



February 2024

# 'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Drew Billeter

The first month of the second semester is in the books. Mother nature was not our friend during the first part of the month.

There were several late starts and days off of school. Please stay tuned to our social media sites for school closings and late starts. The school also utilizes our one all call, local TV and radio to post weather closings and late starts. If you are not receiving a call from the school weather updates, please contact the school so we can update your contact info. If you ever think the roads are not safe to drive on, you are welcome to keep you children at home for the day. Please make sure to communicate with the school.

The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school was on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> which means we are on the downhill slide. The first downs list for students in grades 6-12 came out on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Students that have lower than a 70% in 2 or more classes are required to leave their

phone at home or turn it into the office during the school day.

They are allowed to check it during their lunch hour, and they can have it back at the end of the school day. Our goal is this will motivate students to get their assignments turned in and get off the downs list.

There are many scheduled days off of school in February for school activities and parent teacher conferences. On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> there is no school for all students and staff due to hosting the SW wrestling invite. Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> there is no school at the elementary due to parent teacher conferences. There is no school for students and staff on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> due to winter break.

Finally, there is no school for all students on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> due to hosting RPAC speech. Please make sure to always check the school calendar on our website for the most updated information on school activities.

Good luck to all of the

winter activities as they begin district competition. Please pay attention to our social media sites for information on dates and times of district competitions. This is a very fun and exciting time for all of our student-athletes. Please make sure to come out and support them. Good luck once again to all who are participating in our winter sports and activities.

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## Special points of interest:

- Feb. 2 - NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 8 - NO SCHOOL ELEM ONLY. Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00 - 7:00
- Feb. 9 - NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 12 - 10:00 AM Late Start
- Feb. 12 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Feb. 14 - NO School Teacher Work Day



## Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

February is buzzing with excitement as we gear up for various events and important dates at Southwest Elementary. Here's what you need to know:

### Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 8th, as we host Parent-Teacher Conferences from 2:00-7:00 PM at the elementary school. There will be no school for students on Thursday and Friday, February 9th, for Winter Break. To schedule your conference, please use the Sign-up Genius app.

### Late Start for Teachers:

On Monday, February 12th, teachers will have a late start at 10:00 AM to collaborate in their PLC teams.

### RPAC Speech Contest:

Please note that there will be no school on Wednesday, February 14th, due to the RPAC Speech contest. However, **Valentine's Day parties** will be held on the afternoon of the 13th. Look out for more information from your child's teacher closer to the date.

### Good Friends Celebration:

Our 3rd graders and their Good Friends will have their celebration on February 13th from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. We extend our gratitude to our community members who volunteer as Good Friends, fostering positive relationships with our students.

### Kindergarten Orientation - March 11th:

Attention parents of incoming Kindergarten students! Join us on March 11th from 5:30-6:30 PM for Kindergarten Orientation. Children will engage in introductory activities while parents meet with the Elementary Principal, Mrs. Fries, and School Nurse, Mrs. Nelms. Please note that this session is for parents and incoming Kindergarten students only, to ensure focused attention. Look out for a letter from the kindergarten teachers with further details on how to sign up.

### Preschool Enrollment for 2024-2025:

We have a few spots remaining for preschool for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have or know a child who will be 3 or 4 years old by July 31, 2024, and would like to apply for our preschool program, please contact Nanci at 308-364-2613 for an application or pick one up from our elementary office. Preschool students must meet the district criteria, so please ensure you have the necessary enrollment forms.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

## School Nurse - Janette Nelms

During Enrichment, preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades have been discussing different emotions; how to identify them and how to calm them when they get too big and overwhelming. The fourth and fifth grade classes have been learning about SMART. They are learning how to ensure that their goals are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely so that they have a better chance at being successful in achieving their goal.

February 17<sup>th</sup> is the national Random Acts of Kindness Day. Throughout the month, the elementary students will be discussing and demonstrating ways that they can show random acts of kindness to others.

The Rockin' Riders recently took a trip to the McCook Recycling Center. They learned how to sort the recyclable materials into their designated areas and how the different materials are then compacted, bundled, and sent out to different places to be recycled and remade into different products.

Thank you to everyone who ordered Valentine's Day cookies this year. The Rockin' Riders were excited to partner with Bleu Flour Bakery for their fundraiser. Cookies will be delivered to students on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> due to no school on the 14<sup>th</sup> for RPAC speech.

# 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](http://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.

\*Seniors wanting to improve their ACT scores can take it through February to use on their college and scholarship applications.

**February 27th is FAFSA Day!** \*Senior parents wanting help with completing the financial aid application (FAFSA) can email [jordan.lewis@swpschools.org](mailto:jordan.lewis@swpschools.org) to schedule an appointment with the Education-quest FAFSA specialist who will be here on Tuesday, February 27th. Your student will need to be present at your appointment. Appointments are available every 30 minutes and she can work with two families at a time.

### ACT

Register for the ACT at: [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)

Southwest School code: 280151

McCook Community College test site code: 024600

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Registration)
February 10th, 2024 February 11th, 2024	January 5th, 2024	January 19th, 2024
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.

### Summer Camps:

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

Girls State & Boys State (juniors)

Jr. Law Cadet (juniors)



## Music Notes - Mrs. Roggenkamp

Seven high school students were selected to participate in the K-State Concert Band Clinic January 19-21. After a quick audition, they were placed in one of six bands, with whom they practiced all day Saturday to prepare for a concert on Sunday. The conductors of the six bands were from all over the US - one was from Connecticut, one was from South Dakota, three were from Nebraska, and one was from Texas. The students attended a master class with K-State faculty, helping them learn more

about their instrument/sections. It was a great learning experience for all of them. The students who attended the clinic were Amelia Minary, percussion; Brianna Rae, trumpet; Haylee Thomas, bass clarinet; Austin Thompson, clarinet; Nena Escobar Salas, baritone; Jadyn Walz, flute; and Yael Perales, percussion.

On Monday, January 29, there will be eight high school students attending the UNK Honor Band and Honor Choir Clinic. They will prac-

tice with their respective groups all day and perform in a concert that night. The students who will be attending are: Ana Cerenil and Elina Decker in the Women's Choir; Luis Escobar Salas, Nena Escobar Salas, and Anastasia Gallegos in the Honor Choir; and Haylee Thomas, Austin Thompson, and Jadyn Walz in the Festival Band.



# SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

February-24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Salad Bar served daily		1 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch French Dip	2 NO SCHOOL	3
		Menu subject to change				
		"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"				
4	5 Breakfast Oatmeal Round Lunch Pizza Burger	6 Breakfast Poptart Lunch Taco Salad	7 Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch Chicken Alfredo	8 NO SCHOOL ELEM Breakfast Waffles Lunch Beef Fingers	9 NO SCHOOL	10
11	12 NO BREAKFAST 10:00 AM Late Start Lunch Flatbread Turkey Sandwich	13 Breakfast Cinnamon Crunch Bar Lunch Jiffy Burger	14 NO SCHOOL	15 Breakfast Donut Lunch Sausage Gravy over Biscuits	16 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Fish Sticks	17
18	19 Breakfast Yogurt & Granola Lunch Chicken Nuggets	20 Breakfast Pancake Sausage Sandwich Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwich	21 Breakfast Egg & Cheese English Muffin Lunch Tater Tot Casserole	22 Breakfast Granola Bar Lunch Taco	23 Breakfast Mini Cinnis Lunch Mac & Cheese	24
25	26 Breakfast Pancake Sausage Stix Lunch Pepperoni Dipstick	27 Breakfast Muffin Lunch Mini Corn Dogs	28 Breakfast Pancakes Lunch Orange Chicken	29 Breakfast Bagel Lunch Chili		



## Southwest Public Schools

February, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 2:30pm JH BB @ Southern Valley	2 No School 9:55am Parents Night WR 10:00am WR Southwest Invite 3:00pm Girls District WR	3 Speech @ Sutherland
4 Kids Wrestling Tournament	4 4:00pm SW JH Quiz Bowl	5 4:00pm BB @ Wallace	6 7:15am FFA CDE 2 9:30am-3:00pm Code Crush at SWHS	7 No School at Elem./Parent Teachers Conf. 2:30pm JH BB vs Arapahoe @ SW	8 No School Winter Break 2:00pm Boys District Wrestling 2:00pm Girls WR District @ Broken Bow 4:30pm BB @ Axtell	9 Speech @ North Platte 9:00am Boys District Wrestling
11 2:00pm-4:00pm HS Club Volleyball	12 10 AM Start (In-service) 7:30pm School Board Meeting	13 GBB Districts 2:00pm-3:00pm Good Friends 2:30pm JH BBB @ Alma	14 RPAC Speech 7:30am McCook Inter High Day	15 State Wrestling Finals @Omaha GBB Districts	16 State Wrestling Finals @Omaha	17 State Wrestling Finals @Omaha
18 2:00pm-4:00pm Youth Club Volleyball	19 8:30am FFA Welding	20 BBB Districts	21 BBB Districts North Platte Inter High Day	22 BBB Districts North Platte Inter High Day	23 GBB District Finals	24
25 2:00pm-4:00pm Youth Club Volleyball	26 Start of Spring Practice BBB District Finals 8:30am Vaccination Clinic 4:00pm HS Quiz Bowl at Southwest	27 8:00am-3:30pm FASFA State Girls BB @ Lincoln DAY (Seniors)	28 State Girls BB @ Lincoln	29 State Girls BB @ Lincoln		



**Board of Education Meeting**  
**Southwest Public Schools**  
**District 179**  
**January 22, 2024**

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:31 p.m. on January 22, 2024 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Jason Kloepping, Jennifer McConville, John O'Dea, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principals Tara Fries, and Natalie Meyers.

Absent: Brooke Brooks

Visitors: Emma Rasmussen

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

Moved by McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, Kloepping, O'Dea, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. 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 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 McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 board meeting. Ayes: Neseth, Kloepping, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Abstain: Teter. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

President Neseth adjourned the meeting sine die at 7:39 p.m. to elect school board officers for the 2024 calendar year.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to nominate elected officers as follows: Jason Neseth as President, Duane Teter as Vice-President, Jason Kloepping as Secretary, and Jennifer McConville as Treasurer. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

President Neseth presided during the remainder of the meeting.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to retain committee members as follows: Teter, McConville, and O'Dea to the Americanism Committee; Neseth, Brooks, and McConville to the Transportation Committee; Kloepping, O'Dea, and Brooks to the Building and Grounds Committee; Neseth, Kloepping, and Teter to the Negotiations Committee; and Brooks to the Foundation Board. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

## Board Minutes Continued

Undertaking Funds. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to designate the Adams Bank & Trust and Stockmen's Bank as the district's official depositories. Ayes: Kloepping, Teter, Neseth, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to designate the Valley Voice as the district's official news publication. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to approve the 2022-2023 Audit. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the quote in the amount of \$6,891.00 for miscellaneous electrical work at the elementary building from Holdrege Electric. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, McConville, O'Dea, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the quote from Matheson in the amount of \$7,741.00 for two MIG welders to be paid from the \$7,500.00 CTE grant the school has received. Ayes: Neseth, McConville, Teter, O'Dea, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Teter, to approve the contract with Carissa Hill as a Grade 6-12 art instructor for the 2024-2025 school year. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, McConville, O'Dea, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported the sprinkler system was inspected at the beginning of the month and the school hired a new custodian and cook this last month. Springer Eco Blasting completed the masonry cleaning at the HS and they will return to put a sealer on the building once the temperature is above 50 degrees. Mr. Billeter discussed the CDARS CD's with the board and informed them 3 of them will mature in February and the others will mature in March. He also reported the Southwest Foundation will be purchasing a Rock N Roll slide for the elementary playground project in the amount of \$6,500. Letters of intent will be given to certified staff in February and the board was informed that the NSAA will approve shot clocks for basketball in April, so he will be getting quotes for a shot clock system next month.

Principal Fries reported all elementary students, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, finished MAPS Testing and Dibbles. Mrs. Fries informed the board that all but a few students met the green or growth mark and she expressed how proud she was of all the test scores. Parent teacher conferences will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February and Kindergarten orientation will be March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Fries also wanted to commend the custodial staff on a job well done removing snow and ice from the elementary and high school buildings.

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, February 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Teter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, O'Dea, McConville, Neseth, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Brooks. Motion carried.



## JR/SR High News - Mr. Springer

The second semester is well under way. Each year around this time we start planning for next year and setting up classes based student request. In the next few weeks, we will be asking your child to request classes for the following year. Students will again be asked to look at the future of their education and what they intend to do after high school. Please take some time to discuss future plans with your child. Questions to ask would be what career choice, what college, what classes would benefit their career choice. This will help them get scheduled into the classes that will most benefit them. Every year we find kids have not thought about these simple questions.

Colleges are becoming more difficult to get into. If the students have not started the process of getting accepted, it is very important that they start right away. FASFA is something that every parent and child need to fill out prior to the end of the senior year. This will allow students to be eligible for federal and state aid in college.

# SW Puffy Sweatshirt Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mrs. Lashley or  
Mrs. Barnett by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

One Shirt per Sheet...Please Circle Selections

						+ \$3	+ \$5
\$25 Adult Crewneck	S	M	L	XL		2X	3X
\$30 Adult Hoodie	S	M	L	XL		2X	3X
\$25 Youth Crewneck	XS	S	M	L	XL	(Navy Only)	
\$28 Youth Hoodie	XS	S	M	L	XL		

(Color & Size Dependent upon Availability)

Sweatshirt Color:

Navy    Stone Blue    Sand

Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Design:

Southwest    Roughriders

Print Color:

White    Carolina    Navy

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