



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Update

The school year started for our students at Sterling Public Schools on August 14. It might have been a little rainy and dreary outside, but the students were greeted with smiles from returning staff and new staff, laptops for every student 7th-12th grade, new paint in the hallways, a gym floor that is almost complete, and many more things too numerous to mention. Where did the summer go? I don't know but I'm glad that we have 215 kids in this building each day to learn, socialize, and become a great human being! It's going to be a great year.

We always welcome visitors to the building and would encourage you to volunteer in a classroom, mentor through the Teammates Program, or just come to say hi! All visitors are required to check in at the main office and receive a visitor's badge.

Board of Education News

The Board of Education met for the regular board meeting on August 20, 2018. Items discussed and action taken included:

- Accepted the resignation of Board Member Mark Parde
- Second reading of board policies 3047 Data Breach Response, 5026 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment of Students, 5035 Student Discipline, and 5064 Bed Bugs
- Transferred money from the general fund to the activities fund and the depreciation fund
- Approved the out of state travel for the National FFA Convention in Indiana in October. Ms. Schultz AG Teacher presented information on this item to the board.
- Authorized purchasing a vehicle for 2016 Chevy Malibu from Brinkman Bros, for student transportation and Driver's Education.
- Authorized selling a vehicle. Check another section for information about this vehicle.
- Held first reading on board policies 3003.1, 3004 & 3004.1 all dealing with use of federal funds
- Approved hiring the Dana Cole Company as the auditor for the 2017-2018 school year

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held earlier next month due to the state budget deadlines. The meeting will start at 7:10 with a special hearing for the 2018-2019 budget, followed by a 7:20 special meeting to discuss the final tax request. The regularly scheduled September meeting will start at 7:30.

***For Sale:* 2003 Dodge Caravan Grand Sport Van, Light Blue color, 165,990 miles. Submit sealed bid to Dottie Heusman, Superintendent, Sterling Public Schools, 250 Main Street, Sterling, NE 68443 by October 11, 2018. For inspection please stop by the Main Office at School.**



From the Principal's Desk

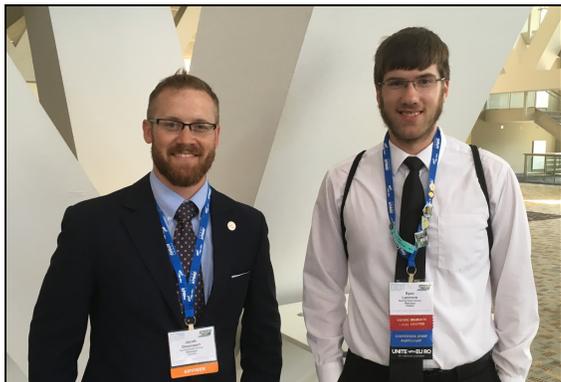
The school year is off to a great start! I want to thank you all for participating in our Cookies & Computers Night, as well as, our Elementary Open House. Events like these are critical for both parents and teachers to be able to meet face-to-face and have great discussions about our students. If you have questions on the 1-1 laptop initiative please see me at a home event or contact me at the school.

Hopefully you are following us on all of our social media accounts and have noticed an increase in the content we have been sharing. The school, with a donation from the Booster Club, has purchased a subscription to Class Intercom. This software allows multiple people to create content to share out on our school's social media accounts. This allows us to get more content out and to have the student's create content on social media in a positive and professional manner. We have created a social media team with social media interns from many of the grades here at school. All content is moderated by the teachers and most of them will be regular contributors as well! We think we have a great school system with great teachers and students and we want to show you all the engaging learning experiences your students are participating in on a daily basis.

In the elementary we have rolled out our new PBiS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) System throughout our entire elementary. PBiS is described as the methods used to identify and support desired behaviors in the school setting. We want to catch/promote kids behaving positively and being good examples of what we think it means to be a Jet. The teachers are engaging in ongoing and regular professional development to aid the implementation of this system. You will notice the school rules posters that are posted throughout the building that help to create a common and consistent language of behavioral expectations for all elementary students. Stay tuned for updates on some of the fun activities and events that go with our new PBiS System.

Please be sure to come and check out our new gym floor. It looks amazing! We appreciate your patience as it did take a little longer to complete than what was expected. **We do also ask that you not step out on the playing floor with street shoes so we can keep the floor looking great!** As always be sure to follow us on our social media accounts. You can check us out on Instagram and Twitter at [@spsjetpride](https://www.instagram.com/spsjetpride) and on Facebook at the Sterling Public Schools page.

The Sterling Board of Education is accepting applications of person's interested in filling the board vacancy that is open. If you are willing to serve your community and school, please contact John Harms, Board President at jharms@sterlingpublicschools.com or 402-310-4706, or Dottie Heusman, Superintendent at dheusman@sterlingpublicschools.com or 402-866-4761 X 102. The Board will interview candidates at the end of September. The new member will serve in their full capacity at the October 15 meeting. The new member will fulfill the duties until December 2020.
Please consider this great opportunity!



The Future Business Leaders of America...

chapter at Sterling concluded its third year since reestablishing their charter in 2015. The chapter had previously been inactive in Sterling for over 25 years. Since then, the chapter has slowly but surely been establishing a name for itself. Throughout the year, the chapter competes in area and statewide competitions

where members routinely place members in the top of many competition areas. The competitions give business minded students a chance to network, gain business knowledge, and showcase their skills to other students and businesses from across the state. While many of the members scored impressively at the State Leadership Conference last May, Ryan Lairmore scored high enough to qualify for the National Leadership Conference.

The FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in Baltimore, MD from June 28 - July 2. While in Baltimore, Ryan competed in Cyber Security. He competed well but fell short of the top 10 out of over 150 qualifying competitors. He also attended business workshops and networked with other national qualifiers from across the world. During the time when Ryan was not busy with the conference, he was able to attend a Baltimore Orioles game, have dinner during a jousting match, explore the Inner Harbour of Baltimore, and spend a day touring Washington, DC. Ryan is a prime example of how hard work and dedication can pay off for Sterling FBLA members.

I would encourage all students, freshmen through seniors, to explore the opportunities that FBLA can offer. With enough hard work, all members have the opportunity to qualify for the state and national conferences. While not all members will qualify, all members gain valuable skills and knowledge that will serve them well in the future. If anyone has any questions about FBLA, please talk to one of our current members or Mr. Davenport.

Volleyball 2018

A great man always said, "ONCE A JET, ALWAYS A JET." He was totally right! It feels good to be back in this amazing school/community that holds students and athletes to the highest of expectations. Speaking of high expectations, I am expecting big things from this year's volleyball team.

There are 16 girls out for volleyball this year, including 6 seniors, 7 returning letter winners, future players (student managers), and 2 new coaches. I am pumped for this season (and the new gym floor to be done). The girls have set some really solid goals and have already been working on them during pre-season 2-a-days. They have shown great dedication and work ethic in 2 short weeks.

With a new coaching staff, there have been a few things to adjust to, but the girls are rocking it! We are all excited to get this season started. Our first game will be held at Freeman Public School on August 30 at 6:00. I know we can count on you to come out and support the Jet Volleyball Team. **Lady Jet Pride, Coach Saathoff**



TEAMMATES[™]

MENTORING

The Sterling TeamMates Program is looking for new mentors. The mentors and mentees we have are fantastic! Currently, we have mentees who are waiting to be matched with awesome mentors. Here are a few things you may want to know about TeamMates.

TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program. This means that matches meet on the school grounds, during the school day and there are several distinct advantages that appeal to possible recruits!

- School based mentoring requires less time from the volunteer. The goal for the meeting is an hour, however, with a crazy schedule most meetings last anywhere from 30-50 mins.
- The mentoring time is in the safe neutral environment of the school. Many of our mentees and mentors meet in the library. We also have some that meet in the cafeteria.
- The school provides great resources! Matches can use the provided games, cards, or go to the gym for an activity to do with the mentors.

If you are willing to become a mentor please fill out the application online at <https://teammates.org/become-a-mentor/apply/>. This is the first year where the application has to be filled out online. If you do not have access to the internet, come to the school and ask for Angie Bianchi or Jenna Sedivy and either one of us can help out with the application process.

If you have any questions feel free to email Angie at abianchi@sterlingpublicschools.com or Jenna at jsedivy@sterlingpublicschools.com.

How to be “Preschool Ready”

To be preschool ready, your child does **not** need to know their ABC’s or need to count to ten. They do **not** need to know how to sit in a desk or even know how to make a friend. We will learn all of that as we go. Though, there are some things that you can do as a parent to make sure your child is ready for each day in pre-k, such as a good bedtime routine and being positive about school!

According to the National Sleep Foundation “the recommended amount of sleep for a child 3-5 years is 10-13 hours a night”. They go on to say that “an early bedtime, between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. works best for babies and kids through school age, and a consistent, soothing, wind-down routine with no screen time—such as TVs, tablets, and the like—will lead to better sleep” Screen time before bed may make your child appear calm but “the blue light from the screens mimics daylight and stimulates you, and you can wake up feeling tired, anxious, and depressed. That’s why you should power down devices at least 30 minutes before bedtime” (How Much Sleep Do Babies and Kids Need?, sleepfoundation.org). Instead, try reading a book with your child before bed. This will help grow their literacy skills and language skills (even when they choose the same book every night).

We have a lot of fun and learn a lot in preschool, so enough sleep is important. It is also important to remind them how much fun school can be. Talk with your child each night about school, you can ask them what they built or who they played with. Parents are their child’s biggest role model, so if you are excited about school they will be too! That is all a child needs to be preschool ready, enough sleep and to be ready for all the fun!



Counselor's Corner

College Access Grant

Since 2006, EducationQuest has been funding College Access Grants for high schools across the state of Nebraska. The program is designed to support schools in providing student access to college visits and educational planning programs to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school. Schools can complete the competitive application process and then if chosen, money is awarded based on enrollment numbers. We are excited to say that Sterling High School was chosen to receive a \$10,000 grant that will be disbursed in \$2,500 increments over the next four years. Sterling is one of twenty-two high schools chosen from across the state to receive the grant. The grant money will provide opportunities for students in grades 9-12 to visit colleges and educational planning programs that they might not otherwise have been able to visit. Seniors will be participating in an Educational Planning Program and a tour of Doane coming up in early October. Look for more information to come as the visits are scheduled. This is a very exciting opportunity for our students and I'm looking forward to helping students start visiting campuses as early as their freshman year.

College Visits

Juniors and seniors can use up to 3 college visit days total over the course of their junior and senior years of high school. Students are strongly encouraged to visit colleges their junior year and go back to their top 2 their senior year to determine the best fit for them. College visit forms are available in the school counselor's office.

Upcoming Events

September 26

Explore It Career Fair, Auburn (10-12 graders)

October 1

Educational Planning Program, SCC in Beatrice (12th graders)

October 11

1:00 Seniors Apply2College & Financial Aid Event

4:30 EducationQuest Parent Financial Aid Meeting

ACT test dates

School Code:

282-240

2018 Test Dates	SEP 8	OCT 27	DEC 8
Registration Deadline	AUG 10	SEP 28	NOV 2
**Late Registration Deadline	AUG 26	OCT 14	NOV 19



2019 Test Dates	FEB 9*	APR 13	JUN 8	JUL 13*
Registration Deadline	JAN 11	MAR 8	MAY 3	JUN 14
**Late Registration Deadline	JAN 18	MAR 25	MAY 20	JUN 24



Sterling Jet Football 2018

Welcome everyone to a new era of Sterling Jet football. We have transitioned from 8 man to 6 man for this upcoming season. After talking with many different people from the community, I learned that Sterling played 6 man football back in the 1950's with some of those players still living in the area. Sterling then switched to 8 man for many years, with about a 9 year period of 11 man mixed in. Regardless of the size of the team that Sterling put on the field, their success remained and we hope to continue that success back in to the 6 man game.

This years version of Sterling Jet 6 man football has 20 players out. From talking with other coaches, we are on the high side when it comes to players competing, which will certainly help us out. We have spent our preseason practices helping the kids adjust to some 6 man rule changes. The major change that we are having to learn is that the player who receives the snap from the center must hand/pitch the ball off before crossing the line of scrimmage. Some additional rules that we are adapting to include: 15 yards to gain a 1st down, 5 more than the conventional 11 and 8 man game; PAT kicks are worth 2 points, with running or passing to convert the PAT worth 1 point; and field goals are also worth 4 points.

Our players have really embraced the changes and from the personnel we have returning, the 6 man game suits us much better than the 8 man game did last season. We are going to use our speed and try to put our kids in positions where they can be successful. As coaches, we have really appreciated the kids coming in ready to work and in shape for fall camp and we are hoping that this a positive experience for everyone involved. We hope everyone is able to make it out to one of our games this year and support our kids as we usher in a new era of Jet football.

Go Big Jets!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER - MRS. LEAH PHILLIPS

Mrs. Leah Phillips is our new 1st grade teacher and the kids already love her! Here's a few interesting notes about Mrs. Phillips... After she graduated from Johnson County Central, Leah attended Peru State College to further her education. She was recently married to Mr. Jesse Phillips, a new Paraprofessional here at SPS. You'll hear more about him in a couple months! Leah's pets are a black lab named Raven and Roscoe, a yellow lab. They are both fun loving and enjoy going on walks. In her spare time you might find her reading a good book or playing with her two pups. Leah's favorite movie is the Blind Side. Her favorite subject to teach is Math. She loves being able to explain things in multiple ways and all the hands-on activities that come with learning Math.

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



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER - MISS CAMDEN HARLAN

Miss Camden Harlan is the new 7-12 Social Studies teacher and Assistant Girls Basketball Coach here at Sterling Public Schools and she seems to be fitting in very well! Here are a handful of tidbits about Miss Harlan... Her family consists of Jeff and Naomi (dad and mom), Ciara, Jordan, and Cody (all younger siblings). Camden attend Beatrice High School and later on Wayne State College. Her favorite class, both in high school and college, was American History. She loves learning about how and why we are the nation that we are today! According to Camden, a sense of humor is very important, that's why her favorite TV shows are The Office and Parks and Recreation. She has one Mini Australian Shepherd named Franco. American Government is her favorite subject to teach because she thinks it's so cool to see the kids get excited when they realize how big of a difference they really can make if they get involved. We're very happy that you're a part of our Jet Family, Camden. Welcome!



Mrs. Phillips and the 1st graders getting ready for Math!



Miss Harlan teaching the Juniors all about Government!

Items of Note...

*Scholastic Book Fair is the week of SEPT 17-21

*Parent/Teacher Conferences are on THURS, SEPT 20 from 2:30-8PM

*Picture Day has been moved to MON, OCT 1, 2018



SEPTEMBER 2018 MENUS

Sept 4-7

Monday	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
Tuesday	WG French Toast Sticks, Sausage OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce or Bean Dip, Peas, Celery w/ PB, Peaches
Wednesday	Cereal WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Nuggets, Corn, FF and/or Swt. FF, Mandarin Oranges
Thursday	Breakfast Pizza OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Submarines, Mixed Vegetables, Gelatin, Pears
Friday	Omelet, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Sloppy Joes on WG Bun, Green Beans, Chips, Applesauce

Sept 10-14

Monday	Cereal WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Ham Patty on WG Bun, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Tater Gems and/or Swt. Tater Gems, Applesauce
Tuesday	Breakfast Boat OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Tacos, Green Beans, Celery w/ PB, Peaches
Wednesday	Yogurt Parfait OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pork Patty on WG Bun, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas, Pineapple Tidbits
Thursday	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza, Black Bean Salad, Mandarin Oranges
Friday	Biscuits & Gravy OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Fajita, WG Rice, Broccoli w/ Cheese, Pears

Sept 17-21

Monday	French Toast Sticks, Sausage OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pulled Pork Sandwich, FF and/or Swt. FF, Peas, Peaches
Tuesday	Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Potato Bake, Ham Salad or Tuna Salad Sandwich, String Cheese, Pineapple Tidbits
Wednesday	WG Donut OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Drumstick, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Pears
Thursday	Yogurt Parfait OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza Crunchers, Corn, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Mandarin Oranges
Friday	NO SCHOOL

Sept 24-28

Monday	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Peaches
Tuesday	Toaster Pastry OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Mini Corn Dogs, Corn, Baked Beans, Applesauce
Wednesday	WG Pancake & Sausage on a stick OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk WG Spaghetti, WG Garlic Bread, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Pears
Thursday	WG Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hamburger on WG Bun, FF and/or Swt. FF, Tomatoes, Pineapple Tidbits
Friday	Breakfast Bar OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk WG Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce, California Blend, Mandarin Oranges

SEPTEMBER 2018 ACTIVITIES



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27 JV FB vs. Johnson Brock - HOME - 6PM (8 man)	28 HS Band to Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island - perform @ 10:15AM	29	30 Freeman VB Invite - TBA	31 FB @ Walthill - 2:30PM	September 1 Freeman VB Invite - TBA
2	3 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	4 VB @ Freeman - 5:30PM (JV,V) JV FB @ Southern - 6PM (8 man)	5 Nebraska Wesleyan College Rep. - 1:30PM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 7:30PM	6 Sterling Triangular (PC/FC) - 5/7PM	7 FB @ Humphrey/Lindsey HF - 4PM	8 ACT Test Date Syracuse JV VB Tournament - 8:30AM
9	10 JV FB vs. Pawnee City - HOME - 6PM (8 man)	11	12 Yearbook Ad Sales	13 JH Band to Richardson County Fair	14 NO SCHOOL - PreK FB vs. Harvard - HOME - 7PM 3rd & 4th Grade Field Trip to SAC Museum	15
16	17 MUDECAS VB TOURNAMENT @ BEATRICE JH VB @ Friend - 4PM JV FB @ Dorchester - 6PM (6 man)	18 VB @ Diller-Odell - 6PM (JV,V)	19 ASVAB Testing - Juniors - Periods 1-4 JH VB @ Freeman - 1:30PM	20 MUDECAS FINALS Parent/Teacher Conf. 2:30-8PM in the gym 1:37 DISMISSAL NO SCHOOL - PreK	21 NO SCHOOL FB @ McCool Junction - 7PM	22 Freeman JH/JV VB Tournament
23	24 Sterling JV Triangular (JCC/Pawnee City) - 5:30/7:30PM JV FB @ Diller-Odell - 6PM (8 man)	25 VB vs. Dorchester - HOME - 6PM (JV,V) Joseph's College of Beauty Rep - 9AM	26 Explore It Career Fair @ Auburn - 9AM-2PM	27 JH FB @ Lewiston - 2PM School Board Meeting Interviews - 7PM	28 FB Bye-Week SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conf. - Hastings	29 Fort Calhoun VB Invite
	30					

BOOK FAIR



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