



October 2023

'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Drew Billeter

The weather is starting to cool off and harvest is underway, which means that fall is in the air. All of our fall sports and activities are very busy competing and representing our school in a positive manner. It's been a lot of fun to watch our students so far this year, and I wish them the best of luck as they head into conference and district competition.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we have launched our social media sites. (Facebook: SWRoughriders) (Twitter: @SWRoughriders) As the year continues, Southwest will continue to utilize our social media sites as another means of communication. Our social media sites are in place to show our patrons the great things that are happening at our schools.

School has been in session for a little over 6 weeks, which means students should have quite a few grades in the gradebook. Please make sure to be checking your student's grades on Infinite Campus. If you don't know how to log in on Infinite Campus, please contact the school for directions. It's important to continue to monitor how your child is

doing in the classroom. Please make sure to communicate with the teacher if you have any concerns. As a reminder, if a student is listed on the "down list" a letter will be mailed home. The down list comes out every Thursday, and is for students in grades 7th-12th.

The elementary will have parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, October 19th. I would encourage all parents or guardians to attend these conferences to learn about what's happening in your child's education. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, and learn how you can assist in your child's education. Please make sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

The week of September 21st our students began taking their fall NWEA MAP tests. The NWEA MAP test is a computer-adaptive standardized test that measures a student's reading, language usage, math, and science skills. It's designed to measure a student's progress and growth over time. Once the data is collected, our staff assess how to best support the student through instruction, interventions, and enrichment activities. The elementary will take these

tests again in the winter, and in the spring. The junior high and high school students will take them again in the spring. The school has incentives set in place for students to ensure they work hard, and try their best. In order to meet the goal, students must score at benchmark or show improvement in 3 of the 4 content areas that are assessed.

Please make sure that students are at school on a regular basis so they don't fall behind. Parents and guardians will be notified via mail if their child is on the path of exceeding the allowable absences. Please bring a note if your child is at the doctor, dentist, orthodontists, physical therapy so those absences are not counted as unexcused absences.

Thank you for your continued support of all of our students, and staff at SWPS. There are many great things happening at our schools. Our communities are very fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated staff that have the student's best interest at heart.

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Special points of interest:

- Oct. 5 - Dig Pink VB game & Parents Night for VB & GG
- Oct. 6 - School Picture Retakes
- Oct. 9 - 10:00 AM Late Start School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Oct. 13 - Early Dismissal 12:45 @ Elementary 12:45 PM @ Jr/Sr High
- Oct. 19 - NO SCHOOL at Elem Only. Elem Parent-Teacher Conference 2:00-6:30 PM

Jr/Sr High News - Mr. Springer

The school year is now in full swing with students going in every direction. We have successfully finished the MAPS testing for the fall. These are very intense test with four parts. (Reading, Language, Science, and Math) The students were focused and did a great job working to complete these test. The test is used to evaluate our student growth each year. These test also show us areas that we may need to expand on. The scores from those tests can be evaluated by subcategories in each subject area. The data is available to the classroom teacher to us as a tool for improving our student's educational needs.

We have also implemented a reward system for kids who have shown growth in at least 3 of the four areas or have meet benchmark. Last year we had 117 kids meet the required improvements. Those kids were rewarded with a pizza party and bowling in McCook. This year we are unofficially improving on that number and will be scheduling a reward for those that reached their goals.

With the fall sports seasons winding down we are starting to see the fall weather and even some cold mornings. This is when it is very important to make sure to call the school if your child is ill or going to be late. I would hate to have a student be stranded in bad weather. We usually start calling parents around 8:15 if we have kids missing from class.

Please take a second and look at our web site to see all of the upcoming events. The most accurate dates and times are found on the web site activities calendar. Reminder we post school closings on the NTV site as well as send out messages from our blackboard account and we have added the school web page along with twitter. If you are not receiving these messages or would like to be added, please call Natalie @ 308 692 3223 and she can add your information.

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

The month of October is a busy one at Southwest Elementary! October is fire prevention month. The Bartley Fire Department will be visiting the students on October 10th to educate them about fire safety procedures. The students always enjoy the visits from the fire department, and we appreciate them taking the time to help our children learn more about fire safety. We also recognize Bullying Prevention Month in October. Mrs. Smith, the elementary guidance counselor, has lessons and activities planned throughout the month of October to help educate students on what bullying is and what bullying isn't. She will help students understand ways they can help prevent bullying from happening in our school.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on **October 19th** from 2:00 to 6:30. The elementary school students will not have school at all on that day. We will be using Sign-up Genius again this

year. You will be receiving a text message with the sign-up link, or you can visit the school webpage, www.swpschools.org, to sign up for a time that works for you. We will also have our annual **Title 1 meeting on October 19th** during parent-teacher conferences. Please stop in and learn more about Title 1 at our school. We will be reviewing our Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policies that meet ESEA/ESSA requirements, as well as answering any Title I questions that our families may have.

The classroom teachers will be sending out letters about their Halloween plans. We also plan to have a parade outside along the sidewalks on the south and east sides of the building, beginning at 2:00 on Friday. Remember that any treats brought to school must be pre-packaged and include ingredient labels. Students can change into their costumes for their parties, but we ask that

they do **not** bring any "weapons" or really gory costumes.

Just a reminder that on Monday, October 9th, we will have a 10:00 late start for teachers to work in their PLC teams. There will be no morning preschool, and daycare will not open until 9:30.

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

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.

Juniors: Those who signed up for the NMSQT/PSAT will be taking it at school on Wednesday, October 4th.

College & Career Fair

There will be a college and career fair at Southwest High School on October 18th from 8-noon. Students will be able to talk with college representatives and career professionals during the event. Seniors will participate in mock interviews.

ACT

Register for the ACT at: actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

McCook Community College test site code: 024600

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Registration)
October 28th, 2023 October 29th, 2023	September 22nd, 2023	October 6th, 2023
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

Counselor's Connor Continued:

8th Graders:

Will be attending a college visit to Mid Plains Community College in North Platte and NCTA in Curtis on October 19th. Mid Plains will be doing a career discovery workshop with them as well.

6th, 7th, and 8th graders:

*There is an opportunity to earn \$2,000-\$5,000 scholarships for college. They are required to complete free middle school financial literacy modules. If earned the money will be deposited into a NEST 529 account. Deadline is January 15th. EverFi is a trustworthy partner, with strong relationships with Nebraska BMIT (Business, Management, Info Tech) career teachers who use a variety of online modules. The Nebraska State Treasurer's Office and other companies sponsor the cost, so this resource is free to Nebraska schools. The following link will take you to the website to complete the modules.

https://futuresmart.massmutual.com/en/scholarship/?utm_source=Professionals&utm_campaign=e669cd6f17-Middle-School-Bulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-265795dded-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=e669cd6f17&mc_eid=ba4fe17847

*Educationquest is also offering a \$200 scholarship to middle school students. The deadlines are October 31st, December 31st, February 28th and April 30th. Students can apply at the website below.

https://educationquest.org/pay/college-savings-scholarship/?utm_source=Professionals&utm_campaign=e669cd6f17-Middle-School-Bulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-265795dded-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=e669cd6f17&mc_eid=ba4fe17847

Contact Kristin Ageton with any questions regarding the scholarships kristina@educationquest.org

Little Caesar's Pizza Kits - National Honor Society

The Southwest National Honor Society members are currently selling **Little Caesar's Pizza kits**. The money raised goes towards all of our community service activities. The last day to order will be October 23rd by 9 a.m. The pizza kits will be delivered sometime the week of November 6th (the specific date will not be known until the week before). If you would like to order, please contact an NHS member: Ana Cerenil, Avery McConville, Colton Sedlacek, Nathan Rippe, Ashlynn Latimer, Haylee Thomas, Payton Truksa, Allison Van Pelt, Trenton Williams, and Amelia Minary.

You can also go online and order and pay online (your kits will be delivered to the school with the rest of them) just follow these instructions:

- * Go to PizzaKit.com
- * Click on "Products", then click on "Shop"
- * Select Ship My Order to the Group & enter Fundraiser ID# 424501
- * Follow prompts to create your User ID
- * Online questions call 888-452-5487

Contact Mrs. Peg Rice if you have any questions!



Southwest Public Schools

October, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:00am District Golf 2:00pm JH VB vs MHC (Hayes Center) 3:00pm JH FB @ MHC (Hayes Center)	5:00pm VB TH @ NPSP (Chasec, SW) 7:00am FFA Land Judging 8:00am PSAT Test	7:00am FFA Land Judging 8:00am PSAT Test	Dig Pink Parents Night 2:00pm JH VB @ Southern Valley 4:00pm RPAC Cross Country 5:00pm VB vs MedValley @ SW	School Picture Retakes 2:30pm FB @ Brady 5:00pm VB @ Brady	Harvest of Harmony Parade
	8	9	10	11	12	13
Youth VB League at HS	10 AM Start (In-service) State Girls Golf 7:30pm School Board Meeting	State Girls Golf 5:00pm VB Triangular (Cam/Hc) @ Cambridge	8:30am-2:30pm McCook Fitness Day	RPAC VB 1st RD. (TBD) 1:30pm JH VB vs Medicine Valley 2:00pm District CC	1:00pm 1:00 Dismissal 2:00pm FB vs Wallace 7:00pm-9:00pm JH Dance	10:00am Heritage Day Parade
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	RPAC Volleyball at TBD Journalism Ad Sales 7:30am-1:00pm Flu Shots	RPAC Volleyball at TBD 2:00pm JH VB vs McCook SP @ SW	8:00am College Fair- SW 8:00am State Land Judging	Elementary Parent Teachers Conf.-No School Elem. Only Parents Night 8:00am 8th Grade College Visit 7:00pm FB vs Paxton (H)	State Cross Country No School Fall Break	
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	VB SUB-DISTRICTS	VB SUB-DISTRICTS	7:00am State Land Judging		FB Playoffs	VB District Finals
	29	30	31			
		7:00am FFA Departs for National Convention				

SOUTHWEST SCHOOLS LUNCH MENU

October-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Breakfast Churro Lunch Beefy Nachos	3 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Lunch Pancake Sausage Stix	4 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Weiner Roll Up	5 Breakfast Oatmeal Round Lunch Grilled Cheese	6 Breakfast Popart Lunch Goulash	7
8	9 10:00 Late Start No Breakfast Lunch Popcorn Chicken Bowl	10 Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch Baked Potato Bar	11 Breakfast Waffles Lunch Meatball Sub	12 Breakfast Cinnamon Toast Crunch Lunch Runza Casserole	13 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Taco Soup	14
15	16 Breakfast Donut Lunch Lasagna	17 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Turkey Slice	18 Breakfast Yogurt & Granola Lunch Pork Patty	19 Breakfast Jr/Sr High Pancake Sausage Sandwich Lunch Jr/Sr High Hot Beef Sandwich	20 NO SCHOOL	21
22	23 Breakfast Egg Cheese English Muffin Lunch Enchilada	24 Breakfast Granola Bar Lunch Chili	25 Breakfast Mini Cinni Lunch Stromboli	26 Breakfast Pancake Sausage Stix Lunch Chicken & Noodles	27 Breakfast Muffin Lunch Corn Dog	28
29	30 Breakfast Pancakes Lunch Cavatini	31 Breakfast Bagel Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwich		Menu Subject To Change		
				"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"		

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 11, 2023

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 8:21 p.m. on September 11, 2023 at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

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

Absent:

Visitors: Cody Gerlach, Gail Rippe, Derek Meyers, and Larry Durner

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, Brooks, McConville, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. 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 Kloepping, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the August 14th, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Ayes: Kloepping, Brooks, McConville, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the 2023-2024 budget with consideration for the following funds: General, Depreciation, Employee Benefit, Contingency, Activities, Special Building, School Nutrition, Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking, Cooperative, and Student Fee. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloepping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the district property tax request for the 2023-2024 school fiscal year. Ayes: O'Dea, Kloepping, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter reported the rubber mulch for the playground at the elementary school will be delivered in the next week or two and the 10 passenger van that was ordered last board meeting will be ready in 9 to 10 months. Construction at the elementary is close to completion and the elementary also qualified for the free fresh fruits and vegetable program. These snacks are given throughout the day to preschool age students. Mr. Billeter reported the staff has already started on the school improvement process even though Southwest just had their review last year. He stated it is important to get a head start by looking at different data to help understand the needs of our students.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by O'Dea, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, McConville, Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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, October 9, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Board Minutes Continued

Budget Hearing

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 11, 2023

President Jason Neseth called the budget hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. on September 11, 2023, at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Present: Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Jason Kloepping, Jenni McConville, Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter, and Natalie Meyers.

Absent:

Visitors: Cody Gerlach, Gail Rippe, Derek Meyers, and Larry Durner

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations from district patrons relating to the adoption of the proposed budget of expenditures for all district funds for the 2023-2024 school year and to consider amendments relative thereto. Superintendent Billeter summarized the budget, and no action was taken.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to adjourn the hearing at 8:15 p.m. Ayes: Brooks, O'Dea

Hearing to Set Final Tax Request

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 11, 2023

President Jason Neseth called the hearing to set the final tax request to order at 8:15 p.m. on September 11, 2023, at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Kloepping, Jenni McConville, Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Superintendent Drew Billeter, and Natalie Meyers.

Absent:

Visitors: Cody Gerlach, Gail Rippe, Derek Meyers, and Larry Durner

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations from district patrons relating to setting the final tax request at a different rate than the prior year tax request. Superintendent Billeter reported on the published tax requests from the General, and Special Building Funds. No action was taken.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the hearing at 8:20 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, McConville, O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Third Grade Happenings - Mrs. Kennedy

We have gotten off to a great start in 3rd grade! Our days are very full and move by quickly! We have been reviewing skills we already know, and practicing new skills and strategies. In Math, we have learned about the Commutative Property of Multiplication, how to build an array, and how to find the area of a shape. We are also learning a computer language called coding. We practice twice a month with Mr. Weimer from ESU 15.

In Language Arts, we are learning the meaning of new words and word parts. We have used base/root words with prefixes and suffixes to build new words, and we are writing our own Magic Tree House stories! Something new for 3rd graders is cursive writing, and in October, we will be kicking off our 3rd grade "Good Friends" program. We will be sending off our first introductory letter to help them get to know us, and to help us get to know our Good Friends! Thank you to all of the volunteers who help make this program happen! Our Southwest 3rd graders work so hard to do their best, and they deserve a round of applause!

Elementary Enrichment - Mrs. Smith

Each quarter, a small group of 5th grade students are chosen at random to serve as members of a leadership group called Rockin' Riders. This student organization is dedicated to both school and community service and plays a direct role in organizing school-wide events and activities. Every fifth-grade student will have the opportunity to serve as a Rockin' Rider member for one 9-week period; however, participation is optional. As a Rockin' Rider, members are expected to serve as good role models to their peers, demonstrate respect for themselves and for others, exhibit good leadership skills, and maintain good grades and attendance.

In recent years, the Rockin' Riders have sponsored many school-wide activities and fundraisers as well as community and school service projects. Activities have included coloring contests, guessing jars, school-wide movie at a local theater, and end-of-the-school year dance parties. Fundraisers that the Rockin' Riders have found success with include Valentine Cookie-grams, hat days, and "Pie in the Face" for staff members.

The community and school service aspects of Rockin' Riders ensures that students learn the importance of giving back to their community and school. For example, Rockin' Riders hold a food drive twice a year for the local food pantry. They have donated funds from fundraisers to the local fire department and they participate in the "Angel Tree" each December. School service projects include gathering recyclable materials, assisting with landscaping the school grounds, and recording daily announcements to be played for classrooms each morning.

The 5th grade students look forward to serving as Rockin' Riders and it is a valuable opportunity for them to increase their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. Encourage your child to share with you their experiences throughout the year as they participate in this great leadership opportunity.

Just a reminder!

Early Out On

October 13th

12:45 Elementary 12:45 Jr/Sr High

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

Austin Thompson and Nena Escobar Salas participated in the K-State All-Star Marching Band on Saturday, September 23. They traveled to Manhattan on Friday, learned the marching drill for the songs, and got to experience being part of a huge marching band on the field.

On Saturday, they marched into the football game with the college band. They were able to sit behind the band and be involved in the entire game with the student section. At halftime, they performed with the K-State Band. The first song was performed by the high school students, followed by 3 songs with both the high school and college students together. It was an amazing experience for both of them.

