



'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Todd Porter

As we head into the holiday season, it is more important than ever to closely monitor your children's health (as well as your own) to attempt to decrease the possibility of exposing others to this virus. Although we have experienced some issues with quarantines and Covid positive cases, the environment at our school has been such that we have been able to keep the large majority of our students immersed in face-to-face learning. We will continue to encourage vigorous hand washing, social distancing at all possible times and strongly encourage wearing masks. Along with the continual sanitation and disinfecting with anti-virus foggers in our buildings and busses, we can continue to remain in school. We do not want to go to an all-virtual learning model, and we need your help in this matter.

There is very good news on the vaccine front, but the distribution will take time and we can't accu-

rately pinpoint when that will be available to our area. Eventually, with all of the efforts taken towards slowing the spread of this virus, we will be able to return to a more normal school format. Our local health department has moved their dial to "red," and this is based on local hospital capacity. It triggers, therefore, limits on numbers for activities, presentations, concerts and programs. Other schools have their own guidelines, as well, so we will see some variances from school to school. For most activities, at this time, we will be looking at parents only or no fans at all. Our number one goal is to keep our kids in school and hope to be able to also provide extra-curricular activities that our students need. It is only with the cooperation of the community that this can continue.

As you may have read or heard in news from around the state, some schools are going to strictly on-line learning

for the remainder of the semester after Thanksgiving break. Unless we get a directive from The Department of Education, The Commissioner of Education, The Governor, or our local health department, we fully intend to keep our regular schedule for a return to school as normal after Thanksgiving Break on November 30th and continue school until dismissal on December 22nd. Second semester would then start on January 6th for students. You will be notified immediately if conditions change.

I commend all of our district employees for facing this problem with grit and determination. It has been draining for everyone, so some safe rest and relaxation is in order. Thanks for all of the support from our community. It is greatly appreciated.



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Special points of interest:

- Dec. 9 - State One Act Plays in Norfork
- Dec. 12 - ACT Exam
- Dec. 14 - School Board Meeting at Jr/Sr High 7:30 PM
- Dec. 22 - Schools Out for Christmas Break. Dismissal at 12:45 - Elementary 1:00 PM—Jr/Sr High
- Jan. 6 - Students return to school

JR/Sr High News - Mr. Springer

The first semester is coming to a close. With the winter weather setting in, it is important that you remind your children to dress warm. You may be amazed to see the number of students walking the halls in flip flops and shorts. Not what I would consider appropriate winter dress for the cold days. A bus loses heat really fast if the engine is not running or the heater goes bad. So please keep that in mind as you send your child out the door to catch the bus.

Students have and will continue to take semester tests. This year we will test on Monday the 21st and Tuesday the 22nd. Please keep in mind tests are very important and a learning process for the next level of their education. It is important that you help make sure your child is at school on those last few days. If your child cannot be at school during testing times they will be responsible for making those tests up at a later date over the holiday break. These tests will need to be made up prior to starting the second semester. Please contact the school to arrange a time to make up the test between Dec 28, 29, 30 or 31st. I will meet the kids at school and administer their test.

A reminder to check your child's grades on the school website. It is simple to do and helps you keep up with your child's education. The teachers keep the student's grades up to date each week if not more often. Your child also has a school email that they can use to communicate with their teachers or coaches if they are ill or if they missed a class for some reason. The teachers are encouraged to check their email regularly each day. This allows your child to get feedback from the teacher if they need help from home.

With the Covid protocols ever changing it is very important that your child keep up on homework. It can be very difficult to catch up if they are quarantined for 14 days.

News From The AD - Mr. Roggenkamp

Southwest Jr/Sr High School is working diligently to have a winter sports/activity schedule for 2020-2021. Currently, Jr High Wrestling and Jr High Girls Basketball seasons are underway and High School Basketball and Wrestling practices have started. Very soon we will be hosting High School Basketball and Wrestling Events that will look very different with the current DHM and NSAA Guidelines contests must be operated under. Currently, we are restricted to 25% seating capacity for all contests in our Gym and School building for activities. This count includes athletes while they are not participating. Due to the current DHM events at Southwest Public Schools are currently "Parents Only" or "No Fan" events. Each athlete or participant is being asked to submit their list of

parents to create a pass list at the front gate. Only those on the pass list will be allowed to enter the event under the "Parents Only" designation. If our capacity is raised due to changes in DHM, then Southwest may be able to have events that are "Household Only" or "Immediate Family Only". Household only would allow each athlete to create a pass list including all living under the same household as their parents. "Immediate Family Only" would allow each athlete to obtain a limited number of passes for those outside of their household to be included in attending.

To try and alleviate family or fans not being able to view activities, a school Facebook account has been created where events may be streamed.

(<https://www.facebook.com/swpssc>)

([sportsyou.com](https://www.sportsyou.com)) Many of the schools we participate against utilize live streaming through STRIV. Links to ballgame access will be posted on the school website and status of activities will be updated weekly to try and inform fans of the current status of an event. Parents and players will be notified of the status of a game through each team's SPORTSYOU app.

Thank you for working with us in the ultimate goal to maintain the opportunity for our students to participate in the activities they want and need as part of the educational process.

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

December-20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Milk served daily		1 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Taco Soup	2 Breakfast Pancake Sausage Stix Lunch Cavatini	3 Breakfast Bagel Lunch Turkey slice	4 Breakfast Breakfast Bar Lunch Cheese Quesadilla	5
Menu subject to change	7 Breakfast Fruited Lunch Chicken Sandwich	8 Breakfast Churro Lunch Mac & Cheese	9 Breakfast Cinnias Lunch Enchilada	10 Breakfast Churro Lunch Breakfast for Lunch	11 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Stromboli	12
3	14 Breakfast Cereal Lunch Christmas Dinner	15 Breakfast Oatmeal Round Lunch Tuna & Noodles	16 Breakfast Pancakes Lunch BBQ Meatballs	17 Breakfast Pretzel Stick Lunch Fish Sticks	18 Breakfast Pop Tart Lunch Ham & Cheese Roll-up	19
0	21 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Chicken Nuggets	22 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Sub Sandwich	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26
7	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	This Institution is an equal opportunity provider	



Southwest Public Schools

December, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:30pm JH GBB @ Cambridge-	2 4:00pm One Act Districts-	3 7:40am NHS Meeting- 4:00pm Basketball @ Medicine Valley- 5:30pm WR Duals @ Loomis-	4 4:00pm Roughrider Wrestling Tournament-	5 ACADECA Scrimmage- 1:00pm Basketball vs MHC-
6 4th-5th Christmas Music Program- 8:30am-11:30am 8th GR. Career Exploration-	7 Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- Wrestling Parents Night- 1:30pm JH GBB @ Alma- 4:30pm Wrestling Tri @ SW (Overton/Elm Creek)-	8	9 State One-Act Play-	10 2:30pm JH GBB vs Medicine Valley-	11 Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- 6:00pm WR Triangular @ Thayer Central-	12 ACT Exam- Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- 8:30am WR @ Osceola-
13 High School Christmas Program- 3:00pm JH GBB vs DCS- 7:30pm Board Meeting-	14 Semester Tests- 1:00pm Early Dismissal- 4:00pm Basketball AT Southern Valley-	15 3:00pm Basketball vs Alma-	16 7:10am FFA LSE Contests @ Curtis-	17 PreK-3rd Christmas Program- Good Friends- 2:30pm JH GBB @ Southern Valley- 4:00pm JV WR @ McCook-	18 3:30pm Basketball vs Arapahoe-	19 10:00am WR @ Sutherland-
20 Semester Tests-	21 Semester Tests- 1:00pm Early Dismissal- 4:00pm Basketball AT Southern Valley-	22 Semester Tests- 1:00pm Early Dismissal- 4:00pm Basketball AT Southern Valley-	23 No School- Moratorium-	24 Moratorium-	25 Moratorium-	26 Moratorium-
27 Moratorium-	28	29	30	31		

Counselor's Corner - Mrs. Lewis

Scholarships:

Here is a link to see a list of scholarships, their deadlines, and requirements. Seniors can access all of the information and applications for scholarships via their "Class of 2021" Canvas Course. To access the spreadsheet on the school website:

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/1gv_a5LdkRtjCxNIUZ0QRQsZyYKsBIW2UQwNOWYdKKn4/edit?usp=sharing

*Educationquest.org is also a great resource for scholarships!

*Seniors need to fill out the scholarship application on the various college websites that they've been accepted to. This one form can qualify them for many different scholarships offered at their specific college.

***Parents** check with the associations you belong to and your employer to see if there are scholarships available to students.

ACT:

*Sign up for the ACT at: www.actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

MCC test site code: 024600

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Registration
December 12, 2020	November 6th	November 7- November 20
February 6, 2021	January 8th	January 9-January 15
April 17, 2021	March 12th	March 13-March 26
June 12, 2021	May 7th	May 8- May 21
July 17, 2021	June 18th	June 19- June 25

*February 6th is the final one for seniors. Most college admissions and scholarships do not accept scores after the February test date.

School Music News - Mrs. Roggenkamp

Due to Covid, we have been unable to have live performances, so we recorded our Veterans Day Program and put it on the website. Thank you to all who watched it. The students love to honor the veterans, even if we didn't get to do it in person.

We will do the same with our Christmas program - we will record it and post it on the school website, www.swpschools.org. The students are excited to perform! Our large groups will all perform, but we have a lot of small groups too. You will hear a great variety of Christmas music. Please watch our students and let them put you in the holiday spirit!

Elementary Rockin'Riders

The Rockin' Riders is comprised of fifth grade students who are willing to put some extra time and effort in to developing their leadership skills by organizing and delivering items for the Blessing Box and also planning school wide activities,

"Holiday Joy" was the name of the most recent collection drive for the Blessing Box. Students and staff contributed items such as cake and cookie mixes plus a variety of frostings and decorations to be placed in the Blessing Box. A variety of nonperishable items were also collected. The Blessing Box is located outside of the Methodist Church in Indianola and is available to anyone in need of nonperishable items.

The Riders would like to thank everyone for their generosity. We hope that you have a very joyful holiday season.



Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
November 9, 2020

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on November 9, 2020 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jennifer McConville, Ondrea McConville, Jason Kloepping, Duane Teter, Superintendent Todd Porter, Principal Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: John O'Dea and Jason Neseth.

Visitors: Cody Gerloch and Nicole Springer.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Notice of the meeting was posted at the Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, State Bank of Bartley in Bartley, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley and published in the Valley Voice. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Principal Matt Springer and John O'Dea arrived at the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020 board meeting as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, Teter, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Board President Teter, a member of the Board Negotiations Committee, is awaiting a date and time to meet with the Southwest Education Association to begin the 2021-2022 negotiations process.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the Superintendent Evaluation and Contract with R. Todd Porter for the 2021-2022 year. Ayes: Kloepping, Teter, J. McConville, O. McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

The Board Members' consensus regarding students who are not in school for face-to-face instruction, if that is the model of instruction for the remainder of the school year, were that the student's parents were to file for home-school status with the Nebraska Department of Education if their intent is to remain at home for the second semester.

Superintendent Porter reported on Governor Pete Ricketts press conference regarding the tightening of COVID-19 protocols and the plan to inform patrons of full payment of the school bond two years early and saving the district over half a million dollars.

Principal Springer reported on staff coverage of bus routes, and Principal Fries reported on the virtual Veterans' Day presentation found on the school's website.

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, December 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, O. McConville, O'Dea, J. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Neseth. Motion carried.

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Address Service Requested

www.swpschools.org

Let's all help slow the spread of Covid-19!! If your child is sick, please keep your child home. Please communicate with the school and your healthcare provider regarding symptoms.

Monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms every day

Pay particular attention to:

- *Fever (temperature 100.4 °F or higher)*
- *Loss, or alternation in taste and smell*
- *Nasal congestion, runny nose*
- *Sore throat*
- *New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing*
- *Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache*
- *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever*
- *Muscle aches, fatigue*

References: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html#:~:text=%2D%20Fever%20or%20chills.,babies%20under%201%20year%20old>