

'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Todd Porter

April 2023

Inside this issue:

High School News	2
Elementary News	2
Counselor's Corner	3
Board Minutes	4
Elementary Nurse	4
High School Nurse Dates	6

Special points of interest:

- Apr. 7 - NO SCHOOL
- Apr. 10 - 10:00 AM Late Start
- Apr. 10 - School Board Meeting at Jr/Sr High 7:30 PM
- Apr. 13 - Jr/Sr High Spring music program 7:00 PM
- Apr. 24 - Jr/Sr High health screening
- Apr. 25 - High School Vaccination Clinic

Happy April! We are coming down the home stretch and there will be many, many activities along with the usual field trips and competitions that involve our students. These trips are not only fun, but educational, too. Thanks to our bus drivers for getting our students to and from these many events.

For those of you that were present for "The Juggler with the Yellow Shoes," I hope you enjoyed this opportunity to bring families together for a fun night of food and entertainment, all while emphasizing the importance of reading and literacy in general. Reading is a major key for all subjects, so reading practice and becoming great readers is vital. Please set aside at least a brief time for

your children to read each evening. If your children are not at the reading age, take the time to read to them each and every chance you get. The more you read to your young ones, the more language and vocabulary they absorb before they read themselves. It is a great thing to share with your child.

A huge shout out to our students who overall did a great job attacking those MAP tests these past few weeks. Our Juniors also took their required ACT tests, so we should receive those results soon. It is unfortunate that there is so much required testing, but we do get results that can help guide us in

selecting curriculum, supplements, and instructional methods. Those items are in continuous review and revision.

There are 33 days of school remaining in the months of April and May. Students still have a tremendous opportunity to get homework turned in, prepare for upcoming tests in their classes and earn those required credits. It's time to focus on those academic matters and get those loose ends tied up. It'll be a great way to end the school year.

Elementary Field Day - Mr. Arterburn

Field day is fast approaching with it being on May 3rd this year. We will be traveling to the high school for all field day activities this year. Field day is a great chance to come and watch your child compete, show off all their hard work from this year in PE, and to have fun! Please make sure to check the weather for that day and have your child dressed accordingly for the weather; you never know what Nebraska weather will bring. I also ask that you have your child wear tennis shoes that day for events, no sandals or boots will be accepted.

The summer is also approaching fast. We are getting busy with all our physical education activities but I want to start talking about upcoming sports camps that will be offered as well this summer. I want to give everyone a chance to review these and decide which camps they would like to attend. If your child is interested in participating in any of the camps please have either them or yourself contact me so that I can get forms sent out. If you would like more information on any camps please contact myself with questions. Also summer weights will begin June 1st. This is open for 6th-12th grade students from 6:30AM-7:30 AM. Please contact me for more information.

Let's Go Bowling!!!! - Mr. Springer

That was our school statement to kids prior to taking the MAPS test. Students' were challenged to increase their scores in three of the four areas. Well, it worked and we had 116 students out of the 6-12 grade improve. So as promised we will be taking a half of a day to go Bowling and have a Pizza Party. This was an 88 percent improvement from last fall. I was very proud of the kids and the determination they had to increase their scores.

This year our students were tested in academic areas with the use of the maps test. The students have taken the MAPS test for the second time this year. Those results will be used to determine student progress and identify areas of weakness with individual students. This information can then be processed to help teachers design lessons to target the areas students need to improve. Our overall test scores this year showed some great improvements. I feel that with our great staff working with the kids we have been able to ensure the students are steadily improving.

I have had several calls regarding "Option enrolment". We have closed our option this year and the board has placed a cap on the class sizes for the elementary at 20 and the High school at 40. This does not mean that your child will NOT be able to attend if they are already optioned in. This is only for new students looking to attend our school next year.

We are now in our last month and a half of the school and things are busy around the school. The students will be competing in interscholastic competitions. These are competitions that allow our students to show how much they have learned in their academic classes. Students may also win scholarships to various college institutions if they perform well on the test.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office so we can get you in contact with the person to help answer your questions.

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

It looks like Spring is finally here! Please remind your children that some days are going to be warm and beautiful and the next might be windy and cold. We go outside for recess time and students need to be ready for whatever mother nature may bring. Sometimes starting the morning with a layer that can be peeled off later or stashing a jacket in their backpack is the best plan!

April is a busy month at the elementary school. Students are all completing MAPs and NSCAS testing, taking their field trips, preparing for the music contest, and of course, learning as much as they can in the short time we have left! Remember we have no school on April 7th for Easter break and a 10:00 late start on April 10th for teachers' PLC meetings and

On April 19th, the 5th-grade students will be traveling to the Jr/Sr High for their transition day. The 5th graders will have a tour, learn about procedures and expectations, visit with current 6th graders, and eat lunch before returning to the elementary school.

Elementary Field Day

Wednesday, May 3 2023
Starting at 12:00 PM
At the Jr/Sr High
Bartley, NE





Southwest Public Schools

April, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:00am 5-8 Music Contest 1
2 State FBIA	3 State FBIA 10:00am Bgolf @ DCS 11:00am Track @ DCS 4:00pm ESU Elem Quiz Bowl @ SW	4 State FBIA	5 7:40am NHS Meeting 10:00am Track @ Cambridge 10:00am JH Track @ DCS	6 Good Friday-No School	7	8
9 Safety Committee Meeting 10:00am Late Start/Teacher Inservice 7:30pm School Board Meeting	10 10:00am Bgolf @ Arapahoe	11 10:00am JH Track @ Hitchcock CO	12 10:00am Bgolf @ Medicine Valley 7:00pm Spring Music Program 6-12	13 9:00am MCC Paint In 10:00am Track @ MV- (Cambridge) 9:00pm-2:00pm Kindergarten Field Trip	14	15
16 7:00pm FFA Banquet	17 10:30am St health talk 1:00pm JH Track @ Arapahoe	18 8:30am 6th Grade Orientation 10:00am Track @ Hitchcock County	19 District Music 1:00pm JH Track @ Rawlins CO (Atwood)	20 10:00am SW Golf Invite	21	22 6:00pm PROM 10:00pm Post Prom in GYM
23 State Journalism 8:30am Health Screenings JH/HS 1:00pm JV Track at McCook JV MEET	24 8:30am Vaccination Clinic 2:00pm JH Track at Bertrand 7:00pm NHS Installation/FBIA Installation	25 8:00am 4th Grade Field Trip- Hastings 6:00pm 6th GR Orientation (parents)	26 8:00am-3:30pm 8th Grade Education Quest 10:00am RPAC Golf 10:30am RPAC TRACK	27 RPAC Track and Golf Rain Date 8:15am 6th Grade to Danbury Depot	28	29 Youth VB Tournament
30						

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

April-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Milk Served With All Meals						
"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider."						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Breakfast Pancake/Sausage Lunch Chicken Nuggets	Breakfast Muffin Lunch Easter Dinner	Breakfast Popart Lunch Hoogie	Breakfast Pancake Lunch Ham & Cheese Roll-up	NO SCHOOL		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NO BREAKFAST 10:00 LATE START Lunch Pancake/sausage Stick	Breakfast Churro Lunch Cheese Quesadilla	Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch French Dip	Breakfast Cinnis Lunch BBQ Meatballs	Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Hot Dog		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Breakfast Fruidel Lunch Jiffy Burger	Breakfast Banana Mini Loaf Lunch Chicken Fajitas	Breakfast Pancake/Sausage Stick Lunch Hamuburger Cheese Burger	Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Grilled Cheese	Breakfast Tornado Lunch Burrito		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Breakfast Bagel Lunch Taco Salad	Breakfast Cinnamon Crunch Bar Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwich	Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch Beefy Nachos	Breakfast Yogurt Lunch Biscuits and Gravy	Breakfast Oatmeal Rounds Lunch Chicken Nuggets		
30						

Menu Subject To
Change

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 2023-2024 CALENDAR

JULY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 Independence Day

JANUARY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

01 New Year's Day, No School

2,3 Teacher Workdays

4 Students Return, Start of Second Semester

8 10:00 Late Start

15 M.L. King Day

AUGUST '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2 RPAC Coaches/Sponsors Meeting

7 Fall Practice Begins

14 Teacher Workday

15 Teacher Workday

16 School Begins

FEBRUARY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

2 SW Invitational Wrestling, No School

8 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences, No School Elementary Only

9 Winter Break, No School

12 10:00 Late Start

19 Presidents' Day

SEPTEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 Labor Day, no school

11 10:00 Late Start

MARCH '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1 Spring Break, No School

8 Spring Break, No School

11 10:00 Late Start

29 Easter Break, No School

OCTOBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

9 Columbus Day
10:00 Late Start

19 Elementary Parent-teacher Conferences, No School Elementary Only

20 Fall Break, No School

31 Halloween

APRIL '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

8 10:00 Late Start

NOVEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

11 Veterans Day

13 10:00 Late Start

15 RPAC One-Act, No School

22-24 Thanksgiving Break, No School

MAY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

11 Graduation

12 Mother's Day

16 Last Day of School for Students, End of 2nd Semester

17 Teacher Work Day

27 Memorial's Day

DECEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11 10:00 Late Start

23-27 Dec. Moratorium

25-29 Christmas Break, No School

JUNE '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

3-27 Summer School

16 Father's Day

Counselor's Corner

Seniors:

*If you plan to live in the dorms make sure to pay your housing deposit.

*Check your college site for their freshman registration days and make sure to sign up

Scholarships:

Seniors can access scholarship applications on their "Class of 2023" Canvas site. A list of available scholarships can be found at: 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/1zURF3HqXzbahngD2TD3qV45pqHd3IegdUWNq1CQTlk/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

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Registration)
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19
July 15, 2023	June 16	June 23

Southwest School code: 280151

MCC test site code: 024600

Juniors:

*Juniors interested in taking College English and College Algebra next year must meet criteria by scoring in the appropriate range on the ACT or MAPS 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.

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 April 3rd. Cover sheet and more information can be found at:

https://treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/essay/college/2023/contest-announcement/?utm_source=Professionals&utm_campaign=0001b41429-MS_Bulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c6e5f7813-0001b41429-88633773&mc_cid=0001b41429&mc_eid=ba4fe17847

8th Grade:

Eligible 8th graders will be going on a college and career visit to UNK and a business in Kearney on April 27th.

Prom:

Prom is April 22nd

Promenade will be in the auditorium (open to the public) 6-7PM

Prom Dinner for juniors and seniors attending 7-8PM in the old gym

Dance 8-11PM in the old gym

Elementary Nurse News - Mrs. Nelms

On Tuesday, April 11 @ 2pm, the 4-5 girls and boys will be divided into 2 groups and will be discussing puberty and body changes. We will be watching the Always Changing and Growing Up video to help facilitate discussion. You are welcome to watch the videos yourself (<https://youtu.be/2XF0awGRTWs> -boys education; <https://youtu.be/0RrXAhtObBI> -girls education). I hope that this encourages conversations between you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse @ janette.nelms@swpschools.org

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

March 13, 2023

Vice-President Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 13, 2023 at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Present: Duane Teter, Jennifer McConville, Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Jason Kloepping, Superintendent Todd Porter, Principal Matt Springer, Principal Tara Fries and Natalie Meyers.

Absent: Jason Neseth

Visitors: Drew Billiter, Cody Gerlach

Vice-President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, 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 Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 board meeting as presented. Ayes: Teter, O'Dea, McConville, Kloepping, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the Resolution on School District Standards for Rejection of Option Enrollment Applications for the 2023-2024 school year, keeping option enrollment numbers as they currently are by capping elementary classes at 20 students, Grades 7-12 at 40 students, and no new special education students requiring specific academic and behavioral support (program full). Ayes: Teter, O'Dea, McConville, Brooks, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by O'Dea, to approve offering all returning teachers a contract for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the Administration. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve placing surplus items for sale through public auction at Holbrook on April 1, 2023. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to reaffirm Policy #5052 School Wellness. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the resignation of Hannah Ash, 6-12 Art Teacher and Miranda Teel, Kindergarten Teacher. The board thanked them for their years of service. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, Neseth, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to approve a pay raise of \$60.00 per bus route and \$17.50 per hour for activity pay for bus drivers for the 2023-2024 school year. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: McConville. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by McConville, to approve a 3% pay raise for the school nurse for the 2023-2024 school year. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

Mrs. Fries explained the schedule for the March 15 and 16 External Team Review and invited the board to view the team's presentation that is available on the school's website.

Superintendent Porter discussed with the board the transfer of the school house to the Billiter family in the month of June and what the move out and move in process may involve.

Principal Springer reported the Jr/Sr High school has come up with some different incentives to help motivate students to excel when taking MAPS Tests, ACT Tests, and NSCAS tests. Currently the students are taking MAPS Tests and if the student improves in 3 out of the 4 areas they will get to partake in bowling and pizza in McCook. Mr. Springer informed the board the bus that was purchased in October of 2022 should be delivered in November of 2023.

Principal Fries informed the board of the Family Literacy Night that will be held on Monday, March 20th at the Jr/Sr High Building in the HS Gym. The juggler with the yellow shoes will be entertaining students and parents from 6:30pm to 7:30 pm. Mrs. Fries reported the Southwest Public Schools Foundation will be holding a meal prior to the event from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

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, April 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ayes: Teter, McConville, O'Dea

Southwest High School
900 Coke Street
PO Box 187
Bartley, NE 69020

Phone: 308-692-3223
Toll Free 855-692-3172
Fax: 888-298-5946

Address Service Requested



High School Health Dates Coming Up

4/18/23 @ 10:30 am - Senior Health Talk - Dr. Blomstedt, from the McCook Clinic, will come to our HS auditorium to speak to the Seniors regarding health after high school.

04/24/23 @ 9:30am - Health Screenings, grade 6-11 - Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision and Hearing Screenings completed with assistance from the Red Willow County Health Department and Southwest Dental.

4/25/23 @ 8:30 - Vaccination Clinic by Red Willow County Health Department

- Senior Vaccination 2nd immunization day, papers will be mailed home 2 weeks prior if your child participated in the February clinic (if you missed the first immunization in February, and are still interested in receiving or updating vaccinations-please call the school or email janettenelms@swpschools.org),
- All incoming 7th graders will be sent home information regarding immunization updates and optional participation in this vaccination clinic.

Upcoming May Health Dates:

5/9/22 @ 8:30 - Free Sports Physicals (current grades 7-11 only) provided by McCook Clinic and sponsored by our Southwest Booster Club

- If a student plans to participate in any school sponsored athletic activity in the 2022-2023 school year, they are required to have proof that a sports physical has been done after May 1, 2022. This event is open to all students who are in current grades 7-11. A form will be mailed to every student in grades 7-11 and must be filled out and signed by a legal guardian for the student to participate.