



Southwest 'Rider News



From the Office of the Superintendent - Dave Hendricks

This is the annual "Back to School" newsletter for the 2009-2010 school year. It contains information about the Southwest Public School and how it operates.

The Board of Education, administration, and staff of Southwest Public Schools wishes each student and their parents a successful school year.

If you have questions or concerns about the operation of the district, please contact the school to make certain that they are heard.

We will always listen to ideas that will make Southwest Public Schools better.

Each student is given a copy of the Student Handbook on the first day of school and it should be shared with parents/guardians at home. The Student Handbook gives additional detailed information about the day-to-day operation of the

school and expectations for students. Students and parents acknowledge receipt of the Student Handbook by signing and returning the last page to school. School begins for all students on Wednesday, August 19th with regular lunch being served. Parents and students should be aware of early dismissals for heat during the first few weeks of school. There is a special section in this newsletter explaining when and how school is dismissed for heat.

New Staff at Southwest Public School

Students will be greeted by two new staff members for the 2009-2010 school year. Please welcome these newest members to the Roughrider staff: **Mr. Scott Mollring**, high school social studies/head boys' basketball coach/assistant high school football coach and **Mr. Chris Watt**, school guidance

counselor.

No Breakfast/Lunch/Milk Charges are Allowed

Parents and guardians are reminded that all lunch/breakfast/milk purchases must be pre-paid, with no family being allowed to have a zero or negative account balance. In no case will students be allowed to charge meals. Money may be sent in at any time and your account will be credited. You may also ask for a report of your account balance at any time by calling Nanci Stritt at the elementary school (308) 364-2613, as all accounts are stored on the district's computer at the elementary building.

Cell Phone Use Policy Approved by Board of Education.

Students and parents/guardians are reminded that the Board of Education established and

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Special points of interest:

- August 18 - Open House at Elementary 6:30-7:30 PM.
- August 19 - First Day Of School 8:00 AM start
- August 22 - Football scrimmage in Bartley 9:30 AM
- September 1 - Music Booster Meeting @ Bartley 7:00 PM

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review yearly the policy concerning students' use of cell phones at school. This cell phone use policy is not intended to discourage students from having cell phones, especially those who drive to and from school. It is intended to eliminate classroom disruptions and inappropriate use of cell phones during the school day.

"Cell phones are not to be used from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and should not be in the classroom at any time. Students found in violation of this rule will face the following consequences: 1st offense - phone will be kept over night by principal; 2nd offense - parent/guardian will be required to come to school and pick up the cell phone; 3rd offense- phone will be kept for 30 calendar days."

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Students, their parents and employees of District 73-0179, Southwest Public School, are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap or race and is required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap or race in admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with Title IX, Section 504 and/or Title VI is directed to contact Mr. Dave Hendricks, Superintendent of Schools, Southwest Public Schools, Bartley, Nebraska, phone (308) 692-3223.

Mr. Hendricks has been designated by School District 73-0179 to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI.

Textbook Loan

Pursuant to NDE Rule 4, the Southwest Public Schools participate in the textbook loan to private school children attending an approved private school under NDE Rule 10. To make application of loan of textbooks, contact the Superintendent of Schools.

Adult and Family Athletic Passes

Adult and Family passes to home athletic events will be offered again this year. These passes are valid for school-sponsored home athletic activities only. They are not valid for tournaments, conference, district or state sports events or any non-athletic home events. Adult Athletic Passes (\$45) and Family Athletic Passes (\$85) will be sold at all home athletic events or are available by contacting the superintendent office at 308.692.3223.

Southwest's Webpage

Much information about the district can also be accessed through the district's webpage. It was officially changed last year to: www.swpschools.org

New Secondary School Building Update

Patrons are encouraged to watch the new building updates on the school's webpage by clicking on the "New Building Progress" button on the right hand side of the

page. Pictures are added weekly of various parts of the building. If you or a group would like a tour of the building project you are reminded that you will need to check in at the superintendent's office before being allowed to be on the new building site throughout the project. Tours of the facilities progress will be given to anyone that would like to get an on-site look.

Progress reports are given monthly to the Board of Education at their regular meetings. This detailed report is given after an on-site review by the architect and project area superintendent. A review of progress over the last thirty day period is given followed by the expected progress during the next thirty days.

Each month the general contractor, Sampson Construction, submits a bill for payment for the Board of Education to consider at their regular monthly meeting. This is a very detailed statement identifying the description of work completed, material on site or stored, value of the total work by description, the balance to finish, and retainage amount until the project is complete. The architect's approved bill is presented to the Board of Education for approval. After review and explanation by the architect, the board can approve the entire amount, partial amount, or reject the bill. Those bills approved (one per month to the general contractor) are paid out of the Special Building Fund.

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State and Federal Required Notices

The district uses the Student Handbook to inform students and parents of all required state and federal notices. Should this information change an update is made through the district's newsletter and then added to the Stu-

dent Handbook the following year. Examples of required notices which can be found in the Student Handbook include:

No Child Left Behind Act, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, Child Nutrition Programs, McKinney Vento Act, Title

VI, Section 504, Age Discrimination Act, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, Title IX, and Drug-Free Workplace. Should any student, parent or patron of the district have any questions concerning any of these notices, please contact Dave Hendricks, superintendent of schools, at 308.692.3223.

Dismissal of School for Heat

The 2009-2010 school year is the last year school should have to be dismissed for heat. With the new Jr/Sr High School being fully air conditioned all students and staff should be comfortable year round. Until we are able to occupy the new facilities our old rule about dismissing for heat will apply. The administration tries to make a determination at least 24 hours in advance of dismissing early based on available weather reports and local observations. Early dismissal is normally at 2:00 P.M. should the need arise.

Southwest Public Schools - Board of Education

- Duane Teter, President
- Crinda McConville, Vice-President
- Steve McConville, Treasurer
- Steve Daffer, Secretary
- Don Longnecker, Member
- Tom Sughroue, Member

Southwest Public Schools – Administration

- Dave Hendricks, Superintendent
- Matt Springer, Jr/Sr High Principal
- Carrie Rasmussen, Elementary Principal

High School News - Mr. Springer

School is fast approaching and the 09-10 year is going to be exciting as we will be awaiting the completion of our new facility. We are working hard to get every inch of space we can out of the Bartley building to begin the school year.

The custodians have done a great job getting things moved around. Last spring the staff was informed that the start of school will take place at the Bartley site.

They seemed excited for the chance to have every one together in one facility. Everyone has been very cooperative in making that happen. It will be an interesting start for all of us. We are all going to have to learn where everyone and every thing is. The good part is that this will only be for a short part of the year as the new building is progressing very quickly.

The students will need to stop in and check the schedule as we are finalizing classes and checking graduation requirements. We have selected the 10th and 11th as days for students to finalize their schedule from 8:00 to 3:00. If those days or times do not work, please stop in after the 11th as we will be available each day to assist students.

Southwest Football News

Football season is just around the corner and will be starting soon. Head coach Les Roggenkamp and assistant Jay Helberg welcome new assistant football coaches Chris Watt and Scott Mollring to the staff. The newly formed staff is excited to get the season started and would like to inform the district of the upcoming events:

Physicals- All individuals must have a completed physical on file in the Southwest office before they can practice. Thus, every player must have a physical turned in prior to 7:00 AM on Monday, August 17th and the start of two-a-day practices. There can be no exceptions to this NSAA rule.

Equipment Checkout- Football equipment checkout is scheduled for Tuesday August 11th at 8:15 am in the shop classroom in

Bartley. All players who would like to play football in 2009 need to attend. Documents and permission forms will be handed out at this time for each player and his parents.

Parents Meeting- On Wednesday, August 12th at 7:30 PM, the coaching staff would like to meet with all players and parents to review expectations of the football program. We will meet in the home bleachers at the game field in Bartley (unless weather forces us inside). A chance to meet with new coaches and players will take place during this time. All paper-

work needed to be completed by players and parents will be turned in at this time.

Photo Day- The football team will host an informal media day at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 22nd on the game field in Bartley. All fans, parents, and media are invited to take pictures at this time.

Gatorade Scrimmage- Following photo day, at 9:30 AM on Saturday the 22nd of August a scrimmage will be held. All fans are invited to attend. We will place large tubs at the entrance to the field for fans to deposit bottles of sport drink as admission.

Cross Country Conditioning will start

August 10th, 7:00 a.m. @ Bartley

Remember that physicals need to be taken care of prior to starting practice.



The Cheerleaders will have a food stand, tattoos & face painting in the park on Old Settlers Day After The Parade!!

Southwest FBLA will have its annual recruitment picnic on Tuesday, August 11, at 6 p.m. at the park in Bartley. Current FBLA members and any 9-12 students interested in joining FBLA are encouraged to attend. Hot-dogs, chips, and dessert will be served and games will be played.

Sports Physicals must be completed BEFORE the start of practice for both Jr. High and Senior high students.

The first day of practice is August 17.

Physical forms can be picked up at either school office.

The Southwest FFA chapter will be serving a meal from 5:00PM until 7:00 PM at St. Catherine's Church Hall in Indianola on Saturday, August 8th during the town's Old Settlers Celebration. Slow roasted pork loin, baked potato, with salads and dessert will be served. Join our local FFA chapter for its annual fundraiser!

Positive Student/Teacher Relationships

Jim Fay's tip below is for developing a positive teacher/student relationship:

Kids and Teachers

I wonder what it would be like if all kids believed it was their job to get their teachers to like them. And all teachers believed it was their job to get kids to

like them.

Do everything you can to elevate your child's teacher in his/her eyes. This is an investment you can't afford to pass up.

I know too many kids who go to school believing, "I'll be lucky if I learn anything in this lousy school." These are the kids who

frequently hear critical remarks about education, the school, and the teacher. Unfortunately, kids take on the beliefs of their parents.

Don't voice these concerns in front of your kids. Deal directly with the school or with the teacher. You'll be glad you did.

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

Back to school means trading in late nights for early mornings, fighting crowds in the school supply aisle, packing lunches, and returning homework. But it also means another year of outstanding learning opportunities at Southwest Public Schools.

The staff at the elementary school has been busy sending out welcome letters to inform your family of which class your child is in, when school starts, and our annual Open House. If for some reason your family did not receive a letter from your child's teacher please contact the elementary office.

Besides the welcome back letters each family received a letter from my office with information about our new after-school program. If you plan to utilize that program, those forms were due back to the elementary by August 3rd. We need an accurate count to make sure that we have an adequate number of staff. Mrs. Tina Schultz, child care provider, will be available the night of Open House if you and your child would like to meet her prior to the first day of the after-school program. I would like to take this time to welcome all of the new faces we will have in our building this year. Mr. Chris Watt is the new

PK- 12 Guidance Counselor. He will be meeting with each class at the elementary once a week. From the middle school we welcome Ms. Stacy Snyder, who will teach 6th grade. Mrs. Lynn Harris will be teaching Spanish in the elementary, along with her other high school responsibilities. Finally, welcome to all our new preschoolers, kindergarteners, and new families joining the district.

If you have any questions or concerns as we begin the year, please feel free to contact our school office 364-2613. I look forward to productive school year for all of our students.

High School Student Registration

August 10th and 11th

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM

All high school students need to come to the office and finalize all of their fall classes.

Southwest FBLA will be serving pancakes and breakfast burritos at the Indianola Christian Church from 7-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 8, prior to the Old Settler's Parade.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

Nebraska State Law requires that all Kindergarten, seventh graders, and students transferring from another state to Nebraska (in all grades) must have physical examinations by a doctor before school starts, or they must have a waiver signed by their parents asking that their child be excluded from this requirement. A physical examination form is available in the high school office for anyone who needs one.

Athletic physicals are required for all students, grades 7-12, who will participate in organized sports throughout the year. The physical form must be turned in to the office before students may participate in any sport. The athletic physical examination form will count for the state required form FOR STUDENTS NEW TO NEBRASKA AND SEVENTH GRADERS, but it will not count for students entering kindergarten.

IMMUNIZATION LAWS

Recent changes in immunization rules and regulations add the chickenpox vaccine to the list of required immunizations. All students enrolling in Kindergarten or 7th grade or students transferring from out-of-state, must either receive the vaccine or provide documentation that they've had chickenpox. A child between the ages of 1 and 13 should receive one dose of the vaccine. If the child is over 13, two doses will be required. Children who have already had chickenpox do not need the varicella vaccine. Parents, guardians or healthcare providers can provide a written letter confirming the child had the disease and the year it occurred.

As before, all students in grades K-12 will be required to present evidence of two doses of the MMR vaccine. Also all students starting Kindergarten or 7th grade will need the Hepatitis B series. It is not too late to receive these immunizations. Please call your medical clinic or Red Willow County Health Department (308/345-1790) as soon as possible.

REGULATIONS

Students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade, or transferring from out of state MUST have:

- 3 doses of DPT, DtaP or DT (one (1) dose must be on or after the 4th birthday)
- 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
- Varicella or date of chickenpox (2 doses after age 12)

ALL OTHER STUDENTS GRADES K-12:

- 2 doses of MMR vaccine

To help us keep up to date on your child's immunization records, please call the school and give us the dates of any new immunizations they have received. Thank you for your cooperation.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

To be in compliance with the state law, school staff will no longer be dispensing any over the counter medications.

This practice is in the best interest of not only our students but also the staff who administer medications. Please call the school nurse if you have any questions or concerns about this policy.

Vision Test Requirements

Students entering school for the first time, including kindergartners and transfer students from out of state, will be required to provide proof of a vision evaluation taken within six months prior to the student's entrance. A certificate or form stating results of the evaluation must be signed by an optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

According to the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision, statistics show that 80% or more of all learning during a child's first 12 years depends on vision, yet one of every five children entering kindergarten has an undetected vision disorder significant enough to impact the child's ability to learn. The Foundation notes that symptoms of vision problems often are not evident to parents or educators at early ages and young children often cannot self-identify abnormal conditions.

Typical vision screenings test only for distance vision and are not designed to assess many of the common vision disorders in young children. The new state law will now help assure that more students get a broader assessment of conditions that could adversely impact their learning ability. Forms can be obtained from the school offices.

ASBESTOS

Current Federal regulations require all schools inventory asbestos containing materials (ACM) and develop a management plan to identify and control ACM in their buildings. Under the law, we must maintain an asbestos management plan for the school and assign a designated asbestos coordinator to ensure no asbestos is introduced into the school. This plan is available for inspection in the school during regular school hours.

The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is necessarily endangered. As long as asbestos-containing material (ACM) remains in good condition and is not disturbed, exposure is unlikely. When building maintenance, repair, renovation or other activities disturb ACM, or it is damaged, asbestos fibers are released creating a potential hazard to building occupants.

We will continue to insure that a healthy, safe school environment is maintained. Any inquiries may be directed to The Snyder Engineering Company, Inc., the designated asbestos coordinator, telephone number is 402-563-2236.

ACTIVITY TICKETS

Activity tickets are on sale now. They are good for free admittance to all home school activities with the exception of tournaments, and district or state contests.

The cost will be:

- \$20 for a student pass
- \$45 for an adult pass
- \$85 for a family pass

They may be purchased at any home athletic event, or by contacting the superintendent office at 308.692.3223.

Without a pass, admission prices for games are set at:

- \$3.00 for students
- \$4.00 for adults

PLEASE LABEL STUDENTS' CLOTHING

Each year we have a number of items that are unclaimed. It is easy for students to misplace their jackets, PE shoes, and other equipment brought to school.

PLEASE USE PERMANENT MARKERS AND PUT YOUR CHILDREN'S NAMES ON ALL ARTICLES BEFORE THEY TAKE THEM TO SCHOOL.

It will make it much easier to return lost items to their rightful owners.

BAND INSTRUMENT RENTAL

The district has some instruments available for rent to students participating in the school's music programs. The cost is \$25 per instrument for the year which is nonrefundable. The student will be responsible for paying for any major repairs due to damages occurring while the instrument is in their care.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Parents will have the opportunity to purchase a student accident policy if they so desire. Your child will receive a brochure from Student Assurance Services, Inc. the first day of school. If you are interested please read over the coverage carefully and send the form with the premium enclosed, back to school with your child. **THE SCHOOL IS NOT THE AGENT.** All claims must be filed directly with the company as outlined in the brochure.

HANDICAPPED CHILD FIND

Public Law 94-142 and Rules 51 and 54 mandate that a free, appropriate public education is available for each handicapped child age 0-21.

Handicapped children are those defined as handicapped physically, visually, speech, orthopedically, medically, specific learning disabled, behavioral, multi-handicapped, home or hospital bound and whose handicap requires special services or education. If you know of any child in our district who meets any of the above criteria and is not presently being served, please contact Superintendent Dave Hendricks at 692-3223.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Nebraska State law requires students entering school for the first time, or transferring from out of state, to present certified copies of their birth certificates (the copy from the hospital DOES NOT meet this requirement). The official form bears the raised seal from the state and is issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lincoln. The form for requesting a birth certificate can be obtained at the County Clerk's office, the school office, or you may write to: Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, PO Box 95007, Lincoln NE 68509-5007. You may also access a copy on the internet by going to web site www.hhs.state.ne.us/ced/nevrinfo.htm. There is a fee charged for this service. Other reliable proof of a child's age and identity accompanied by a notarized affidavit explaining the inability to produce a certified copy of the birth certificate may be used in lieu of a birth certificate.

SCHOOL PERMITS

Upon reaching the age of 14, students may qualify for school permits if they live 1.5 miles or more from school. Parents and students should be aware of the following Nebraska regulations that govern these permits.

- The student may drive to and from school via the most direct street or highway – NO SIDE TRIPS.
- A school permit is for the sole purpose of transporting such person or family member who resides with such person to attend school.
- NO OTHER PASSENGERS ARE TO BE IN THE VEHICLE.

ATTENDANCE

As we begin a new school year we would like to stress the importance of regular attendance and request your cooperation in maintaining up to date and accurate records for attendance. Parents need to notify the school by **8:30 AM** if their son or daughter is going to be gone for part or all of the school day. Please be sure to indicate when and why they will be gone, and if they are absent for medical reasons, have them return with a note from their doctor. Students are reminded that school policy requires homework to be turned in before leaving for a planned absence or activity. Organization and planning are an important part of school success, as well as future success. Parents and teachers need to work together to assure that our students develop good habits and a sense of responsibility toward their commitments.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The school lunch and breakfast program for Southwest Schools is a computerized system. Each student is issued a four digit number that the student will keep year after year. Lunches are deducted from the family account and can be paid for at any of the school offices.

Letters concerning the lunch program have been mailed out. Please fill out these forms and return them to the school ASAP. If you need help filling out your form or additional information please contact the office at 308-364-2613. We will be happy to assist you.

Southwest Public Schools encourages patrons to apply for free or reduced hot lunches. Local patrons do not directly subsidize the free and reduced price meal program. The school receives more payment from the federal government than is charged for the hot lunches. Free and reduced lunch counts are a major factor in determining state aid to our school, as well as what funds are available for our Title I program. All applications for free or reduced price hot lunches are kept confidential.

LUNCH PRICES FOR 2007-2008 will be as follows:

- BREAKFAST – Elementary – (PreK-6) \$1.25
- LUNCH
 - Elementary (PreK-6) - \$1.95
 - Jr. and Sr. High School (7-12) - \$2.45
 - Adults - \$2.80

One milk is included with the meal, but an additional milk may be purchased for an extra \$.30 cents, even for free and reduced families.

ALL LUNCH PROGRAM ACCOUNTS MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE. **No Breakfast/Lunch Charges to be Allowed**

The Southwest Board of Education approved and authorized the administration to no longer allow families to charge lunch/breakfast/milk purchases. All purchases must be prepaid, with no family being allowed to have a zero or negative account balance. In no case will students be allowed to charge meals. Money may be sent in at any time and your account will be credited. You may also ask for a report of your account balance at any time by calling Nanci Stritt at the elementary school (308) 364-2613, as all accounts are stored on the district's computer at the elementary building.

Breakfast at the elementary will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m. each day. Students that walk or are dropped off early and plan to eat breakfast should do so when they arrive or NO LATER than 8:00 a.m. Students that ride the bus will have the opportunity to have breakfast or milk after their bus arrives each morning.

LABELS and BOX TOPS

Our school continues to participate in the fund-raising program by collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's product labels. Labels from Tyson Food products are also being collected. Please send the entire Tyson Project A+ 1 2 3 label. It can **not** be the little Tyson A+ emblem. Thank you for your help.

Southwest Schools

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Indianola, NE 69034

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Fax 308-692-3221

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Bussing Schedule

The bus drivers will be contacting families about pickup times. If there is anyone who didn't ride last year, who will be riding this year, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Elementary Open House Night
on August 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm
Busses will pick up students at the following times:

- Danbury Park @ 5:40
- Lebanon Park @ 5:50
- Bartley School @ 6:15
- Former High School @ 6:15

Welcome Back!

The first day of school is August 19th.

- **Elementary 8:00 - 3:20**
- **Jr. & High School 8:00 - 3:40 PM**

