

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JUNE/JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Davenport

The teacher shortage faced by schools across the country has finally hit our local area. Moving into the summer, we had two positions posted that we were not able to fill. One of them was the shop teacher position and the other was the library position. With the reality that we would not be able to fill these positions, we looked at alternative options to keep our school running strong and ensure that students are offered the courses that will set our students up for success.

To offer our students courses in industrial tech, in the absence of a skilled and technical sciences teacher, we reached out to Lewiston Public Schools to see about our students taking classes with them. We are still in the process of working out the logistics of this system but we are confident that we will be able to offer industrial tech classes to our students this upcoming year, even if it is in a limited capacity.

In order to fill our other vacancy, the media specialist position, we looked to cover that position in-house. Our previous media specialist also taught English courses so we also had additional courses to cover. In order to ensure all courses were offered and covered, we are moving next year's 6th-grade class into a middle school model. This is not an uncommon model and allows us to utilize our junior high and high school teachers for educating the 6th-grade class.

What this means-

Kendra Matkins will be moving into the media specialist position and still teach some classes to our incoming 6th-grade class. However, instead of the 6th-grade class being self-contained, as it's been in the past, the students will move from classroom to classroom based on the class period. The students will be locker-based, as opposed to classroom-based.

The class offering will not change for the students but the structure of how it is offered will. PE, for example, will still be offered but it will take place with the 7th and 8th grades. 6th grade will still not be eligible to participate in Junior High athletics though. This extended time for PE will account for the loss of physical activity that came through recess time.

The 6th-grade class will follow all other Junior High and High School systems. They will be issued a school-owned laptop. They will be assigned a locker. Their lunchtime will change. They will also be eligible for Junior High activities, with the exception of athletics.

I believe that this change will be a great system for our school and our students. Other area schools are moving to the same system because it is seen as a superior system. While this change was born of necessity, I believe it is setting our students up for an exciting new experience.

I realize there will be questions and I want to be able to clear all of them up prior to starting this next school year. I have a Q&A night scheduled at the school to discuss this topic and what it will look like for our incoming 6th grade class. Cookie and Questions will take place on June 20th at 6pm in the school library. All students and parents of next year's 6th grade class are welcome and encouraged to come.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me as needed. Since some of you receiving this newsletter do not currently have ties to our district, if you or any families you know are looking for a change of scenery with an excellent school, please get in contact with me. I would love to discuss why Sterling is likely a great fit. **Go Jets!!!**

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2023



Front Row (l-r): Trenton Peery, Elaina Gordin, Gracyn Dolbow, Katie Sunderman, Kaylin Smith, Macy Richardson, Freyana Roecker, Katy Boldt, Alexander Leonard
Back Row (l-r): Xander Jamison, Noah Williams, Tyler Blessing, Carson McAuliffe, John Janssen, Jack McAuliffe, Mark Hiatt, Andrew Harms, Samuel Harms, Kevin Bessey

BAND UPCOMING DATES

6-8TH BAND CAMP (July 24th-26th)
(Incoming 6-8th grade band members) - Time is TBA

HS BAND LEADERSHIP CAMP (July 27th and 28th)
(New leadership) - Time is TBA

9-12TH BAND CAMP (July 31st-August 4th)
(Incoming 9-12th grade band members) - Time is TBA

SUMMER SCHOOL

JUNE 19-23

JUNE 26-30

JULY 17-21

STATE TRACK RESULTS

GRADE	ATHLETE	PLACE	EVENT	TIME/DISTANCE
11	JESUS GONZALEZ-CASTILLO	7	800M	2:01.68
		1	4X400 RELAY	3:30.85
12	ANDREW HARMS	1	110M HURDLES	15.32
		3	300M HURDLES	40.30
		5	HIGH JUMP	6-02.00
		1	4X400 RELAY	3:30.85
11	LAUREN HARMS	7	DISCUS	117-07
11	COLLIN KINNEY	1	4X400 RELAY	3:30.85
11	WYATT RATHE	1	4X400 RELAY	3:30.85
12	MACY RICHARDSON	1	GIRLS 100M HURDLES	15.48
		2	300M HURDLES	46.03
		4	LONG JUMP	16-07.75
		3	TRIPLE JUMP	35-02.00

MVPs:

Overall - #3 Macy Richardson

Female - #2 Macy Richardson

Female Class D - #1 Macy Richardson

Female Class D Track - #3 Macy Richardson

Male Class D Track - #3 Andrew Harms



Jesus, Wyatt, Collin, Andrew, Carson, Lauren, and Macy

Prevent the “Summer Slide” with Reading! By Evi Wusk

Summer is a time for kids to relax a bit and enjoy the outdoors. I know our family has been ready for a break! That said, the concept of the “Summer Slide” has been documented since 1996 in educational research. The idea is that kids can lose a big part of what they learned in reading and math over the summer—sometimes up to 20%! While that statistic can sound scary, there are *lots* of ways for families to prevent summer slide.

One way to keep kids' brains buzzing is through **summer reading**. Sterling Public Schools has a Sora account with a Nebraska shared collection that gives kids access to LOTS of ebooks and audiobooks for a reduced price that the school pays for. Kids can read on Sora on tablets, phones, or a computer. Here are the steps to set-up:



1. Download the sora app or go to soraapp.com.
2. Find “Nebraska Shared Digital Collection” - Login Code **neschoolsne**
3. Scroll to **Sterling School District**
4. Log in with your school email

Email: **firstname.lastname@sterlingpublicschools.com**

Password: **Sterling2032!** (2nd-grade example)

NOTES:

They click “borrow” to check out an e-book or audiobook.
There are also “read along” books.
Once they check out, they show up on the shelf.
They get 3 check-outs at a time for 27 days.

- [Sora Intro for younger kids](#) (1 minute)
- [Sora Intro for teens](#) (1 minute)
- [Sora Overview](#) (2 minutes)

If your student likes a challenge, Scholastic has a summer reading challenge at <https://www.scholastic.com/site/summer-reading.html> and Barnes and Noble has a challenge that gives them a free age-appropriate book at the end of the summer - just stop in the Barnes and Noble in Lincoln.

Also, we have a GREAT public library and librarian, Becky Barney. Becky has a great heart for kids and has done wonders in getting our library accredited. The town library (150 Broadway Street - across from Scott's) hours are below. You can also follow the library on Facebook.

Sterling Public Library Hours

Monday 5:30-9:00PM

Tuesday 5:30-9:00PM

Thursday 9:00AM-6:00PM

Saturday 8:00AM-12:00PM

NATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY

BLOOD DRIVE

**JULY 18, 2023
FROM 12-6PM
@ THE COMMUNITY
BUILDING**

CONTACT EVI WUSK @
402-419-3011 TO MAKE
AN APPT!

**STERLING
FOOTBALL
CAMP
JULY 18-21,
2023**

2023-2024

Cookies & Questions

*Regarding the
upcoming school year
Middle School -
Grades 6-8*

June 20

@ 6PM in the
Library



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

224 students with a 9.3
student-teacher ratio
*state average is 13.6



1:1 Apple devices in
grades K-12



92% of our HIGH SCHOOL
students are involved in at least
one school-sponsored activity



In the last 30 years, our
graduation rate is 99.7%



All day, every day Preschool
starting at age 3.





JUNE 2023

[illegible]

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



JULY 2023

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SUPERINTENDENT

Adrian Allen

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Jacob Davenport

2022-2023 ACT TEST DATES		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Late Fee Required
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19
July 15, 2023	June 16	June 23

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter every month, please contact the office.