

# Wildcat Newsletter

February 2025

## **Dear Parents/Guardians,**

As we approach the PPEL vote on March 4th, I wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts with you. Our school building has served us well since 1922, providing a home for generations of students, teachers, and families. However, like anything that has stood the test of time, it requires updates to continue fulfilling the needs of our community.

During my six months as superintendent, I have come to deeply appreciate the unique value of our school building. The fact that we are able to serve all of our students under one roof is truly special, and it is a privilege to be part of this community. Our building is strong and has decades of life left in it, but it is time to make the necessary updates to ensure it remains a viable space for the future.

The updates we are proposing are not just wishes; they are needs. They are essential to maintaining a safe, functional, and welcoming environment for our students. These improvements will allow us to continue providing the quality education our community deserves.

I am confident that with your support, we can continue to make our school building a place where future generations can learn, grow, and thrive.

Scroll to the next page for information on the PPEL vote. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Mr. Ridder, Superintendent**

## **School Alerts**

Even though the weather feels like spring, we have two months left of winter. Please make sure that you are signed up for school alerts in case we have bad weather. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

## Glidden-Ralston School District Seeks Voter Approval for PPEL Levy

On **March 4, 2025**, the **Glidden-Ralston Community School District** will ask voters to approve a **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)** to fund essential repairs, upgrades, and improvements to our school facilities. The PPEL levy is a critical tool to ensure our schools remain safe, functional, and modern, benefiting both students and staff.

### What is the PPEL Levy?

The **PPEL** levy allows the school district to allocate funds for specific types of expenditures, including:

- Construction and renovation of buildings
- Purchase of buses and technology equipment
- Energy conservation projects
- Property acquisition

Importantly, **PPEL funds cannot be used for staff salaries or classroom supplies**, which are covered by the General Fund.

If approved, the PPEL levy would be in place for **10 years**, after which the district could either renew the levy or let it expire.

### Why Is This Levy Important for Our Schools?

For the first time, our district is seeking voter approval for a **voter-approved PPEL**, which would allow us to make vital repairs and updates to maintain safe and modern facilities. These updates will directly benefit the students and faculty of the Glidden-Ralston School District by improving the learning environment and maintaining up-to-date technology.

### Proposed Projects Funded by the PPEL

If approved, the PPEL levy would fund the following immediate and much-needed projects:

#### Boys' Restroom Renovation

The boys' restroom on the first floor of the original building will undergo a comprehensive renovation, including:

- Replacing outdated fixtures and partitions
- Upgrading materials for better functionality and aesthetics

- Ensuring full compliance with **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** standards, including adjustments for necessary ADA clearance
- Removing one toilet stall and two urinals to accommodate accessibility requirements

These improvements will enhance the restroom's usability and safety for all students and staff.

### **Girls' Restroom Relocation and Renovation**

The girls' restroom will be demolished and relocated to the opposite side of the building, next to the boys' restroom. This renovation will:

- Maintain the same number of fixtures, ensuring no loss in capacity
- Meet **ADA** standards
- Include the construction of a new storage room adjacent to the restroom
- Relocate an electrical panel, minimizing disruption to existing mechanical systems

The relocation of the girls' restroom will improve the layout and accessibility of the first floor, benefiting all building occupants.

### **Teachers' and Visitor Restrooms**

The current girls' restroom will be reconfigured to create:

- **Two private teacher restrooms**
- **One visitor restroom** (with a baby-changing station)

The renovation will also expand the **teachers' lounge**, providing a larger, more comfortable space for staff to relax and collaborate. This thoughtful redesign optimizes the use of space while enhancing convenience for faculty, visitors, and students.

### **Fire Safety Enhancements**

New fire mains (hoses and water pipes) will be added to the **North and South stairwells** of the school building. This update will improve fire safety while reducing costs compared to installing full sprinklers.

### **Secure Entry Vestibule and Office Relocation**

The administrative offices will be relocated to a new space adjacent to the main entrance, and a **Secure Entry vestibule** will be constructed. This will:

- Improve building security by allowing staff to control and monitor all access points more effectively
- Ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors
- Repurpose the vacated office space as a new classroom

This strategic relocation will strengthen security and create more adaptable educational spaces.

## A Responsible Investment in Our Students' Future

We recognize that asking voters for approval of a PPEL levy is a significant decision, particularly in today's economic climate. However, we believe that investing in facility upgrades, technology, and safety measures is essential to providing a high-quality education for our students while also being mindful of taxpayers' concerns.

The proposed PPEL levy balances the need for modern, safe schools with a responsible fiscal approach. It will enable us to continue offering the best possible learning environment, supporting both students and staff in their efforts to succeed.

### Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed PPEL levy, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Superintendent Tom Ridder at 712-659-3411**. We encourage you to learn more about how these investments will directly benefit the Glidden-Ralston community and our students.





## Dear Glidden-Ralston Families,

Happy February! As the school year progresses, we are grateful for the continued support of our community and the dedication of our students, faculty, and staff. We're focused on building on the foundation that was created in the first semester.

### Valentine's Day

- I'm sure most have already communicated, but be sure to watch for correspondence from teachers about any classroom Valentine's Day celebrations in the Elementary.
- We allow balloon and flower delivery to the school, but we do not allow balloons on the bus. Balloons are a vision and safety concern.

### Academic Updates

- Our students are continuing to work to grow academically, and we are proud of their efforts. Our second round of FAST testing is completed, and Iowa Assessments will be coming up in April.

### Reminders

- **Attendance:** Please continue to ensure your child is attending school regularly and arriving on time. Regular attendance is essential for academic success. Having said that, we know illness is going around. Following illness, please make sure your children are fully recovered before returning to school.
- **Weather:** Is it winter, or is it not? Tough to tell from day to day right now. February can bring unpredictable weather. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and prepared for outdoor activities, as we try to get outside whenever possible.
- **Open Enrollment Dates:**
  - Deadline for grades 1-12 is March 1, 2025
  - Deadline for Kindergarten is September 1, 2025

### February Dates to Remember:

- February 10
  - No School- Teacher Inservice
- February 14
  - Midterm 12:45 Dismissal
- Check Bound for dates of winter sports postseason play as they become available.




Mr. Hjelle, PK-12 Principal



# Wildcat Calendar



# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 -AAU Volleyball Tournament -HS Wrestling @ ACGC HS
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	-JH Wrestling Meet @ Audubon -2 <sup>nd</sup> grade Carroll County Solid Waste Presentation	-VBB vs. CAM (Senior Night)  -JH Wrestling @ Woodbine	-5 <sup>th</sup> grade Junior Achievement BizTown -6:00pm Booster Club Meeting	-HS Wrestling @ Audubon -JH Wrestling Meet @ Woodward-Granger -VBB vs. Ogden	-VBB vs. Ar-We-Va	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	-NO SCHOOL (Teacher Inservice) -VBB @ CR-B	-HS Wrestling Conference Quad @ Woodbine HS	-4:30pm Board Meeting	-GBB REGIONAL	-12:45pm DISMISSAL (Mid-Term) -BBB DISTRICTS 	-HS Wrestling Districts @ Underwood HS -National FFA Week Begins
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	-PK-6 Spring Pictures -2 <sup>nd</sup> grade & Kindergarten Loess Hills Presentation -BBB DISTRICTS	-GBB REGIONAL	-Kindergarten Swan Lake Conservation Presentation	-BBB DISTRICTS		
<b>National FFA Week!</b>						
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade Carroll County Conservation Presentation			-JH Wrestling @ Woodbine -RVC Honor Band in Exira -Math Counts 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade	-Staff vs. Student Basketball Game	
<p>The Glidden-Ralston CSD offers career and technical programs in the following service areas: Agricultural Education, Business Education, Health Occupations Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, and Industrial Education. It is the policy of the Glidden-Ralston CSD not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Kaylee Bach, School Counselor, 602 Idaho St, Glidden, IA 51443, 712-659-3411, <a href="mailto:kbach@glidden-ralston.k12.ia.us">kbach@glidden-ralston.k12.ia.us</a></p>						



# February 2025 Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
3 Nutrigrain Bar & Yogurt or Cereal	4 WG Pancakes or Cereal	5 Eggs & Bacon or Cereal	6 WG Waffles or Cereal	7 WG Toast or Cereal
Chili Cheese Dog on WG Bun Potato Tater Tots Corn Apricots Milk	Cheese Italian Dunker w/ Mar Sauce Broccoli & Cheese Cooked Carrots Applesauce Milk	Chicken Nuggets WG Roll Mashed Potatoes Peas Fresh Fruit Milk	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Cheese Filled Breadstick Romaine Salad Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Milk	Chicken Quesadilla Chocolate Cake Corn Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk
10 NO SCHOOL	11 WG Toast or Cereal	12 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal	13 WG Muffin or Cereal	14 Long Johns or Cereal
	Chicken Patty on WG Bun Smiley Fries Pepper Slices Green Beans Banana Milk	Hot Ham & Cheese Tomato Soup Crackers Carrots/Celery Applesauce Milk	Beef & Bean Burrito WG Refried Beans Sun Chips Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Meatball Sub Corn Black Beans Strawberries Sugar Cookie Milk
17 WG Toast or Cereal	18 WG Muffin or Cereal	19 WG Biscuits & Gravy or Cereal	20 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal	21 WG Bagel w/ Cream Cheese or Cereal
Cheeseburger on WG Bun French Fries Green beans Pears Milk	Corn Dog Macaroni & Cheese Peas Apple Milk	Chicken Crispito w/ Cheese Tortilla Chips w/ Salsa Cooked Carrots Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	Mr. Rib on WG Bun Broccoli & Cheese Potato Wedges Peaches Milk	Chili w/ Cheese Saltine Crackers WG Cinnamon Roll Carrot & Celery Sticks Orange Slices Milk
24 WG Pancakes or Cereal	25 Eggs & Sausage or Cereal	26 Nutrigrain Bar & Yogurt or Cereal	27 Breakfast on a Stick or Cereal	28 WG Toast or Cereal
Soft Tacos w/ Lettuce & Tomato Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	Pizza Cucumber Slices Mixed Vegetables Fruit Slushies Milk	Popcorn Chicken Bowl w/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Apple Milk	BBQ Pulled Pork on WG Bun Baked Chips Coleslaw Pears Milk	Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Broccoli Salad w/ Tomato Fresh Fruit Milk