



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



As I am welcomed to the district, I would like to welcome you to the beginning of a new school year or the thought of one at least. This newsletter is filled with a great deal of information that will set the stage for a great school year. As a school staff, we are here to help you, if there are things

about the upcoming school year you have questions about, please let us know.

Summer can be a very busy time; my hope is that everyone is able to relax, enjoy the sunshine, and have some fun. The school year will be here before you know it, filled with learning and school activities.

About Me

My wife and I have four children: Luke going to be a junior, Boche going to be a freshman, Ellie going to be a 7th grader, and Nash going to be a 3rd grader. I spent 13 years in the Chester School District. I taught fourth grade for 9 years, while coaching boys basketball and football. After that, I moved into the elementary principal role at Chester Elementary. While filling that role, I continued to coach basketball. I was the elementary principal for 4 years. My family and I then moved to Centerville where I filled the superintendent of schools position for 6 years. I earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education from Dakota State University. I earned two master's degrees from South Dakota State University in Curriculum and Instruction and School Administration. From there, I earned a specialist degree from the University of South Dakota. I am currently finishing a doctoral degree from Creighton University in Leadership. All of my personal and professional education experiences have been opportunities for me to grow and serve. My family and I look forward to doing the same here at West Central and in the Hartford and Humboldt communities.

Entry Plan

I will be entering the district with an entry plan. This plan is to define a process for my transition into the district. My hope is to build trust with all stakeholders, understand strengths and weaknesses within the district, and develop an effective relationship with the school board. The plan centers around three goals:

1. **Build Trust with Stakeholders:** What this means is that I will be as visible as possible. If you have a group or an organization that you would like me to meet with or be a part of, please invite me. I am interested in being a part of a variety of groups and involved in as many of the happenings throughout the district and community.
2. **Learn:** The premise behind this goal is to learn about all the great things that West Central is already doing. I want to also learn about the things that we maybe aren't excelling at. With those two weighing against each other, our leadership team will develop a plan to continue the successful areas within our district but also improvement strategies for areas that we aren't excelling in or areas we feel we have room for improvement.
3. **Effective Relationship with the Board of Education:** A positive superintendent/school board relationship is the foundation on which district wide success is built upon. Having a successful and effective relationship allow for the best decisions for the district to be made. This effective relationship allows for all other relationships in the district to become successful.

In conclusion, I am very excited to get to work within the West Central School District. We are here to help you have the most successful 2023-2024 school year you can have. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.

Eric Knight

Superintendent of Schools
West Central School District 49-7

DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

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WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD

- Alison McGillivray** 701-650-1397
508 Mulligan Cir, Hartford, SD 57033
Alison.McGillivray@k12.sd.us
- Alexia Klinkhammer** 201-3495
509 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford, SD 57033
Alexia.Klinkhammer@k12.sd.us
- Justin Eich** 359-9710
26208 462nd Ave, Hartford, SD 57033
Justin.Eich@k12.sd.us
- Amanda Kayser** 201-7510
26646 461st Ave, Hartford, SD 57033
Amanda.Kayser@k12.sd.us
- Kim Lanham** 310-4803
605 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford, SD 57033
Kim.Lanham@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

- Eric Knight, 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 Schaefer, Curriculum Director** 528-3217
- Andrea Johnson, Activities Director** 528-6236
- Dr. Brandy Hernandez, Dean of Students** 528-6397
- Chris Waltner, Director of Technology** 528-3217
- Tanya Thomas-Parsons, Food Service Director** 528-6238
- Rick Coker, Transportation Supervisor (Bus Garage Office)** 528-6235

EARLY DISMISSALS FOR 2023-2024

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:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| September 29 | November 22 | March 8 |
| October 20 | December 22 | May 17 |
| | February 15 | |



2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 2	New Student Registration 9:00 am-3:00 pm
August 7	District Picture Day/Registration Day 11:00 am - 7:00 pm High School New Gym
August 14-15	New Teacher In-Service
August 16-17	Teacher In-Service
August 18	Staff Development - All Staff
August 21	All Staff In-Service
August 21	Humboldt Elementary Open House 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
August 21	Hartford Elementary Open House 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
August 21	Middle School Open House and Sixth Grade Orientation 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
August 22	1st Day of School
September 1	NO SCHOOL
September 4	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
September 29	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm - Homecoming
October 9	NO SCHOOL - Native American Day
October 16	NO SCHOOL, Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:00 am-7:00 pm
October 20	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Teacher Work Time, End of 1st Quarter
November 22	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Thanksgiving Break Begins
November 23-24	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 22	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Winter Break Begins, End of 2nd Quarter
December 25-29	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 1	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 2	NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
January 3	Return from Winter Break
January 15	NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service
February 15	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-9:00 pm
February 16	NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
February 19	NO SCHOOL - President's Day
March 8	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Teacher Work Time, End of 3rd Quarter
March 18-21	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 22	NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
March 29	NO SCHOOL
April 1	NO SCHOOL
May 17	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, End of 4th Quarter, Last Day for Students
May 18	Graduation
May 20	Last Day for Teachers

Inclement Weather or Make-Up Days: The first five make-up days are built into the school calendar. After five days, each additional day will be made up at the end of the school year.



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 **Wednesday, August 2, 2023** at the high school from **9:00am-3:00pm** by appointment only.

Appointment sign up is available on the district website at: <https://www.westcentral49-7.com> or by using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AACAD29A3F49-newstudent>

Parents/Guardians are asked to bring with them their child's certified birth certificate, immunization records, medicaid card (if applicable) and current proof of residency (parent) to complete the registration process. A copy of the certified birth certificate will be made in the office.

Early childhood students and students who attended Kindergarten screening last spring do not need to attend new student registration.

Families not able to attend the registration should contact the school to set up an appointment to register their child(ren). West Central Administration requests that families make contact with the school by August 2nd if unable to come to register so that planning for the upcoming school year will include accurate student numbers.

- Humboldt Elementary (K-5)** 363-3131
Or 528-3325
- Hartford Elementary (JK-2)**..... 528-3215
- Middle School (6-8)**..... 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.

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.

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:
\$6 per event or \$60 for a season pass

Students Attending West Central Schools:
\$3 per event or \$25 for a season pass

Visiting Coaches and Administration:
Admitted Free

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

Senior Citizens (65 years and older):
Admitted free

Play and Musicals:
\$6 adults - \$5 students

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

Special Education records which have been collected by the West Central School District related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of Special Education in the district, must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of five years after Special Education Services have ended for the student. Special Education services end when the student no longer is eligible for services, graduates, completes his or her educational program on June 30th of the year after he/she turns 21, or moves from the district. This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students of the West Central School District's intent to destroy the Special Education records of students who ended special education services prior to or during the 2017-2018 school year. These records will be destroyed in accordance with state laws unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student notifies the school district otherwise. After five years, the records are no longer useful to the district, but they may be useful to the parent/guardian or former student in applying for Social Security benefits, rehabilitation services, college entrance, etc. The parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request a copy of the records in writing or in person at the following address: West Central School District 49-7 / Special Services Department / 705 E. 2nd Street, PO BOX 730, Hartford, SD 57033 phone:605-528-3217

Requests for copies must be received by September 30, 2023 (30-45 days after letter has been sent or "reasonable amount of time"). These records will be destroyed after 10/01/2023.

K.A.R.E. NEWS

The KARE program at Hartford Elementary provided by the Sioux Falls YMCA provides many fun and enriching activities for students in grades K-5.

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.

The KARE program is full for the 2023-2024 school year. To be added to the waitlist contact the YMCA at one of the options below.

Caitlyn Dikoff
605-274-9622
cdikoff@siouxfallsymca.org

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.

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

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

Every homeless child is entitled to equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other students. The District will strive to ensure the enrollment and attendance of homeless children not currently attending school. The District will enroll a child who is homeless regardless of residence and irrespective of whether the homeless child is able to produce records normally required for enrollment.

Homeless children will have access to services comparable those offered to other students, including but not limited to:

1. Transportation services;
2. Educational services for which a student meets eligibility criteria (e.g., Title I);
3. Educational programs for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency;
4. Programs in vocational and technical education;
5. Programs for gifted and talented students; and
6. School nutrition program.

The District will review and revise as necessary those policies, rules or procedures that may be barriers to enrollment of homeless children. In reviewing and revising such procedures, the District will consider issues of transportation, immunization, residence, birth certificates, school records, and other documentation.

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.

SCHOOL NURSE'S CORNER

It is amazing how quickly summer comes to an end. I hope that you have all found time to enjoy the weather and time outside of school! As the beginning of our new school year approaches, I would like to remind you of immunization requirements set forth by South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1. Incoming kindergarten students must have DTaP, IPV, MMR, and Varicella to start school. Students entering school or an early childhood program must receive or be in the process of receiving adequate immunizations against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, meningitis, and varicella (chickenpox) per recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH). Students who fail to meet the immunization requirements set forth by SD DOH will be excluded from school.

KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1 applies to ALL children entering a South Dakota school district for the first time, to include students in: kindergarten through 12th grade, preschool, and early intervention programs. Minimum immunization requirements are as follows:

1. Four or more doses of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus containing vaccine, with at least one dose administered on or after age 4. Children receiving six doses before age 4 do not require any additional doses for kindergarten entry
2. Four or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, at least one dose on or after age 4
3. Two doses of a measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR or MMRV). The minimum age for the first dose is 12 months
4. Two doses of the varicella vaccine. Minimum age for the first dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is 12 months. History of disease is acceptable with parent/guardian signature.

SIXTH GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

1. One dose of Tdap is required for 6th-grade entry IF the child is 11 years old. If the child is 10 years old when entering 6th-grade they have 45 days after their 11th birthday to receive the Tdap vaccination. If a child has a contraindication to Tdap, Td is acceptable. If a child aged 7 through 9 years receives a dose of Tdap as part of a catch-up series, an adolescent Tdap vaccine dose must be administered by the 45th day following the child's 11th birthday. A dose given at age 10 will count for the 6th grade Tdap requirement.
2. One dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) is required for 6th-grade entry IF the child is 11 years old. If the child is 10 years old when entering 6th grade, they have 45 days after their 11th birthday to receive the meningococcal vaccine. If a child receives a dose at age 10 or after, the dose does not need to be repeated.

MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED IN SCHOOL

Medications which require administration at school must be delivered by the parent or guardian to the school and to a qualified staff member. Medications must be in the original container. Parents or guardians must also complete a Request and Authorization for Medication in School form for both over-the-counter medications, as well as, prescription medications. If the medication is a prescription, the Request and Authorization for Medication in School form must be filled out and signed by the prescribing provider and delivered to the student's school. The Request and Authorization for Medication in School form can be found on the West Central School District home page and also at the District Registration Day on August 7th.

Any questions can be directed to me at Hartford Elementary 528-3215 ext 1302 or by email carly.boom@k12.sd.us. Thank you!

Carly Boom, RN



BACK TO SCHOOL

West Central

AUGUST, 7, 2023
11 am - 7 pm

Picture Day

Scherling Photography will be set up and ready to take your child's school pictures.

Registration Support

Having problems registering online? We can help. We will have computers set up with hands-on support.

Payments and More

Transportation , Activity Passes, Yearbooks , Nutrition Services, Trojan Apparel, and Computer Fees

HS Computer Pick Up!



NEED A REGISTRATION PASSWORD RESET?

Complete the form below. You will receive an email when your password has been reset.

NOTE - This form will NOT be monitored regularly until August 1.

Please be patient.

<https://forms.gle/rYbK9eZzGe2kpFAD9>

DISTRICT WIDE REGISTRATION AND PICTURE DAY

AUGUST 7, 2023

11am - 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. Payments will also be made online through the "on-line 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.

On August 7 from 11 am - 7 pm parents/students (grades EC-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.

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 the end of day on August 7th 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.

Please note a change in transportation requests: Transportation requests received after Monday, August 7th will not be processed until September 5th. If you register after the August 7th deadline, your child will not be able to ride the bus until September 5th.

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



Back to School Forms

available on the District Website at
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

WEST CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION

Register to ride for rural and in-town busing! Register to ride rural and in-town busing! Rural busing is available for all qualifying K-12 students and in-town busing is available for all K-8 students for a fee. Registration for both rural and in-town busing must be completed online during the registration process. Registration will close on **Monday, August 7th** and will not be available again until **Tuesday, September 5th**. If you miss the registration deadline your child will not be able to ride the bus until registration reopens on **September 5th**. Online payment is preferred for in-town busing, but may also be dropped off at the administration office of any building. Bus drivers will notify families by August 18th of 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 for passenger vehicles will be on 2nd Street by the playground. The shuttle buses will be located in the bus lane on the east side of the building (by the playground). "Hanging out" at the bike racks or on the sidewalks is not allowed. Use Crosswalks! 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.



PICKUP AND 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 and follow the painted arrows. 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 and school vans 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. Please keep all personal vehicles out of this area.
- **DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS TO ENTER THE BACK OF THE BUILDING WHERE THE BUSES DO.**

Hartford Elementary:

WE ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION and changes may be made as we go.

- Students who ride the bus to the elementary school in Hartford will be dropped off AND picked up by the bus and vans in the bus drive on the East side of the school.
- Students going to Humboldt will load and depart in the bus drive on the East side of the school.
- Students will wait for the bus where designated by the school principal.
- Use Crosswalks! Do not cross the drive in between buses anywhere else!
- Please do not block traffic while waiting for the bus in your vehicle.
- Students should not be dropped off on the south side of the building off of 1st Street.

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 in the mornings, 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. If you have any questions regarding transportation or the bus routes, please contact the transportation office by phone or email.

WEST CENTRAL CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES 2023-24

Welcome back to school. We are excited to get the 2023-24 school year started.

We, at West Central Child Nutrition Services, believe that nutrition is key to learning.

Why is nutrition important for kids? Balanced nutrition throughout the day contributes to student success in and out of the classroom. New research, <https://now.tufts.edu/2021/04/12/study-finds-americans-eat-food-mostly-poor-nutritional-quality-except-school>, shows children are getting their healthiest meals at school. Studies have demonstrated that school meal programs play an important role in supporting obesity prevention, overall student health and academic achievement by improving children’s diets and combating hunger.

BREAKFAST:

Breakfast will be offered at every building site. Every student has the options of milk, fruit and grains/bread. The student must take 3 items with a mandatory ½ cup fruit/fruit juice.

LUNCH:

K-2 will have one option for lunch along with a choice of milk, fruit and vegetables.

Grades 3-5 will occasionally have entrée options along with choices of milk, fruit and vegetables.

Grades 6-12 will have entrée options along with choices of milk, fruit and vegetables

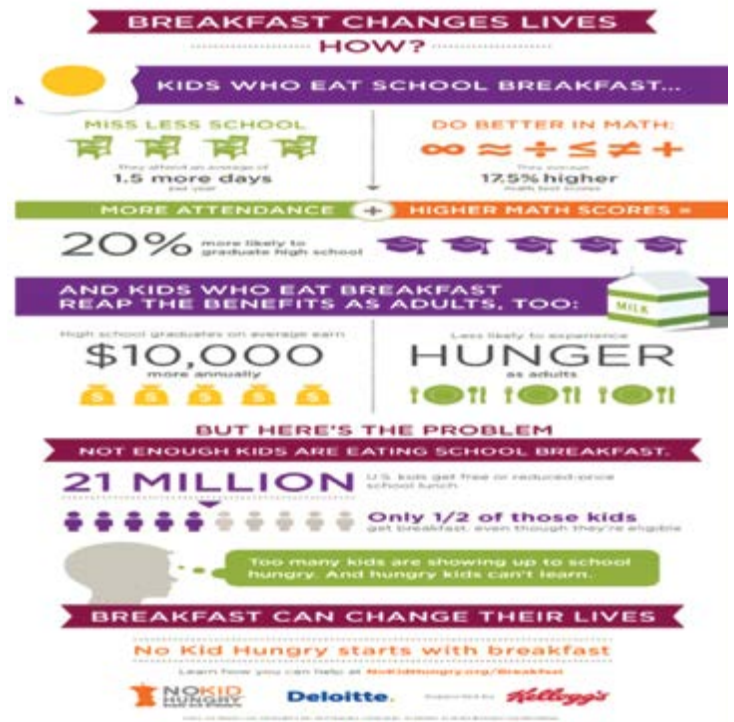
Menus can be found on the West Central Website using the Meal Menus tab.

<https://www.westcentral49-7.com/menus>

Special Diets: If your child has a special diet or special diet modifications please complete the Special Diet form, which can be found on the West Central Website under the Services tab. <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/foodservices>

To add funds to your child’s account we take cash, check or a payment can be made online at: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain.action?clientKey=&requestAction=home> My School Bucks will stay open all year long for families to budget for school meals.

I encourage all families to fill out the Free and Reduced application. The application can be found on the West Central Website under the Services tab <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/foodservices> or by request. Project 22 has available money to help families that do not qualify for Free and Reduced meals. Please contact me with questions at Tanya.Thomas-Parsons@k12.sd.us Project 22 has been an unbelievable resource for families that do not qualify for Free and Reduced meals but have the hardship of paying for their student’s meals. Children of the district that feel food insecurity



have the “safe” feeling of having breakfast and lunch at school. Please consider donating money to Project 22. Schools are not exempt from supply issues and increasing prices. We continue to work with our distributors to assure that all the meals meet regulations. We are also trying new menu items to give us more options to help ease supply issues. The prices below are the meal prices for School Year 2023-24.

2023-24 Meal Prices

	SNACK	BREAKFAST	LUNCH
K-5	TBD	\$1.90	\$3.05
Middle School (6-8)	TBD	\$1.90	\$3.25
High School (9-12)	TBD	\$1.90	\$3.40
Adults	TBD	\$2.90	TBD

Finally, we will be celebrating:
National School Lunch Week-October 9-13, 2023
National School Breakfast Week- March 4-8, 2023
School Lunch Hero Day- May 3, 2023

Let’s make 2023-24 a Great Year to be a West Central Trojan!!

Tanya Thomas-Parsons, Child Nutrition Director
Tanya.Thomas-Parsons@k12.sd.us 605-528-6238

ELEMENTARY NEWS

From the Desk of Ashley Bahrenfuss, *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 2023-2024 school year! While the summer months prove to be a fan favorite for many, we are excited for all that is in store for the upcoming school year. In this issue of Elementary News, we would like to introduce you to the new faces at the Hartford and Humboldt Elementary buildings:

WELCOME NEW STAFF

HUMBOLDT ELEMENTARY

JOCELYN BEHM - I was born and raised in Sioux Falls and grew up in a large family... 5 girls to be exact :) I received my Master's in School Counseling this past year and I am very excited to be a part of the West Central community! When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my dog and cats and being outdoors. This summer I have challenged myself to read at least 10 books. I am so excited for the school year to start, and I can't wait to get to know the kiddos and start building relationships!

STACY VANOVERBEKE - I am excited to join Humboldt Elementary this year as one of the Special Education teachers. This will be my seventh year with the West Central School District. Prior to this year, I was an educational assistant in both Humboldt and Hartford Elementary Schools while working on my teaching degree through DSU. Last year was my first year teaching for the West Central School District as a Special Education Teacher in the Middle School. Before my time at West Central, I was an Occupational Therapy Assistant for 17 years at Southeast Area Cooperative and for the Lennox School District. Even though this is my second year teaching, I have many years experience working with students. I grew up on a farm in Hendricks, MN. My husband Jeff and I currently live north of Humboldt on an acreage with our two sons, Eli and Micah. Both of our boys have always attended school at West Central and will be in the 7th and 5th grade this year. They keep us very busy along with our two dogs, Charlie and Tucker. I am looking forward to working with the students at Humboldt Elementary, while watching them grow and learn this year!

BAILEY NESTER - I will be joining the 4th grade team at Humboldt Elementary. I grew up in Hartford within the West Central School District and I have three younger brothers Peter, William, and Mason who have or are still attending the school. I graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in December of 2022, where I also played soccer! I enjoy any activity out in the sun, traveling, and board games. I am super excited to meet my first class of students and I can't wait to return to the community to further my connections.

HALEY LANGEROCK - I will be beginning my 3rd year of teaching this year in Humboldt as one of the new 3rd grade teachers. I have previously taught K-5 special education for the last two years. I live on a farm in Marion, SD with my husband and 8 month old daughter. When I am not teaching, I love chasing after my daughter, tending my garden, and going camping! I am thrilled to be teaching in Humboldt, and I am so excited to meet my class. This school year is going to be great!

KASSIDY JOHNSON - I will be teaching third grade at Humboldt elementary. I am a West Central graduate and I recently graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University where I played soccer. This year will be my second year as assistant coach for the West Central girls' soccer team.

HARTFORD ELEMENTARY

JORDYN CHRISTENSEN - I am looking forward to becoming the newest member of the 2nd grade team at Hartford Elementary this Fall. I will be going into my 10th year of teaching altogether, 4th at West Central. I have previously spent the last 3 years teaching 3rd grade in Humboldt. Before that, I spent 6 years teaching various elementary grade levels at Sioux Valley in Volga, SD. I grew up on a farm outside of Kimball, South Dakota. From there, I went on to get my degree in Elementary Education from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD. It was during my student teaching experience at West Central that I met my husband, Cody. We now live in Sioux Falls, raising two children, Emmett (2yo) and Elise (2 months).

JULIA TSUNEMORI - but students call me "Ms. T." I grew up on a farm in western Nebraska and attended college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Textile Science. Most recently I have lived in the Anchorage, Alaska area, where I taught kindergarten through third grades. Fiber arts have been a creative outlet for me since I was young. I am looking forward to teaching art and fostering creativity this year at Hartford Elementary!

DISTRICT

BRITTNEY HOHENSTEIN - I'm excited to be joining the West Central special education team this fall! In the 7 years of being an OT, I have served in California, Minnesota, and South Dakota. I'm originally from South Dakota and my family and I live in Sioux Falls. My husband is in the South Dakota Air National Guard and is also a letter carrier for the USPS. We have two kids, Hudson (3 years old) and Coen (18 months old). My hobbies are running with our dog, Tucker (6 years old), reading, camping, and eating ice cream. I have run 2 marathons and about 30 half marathons. I'm looking forward to being a part of the Hartford and Humboldt communities.

We look forward to bringing in the new school year together.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

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

Where do the summer months go? I hope the summer has been filled with enjoyable family experiences. At school, preparations for the next school continue to progress.

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 will welcome a couple of new staff members to the middle school. Ms. Kathy Lutter, administrative assistant, will be the welcoming face at the front desk. We have one new teacher preparing for his new educational experience at West Central. Mr. Marty Petersen will be the new technology teacher and tech support staff in the middle school. Mr. Petersen previously taught and coached at Alcester-Hudson.

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 an iPad for the upcoming school year. 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.

There were some minor changes to the daily schedule and handbook. Students will receive their schedules at the open house and the handbook will be printed in student planners and be available online.

Preparations continue for the following events:

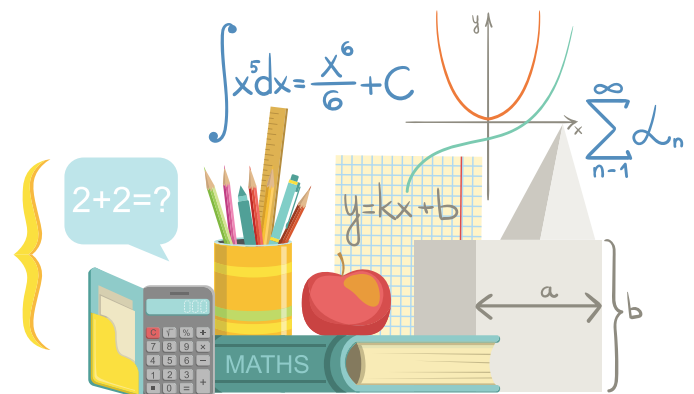
New Student Registration
August 2nd • 9AM - 3PM (by appointment)

District Registration & Picture Day
August 7th • 11AM - 7PM

Middle School Open House
Sixth Grade Orientation
August 21st • 5PM - 7PM

First Day of School
August 22nd • 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

The school year was a little bit longer than usual this year because of snow days. And so, I am thinking of the word 'extra'. I am thinking of all the ways that our teachers go to extra lengths for our students. I am thinking of our custodial staff who will move every stick of furniture this summer so they can scrub and wax every square foot of our building. The extra care with which they maintain our buildings shines during the school year. I am thinking of all the food service staff who had extra adjustments this year and of our administrative assistants who went the extra mile to make our students smile. As they file the final transcripts, as they process the new enrollments, they prepare for a new school year that will be upon us before we know it. To be a Trojan is to do a little bit extra.

On their way to winning the very first sanctioned state championship in the history of South Dakota high school softball, our West Central Trojans played extra games to finish the season 22-0. Track and field and golf finished their successful seasons at their state tournaments and put on display all of the extra work



they did to prepare. The band took an extra trip to Disney World where they marched down Main Street and shared their talents with an international crowd.

In so many ways, the spirit of West Central is to give a little bit extra no matter what your job is. The other day, I looked out over the football field and track. It was rainy that morning and unseasonably cold. One of our athletes, just days after the state track meet, was on the track training, timing himself as he made laps, putting in extra effort to prepare for next season. This young man knows that to be excellent you have to do extra. I have no doubt that he learned that from this community that works so hard on behalf of our children.

The summer will no doubt flyby. And before you know it, it will be time for us to register once again and start the 2023-2024 school year. Before that time, I hope all of you have a restful summer filled with family and a little bit of extra fun.

2023-24 COMPUTER FEES

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

Students in grades 6 - 8 will pay \$40 each and students in grades 9 - 12 will pay \$50 each.

Payments should be made through the on-line payments link on our website, 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 7th 11am-7pm. Payment must be made online prior to pickup. The next available pick up date will be the first day of school.

HELP WANTED!

**Educational Assistant • Drivers
Food Service Workers • Substitute Teachers**

Wages starting at \$17.50/hour ((\$140/day for subs)

**Want a work schedule that follows
the school calendar?**

WEST CENTRAL HAS OPENINGS!

**Visit www.westcentral49-7.com
to view current openings or
call Naomi at: (605) 528-3217 ext. 1003**

SPECIAL SERVICES

Michelle Becker, Director of Special Services
Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us 605-528-3217

WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 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. Parental involvement is included in all aspects of these services.

Special Education programs are guided by a federal law entitled The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) combined with our state administrative rules. 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 West Central School District provides special education services to approximately 240 students across our buildings. 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 within the boundaries of our district.

The special education process in the West Central School District is as follows: written request for a referral, law review of student progress, determination if an evaluation is necessary/unnecessary, parental consent for evaluation, multidisciplinary evaluation, multidisciplinary team meeting to determine eligibility, development of IEP if appropriate, services provided to student, progress is measured and reported to parents, IEP is reviewed annually and child is reevaluated every three years. All aspects of the special education process are completed with parental involvement. A copy of the information is given to parents throughout the process. A booklet titled South Dakota Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards is also provided to parents at the beginning of the special education process.

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, behavior interventionist, speech and language pathologists, and an occupational and physical therapist. Consult services for vision or hearing needs are also available, if necessary.

Many children and youth have mental, physical, emotional or learning difficulties that make it difficult for them to be part of a school program without special help. If you think your child may be in need of special education services, please discuss this with your child's teacher and/or principal.

Together as a team the educational needs of your child can be discussed and determine a process of how to help your child receive the most appropriate educational program in the West Central School District.

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 or individual 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. Many children and youth have mental, physical, emotional or learning difficulties that make it difficult for them to be part of a school program without special help. If you think your child may be in need of special help, please discuss this with your child's teacher or an administrator. Together as a team the educational needs of your child can be discussed and determine a process of how to help your child receive the most appropriate educational program in the West Central School District.

If you have **children that are between the ages of birth to 5**, please consider attending our **FREE early childhood screening** on Thursday, September 7 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 528-3217 or through my email at Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

ELEMENTARY TITLE I PROGRAMS

Title I is a federally funded program designed to ensure that all students have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Both Hartford Elementary and Humboldt Elementary are Title I school wide schools and have the assistance of Academic Interventionists to help support students in the content areas of reading and mathematics. The staff in these buildings regularly examine all students' assessment data. Students displaying a deficit in an area of reading or math may receive additional support to help them become proficient. The support offered may be very flexible.

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. While parent notification of additional services to students is not required in a Schoolwide program, it remains important to us at West Central that families are communicated with on a regular basis.

As a part of the Title I program's federally required documentation, all Title I families will be provided a school-parent compact in monthly elementary newsletters. This compact is a promise that the school, the parents, and the student will all work toward helping the student meet academic standards. Family engagement is very important, and in fact, one of the components of a schoolwide program requires the school to employ strategies to increase family engagement. We believe that active family involvement is essential and is a shared responsibility for the success of each and every student. One great way to be involved this fall is to mark your calendars now to attend the WC Trojan Reading Bowl on Monday, October 3 at 6:30. There will be more information to come on this event.

As always, feel free to contact a building principal, an academic interventionist, our curriculum coordinator, or me with any questions you may have. Check out the West Central Title I website at this link: <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/title> for more information and to view the required Title I documents.

Michelle Becker, Title 1 Director
Michelle.Becker@k12.sd.us

Early Childhood Screening Box

Parents often wonder if their child's development is typical of that seen in peers of the same age. 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

Thursday, September 7, 2023
9:00AM – 7:00PM

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

Sign up will be online at www.westcentral49-7.com or by using the QR code. If you need assistance with making an early childhood screening appointment please contact Donna at 528-3217.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Andrea Johnson, Activities Director
Activities Office 605-528-6236

We are back!

I hope you all found some time to relax and enjoy the summer and are ready for another great school year!

This will be my fourth year as the Activities Director and my 13th year with West Central. The Trojans are known for their many successes in activities and we are excited to see what this school year will bring and what our Trojans can accomplish.

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 7. 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)
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)

START DATES:

Band - Marching Band Preview Show - **Aug 12th - 7pm**

Soccer - Practice starts on **Tue., Aug 1st**

Boys Golf - Practice starts on **Mon., Aug 7th**

Football - Practice starts on **Mon., Aug 7th**

Volleyball - Practice starts on **Thu., Aug 10th**


Cross Country - Practice starts on **Thu., Aug 10th**

MS Football - Practice starts on **Mon., Aug 21st**

(tentative)


MS Volleyball - Practice starts on **Mon., Aug 21st**

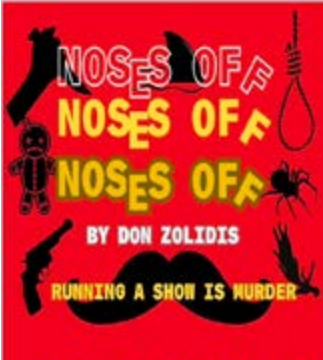
(tentative)



WCHS Theater

Fall Play







An amateur theater company's whodunit hurtles towards opening night -- but the real mystery is whether the cast and crew can get this disaster to curtain call. It won't be easy when the costume designer's bent on revenge, the actors are wrapped up in a revolving door of showmances, one suitcase plays the role of nine, and the playwright ardently defends that "shark" is a suitable murder weapon. The best seat in the house is backstage on opening night in this full-throttled farce about murder mysteries and behind-the-scenes theater.

Fall Play Auditions

- 3:45-5:45ish
- HS Auditorium
- Monday, August 28th

**Speak to Mr. Freier or Mr. Nelson at the beginning of the school year, or come to the Beginning-of-the-Year Theater Meeting after school on Thursday, August 24th!

Shout out to the 1st ever SDHSAA Class A Softball State Champions!!!



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 **Lexi Nichols, Allison Brost, Shayne Luzmoor, and**



Ag Communications / to r - Linda Petersen, Shayne Luzmoor, Allison Brost, Sydney Neel, Lexi Nichols

Sydney Neel The team won their state level event in December of 2022. The national event is composed of the written media plan and 15 minute presentation, as well as four individual practicum activities, editing test and communications quiz. The competition will take place during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, November 1-4, 2023



Market Plan / to r - Linda Petersen, AJ Ingalls, Madison DeMent, Mya Davidson

In the **Marketing Plan Career Development Event (CDE)** participants develop practical marketing skills while creating and presenting a marketing plan for a local agribusiness.

In this competitive CDE, teams of three students research and present a marketing plan for an agricultural product, supply or service in front of a panel of judges. The plan should provide a reasonable and logical solution to a marketing problem. Members are scored on their written plan as well as their presentation.

Although only three individuals are on a team, any number of students may assist with the primary and secondary research. This CDE allows students to explore and prepare for possible careers in agrimarketing and develop partnerships within agriculture, their local FFA chapters and with the community.

The Market Plan team consists of team members **Mya Davidson, Madison DeMent and Addison Bahrenfuss** who will take the place of **AJ Ingalls** for the national competition.

6 State Winning AgriScience Fair Projects Advance to National Level

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. 21 of the 32 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 Brookings.

State winning AgriScience Fair Projects are as follows:

Animal Systems Division 5 - Kelsey Vockrodt

Environmental Systems Division 6 - Brock Malwitz and Dylan Stromer

Food Systems Division 4 - Ayla Kramer and Taylor Borgen

Food Systems Division 6 - Jocelyn Nilson and Jazelle Jarding

Social Systems Division 5 - Ali Zacharias

Social Systems Division 6 - Sam Handberg and Jesse Kline

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 finalists presenting their research virtually to a panel of judges in September. All National finalists will be engaged in an immersion research experience during the National FFA Convention and Expo.. During this time, students will present their research and engage/network with universities and sponsors about their research.

Final Results will be announced during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN October 26-29, 2023 with the top three award winners receiving cash prizes of \$500, \$750, and \$1000. All National AgriScience Fair Finalists will also receive a Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal.



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://dananntirrel.wixsite.com/west-central-library> , 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:

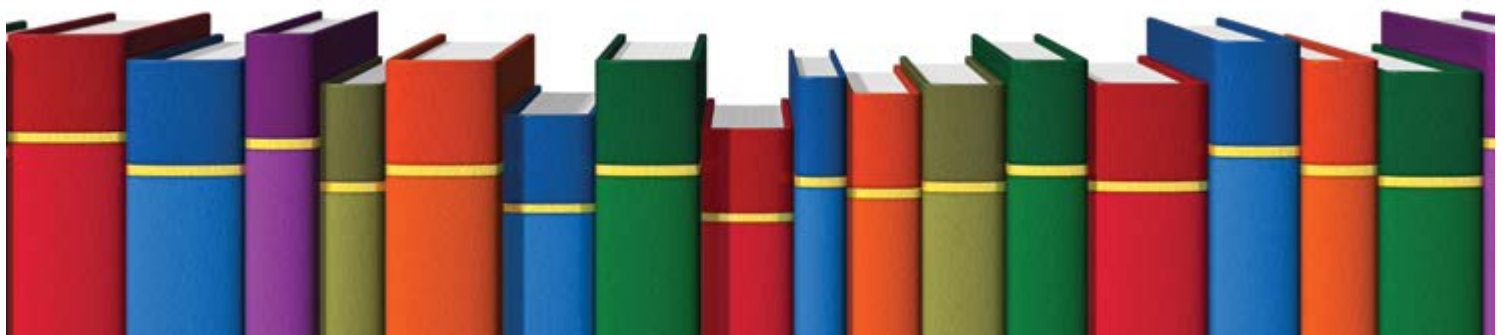
DaNann Tirrel (*District Librarian*)....danann.tirrel@k12.sd.us

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**
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Hartford, SD 57033

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CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WC BAND NEWS

The West Central Marching Trojans had a busy summer! In June, 80 members of the marching band flew to Orlando, Florida. While there, they visited Cocoa Beach, Hollywood Studios, Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, and Universal Studios. While at Magic Kingdom, the students marched in the Disney Magic Music Days parade down Main Street, U.S.A. performing American Spirit!

Students also participated in a Disney Imagination Campus recording clinic. Students worked with a

professional conductor/musician on Disney music and then performed selections from the motion picture, Moana. The band's music was then set to scenes from the motion picture.

In addition to performing at DisneyWorld, the students marched in the Jamboree Days parade and learned their 2023 field show during band camp at the end of July.

Students will debut their 2023 show on August 12th at 7:30 pm at Jim Uttecht football field. The show is free and open to all!



Photos by Julie Danielson

Daniel.Eye@k12.sd.us
<https://danieleye.wix.com/westcentralband>
Director of Bands

