



**WATERLOO**  
Community School District

**NEWS**

Engaged in Learning ● Prepared for Success

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Iowa Public Television's Dan Wardell and The Cat in the Hat  
to Host Special Story Times in Waterloo and Storm Lake**

*Free, family-friendly events will launch next phase of "Ready To Learn" activities in these communities*

JOHNSTON, IA -- Families in Waterloo and Storm Lake are invited to join Dan Wardell and The Cat in the Hat for free library events to celebrate Iowa Public Television's continued commitment to early childhood education in these communities.

On Tuesday, January 24 from 6-7 p.m., IPTV KIDS Clubhouse host Dan Wardell will be joined by The Cat in the Hat to host a story time at the Waterloo Public Library. Then on Thursday, January 26 from 7-8 p.m., Dan and the Cat will be at the Storm Lake Public Library for a similar event there.

Both events are free and open to the public, with a special emphasis on activities for kids ages two through eight. Families will enjoy a story, the chance to meet Dan and Cat, a fun math activity that doubles as a tasty snack, and more.

These efforts are part of Iowa Public Television's Ready To Learn initiative, in partnership with PBS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Ready To Learn Partnership. Nationally, Ready To Learn is focused heavily on developing programs and resources that help young children build strong pre-reading, reading, and early math skills using scientifically-based research to guide teaching strategies.

In the pilot communities of Waterloo and Storm Lake, Iowa Public Television will launch new activities designed to help parents and educators in their quest to help children arrive at school prepared for success from the very beginning. Iowa Public Television has partnered with several community and statewide organizations to ensure these efforts are successful.

In addition to these story time launch events, Iowa Public Television will initiate math mentorship programs in these communities. The network will also create a children's advisory panel and offer professional development opportunities for educators.

For more information on Iowa Public Television's educational activities, please contact Jennifer Konfrst at 515-242-3146 or Jennifer@iptv.org, or visit <http://www.iptv.org/>.

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**About Waterloo Schools**

Waterloo Schools, located within Black Hawk County, Iowa, provides a full range of educational services to students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Students attending Waterloo Schools are engaged in learning and prepared for success. The district prides itself on hiring quality educators, maintaining the latest educational resources, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment. Services include regular and enriched academic education, special education for students with special needs, career education, and numerous individualized programs such as specialized instruction for at-risk students and for limited-English-speaking students. Please visit our website at [www.waterloo.k12.ia.us](http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us).