

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD SPRING NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

The School District of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.



From the Superintendent:

Another year is nearly over with summer just around the corner. We've had another great year at the School District of Seward. Our students continue to perform very well on our NeSA, NWEA and ACT assessments, yet we will continue to strive for improvements. After 30 years in education and 18 as a school superintendent, I would like to thank everyone in our school district (students, parents, staff, board members, and patrons) for a great 10 years in Seward for my family and I. We will be moving in June as I accepted the ESU 11 administrator's position in Holdrege, NE. I leave with feelings of pride with what has been accomplished over these past 10 years. Our school district is very fortunate to have the support our communities and patrons provide. Our staff members are second to none in my opinion. We have implemented numerous changes during my tenure in Seward and the teachers, administrators, and staff members are the people who deserve the most thanks. The time it takes to make meaningful change is significant and these people are the best. I am going to miss those interactions with such a progressive minded group of educators, but rest assured this school district is in great hands. Best of luck to the Bluejays!

School Calendars



The Last Day of School 2016-17:

The last day of school for students will be on Friday, May 19, 2017. School will dismiss at 11:30 AM.

2017-2018 School Calendar:

The 2017-18 School Calendar has been approved by the school board and is enclosed in this Newsletter. The first day of school for students will be August 16, 2017.

Thank You Retirees



Mrs. Adamek

Mrs. Menze

Thank you to teacher retirees Jeanette Adamek and Sherry Menze. You have both given many years of dedicated service to the students at Seward Elementary! We wish you the very best in your retirement.

Special Education Records



Seward Public Schools Special Education Department is preparing to retire files of students who are now 26 years of age and older. If you think you may have a file and are interested in obtaining it please call Connie Biaggio, Director of Special Services at (402) 643-2968 before 5/22/17. We will begin shredding files on 5/26/17.

YOUTH CENTER BUS STOP

During the April 10, 2017 school board study session the school board discussed the youth center bus stop. There were a number of concerns discussed about safety, interference with new businesses, cost, a bus driver shortage, and students arriving well before the bus stop is supervised. After that discussion it was decided to put the item on the May 8, 2017 school board meeting agenda to formally take action on whether or not the school district would continue to provide that bus stop for the 2017-18 school year. Below are the points presented to the school board and the public that evening during the school board meeting.

Thoughts about discontinuing the Seward Youth Center Bus Stop for 2017-18:

Financial - We estimate that it costs \$20,000 per year for bus driver pay, supervision, and mileage.

Bus Driver Shortage - There have been several instances over the past two years when we weren't sure we would have enough bus drivers to run the country routes we are required by state law to provide, let alone the shuttle routes we are not required to provide. We've been diligent in trying to hire new drivers, but we still have a shortage.

Safety - We have parents dropping off students unsupervised at the bus stop at 7:00 in the morning even when the temps are in the teens. These students stand, or play, near the highway and out in the street until the supervisor arrives at 7:25. Then they are at least supervised until 7:40 when the bus arrives. We have more than 30 students load in the morning and over 60 unload in the afternoon. That takes time and we end up with people waiting to get into area businesses and/or back up traffic to the highway. We have people run our bus stop arms on a regular basis at this drop off. Many must think the rules don't apply in town. We've also had numerous complaints over the years about students crossing highway 34 after getting off the

buses in the afternoon without even looking for traffic, etc. We've had a couple students hit by vehicles crossing that road.

Discipline – Students misbehaving on the bus or at the bus stop—especially when not supervised. We also have students/parents accusing supervisors of inappropriately handling discipline. When you have 30-60 students of all ages in an unstructured environment like this you are going to have issues.

Reasons to keep the bus stop:

Obviously it is more of a convenience for parents, but parents in other parts of Seward don't have a bus stop.

We have about 10 students a day go from the bus to the Youth Center (out of 60+ riders), and we have 5-10 go to the public library on some of the days – zero on other days.

We have been in communication with the Youth Center for a couple years now about moving the Youth Center to the new middle school property. If we allow them space in the middle school during the transition to hold their youth center activities, then we think they could sell their current building and work on constructing a new facility on or near the middle school site. That would give them access to green spaces (outside) that they haven't had for several years, and provide them a much safer environment. All middle school students would have immediate access to that facility as soon as school is out or after sports practices. This would certainly benefit our middle school students.

Following the above discussion on this agenda item the school board voted to cease the Youth Center bus stop for the 2017-18 school year—the motion passed 5-1.

Immunizations



There were no immunization changes for 2017-2018. See the requirements for the various grades enclosed with this newsletter.

Below is information regarding Blue Valley Community Action Partnership immunization clinics available in Seward once each month. There will be a charge to your health insurance for these immunizations.

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
May 16, June 20, July 18 and August 15

Where: Faith Lutheran Church, 1245 North 2nd St., Seward

They accept most commercial insurance companies along with **all** Medicaid plans & uninsured clients. Blue Valley will verify your policy prior to receiving any vaccines.

All clients must make an appointment and bring in their current insurance or Medicaid card, along with their Managed Care insurance card to all visits. Please have all insurance information ready when making an appointment.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

2017-2018 Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

Updated 5/2015

2017-2018 CALENDAR

SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST

- 9 New Teacher Work Day
- 10 New Teacher Orientation
- 11,14,15 Professional Development Days
- 14 Student Orientation/Open House: Elementary 5:00-6:30,
Middle 6:00-7:30 & High School 7:00-8:30 PM
- 16 First Student Day - Dismiss 1:30

SEPTEMBER

- 4 No School - Labor Day
- 18 Professional Development Day - No Students

OCTOBER

- 16 Elementary Planning Day--No Elem. Students
- 19 End of 1st Quarter - 45 Days
- 20 No School--Fall Break
- 23 Professional Development Day - No Students

NOVEMBER

- 22 Professional Development for staff until 2:15. No Students.
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER

- 22 End 2nd Quarter - 41 Days -- 1:30 Dismissal
- 23-27 NSAA Competition Moratorium
- 23-31 Winter Vacation

JANUARY

- 1-4 Winter Vacation
- 4 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 5 School Resumes
- 26 No Elementary School

FEBRUARY

- 16 No School
- 19 Professional Development Day - No Students

MARCH

- 5 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 9 No School Spring Break
- 12 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 16 End of 3rd Quarter - 47 Days
- 30 Spring Break

APRIL

- 2 No School--Spring Break
- 27 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students

MAY

- 13 Graduation
- 17 Last Day Scheduled (subject to change) - 11:30 Dismissal
- End of 4th Quarter - 42 Days
- 18 Professional Development Day
- 28 Memorial Day



AUGUST 2017 SEPTEMBER 2017

AUGUST 2017							SEPTEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2017 NOVEMBER 2017

OCTOBER 2017							NOVEMBER 2017							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER 2017 JANUARY 2018

DECEMBER 2017							JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

FEBRUARY 2018 MARCH 2018

FEBRUARY 2018							MARCH 2018							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	3					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2018 MAY 2018

APRIL 2018							MAY 2018								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
29	30						27	28	29	30	31				

- End of Quarter
- ◆ Professional Development - No Students
- No School/No Students
- No Elementary School

Visit the school district website for calendar event information at: www.sewardpublicschools.org

Parent-Teacher Conferences

High School - 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Tues., Sept 5 Tues., Nov. 14
Mon., Jan. 29 Tues., April 10

Middle School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM
Mon., Sept. 25- Grades 5-8
Thurs., Sept. 28- Grade 5 Only
Tues., Feb. 13 - Grades 6-8

Elementary School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM
Tues., Oct. 17 Thur., Oct. 19
Mon., March 5 Tues., March 6

PARENTS - PLEASE READ BELOW

* Snow Days will be added back into the calendar. The last day of school is determined by the number of snow days used. The last scheduled day of school is May 17. The last day may change depending upon how many scheduled days are canceled. If one snow day is used it would be May 18, two snow days = May 21, and so on. Other than rare instances, we will try to complete school by Memorial Day, but in order to do so, other calendar changes could be necessary.