

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Davenport

Testing and Interventions

We are nearly halfway through the first quarter, and it finally feels like we have found our rhythm. Routines are in place, students and staff have settled in, and we are beginning to see the momentum that comes with getting into a good routine.

One of the first things we do each school year is assess our students. Our junior high and high school students completed their standardized assessments during the first week of school, and our elementary students are wrapping up their fall assessments. While testing may not be the most exciting part of the school year, it gives us valuable information about where students are academically, specifically what they are doing well and where they may have opportunities for growth.

As we use this information, some parents may receive communication about interventions or additional academic support. I want to emphasize that this is not a negative thing. All students have areas where they can grow, and intervention is simply a way for us to provide additional support where it can help a student be more successful. It is not a measure of a student's overall intelligence or ability.

In junior high and high school, we changed our bell schedule this year to provide scheduled intervention and enrichment time for all students in reading and math. This allows students to receive additional support or enrichment without being singled out. In the elementary school, parents may also receive communication regarding reading interventions or Title 1 services. These supports are intended to be discreet, positive, and focused on student growth.

We assess students three times each year—fall, winter, and spring. Each assessment is simply a snapshot, but by examining trends and classroom performance, it helps us see whether students are growing and whether the support we provide is working. As always, if you have questions about your child's progress or would like additional resources to support learning at home, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or me. We are all working toward the same goal of helping every student find success and continue to grow.

Clarification on Academic Success

I wanted to provide a little clarification about Academic Success. This is a recent change to our system designed to help students stay up to date with their classes. Over the past couple of years, we have noticed a trend: when junior high and high school students struggle academically, it is often not because they are earning poor grades on the work they complete, but because they are not completing or turning in assignments. Academic Success was created as one way to help address that issue.

The name Academic Success is simply meant to distinguish these sessions from a behavioral after-school session, or what we have traditionally called "detention." That said, both "Afterschool Sessions" and "Detention" are addressed in the same section of our student handbook, so we follow the same

expectations and consequences for Academic Success sessions. Students are expected to attend when assigned. If a student skips a session, the assigned time doubles. If a student skips a second time, the consequence becomes an in-school suspension.

In many ways, this is not a new concept. Many parents will remember being in school and hearing something along the lines of, “If that assignment isn't turned in, I'll see you after school.” We're simply putting a little more structure around that idea. It is also worth noting that students are almost always provided sufficient time during class to complete their assignments. However, that time is not always used as effectively as it could be.

Students are prompted to notify parents when they have Academic Success or detention to arrange transportation if necessary. If the student rides the bus, they are responsible for arranging transportation and serving the time within 24 hours of being assigned the afterschool session.

At the end of the day, the goal of Academic Success is not to punish students. It is to help them develop responsibility, follow through on their commitments, and make sure the time they spend at school remains focused on learning. We want our students to be successful, and sometimes that means giving them a little extra accountability along the way.

Join our

High School Class Dojo

Stay Informed.



One simple app. All the important updates.



SCHOOL UPDATES

Get important announcements and reminders.



CLASSROOM NEWS

See what's happening in your student's classes.



PHOTOS & MOMENTS

Celebrate student success and school events.



STAY CONNECTED

Build a stronger school community together.

Join using our link:

<https://bit.ly/sterlinghsdojo>

Together, we can support every student, every day.





SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET CONNECTED TODAY!!!

GRADE	% OF FAMILIES CONNECTED
6th Grade	94%
7th Grade	60%
8th Grade	41%
9th Grade	58%
10th Grade	50%
11th Grade	38%
12th Grade	38%

WE ARE EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE
 THAT 
STERLING
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IS GOING
GOLD 
THIS FALL!

 **STERLING**

 **ONE NIGHT.
ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE MISSION.**

 **RAISING AWARENESS.
HONORING WARRIORS.
FUNDING HOPE.**

 **SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**

FRIDAY NIGHT GOES GOLD | **FIGHTING CHILDHOOD CANCER TOGETHER** 



THE FOUNDATION PROVIDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO SENIORS WHO QUALIFY AND APPLY. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS TO ASSIST STERLING STUDENTS PURSUING A SECONDARY EDUCATION.

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-2027 VACATION PLANNER



To make your vacation planning a little easier, we've compiled the scheduled school breaks and long weekends for the 2026-2027 school year. We encourage families to plan trips during these breaks whenever possible, so students stay on track and avoid the stress of missing school. Regular and consistent attendance is critical for a student's success!

Don't forget, every Friday students are dismissed at 2:04PM and the last day of school is May 20th!

	SEPTEMBER 5-7 3 DAYS		JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1 3 DAYS
	SEPTEMBER 25-27 3 DAYS		FEBRUARY 12-14 3 DAYS
	OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1 3 DAYS		MARCH 5-8 4 DAYS
	NOVEMBER 7-9 3 DAYS		MARCH 12-14 3 DAYS
	NOVEMBER 25-29 5 DAYS		MARCH 26-29 4 DAYS
	DECEMBER 18-JANUARY 4 18 DAYS		APRIL 9-11 3 DAYS

We Fly With Jet Pride



2026-2027 ACT TEST DATES		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration (Late Fee Required)
September 19, 2026	August 14	September 1
October 17, 2026	September 11	September 29
December 12, 2026	November 6	November 29
February 27, 2027	January 22	February 9
April 10, 2027	March 5	March 23
June 12, 2027	May 7	May 25
July 10, 2027	June 4	June 22



ACTIVITY PASS PRICES

Contact the office or
Brent Heusman.

Adult - \$60
K-12 Student - \$30

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



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-2027 School Calendar

250 Main Street, PO Box 39 Sterling, NE 68443

(p) 402-866-4761 (f) 402-866-4771

www.sterlingjets.org

EVERY FRIDAY: NO PRESCHOOL/PRE-KINDERGARTEN & K-12 EARLY OUT @ 2:04PM

July 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	10-13 Teacher Workdays
						1	12 K-12 Open House
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	17 (K-12) First Day of School
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17 2:04PM Dismissal
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	24 PreK Open House
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	26 (PreK) First Day of School
30	31						

September 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5	7 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
							21 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	24 NO PREK
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	24 2:04PM Dismissal - P/T Conf 2:30-8PM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	25 NO SCHOOL
27	28	29	30				

October 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	30 NO SCHOOL
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
							9 NO SCHOOL - Pioneer Conf. Vocal Clinic
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9 Teacher Workday
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	25-29 Thanksgiving Break
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

December 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
		1	2	3	4	5	18-21 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
							18 Teacher Workday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	23-27 NSAA Moratorium
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

January 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
					1	2	14 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
							4 Teacher Workday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5 First Day of 2nd Semester
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

February 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice (EEC)
							11 NO PREK
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11 2:04PM Dismissal - P/T Conf 2:30-8PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12 NO SCHOOL
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28							

March 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5 NO SCHOOL - State GBB
							8 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12 NO SCHOOL - State BBB
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19 Kindergarten Round Up
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26-29 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
28	29	30	31				

April 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
				1	2	3	9 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
						1	6 (Seniors) Last Day of School
							8 Graduation @ 2PM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13 (PreK) Last Day of School
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20 (K-11) Last Day - 2:04PM Dismissal End of 2nd Semester
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21 Teacher Workday
30	31						

June 2027

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

UPDATED: 4/13/2026

No School PreK-12

First/Last Day of School

Early Out @ 2:04PM

Parent/Teacher Conferences

End of 1st Quarter - October 16, 2026

End of 3rd Quarter - March 11, 2027

SEPTEMBER 2026 MENUS

SEPTEMBER 2026 MENUS				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
	BREAKFAST: Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Egg Patty Sausage LUNCH: Pulled Pork Hash Brown	BREAKFAST: Donut Ham Yogurt LUNCH: Chicken Nuggets Beans	BREAKFAST: Oatmeal Egg Sausage LUNCH: Walking Taco Rice	BREAKFAST: Pop Tart Ham Hash Brown LUNCH: Hamburgers @ the Park!
7	8	9	10	11
	BREAKFAST: Waffle Sticks Egg Patty Sausage LUNCH: Burrito Bowl Rice	BREAKFAST: Burrito Yogurt LUNCH: Meatball Sub	BREAKFAST: Egg Patty Toast Ham LUNCH: Chicken Fried Rice Roll	BREAKFAST: Pancakes Egg Patty Sausage LUNCH: Pizza Cookie
14	15	16	17	18
BREAKFAST: Muffin Ham Egg LUNCH: Chicken Sandwich Fries	BREAKFAST: Egg Bites Sausage Yogurt LUNCH: Chicken Cordon Bleu	BREAKFAST: Omelette Cheese Stick Bacon LUNCH: Pork Chop Roll	BREAKFAST: French Toast Egg Ham LUNCH: Nacho Rice	BREAKFAST: Pop Tart Yogurt Sausage LUNCH: Chili Dog
21	22	23	24	25
	BREAKFAST: Cereal Yogurt Egg Patty LUNCH: Hoagie Pudding	BREAKFAST: Toast Scrambled Eggs Cheese Stick LUNCH: Grilled Chicken Mashed Potatoes	BREAKFAST: Cook's Choice LUNCH: Cook's Choice	
	28	29		
BREAKFAST: Blueberry Pancakes Egg Ham LUNCH: Orange Chicken Rice	BREAKFAST: Oatmeal Egg Patty Sausage LUNCH: Chicken Alfredo Roll	BREAKFAST: Croissant Ham Yogurt LUNCH: Potato Bar Beans		
Breakfast served with Fruit, Milk, Juice		Lunch served with Fruit, Veggie, Salad Bar, Milk		Menus are subject to change.

Breakfast is served with Fruit, Milk, Juice. Lunch served with Fruit, Veggie, Salad Bar. Menu is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1		2	3	4	5
			YLWL Speaker	MS FFA to Neb State Fair		FB @ Parkview Christian - 9AM
				NHS Blood Drive 12-6PM @ CB		Freeman VB Invite - 9AM
				VB @ Freeman (JV/V) 5:30PM		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY	School Pictures - 8AM Yearbook Ad Sales - 8:15AM	FFA Meeting - 7:15AM	Pawnee City VB Triangular (PC/FC) 6/7PM		Elementary Flag FB (Grades 1-6) 10-11 AM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	MUDECAS VB TOURNAMENT @ BEATRICE		HS FFA to Husker Harvest Days	MUDECAS VB @ BEATRICE	FB vs. Riverside - HOME - 7PM Cheer & FB Parents Night	Elementary Flag FB (Grades 1-6) 10-11 AM
	JH FB @ HTRS (Humboldt) - 4PM		JH VB vs. Meridian - HOME - 1PM			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Connected Forever Walk	NO SCHOOL - TEACHER WORKDAY	College Fair (Grades 11-12) @ York	SCC Careers in Ag	EARLY OUT - 2:04PM	NO SCHOOL	Elementary Flag FB (Grades 1-6) 10-11 AM
	Music Fundraiser Begins	VB vs. HTRS (JV/V) HOME - 5PM	JH VB @ Freeman (Adams) - 1:30PM	P/T Conferences from 2:30-8PM	FB @ Meridian - 7PM	Freeman JH VB Tournament - 9AM
	JH FB vs. Dorchester - HOME 4PM					Sandy Creek Quad (WC/Palm/SC) 9AM
	JV FB vs. Dorchester - HOME 6PM					
	School Board Meeting (Budget Workshop) 6:30PM					
	School Board Meeting - 7PM					
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
Elementary VB Tournament 1-6PM	JH VB vs. Johnson Brock - HOME - 2PM	Apply 2 College Event	FFA Land Judging @ Tecumseh NRD	VB @ FCSH (JV/V) 5:30PM	UNO Math Competition	Elementary Flag FB (Grades 1-6) 10-11 AM
Booster Club Meeting - 6PM	JH FB @ Pawnee City - 4:30PM	JH FB & VB Pictures	Pioneer Conference Leadership Summit @ PSC - 9AM		FB vs. HTRS - HOME - 7PM	Harvest of Harmony Parade
SYA Meeting - 7PM	JV FB @ Pawnee City - 6PM	VB vs. Dorchester (JV/V) HOME - 6PM	JH VB @ Lewiston - 4PM			Post Prom Meeting @ CB - 4PM Post Prom Trivia Night @ CB - 6PM
	JCC JV Triangular (JCC/PC) 6:30/7:30PM					

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!

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
250 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 39
STERLING, NE 68443

Phone: (402) 866-4761

Fax: (402) 866-4771

Website: www.sterlingjets.org

SUPERINTENDENT

Riley Armes

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Jacob Davenport

**When issuing checks to the school for various purposes like lunch, computer fees, activity passes, etc., kindly ensure that you write separate checks, as these funds need to be directed to different accounts.
Thank you for your help!**