

December 2021

'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Todd Porter

Wow. The semester has gone by very quickly and we had a relatively smooth semester. These next couple of weeks are crucial for your child's grades for the semester, so it is certainly very important that they take every opportunity to complete every assignment, prepare for every test, and finish out strong. For those students in high school it is vital to get a passing grade in every class they can, since they will have to repeat that course next year along with their required courses. So that means fewer electives, more core courses, and maybe even more difficulty. Some students make up courses in the summer, which is strongly encouraged, but that comes easily for some students but harder for others. Please check your student's grades online or e-mail their instructor to make sure they are up to date. It can save a lot of trouble down the road.

Winter activities will really ramp up in these next couple of weeks prior to Christmas break, so that balancing act means a greater demand on your child's time. This is a great skill to learn, but it will mean they should be very busy keeping up with school work so they can remain eligible during the season. It is frustrating for all involved when a player "drops the ball" and causes great disruption for everyone else.

The end of the first semester is December 21st and students return on January 6th. That should give everyone a good amount of time to spend time with family, recharge, and travel to see family and friends. Let's hope that the weather cooperates! If for some reason your child will be absent beyond this extended break, please make sure they have made arrangements to be gone and make up any final tests, required

assignments, etc. Grades are posted over Christmas break, so there is not a possibility to go back and turn in assignments that should have been completed before the semester ends. If there is a serious illness, we certainly will work with your child.

Finally, remember in these days of possible extreme winter weather, act responsibly, dress children appropriately, and watch for notices for late starts or closures on local media and through the calls, text messages and e-mails sent out to our public. If for any reason you feel that your child would not be safe traveling to school you certainly have the right to keep them at home or transport your child yourself when you feel conditions are better. Be safe!

Have a Fantastic December!

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Special points of interest:

Dec. 6 - Elementary Christmas Program 7:00 PM at the Jr/Sr High Bartley

Dec. 9 - Jr/Sr High Christmas program 7:00 PM

Dec. 13 - 10:00 AM late start for all students

Dec. 13 - School Board meeting 7:30 PM at the Jr/Sr High

Dec. 21 - Early Out Elementary: 12:30 PM Jr/Sr High: 1:00 PM



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 20th and Tuesday the 21st. 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 schools web site. 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.

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

Students at Southwest Elementary have been busy practicing and preparing for our Christmas program on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. The program will be held in the gym at the high school in Bartley. All students preschool through 5th grade will perform at that time. We look forward to seeing you there.

We had a nice turnout for our family math night that was held on November 22nd. Students, along with their parents, participated in some fun math skills games that they were able to take home with them at the end of the evening. Our hope is that students will use these games to continue practicing their math skills in a fun way at

home. Mrs. Hyke and I also held a session with parents showing them the family aspects of our new math program. We demonstrated the tools that they could access at home, along with helpful videos, online textbooks, and games that students can play to practice their math skills. Students were given all of their credentials needed to log on to their *Into Math* account from home. I would like to thank everyone who attended and made the night a success.

This year the students will be taking an NSCAS winter Pilot assessment in both Math and ELA. This assessment will help give teachers and students important data that will

help drive their instruction and learning for the remainder of the year. While this assessment is in the Pilot phase this year, it will be a mandated assessment next year. Participating in the pilot will help give teachers and students an idea of what the test will look like and how it is formatted.

We still have a few openings in our preschool for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 years old as of July 31, 2022 and would like to fill out an application for preschool, please call Nanci at 308-364-2613 or visit us at the elementary school.

Counselor's Corner - Mrs. Lewis

Seniors:

Scholarships:

I will upload information about all scholarships available to seniors to a spreadsheet. I update it in real time as I hear about each scholarship. 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 2022" Canvas Course. There are tabs at the bottom of the Google sheet for scholarships due each month. You need to click the month's tab to see what is due that month.

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/1vC-cN8tlc6Rv-3NYNzGsGz8xpwkEdgZScCFZBPWI9DQ/edit?usp=sharing>

ACT :

Register for the ACT at: actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

MCC test site code: 024600

Test Date:	Registration Deadline:	Late Fee Deadline:
December 11, 2021	November 5, 2021	November 19, 2021
February 12, 2022	January 7, 2022	January 21, 2022
April 2, 2022	February 25, 2022	March 11, 2022
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022	May 20, 2022

Student of the Quarter:

The Cambridge Rotary Club recognized Kimberly Hoffmann as Southwest's Student of the Quarter. Staff members nominate students based on a "service over self" mentality and one student is recognized at the Cambridge Rotary meeting. Congratulations Kimberly!



Elementary Enrichment - Mrs. Smith

The holiday season is upon us and it always provides us with a time to reflect on our blessings as well as to fulfill our desire to give to others. The week of November 8th – November 12th, the fifth-grade Rockin' Riders sponsored a donation drive to restock items in the community Blessing Box.

The donation drive, called "Falling into Donations", challenged PreK – 5th grade students to see who could collect the most donations, with the winning class receiving a special treat. After the final count on Friday the 12th, a total of 349 items were collected for the drive. It was a *very close race, but the winning class was Ms. Ruggle's second-graders, with 50 items donated to the Blessing Box! The second-graders were treated to cookies and juice for winning the donation challenge! Congratulations again to Ms. Ruggles and her second-grade students!*

The Rockin' Riders restocked the Blessing Box on Tuesday the 13th and would like to extend their gratitude to the students and their families for all of their donations that made the drive so successful. As a reminder, the Blessing Box is located outside the Methodist Church in Indianola and is available for anyone in need in Indianola and the surrounding communities.

With the days turning colder, it is so important that students come to school prepared for cold days. Please make sure that students have coats, stocking caps, and gloves so that they can stay warm before and after school and during recess. If your child does not have a suitable coat for the cold winter months, and if you are unable to get your child one, please reach out to me at the elementary school. We have access to a program that can help to provide your child with a new coat.

Happy Holidays!

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
November 8, 2021

Vice President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:32 p.m. on November 8, 2021 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Jennifer McConville, Brooke Brooks, Jason Kloepping, Jason Neseth, Superintendent Todd Porter, Principal Tara Fries, and Natalie Meyers.

Absent: Duane Teter and John O'Dea

Visitors: None

Vice President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

Notices of the meeting were 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 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 Kloepping, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2021 board meeting as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Vice President Neseth reported there was no new progress of the negotiations process.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to approve a staff Christmas gathering on December 3rd, 2021. Ayes: Neseth, Kloepping, Brooks, and McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Item #3, Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract was tabled.

Superintendent Porter reported there are Board Member Workshops in North Platte if any board member is interested in attending. Board members and administration have been invited to a meeting held at Cambridge Public Schools for listening purposes only. Mr. Porter and Mr. Kloepping will be attending the State School Board Conference November 17th through the 19th.

Principal Fries reported she is planning a math night at the elementary on November 20th. She informed the board, cabinets have now been installed in 6 rooms and has created more storage for the classrooms. The cabinet installers hope to finish installing cabinets in the remaining classrooms by the beginning of December or before.

Vice President Neseth moved to go into closed session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss Item #4, Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract.

Vice President Neseth adjourned the closed session at 8:07 p.m.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Brooks, to renew Superintendent R. Todd Porter's contract for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Porter announced he will be retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. 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, December 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Jr/Sr High School in Bartley.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Ayes: McConville, Neseth, Brooks, and Kloepping. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Sportsmanship Guidelines From the NSAA

School Spectator Activity Attendance Rules

- Loitering is NOT permitted on school grounds.
- If you leave an event, you may be asked to pay to re-enter.
- Supervision of NON-PARTICIPATING students will end 30 minutes following the conclusion of the contest.

Spectator Rules of Conduct

By entering the facility, spectators agree to abide by the following RULES OF CONDUCT as set forth in the NSAA Contest Rules:

1. **No insults or personal comments of any kind are to be directed towards game officials, referees, or workers.**
2. **Inappropriate language or profanity will not be tolerated.**
3. **Taunting or ridiculing of either team or team members is not allowed.**
4. **Chants that taunt, ridicule, or insult either team, team members, or coaches are not allowed.**
5. **Political signage or campaigning on school property, before, during, and after an activity is not allowed.**
6. **Spectators may not enter the court (field of play) during a game.**

Spectators further understand that failure to comply with above rules will result in the offending spectator being ejected from the game. Game officials and school personnel are authorized to eject spectators from the gym or stadium. **SPECTATORS WHO ARE EJECTED FROM THE GAME WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND ANY MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM ATTENDING FUTURE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NSAA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.**

From the School Nurse:

I am looking forward to the upcoming Holiday Season!! However, as it approaches and we are making plans to go see family and friends over the next month, I want everyone to be aware that we have students and staff in each of our grades with all types of illness-which includes covid.

We ask that students and staff stay home when sick, not return until symptoms are resolving, and be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning.

However, despite this and our best cleaning and handwashing efforts to slow the spread of all illness, it still happens. It is happening. I wanted to update the Southwest Public School Families, so that you can make the best decisions regarding your holiday travel plans.

—Janette Nelms-Southwest Public School Nurse



Southwest Public Schools

December, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00pm JH Quiz Bowl @ Eustis-	2 7:40am NHS Meeting- Curtis- 8:00am FFA LSE Contests @ Curtis- 4:00pm Basketball vs Medicine Valley @ SW- 5:30pm Boys WR Duals at Cambridge-	3	4 ACADECA Scrimmage- 10:30am WR @ Mullen- 1:00pm Basketball @ Maywood-
5	6 7:00pm Elem. Christmas Program- @ Southwest High School	7 1:30pm JH GB vs Alma @ SW- 3:30pm Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- 4:30pm GWR, BWR, JH WR @ Elm Creek-	8 State One-Act Play- 11:00am RPAC AD Meeting-	9 2:30pm JH GBB vs Medicine Valley- 7:00pm High School Christmas Program-	10 5:00pm Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- 6:00pm BWR Dual at Thayer Central-	11 Cattle Trail Basketball Tournament @ McCook- WR @ Osceola- 10:00am Girls WR @ Stapleton (Sandhills Valley) Tournament-
12 5:00pm NHS Caroling-	13 10:00am Late Start/Teacher Inservice- 3:00pm JH GB @ DCS- 7:30pm Board Meeting-	14 11:00am Girls WR @ Axtell Invite- 4:30pm Basketball @ Alma-	15 8:00am FFA LSE Contests @ Curtis-	16 2:00pm Good Friends- 2:30pm JH GBB vs Southern Valley- 4:00pm Girls WR @ McCook-	17 Boys and Girls WR @ South Loup (Arnold)- 4:30pm Basketball @ Arapahoe-	18 10:00am Boys & Girls WR @ Cambridge-
19	20 Semester Tests-	21 End of 1st Semester- Semester Tests- 1:00pm Early Dismissal- 4:00pm BB vs Southern Valley-	22 Moratorium- No School- Christmas Break-	23 No School- Christmas Break- Moratorium-	24 No School- Christmas Break- Moratorium-	25 Moratorium-
26 Moratorium-	27 No School- Christmas Break-	28 No School- Christmas Break-	29 No School- Christmas Break-	30 No School- Christmas Break-	31 No School- Christmas Break-	

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

December-21

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Salad Bar Daily Milk With All Meals	1 Breakfast Muffins Lunch Pizza Burger	2 Breakfast Cinnias Lunch Taco Soup	3 Breakfast Cooks Choice Lunch Baked Potato Bar	4
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider						
5	6 Breakfast Sausage Stick Lunch Chicken Nuggets	7 Breakfast Cereal Lunch Burrito/Taco	8 Breakfast Frudel Lunch Flat Bread Turkey Sandwich	9 Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch Jiffy Burger	10 Breakfast Cereal Bar Lunch Tuna and Noodles	11
12	13 NO BREAKFAST 10:00 Late Start Lunch Goulash	14 Breakfast Cooks Choice Lunch Ham & Cheese Roll-Up	15 Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch Breaded Pork Pattie	16 Breakfast Pop Tart Lunch Christmas Dinner	17 Breakfast Cereal Lunch Grilled Cheese	18
19	20 Breakfast Donut Lunch Fajita	21 Breakfast Ham and Cheese Bar Lunch Beef and Noodles	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25
26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Beat the Winter Blahs: Ideas from Kindergarten

According to research, to enhance fluency children should reread poems or books 3 or 4 times. One great way is to memorize a favorite nursery rhyme and act it out with your child.

Word Journey

Write sight words on paper plates and spread them on the floor. Children step from one plate to the next like stepping stones. First, ask them to read the words. Next, arrange the plates in sequence to make a sentence.

Phone Home

Make individual phones with paper cups, string, and paper clips. Poke holes in the bottom of two cups and thread the string through the holes. Tie a paper clip to the ends of the string. Let children take turns speaking and listening with the "cup phones." Have them read a poem to you or have them listen to you read a favorite story.

15 Minutes of Walking/Exercising

Try building 15 minutes of walking each day as you count, sing letter songs, say days of the week, months and review other information like phone number, and address.

Magic Words

Write color words, sounds, letters, etc. with glue on 4"x6" index cards. After they dry, children place paper on top and hold it in place with a clothespin. Children then rub over the cards with the side of a crayon and read the words. Later in the year children can write sentences with words.

Silly ABC's

(Traditional Tune)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Now I've sung my ABC's.

Next time sing them silly with me!

Hold your nose and pretend to sing with a cold.

Put your index finger between your lips and vibrate so it sounds like underwater singing.

Sing very slowly like a turtle.

Sing soft like a mouse.

Sing with a deep, loud voice like a monster.

Let your child suggest other silly ways to sing.

Here Is a Turtle

Here is a turtle. (Make fist.) He lives in a shell.

He likes his home very well.

When he gets hungry (Stick out thumb and wiggle.)

He comes out to eat.

Then he goes back into (Tuck thumb back in fist.)

His house to sleep.

PLAY BALL!

Wad up a sheet of paper and wrap masking tape around it to make a ball. Practice throwing and catching the ball. Use a box or basket to play basketball. Staple two paper plates together. Leave a 4" opening so you can insert your hand. Use like a racket and volley a balloon or paper ball back and forth. Let children use a child size broom and a foam ball to play hockey. The goal could be a box turned on its side.

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