.

- Jenn McLaughlin, Physical Education
- Michelle Tomkins, Instructional Coach
- Abby Overton, Kindergarten
- Nicole Linderman, Elementary Curriculum & Assessment Facilitator
- Beth Witte, Office Secretary & General Education Para

Classroom Assignments:

The following language regarding classroom assignments exists in our student handbook, as well as board policy. **Class assignments will be available through Infinite Campus Parent Portal beginning August 14th.**

Posting of Class Lists (NCSD Elementary Handbook)

Due to safety concerns for our students, we do not post class lists on the entry of the school building. This will help us assure that the child's parent/guardian is the only person to know the child's teacher and classroom placement within the building. Parents will be able to get classroom placement through their Parent Portal account or by calling the school in mid-August.

Student Placement (NCSD Board Policy)

All regular students enrolled in grade first through 5th grade shall be placed in classes heterogeneously by random assignment with gender and cultural equity. Parents are not allowed to request a certain teacher for their child, however, a parent with a child immediately following another sibling who is placed with the same teacher, may request a change. This request must be in writing and submitted to the principal by the third Friday of May.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Mon., August 3 - Building secretaries return
Fri., August 14 - Class placements can be viewed in Parent Portal
Tues., August 18 - Teachers return
Thurs., August 20 - 10am-6pm K-1st Open House
Mon., August 24 - First day for K-12 students; 1:25 dismissal
Tues., August 25 - 1:25 dismissal
Wed., August 26 - 1:25 dismissal (every Wednesday is an early dismissal)
Tues., Sept. 1 - 4-7pm Preschool Open House
Thurs., Sept. 3 - First day of Preschool
Mon., Sept. 21 - Lifetouch Picture Day

Important Links:

- [Registration](#)
- [PS-5th Grade School Supply List](#)
- [Transportation Change Request Form](#)
- [Nutrition Department](#)
- [Student Fees](#)
- [Free & Reduced Lunch Application](#)
- [Infinite Campus Parent Portal Help Request](#)