

# 'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Drew Billeter

It's hard to believe that we have already completed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of school. With that being said, please make sure that you are checking Infinite Campus to monitor your child's grades, attendance, and lunch balance. There is still plenty of time for students to improve their grades if they are struggling, or failing a class. If you have any questions about your child's grades or academic progress, please make sure and contact the teacher directly.

Our girl's golf team, and cross-country teams have just concluded their season. They both had many positives, and accomplishments during their season. As I write this newsletter our football team is still competing in the playoffs, and our volleyball team is competing for a chance to qualify for the state tournament. Both teams have had great seasons so far, and I wish them both good luck as they enter post-season play. Thank you for representing our school and communities in a positive manner. I would also like to thank the band, cheerleaders, parents, and of course all of our great fans that have supported, and encouraged all of our student-

athletes throughout the year.

The JH football and volleyball seasons have both concluded, and they have moved on to their next season. The JH boys have started wrestling practice, and the girls have begun practicing for basketball. Good luck to both of these teams as they begin competition in the next few weeks.

There are many other extra-curricular activities that are going on at the school as well. Our FFA chapter will be attending the National FFA convention in Indianapolis. Our quiz bowl teams will be competing in numerous competitions over the next few weeks. The music and band students have been very busy performing at home games, pep rallies, and competitions. I have not seen a band that is more dedicated, and supporting of their teams and school. We are lucky to have such a dedicated band director, and students that show up to support their teams.

Providing educational opportunities that enrich the lives of individuals families and communities in the 21st century is the school's mission statement. On October

18<sup>th</sup> Southwest did exactly what our mission statement states; we provided students with educational opportunities by hosting a college and career fair at the high school. Mrs. Lewis did a great job of organizing this event not only for our school, but for other schools in our area as well. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn about career, and college opportunities. There were many college representatives set up in the gym for students to visit with. There were also many local businesses that were in attendance at the old gym for students to visit with and learn about their business. The seniors also all got an opportunity to have a mock interview with the business of their choice.

Last spring it was decided to provide an incentive to motivate students in grades 6-12 to give their best effort on their spring MAP assessments. MAP assessments are the school's district-wide assessment that are used to monitor student's academic progress. The goal for students was to either

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## Special points of interest:

- Nov. 2 - 3 - NO SCHOOL State volleyball
- Nov. 10 - Veterans Program 9:30 AM at the Jr/Sr High in Bartley
- Nov. 13 - 10:00 AM Late Start
- Nov. 13 - School Board Meeting 7:30 PM at Jr/Sr High
- Nov. 22-24 NO SCHOOL. Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 27 - 6-12 grades. NO SCHOOL



## Continued from front page:

show growth, or meet grade level benchmark in 3 of the 4 subject areas that are assessed (Reading, Language, Math, Science). This incentive was once again set for the fall assessment. All students that met the goal have the opportunity to go to Spring City in Grand Island on Wednesday, November 8th. Spring City is an indoor trampoline park that has multiple activities for students to participate in. There are 110 of the 147 students in grades 6-12 that met the goal. The elementary will be having a similar incentive for their winter MAP assessments. Mrs. Fries will send out more details as we get closer to the assessment date.

The school's annual Veteran's Day program will be held at the high school on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30AM. This is a great opportunity for the school to honor all of our brave men and women that have served our country. Please send pictures of area veterans for our Veterans Day video to [donna.roggenkamp@swpschools.org](mailto:donna.roggenkamp@swpschools.org). Tell us the veterans name, branch of military, and to whom they are related (if they are related to a SW student/staff member). We hope to see you there, as this has always been a great program, and a way for all of us to show our appreciation to all of those that have served in the military.

Lastly, as the weather continues to get colder, and that white stuff starts to fall, please stay tuned for school closings. School closings will be posted on our social media sites, blackboard, and local tv and radio stations.

## Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

The month of October brought us many exciting activities. The 4th graders enjoyed the health and fitness day, the 3rd-grade students began writing to their Good Friends, all elementary students learned about fire safety from the Bartley fire department, and we celebrated Halloween with class parties that ended with a spooktacular parade. Parent-teacher conferences were held on October 19th. I would like to thank all of the parents who attended parent-teacher conferences. Our teachers enjoyed visiting with you and sharing your child's progress. Working together to ensure the success of every student is an important part of the educational process. The third grade has started their Good Friends program again this year. We are so thankful for the members of our community who continue to volunteer their time to work with our students. This is a great way for students to work on their

writing skills, but also allows them to build a friendship with some very special people in our community. There are a few other important dates to remember this month. November 10th will be the Veteran's Day program at 9:30 at the High School in Bartley. We hope you join us as we take time to honor our Veterans. The Veteran's program is a very special event for our students, staff, and community. Honoring our local Veterans is something very near and dear to us all. The elementary teachers have been busy evaluating the data gathered from assessments given since the beginning of the school year. We will begin our WIN (What I Need) time this month. This is a time where students will receive any extra support or enrichment they may need during this time. We are excited to get this up and running as it is important that ALL students receive what they need to be successful in school. We are

excited once again to run our peer mentor program with the High School seniors. We have 18 high school seniors who signed up to be peer mentors to students at the elementary school. This is an excellent opportunity for our elementary students to build relationships with the older students who are positive role models. With the temperatures dropping and snow beginning, please make sure that students come to school prepared for the weather. Students need to wear coats, hats, and gloves so they stay warm while outside at recess. When the snow falls students need to remember to bring shoes for PE if they wear snow boots. If your child needs any of these winter items, please contact the school office and we will help find the items your child may need.

# SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

November-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Salad Bar Daily Milk With All Meals	1 Breakfast Breakfast Burrito Lunch Spaghetti	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider						
5	6 Breakfast Churro Lunch Beefy Nachos	7 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Chicken Fajita	8 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch BBQ Meatballs	9 Breakfast Oatmeal Rounds Lunch Pizza Burger	10 Breakfast Pop Tart Lunch Flatbread Turkey Sandwich	11
12	13 NO BREAKFAST 10:00 Late Start Lunch Jiffy Burger	14 Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch Taco Salad	15 Breakfast Waffles Lunch Thanksgiving Dinner	16 Breakfast Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar Lunch Chicken Nuggets	17 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwich	18
19	20 Breakfast Donuts Lunch Tater Tot Casserole	21 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Burritos	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25
26	27 Breakfast Yogurt & Granola Lunch Chicken Alfredo	28 Breakfast Pancake sausage Sandwich Lunch Mini Corndogs	29 Breakfast Egg & Cheese English Muffin Lunch Orange Chicken	30 Breakfast Granola Bar Lunch Pepperoni Dipsticks		MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

[illegible]



# 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.

\*Taking a campus visit this fall to the college of their choice is a great way to make final decisions and get all the information needed so seniors don't miss deadlines at the college they plan to attend next fall.

## Sophomores:

\*will be taking the ASVAB November 6th.

This is an aptitude test conducted by the military to help students find their strengths.

## 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)
December 9th, 2023 December 10th, 2023	November 3rd, 2023	November 17th, 2023
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

## **Jr/Sr High News - Mr. Springer**

### **Making up homework for days missed!**

The Southwest school has purchased a student assignment platform called Canvas. This platform allows students a chance to see what assignments were assigned and on what day they are due in the event they are ill or gone for activities. The students at Southwest School now have the ability to get their homework while at home.

Reminder to all parents that students grades and missing assignments are available via the internet. If you have questions on how to check the status of your child, please contact the school and we will help you get logged on to the web page.

### **Dressing for the weather!**

The year seems to be flying by quickly! With the weather changing it is important that you help ensure your child is safe and dressed appropriately while riding a bus. Parents, the winter conditions always have the potential of getting a bus stuck or having a breakdown. The buses are monitored by radio and help is usually a few minutes away. However, in the event a bus fails to run the temperature can drop very quickly due to the lack of insulation. This is why it is important to ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold. Please help remind them that flip flops and shorts are not proper clothing for winter. It is also important that they are wearing a coat when riding the bus on those cold days. Thank you for your help ensuring your child is properly prepared for the weather conditions.

**Inclement weather** is always a threat living in Nebraska. The school has a large list of places we post school information. These include NTV, 10/11, KHAS-TV, KRVN, KICK, KIOD, Weather-threat.com and the schools' new blackboard message system as well as social media. Please check those places for information, if you are in question as to our school closings. We will try to determine the plan based on the weather by 6:00 a.m. as that is when most bus routes are starting. Calling the school early will usually result in no information as we are out driving roads or calling people that can help us make a qualified decision on conditions in our district. Since the district is so large the weather and road conditions often differ significantly. Once the call has been made the media is alerted right away so people can plan for the day. If you are not on the calling system and would like to be please contact Natalie in the high school office.

## **Jr/Sr High Music - Mrs. Roggenkamp**

I have been so proud of all my students, but my band students in particular. They have been to every home game cheering and playing their hearts out supporting the teams. The 6th grade band students have learned so many songs and they love coming to play. Some of the junior high students have been regularly coming as well, and almost the entire high school band has been playing regularly for games! The band has been so great to come and help create such a wonderful atmosphere in the gym - they've been amazing! On November 10, we will have our annual Veterans Day program. It will be held in the high school gym in Bartley at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend and help honor the area veterans.



## **Board of Education Meeting**

### **Southwest Public Schools**

#### **District 179**

**October 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 October 9, 2023 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Brooke Brooks, Jason Kloepping, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principals Tara Fries and Matt Springer, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Jennifer McConville and John O'Dea.

Visitors: Les Roggenkamp and Gavin Harsh.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Teter, to excuse absent board members Jennifer McConville and John O'Dea.

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

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

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

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by Brooks, to approve the request by the Southwest Education Association to recognize the Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2025-2026 contract year. Ayes: Neseth, Teter, Brooks, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the use of the Junior-Senior High School practice gym by the Young Guns as a venue for a Christmas Celebration Dinner on Sunday, December 3. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: McConville and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed, that according to Board Policy 4057, the Board would be evaluating his job performance twice during the 2023-2024 fiscal year using the current evaluation performance tool. Completed evaluations are to be returned to President Neseth.

Superintendent Billeter reminded board members of their various committees and duties. He also discussed his attendance at the recent Labor Relations Workshop, the negotiations schedule, a staff quarterly safety meeting, a printer contract with Eakes Office Solutions, and the upcoming School Board of Education Convention.

Principal Fries discussed the finalization of the MAPS Assessment testing and approval as a control school and free M-Class technology and Dibbles testing perks.

Principal Springer informed the Board of Education of the early release program for seniors and the timeline for implementation and installation of shock clocks for basketball games.

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, November 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

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

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Address Service Requested



Southwest Schools  
Veteran's Day Program  
Friday, November 10, 2023  
9:30 AM  
Jr/Sr High in Bartley  
  
Everyone is invited to attend