



'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Todd Porter

May is upon us and we look forward to warmer weather, a wide variety of activities for every level of student, and graduation for this class of seniors. Congratulations to those seniors who stuck it out and worked their way through the challenges and academic requirements that allow one to earn such an achievement. We have a variety of directions that this group will head off to, and I wish them the very best. These seniors made their way through a couple of very difficult years that really challenged a lot of students. I congratulate you.

This is, of course, my last newsletter as Superintendent of Southwest Public Schools. The past ten years have seen many changes and challenges, but as a staff of professional teachers, counselors, custodians, cooks, bus drivers, pararas, secretaries, nurses and administrators, we made it through. As I look back upon the educational experiences my own children had at Southwest, I can proudly say that they were well-prepared for life after high school, and had many good memories and accomplishments to look back upon. Our family owes a great deal of

gratitude to the teachers that worked with my sons, answering questions, preparing them for competitions, and encouraging them to challenge themselves as they all took different paths beyond high school. As a parent, it is interesting to note that none of them entered the field that they were dead-set on when they left high school. It's all part of growing up and becoming an adult, making decisions based on what they wanted for their own lives as they progressed through college and life. In the end they need to do what makes them happy, and they were ready for the changes that came along the way. Our family will always hold Southwest close to our hearts, and we thank you for the opportunity to spend these past many years in this community.

I would like to give a special shout out to the Southwest Public Schools Foundation, and the hard work and support that they do throughout the year to allow our students to receive so many valuable scholarships for their training after high school. These folks volunteer their time and efforts for all of our

students, helping pay for guest speakers and special classroom materials when needed. These are special people that want nothing more than to see our students be successful. You can't ask for more than that.

I was a late bloomer as far as entering into the education field, not entering the classroom until the ripe old age of 31. It took that long to figure out that I'd better get to it if I was going to work where I really wanted to, in the public-school system. 24 years in Nebraska and seven years in Iowa made for some wonderful, challenging, and rewarding times. For those of you parents that are thinking about becoming a teacher, it's never too late! I went from being a teacher to a school counselor to a principal and then on to 17 years as a superintendent. There are still plenty of years for most of you to get back to school and earn those credentials! Now, more than ever, we need good people to enter the profession. There is no better time to start than right now. Working with children is a privilege that will change your life forever.

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Special points of interest:

- 1 May 1 - Awards Night at Jr/Sr High 7:00 PM
- May 3 - Elementary Field Day 12:00 PM at the Jr/Sr High
- May 8 - 10:00 AM late start.
- May 10 - HS district track
- May 13 - HS Graduation 10:30 AM
- May 17 - Last Day of School. Early dismissal. Elem- 12:30 PM Jr/Sr High 1:00 PM

High School News - Mr. Springer

The 2022-23 year has been a great educational success, as we have returned to a more normal school year at the Junior/Senior high school. The staff and the students have spent a lot of time working toward reaching the goals they set back in August.

The month of May is a short month in terms of school. These are a few dates that you may want to keep open on your calendar. **** On May 3rd we will host the Elementary field day. It starts at 12:00 at the track in Bartley. May 13th Graduation. May 17th is also the last day of school.

Summer school will once again take place this year to help students catch up on credit recovery. The Junior/Senior High summer school program is designed to get the students who may be low in English or Math skills extra help. This will hopefully ensure they are ready for the next level of course work when school resumes. Summer school will be Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30.

The class schedules for next year have been finalized. We have spent a lot of time working to ensure students are able to take the classes they wish. However, there is a slight possibility that a specific class may not fit. If you have not visited with your child, I would encourage you to ask them what they signed up for in the fall semester. The schedule is designed to fit the request students made this year. So when the fall term hits it is hard to make changes and still get the classes they want.

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

As the 2022-2023 school year comes to an end the only word I can think of to explain my feelings is grateful. I am grateful for such an amazing staff, administration, and school board. They clearly put our students first and are dedicated to helping them learn and grow. I am grateful for the families who attend our school and the support we receive from them. We are blessed every day with the opportunity to work with some really amazing kids. I am grateful to our community that never fails to support our school in an effort to enrich the lives of our students.

May 8-12th is teacher appreciation week. If you have a chance please take a moment to write your child's teacher a note telling them how very much they are appreciated. Teachers are an essential part of our lives. They have the important responsibility of shaping the minds and hearts of our future generation. From teaching the basics of reading, writing, and math to instilling important life skills like empathy, responsibility, and critical thinking, our teachers work hard every day to ensure that their students receive an excellent education. We are blessed to have some of the best teachers working in our schools!

Elementary Field Day on Wednesday, May 3rd at the high school track in Bartley. Students will ride the buses to Bartley and eat a picnic lunch. Field day events will start at noon. Parents, families, and friends are more than welcome to come and watch their children compete on this day. The Southwest Foundation will be selling sandwiches and concessions for spectators.

We will wrap the school year up on Wednesday, May 17th with an early dismissal. Students at the elementary school will be dismissed at 12:30. We will be serving lunch before students are dismissed for summer break. Daycare will also close at 12:30 on Wednesday. Remember to encourage your children/grandchildren to READ READ READ this summer. There are a lot of great books available to check out and fun activities going on at the Bartley and Indianola libraries throughout the summer break! We hope you all have a great summer! See you next fall!

Counselor's Corner - Mrs. Lewis

Seniors

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

*If you are attending college make sure you sign up for registration days through your college website.

ACT

Register for the ACT at: actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

MCC test site code: 024600

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

7th Grade:

Thursday, May 4th- 7th grade students will be participating in a career exploration day and visit 6 area businesses to learn about careers in Southwest Nebraska.

Essay Contest:

The Nebraska Game and Park Commission is holding the 7th annual Kayak Kid Essay Contest. The contest aims to reward local youth who best express their appreciation for the many outdoor recreational opportunities in our area. We ask students to write a short, 250-word or less essay to answer one question: "What is your most memorable outdoor recreation experience in a southwest Nebraska State Recreation Area (SRA)?"

There are two age divisions, 10-14 years old and 15-18 years old. First-place winners from each age division will be awarded a kayak, paddle, and lifejacket. Fishing rods and reels will be awarded to the second and third-place winners from each age division.

The parks that students are invited to write about include Lake Maloney SRA, Sutherland SRA, Red Willow SRA, Swanson SRA, Medicine Creek SRA, Enders SRA, Rock Creek Lake SRA, Buffalo Bill SRA, Lake Ogallala SRA, and Lake McConaughy SRA.

Essays should be submitted by the end of the day on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, May 10th, 2023. Students who submit essays, and their families, are invited to an Award Ceremony at the Lake Maloney Outlet SRA, north of the swim area, on Saturday, May 20th, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm Central Time. The prizes will be awarded at this time. The NGPC kayak and fishing trailers will be provided so families can enjoy the lake together. Food will also be provided free of charge.

Essays must include name, age, and be handwritten. They can be mailed or scanned and emailed to:

Southwest District Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Attn: Meghan Manary
301 E State Farm Rd
North Platte, Nebraska 69101
or Meghan.Manary@Nebraska.gov

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
April 10, 2023

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on April 10, 2023 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Brooke Brooks, Jennifer McConville, John O'Dea, Superintendent Todd Porter, Principal Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Jason Kloepping.

Visitors: Jody Dellevoet.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Jason Kloepping arrived at the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

No action was taken on New Business, Action Item 1, discuss and take appropriate action on resignation of teachers.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by O'Dea, to approve a contract with Whitney Billiter as a kindergarten instructor for the 2023-2024 school year. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter discussed graduation and participation in the ceremony for all senior students that fulfill graduation requirements, and diplomas were signed.

The Board reviewed and discussed a list of teacherage improvements. An electrician has been contacted, and Mr. Neseth will discuss the projects and priorities with Drew and Whitney Billeter.

Superintendent Porter discussed the junior-senior high school students' academic improvement incentives, high school students second place finish at the McCook and North Platte Inter-High Days, and an upcoming Foundation meeting to select scholarship winners.

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Principal Fries informed the board of the external visitation results.

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, May 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, O'Dea, Teter, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

May-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Milk with all meals	1 Breakfast Cereal Lunch Hamburger or Cheeseburger	2 Breakfast English Muffin Sandwich Lunch Beefy Nachos	3 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Sack Lunch	4 Breakfast Apple Mini Loaf Lunch Pizza	5 Breakfast Waffles Lunch Pepperoni Dipsticks	6
7	8 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Hoagie	9 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Quesadilla	10 Breakfast English Muffin Sandwich Lunch Breaded Beef Patty	11 Breakfast Granola Bar Lunch Spaghetti	12 Breakfast Tornado Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwich	13
14	15 Breakfast English Muffin Sandwich Lunch Tater Tot Casserole	16 Breakfast Pop Tart Lunch Mac and Cheese	17 Breakfast Waffles Lunch Sack Lunch	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Menu Subject to Change "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."		



Southwest Public Schools

May, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:30am 3rd Grade Field Trip 12:30pm-2:30pm DEA @ SWHS 7:00pm Awards Night	2 National Land Judging-FFA 10:00am Bgolf @ Hitchcock Co (McCook) 1:00pm JH Track at Cambridge 3:00pm Track -Best of Midwest (Sutherland)	3 National Land Judging-FFA 12:00pm Elem Field Day	4 7:40am NHS Meeting 8:00am National Land Judging-FFA 8:00am-3:30pm 7th Grade Career Day 10:00am Track @ Alma	5	6
7 SR, Last Day 10:00am JH Track @ DCS (RPAC) 10:00am Late Start/Teacher Inservice 7:30pm School Board Meeting	8 8:30am Sports Physicals 10:00am Bgolf Cattle Trail @ Medicine Valley Elem Spang-Music Concert -Cancelled	9 8:00am 6th Grade to Archway 10:00am District Track	10 7:00am-4:00pm 5th Grade Field Trip 10:00am Bgolf @ Bertrand	11 9:30am Graduation Practice	12 10:30am GRADUATION	13
14 10:00am District Golf	15 8:00am-3:40pm Semester Tests	16 8:00am-1:00pm Semester Tests 1:00pm Last Day of School	17 Teacher Workshop	18 10:00am State Track	19 10:00am State Track	20
21 NHS to Omaha	22 State Boys Golf NHS to Omaha	23	24	25 FFA OFFICER Training	26 FFA OFFICER Training	27
28	29	30	31			

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

In Second Grade I learned: by Ms. Ruggles

"How to tell time, pound syllables, chop, and syllabicate words." - Darin

"How to be a good friend and to treat others the way you want to be treated." - Tate

"How to tell time to the minute and how to read chapter books by myself." - Judd

"How to read by myself." - Jast

"About butterflies and how to read by myself." -Rilee

"How to take care of plants and to read by myself." - Rilynn

"How to read chapter books by myself and how to syllabicate words." -Braxton

"How to add and subtract big numbers." -Rory

"Not to argue and that I am a great mathematician." - Charlie

"My doubles facts and to read by myself." -Joseph

"How to read chapter books, take care of plants, and regroup numbers to add and subtract." - Abby

"How to read fluently and with expression. I also learned how to chop words to help me spell." -Adilynn

"How to measure using inches, yards, and centimeters." -Parker

"How to tell time and add and subtract big numbers." -Callan

"How to decompose big numbers, tell time, and read and spell big words." -Jas

Never say, "I can't do it." Instead say, "I can't do it YET!" by Ms. Ruggles

"We are special! We are smart! We all belong!"

By Our 2nd Grade Family



5th - 8th Grade Music Contest Results - Mrs. Roggenkamp

Name	Rating
Olivia Minary, flute solo	Superior
Elementary Band	Superior, 1 st Place Trophy
6-8 Choir	Superior, 2 nd Place Trophy
Hunter Halloran, alto sax solo	Superior
Alexis Cornwell, flute solo	Superior, 1 st Place Medal
Ava Rucker, alto sax solo	Superior
6-8 Band	Superior, 2 nd Place Trophy
Natalie Koetter, vocal solo	Excellent
Clara Hurst, vocal solo	Excellent
Abigail Sedlacek, vocal solo	Superior
Ellyana Reeder, clarinet solo	Superior
Ava Martin, flute solo	Superior
MaKenlee Thomas, flute solo	Superior
Alivia Cure, flute solo	Superior, 3 rd Place Medal
Isabella Donvito, vocal solo	Superior, 2 nd Place Medal
Ella Hyke, vocal solo	Superior
Faith Neel, vocal solo	Superior
6 th Grade Bells & Flutes Lydia, Alivia, Ellyana, Ava	Superior, Trophy for Outstanding Mixed Instrumental Ensemble
JH Mixed Duet 7, Natalie/Lacie	Superior
Mila Nelms, vocal solo	Superior
Anslyn Brooks, vocal solo	Superior
Natalie Neseth, vocal solo	Superior
Lydia Harris, vocal solo	Superior
Addilynn Hitt, vocal solo	Superior
Kali Kurkowski, baritone solo	Superior, 1 st Place Medal
Jace Jensen, trombone solo	Superior
Josh Hitt, trombone solo	Superior, 3 rd Place Medal
Myles Nelms, trombone solo	Excellent
Arianna Donvito, tuba solo	Superior
Alexandra Perales, trumpet solo	Superior, 2 nd Place Medal
6 th /7 th Grade Trumpets Colin, Lacie, Brett, Brody, Jaxon	Superior
Brass Quartet Colin, Kade, Josh, Arianna	Superior
Josh Hitt, vocal solo	Superior, 3 rd Place Medal

Continued

Name	Rating
Choir	Superior
Band	Superior, plaque for getting all superiors from 3 judges
Jadyn/Amelia	Superior
Brass Quartet	Superior
Nena (baritone)	Excellent
Brianna (trumpet)	Superior
Haylee (clarinet)	Excellent
Kiana (alto sax)	Superior
Julee (clarinet)	Excellent
Austin (clarinet)	Superior, Outstanding Performance Award
Nena (vocal)	Excellent
Anastasia (vocal)	Excellent

School Nurse News

All incoming Kindergarten students must have a school physical with updated vaccinations, a professional eye exam and a certified birth certificate.

All 7th grade student must have a school physical and updated vaccinations prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Any medication that your child has at school, must be picked up by a parent at the end of the school year.

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

Phone: 308-692-3223
Toll Free 855-692-3172
Fax: 308-692-3221

Address Service Requested



www.swpschools.org

**May 9th starting at 8:30am will be free
Sports Physicals at the High School for
current 7th through 11th Grade.**

**Physical Forms were mailed home a couple
weeks ago. Please remember to return
physical forms to the High School before
May 9th. If you need another form please
pick one up in the office.**