

BACK TO SCHOOL

1B

Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024

PLAINSMAN

HURON

OPENING DAY August 20

• McKinley Learning Center students will begin classes Monday, August 26. The morning session is 8:15-11 a.m. The afternoon session is 12:30-3:15 p.m. Child-Find screenings will be announced in the fall and spring.

• Students in Grades 1-12 will return to the classroom on Tuesday, August 20, for a regular day of school.

• Kindergarten classes will begin on Monday, August 26, at 8:15 a.m. Kindergarten readiness screenings will be conducted August 20 through August 23. Parents will receive appointment notifications prior to school beginning.

• On August 20 — sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are to report to homeroom at 8:05 a.m.

• On August 20 — all ninth grade students will go to the auditorium at 8:05 a.m. Grades 10, 11, and 12 will meet in homerooms starting at 8:30 a.m.

All high school classes will meet for a short period schedule on the first day of school. School will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m.

In addition to the general supply of paper and pencils usually required for school, middle school and high school students should note the following items:

• Band students using school-owned woodwind, string, brass and percussion instruments are required to pay a rental fee of \$10 per semester or \$20 for the school year.

• Orchestra students using school-owned instruments are required to pay a rental fee of \$10 per semester or \$20 for the school year.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school hours for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

• McKinley Learning Center classes begin at 8:15 to 11 a.m. and 12:30- 3:15 p.m.

Buchanan K-1 Center / Madison 2 – 3 Center / Washington 4 – 5 Center

• Classes begin at 8:15 a.m. and dismiss at 3:10 p.m. for all K-5 students.

• Huron Middle School schedule includes Grades 6, 7, and 8:

• Sixth grade will enter the building directly into the 6th grade house. All students should report directly to their homeroom upon arriving to the building. School will begin at 8:05 a.m.

• Sixth graders will have the opportunity to eat breakfast following daily announcements at 8:07 a.m.

• Seventh graders and eighth graders will enter the building through the main entrance. Students will have the opportunity to have breakfast from 7:45-8:05 a.m.

• Classes will begin at 8:05 a.m., and school will be dismissed at 3:25 p.m.

Huron High School schedule includes Grades 9-12:

The commons is open daily to students beginning at 7 a.m. Band/Prima Chorale schedule will begin at 7:50 a.m.

Regular classes begin at 8:05 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m.

Picture Day for all high school students will be Friday, August 23.

Students will receive their school ID.

ID badges are required for all persons on the high school campus starting August 26

Huron High School Special Class Schedule First Day of School Tuesday, August 20th

• 8:05 a.m. Freshmen report to homeroom
• 8:30 a.m. Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors report to homeroom

NOTE:

Monday, August 20th is an "A/B" day schedule

Schedules

High School schedules can be picked up at the High School Office after August 14. If students would like to request a schedule change, they should go to the high school website and complete the Schedule Change Request Form. The high school office is open from 7 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

High school students NEW to the district may call to request registration forms or stop by the high school office any day between the hours of 7 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. to pick them up. (605-353-7800)

REGISTRATION

ELEMENTARY:

Newcomers to a district should register at the school serving their child's grade level. Birth certificates and immunization records are required by State Law for all students new to the Huron district.

Parents who have not registered their child(ren) are asked to contact their building principal as soon as possible.

KINDERGARTEN:

By state law, children must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 before they can enter kindergarten. State law requires that an original, certified copy of the birth certificate must be presented at the time of enrollment. A copy must be provided for the child's school file.

COLONY SCHOOLS:

Huron and Riverside Colony students, grades 1-8 will report to their respective schools on August 20th

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Students new to the school district should contact the middle school principal's office immediately if they have not already registered. (7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.) 1045 18th St. SW (605-353-6900)

Note: Student school pictures for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will be taken during the school day on September 4 with retakes on October 9.



COURTESY PHOTO

Huron School District Superintendent, Dr. Kraig Steinhoff, stands on the landing to the Central Administration offices located on the second floor of Huron Arena. School in Huron begins on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Huron: A large district with a small school atmosphere

BY CRYSTAL PUGSLEY
OF THE PLAINSMAN

In just a few days the classrooms and hallways of schools in the Huron district will be filled with students ready to take on a new year of learning. "It's always an exciting time of year," said Superintendent Dr. Kraig Steinhoff.

"Everybody is ready for the new start and it's a beginning," Steinhoff said. "It always is full of energy and excitement, and we're glad to have the kids back."

A unique aspect of education in Huron is the grouping of specific grade levels in each of the elementary schools leading up to middle and high school. Schools in the district include the Buchanan K-1 Center, Madison 2-3 Center and Washington 4-5 Center.

Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 20 for grades one through 12. Kindergarten and McKinley Learning Center classes will begin Monday, Aug. 26.

"Our students experience diversity and are part of a large school with a small-town feel," Steinhoff said. "That's kind of unique. It's a large school experience with a small school atmosphere."

Just over 3,000 students in grades K-12 are expected this year, with another 450 added when you count staff members from teachers to bus drivers, counselors, librarians and nurses.

A new offering for juniors and seniors this year will be dual credit college courses offered through Northern State University. These courses will be taught by face-to-face instructors at the Huron Community Campus.

"We're calling it early college, but it's also called the Northern State Academy in Huron," Steinhoff said. "They'll get high school credit plus they'll get college credit that can transfer to any Board of Regents school in South Dakota."

"We've offered dual credit courses before, but they've only been available online," he said. "This is different because Northern and HCC are offering live face-to-face instructors here in Huron."

The will continue to offer the online dual credit courses, which are offered through many different colleges in South Dakota.

The two courses that students can take through the new Northern State Acad-

emy will be Psychology 101 and Foundations of Communication 101.

"The goal is that juniors and seniors will be able to take these courses and get a portion of their college done while in high school," Steinhoff added. "It does save money."

According to the Board of Regents web site, the cost of the dual credit courses is about a fifth of what it would cost to take the courses at Northern State University, he added.

Steinhoff said they will be offering the same Career Technical Education courses as last year, with plans to expand the course offering next year.

Another new offering in the high school this year is a virtual school option. "Students can take all their courses virtually," Steinhoff said. "We have some students that will not have to come to campus."

The virtual education courses are provided through the South Dakota Center for Virtual Education.

"I believe we have 14 students enrolled in virtual high school," Steinhoff said. "It will allow them flexibility to work at their pace, it will allow them to work faster or slower and they can technically work on courses in the spring, summer and fall."

"Our teachers have full teaching loads teaching the face-to-face students," he said. "The Huron School District offers a wide variety of courses, and we focus on our vision of respect, pride and excellence for all."

Steinhoff came to Huron four years ago from a smaller school district in Oakes, N.D. He and his wife, Nancy, have four children, who are all enrolled in the school district.

"As superintendent, I would like to extend my gratitude toward the support of the Huron School District from our families and community members of the greater Huron area," he said. "I would state that together, we help prepare today's kids for their future as adults. We're all in this together – we all want our kids to be successful."

"We are going to continue to focus on fulfilling our strategic plan initiatives, striving for school safety and helping our students be successful through graduation and beyond," he added.



BACK to School

Huron School District continues
through Page 4B

SCHOOL BUS REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

1. See that your child is at his/her bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to pick up time.
2. Make sure that your KG-5 grade student has their ZPass each day. Please continue to remind them of the importance and the mandated use of the ZPass.
3. Teach your child to obey the bus driver.
4. Accompany the very young to the bus stop and meet them on their return.
5. Supervise and train your child early on in safety practices and proper conduct for riding the bus.
6. Cooperate with the disciplinary measures set up by your school officials — your direct line of communication with your school principal.
7. The driver is a member of your school system and merits the respect and courtesy due of all school personnel.
8. If your child has a friend coming home with him/her; or, if your child will be going to a different address, please send written notification or call the bus garage (605-353-6989) to let the bus driver know that he/she has permission to do so. If we do not have written permission, we will not honor the child's request.

SCHOOL BUS REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS

1. Do not stand in the roadway.
2. Do not crowd or push to get on or off the bus.
3. Wait for the bus to stop before getting out of your seat.
4. Go immediately to the seat assigned to you.
5. Do not change seats while the bus is in motion.
6. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus at all times while on the bus.
7. Don't be a litterbug on the bus or on the road.
8. Obey your driver promptly and cheerfully.
9. Avoid being loud or boisterous.
10. Do not talk to the driver while the bus is moving.
11. Do not damage any equipment and report anything dangerous to the driver.
12. In case of trouble, remain calm and stay in your seat (unless otherwise told differently).
13. Keep the aisles clear.
14. Be a courteous passenger at all times – be careful and help others.
15. Take care of the smaller riders.
16. Do not open or close windows without permission from the driver. Use the "2 click" rule.
17. Do not throw anything out of the windows.
18. Be absolutely quiet when the bus approaches a railroad crossing.
19. All tobacco products, alcohol, drugs and anything resembling a weapon are forbidden on all school buses.
20. Obey the school and bus patrol at all times.
21. Learn how to get off the bus quickly when told to do so.
22. The emergency door at the rear of the bus is to be used only when there is a real emergency.
23. After you leave the bus, don't loiter – go straight home.
24. Be extra careful when the weather is bad.
25. To cross a highway or street, go to the front of the bus and wait for a signal from the driver, look both ways for approaching vehicles, and cross only when it is clear.

School Bus Video Camera Policy Use of Video Cameras on School Buses

The goal of the Huron school district is for every student to have a safe, comfortable, and orderly ride to and from school.

In order to promote appropriate behavior while riding buses, students are required to conform to certain guidelines for riding the bus as established by the administration in coordination with the transportation coordinator. Video/audio monitoring provides an additional method to further ensure the safety and security of students relating to timely and appropriate corrective action for violations of bus regulations. The district will utilize video cameras in school buses as a management tool for students, and as an educational tool to enhance the performance of drivers.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Huron Board of Education has appointed the superintendent – and in his absence his designee, to determine when school is called off, the start is delayed, or students are sent home early due to inclement weather. The following steps will be followed:

- The staff will receive an e-mail.
- A message will be placed on the Superintendent's Facebook Page "Huron #2-2 Supt" and on Twitter @HuronSDSchools
- All Performance Radio stations will be notified – usually will broadcast based on above Tweet.
- Television stations notified include KELOLAND and Dakota News Now.
- An announcement will be placed on "Campus Messenger" call system.
- The ultimate decision as to whether or not an individual student goes to school during inclement weather is the responsibility of the parent. If the parent decides weather conditions are such that the child should not go to school, a note to the principal will excuse the child for the time missed; however, the absence will still be counted.
- In the rare event that school is in operation and the buses do not operate in the rural area, the teachers and administrators realize that rural students are absent not because of their choosing and that school work and related activities shall be governed by that fact.

Bus Stop Schedule

<u>Bus Number</u>	<u>Stop Location</u>		
Bus #1 Erv 532	5 th & Ohio SW	7:30	This bus goes on to Buchanan KG-1
	17 th & Illinois SW	7:35	
	19 th & Wisconsin SW	7:37	
	21 st & Campbell Dr. SW	7:40	
Bus #2 Ken 546	15 th & Idaho SE	7:13	This bus goes on to Madison 2-3
	18 th & Idaho SE	7:16	
	Frank Ave. & Madison Blvd. SE	7:20	
	15 th & Lawnridge SE	7:24	
	Riverview SE & Valley View Ct.	7:27	
	20 th & Riverview SE	7:30	
Bus #3 Bill W. 523	Center St. & Pennington Ave.	7:34	This bus goes on to Washington 4-5
	3 rd & Ordway SW	7:37	
Bus #4 Ron 537	5 th & Jersey NE	7:23	This bus goes on to Buchanan KG-1
	7 th & Jersey NE	7:25	
Bus #5 Brent 538	Townhouse Apts (400 & 500 blocks of 20 th St. SE)	7:35	This bus goes on to Madison 2-3
	Riverstone Apts (200 block of 20 th St. SE)	7:37	
Bus #6 Daniel 549	13 th & Kansas NE	7:23	
	7 th & Kansas NE	7:25	
	5 th & Idaho NE	7:28	
	3 rd & Kansas NE	7:31	
Bus #7 Phillip 544	9 th & Mellette SW	7:35	This bus goes on to Washington 4-5
	5 th & Mellette SW	7:37	
Bus #8 Travis 542	11 th & Iowa SE	7:36	This bus goes on to Holy Trinity
	2660 Dakota Ave. S (Methodist Church)	PM onl	
Bus #9 Duane 509	5 th & Lawnridge SE	7:24	This bus goes on to Madison 2-3
	7 th & Beach SE	7:26	
	11 th & Lawnridge SE	7:29	
	12 th & Frank SE	7:31	
Bus #10 Garth 543	5 th & Idaho SE	7:19	This bus goes on to Buchanan KG-1
	8 th & Idaho SE	7:23	
	8 th & Simmons SE	7:27	
Bus #11 Margaret 534	Prairie Villa (mail boxes)	7:27	This bus goes on to Washington 4-5
	12 th & Colorado SW	7:36	
	14 th & Nevada SW	7:39	
Bus #12 Henry H. 540	24 th & Ohio SW	7:36	This bus goes on to Madison 2-3
	22 nd & Ohio SW	7:38	
Bus #13 Chuck 541	1 st & Colorado SW	7:23	This bus goes on to Washington 4-5
	3 rd & Montana SW	7:25	
	4 th & Montana SW	7:28	
Bus #14 Nei Kaw 533	2 nd & Illinois SW	7:33	This bus goes on to Buchanan KG-1
	7 th & Illinois SW	7:37	
Bus #15 Nikki 527	7 TH & Colorado SW	7:14	This bus goes on to Washington 4-5
	9 th & Montana SW	7:17	
	11 th & Nevada SW	7:20	
	16 th & McClellan Drive	7:23	
	24 th & Wisconsin SW	7:29	
	27 th & Wisconsin SW	7:32	
Bus #16 Brad 530	4 th & Frank SE	7:24	This bus goes on to Madison 2-3
	Pheasant Run Apts.(2100 blk of Frank SE)	7:30	
	Wheatgrass Village Apts. (390 24 th St. SE)	7:33	
	26 th & Idaho SE	7:34	
Bus #17 Dave 501	3 rd & Wisconsin NW	7:17	
	2 nd & Idaho SE	7:22	
	5 th & Kansas SE	7:25	
	13 th & Utah SE	7:29	
	13 th & Ohio SW	7:33	
Bus #18 Chrystal M. 535	11 th & Illinois SW	7:36	This bus goes on to Buchanan KG-1
Bus #19 Rich 539	7 th & Ohio NW	7:25	
	5 th & Illinois NW	7:29	
Bus #20 Matthew 521	8 th & Michigan SW	7:26	
	10 th & Minnesota	7:28	
	14 th & Kansas SE	7:35	

Please make sure your student is at their assigned bus stop 5 minutes prior to the bus stop time.

See Page 4B for In Town High School Bus Stops

Reminder

Parent Advisory Meetings

Everyone is welcome to attend. The dates and times of these regular one-hour monthly meetings will be determined.

Nondiscrimination policy at Huron School District

The Huron school district will not discriminate in any of its policies and programs on the basis of age, race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or disability, and will not violate any provisions of applicable federal programs, statutes or regulations (e.g., Title IX, Title I, Rehabilitations Act, Americans with Disabilities [ADA], Section 504).

If anyone feels that he/she is being discriminated against on the basis of sex, this individual should feel free to contact Linda Pietz, Title IX coordinator, for the Huron School District. The Title IX Coordinator may be contacted in writing in care of the Huron Public Schools/PO Box 949, or by phone at 605-353-6992.

In Town High School Bus Stops

Bus Number	Stop Location	Time
HS 1 <u>Dean</u> 503	6 th & Ohio NW	6:55
	12 th & Kansas NE	7:00
	6 th & Idaho NE	7:03
	7 th & Jersey NE	7:08
	5 th & Jersey NE	7:10
	14 th & Kansas SE	7:17
	15 th & Frank SE	7:20
	18 th & Lawnridge SE	7:24
	Townhouse Apts (400 & 500 blocks of 20 th SE)	7:28
	Pheasant Run Apts. (2100 block of Frank SE)	7:31
	Wheatgrass Village Apts. (390 24 th St. SE)	7:33
	Prairie Villa (mailboxes)	7:39

Bus Number	Location	Time
HS 2 <u>Wes</u> 529	5 th & Nebraska SW	7:10
	7 th & Ohio SW	7:12
	8 th & Michigan SW	7:15
	10 th & Arizona SW	7:19
	9 th & Montana SW	7:23
	10 th & Illinois SW	7:27
	16 th & Wisconsin SW	7:31
	19 th & Wisconsin SW	7:35
	24 th & Wisconsin SW	7:39
	22 nd & Ohio SW	7:43

Bus Number	Location	Time
HS 3 <u>Joel</u> 531	Center & Pennington	7:12
	3 rd & Nicollet SW	7:17
	5 th & Mellette SW	7:20
	3 rd & Ohio SW	7:25
	4 th & Idaho SE	7:28
	4 th & Lawnridge SE	7:31
	8 th & Idaho SE	7:34
	11 th & Idaho SE	7:38

Please make sure your student is at their assigned bus stop 5 minutes prior to the bus stop time.

Board of Education

The board of education encourages public attendance at its meetings. Anyone who wishes to place an item on the agenda should submit the item in writing to the superintendent or the board president at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Emergency items will be considered at the board's discretion. Board meetings are normally conducted on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Instructional Planning Center on the second floor of the Huron Arena. There is no second board meeting held on the fourth Monday of July or December.

Board of Education members for 2024-2025 are as follows:

- Tim Van Berkum, President
- Shelly Siemonsma, Vice President
- Garret Bischoff, Member
- Craig Lee, Member
- Ray Cardona, Member

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS:

Law requires us to release the directory information of our juniors and seniors to all branches of the military. The legislation allows parents and students to request to have their name withheld from those directory lists. We are required by law to notify you of this option.

If you desire to have your name removed from the military list, please notify the counselor.

CHIP INSURANCE

South Dakota's Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is provided at no cost to reduce the number of uninsured children in South Dakota and to improve their access to quality medical care. Any family who qualifies for reduced lunches may qualify for CHIP. An application form can be obtained at any Social Services office, many hospitals.

What services are covered by CHIP?

- Physician Services Hospital Services Vision Care
- Dental Care
- Prescription Drugs
- Medical, Dental, and Vision Screening Chiropractic
- Mental Health
- Other Medical Services

If you have any questions concerning the CHIP program, please call Social Services at 1-800-305-3064.

High School parent/teacher conferences

Conferences for high school students are scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the high school on the following dates: Monday, Sept. 30; Tuesday, Nov. 26; Monday, Feb. 3; and Tuesday, April 8

Huron School District 2024-2025 School Calendar

August

- Aug. 19 — Teacher In-Service
- Aug. 19 — All Staff Required Meeting / 9:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. - HS Auditorium
- Aug. 19 — Middle School Open House 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Aug. 20 — First Day of School for Grades 1 – 12
- Aug. 20-23 — Kindergarten Screening
- Aug. 20-21 — City-wide Early Childhood Screening 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Aug. 22 — McKinley Learning Center Open House 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Aug. 26 — First Day of School for Kindergarten/Early Childhood
- Aug. 28 — Early Release - State Fair
- Aug. 29-30 — No School / State Fair

September

- Sept. 2 — No School / Labor Day Holiday
- Sept. 20 — Homecoming / Early Release
- Sept. 26 — MS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m.
- Sept. 30 — HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:30 p.m.

October

- Oct. 1 & 3 — 4th/5th Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m.
- Oct. 2 — Early Release
- Oct. 14 — Native American Day - No School
- Oct. 15 & 17 — McKinley Learning Center Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- Oct. 28 & 29 — 2nd/3rd Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m.

November

- Nov. 4 & 5 — K-1 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- Nov. 6 — Early Release
- Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day Holiday
- Nov. 25 — MS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- Nov. 26 — HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 27 — Early Release
- Nov. 28-29 — Holiday Break - No School

December

- Dec. 11 — Early Release
- Dec. 23-31 — Holiday Break - No School

January

- Jan. 1 — New Year's Holiday – No School - Happy New Year!
- Jan. 2 — No School / Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 8 — Early Release
- Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King Holiday- No School

February

- Feb. 3 — HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30 - 8:30p p.m.
- Feb. 5 — Early Release
- Feb. 11 & 13 — 4th/5th Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m.
- Feb. 17 — President's Day - No School
- Feb. 18 — MS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m.

March

- March 5 — Early Release
- March 14 — Spring Break - No School
- March 17 & 18 — 2nd/3rd Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 6:45 p.m. McKinley Learning Center Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- March 21 — Spring Break - No School
- March 24 & 25 — Kindergarten/1st Grade Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- March 25 & 27 — City-wide Early Childhood Screening

April

- April 2 — Early Release
- April 8 — HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- April 10 — MS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:45 p.m.
- April 18 & 21 — Vacation Days/No School

May

- May 7 — Early Release
- May 14 — Baccalaureate 8 p.m., Huron Arena
- May 18 — Graduation 2 p.m., Huron Arena
- May 20 — Last Day of Classes/Early Release
- May 21 — Teacher Checkout
- May 26 — Memorial Day Holiday

SNOW Days - - May 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29

Monthly Early Release days (2 hours early)

August 28	January 8
September 20 (Homecoming)	February 5
October 2	March 5
November 6	April 2
November 27	May 7
December 11	May 20

New staff members

New teachers joining the Huron School District and the school they will be assigned to include Donald Decker, middle school; Brian Hoier, middle school; Samantha Jenc, high school; Josey Johnson, Riverside Colony; Mark Knight, middle school; Joshua Lien, middle school; Susan Peterson, McKinley Learning Center; Michael Radke, high school; Ashley Sarvis, high school; Alyssa Schwartz, Buchanan K-1 Center; Nyo Nyo Sein, middle school; Samantha Shoultz, Madison 2-3 Center; Kristi Smith, Madison 2-3 Center; Macy Sternhagen, Buchanan K-1 Center; Taylor Stuart, Madison 2-3 Center; Sierra Tschetter, Huron Colony; and Tabitha Unruh, high school.



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DE SMET

Students at De Smet School will have many new courses to explore and a brand new preK-fifth grade building when classes begin on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Among new curriculum being offered are broadcasting, cyber security, computer essentials, officiating, principles of banking, principles of insurance, fundamental animal science and music appreciation.

New teachers joining the De Smet district include Codi Beck, high school science; DJ Bettin, fourth grade; Brooke Thielbar, music; Linsey Jeffrey, kindergarten; Andre Lo, middle school language arts; and Erica Coughlin, middle school science/social studies.

The beautiful, new preK-fifth grade building is attached to the existing middle school and high school building, so everyone is now under one roof for the first time!

Projected enrollment is 350 in grades K-12.

DOLAND

Classes at Doland School will begin Monday, Aug. 19, with an anticipated enrollment of 139 students in grades K-12. Students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. that first day.

Over the summer Tellinghuisen Construction, with the direction of JLG Architects, renovated the district's junior high and high school locker rooms and a couple of the elementary-classroom bathrooms. They are excited to have updated locker rooms for students as they have not been updated in almost 60 years.

HIGHMORE-HARROLD

The Highmore-Harrold School District will begin classes on Wednesday, Aug. 21, with a projected enrollment of 215 students in grades K-12.

Elaine Erickson will join the staff as a third grade teacher; along with Morgan Bonnicksen, superintendent.

Over the summer the school built a new track and the playground access has been improved.

HITCHCOCK-TULARE

Students in the Hitchcock-Tulare School District will return to classes on Monday, Aug. 19. Schools in the district include the high school in Tulare, elementary in Hitchcock, and the Glendale and Spink colony schools.

Anticipated enrollment is 217 students in K-12 and 14 students in preKindergarten.

New staff members include Tim Leibel – junior high and high school Principal and Athletic Director; Camryn Binger, elementary special education; McKenzie Hochhalter, elementary special education; Olivia Cole, junior high and high school special education; Aime Seaman, head cook at elementary; Miranda Morgan, junior high and high school E-Mentor/Librarian; Tehya Weyer, junior high and high school paraprofessional; and Willie Rothacker, custodian at elementary.

The district added new heating and air conditioning to the gyms in both Hitchcock and Tulare over the summer. They also added some new flooring in some of the classrooms.

IROQUOIS

Students in the Iroquois School District will return to classes on Wednesday, Aug. 21, with an anticipated enrollment of 230 students.

New staff members include Sheri Kogel, middle school language arts; James Benning, middle school and high school math; Kaci Bechen, middle school and high school ag and shop; James Lynch, FFA; Hillary Brondsema, health and PE; Dashia Ohman, school counselor; Tom Brockman and Derek Almont, janitorial; Zachary Wipf, athletic director; Tracy Bratland Bruns, elementary SPED; Heidi Stroud, elementary title; Renae Dahl, fifth grade; Jacelyn Bankston, preschool; Shyla Keelin, paraprofessional; Austin Gross, Colony school; and Mary Black, head cook.

Over the summer air conditioning was added in the north and south gymnasiums, and in the kitchen new ovens were installed, along with new counter tops and lunchroom tables, and the walk-in cooler/freezer was replaced.

There is also a new football field along with a crow's nest and lighting.

JAMES VALLEY CHRISTIAN

Classes at James Valley Christian School will begin on Thursday, Aug. 22, with a projected enrollment of 200 students.

Joining the staff will be Megan Denison, teaching Bible. There is still an opening for a science teacher.

MILLER

Students in the Miller School District returned to classes Thursday, Aug. 15, with an anticipated enrollment of 490 students in grades K-12.

The elementary staff will be implementing the 95% Phonics and Intervention program to enhance a strong foundation in reading.

Lindsay Haider joins the staff as new junior high and high school principal.

Other new staff members include Kayde Fernholz, first grade; Paige Moorhouse, Colony Paraprofessional; Baley Moore, sixth grade; Dustin Lanke, junior high and high school PE teacher, athletic director and head boys' basketball coach; Keeven Long, agriculture; Trent Shuey, junior high social studies and assistant track coach; and Jillian Tongco, high school math.

Positions that are still open are Colony aide, assistant boys' basketball coach and junior high football coach.

Over the summer the district renovated the school parking lot, expanded and improved the elementary playground surface and installed new carpets in the elementary hallway.

The Miller School District continues to strive to provide students with the best education possible.



Lindsay Haider

SANBORN CENTRAL

Classes at Sanborn Central School will begin classes on Tuesday, Aug. 20, with a projected enrollment of 207 students in grades K-12.

Joining the staff are new elementary teachers, Brady Hetland and Bailey Deinert

High school students will be offered a new course, Life Management, and the school has launched an E-Sports team this year.

Over the summer they added new signage and graphics to the school.

SUNSHINE BIBLE ACADEMY

Classes will begin Aug. 19 for students attending Sunshine Bible Academy, located south of Miller. Anticipated enrollment is 75.

New curriculum to be offered this year are World War II and Study Skills.

Joining the staff is Katie Wilken, who will teach math.

The school plans to begin construction on a new girls' dormitory later this month.

WESSINGTON SPRINGS

Students in the Wessington Springs School District will return to classes on Wednesday, Aug. 21, with a projected enrollment of 278 students on campus and another 121 in its Cyber School.

New staff members joining the district are Jacob Brooks, PE and health; Andrew McCormick, fifth-12th grade band; Jeanna Schafer, middle school language arts and Cyber School facilitator; Theresa Hoarty, Spring Valley Colony and Cyber School facilitator; and Christopher Lee, middle school and high school paraprofessional.

WILLOW LAKE

Students in the Willow Lake School District will return to class on Tuesday, Sept. 3, with a projected enrollment of 327 in grades K-12.

New curriculum to be offered include a K-8 math curriculum and new collaborative CTE (Career Technical Education) courses for juniors and seniors.

The Clark School District will offer Willow Lake students small engine repair, auto body and machine tool. The Willow Lake School District will offer the Clark students Health Sciences.

The Health Science classroom will have state of the art technology with the use of an Anatomage table, which is a 3D virtual dissection table of the human body. The FACS kitchen will have commercial grade equipment, and the ag shop will have a CNC plasma table and a CDL truck driving simulator.

Over the summer the school built a new wing and an entirely new playground. The playground includes new surfacing of asphalt and poured in place rubber, large playset, swing set, sand diggers, gaga ball pit and basketball courts. The new wing includes a new commons area, kitchen, special education classroom, health science classroom, ag classroom, ag shop, FACS kitchen, science lab and new locker rooms.

WOLSEY-WESSINGTON

Students at Wolsey-Wessington School will have expanded CTE (Career Technical Education) offerings when school begins Wednesday, Aug. 21. They are pairing up with Huron, Hitchcock-Tulare and Sanborn Central for a CTE grant with classes starting in the spring.

Anticipated enrollment for the coming year is 300 students in grades K-12.

Riley Donovan will be joining the district as superintendent and elementary principal, and Leslie Tvedt joins the staff as middle and high school principal and technology coordinator.

Over the summer they added a new weight room, and they also renovated some of the bathrooms.

WOONSOCKET

Students and parents are welcome to attend an open house Monday, Aug. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 20 with a projected enrollment of 260 students in grades K-12.

Last year the school opened up a new daycare facility with a Birth to 4 Preschool program, and that will continue.

The district is currently building a new 7,000 square-foot CTE (Career Technical Education) addition to house their Ag and Industrial Tech programs. This is slated to be completed this winter.



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Parental involvement is a key factor in student performance

Success in school can carry over to successful experiences later in life. That underscores the benefits of developing skills in the classroom. Students learn in their own way, and at times there may need to overcome various obstacles.

The job of education does not fully fall on educators and administrators. Education begins at home. Research has found that kids benefit significantly when parents and other caregivers are strongly involved in a child's education. A 2020 study published in the Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community found that parental involvement in a child's education is associated with improved academic performance. Specifically, children whose parents are more involved in their education have higher levels of academic performance than children whose parents were not as involved.

A 2005 study from researchers at the Johns Hopkins University Center of School, Family and Community Partnerships showed that school practices that encourage families to support their students' math learning at home led to higher percentages of students scoring at or above proficiency on standardized math tests. Additional research indicates the benefits also extend to other subjects and areas of learning, including language comprehension and expressive language skills.

With so much to gain from parental involvement in students' educations, parents can embrace these strategies to get more involved.

- Develop a partnership with the teacher. Open communication with the teacher(s) can help parents stay up-to-date on what is going on in the classroom and learn early on where a student may need extra support.

- Be firm but supportive. Too much academic pressure may cause a child to pull back or even test boundaries, and that can lead to students falling behind in school.

- Attend school functions. Parents can go to open houses, back-to-school nights, conferences, and other events held at school to show support and interest in their children's education.

- Establish a schedule at home. Students can benefit from a schedule, with regular bedtime, homework time and opportunities to relax. Knowing what to expect and when to expect it can take some of the stress out of learning and studying, according to Nemours health.



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How families can get ready for a new school year

Children will soon be trading in the chimes of neighborhood ice cream trucks for the bells of school as summer vacation gives way to the start of a new academic year. August through September is prime back-to-school season, with children all across the country stocking their backpacks and shopping for new school wardrobes.

There is more to getting ready for the start of school than making sure pencils are sharpened and tablets are charged. Parents and children can work together to ensure the transition back to the classroom is as seamless as possible.

Adjust sleep and wake times

Summer vacation often means letting loose of schedules for a while, and that may translate into later-than-normal bedtimes and rising a little later in the morning. Everyone in the household will have to reacquaint themselves with schedules that ensure kids get to school on time. A few weeks before the first day of school, start incrementally going to bed at an earlier time and start waking up earlier each morning. Try to plan out the increments so that by the time the last few days of summer vacation wind down, the family is on target with a waking sched-

ule that mirrors the school schedule.

Acclimate to being around people

Although summer vacation may involve trips that bring children in contact with other people, it may have been some time since they've spent five or more hours per day around 20 to 30 people their age. It may take a transition period to get used to being around a bunch of peers, so families can visit places where there tend to be crowds of kids, such as zoos, aquariums, parks, and trampoline centers. These can be low-pressure locations to dust off social skills.

Know the route or plan for school transportation

Students may be driven independently, ride the school bus, walk or bike, or carpool with others to and from school. Families can establish plans so that getting to and from school is not something kids need to worry about. Practice routes and timing, taking into consideration that when schools open there will be much more traffic. Parents can reassure children that there will be a learning curve, but all of the kinks generally get worked out during the first week.

Avoid "summer slide"

Most students don't want to think about studying, homework and testing while on summer break, but it can be beneficial to stay current on some lessons. Summer slide refers to the loss of some of the learning achieved during the previous school year over the summer break. Some experts say summer slide is overstated, but it can't hurt for students to refresh their memories on some math, science and language arts concepts over break so that they will be ready to hit the books when the new school year begins.

Prep for school lunches

Children and adults can work together to map out healthy eating options for school lunch. Many school districts have lunch plans that can be purchased through an online account. Participating students simply enter a number or swipe a code at checkout. School lunches are built to be nutritionally diverse and have options that even picky eaters will like.

School is right around the corner, and families should get ready for the routine and needs that go with the academic year as the first day draws closer.

What You (and Your Child) Should Know for Kindergarten and Beyond

FAMILY FEATURES

Starting kindergarten is a major milestone, one that sets the stage for future learning. Ensuring children are well-equipped to enter kindergarten sets them up for a successful school year in the short term and academic career in the long term.

Kindergarten readiness encompasses a wide range of skills, including academic, social and physical abilities. Yet while many parents think of kindergarten as the formal start of their children's learning, 90% of children's brain development occurs during the first five years of life.

The brain is incredibly receptive during these formative years, making it a critical time for children to receive exposure and guidance in diverse areas. Enrolling them in a quality preschool or pre-K program is one way you can ensure they're creating building blocks for the future, but there are also steps you can take at home.

Try implementing these simple habits, recommended by Primrose Schools Chief Early Learning Officer Dr. Amy Jackson, into your family's day-to-day routine:

- **Read to your children daily to build early literacy skills.** This is a good habit to begin as early as infancy because it promotes language development, literacy and understanding of others. Make library trips and story times a special treat for toddlers and encourage preschoolers to read to you by describing what is happening in the pictures or making up their own stories. Keep books in the car so you have a fun way to pass the time on long trips or while waiting for appointments.
- **Schedule playdates for social development.** Once babies are able to sit independently, they'll likely enjoy playdates. At this age, playdates should be closely monitored since babies explore with their hands and mouths. At ages 1 and 2, young children tend to engage in parallel play rather than interacting, but organizing small groups of toddlers can continue to promote social development. Older toddlers enjoy more interactive play and begin to learn concepts like sharing.



- **Practice counting objects to 10 or more together.** It's easy to make "math talk" part of your everyday experience in other ways, too. When reading a story, ask children to count the objects on each page. When eating, encourage math connections by having children count the items on their plates. Children can also explore math through common toys and games, like shape sorters, knob puzzles and nesting cups for infants and toddlers; and large puzzles, sand or water tables and card games for preschoolers.
- **Establish routines at home.** A structured school day is filled with routines that provide familiarity and comfort. Routines can serve similar benefits at home by helping children clearly understand what is expected of them and when. A morning routine makes it easy to check the boxes as you prepare for the day and work to get out the door on time. An evening routine helps everyone settle down and prepare for a good night's sleep.
- **Encourage self-regulation and social skills.** Self-regulation is the ability to understand and manage your own behavior and reactions, often displayed during actions like taking turns, transitioning from one activity to another or cleaning up for dinner. Social skills include interaction and communication abilities like speech, body language and facial expressions, as well as the ability to play with others and make friends. As a parent, you can model these skills and play games that involve taking turns and cooperation. Playdates also help facilitate positive social experiences for children.

Learn more about preparing your child for success in kindergarten and beyond at [PrimroseSchools.com/education](https://www.primroseschools.com/education).