



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message from Mrs. Dottie Heusman

It's not too late to attend the March 4 Community Engagement Meeting that will be held at the school from 7-8:30 p.m. The community members will be divided into small groups to give feedback on the following questions:

1. As a vested district patron, what are your expectations and priorities for the school district?
2. Identify the challenges facing the community in the next three to five years and how this will affect the school district.
3. Identify what you believe are the most important improvements the district might do to improve and expand district learning facilities and grounds. Ex: Educational learning space, safety/security, site access and parking, space to support student enrollment, core infrastructure and/or maintenance, extracurricular activities and/or programs.

The purpose of this meeting is to help give the Board of Education information about next steps for the school district. The members look forward to the input that is received.

Weather days have been an issue this school year. Due to that, I will be reviewing the instructional hours and instructional minutes during the first part of March to determine when the student's last day of school will be. Final decisions will be made and shared with parents at the end of March. **Keep thinking spring!**

Board of Education News for February 2019

The Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 18 @ 7 p.m. Discussion and action items included:

- Board Member Wirthle reported on the NASB Legislative Conference she attended.
- Board Member Karr reported on the NASB Finance Workshop he attended.
- Board policies 1002, 1040 & 1050 were approved on second reading.
- The 2019-2020 calendar was approved as presented. The first student day of school next year will be Wednesday, August 14.
- Moved to approve paying NASB Dues in the amount of \$3,232. By paying this bill now, the board saves 2%.
- Approved the 2019-2020 contract for Mr. Harrington with a salary increase of 5%, which puts Mr. Harrington's salary within the range of the schools the same size as Sterling and corresponds with the years of experiences he has in comparison to the other schools.
- Appointed committee assignments for the board for the 2019 calendar year.
- Heard first reading on board policy 9320.
- Reviewed upcoming dates including the Community Engagement Meeting to be held on March 4 from 7-8:30 p.m.
- Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 18 @ 7 p.m.
- Reports from staff included information from Mr. Harrington about the teacher evaluation procedures.
- Sterling is the host site for the Pioneer Conference High School Quiz Bowl on Thursday, March 14th starting at 1 p.m. This is always a fun event for our area schools.
- The Elementary students will be doing a Kids Heart Challenge starting on March 5. The goal for this event is to develop healthier heart habits and skills. It is also a fundraiser for the American Heart Association.
- The State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services did radon testing in all buildings in the last month. The results were, "None of the of rooms tested above the EPA's recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L."
- Addie Heusman, Leia Rumsey, Derrick Gossard, Evi Wusk, Angie Bianchi, Scott Harrington and Dottie Heusman have been working on revamping the High Ability Learning Program. The group is in the process of designing criteria for acceptance into the program and then determining what the program will look like.



SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019.
This was marked as a no school day.

From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Harrington

We have a wide range of great events happening for our students this month. Track season has already begun, despite the weather. Their first invite is on March 21st, at the Pioneer Conference Indoor Meet on the Doane University Campus in Crete. Sterling is also hosting the Pioneer Conference High School Quiz Bowl Tournament starting at 1:00 on March 14th. This will be a noon dismissal day for our students.

Missoula Children's Theatre will also be back in Sterling during the week of March 11th-15th. This year's production will be Pinocchio. Any student in grades K-6 can participate. As always they have practices after school each night and will then have two performances on Friday, March 15th at 2:00 and 7:00. We will close March out with our high school Prom on March 30th. This year again we will use Hartman's to host our dinner and dance.

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!**



**Maverick Vaudrin raised \$163.83 for Pennies for Patients!!!
Family members helped contribute to the cause.**

We are very proud of Maverick!

Music Notes by Mr. Derrick Gossard

There have been a lot of new things in the music department during my first year here as the Music Director! Our pep band has committed a lot of time dedicated to our sport teams this year. We were able to add electric and bass guitar thanks to the practice time put in by Diego Sterkel and Sam Agena!

The music department has also been blessed with a generous donation from Erma Hazen in memory of her husband, Shannon, who passed away last year. Thanks to Erma, the music department was able to purchase a new portable sound system and equipment, as well as a new drum set!



We've Got Skills!

It's that time of year again! The SkillsUSA students will soon be en route to two different destinations. The Sterling students are excited and ready to test their knowledge and talents in STEM areas against other students across Nebraska.

The 2018-2019 Sterling SkillsUSA Chapter is currently 77 members strong. So far this year we have participated in several leadership conferences and competitions. These are the following conferences:

Fall Leadership: This conference was held at CCC Hastings. This conference allowed students to experience leadership training while they listen to scholarships and apprenticeship offers from contractors and local businesses. We had 21 Sterling students in attendance.

Mid-America Leadership Conference: This conference was held in Columbus, Nebraska. The mission here was to teach students how to start and run a new SkillsUSA chapter from scratch. They had to elect board members, form committees, and conduct a year's worth of board meetings in three days all while learning to apply Robert's Rules of Orders. We had 4 students in attendance.

Middle Schools West Conference: This competition was mainly the 7th grade class. This event was held in Grand Island, Nebraska. We had 11 Sterling students in attendance. They competed in several events: Mousetrap Distance, Team Engineering Challenge, and Bridge Building.

Middle School East Conference: This event will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on March 1st. We currently have 13 students going and they will be competing in the following: Mousetrap Distance, Metric 500, and Team Engineering Challenge. Please cheer them on!!

Nebraska Leadership & Skills Conference: This event is scheduled for April 11th-13th. We currently have 32 Sterling Students registered. The winners of some events could potentially go to nationals.

We have great students and I am very proud to be their SkillsUSA Advisor. I would also like to thank the parents and the local businesses for supporting the SkillsUSA Chapter at Sterling Public Schools. We could not achieve this without your commitment and support. GO JETS!!!!

Brian C. Helmberger, Skilled and Technical Instructor & SkillsUSA Advisor

COFFEE TALK at SCOTT'S PLACE...

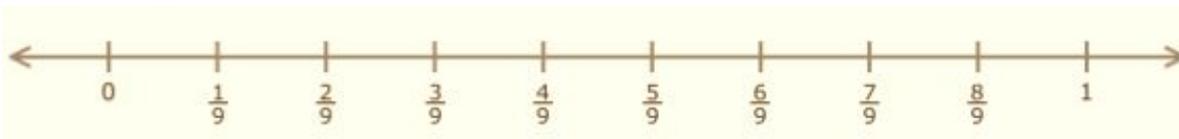
The Sterling FFA Chapter is part of a program through Nebraska Farm Bureau called 'Connecting Chapters.' Throughout this program they have to fulfill certain tasks to get connected with the elementary including, reading and donating a book, plan and lead an Ag in the Classroom Activity, and partner with the local Farm Bureau to lead an ag literacy activity. As a community outreach activity, we invite you to join us at 'Coffee Talk' at Scott's Place on Saturday, March 16 from 7:00am-9:00am to have coffee, donuts, and a chance to socialize with the FFA members.



Are you smarter than a 3rd grader? by Mrs. Bianchi

This month the 3rd grade class was introduced to fractions. While working with fractions the students have learned how to write, add & subtract with like denominators, and they can also identify equivalent fractions. Just this past week we started learning about simplifying or reducing fractions and finding fractions on a number line. Below you can find a preview of some of the problems the students have worked on. Can you figure them out?

1. List three equivalent fractions to $\frac{3}{5}$.
2. Place the fraction $\frac{2}{3}$ on the number line.



3. Add the fraction $\frac{3}{7} + \frac{2}{7}$.
4. Simplify the fraction $\frac{6}{24}$.

2019 Jet Track and Field Outlook

It's that time of year again. Although the weather may not show it yet, we are indeed getting closer and closer to spring. And with spring comes track and field. As the boys and girls head coach, I am excited for another year of watching our athletes train and compete to become the best they can be. I hope the kids are as excited as I am.

This will be my 15th year as the Track Coach at Sterling and I've enjoyed them all. I work with the sprinters, sprint relays, and high jumpers. I am a former Jet myself and I've truly enjoyed teaching and coaching in my hometown.

Dave Vermeer will be back as our Throwers Coach. Dave is a SHS Alumni who has been coaching track at Sterling for over 25 years and has coached a lot of great throwers. He is a past record holder in the shot put at Sterling and continues to have successful throwers year after year.

Jake Davenport is back as our distance / Long-Triple Jump Coach. Coach Davenport ran and jumped at The University of Nebraska - Kearney and has been a great addition to our coaching staff at Sterling over the last few years. His expertise in the long and triple jump, as well as training the distance runners is top notch.

Melissa Boldt is a volunteer coach who has been volunteering her coaching talents at Sterling for over 10 years. She also ran track in college for Kearney. She ran the 400 meter hurdles in college and has been a huge part of our hurdlers success over the years. She is a motivator and very goal oriented.

As you look at the State Qualifiers below, you can see that we have almost all of them returning this year. That is tremendous! We have a great group of Seniors this year and some great talent with the underclassmen to help score points and win meets.

Our goals have always been to win every meet, place in the top 3 at Districts and Conference Meets, and to qualify as many kids as we can for the State Meet.



2018 was another very successful year for the Jet Tracksters. Here is a list of all of our State Meet Participants and the results of the meet:

2018 - Boys

3200m Relay: Spencer McClellan, Trace Dirks, Diego Sterkel, Logan Jasa; 8:42.1, NP

400m Relay: Joel Rathe, Caleb Dolbow, Derek Buss, Tristan Dirks; 45.92, 4th, 5 pts

400m Dash: Tristan Dirks; Prelims- 51.85; Finals- 52.23, 4th, 5 pts

1600m Run: Logan Jasa- 4:43.4, 5th, 4 pts

200m Dash: Tristan Dirks; Prelims- 23.15; Finals- 23.14, 2nd, 8 pts

1600m Relay: Caleb Dolbow, Spencer McClellan, Derek Buss, Tristan Dirks; 3:36.54, 4th, 5 pts

Overall Points: 27

Overall Place: 6th

2018 - Girls

Discus: Emily Agena- 112' 11", 6th, 3 pts

Shot Put: Colby Thies- 32' 5.5", NP

3200m Relay: Carly Wenzl, Malayna Wingert, Nicole Harms, Macie Whalen; 10:12.98, 3rd, 6 pts

800m Run: Macie Whalen- 2:27.05, 4th, 5 pts

100m Dash: Morgan Haner; Prelims- 13.2, NP

400m Dash: Nicole Harms; Prelims- 1:03.37, NP

1600m Run: Macie Whalen- 5:38.3, 7th, 2pts

200m Dash: Nicole Harms; Prelims- 27.55, NP

1600m Relay: Nicole Harms, Carly Wenzl, Malayna Wingert, Macie Whalen; 4:25.26, NP

Overall Points: 16

Overall Place: 13th

I am also thrilled to announce that we have 3 seniors, so far, that will be going on to participate in Track and Field at the next level. Nicole Harms and Tristan Dirks will be going to Doane University and Emily Agena will be going to Concordia University. I'm sure I can speak for the entire Track Staff and Sterling community when I say, "Good Luck to all three of you and thanks for being a Jet".

Please come support our track team this year in any way you can. Our schedule is on the school website: www.sterlingjets.org. Districts is May 8th in Pawnee City and the Nebraska State Meet is May 17th and 18th.

Thanks again and Go Jets!

Luke Boldt

SHOUT OUTS...for the 2018 sports seasons. Thank you!

FOOTBALL:

Crow's Nest Crew: Mark Horstman, Ryan McAuliffe, Josh Pfeiffer, Andy Thies, Terry Thies, & Jake Weyers

Chain Gang: Luke Boldt, Austin Buss, Seth Harms, DeeAnn Richardson, Harold Richardson, & Austin Walters

Ticket Takers: Jennae Fossler, Addie Heusman, Dottie Heusman, Sharon Heusman, Renae Kinney, Barb Lempka, & DeeDee Phillips

BASKETBALL:

Bookkeepers: Rachel Goracke, Jodi Jasa, & Barb Lempka

Clock Operators: Jake Davenport & Addie Heusman

Ticket Takers: Sharon Heusman & DeeDee Phillips



SENIORS...

Here is a recap of tasks you should complete this semester to stay on track.

- ❑ **Complete the financial aid process.** By now, you should have filed your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If you haven't, apply now at fafsa.gov
- ❑ **Be aware of deadlines** to accept financial aid and college admission offers, submit your housing deposit, and register for new student orientation.
- ❑ Watch your grades. If you slack off and get poor grades, your college admission could be revoked.
- ❑ After making your college selection, **notify the other colleges** so they can take you off their mailing list.
- ❑ **Make yourself aware of scholarship deadlines at the college you will be attending.**
- ❑ See [ScholarshipQuest](https://www.educationquest.org/ScholarshipQuest) at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites. More scholarships are added each month.

JUNIORS...

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

- ❑ Review [College Profiles](https://www.collegeprofiles.com) at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the [Midwest Student Exchange Program](https://www.midweststudentexchange.com) to learn about tuition discounts.
- ❑ Once you've narrowed your choices, [schedule campus visits](#). Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session. You get 3 college visit days to use either your junior or senior year.
- ❑ For more tips, see the [Selecting a College section](#) at EducationQuest.org.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE...

This 6-session program helps address the transition from high school to college. The interactive program is designed to enhance parent's ability to support their child's last year in high school and the transition to college. Lessons include Money Matters, College Costs, The Social-Emotional Transition, Adapting and Overcoming Challenges, and Succeeding Academically. We are offering the program to all 10th-12th grade families and hope that each family will be able to attend all 6 sessions by the time their son/daughter plans to leave Sterling High School. Lessons do not have to be taken in order. We may note which age would be best for the lesson, but please know that all 10-12 parents are welcome at any meeting. We plan on offering each lesson once per year. Remaining lessons this year are...

- ❑ Tuesday, March 12: Lesson 2 Money Matters (parent and student)
- ❑ Monday, April 8: Lesson 3 College Costs (parent and student)



MARCH 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 24 | 25 1st Day of Track Practice | 26 | 27 JH GBB @ Nebraska City Lourdes - 4PM | 28 NO SCHOOL Girls State BB @ Lincoln Southwest vs. CWC - 9AM | March 1 JH Skills Competition @ Omaha | 2 |
| 3 | 4 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl @ Freeman 4-6PM Johnson-Brock JH GBB Tournament - 3PM Pioneer Conference Speech @ Tri-County School Board Community Engagement Meeting 7-8:30PM | 5 FFA District CDE @ SCC -Beatrice - 8AM-12PM | 6 5th Grade Field Trip to Peru State College End of 3rd Quarter | 7 NO SCHOOL TEACHER INSERVICE | 8 NO SCHOOL | 9 GIRLS STATE BB TOURNAMENT @ LINCOLN |
| 10 | 11 District Speech @ Auburn JH FB Parent Meeting (Grades 5-7) 7PM in the Music Room | 12 Freeman HS Quiz Bowl - 5PM Transition to College Meeting 6:30-8:30 in the Music Room | 13 | 14 NOON DISMISSAL Pioneer Conference HS Quiz Bowl - 1PM @ Sterling | 15 NO PRESCHOOL Peru State College Math Contest | 16 SCA BB Tournament |
| 17 | 18 NO PRESCHOOL Preschool Evening Activity 5:30-7:30PM 9th Grade Field Trip to Iowa Western & Metro CC Pioneer Conf JH Quiz Bowl @ Johnson-Brock - 1PM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 7PM | 19 MUDECAS Music Contest @ Pawnee City | 20 MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE - PINOCCHIO | 21 Pioneer Indoor HS Track @ Doane-Crete - 9AM | 22 HTRS Music Contest (Grades 6th-8th) State Speech Contest @ UNK | 23 |
| 24 | 25 JH Quiz Bowl @ Freeman - 5PM Spring Pops Concert - 7PM in the Gym | 26 Wilber HS Track Invite - 2PM | 27 MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ FCSH - 10AM | 28 | 29 ESU Quiz Bowl @ Tecumseh - 4PM | 30 Prom @ Hartman's |
| | 31 | | | | | |



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!



MARCH 2019 MENUS

Alternate Entrée offered daily:
Cold Sandwich or Chef Salad

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 1 | |
| Friday | French Toast Bites OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas, Mandarin Oranges, Brownie |
| March 4-8 | |
| Monday | WG Pancake, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/WG Pancake, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza, Corn, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Peaches |
| Tuesday | Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Green Eggs & Ham, Waffles, Applesauce |
| Wednesday | WG Donut OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Sloppy Joes on WG Bun, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Pears |
| Thursday | NO SCHOOL |
| Friday | NO SCHOOL |
| March 11-15 | |
| Monday | Breakfast Burrito OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hamburger on WG Bun, FF and/or Swt. FF, Broccoli w/ Cheese, Pears |
| Tuesday | Yogurt Parfait OR WG Cereal/WG NutriGrain Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Goulash, WG Dinner Roll w/ Jelly, Green Beans, Pineapple Tidbits |
| Wednesday | WG Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Noodle Soup, PB&J Sandwich, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Peaches |
| Thursday | Breakfast Bar OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hot Dog on WG Bun, Baked Beans, Peas, Mandarin Oranges |
| Friday | Omelet OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Cheese Pizza, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Corn, Peaches |
| March 18-22 | |
| Monday | Breakfast Pizza OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pork Patty on WG Bun, Tator Gems and/or Swt. Tator Gems, Green Beans, Applesauce |
| Tuesday | Sausage Gravy over WG Biscuit OR WG Cereal/WG Biscuit, Fruit/Juice, Milk Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Pineapple Tidbits, Sugar Cookie |
| Wednesday | Omelet, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Salisbury Steak, Breadstick, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Mandarin Oranges |
| Thursday | Breakfast Tornado, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Tacos, Celery w/ PB, Corn, Peaches |
| Friday | Oatmeal OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Fish Nuggets, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Pears |
| March 25-29 | |
| Monday | Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chili Soup, WG Cinnamon Roll, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Applesauce |
| Tuesday | Apple or Cherry Frudel, Granola Bar OR WG Cereal/Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Italian Dunkers, Green Beans, Strawberry Cups, Jell-O |
| Wednesday | WG Donut OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Mini Corn Dogs, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Baked Beans, Mandarin Oranges |
| Thursday | Belgian Waffle Sticks, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Goulash, WG Dinner Roll w/ Jelly, Green Beans, Pineapple Tidbits |
| Friday | Yogurt Parfait, Granola Bar OR WG Cereal/Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Mac & Cheese, WG Dinner Roll w/ Jelly, Corn, Pears |

Menus are subject to change without notice.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A variety of fruits and vegetables are offered with every meal.
Milk served with every meal.



Sterling Public Schools

| August 2019 | | | | | | |
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| September 2019 | | | | | | |
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| December 2019 | | | | | | |
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| January 2020 | | | | | | |
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| | No School |
| | Early Out @ 1:37PM |
| | Noon Dismissal |
| | No School PreK |
| | First & Last Day of School |
| | Parent Teacher Conferences |
| | Late Start @ 10AM |

| 2019-2020 School Calendar | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 250 Main Street P.O. Box 39 | |
| Sterling, NE 68443 | |
| (p)402-866-4761 (f)402-866-4771 | |
| AUGUST | |
| 12,13 | Teacher Inservice Days |
| 14 | K-12 1st Day of School-1:37 Dismissal |
| 16 | No School-Teacher Inservice |
| 21 | PreK 1st Day of School |
| SEPTEMBER | |
| 2 | No School-Labor Day |
| 13 | No PreK |
| 26 | P/T Conf. 2:30-8PM-1:37 Dismissal |
| 26 | No PreK |
| 27 | No School |
| OCTOBER | |
| 9 | 1:37 Dismissal |
| 11 | No PreK-End of 1st Quarter |
| 18 | No School |
| 25 | No PreK |
| NOVEMBER | |
| 6 | No PreK |
| 6 | 1:37 Dismissal |
| 27-29 | No School-Thanksgiving Break |
| DECEMBER | |
| 11 | 1:37 Dismissal |
| 11 | No PreK |
| 20 | End of 2nd Quarter-Full Day |
| Dec 23-31 | No School-Christmas Break |
| JANUARY | |
| Jan 1-3 | No School-Christmas Break |
| 6 | 1st Day of 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester |
| 6 | Late Start 10AM |
| 22 | No PreK |
| 22 | 1:37 Dismissal |
| FEBRUARY | |
| 13 | P/T Conf. 2:30-8PM-1:37 Dismissal |
| 13 | No PreK |
| 14 | No School-Teacher Inservice |
| 17 | No School |
| MARCH | |
| 12 | No School-Teacher Inservice |
| 13 | No School-End of 3rd Quarter |
| 27 | No PreK |
| APRIL | |
| 1 | No School-MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl |
| 10-13 | No School-Easter Break |
| MAY | |
| 1 | No PreK |
| 9 | Graduation |
| 14 | Last Day for PreK-PreK Graduation |
| 21 | NOON Dismissal-End of 4th Quarter |
| 21 | Teachers Last Day |

CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

snow days if needed:
May: 21 (all day), 22, & 26

| February 2020 | | | | | | |
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| March 2020 | | | | | | |
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| May 2020 | | | | | | |
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| June 2020 | | | | | | |
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| July 2020 | | | | | | |
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| Total Student Days | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Quarter | 40 days |
| 2nd Quarter | 46 days |
| 3rd Quarter | 46 days |
| 4th Quarter | 45.5 days |
| Total Student Days - | 177.5 |
| Total Teacher Days - | 185 |



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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STERLING, NE 68443

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Fax: (402) 866-4771

Website: www.sterlingjets.org

SUPERINTENDENT

Dottie Heusman

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Scott Harrington

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Brent Heusman

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Addie Heusman



Sterling Public Schools Community
Engagement Meeting
Monday, March 4 @ 7-8:30PM
Please contact Superintendent Heusman if
you'd like to attend.

Parents: Weather permitting, elementary
students will be going outside for recess on days
when the temperature and wind chill are above 20
degrees. Please help your child dress appropriately
with layers as needed. Gloves or mittens, scarves,
boots, hats, etc. should be sent to school each day.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.