STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Davenport

Welcome back to Sterling Public Schools! I am excited to start the new school year to learn and grow with our students. I am excited to see all of our returning students and meet our new students. Among some of the new faces in the school, we have several new staff members joining the team this year.

Nate Bianchi will be our incoming high school Special Education teacher. Ann Buckner will be our incoming 6th grade teacher and will take on both English Language Arts and Social Studies for the 5th and 6th grade classes. Susan Goracke is joining us as our Kitchen Manager. Mason Pelchat will serve as our new Physical Education Teacher. Allison Chaplin will join us as a Paraprofessional in our preschool. Shelly Huetson is joining us as a Paraprofessional in the high school. We also have a couple of returning staff members that are transitioning to different assignments. Luke Boldt was formerly our 6th grade teacher but will move into the high school Social Studies position and Emily Retchless was formerly a Paraprofessional in our preschool and elementary and will transition to teach 2nd grade. If you see these new staff members around, please welcome them to community.

In preparation for the new school year, I attended multiple summer trainings with administrators from across the state. In our conversations, we shared experiences about the previous school year and discussed student achievements. In all conversations, I experienced a deepened sense of pride for our school and our community. We are blessed to have students who excel in all areas including character, academics, athletics, and more. I hope everyone is as excited as I am about the new school year and appreciate all of the community support along the way! Lets have a great year. **Go Jets!**

CLOTHING DONATIONS

As we gear up for the school year, back-to-school shopping is in full swing. In many cases, this also includes replacing outgrown clothing in an out-with-the-old, in-with-the-new process. If anyone has outgrown clothing or simply has a surplus they need to get rid of, please consider donating to the school. We collect clothing items throughout the school year to assist our students with their needs as they arise.

Our primary purpose in collecting these items is to help our students in need, regardless of what their needs are. Some of our younger students periodically have accidents or end up dirty at recess. We like having the ability to get them in clean, dry clothes as quickly as possible without interrupting their learning or parents' workdays. We are also sometimes able to help students and families with financial needs meet their needs. We try to help in any way we can, but our supply is getting low.

If anyone has any clothing that you are willing to donate, we would love to take them off your hands. Our biggest needs include smaller pants and shorts, shoes of any size in good condition, and coats or jackets. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office anytime we are open.

If we end a school year with any kind of surplus of clothing, we sort out what we anticipate needing and donate the rest to GoodWill or The People's City Mission in Lincoln, NE. Thank you all for helping to support our kids.

USDA LUNCH PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

As we return to a sense of normalcy following the COVID-19 pandemic, public policies are also returning systems to what we were familiar with prior to the 2020 school year. One of the more notable changes, or returns to normalcy, is the nonrenewal of the USDA school meals program. This means that, unlike in previous school years, the federal government will no longer pay for your student's school breakfasts and lunches. This change once again places the responsibility of paying for the students' breakfasts and lunches back on the parents or guardians. Families believing

they may be eligible for free or reduced-price lunches may still fill out their application either online or at the school office. Depositing money into your student's lunch fund may also be done in person at the office or online.

According to policy, seconds still cost extra. Once your child's lunch account is at -\$10, your child will not be able to receive seconds until the bill is paid.

2022-2023 HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK UPDATES

The following is a quick reference to the changes to the High School Handbook that have been approved by the Sterling Board of Education and added for the upcoming school year. Each revision or addition is listed to include the heading found in the student handbook.

Forfeiture of Credit -

A student who, for any reason, is absent ten (10) times from a semester course will forfeit credit for the course unless there are chronic health conditions or special arrangements involved. A physician's statement will determine the validity of each absence for illness over the maximum allowed.

Students will receive a letter home following five (5) days absent and a mandatory attendance committee meeting must take place with the parents or guardians after seven (7) days missed. Accumulating ten (10) unexcused absences in a semester will result in a loss of credit without the ability to appeal and the county attorney will be sent attendance records for truancy.

<u>Overview of changes/ Reasoning</u>: The revision changes the maximum number allowed from 8 days to 10 days to match state legislation. It also more clearly outlines the procedures that must be followed for tracking unexcused absences.

Tardiness -

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention. A student who arrives at school after 20 minutes will be considered absent for that period.

Tardies to class (periods 2-8) will only be excused by the student's preceding teachers if the student has been detained. If a student or students are going to be late to his/her next class, a pass should be obtained before leaving the classroom. Students who do not have their tardy time made up will not be allowed to leave the building during the day for school activities. Teachers are responsible for communicating tardy time information to the Principal.

Accumulating 3 tardies in any class, including the advisory period, results in an automatic 15-minute after-school detention, with the teacher of the class they were tardy for, in the following 48 hours at the discretion of the teacher. An additional 15-minute detention will be given for every tardy following the first three within the same timeline for it to be served. Students who do not have their tardy time made up will not be allowed to leave the building during the day for school activities. All detentions follow the same guidelines.

<u>Overview of Changes/ Reasoning</u>: The revision extends the previous tardy policy to all periods rather than just period one. It also protects students from accumulating tardy time by mandating when the tardy time must be served.

Dress Code -

Midriff-baring clothing, see-through and low-cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)

<u>Overview of Changes/ Reasoning:</u> This revision clarifies the previous policy from "belly button styles" to include any midriff-baring clothing.

Academic Progress/Eligibility -

All students must pass a minimum of 20 credit hours the previous semester of attendance according to State standards. Students in grades 7-12 failing two or more classes after the third week of the semester will not be eligible to participate in any activities involving other schools until their grades in every class except one are at a passing level. The ineligible week is from the Monday following the distribution of the academic status report through the following Friday. The student will be expected to improve the grade before the report is run.

The counselor will compile a weekly academic status list to determine student activity eligibility (see activity handbook). Junior High students not out for the activity are to remain in class and not attend the activity (home or away) without a sponsor and administrative approval. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to the extra help and to raise his/her grade to a passing level.

Beginning with the first semester after the 3rd week, parents will be notified of students doing work which the teacher feels is below their capabilities. Students in grades 7-12 failing two or more classes after the third week of the first quarter will not be eligible to participate in any activities involving other schools until their grades in every class except one are at a passing level, this includes participation in all school activities outside of the classroom and/ or school day unless required for a classroom grade.

<u>Overview of Changes/ Reasoning</u>: Only the last line is new. This extends the academic eligibility policy to all school activities rather than just extracurriculars to ensure academic remains our focus.

ATTENDANCE POLICY INFORMATION

Students achieve more in school when they are IN school. New content is introduced daily in as many as 8 different subject areas. Even missing an hour of instruction places a student at a disadvantage. To ensure our students' attendance remains a priority, it is a great time to remind everyone about the guidelines and expectations.

According to legislation, students cannot miss more than 20 school days in a school year before the truancy information is submitted to the county attorney. To break that down further, school policy states that if a student has 10 or more unexcused absences in any class they will forfeit receiving semester credit in that class. Receiving semester credit in a course is contingent on both a passing grade and acceptable attendance.

I will use an example. Student A does not like waking up early and decides to show up at 9:00AM for 2nd-period class for two weeks. In this scenario, Student A will not receive semester credit for their 1st-period class, regardless of their current grade. If Student A decided not to attend any classes for two weeks, they would not receive credit for any of their classes that semester and would likely have to repeat much of the school year.

There are exceptions to this. Excused absences do not count against a student receiving credit. Examples of excused absences are found in the student handbook and include documented illness, court, death of a family member, or suspension. Please communicate all planned absences by calling the office and have your student discuss homework and instruction will all teachers prior to ensure as little disruption in their learning as possible.

For any questions or concerns about the attendance policies, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 402-866-4761.



Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application - complete one application per household Attachment C: 2022-23

Part 1: Children in School List names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last). If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Image: School Child Attends Check all that apply: Homeless, Foster Migrant, Child Runaway If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Grade Name of School Child Attends Image: School Child Attends If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Grade Image: School Child Attends Image: School Child Attends If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Grade Image: School Child Attends Image: School Child Attends If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Grade Image: School Child Attends Image: School Child Attends If all children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Image: School Child Attends Image: School School Child Attends Image: School School Child Attends Image: School School School Child At						
If all children listed are foster, skip to Part 4 to sign the form. If some of the children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application. Grade Name of School Child Attends Grade Name of School Child Attends Grade Name of School Child Attends Foster Child Manaway Migrant, Runaway Migrant, Runaw						
Part 2: Assistance Programs – SNAP, TANF or FDPIR Benefits Enter MASTER CASE NUMBER if household qualifies for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR: (Social Security numbers, Medicaid numbers and EBT numbers are not accepted.) Skip to Part 4 Part 3: Total Household Gross Income – You must tell us how much and how often. 1. Household Members List everyone in the household, current income each person earns in whole dollars (no cents) & how often. 2. Gross Income (before taxes) and How Often it was Received Eatning "0" or leaving the income field blank certifies income must be listed. Income How often						
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Total Number of Household Members: Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of the adult signing this form: Check if no SSN						
Part 4: Adult Signature and Contact Information – An adult household member must sign the application.						
"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."						
Sign here: Print name: Date:						
Street Address (if available): Zip: Daytime Phone:						
Part 5: Children's Ethnic and Racial Identities – Optional						
Check one Ethnic Identity: – and – Check one or more Racial Identities:						
Hispanic or Latino Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Not Hispanic or Latino White American Indian or Alaskan Native other Pacific Islander						
Do Not Fill Out the Section Below - For School Use Only Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52; Every 2 weeks X 26; Twice a month X 24; Monthly X 12						
Total Household Size:						
□ Income Reason for denial: □ Categorically eligible: □ Income too high						
Total Income:per						
UYear Month U2 X Mo Every 2 Wks UWeek Image: Foster Child Image: Homeless/Migrant/Runaway: Image: Homeless/Migrant/Runaway: Image: Homeless/Migrant/Runaway: Image: Homeless/Migrant/Runaway:						
(Official Documentation Required at School)						
Signature of Determining Official: Date Approved:						
FOR THE VERIFICATION PROCESS ONLY: Date Withdrawn Signature of Confirming Official: Date Confirmed: From School:						
Signature of Verifying Official: Date Verified:						

*INSTRUCTIONS, APPLICATIONS, AND HOUSEHOLD LETTER CAN ALL BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE: WWW.STERLINGJETS.ORG

Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application - complete one application per household Attachment C: 2022-23

Your children may qualify for free or	FEDERAL INCOME CHART for School Year 2022-23					
reduced price meals if your household income	Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
falls at or below the limits on this chart.	1	25,142	2,096	1,048	967	484
	2	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
	3	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820
	4	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988
	5	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156
	6	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324
	7	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492
	8	86,266	7,189	3,595	3,318	1,659
	Each additional person:	8,732	728	364	336	168

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PRESCHOOL - 12 REQUIREMENTS:

Preschool - Birth Certificate and Current Immunization Records

<u>Kindergarten</u> - Birth Certificate, Physical including Vision Screening, and Current Immunization Records

6th Graders Participating in Sports - Physical

All 7th Graders - Physical and Current Immunization Records

8th-12th Graders Participating in Sports - Physical

7-12 COMPUTER CONVENIENCE FEES...

are due to the office by AUGUST 22 in order to receive your laptop for the 2022-2023 school year. Summer office hours are Mon-Fri from 9AM-3PM. Laptops will be given to students on the first day of school, August 22. If the school has not received payment by August 22, laptops will not be taken home.

1 laptop - \$50

2 laptops - \$75

3+ laptops - \$100

Discrimination Statement

The Sterling School District hereby gives the statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Sterling School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students, Employees, and Others:

Arian Allen, Superintendent, 250 Main PO Box 39, Sterling NE 68443, (402) 866-4761, (aallen@sterlingpublicschools.com)

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 268-0550 (voice), or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocrkansascity@ed.gov.

Special Education

Handicapped children between the ages of birth and twenty-one years of age are eligible for special education services. In order to be eligible, the child must meet specific criteria established by the State of Nebraska in Rule 51.

If you believe that your child may qualify for any of these programs, please contact your local school superintendent so arrangements for diagnosis can be made. All these services are provided by Sterling Public Schools.

School Insurance

Information packets and forms are available in the office. <u>Remember, insurance is needed for **ALL** students</u> <u>participating in sports.</u> This program covers K-12.

Per Board of Education Policy #3028, Sterling Public Schools is required to share the Nebraska Sex Offender Registry link with all parents. Please check this registry from time to time to stay up-to-date on sex offenders that live in our school district. <u>https://sor.nebraska.gov</u>



	AUGUST 2022 MENUS						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
22	23	24	25	26			
Waffles, Sausage Links Fruit	Cereal, Fruit	Combo Bars, Fruit	Cheese Omelet, Bacon Fruit	Yogurt, Fruit			
29	30	31					
Cereal, Fruit	Biscuits, Eggs, Fruit	Tornado, Fruit					
LUNCH							
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
22	23	24	25	26			
Hot Dog, Potato Salad,	Chicken Fajita, Salad,	Cheeseburger, Fries	Pulled Pork Sandwich,	Poor Man's Sandwich,			
Salad Bar, Fruit	Refried Beans, Fruit	Salad Bar, Fruit	Baked Beans, Salad, Fruit	Chips, Salad Bar, Fruit			
29	30	31					
Scrambled Eggs w/	Spaghetti w/ Meat	Turkey & Cheese					
	Sauce, Bread, Salad,	Sandwich, Macaroni					
Ham & Cheese, Salad		Salad, Salad Bar, Fruit	1				

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, (AD-3027) found online at: <u>http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filing cust.html</u>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2022-2023 ACT TEST DATES				
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Late Fee Required		
September 10, 2022	August 5	August 19		
October 22, 2022	September 16	September 30		
December 10, 2022	November 4	November 11		
February 11, 2023	January 6	January 20		
April 15, 2023	March 10	March 24		
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19		
July 15, 2023	June 16	June 23		

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2022-2023 School Calendar

250 Main Street, PO Box 39 Sterling, NE 68443 (p) 402-866-4761 (f) 402-866-4771 January 2023 July 2022 Su M Tu W Th F Sa Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2-3 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break Teacher Inservice First Day of 2nd Semester NO PREK 27 28 August 2022 February 2023 Su M Tu W Th F Su м Tu W Th F Sa 15-18 Sa NO PREK Teacher Inservice (K-12) First Day of School NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice (PreK) First Day of School 1:37PM Dismissal - P/T Conf 2:30-8PM NO SCHOOL 23 24 24 25 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice 27 28 NO PREK September 2022 March 2023 Su M Tu W Th F Sa Su M Tu W Th F Sa NO SCHOOL - Labor Day 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice NO PREK 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice NO PREK NO SCHOOL - State BB NO PREK NO SCHOOL - End of 3rd Quarter - State BB NO PREK 27 28 29 12PM Dismissal - Hosting JH Quiz Bowl October 2022 April 2023 M Tu W Th F Sa Su M Tu W Th F Sa Su 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice NO PREK NO PREK 1:37PM Dismissal - P/T Conf 2:30-8PM NO SCHOOL - Easter Break 7-10 12 13 14 15 NO SCHOOL - End of 1st Quarter NO PREK 20 21 22 19 20 21 22 NO PREK 25 26 27 28 29 24 25 26 27 28 29 May 2023 November 2022 Su M Tu W Th F Sa M Tu W Th F Sa Su 1:37PM Dismissal - Teacher Inservice (Seniors) Last Day NO PREK (PreK) Last Day 23-25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break Graduation @ 2PM (K-11) Last Day - 1:37PM Dismissal NO PREK 23 24 25 25 26 19-22 Teacher Inservice 29 30 28 29 30 June 2023 December 2022 м Tu W Th F Sa М Tu W Th F Sa Su Su NO PREK 1:37PM Dismissal - End of 1st Semester NO PREK 23-30 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break 27 28 Early Out @ 1:37PM No PreK P/T Conf No School First/Last Day of School Noon Dismissal CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY	9	13	20	COUNTY FAIR	27	vs. St. Edward - HOME - 7PM - 9AM - 9AM - 7PM - 9AM -
FRIDAY	2	12	19	NOSNHO	26 Pioneer Conference Leadership Summit @ PSC - 9AM	² FB
022 THURSDAY	4 GRADES 9-12 - 9AM-12PM		18		25 FB @ Heartland Lutheran - 7PM	Sept I Freeman HS VB Invite - 5PM
AUGUST 2022	3 BAND CAMP - GRAI	10	17	FEACHER WORKDAYS	24 IST DAY OF SCHOOL (PREK)	3
AU	2	6	16 Elementary Open House 4:30-6:30PM		23 HS VB Triangular (Jamboree) HTRS/Tri County - HOME - 5/7PM	30 HS VB @ Freeman (JV,V) 5:30PM ING: JUNE 6 - AUG 5
MONDAY	I Band Camp (Leadership only) Grades 9-12 - 9AM-12PM	8 Ist Day of FB Practice Ist Day of VB Practice	15 School Board Meeting - 7PM		22 IST DAY OF SCHOOL (K-12) PreK Open House - 5-6PM	29 ESU Leadership Academy State Fair (HS Band) @ Grand Island - 10:15AM SUMMER WEIGHTS & CONDITIONI
SUNDAY	July 31	2	14		21 Jo Co Parade (HS Band) - 6PM JO CO FAIR	28 SUMMER WEI

Calendar is subject to change. Please check the Weekly Bulletin, Facebook, or Google Calendar on the school website: <u>www.sterlingjets.org</u> for the most up-to-date info. Thank you! STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS 250 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 39 STERLING, NE 68443

Phone: (402) 866-4761 Fax: (402) 866-4771 Website: <u>www.sterlingjets.org</u>

SUPERINTENDENT Adrian Allen

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL Jacob Davenport



