

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Message from Mrs. Dottie Heusman

Fall is here but the temperatures are not cooperating. We'll see what the month of October has in store for us for weather. I have heard a lot of predictions about the winter being "bad" this year. We'll see if the predictions are right.

This month in my superintendent article I'd like to focus on sportsmanship. Our volleyball team has started the season with few wins and our football team is now 2-3. I am a true Sterling Jet fan and have been since 1990 so having more losses than wins is difficult for me as I'm sure it is for a lot of our fans and patrons. However, going back to my own days of being a high school athlete at a neighboring school I do remember that feeling when going out on the volleyball or basketball court to start the game or to be substituted in. The butterflies in my stomach and the shaking were real. A lot of those games I have played are long forgotten except for the District Championship Basketball game that didn't go our way and kept us away from a shot at the State Tournament. That one hurt!

So why my ramblings? I want each of you to think back to a time you participated in a sport. I don't believe there are any players, coaches, teachers, administrators, or spectators that want to lose! We all want to win, but unfortunately someone has to lose. That's tough to say in Sterling because of the winning tradition, but that doesn't mean that overall we should all show poor sportsmanship in the stands, bleachers, along the sidelines, or at the coffee shop. Let's support our young athletes and coaches and keep encouraging them to do their best.

The Nebraska School Activities Association has some guidelines in regards to acceptable behavior and unacceptable behavior. They are:

Acceptable: Applaud during introduction of players, coaches, and officials

Unacceptable: Yelling or chanting at opponents

Acceptable: Accept all decisions of the officials

Unacceptable: Making derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures

Acceptable: Treat the contest as a game, not a war

Unacceptable: Criticizing officials in any way, displaying temper with an official's call

Acceptable: Applaud the performance of all participants after the contest

Unacceptable: Blaming loss on game officials, coaches or players

Acceptable: Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct

Unacceptable: Using profanity or displaying anger that draws attention away from the contest

Acceptable: Allowing the coaches to coach and the players to play

Unacceptable: Hollering at coaches and players in regards to the plays they are doing or the way they are playing

My oldest son is a huge Duke basketball fan and because of his Cameron Crazyness I am too. A great quote from Mike Krzyzewski, Duke University Men's Basketball Coach says it all, "Losing doesn't make you a loser unless you think you're a loser." Let's be a proud Jet Nation and support our athletes and coaches and show them we know they are winners!

BOE NEWS

The Sterling Board of Education met on Monday, September 16, 2019. Items discussed and approved:

- Approved board policies 5015 Protection of Pupil Rights, 4039 Employment of Classified Staff, 5044 Safe Pupil Transportation Plan and Pupil Transportation Vehicle Driver Satisfactory Driving Criteria
- Approved the budget as presented for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Approved the final tax request for the 2019-2020 school year. That went from \$.995449 to \$1.016492. The increase was due to property valuations staying steady and the lack of state aid provided to our district by the State of Nebraska.
- Reviewed the District and Board Goals. I will be sharing those documents with all stakeholders in an upcoming newsletter.
- Coach Heusman & Pfeiffer presented on 6 man vs. 8 man FB for the upcoming two year cycle as well as the possibility of cooping 11 man with Freeman. The board is pleased with how things are working out in 6-man and instructed the administration to continue to play 6 man for the upcoming two year period.

- Board member Harms and Wirthle reviewed the information they discussed with the Auditor Jeff DeLine at a meeting that was held on August 26.
- The next board meeting has been moved to Wednesday, October 16 due to the Pioneer Conference Volleyball Tournament that will be held at the Sterling gym on October 21st.

From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Scott Harrington

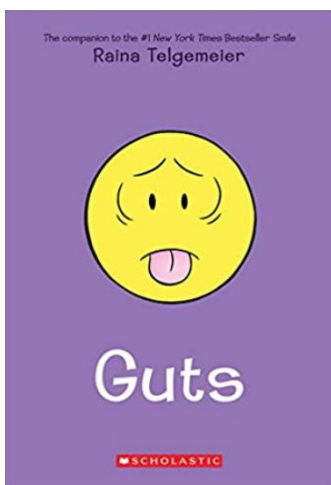
Safety is one of our district's top priorities and to help safeguard our school community, we've taken an important step that I want to share with you. Our district is now using SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration five different ways:

1. App: Search for "SafeSchools Alert" in the App Store to download for free
2. Phone: 855.455.2117
3. Text: Text your tip to 855.455.2117
4. Email: 1894@alert1.us
5. Web: <http://1894.alert1.us>

You and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, threats of violence, or any safety issue you're concerned about through SafeSchools Alert. This service also comes with a "Kudos" tip. This type of tip is something positive you see about the school and would like to share. When you submit a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code: 1894 in your communication. Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. And, tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.

October 23rd - 31st is Red Ribbon Week and the school will be participating in several events throughout the week to highlight drug awareness and prevention. This will include several presentations and lessons to help us raise awareness and to help keep our kids safe. As always, you can follow all of the school happenings by liking the school's Facebook page and by following us on twitter at the handle @spsjetpride. If you have a question on anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school or talk to me at school events. **Go Jets!**

Guts by Raina Telgemeier



If you love graphic novels, or if you've read Smile, Sisters, Drama, and/or Ghosts, check out this newly published book by Eisner-Award Winning, Raina Telgemeier. It follows the main character, Raina, who wakes up with a stomachache one day. She thinks it's just a bug, but is it really? Come to the library to check out this brand new book about friendship and what it really means to conquer your fears.

Evi

Calling all recently used magazines! If you have a magazine or journal subscription and the content is a good fit for students, the library would love to circulate them for SSR. All donations can be dropped off in the library. We are looking for content that is less than six months old.

Americanism Graduation Requirements by Ms. Camden Harlan

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, Sterling students will have new graduation requirements that will increase their knowledge and understanding of Americanism and their role as United States citizens. In March State Senator Julie Slama's bill, LB-399, was signed into law. This new law will ensure proper curriculum and learning opportunities for students focusing on patriotism and Americanism within Nebraska public schools.

There is some flexibility in how schools can meet the requirements. During the fall 2019 Committee on American Civics meeting members of the school board, classroom teachers, and Mr. Harrington discussed and agreed on the two ways Sterling Public Schools students will meet these new requirements. Students will be required to take and pass the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration. This will be taken their 8th grade and 12th-grade years. According to the state statute students only need to take the test, but Sterling Public Schools believes that passing the test is important to ensure that the students are well educated about our nation and its government. The second requirement will be that students will attend a meeting of a public body. Students will complete a project or paper demonstrating their personal learning experience.

We are very excited to get our students more involved and earning a deeper understanding of our country and government. Classroom teachers are preparing students every day to meet the new graduation requirements through our Social Studies curriculum, field trips, and other learning opportunities. An extra loud, "THANK YOU", to Mr. Richardson for his excitement and passion for this and for helping prepare our students for success. He has our younger students talking about and becoming interested in our government!

Why I love 2nd Grade by Mrs. Tammy McAuliffe

Without a doubt, second grade is my favorite grade. Second graders are confident, love to learn, and are becoming more independent readers. A big "SMILE" and you can see their "EYES LIGHT UP" those are the signals I love to see. Interacting with kids on a daily basis, learning what inspires and motivates them makes my job rewarding. The kids spend their first hour writing in class. It is so amazing to see how much they grow from the beginning to the end of the year. They really do become Master Writers! Second graders have so much to offer, as they really extend their thinking across the curriculum. I enjoy witnessing their little minds at work each day and the best part is they're all different. When kids recognize improvement within their learning, social skills, or have accomplished a goal it's time to celebrate. Kids need to feel safe, challenge themselves, and be loved and appreciated for who they are. Second graders are still young enough to give out hugs and that sure makes my day. I'm very fortunate to have such a rewarding profession as a second grade teacher.

LEGO DRIVE! The new library Maker Space is building a Lego Wall with financial support from the Foundation and construction help from Mr. Helmberger's Skilled Trade Class in partnership with some members from our SkillsUSA Club. Bring a zip-lock bag of legos to donate to the Library Maker Space and get a piece of candy. Thank you!

2019 MUDECAS Volleyball Jane White All-Tournament Teams

B Division First Team
Colby Thies, Sterling

B Division Honorable Mention
Macy Richardson, Sterling

All About IXL by Mr. Josh Pfeiffer

IXL is a web-based program that is used to help students sharpen their skills in just about any content area and grade level. The content areas IXL offers includes mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and Spanish. Most of those content areas involve skills ranging from Pre-K all the way to 12th grade. For mathematics specifically, they offer 4,379 skills that can be practiced by students with every specific course being covered from Pre-K to Calculus.

Students can use IXL to practice through a web browser or mobile app. Here at Sterling Public Schools, we have all of our students signed up for it and eight of our teachers use it regularly. So far, about a month into this school year, our students have answered just shy of 35,000 questions and spent 235 hours deepening their understanding of the content being taught in their classes.

Among the advantages of IXL is that it is aligned with the state academic standards as well as MAP (Measures Academic Progress) and the ACT Test Standards. This allows teachers to choose specific practice modules to target improvement in areas that students might currently be deficient. While students are practicing that skill, they are provided immediate feedback which allows them to develop confidence if things are going well for them. If they are struggling, it enables them to immediately fix their problems. Whenever a student answers a question incorrectly, the problem is explained thoroughly with a written explanation and an example. This helps the student to identify where their mistake may have been made. While the students are working, teachers can monitor the progress of their students in real time. This allows teachers to identify students that might need some assistance and provide them with the help that they need. IXL also provides teachers with an opportunity to differentiate the content that their students engage with. Students that are struggling can work to improve their performance on simple topics while students that are excelling can practice higher level skills.

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER - JENNIFER MOSS

Jennifer Moss is a new Paraprofessional here at SPS! After she graduated from Ste. Genevieve High school in Ste. Genevieve, MO, Jennifer moved out to Cheyenne, WY and attended Laramie County Community College. She and her husband Bill live here in Sterling with their daughter Tomi, who attends preschool here at Sterling Public Schools. They also have an older daughter Raeanna. Jennifer's favorite TV shows are *Grey's Anatomy*, *This is Us*, and *The Amazing Race*. *Top Gun* is her favorite movie and she can't wait until the new one comes out! A superpower that Jennifer would love to have is the ability to see into the future. The one thing no one knows about her...she wants to be a racecar driver, on the dirt track of course!

Welcome to the Jet Family, Jennifer. We're glad to have you at Sterling Public Schools!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER - BECKY NELSON

Becky Nelson is the new but not so new custodian here at Sterling Public Schools as she used to work in the kitchen last year! Here are a handful of tidbits about Becky... her family consists of her husband Jesse, daughters Annalise (who also works at SPS), Laura (Sterling Graduate), Sophia (1st grader here at SPS), and son Odin. Becky loved learning about History and Science in high school and enjoys watching the news. If we have a day off from school, Becky will either be outside mowing, going for a walk, or cleaning house. Her dream job would be to be an Airforce pilot because she loves the skies and serving and protecting the county she loves!

We're very happy that you're a part of our Jet Family, Becky!

OCTOBER 2019 MENUS

BREAKFAST

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Breakfast Burrito	2 Cereal	3 Oatmeal	4 Breakfast Bar
7 Bagel Bites	8 Cereal	9 Apple or Cherry Frudel	10 WG Pancake & Sausage on a stick	11 Scrambled Eggs w/ Bacon
14 Belgian Waffle	15 Toaster Pastry	16 Biscuits & Gravy	17 Cereal	18 NO SCHOOL
21 French Toast Sticks Sausage	22 Donut	23 Cereal	24 Yogurt Parfait	25 Breakfast Bar
28 Tornados	29 Cereal	30 Omelets	31 Scrambled Brains (Eggs)	

LUNCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ALTERNATE ENTREE OFFERED DAILY: MEAT/CHEESE SANDWICH PB&J, OR CHEF SALAD	1 Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread	2 Ham Patties Potato Patties	3 Hot Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Cheesy Potatoes	4 Baked Chicken Drummies Texas Sheet Cake
7 Mini Corn Dogs California Blend	8 Tator Tot Casserole Salad	9 Hamburgers FF and/or Swt FF	10 Chicken Noodle Casserole Peas	11 Chili Cinnamon Rolls
14 Pigs in a Blanket Corn	15 Fish Nuggets Coleslaw	16 Pizza Green Beans	17 Chicken Tacos Guacamole & Queso	18 NO SCHOOL
21 Taco Salads	22 Hot Dogs Baked Beans	23 Potato Bake	24 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes	25 Subs Chips
28 Ham or Tuna Salad Sandwich Salad	29 Mac-n-Cheese Cheesy Broccoli	30 Pulled Pork Sandwich Green Beans	31 Ghoul Fingers (Mini Corn Dogs) Goey Smashed Brains (Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy)	

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer
A variety of fruits and vegetables are offered with every meal
Milk is served with every meal

MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30 JH FB vs. East Butler - HOME - 4PM JV FB vs. Diller - Odell HOME - 6PM Pawnee City JV VB Triangular (5:30/6:30)	October 1 HS VB @ Dorchester - 6PM (JV,V)	2 Juniors/Seniors to College Fair @ Doane	3 EduQuest Financial Aid Q/A - 3:30PM Meeting - 4:30PM Sterling Triangular (FCSI/NCL) - 5:30/7:30PM	4 FB Bye Week Ag 9 Field Trip PreK-3rd Field Trip to Roca Berry Farm	5 Fort Calhoun VB Invite Middle School Dance in the Cafeteria - 7:30-10PM
6	7 JH FB @ Lewiston - 2PM JH VB vs. Tri-County - 2:30PM	8 College View Triangular (CVA/Lew) 5/7:30PM K-6th Grandparents & Grandfriends Day 1:30-3PM	9 1:37 DISMISSAL Lifestyle Fair (9th-11th grades)	10 JH VB @ Diller-Odell - 1PM HS VB @ Elmwood-Murdock - 6PM (JV,V) JH FB @ East Butler - 4PM	11 NO PREK FB vs. Deshler - HOME - 7PM PARENTS NIGHT End of 1st Quarter	12 Lewiston JH VB Tournament - 8AM Falls City HS VB Invite - 9AM
13	14 JH VB @ Pawnee City - 2PM JH FB vs. H/LHF @ Dwight/East Butler - 4PM HS VB vs. Tri-County - HOME - 5PM (JV,V) PARENTS NIGHT	15	16 PSAT Testing (Juniors) Periods 1-4 JH VB @ Neb City Lourdes - 4PM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 7PM	17 HS VB @ Johnson-Brock - 6PM (JV,V)	18 NO SCHOOL FB @ Lewiston - 7PM	19 Omaha Brownell JH VB Tournament - 9AM Sterling JV VB Tournament - 9AM
20	21 Lifetouch Picture Retakes Wayne State College Rep - 1PM	22 JH VB @ Johnson-Brock - 4PM	23	24 Bryan Health Field Trip (Juniors)	25 NO PREK FB @ Dorchester - 7PM <small>PIONEER VB FINALS @STERLING</small>	26 ACT Test Date Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Sophomores
27	28 PIONEER CONF VB TOURN @ FRIEND/STERLING	29 DEA Presentation on Drugs <small>VB SUBDISTRICTS @ PAWNEE CITY</small>	30	31 Trunk or Treat - Downtown HAPPY HALLOWEEN NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION @ INDIANAPOLIS	November 1 1st Round FB Playoffs	
SKILLS MID-AMERICA CONF						
RED RIBBON WEEK						
VB DISTRICT FINALS						

Calendar is subject to change. Please check the Weekly Bulletin, Facebook, or Google Calendar on the school website: www.sterlingjets.org for the most up-to-date info. Thank you!

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dottie Heusman

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Scott Harrington

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Brent Heusman

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Addie Heusman



The Sterling Public School Board of Education is accepting bids for snow removal for the 2019-2020 school year. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2019. Contact Brent Heusman 402-866-4761 extension 114 or bheusman@sterlingpublicschools for details on bid specifications.

**ACTIVITY
PASS
PRICES**

Contact the office or
Brent Heusman.

Adult - \$50

7-12 Student - \$30

K-6 Student - \$20

In-District (over 65) - FREE

Out-of-District (over 65) - \$25