

Spencer Trail Times May Monthly 2026

A Note From Your Principal:

Dear Spencer Trail Families,

It is hard to believe that we are in our final month of school! We have so many fun events to look forward to this spring! From end-of-year traditions and special activities, this season is filled with opportunities for joy and connection. These experiences help create the memories that make kindergarten such a magical and meaningful year.

It has been an absolute honor watching your children learn and develop this school year. As I think back to August 21st, I can't help but smile proudly at how much the students have grown; socially, academically and physically. Our former principal, Mrs. Dee Scott, always ended her final May newsletter with her favorite quote about saying goodbye: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." ~ Carol Sobieski and Thomas Meehan, Annie. On behalf of the entire staff, we wish each and every one of you much success as you go forth. We have enjoyed our time working with you and hope that you and your child have had a positive kindergarten experience that will last a lifetime. We know these little ones will do great things in this world and are so proud to have been a part of their journey!

Thank you again!

Jenny Christophersen
Principal

Jen Pender
Assistant Principal

The Office

Superintendent- Dr. Lori Motsch
Principal- Mrs. Jennifer Christophersen
Assistant Principal- Mrs. Jen Pender
Secretary- Mrs. Jamie Key
Secretary- Mrs. Jill Foytik

Office hours- 7:20AM- 3:50PM
Phone Number- (815) 462-7007



May 1st- Ladies Day Out

May 4th- May 8th: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8th: ½ Day: PM and DK students attend.
No School for AM students.

May 14th: Spencer Trail Awareness and
Acceptance Day

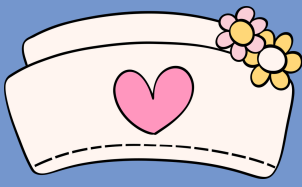
May 19th: School board Meeting @ 6PM

May 21st & May 22nd: Hawaii Day

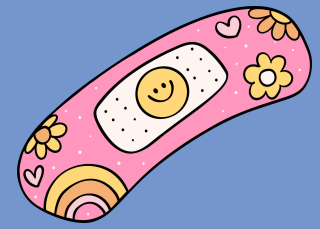
May 25th: No School- Memorial Day

May 26th: Olympic Day

May 27th: Last Day of Kindergarten



Nurse's Corner



Block the sun, not the fun!

This month I thought I would provide a little reminder about sun safety. Everyone, especially children, love to be in the sun. Unfortunately, children rack up between 50% and 80% of their lifetime exposure before the age of 18. Because of this, it is important that they know how to enjoy the sun safely. Here are some reminders on how to protect your child from the sun:

Avoid the strongest rays of the day

Usually the hours between 10 am & 4 pm

Cover Up

Wear hats!

Wear loose fitting long sleeves/pants

Try a new pair of sunglasses!

Apply Sunscreen

- ~ Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out in the sun.
 - ~ Use liberal amounts of sunscreen. Don't forget the lips and scalp!
 - ~ Look for sunscreen that gives UVA & UVB protection.
 - ~ Infants under 6 months of age should not use sunscreen.
- Also, if your child is on medication remember to consult your doctor or pharmacist about potential sun sensitivity with the medication.

For more sun safety information and some interactive fun for kids, please visit the EPA's Sunwise website at <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/index.html>



Library News

It was Digital Citizenship month in our library classes throughout April. We talked about how important it is to have balance between screen time and outdoor play time. We also talked about safety online and how important it is to stay on sites that only your grown-up approves of. We also got to explore some brand new books that were added to the library, as well as some new characters. In May, we will use our imagination and become illustrators to some of our picture book ideas, as well as explore wordless picture books and participate in related activities.

Also in May, our last check out will be the week of May 4th. ALL BOOKS are due the week of May 12th. It is inventory time! Students' accounts will be charged with a fee if books are lost or damaged. I will be sending notices home throughout the month of May. If you have any questions on an item your child has out, please feel free to email me.

On a personal note, thank you so much for allowing me to spend time with your children here at Spencer Trail. It has been an absolutely wonderful year and I have really enjoyed my time with all the students. Thank you!!

Keep reading! Remember to sign up for the New Lenox Public Library summer learning challenge. It's a great way to continue to foster the love of reading.

Happy Summer!



Specialist Spotlight

P.E. News from Mr Lundborg (Mr L)

In April, we spent the month learning to tie our shoes. In May, we will finish up our shoe tying lesson and start to learn to play multi-directional games.

Please remember to pack gym shoes if you are dressing your child in sandals on gym day.



*If you have any questions about what activities we will be doing, please feel free to contact me.

*Did your son or daughter complete an outstanding achievement? Send a note to me. I would love to hear about it!

Art & Music News from Mrs. Tinny

It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of the school year! The students have done a wonderful job exploring and learning throughout April, both in music and art. In May, art will be focused on process-based projects. This is a more open-ended art theory where students can really use their imagination to create different things when given select materials. There will be a lot of exploration and I can't wait to see what the students come up with. In music, we will be exploring all the instruments we have learned about. We will do activities where we do movements paired with music as well. I look forward to the



month ahead!



Hawaii Day



SPENCER TRAIL IS GOING TO HAWAII

Get your swimsuits and
sunscreen ready!
Spencer Trail will celebrate
Hawaii day in May.

May 21st - **Red & Yellow**
neighborhood

May 22nd - **Green**
neighborhood

Aloha

Upcoming Events

May 14th - Spencer Trails Acceptance and Awareness Day! There are many different diagnoses and disabilities that impact Spencer Trail students and/or the family and friends of our school community. On this day, please wear a color or shirt dedicated to a cause near and dear to your heart!

May 26th - Olympic Day
Make sure to wear your gym shoes and sunscreen!

Preschool Screenings

New Lenox School District will be screening children from ages three to five in the areas of motor, cognitive, and speech/language development. Early childhood educators will present "game like" activities to your child which assess various development skills. All preschoolers who reside in our district are eligible to attend free of charge. This is a preschool screening, **not** a kindergarten readiness screening. This year the screenings will be held at Cherry Hill Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

2026 Screening Dates - May 8th

Call Cherry Hill School at 815-462-7831 to schedule an appointment.



BIRTHDAYS

Asher A.

James A.

Jackson B.

Enrique C.

Jacob C.

Elena C.

Joshua C.

Charlotte D.

Shane D.

Case F.

Nolan G.

Julian H.

Vivienne K.

Philip L.

Ellie L.

Trey M.

Hanna M.

Max O.

Karter P.

Bryce P.

Demi P.

Evalyn P.

Antonella P.

Logan R.

Mason S.

Connor W.

Maylani W.

Grace W.

Kamren W.



Plant a Seed, Read

Summer Learning Challenge 2026

for Kids, Teens & Adults

Sunday, June 7 to Saturday, August 1

Scan to QR
code to sign
up for a
Beanstack
account!



This Summer's theme is **Plant a Seed, Read!** Sign up begins Sunday, June 7. The Summer Learning Challenge is for all ages, from birth through adults. The first week, June 7-14, is for registration only. Print logs will be accepted starting on Monday, June 15.

Registration is completed through Beanstack and is available at the Library and online. Download the Beanstack app or visit newlenoxlibrary.beanstack.org to register yourself! To sign up in the library, see one of our Summer Learning Challenge volunteers in Youth Services. Teens and adults can also register at the Adult & Teen Services desk on the second floor.

You can download Activity Lists at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/summer. Activity lists are also available in either Youth Services (for Birth to 8th Grade) or Adult & Teen Services (7th Grade and up) at the service desks. Only reading and activities completed between June 7 - August 1 will be considered valid.

Birth-8th Grade:

- Complete 12 activities from the kids activity list & earn:
 - Prize vending machine token
 - Certificate of completion
 - Prize drawing entry
 - FREE book
- Bonus logs may be completed for extra tokens & prize entries.
- Prizes picked up at Youth Services. Prize drawings held August 3.



Teens & Adults (7th Grade & Up)

- Complete activities from the Teen or Adult list.
- Ways to Participate:
 - Beanstack: Register, track activities, and enter prize drawings online.
 - Paper Log: Pick up a log at Adult & Teen Services.
- How It Works:
 - Every 5 activities = 1 badge + 1 prize drawing ticket
 - Up to 10 tickets total
 - Repeat activities allowed
- Prize winners will be contacted & have 2 weeks to claim prizes.



Student Access to Digital Subscriptions Over the Summer

Students can access the digital resources below by logging into the [ClassLink](#) LaunchPad via the District website at <https://www.nlsd122.org/c/index.php>. There may be times a program is down due to maintenance. If there is not an icon on the LaunchPad, students will not have access. Below is a list of programs and their summer availability status. Parents will receive a School Messenger message with this information.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| IXL | July 30, 2026 |
| BrainPop and BrainPop Jr. | July 30, 2026 |
| PebbleGo | All Summer |
| Starfall | July 30, 2026 |
| Learning A-Z (Raz+ and/or Vocab A-Z) | July 30, 2026 |
| Reflex/Frax | July 30, 2026 |
| Flocabulary | July 30, 2026 |
| Typing.com | July 30, 2026 |

8th Grade students may not have access after the last day of school.

CONGRATULATIONS SPENCER TRAIL
KINDERGARTNERS!!!

WATCH OUT FIRST GRADE!



hello
1ST grade