

# WEST CENTRAL WIRE

*"To prepare all students for learning and living in a changing world."  
~West Central Schools Mission Statement*

[www.westcentral.k12.sd.us](http://www.westcentral.k12.sd.us)

## New Beginnings for WC



Beginnings, more often than not, are often accompanied by reflections. It would seem that the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year is no exception to that general statement. Looking back on the past school year, there are a multitude of truths that come to mind. Quality educational experiences are the result of an incredibly dedicated body of professionals. Certified and classified staff, educational assistants and a wealth of additional school employees worked through an unprecedented and constantly changing school year. The monumental efforts and challenges that were present were handled very well by the students and staff of the West Central School District. Thank you for each and every one of your efforts!

It can be said that the interactions and relationships built during the year are crucial to a positive school experience: peer to peer, students to staff, adults to youth. All of these combinations are best carried out while being physically present within our classrooms, hallways and fields of play. That foundational statement is what we look forward to building a positive school year upon. Beginning on August 9th with our All School Registration Day, August 10th - New Staff Inservice, August 16th - All Staff and finally on August 19th with the first day of school, we look forward to serving your child(ren) during their educational journey.

Please continue to utilize and visit the district website as often as needed. The district website ([WestCentral49-7.com](http://WestCentral49-7.com)) will be updated continually to provide relevant information for events and experiences throughout the school year. The website will be one of many places that we will celebrate the achievements of our students and staff.

In closing, a word of thanks is most certainly appropriate. Thank you for partnering with the school district in our shared interest, investment and dedication to the students of West Central. Thank you for caring for them at home. Thank you for supporting the school district as we continue upon our shared educational journey. Now is a great time to be a West Central Trojan!

**Daniel Hoey**  
Superintendent of Schools  
West Central School District 49-7



# DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

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## WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD

- Alison McGillivray, President** ..... 701-650-1397  
508 Mulligan Cir, Hartford, SD 57033  
Alison.McGillivray@k12.sd.us
- Alexia Klinkhammer, Vice President** ..... 201-3495  
509 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford, SD 57033  
Alexia.Klinkhammer@k12.sd.us
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- Amanda Kayser** ..... 201-7510  
26646 461st Ave, Hartford, SD 57033  
Amanda.Kayser@k12.sd.us

**Please note:** Regular school board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Board Room at the Administration Office. Meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted. All meetings are open to the public. If a person desires to have an item placed on the agenda, please contact the Administration Office one week prior to the scheduled meeting. All meeting agendas can be located on the West Central webpage under District Board of Education. All school board proceedings are published in the Minnehaha Messenger.

## WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DIRECTORY

- Daniel Hoey, Superintendent**.....528-3217
- Dr. Andrew Barron, High School Principal**.....528-6236
- Mark Rockafellow, Middle School Principal**.....528-3799
- Amy Johnson, Humboldt Elementary Principal** .....363-3131  
or 528-3325
- Ashley Bahrenfuss, Hartford Elementary Principal**.....528-3215
- Krista Stuessi, Business Manager**.....528-3217
- Michelle Becker, Director of Special Services** .....528-3210
- Carrie Schaefers, Curriculum Director**.....528-3217
- Andrea Johnson, Activities Director/Dean of Students** .....528-6397
- Chris Waltner, Director of Technology**.....528-3217
- Tori Wittrock, Food Service Director** .....528-6238
- Rick Coker, Transportation Supervisor (Bus Garage Office)**.....528-6235

## EARLY DISMISSALS FOR 2021-2022

School will dismiss early for staff developments, teacher work time days, parent/teacher conferences, Thanksgiving break, winter break, and the last day of school. School will dismiss at 1:30 pm on the following days:

- October 8**
- October 18**
- October 21**
- November 24**
- December 21**
- January 28**
- February 17**
- March 10**
- May 17**



# 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>August 3-4</b> .....	New Student Registration 9:00 am- 3:00 pm
<b>August 9</b> .....	District Picture Day/Registration Day 7:00 am - 7:00 pm High School New Gym
<b>August 10-12</b> .....	New Teacher In-Service
<b>August 16-17</b> .....	Teacher In-Service
<b>August 16</b> .....	Middle School Open House 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
<b>August 16</b> .....	Humboldt Elementary Open House 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
<b>August 17</b> .....	Hartford Elementary Open House 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
<b>August 17</b> .....	Freshman Orientation Night 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>August 18</b> .....	All Staff In-Service
<b>August 19</b> .....	1st Day of School
<b>September 3</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>September 6</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
<b>October 8</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Staff Development
<b>October 11</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Native American Day
<b>October 18</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-9:00 pm
<b>October 21</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Teacher Work Time, End of 1st Quarter
<b>October 22</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
<b>November 24</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Thanksgiving Break Begins
<b>November 25-26</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 21</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Winter Break Begins, End of 2nd Quarter
<b>December 22-31</b> .....	NO SCHOOL -- Winter Break
<b>January 3</b> .....	Return from Winter Break
<b>January 17</b> .....	NO SCHOOL --Teacher In-Service
<b>January 28</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Staff Development
<b>February 17</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-9:00 pm
<b>February 18</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
<b>February 21</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - President's Day
<b>February 25</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
<b>March 10</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Teacher Work Time, End of 3rd Quarter
<b>March 11</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>March 18</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>April 15</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>April 18</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>May 14</b> .....	Graduation
<b>May 17</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, End of 4th Quarter, Last Day for Students - Teacher work time until 8 pm
<b>May 18</b> .....	Staff Development - Last Day for Teachers

**Inclement Weather or Make-Up Days:** The first five make-up days are built into the school calendar. If we exceed five days of absence, one day will be scheduled onto to the end of the school year for each day missed. The days that will be utilized, if necessary are: May 18, 19, 20, 23, and 24.



## SCHOOL CLOSINGS INFORMATION

The Campus Messenger System is our primary notification system for parents/guardians and staff. It will be utilized for school closings, delays, or early dismissals.



Please call **Caryl Nolz at 528-3217** for changes in phone numbers.

In addition, the following TV stations will be notified in the event that school should be cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather conditions:

**Television Stations:** KELO, KDLT, KSFY

We make every effort to provide this information to families prior to 6:30 a.m. However, the changing weather in South Dakota may make this a challenge on some days. In any case, we will notify these stations as soon as possible.

We care very much about your children and do our best to make appropriate decisions based on student safety and student achievement. Please remember that as a parent or guardian, you have the right to keep your child home on any day that you feel it is unsafe for your student to travel to school due to weather conditions.

# NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for new students in the West Central School District is set for **Tuesday, August 3, 2021** and **Wednesday, August 4, 2021**, from **9:00am-3:00pm** (*appointment only*)

Administrators will be available to answer any questions families may have about the school during these hours. Parents/Guardians are asked to bring with them their child’s certified birth certificate, immunization records, and medicaid card (if applicable) to complete the registration process. A copy of the certified birth certificate will be made in the office.

Families not able to attend the registration should contact the school to request that materials be sent to them or to set up another appointment to register their child(ren). West Central Administration requests that families make contact with the school by August 4th if unable to come to register so that planning for the upcoming school year will include accurate student numbers.

**Following are the school phone numbers to call after July 28th to schedule an appointment:**

- Elementary**
- Building in Humboldt (K-5)** ..... 363-3131  
Or ..... 528-3325
- Building in Hartford (PreK-2)**..... 528-3215
- Middle School (6th, 7th, & 8th)**..... 528-3799
- High School**..... 528-6236

If you are unable to reach anyone at the above school numbers, please call the Administration Office at 528-3217.

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

The Board subscribes to the fullest extent to the principle of the dignity of all people and of their labors and will take action to ensure that applicants are employed, assigned, and promoted without regard to their age, race, creed, color, sex, marital status, political affiliation, or national origin.

Every available opportunity will be taken in order to assure that each applicant for a position is selected on the basis of qualifications, merit and ability.

# GATE RECEIPTS AND ADMISSIONS

The following is a list of admission prices to varsity activities, excluding chorus and band concerts. At all high school concerts, we ask for donations to help benefit the West Central music program.

**Adult Patrons of West Central Schools:**  
\$5 per event or \$50 for a season pass

**Students Attending West Central Schools:**  
\$3 per event or \$1 per event if student shows ID or \$15 for a season pass

**Visiting Coaches and Administration:**  
Admitted Free

**West Central Employees and Their Spouses:**  
Admitted free by displaying complimentary pass (*Passes available from Administration Office*)

**Senior Citizens (65 years and older):**  
Admitted free

**Play and Musicals:**  
\$5 adults - \$4 students

# WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY ED

We are pleased to announce that our Community Ed activities will be coming back for the 2021-22 school year. Please watch our website for further communication regarding offerings.

# ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

In October 1987, the U.S. Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. Asbestos is a fiber, which in the past had been used in building construction materials, and has been identified as being a disease-causing agent, including a cause of cancer.

The purpose of the legislation was to insure that school students are provided with a safe environment in which to learn. Asbestos abatement (removal) has been completed throughout the district. The only asbestos-containing material that remains in the district is floor tiles at the Maintenance Shop. Should any parent/patron have questions regarding the Federal law or its application to our district, those persons are invited to direct any inquires to Krista Stuessi, Business Manager at 605-528-3217.

# K.A.R.E. NEWS

The KARE program provided by the Sioux Falls YMCA will begin August 19th. This program is designed for students in grades K-5 and is available both before and after school at the Hartford Elementary building. The before school program is available starting at 7:00 am and the after school program begins when school is dismissed until 6:00 pm. The KARE program is not open on days when there is no school or if school dismisses early due to weather. Transportation will be provided between Humboldt and Hartford Elementary Schools.

Anyone interested in attending this program must complete registration through the YMCA at [https://operations.daxko.com/Online/2211/ProgramsV2/Search.mvc?category\\_ids=CAT23291666](https://operations.daxko.com/Online/2211/ProgramsV2/Search.mvc?category_ids=CAT23291666) prior to attending.

The KARE program provides many fun and enriching activities such as reading, math games, crafts, outdoor play, board games, puzzles, and computers. If you have any questions regarding the KARE program, please contact Mike Murphy 605-336-2267 or by email at [mmurphy@siouxfallsymca.org](mailto:mmurphy@siouxfallsymca.org).



# EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All students of the district will have equal educational opportunities. The Board will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, handicap, economic status, national origin, or ancestry in its policies or programs.

To accomplish this policy of nondiscrimination, the Board will make every effort to provide all students equal access with respect to admission or membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs, or activities; access to facilities; distribution of funds; academic evaluations; or any other aspect of school-sponsored programs or activities.

The Board recognizes that children vary widely in capabilities, interests, and social and economic background, and that no two children can be treated exactly alike if the fullest development of each is to be achieved.

# NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The West Central School District #49-7 does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs (*including career and technical education programs*) on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or other human differences and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Requirement for admission to the Career and Technical Education courses is completion of prerequisite coursework of each area.

### Career and Technical Education offered at the West Central School District

**Agriculture** - Floriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Bio-Technology, and Agriculture Leadership

**Architecture and Construction** - Introduction to Technology, Production Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting, Carpentry, and Building Trades

**Food and Tourism Classes** - Independent Living, Food Management, and Family Relations

**Technology** - Multi-media, Web Design, Animation, Computer I, and 3-D Programming

*Inquiries specifically concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, or section 504 may be referred to:*

- Title VI (*discrimination based on national origin/ race*).....Special Services Director
- Title IX (*discrimination based on gender*).....
- .....Activities Director
- Section 504 (*discrimination based on disability*)
- .....Special Services Director

**Both Special Services and Activities Director can be reached at:**  
West Central School District  
705 E. 2nd St.  
Hartford, SD 57033  
605-528-3217

Or

Kansas City Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114-3302  
Phone: 816-268-0550  
Fax: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172  
E-mail: [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov)

## BULLYING; PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The West Central School Board supports a secure school climate conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency of approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is defined as any written, verbal, or electronic expression, physical act or gesture or a pattern thereof, which is intended to cause distress upon any person in the school environment. For purposes of this policy the school environment includes school buildings, grounds, vehicles, busses, bus stops and all school-sponsored activities and events.

A person who engages in any act of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop a comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels. The program shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following objectives:

1. To foster a community of mutual respect.
2. To recognize and praise positive behaviors on a regular basis.
3. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
4. To support victims of bullying by counseling.
5. To help develop peer support networks, social skills, and confidence for all.
6. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents, and community members that bullying will not be tolerated.
7. To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
8. To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of people engaged in bullying behavior.
9. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of people engaged in bullying behaviors through reeducation on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Your child has the same rights to school programs and services as all children, including:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. You must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Continue in the school attended before you became homeless, if that is your choice, it is feasible, and in the best interest of the child. The school district's education liaison must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding the choice of school should it go against your wishes.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you try to resolve a dispute over enrollment. The district must provide you with a written explanation if a placement dispute occurs and inform you that you have the right to appeal.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students. These programs could be before and after school programs, pre-school programs, special education, gifted and talented programs, career and technology education, etc.
- Automatically participate in free breakfast and lunch programs.
- Receive transportation to the school and school programs you attended before you became homeless (or the school you last attended).
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.

\*Unaccompanied youth lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.

For further information or questions regarding this act, please contact the district homeless liaison coordinator.

## STUDENT RECORDS NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask West Central School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll

*[NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]*

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
600 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE INTENT OF WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #49-7 TO RELEASE PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING STUDENTS OR FORMER STUDENTS

**Directory Information:** West Central School District designates the following personally identifiable information regarding its students as Directory Information:

1. Name
2. Address and phone number
3. Date of birth
4. School attending
5. Dates of attendance
6. Parents or guardian of student
7. Participation in school-recognized activities
8. Weight, height, age and grade of members of athletic team
9. Awards received
10. Individual and group photographs pertaining to school activities
11. Similar information which denotes accomplishment or achievement

### **Right of Parent, Guardian or Student to Prohibit Release of Information:**

A parent, guardian, or student over 18 years of age may refuse to permit the release of any of the Directory Information by notifying the Principal of the student's school in writing which of the above Directory Information may not be released in respect to the particular student. Such notification may be made at any time.

### **Student Records Policy:**

The Board of Education has adopted an educational records policy and, in implementing the release of information, that policy shall be considered.

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL OR PROCEDURES

This policy provides direction for the District to process complaints about school personnel or procedures. For the process of hearing complaints about federally funded programs (including parents of students experiencing homelessness), see District Policy KLDF. Complaints involving identification of or provision of services to students receiving special education and related services are addressed pursuant to the special education rules of the South Dakota Department of Education. The School Board places trust in its employees and desires to support their actions in such a manner that employees are freed from unnecessary, spiteful or negative criticism and complaints.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the School Board as a body, or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the school administration.

### Procedures

Constructive criticism of the schools will be welcomed by the Board when it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to do their tasks more effectively.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the School Board as a whole or to an individual Board Member, the individual or group involved will be advised to obtain a complaint form from the District office and to follow the provisions of Board Policy.

The Board believes that complaints and grievances are best handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible, and that the staff should be given every opportunity to consider the issues and attempt to resolve the problem prior to the involvement by the School Board or administration. Therefore, the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, will be as follows:

1. Teacher/classified employee
2. Director of Activities (*as may apply*)
3. Principal
4. Superintendent of Schools
5. School Board

The School Board expects the professional staff and all employees to receive complaints courteously and to make a proper reply to the complaint.

Matters referred to the superintendent and/or School Board must be in writing and should be specific in terms of the action desired.

Complaints involving the Board, its members or policies may be pursued through the state court system.

### Complaint Resolution

Whenever a complaint about a school employee or program is received by the administration from a patron of the district, a copy of the policy and procedure for the filing and resolution of the complaint shall be given to the patron.

#### Step 1:

The Patron will meet informally with the school employee in an effort to resolve the matter quickly at the lowest level possible. If the informal process is not satisfactory to the complainant, the matter will be reduced to writing on the District's complaint form (See File KLD-E) and submitted to the program supervisor to resolve the issue. If the issue is not resolved, the patron may submit it to the Principal. A copy of the complaint will be given to the employee by the Principal. The employee may respond in writing.

#### Step 2:

The Principal will meet with the patron and employee individually or jointly in an attempt to resolve the problem and conduct such other investigation as the Principal deems necessary. The Principal shall render his or her decision to both parties in writing within ten (10) working school days or less. If resolution is agreeable to the patron and the employee, the Principal's decision shall be delivered to the Superintendent. If no agreement is reached, either the Patron or the Employee may go to Step 3 provided notice is given to the Superintendent within five (5) working school days of receipt of the Principal's decision.

#### Step 3:

The complaint with the Principal's action and any information developed by the Principal's investigation will be given to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will meet with the patron, employee and Principal together or individually. The Superintendent shall conduct such further investigation as the Superintendent deems necessary. The Superintendent writes a decision within five (5) days of completing his or her investigation and notifies the patron, employee, and Principal. The Superintendent's decision may affirm, reverse or modify the Principal's decision. The patron or employee may within five (5) working school days go to Step 4 by notifying the Superintendent in writing of the desire to go to Step 4.

## PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW NOTICE

West Central School District accepts Title I, Part A funding and must notify parents that parents can request information regarding their child's teacher, including:

1. whether the teacher has met the State requirements for licensure and certification for the grade levels and subject-matters in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. that each Title I school will provide notice if a parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified;
3. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which the State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
4. the college major and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
5. whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

Currently, all of our staff at West Central, both certified and paraprofessionals meet the highly qualified status under No Child Left Behind and the State of South Dakota. If you have a question about any of the qualifications concerning your child's teacher, please contact the Administration Office at 528-3217.

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### Step 4:

The School Board will consider the complaint while meeting in executive session. The Superintendent will provide the Board with the file packet, which contains the complaint, employee's response, Principal's decision and Superintendent's decision. The Board may affirm the Superintendent's decision upon the written record as it then exists. The Board may determine to conduct a formal hearing on the matter. At this hearing, the patron will explain the complaint, the Superintendent will explain the Administration's response. Any party to the hearing may call such witnesses as they deem

## NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

On Dec. 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This reauthorization, known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), replaces the previous version of the law enacted in 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act. States will be in a period of transition until all provisions of the ESSA take effect.

### State Plan

ESSA requires all states to develop a plan for education that addresses major federal requirements. South Dakota's state plan was developed over the course of a year, with input from stakeholders across the state, including educators, parents, students, legislators, tribal representatives, representatives from higher education, and others. The public comment period regarding this plan ran from May 31 to June 30, 2017.

The core academic subjects are English; Reading or Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Foreign Language; Social Studies (Civics, Government, Economics, History, Geography); and The Arts (Visual Arts & Music).

If you have any questions regarding your child's teacher's qualifications, please feel free to contact the district office. For additional information about teacher state certifications, please visit Teacher 411 at the South Dakota Department of Education website: <https://apps.sd.gov/de04public/TeacherLookup/TeacherSearch.aspx>.

necessary. The Board may summon such additional witnesses or documents as it deems necessary. All testimony or statements at this hearing shall be under oath and the parties shall be reminded that penalties for perjury can be imposed regarding testimony given under oath. The School Board will render its decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing, which will be implemented by the Superintendent. The Patron or the Employee may appeal this decision within 90 days to the Circuit Court as per SDCL 13-46. All federal program complaints, shall be addressed under the Federal Program Complaint Procedure KLDF.

## NURSE'S CORNER

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer. The start of school is just around the corner and that means time to check to see if your student(s) have met all their immunization requirements to start school. Currently, South Dakota requires incoming kindergarten students to have DTaP, IPV, MMR, and Varicella to start school. Below is a copy from the Department of Health of the requirements. According to SD State Law (13-28-7.1), a student will be excluded from school for failure to present required immunizations. Please make sure that your student(s) are updated on their immunizations before the start of school.

### IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN ENTRY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1 requires students entering school or early childhood programs to present certification that they have been adequately immunized, according to the recommendations of the Department of Health. The law applies to all children entering school for the first time, including transfer students. Minimum immunization requirements are defined as:

1. Four or more doses of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus containing vaccine, with at least one dose administered on or after age 4. Children 7 years and older needing the primary series only need three doses. The first dose of the primary series should be Tdap and the second and third doses should be Td, with at least 6 months between dose two and three. Children receiving six doses before age 4 do not require any additional doses for school requirements. The maximum a child should receive is six doses. If a child 7 years and older has an incomplete DTaP primary series, please contact the Department of Health Immunization Program (1-800-592-1861) for assistance.
2. Four or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, at least one dose on or after age 4. (Although not the recommended schedule - if a child has three doses of polio with the third dose administered on or after the age of 4 and at least 6 months after the second dose, no other doses are required.)
3. Two doses of a measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) or submit serological evidence of immunity. Minimum age for the first dose is 12 months. Administer the second dose routinely at age 4 through 6 years. The second dose may be administered prior to age 4 provided at least 28 days have elapsed since the first dose.
4. Two doses of varicella vaccine. The minimum age for the first dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is 12 months. History of disease is acceptable with parent/guardian signature. Administer the second dose routinely at age 4 through 6 years. The second dose may be administered prior to age 4 provided the minimum interval between the two doses is 3 months.

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF INCOMING 6TH GRADERS

New immunization requirements were signed into law in the Spring 2016. South Dakota Department of Health requires all 6th Graders to have **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) and Meningococcal (MCV4)** vaccine before they start 6th grade. As the school nurse, I am required by law to report the immunizations to the Department of Health at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Please get your student(s) immunized prior to school starting. The school nurse must review all immunization records BEFORE the school year starts. According to the SD State Law (13-28-7.1), a student will be excluded from school for failure to present required immunizations.

Please make an appointment NOW with your Primary Care Physician to take your child in for a well check and immunizations.

Any questions can be directed to: [annette.sichmeller@k12.sd.us](mailto:annette.sichmeller@k12.sd.us).  
Thank you! Annette Sichmeller, RN

**It's the Rule...  
Shots before School!**

**New 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

South Dakota requires all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to get:

- One dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (**Tdap**) vaccine on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday
- One dose of Meningococcal (**MCV4**) vaccine on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday

For more information, talk with your family physician or your local community health nurse about these and other vaccinations your preteen should receive.

**VACCINATE YOUR 11-12 YEAR OLDS**

**SD HEALTH**  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH  
1-800-592-1861

# DISTRICT WIDE REGISTRATION AND PICTURE DAY

## AUGUST 9, 2021

### 7am - 7pm at the High School

Registration will be done **ONLINE** by accessing parent portal through the West Central website at [www.westcentral.k12.sd.us](http://www.westcentral.k12.sd.us).

Payments will also be made online through the "online payments" link also available on the West Central website. "How to" instruction for registration, payments and tech support can be found on our "Back-To-School" page at: [www.westcentral49-7.com/backtoschool](http://www.westcentral49-7.com/backtoschool)

On August 9 from 7am - 7pm parents/students (grades JK-12) may come to the High School front entrance for school pictures to be taken by Scherling Photography, if desired. School pictures will also be available later in the school year on picture makeup day. Pictures may be ordered online through Scherling Photography by midnight on August 10th, with the access code Z65XJ1 or with an order form on picture day. Orders may be made after August 10th, but prices may vary and may include shipping charges.

In addition, we will have several computers set up to provide individual, hands-on support for online registration for those who do not have access to a computer or are struggling with the process. Registrations must be completed for the upcoming school year by end of day on August 9th and payments need to be completed before services rendered. For

example, computer fees must be paid before a device can be provided.

Registration Day will include computer pickup for high school students and stations for payments, school nurse, transportation and food service. Also available will be activity passes, booster club spirit wear, and offerings from the PTA and other West Central School organizations.

#### REGISTRATION CHECKLIST:

**Online registration through parent portal**

**Online payments through Revtrak on district website**

- **Transportation** (*Required for In-Town Bussing*)
- **Computer Use Fee** (*Required for All middle school and high school students*)
- **Activity Passes** (*Optional*)
- **Computer Damage Payment** (*only if there is an outstanding technology fee*)
- **Band Bill Payment** (*only if there is an outstanding band fee or payment needed*)
- **Yearbooks** (*Optional*)
- **Instrument Rental Fee** (*Optional*)
- **Junior Class Fees** (*Required for 11th grade students*)
- **Food Service Payments** - My School Bucks (*available August 15th*)



**Back to School Forms**  
available on the District Website at  
[www.westcentral.k12.sd.us](http://www.westcentral.k12.sd.us)  
under the "Back-To-School" Tab

- School Supply Lists
- Medicaid Consent
- Prescription Medication Form
- Physical and History Forms
- Special Diet Request Forms
- Free & Reduced Meal Packets



# Attention Families!

**West Central School District is now taking payments online!**

Pay when it's most convenient for you with a computer or mobile device at <https://westcentral.revtrak.net>.

Save time and be confident that your payment makes it where it needs to go. You can pay online with eCheck, debit, or credit cards.

West Central School District is currently accepting online payment for fees like these:

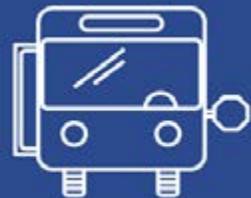
## Computer Fees



## Activity Passes



## Transportation



Visit <https://westcentral.revtrak.net> to pay fees online.



## Payment Instructions for the West Central Public Schools Web Store

- Visit school district website at <http://westcentral.k12.sd.us>
- Click on the **Online Payments** button
- You will be redirected to the West Central Web Store
- Select **Login**. If a **new customer**, select **“Create a New Account.”** If a **returning customer**, enter you email address and password.
- Choose the item/fee you would like to pay for
- Enter required information
- Click **“Add to Cart”**
- To make a payment for another fee or student, click **“Continue Shopping”** and select additional fee type
- When all fees are in shopping cart, click **“Go to Cart”** and then click **“Checkout.”**
- Payment may be made with credit/debit card or echeck

A screenshot of a web browser window showing a login form. The page title is "Log in to the Web Store now for quick checkout". There is a "Translate" button in the top right corner. The form has two input fields: "Email" and "Password". Below the password field is a link for "Forgot password?". A "LOG IN" button is positioned to the right of the password field. At the bottom of the form is a dark blue button labeled "CREATE NEW ACCOUNT".

# WEST CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION

**Register to ride for rural and in-town busing!** In-town busing is available for students K-8 and rural busing for K-12. Registration this year will be part of the school registration process. If you plan to ride in-town or rural busing, you must indicate "yes" within the on-line registration within the student services questions and complete the required pickup and delivery information. Payment for in-town busing is preferred to be submitted with an on-line payment for less money handling, but may also be dropped off to the administration office or a building secretary. Bus drivers will call families on their routes sometime the week before school begins to give you the pick-up and drop-off locations and times.

**Shuttles between Hartford and Humboldt.** Shuttles will leave at **8:10 every morning from both Hartford and Humboldt.** Please have your student at the school early so they won't miss the bus! The drop-off location for students riding the shuttle from Hartford to Humboldt will be the circular drive for passenger vehicles on the corner of Feyder and 2nd Street. Students are to use the crosswalk to the sidewalk and into the cafeteria where all students wait for the buses. "Hanging out" at the bike racks or on the sidewalks is not allowed. Use Cross-walks! **NEVER cross between buses!** Those shuttling from Humboldt to Hartford will be picked up at the bus drive in Humboldt. This shuttle also leaves at 8:10 am. There is no charge for riding the shuttle.

**Riding the bus is a privilege that can be lost for not behaving properly.** The bus is an extension of the classroom. Students should behave as they would in the classroom. Respect for other students and their property, the bus, and the driver are required. Proper behavior is necessary to maintain a safe environment and a safe ride to school.

**Food and drink are NOT ALLOWED on the bus.** Please feed your students before they get on the bus. Breakfast is also available at the school. Additionally, buses do not stop for restroom breaks. Once a student gets on the bus they must stay on until they reach their school or arrive at their afternoon stop.

**Be ready and at your bus stop early.** While we strive for consistency, please remember that bus stop times can vary by about 10 minutes. Things beyond our control such as, weather, students not riding, mechanical problems, road conditions, etc., all factor into this.



## DROP OFF LOCATIONS

### **High School and Middle School Students:**

- Drop off for all high school and middle school students not riding the bus will be in the west parking lot in front of the middle school entrance or at the west high school doors at the ramp. Please enter this parking lot from 2nd Street, drive south, go around the parked cars, and then head north to the doors in front of the school.
- The horse-shoe driveway area next to 2nd Street will remain a pick-up and drop-off area for **buses only**. Please do **NOT** enter this area in personal vehicles.

### **Humboldt Elementary:**

- Drop off and pick up of students must be done using the circular drive on the north side of the building.
- The bus drive is on the east side of the building and is for **buses only**. Buses will come in from Ford Street on the east, and exit out the same gravel road. Please keep all personal vehicles out of this area.
- **DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS TO ENTER THE BACK OF THE BUILDING!**

### **Hartford Elementary:**

- Students who ride the bus to the elementary school in Hartford will be dropped off by the bus on the east side of the school.
- Students going to Humboldt will load on the west side of the school.
- Students will wait for the bus in the elementary school cafeteria.
- Use Crosswalks! **Do not cross the drive in between buses!**
- Students who arrive or are picked up in personal vehicles will use the loop drive on the corner of Feyder and 2nd Street. The alley on the East side of the playground may be used for drop off in the mornings only. Please do not block traffic waiting for the bus in your vehicle.
- Students should **not** be dropped off on the south side of the building off of 1st Street. This is for school van drop off and pickup. **Personal vehicles may not use this drive!!**
- Students should also **not** be dropped off on 2nd street in front of the school.

We appreciate your cooperation when dropping off and picking up students at each location. Please always pull up to the sidewalk, allow your children to safely exit your vehicle, and then pull your car away **promptly** so others can safely unload their students in a timely manner. Please do **not** use bus lanes.

**Transportation Contact Number:** If your student is not riding the bus, you must notify us **before 6:30 a.m.** the day they are supposed to ride. Call the **transportation office at 528-6235** and leave a message identifying which bus or driver, your address and the student's name. Messages may be left at this number 24 hours a day. You may also communicate this information ahead of time by email. Please send email to [Rick.Coker@k12.sd.us](mailto:Rick.Coker@k12.sd.us) If you have any questions regarding transportation or the bus routes, please contact the transportation office by phone or email.

## WEST CENTRAL NUTRITION SERVICES

### West Central School Breakfast and Lunch Meals are Free for the School Year 2021-22

Breakfast and lunch will be free for students for the 2021-22 school year at West Central. Please note, some items are **not** free under the meal program, and funds need to be in the account to make those purchases.

- K-2 Snack Break cost .55 for milk and a grain/fruit offering.
- Milk is offered with the free breakfast and lunch. If a student chooses to bring in a sack breakfast or lunch, an additional .45 will be charged to their account. The milk is not free without the complete meal.
- A student must have money in their account if they wish to purchase any ala carte items. Ala carte items range from .40-3.95.
- Any additional meals outside the one free breakfast and/or lunch will cost extra.
- Adult meal price is \$4.00.

Come join us for a free breakfast! We know students who eat breakfast are ready to learn, have higher math scores, and have less behavioral issues. Breakfast times are from 7:45-8:25. Elementary students have two meal options each day from the menu. They may choose the item listed either on the menu for that day or cereal with grahams, fresh or canned fruit, juice box and choice of milk. Students in middle or high school have several meal options offered daily that they can choose from as a free breakfast and have access to ala carte items if desired.

K-2 students have access to one meal choice, whereas grades 3rd-5th have two meal options offered on most days. Elementary and middle school students have unlimited fresh veggies and up to two fruits with their choice of milk. High school students have unlimited fresh veggies and fruit with their free meal. Middle and high students also have access to ala carte. The student must have money on their account to purchase ala carte items. If you do not wish for your child to make purchases or to have limits, please contact the Nutrition Office. We will continue to have all salad bar

**West Central is collecting 2021-22 free/reduce apps to help with district funding. The meal is still free but this helps our district and our families in many ways. Thank you applying if you think your family is qualified.**

### What makes a "Meal Deal"?

1 GREAT TRAY



items individually wrapped or packaged for your child's safety.

SNACKS for K-2 are offered daily in the classroom. The cost of a snack is .55 (which is charge onto their meal account) for a carton of 1% milk with either whole grain crackers, whole grain bar, whole grain cereal, or fresh fruit. Each item is prepackaged for your child's safety. The snack provided is to help small children focus on learning because their bodies need smaller portions throughout the day to put hunger at bay. Peanuts or tree nuts of any sort are not offered at either elementary site. We also do our best to stay away from items manufactured in facilities with peanuts.

Any student who needs a meal change or modification to their meal will need to complete a Special Diet Form. Special Diet Form is located on the West Central Web page under Nutrition Services. Please be sure to completely fill out the document. If your child has a condition that limits a major life activity, it will need to be signed by a licensed medical professional. If you have any questions, you may contact the Nutrition Office 528-6238 or contact the school nurse Annette Sichmeller, Annette.Sichmeller@k12.sd.us.

Menus can be found on the West Central Website under Calendars, select elementary or secondary. Lastly, we will be celebrating National School Lunch Week October 11-15, 2021 and National School Breakfast Week March 7-11, 2022. More to come!

Victoria Wittrock, Food Service Director  
605-528-6238, Victoria.Wittrock@k12.sd.us

## ELEMENTARY NEWS

From the Desk of Ashley Bahrenfus, *Principal*  
605-528-3215

From the Desk of Amy Johnson, *Principal*  
605-363-3131

### Greetings from Hartford and Humboldt Elementary!!

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be embarking on the 2021-2022 school year; a much anticipated school year as we settle back into previous practices and procedures. While the summer months prove to be a fan favorite for many, we are excited for all that is in store for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The below events are a snapshot of the happenings at Hartford and Humboldt Elementary during the months of August and September:

**August 3rd/4th** - New Student Registration Days. If you are new to the West Central School District, please contact either elementary office to sign-up for a registration time: 605-528-3215 (Hartford Elementary) and/or 605-363-3131 (Humboldt Elementary).

**August 9th** - District Registration/Picture Day. Additional information can be found in this newsletter.

**August 16th** - Humboldt Elementary Open House (5:30-7:00pm)

**August 17th** - Hartford Elementary Open House (5:30-7:00pm)

**August 19th** - First Day of School! (1st-5th Grades)

**August 19th** - Kindergarten "Meet and Greet" This is a scheduled time slot for each kindergartener (and their parents) to meet their new teacher. Sign up information will be coming soon!

**August 20th** - First Day of School for Kindergarten!!

**September 3rd/6th** - No School!

**September 16th** - Early Childhood Screening (9:00am-7:00pm). This is an optional developmental screening available to families living within the West Central School District whose children are birth to five years of age.

**September 20th-24th** - Homecoming Week

### Elementary Open House

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Monday, August 16th - *Humboldt Elementary*

Tuesday, August 17th - *Hartford Elementary*

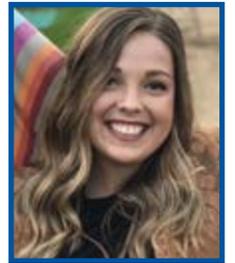
The start of a new school year also brings new faces aboard. Please help us in welcoming the following staff to the Hartford and Humboldt Elementary buildings:

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

My name is **Crisse Meisenhelder** and I will be one of the new Kindergarten teachers in Humboldt. I have taught in the Sioux Falls School District for 18 years. Seventeen of those years were in Kindergarten and for one year I ventured out and dipped my toes into the Instructional Coaching role. My husband Nathan and I recently built a house north of Humboldt which is what brings me to the West Central School District. In my free time I like to read murder mysteries, go fishing - both open water and ice, and make an attempt at gardening.



My name is **Makenna Macdonald**. I will be teaching Kindergarten at Humboldt Elementary and coaching C Team Volleyball. I have my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education Birth - 8. I have been teaching kindergarten for the past 2 years. I am a West Central High School 2014 Alum. I am very excited to be teaching and coaching at my alma mater! Go Trojans!



My name is **Rachael Hahl** and I am the new Kindergarten teacher at Hartford Elementary. I grew up in Hartford where I married my high school sweetheart, Tyler. We currently live in Hartford and we are excited to raise our daughter, Jaelynn (3), and our son, Logan (1) in the town that we love. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, golfing, coaching dance, and doing DIY projects. I started teaching Elementary Special Education at Tri-Valley after I graduated college and worked there for 6 years. I am very excited to come back to West Central and teach the young minds of this wonderful community!



My name is **Katie Peterson** and I am Hartford's newest 2nd grade teacher. My family and I have resided in Hartford for the past 10 years. Previously, I taught 2nd grade for Harrisburg since graduating from Dakota State University in 2007.



## ELEMENTARY NEWS

Family and faith are of upmost importance to me. Teaching has always been my passion and I bring that excitement into my classroom daily. I am known for my cheerful attitude and enthusiasm for learning. My motto is, "each child has the ability to learn, you just have to figure out what works best for them and go with it!" When I am not teaching, you will find me escorting me kids to various activities, working at my church, or painting houses with my husband. My husband, Jeff is also a teacher for the West Central District. I have a 9-year-old son, Leighton and 5-year-old daughter, Aftyn.

My name is **Keith Moe** and I am one of the new 5th grade teachers at Humboldt Elementary. I currently live in Sioux Falls with my beautiful wife, Dani, and our big, fluffy puppy, Winston. I grew up in Howard and graduated from Dakota State University with my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I love the Green Bay Packers, playing board games, and all things Marvel. My wife and I also have a good start to our checklist of visiting every National Park. I taught 4th grade and was the head track coach in Howard and I am looking forward to being apart of the West Central School District!



My name is **Emily Badura**. I will be teaching 5th grade this year at Humboldt Elementary. I graduated from The University of South Dakota in May with my bachelors degree in Elementary Education. I grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota and will be living in Sioux Falls this year. I enjoy boating, camping, and spending time with friends and family. I can't wait to begin my teaching career at West Central School District and look forward to getting to know everyone this year!



My name is **Jill Michaelson**. I am the new Special Education Teacher at Humboldt Elementary. I recently graduated with my Master of Education in Special Education from Augustana University. I also have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Portland. For the past two years, I have worked for the Tea Area School District as a paraprofessional in special education. My husband, Greg,



is a software engineer, and we have four children. Our oldest will be a senior at Roosevelt High School, and the three younger ones will be in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade at Discovery Elementary in Sioux Falls. We enjoy spending our time together hiking, biking, and shuttling our kids around to all their activities. I look forward to teaching in the West Central School District and working with the great students at Humboldt Elementary!

My name is **Kathy Painter**, I have been hired for the Covid School Nurse position. I have been employed in a wide range of nursing; from hospital, nursing home, clinic nursing and school nursing. I was a school nurse for the SF school district for over 12 years. I was also on the Autism Team. I have worked with children from Birth thru high school. I live on a farm northwest of Montrose. I am divorced and have two grown children and 5 grandchildren. In my leisure I enjoy spending time with my family, having coffee with friends, reading, shopping, and taking care of my pets. I look forward to working with everyone at West Central - students, staff and families.



My name is **Keri Statema**. I will be the new Behavior Interventionist in the district. I have my Bachelors Degree in Elementary and Special Education and my Master's in Special Education in EBD/LD. I have been teaching special education for 17 years and worked on the special education evaluation team for 2 years. I have worked with students ranging in age from K-21. My passion is working with students with behavioral and emotional disorders. My husband Paul and I live in Sioux Falls where Paul works for UPS as a feeders driver. I have two adult children and a grandson on the way. Paul and I love bicycling, camping, traveling and spending time with our families. I am very excited to begin at West Central School District and look forward to meeting everyone.



We look forward to sharing in the excitement of the 2021-2022 school year with you. Parent involvement is an integral part of student achievement and school success - let's make this year one of the best!

Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Ashley Bahrenfus, *Hartford Elementary Principal*  
Mrs. Amy Johnson, *Humboldt Elementary Principal*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

**From the Desk of Mark Rockafellow, Principal**  
605-528-3799

Writing the article for the August newsletter is a stark reminder that the 4th of July has come and gone and the new school year is rapidly approaching. I hope the summer has been enjoyable and families have had an opportunity to spend time together. While we have been enjoying summer activities, preparations for the next school year have been progressing.

The summer months are busy times for many, including the school personnel preparing for the upcoming year. I like to mention our custodial staff in this yearly message because they have been diligently preparing the buildings for the upcoming year. I love the opportunity to walk into the rooms with freshly waxed or shampooed floors. We are blessed with a custodial and building and grounds staff that takes great pride in their work. Please show respect for their efforts by helping keep our facilities clean.

We have two new teachers preparing for their new experiences at West Central. Mr. Austin Lopour will be the new sixth-grade Science and Social Studies teacher. Mr. Lopour served as the online/alternative instructor for the district last year. Mr. Dylan Kor will join our middle school as a Special Education teacher. He comes to us with several years of experience at the middle level. We welcome these two to the middle school and the district.

Our tech staff has been busy working to improve the technology experience for our students and staff. They are also working to prepare new iPads for the students and staff. Each student in grades six, seven, and eight will be issued a new iPad for the upcoming school year. New bags and keyboard cases will also be issued. Students will be expected to demonstrate a high level of respect and care for the equipment.

With privileges come responsibilities. A couple responsibilities worth noting include charging the device at home and proper care. Students will need to charge the iPad at home. This is no more difficult to do than charging a cell phone but essential for the effective

use of technology for the next day. We also encourage students to leave their charging cords at home so as not to risk the loss of them while transporting to and from school.

Students will receive significant instruction on proper care which will include keeping it in the carrying case whenever not in use, including in and between classes and on the bus ride to and from school, and respecting the device. This proper care will help reduce the potential for breakage.

Preparations continue for the following events:

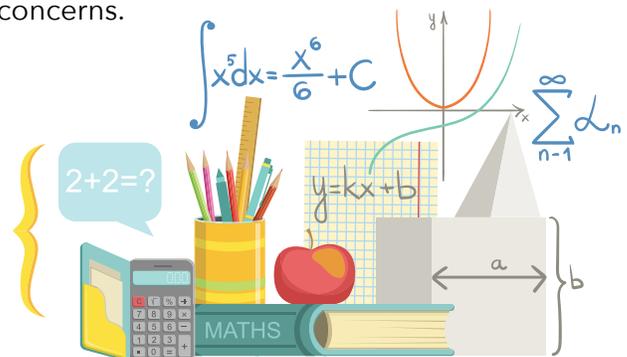
**New Student Registration**  
*(by appointment only)*  
**August 3 and 4**

**District Registration Day**  
**August 9 • 7:00AM - 7:00PM**

**Middle School Open House**  
**August 16 • 5:30PM - 7:00PM**

**First Day of School**  
**August 19 • 8:30AM - 3:30PM**

The middle school years are filled with a multitude of changes for students. We are excited for the opportunity to work with the middle school students and their families as students progress through those changes. Please call or stop in if you have any questions or concerns.



## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

From the Desk of Dr. Andrew Barron, *WCHS Principal*  
605-528-6236

### PLEASED TO MEET YOU

As I write this, I am surrounded by moving boxes. My family is readying for our move from Minnesota to South Dakota later this week, and I could not be more excited to start as the new principal at West Central.

Packing for our move has given me plenty of opportunities to reflect on all of the places I have been and the experiences I have had that led me to West Central. It has been tough to decide what I should bring with me. I kept my Shakespeare books from when I was a high school English teacher and a photo from the staff at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School where I was Dean of Curriculum. I packed up my notebooks from the University of Minnesota where I was a graduate student, and I packed more than a few good books on education. I do like to read.

When I packed up my office at Lakeville Area Schools, I threw out my office plant, which did not survive the distance learning part of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I kept the drawings from my two children, Henry and Sonia. I erased the board, turned out the lights, and

*During this transitional time, please follow the website for updates forthcoming regarding back-to-school details and freshman orientation night. Communication will also be sent via campus messenger.*

dropped off a few thank you notes for my colleagues before I left. For the last four years, I have been working at the central office in Lakeville. I was the Director of Data Analytics, and I led the research, assessment, and student information teams there. I loved the work, but I missed being in a school. So, I decided I would return to school administration. My wife and I decided that as long as I was looking for a principal position, maybe I should look in South Dakota where she grew up and graduated high school. The stars aligned and West Central's need for a new principal fell right into place with my desire to lead a school.

The last box I packed was a little box, labeled in my daughter's four-year-old script: "Dad's Stuff for School." Inside, there is a hat and a t-shirt for me and other shirts for my wife and kids, each one is bright blue with "West Central High School" written across the front. This box reminds me that moving is not just about packing up the things from where you have been; it is also about where you are going.

We start the 2021-2022 school year coming out of the strangest and hardest school year of my career, but we start the year knowing that there are great days ahead of us. I am excited to meet the West Central family. I am excited to be a part of the proud tradition of excellence.

Now, where did I put that packing tape...?

## 2021-22 COMPUTER FEES

### How much will it cost for an iPad and / or MacBook for my child?

Students in grades 6 - 8 will pay \$30 each and students in grades 9 - 12 will pay \$40 each.

Payments should be made through the on-line payments link on our website, [www.westcentral.k12.sd.us](http://www.westcentral.k12.sd.us). The device fee and all unpaid repairs from the previous year must be paid in full before a device will be handed out for the new year.

### When can I pickup my iPad or MacBook?

Middle School devices will be distributed the first day of school.

High School students may pick up computers **August 9th - 7am to 7pm**. Payment must be made prior to pickup. The next available pick up will be the first day of school.

## Freshman Orientation Night

**August 17**  
**6:00PM - 7:30PM**

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Michelle Becker, Director of Special Services  
Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us 605-528-3210

# WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

The West Central Special Services Department is dedicated to provide a full range of educational programs for our students in compliance with state and federal laws. These services are provided to qualified individuals residing within our school district. Programs through special services vary for each child and are customized to the student's individual needs. **Special education, Section 504, English Language Learners, and Title** programs and services are available for assisting our students with varying educational needs and are provided by our highly qualified staff.

**Special education** services are provided for eligible children from birth through twenty one years of age in accordance with the child's individual education plan (IEP). The Special Education department is responsible for the identification, evaluation, and programming; as well as the transitional needs, related programs and educational records for children who are identified with a disability. Students are educated in the general education curriculum and classrooms to the maximum extent possible. There are certified special education teachers and educational assistants in each school building at West Central. Support personnel may include a school psychologist, a behavior interventionist (new this school year), speech and language pathologists, and an occupational and physical therapist. Consult services for vision or hearing needs are also available, if necessary.

If a student is not eligible for special education services through an individual education plan (IEP), but needs special accommodations in the general educational environment, the student may be eligible for a **Section 504** accommodation plan. The student's team determines if there is a qualifying impairment that limits major life activities for the student. If a qualifying impairment is determined, the team then creates a plan to help the student be successful in the educational environment.

**English Language Learner** (EL) students are provided support through differentiated instructional strategies

and our EL teacher. The EL teacher, general education teachers and administration work together to help English Language students (ELs) succeed. West Central is also a member of a South Dakota EL consortium, where additional resources can be accessed.

**Title 1** services are provided to elementary students who may need additional reading and/or math support. All students can receive additional services while no student identification of being a "Title I student" is made. Students identified as most at-risk are given additional assistance. Certified teachers work in small group settings, and may provide assistance to the classroom teachers as well.

The West Central School District is dedicated to creating inclusive schools with programs and services that promote the success of all our students. We support collaboration between students, families and the school staff. Please contact your child's teacher, principal or the special services department if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information.

If you have children that are between the ages of birth to 5, please consider attending our FREE early childhood screening on Thursday, September 16 at the St. George Catholic Church Hall. Please see the boxed advertisement for this important event within the newsletter.

Our district website is a valuable place to help find the resources that you need to support your child(ren). The link: <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/specialservices> will take you to the West Central Special Services page.

As always, feel free to contact me directly with any questions. I look forward to working with your families again this year. I can be reached at 528-3210 or through my email at Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us

## HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

## ELEMENTARY TITLE I PROGRAMS

Both of our elementary schools, Hartford Elementary and Humboldt Elementary, have the support of Academic Interventionists (formerly referred to as 'Title teachers') to help support students in the content areas of reading and mathematics. Here is a snapshot of the academic side of our Title I Schoolwide programs led by our Academic Interventionists.

- Services may be offered to struggling students without the stigma attached to the Title I student classification. Flexible instructional groups based on assessment data and using Response to Intervention (RtI) continue to allow for specific, targeted instructional practices in all classrooms. Schoolwide Title I allows for increased differentiation opportunities and support based on student needs.
- Any student in grades kindergarten through fifth grade may receive additional services based on assessment data. No student identification of being a "Title I student" is made. Students identified as most at-risk for meeting our state's academic standards are given priority for additional instructional assistance with the Interventionists. While no parent notification of additional services to students is required in a Schoolwide program, it remains important to us at West Central that families are communicated with on a regular basis.
- Each of the elementary schools have a Schoolwide Plan that can be accessed on the school website. Plans are executed through a concerted effort of all staff in the elementary buildings. The general education teachers, academic interventionists, special educators, and other special services personnel all focus on the individual needs of students. Both elementary schools use a tiered model for interventions based on Response to Intervention (RtI).

As always, feel free to contact the building principals, the academic interventionists, or me directly with any questions you may have. We are planning on providing more in-depth information at the parent meeting during the Trojan Reading Bowl this fall. I can be reached at 528-3210 or through my email at Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us.

Michelle Becker, Federal Programs Director

## Early Childhood Screening

Parents often wonder if their child's development is typical of that seen in same age peers. Developmental screenings are designed to address these concerns and help parents learn more about their child's skills. The West Central School District offers a free developmental screening. These screenings are conducted by a team of District educators and the Birth to 3 program and are available to families living within the West Central School District whose children are within the ages of birth to 5 years of age.

*An Early Childhood Screening Assesses your child's development in the areas of:*

Communication  
Gross Motor  
Fine Motor  
Problem-Solving  
Personal-Social

In addition, we are also hopeful to add vision and hearing screenings to the event.

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**  
**9:00AM – 7:00PM**

**Location: St. George Parish Center**  
**408 S Western Ave, Hartford, SD**



Sign up your child by following this link. The link will also be on our West Central Webpage.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445ACAA2CA6F85-september>

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Andrea Johnson, Activities Director**  
**Activities Office 605-528-6397**

### Happy Fall Y'all!

It is that time of year again! Time to get back to school, back to the fields, back to the gyms, and back to the grind. Hopefully you all found some time to relax and enjoy the summer. I am so excited to be entering my second year as the Activities Director and Dean of Students. We are all excited to see what 21-22 will bring and what our Trojans can accomplish. See you in the halls and at events!

### TROJAN TIDBITS

1. Activity registration will again be a part of the back to school registration through Campus Parent Portal. Please register students by August 9. More information can be found at <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/backtoschool>
2. Physicals are required annually. These must be uploaded into the online registration or dropped off to a building secretary prior to the first practice. No student can practice without this. [SDHSAA Physical Form](#) (PDF available under Activities tab)

West Central School events and activities can be located on the website calendar at: [westcentral.mhsoftware.com](https://westcentral.mhsoftware.com)

## WC BAND NEWS

The Marching Trojans are excited to be starting another school year! This year's marching band will consist of 85 members under the student leadership of Drum Majors Emily Hofer, Kamden Knudson, and Hannah Conkling. They will be competing with their 2021 show throughout the tri-state area. Their first performance will be the parent preview show on August 14th where they will debut the show to the public in Jim Uttecht Stadium at 7:30 pm. Competition will start on September 17th in Parker for their parade competition. The following day, the Marching Trojans will head to Marshall, MN for the Pursuit of Excellence field competition.

The community will be able to see the show again at halftime of the homecoming game on September 24th at Jim Uttecht stadium. The following day, the students

3. The Code of Conduct can be found on the school website. Please familiarize yourself with the activity policies as well as school and district policies. [Code of Conduct](#) (PDF available under Activities tab)
4. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Email is the best way to reach me. [ANDREA.L.JOHNSON@K12.SD.US](mailto:ANDREA.L.JOHNSON@K12.SD.US)

### START DATES:

**Band** - Band Camp - **Aug. 2-4 @ 8am - Noon**

Marching Band Clinic - **Aug. 14 @ 11am - 6:30pm**

Marching Band Preview Show - **Aug. 14 @ 7:30pm**

**Girls Soccer** - Practice starts on **Tuesday, Aug. 3rd**

**Boys Golf** - Practice starts on **Monday, Aug. 9th**

**Football** - Practice starts on **Monday, Aug. 9th**

**Volleyball** - Practice starts on **Thursday, Aug. 12th**

**Cross Country** - Practice starts on **Thursday, Aug. 12th**

**MS Football** - Practice starts on **Monday, Aug. 19th**

**MS Volleyball** - Practice starts on **Thursday, Aug. 19th**

will be busy competing in both parade and field competition at the Tri-State Band Festival in Luverne, MN and field completion at the Big Sioux Review that evening in Brandon, SD.

The Marching Trojans are grateful and excited to debut their **NEW** band uniforms this year too!

Stay updated by checking out the band's website: <https://danieleye.wixsite.com/westcentralband> or on Twitter: [wc\\_band](https://twitter.com/wc_band)

**Daniel.Eye@k12.sd.us**

**<https://danieleye.wix.com/westcentralband>**

**Director of Bands**

## ORGANIZATIONS



PTA membership enriches your child's learning and gives you a convenient way to be involved in the school. Membership dues, fundraising and volunteer efforts contribute more than you might think. Here are a few ways your PTA membership helps your child at West Central:

- Superhero Event
- Father/Daughter Dance
- Skate City
- Trojan Reading Bowl
- Financial Assistance for Students (Summer School scholarships)
- School Supply Packs for K-8 Students
- "Adopt a Teacher" - Classroom Funding
- Staff Appreciation and Recognition
- Staff Meals at Parent/Teacher Conferences

WC PTA is looking for your input and ideas to enhance the school experience for your child! **Without your active participation, PTA will not be possible in the future.** Join today!! **If we don't get active participation, this will be the last year of the PTA.**



## FFA

## West Central FFA Advances Two Teams to National Competition

State winning teams in the FFA Career and Leadership Development Events (CDE/LDE) earn a berth in the national competition. Through Career and Leadership Development Events, participating FFA members in grades 9 to 12 are challenged to develop critical thinking skills and effective decision-making skills, foster teamwork and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition and individual achievement. CDE and LDE events occur at the local, state and national levels.

Participants in the **Agricultural Communications Career Development Event (CDE)** work as a team of communication consultants to develop a written media plan, present the plan to a panel of judges, and, as individuals, apply what they have learned during practicums, a quiz and editing exercise.

This team CDE challenges students to communicate effectively while advocating to consumers about agriculture and telling the FFA story. Students will use a variety of media in their plans—social media, broadcast and print advertising, press releases, fliers, brochures, blogging, displays and more.

Communication, collaboration, creativity and presentation skills are important to event success. Students also learn a variety of technical skills such as journalistic and opinion writing, website design, video production, social media and more.

West Central's Ag Communications Team consists of **Grace Harden, Josslin Jarding, Maddie Leasure, and Ali Zacharias**. The team won their state level event in January. The national event will be Hybrid this year with a 15 minute video of their Media Plan Pitch being presented to judges in early August and individual practicum activities, editing test and communications quiz being completed in mid-August. After Hybrid events, the top 16 teams will advance to face-to-face competition in Indianapolis, IN.

The **Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event (CDE)** provides competing students an opportunity to gain awareness and

demonstrate knowledge in areas that affect our air, soil and water. Competitors interpret data, use measuring devices in the field and work through real-life scenarios involving environmental threats in pursuit of scoring the highest as a team and individual.

Each team consisting of four FFA members competes in all types of weather conditions – just like professionals working the environmental and natural resource industry – in pursuit of recognition for demonstrating skills relevant to GPS navigation, soil science, water management and wildlife conservation. The competitors produce written statements and an oral presentation, and must exhibit competency via writing and identification activities.

Through these challenges, students develop interest and knowledge in sustainable management of our environment and will become the future stewards of resources critical to the future of agriculture.

West Central FFA members **Andrew Rick, Jack Linneman, Bennett Sebert, and Connor Siemonsma** won the state level contest in April by placing 1st, 3rd, 11th, and 15th respectively as individuals and defeating their closest competitors by more than 130 points. This event will also be in a Hybrid format with written exams, practicum events and a team activity taking place in mid-September. The top 50% of teams will advance to face-to-face competition during the National FFA Convention in October in Indianapolis, IN.



**Natural Resources Team Photo / to r -** Linda Petersen, Connor Siemonsma, Jack Linneman, Bennett Sebert, Andrew Rick

# State FFA AgriScience Fair Results

The FFA AgriScience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to state and national levels. 24 of the projects conducted by West Central FFA Members were named state level finalists, placing in the top three projects in their category and division. Official results of the State level competition were announced during the State FFA Convention in April held in Rapid City.

State winning AgriScience Fair Projects are as follows:

Animal Systems Division 4 - *Dalton Mulder and Chase Olson*

Animal Systems Division 6 - *Emma Kuhlman and Madison DeMent*

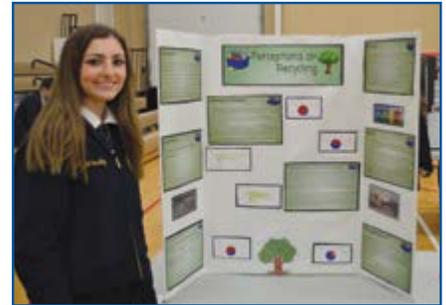
Environmental Systems Division 3 - *Jude Jarding*

Environmental Systems Division 6 - *Andrew Rick and Jack Linneman*

Food Systems Division 6 - *Josslin Jarding and McKenna Sichmeller*

Plant Systems Division 5 - *Faith Hallem*

Social Systems Division 3 - *Jazelle Jarding*



*Jazelle Jarding*

All State Level Finalists earned cash awards made possible through the South Dakota FFA Foundation.

All First place projects will advance to the national level competition. National Finalists will be named in early August with those presenting their research to a panel of judges over Zoom. Results will be announced during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN October 27-30, 2021



*Bennett Sebert & Andrew Rick*



*McKenna Sichmeller & Josslin Jarding*



**AgriScience Fair Photo** *Front row:* Bennett Sebert, Jack Linneman, Jude Jarding, Fisher Flanagan, Maia Kennedy, Ali Zacharias, Madison DeMent, Emma Kuhlman *2nd row:* Maddie Leasure, Hanna Lee, Chandler Carda, Kiara Ebbinga, Grace Harden, Josslin Jarding, McKenna Sichmeller, Lexi Nichols, Kelsey Vockrodt *3rd row:* Jesse Kline, Andrew Rick, Chase Olson, Connor Siemonsma, Dalton Mulder, Luke Nichols, Cian McMillin, Noah Pressler

## FCCLA

# West Central FCCLA Members Advance to Compete in STAR Events at the 2021 National Leadership Conference

Not even a global pandemic can stop Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members from making a difference in their families, careers, and communities. Although this school year looked a bit different, FCCLA members perseverance, tenacity, and resilience shined through as students nationwide participated in Student Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Event projects. The top STAR Event competitors from each state, advanced to compete virtually at the 2021 Hybrid National Leadership Conference, June 27-July 2, 2021.

STAR Events are Competitive Events in which members are recognized for their proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation. STAR Events allow students to compete individually or as a team. There are more than 30 STAR Events students can choose to compete in, all which recognize participants who demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities to actively identify an issue concerning families, careers, or communities, research the topic, and develop and implement a project to advocate for positive change.

Both youth and adults work together in managing the events and serving as evaluators of the participants. STAR Events aim to support student development of knowledge and skills by enhancing the classroom experience and Career Pathway initiatives by equipping students with employable skills and industry insights needed to thrive in the 21st century.

In order to advance to compete on the national level in a STAR Event, members first compete at the region/district and state level. Lauren Murphy competed in Digital Stories and was awarded gold in her STAR Event category, she also placed 1st in the nation and was awarded her plaque on stage during the conference. Alaina Murphy, Jordyn



Driscoll and Sayda Rolfson competed in Event Management and received silver in their STAR Event category. Aysia Hall competed in Chapter Service Portfolio and was awarded bronze in her STAR Event category.



### About FCCLA

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA reaches more than 180,000 members and over 5,000 Family and Consumer Sciences educators in the United States and territories.

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Welcome back to school!

Please make the library one of your first stops!  
*If you happen to have any library books from last school year, please bring them to any of the school offices. Thank you!*

### Q: Where are the libraries located?

**A:** West Central hosts a school library at Hartford Elementary, Humboldt Elementary, and the High School / Middle School. There is an exciting collection of age-appropriate reading materials at each location, along with activities to get students excited about reading!

### Q: How can I monitor my school library account?

**A:** Check out the West Central Libraries website at <https://westcentrallibraries.weebly.com/>, which has a link to your school library account. You will be able to see which items are checked out, the requests you have made, due dates, and any fees that have accrued.

### Q: Can I return school items to the public branches?

**A:** Please return school items to any of the West Central school locations. All public library materials need to be returned to one of the Siouxland branches. The school library and public library are not affiliated with each other.

### Q: How do I get in touch with one of the West Central librarians?

**A:** Here's their contact information:

#### WC High School/Middle School:

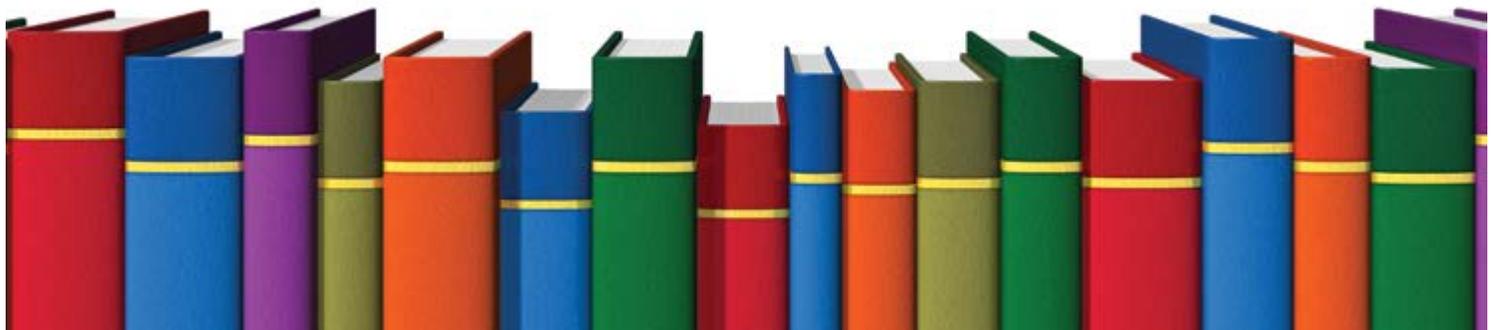
DaNann Kistler (*District Librarian*)....danann.kistler@k12.sd.us  
Alyssa Garreaux.....alyssa.garreaux@k12.sd.us

#### WC Elementary - Humboldt:

Meredith DeCou.....meredith.decou@k12.sd.us

#### WC Elementary - Hartford:

Laura Johnson.....laura.j.johnson@k12.sd.us





**West Central School District  
Administration Office**  
P.O. Box 730  
Hartford, SD 57033

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# BOX HOLDER

## West Central Booster Club

**Our Mission Statement:** *To provide support to athletes & athletic programs at West Central School through volunteer projects, fundraising, business & personal donations.*

### WHO

The WCBC is a team of elected officers, parent representatives who collaborate with coaches & teams, as well as any parent or guardian of a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student athlete at West Central.

### WHAT

The WCBC provides funding for each athlete on a team, approves fund requests from coaches to enhance programs, seeks donations from businesses for financial, coordinates West Central Trojan merchandise sales & manages concession stand at Football Games & Track Meets.

### HOW

You can get involved by volunteering to help with concessions when your athlete's team is assigned for an event! The reps send out sign-up sheets to register for the event. You can also assist with our Trojan merchandise store at events, Open Houses, Parent/Teacher conferences, etc. We are a volunteer-run organization & every helping hand matters!

Go to the West Central School District 49-7 home page; Click on *Community*, find *WC Booster Club*

**Email:** [westcentralboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:westcentralboosterclub@gmail.com)

Find us on  **WEST CENTRAL BOOSTER CLUB**

*Come on out to join us at the next event and cheer on your Trojan Athletes!*

*While you're there, check out our Apparel Store for all your Trojan Wear needs! New items added every year.*

*And remember, our online stores are always open! Each sport season will have their own specialized order for athletes & their families, so keep an eye out for the notification! Let's Go Trojans!*

