



'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Drew Billeter

As we transition from winter sports to spring activities, we celebrate the achievements and successes of our students and coaches. Congratulations to all participants for representing our school and communities positively.

Spring sports practices will commence on February 26, 2024. We wish all students the best of luck in their upcoming endeavors. For any updates on schedules, please refer to the school calendar or our social media platforms.

Kindergarten orientation is scheduled for Monday, March 11th at 5:30 PM at Indianola Elementary School. To sign up or for inquiries, please contact

Mrs. Fries at tara.fries@swpschools.org, or call the school at (308)-364-2613.

A friendly reminder that there will be no school on Friday, March 1st and Friday, March 8th due to spring break. Enjoy this time off with your loved ones!

The approved 2024-2025 school calendar is now available on our school website for your reference.

Our district-wide assessment (MAPS) will commence in March to monitor student growth and academic achievement. Encourage your child to strive for their best performance as incentives await those who meet grade level

benchmarks or show improvement from previous scores.

A special congratulations to Madelyn Tyron for her groundbreaking achievement as the first female to place in the girl's state wrestling tournament for Southwest and the RPAC conference!

Connect with us through our social media channels to stay informed about upcoming events and accomplishments at Southwest Public School.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all families for your unwavering partnership and support. Your involvement is truly valued in our school community.

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Special points of interest:

Mar. 1 NO SCHOOL
Mar. 8 - NO SCHOOL
Mar. 11 - 10:00 AM Late Start
Mar. 11 - Kindergarten Round-UP 5:30 to 6:30 PM
3Mar. 11 - School Board Meeting @ Jr/Sr High 7:30 PM
Mar. 12 - Jr/Sr High Dessert Theater 7:00 PM
Mar. 28 - 2:00 PM Early Dismissal
Mar. 29 - NO SCHOOL

Thank you from the Rockin' Riders!

The Rockin' Riders at Southwest Elementary would like to thank everyone who purchased cookie-grams for Valentine's Day! It was a successful fundraiser with 550 cookies ordered and every student in the elementary receiving at least one cookie-gram! Thank you to Bleu Flour Bakery for partnering with us for this fundraiser. The cookies were amazing!

We would also like to thank those of you who contributed to the coin jug fundraiser for the Hiatt family. Even though we didn't get all the way to the top of the jug, the fundraiser was very successful and we celebrated anyway with a pajama day on Friday, February 23rd. Thank you again to everyone who donated. Our district family is truly generous.

Carrie Smith—Elementary Counselor

High School News - Mr. Springer

The 2023-24 year has been a great educational success at the high school. The staff and the students have spent a lot of time working toward reaching the goals they set back in August. It doesn't seem that long ago we were getting ready for the first week of school and trying to decide how the year would look. Amazingly we are now all getting ready for the last quarter of the year, and graduation of our seniors.

Setting up class schedules for students will begin for next year in a couple weeks. The reason we have students register early is to give us a preliminary look at the classes we need to offer based on student request at the high school. These schedules will not be final but it will help us schedule classes that students want. Please take time to talk with your child and help them decide on the classes that would challenge them, as well as, prepare them for the future.

The students will start to take the maps test for the second time. These test are used to measure growth from year to year. This also helps us define areas in our curriculum that we need to focus on. The results are available for parents to see and compare from year to year. Those results will be added to each kid's information on Infinite campus.

Please contact our councilor Jordan Lewis or myself if you have any questions regarding classes for next year.

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

Celebrations from February:

A big thank you to all the parents who attended the parent-teacher conferences in February. Your involvement and support are truly appreciated! Highlighting the success of our students and working together with parents to support any challenges they may face is a key part of educating our children. Special thanks to the parents who provided the delicious snacks and meals for the teachers during conferences. Your generosity did not go unnoticed, and we are so very thankful for all that you do to help support our school, teachers, and students.

Coming in March:

The month of March will be a busy but exciting one at the elementary school! With the warmer weather, we are excited to spend more time outside and look forward to the Spring weather. In March, we celebrate Read Across America along with Dr. Seuss's Birthday. This is a great time to celebrate and promote reading with our students. During this month, we will be celebrating reading with various fun activities. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

- **Read Across America Week:** We will celebrate with fun dress-up days, guest readers, a meal of green eggs and ham, and a fun Reading Challenge.
- **Book Fair and Family Literacy Night:** Join us on March 21st for our Scholastic Book Fair and Family Literacy Night. We will send more information home as we finalize our plans!
- **No School Days:** Please remember that there will be no school on March 8th, 15th, or 29th. Additionally, on Monday, March 11th, we will have a late start at 10:00 am.
- **Farm Safety Day:** The 5th and 6th grade students will be attending Farm Safety Day in Arapahoe on March 14th.
- **Spring MAPS Assessments:** We will begin our Spring MAPS assessments at the end of March.

Kindergarten Orientation:

If you have a child who will be 5 on or before July 31, 2024, they are eligible to start Kindergarten. Please call the elementary office

at (308) 364-2613 to sign up for our orientation. Kindergarten Orientation will be held on March 11th from 5:30-6:30 at the Elementary school. If you are unable to attend, please contact Nanci, 308-364-2613 and we will mail information home to you! We look forward to seeing you and your child at orientation!

Counselor's Corner - Mrs. Lewis

Seniors:

Scholarships:

Seniors can access scholarship applications on their "Class of 2024" Canvas site. A list of available scholarships can be found at:

Go to www.swpschools.org

Hover over the Jr. Sr. High School tab at the top

Go to the bottom of the selection and choose "Senior Scholarships"

Click the google link

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gJL76gaG3ekwUW5V33i6vuvDwDRb6U0f3BiUS8niGRE/edit?usp=sharing>

The spreadsheet is organized by monthly due dates so be sure to click the month tabs at the bottom of the page!! This is updated as I receive scholarships for the year.

ACT

Register for the ACT at: actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

McCook Community College test site code: 024600

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Registration)
April 13th, 2024 April 14th, 2024	March 8th, 2024	March 22nd, 2024
June 8th, 2024 June 9th, 2024	May 3rd, 2024	May 17th, 2024
July 13th, 2024 July 14th, 2024	June 7th, 2024	June 21st, 2024

Juniors:

*Southwest will be administering the ACT to all juniors on March 26th. This is a form of state testing we do as a school. This ACT test will be given at no cost to the students and the results may be submitted for college entrance as well as scholarship applications. Juniors will be completing a John Baylor ACT test prep program in Mrs. Slaten's English class in preparation for the ACT test.

*Juniors interested in taking College English and College Algebra next year must meet criteria by scoring in the appropriate range on the ACT or taking the Accuplacer test at the college. This is a requirement of McCook Community College. Both courses may be taken for dual credit, but students are responsible for tuition costs.

All juniors will be attending the career day hosted by Tri Valley Health Systems on Thursday, March 13, 2024.

Counselor continued:

Jr. High

The Nebraska State Treasurer's Office annual "Why I Want to Go to College" writing contest scholarship is now available. Twelve 7th & 8th grade students will receive \$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500 in a college savings plan. Entries are due March 11th.

more information can be found at:

<https://treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/essay/college/2024/contest-announcement/>

Summer Camps:

Students can apply for these fully funded camps to attend this summer! Applications are available on their Canvas pages.

RYLA (sophomores & juniors)

Youth Energy Camp

Student Highlights!

Interhigh Day Winners

North Platte -

Austin Thompson 1st in Instrumental

Aden Schaffert earned 1st in Information Technology

Luis Escobar Salas earned 2nd in Welding

McCook-

Austin Thompson 1st in music instrumental with his clarinet

Nena Escobar Salas earned 1st in geometry

Haylee Thomas earned 2nd place in Information Technology

Luis Escobar Salas earned 2nd in Welding

McCook-

Austin Thompson 1st in music instrumental with his clarinet

Nena Escobar Salas earned 1st in geometry

Haylee Thomas earned 2nd place in Information Technology

Rotary Student of the month - Abigail Schultz



Yearbooks!

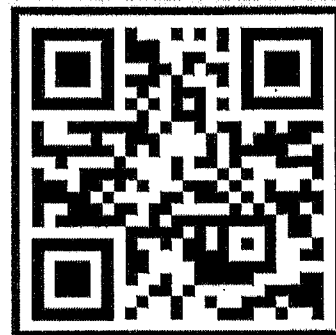
Yearbooks are still on sale. The price is \$50.

To buy, either send payment (and order form if you have it) to Mrs. Kristen Harris at the high school OR order online at yearbookforever.com

Questions??? Please contact Mrs. Kristen Harris at Kristen.harris@swpchoools.org

**BUY YOUR
YEARBOOK —**
www.yearbookforever.com

Walsworth yearbooks





Southwest Public Schools

March, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					No School- Spring Break	1 2:00pm-4:00pm HS Club Volleyball
						2
	3 7:45am Career Discovery Day	4 7:15am FFA CDE 3 7:45am Career Discovery Day	5 Spring Sports Pics	6 1:00pm Peer Mentors A	7 No School- Spring Break	8
						9
	10 2:00pm-4:00pm HS Club VB	11 8:00am HS Maps-Science 4:00pm HS Quiz Bowl at SV 5:30pm-6:30pm Kindergarten Orientation at Elem.	12 9:00am District Speech 12:45pm-3:15pm Tri Valley JR Day	13 8:00am HS Maps-Reading 8:00am Farm Safety Day 4:00pm Track Tri at Elwood	14 1:00pm Peer Mentor B	15 11:00am Track @ Cambridge
	17 2:00pm-4:00pm HS Club VB	18 8:00am HS Maps-Language	19 8:00am HS Maps-Math 1:30pm ESU Quiz Bowl @ McCook 4:00pm ESU High School Quiz Bowl @ SW	20 8:15am-9:15am Edward Jones Presentation	21 1:00pm TR @ Southern Valley	22 8:00am Class D Band
		24 9:50am Peer Mentor B	25 8:00am ACT Exam 4:00pm ESU Elem Quiz Bowl @ SW 4:00pm ESU JR High Quiz Bowl	26 10:00am Bgolf @ Cambridge	27 10:00am Track @ Elwood 2:00pm 2:00 PM Dismissal	28 No School
						29
						30
Easter	31					

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

March-24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
** Menu Subject To Change ** Milk Served Every Meal ** Salad Bar "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."						
3	4 Breakfast Breakfast Burrito Lunch French Dip	5 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Beef Pattie	6 Breakfast Frudel Lunch Chicken Fajita	7 Breakfast Churro Lunch BBQ meatballs	8 NO SCHOOL	9
10	11 10:00 Late Start NO BREAKFAST Lunch Grilled Cheese Sandwich	12 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Beef and Noodles	13 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Jiffy Burger	14 Breakfast Oatmeal Round Lunch Taco Salad	15 Breakfast Pop Tart Lunch Cheese Quesadilla	16
17	18 Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch Pancake Sausage Stick	19 Breakfast Waffles Lunch Chicken Nuggets	20 Breakfast Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar Lunch Spaghetti	21 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Tater Tot Casserole	22 Breakfast Donut Lunch Fish Sticks	23
24	25 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Chicken Alfredo	26 Breakfast Yogurt & granola Lunch Corn Dogs	27 Breakfast Pancake Sausage Sandwich Lunch Easter Dinner	28 Breakfast Egg/Cheese Muffin Lunch Orange Chicken	29 NO SCHOOL	30

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
February 12, 2024

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on February 12, 2024 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Brooke Brooks, Jason Kloepping, Jennifer McConville, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principal Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Duane Teter and John O'Dea.

Visitors: Derek Meyers and Emma Thompson.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to excuse absent board members, John O'Dea and Duane Teter. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, Kloepping, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank Bartley Branch, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley, and published in the McCook Gazette newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 board meeting. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, McConville, Brooks, and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to approve the resignation of Logan Loker at the end of the 2023-2024 school year with thanks for his service to the district. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the resignation of Colleen Ramsay at the end of the 2023-2024 school year with thanks for her twenty-two years of service to the district. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Brooks, to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, McConville, Brooks, and Neseth. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the quote from Creative Sites for the purchase of elementary play-ground equipment at a cost of \$39,500.00 with thanks to the Southwest Schools Foundation for their donation of \$6,500.00 to purchase a slide. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to approve the quote from Crouch Recreation for the purchase of basketball shot clocks as implemented by the Nebraska Schools Activity Association at a cost of \$9,096.00 for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Brooks, to approve the quote from Gov.Connection in the amount of \$21,936.50 for staff computers using the U.S. Department of Education Small Rural Schools Achievement Grant. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Board Minutes Continued

Moved by McConville, seconded by Kloepping, to approve a transfer of \$40,000.00 from the General Fund to the School Nutrition Fund. Ayes: Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Brooks, to go into closed session at 8:05 p.m. for Item #8, Principals' Contracts for the 2024-2025 school year to discuss pay increases for the protection of the public interest and personnel issues for the needless injury to the reputation of an individual. President Neseth repeated the motion, and the board voted as follows: Ayes: Neseth, McConville, Brooks, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

President Neseth closed executive session at 8:13 p.m.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to renew a contract with Tara Fries with a 3% increase in pay as the elementary principal, and daycare and summer school administrator for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: McConville, Neseth, Kloepping, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Brooks, to renew a contract with Matt Springer with a 3% increase in pay as the junior-senior high school principal and transportation director for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: McConville, Neseth, Kloepping, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed an increase in interest rates for the Certificates of Deposit Account Registry Service at the Stockmens Bank and the Adams Bank & Trust, the resignation of Shelby Chartier as a paraeducator at the junior-senior high school and hiring of MacKayla Collins as her replacement, status of delivery of the purchased bus, letters of intent for certified staff, advertising for instructors, Kindergarten Roundup, and delivery of new welders using the Nebraska Career Education Grant.

During Public Comment, Derek Meyers voiced several questions and comments to the Board.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent. The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea and Teter. Motion carried.

School Nurse - Mrs. Nelms

February: It was National Children's Dental Health Month! Colgate helped us celebrate by providing the students in Kindergarten and 1st grade with toothbrushes! Those students also got a short presentation on how to brush and floss their teeth.

We have extra toothbrushes, so if your student doesn't have a toothbrush or you would like an extra, please let us know or have them come to the office. We can supply your student with a toothbrush!

Thursday, March 21, 2024: Polish Your Pearls will be at Southwest Public Elementary from 8am-12pm. This is a program that is offered by Southwest Public Health Department for students pre-k through 5th grade. A dental hygienist will be coming to Southwest Public Schools and providing a free dental screen, fluoride, and sealants if needed. Expect a permission form to come with your student!

Did you know that you can have a fluoride treatment every 3 months and this helps prevent cavities!!

High School Music - Mrs. Roggenkamp

Spring is a busy time for music and band since we have our Dessert Theater, RPAC Band, music contests, and Spring Concert all coming quickly.

We will be having our annual Dessert Theater concert on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00, in the auditorium. The large groups will all perform, plus individuals and groups will perform "fun" songs. Afterward, we will serve dessert, asking for a free-will donation for the Music Boosters. The students enjoy this performance because it is relaxed, filled with the music they like, and there's dessert! Soon I will be asking parents to volunteer to help set up, serve, clean up, and provide desserts. Thank you in advance

The high school band will be in Hayes Center on Tuesday, March 19, for RPAC Band. The clinic starts at 1:00, with a concert at 7:00

The 5th-8th graders will have their music contest in Cambridge on Friday, April 5. High school students will have District Music Contest in McCook on Thursday, April 18. We won't have those schedules until a week or so before the event.

Our Spring Concert is on Thursday, April 11, at 7:00, in the auditorium. We will showcase our contest music during the concert with our large groups. After the concert, we allow students who would like to perform their contest solos/ensembles for anyone who would like to stay and listen.

High School Music—Mrs. Roggenkamp

Southwest FFA has been busy over the month of February. Starting with contests held at Curtis on Feb. 7th, Southwest FFA got 1st in the Farm Management Contest. Hunter Blume was 1st, Avery McConville 2nd, Tristan Martin and Nathan Rippe tied for third place! They qualified for the State Contest in April.

The Agronomy team of Avery McConville, Hunter Blume, Ella Cure and Alex Lashley qualified for the state contests on Feb 7th as well. Agricultural Mechanics team of Nathan Rippe, Gavin Hammond, Jarrett Hitt, and Tristan Martin were able to qualify! They will join the Jr Livestock and Sr. Livestock judging teams in Lincoln, those teams qualified back in November. Bryn Lampe, Coton Sedlacek, Treven Critchfield, and Nathan Rippe comprise the Sr Team, while Ella Cure, Alex Lashley, Gage Hammond, and Juliett Critchfield comprise the junior team.

ON Feb 19th the Welding team competed at McCook Community College. Nathan Rippe, Mitchel Stritt, Colton Sedlacek, and Treven Critchfield qualified as a team for state with Nathan placing first overall in ARC. They will weld at State in April.

The Chapter will have 4 of its members receive the State FFA Degree this year. Bryn Lampe, Nathan Rippe, Colton Sedlacek, and Mitchel Stritt will receive the award! Congrats to all four!

The chapter celebrated FFA week from Feb 18-24. Various days from Jacket Day to Farm Equipment day were participated in. The chapter's next contests are March 5th at NCTA. Teams in Livestock Management, Poultry, Floriculture, Ag Sales and Meats will compete.

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Address Service Requested

