OGDEN
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Engage, Educate & Empower
732 West Division Street, Ogden, IA 50212
Phone: 515.275.2894 - Fax: 515.275.4537
www.ogdenschools.org

Dear Ogden Families,

As we head into Thanksgiving break, I am reminded of just how much we have to be thankful for here at Ogden Community Schools. I am deeply grateful for my own family and the constant support they give me, for our dedicated staff who work tirelessly every day on behalf of our kids, and for all of you—our families—for everything you do at home to help our students thrive.

Before we step away for the holiday, please take a moment to review a few timely updates and reminders:

No School Next Week – Thanksgiving Break: As a friendly reminder, there is no school for students next week as we observe Thanksgiving break. Our teachers will report for professional development on Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24, and students will return to the classroom on **Monday, November 30**. I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, good food, and football!

Follow-Up to Today's *My Ascension* Assembly: This morning, suicide survivor and national mental health advocate Emma Benoit spoke to our 6th–12th grade students during a powerful assembly. Because these are important conversations—especially heading into a long break—I encourage you to check in with your children and keep an open dialogue about what they heard today and how they are feeling. If your student or family ever needs additional support or resources, please reach out to one of our school counselors or call/text the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**, available 24/7.

Free Community Mental Health Training: Continuing our commitment to student and community wellness, Ryan Nesbit with Alive and Running Iowa will host a free community training on **Monday, November 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the MS/HS Auditorium**. The session will focus on suicide awareness and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), an evidence-based prevention framework that equips everyday individuals ("gatekeepers") to recognize mental health crisis warning signs and intervene effectively. This training is free and open to all community members.

Nominate an Ogden Everyday Hero: Whether on the front lines or behind the scenes, so many people pour countless hours into Ogden Community Schools so our students can have the experiences and opportunities they deserve. Help us recognize a staff member or community volunteer who goes above and beyond by nominating them as an Ogden Everyday Hero using the link below: **Everyday Hero Nomination**

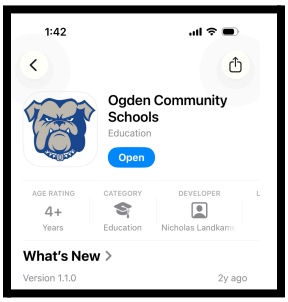
OGDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Engage, Educate & Empower
732 West Division Street, Ogden, IA 50212
Phone: 515.275.2894 - Fax: 515.275.4537
www.ogdenschools.org

Winter Weather Communication Procedures: By this point last year, we had already experienced a couple of snow events—fingers crossed that Iowa weather is a bit kinder to us this winter! Whenever inclement weather requires a late start, early dismissal, or school cancellation, please know those decisions are always made with student safety as our #1 priority. We will communicate any schedule changes as quickly as possible through:

- Messages sent via **Infinite Campus**
- Push notifications through the **Ogden App**
- Posts on our official **social media platforms**
- Updates shared with **local media outlets**

Download the Ogden App: If you have not yet downloaded the Ogden Community School District app on your smartphone, I encourage you to do so before winter weather arrives. Simply open the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and search for **"Ogden Community Schools"** to stay connected with district news and alerts.



Thank you once again for your continued partnership and support of our schools. Have a safe, restful, and happy Thanksgiving!

Go Bulldogs!

Joshua Heyer

Ogden Superintendent