

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD SPRING NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.



From the Superintendent:

The end of the 2018-2019 school year is fast approaching and it is hard to believe how quickly each school year goes. This has been a long winter and a tough early spring with the floods across our district and state. I know that many of the country roads may not be open until the end of the summer. With so many alternate routes having to be used this spring I want to thank the families that live in the country for their patience, as we had to utilize alternate pick-up and drop-off locations. It is refreshing to see the trees in bloom and grass turning green, which means that summer is around the corner.

As I reflect on the 2018-2019 school year there is a lot to celebrate! Seward Public Schools was one of two school districts in Class A and B to receive the highest state rating of Excellent! This great honor would not be possible without the high levels of teaching and learning and the support of parents/guardians and the community. During the winter activity season our girls basketball team made it to state, we had five wrestlers qualify for state with Carson Core placing 6th, and our boys basketball team ended their season at 19-6, and our FFA and Skills USA performed extremely well in their state competitions. The band and music program had a strong showing at districts with many superior ratings. Our Quiz Bowl was conference champions and all of our spring sports are competing well as they prepare for districts and state competitions.

As senior students begin to plan graduation parties and get ready for their big day on Sunday, May 12 there is a lot to celebrate with the class of 2019. This class has been great leaders at Seward High School over the last four years from their performances in extra curricular activities to their hard work in the classroom. I look forward to seeing the great things these students will continue to accomplish as they enter the working force, colleges, and the military. Thank you seniors for all that you have done for SPS!



School Calendars

The Last Day of School 2018-19:

The last day of school for students will be on Thursday, May 23, 2019. School will dismiss at 11:30 AM.

2019-2020 School Calendar:

The 2019-20 School Calendar has been approved by the school board and is enclosed in this Newsletter. The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, August 14 with a 1:30 dismissal.

Thank You Retirees

We have a large number of staff members who have given a lot to Seward Public Schools over their careers. This group of retirees has given 291 years of service to SPS and 320 years to education. Their dedication and service to students will be missed! We wish them all the best of luck as they start the next chapter in their lives.



Pat Brauer- Mrs. Brauer has taught English at Seward High School for 44 years. Pat helped with coaching earlier in her career and is currently the National Honor Society Sponsor at Seward High School.



Steve Wignall – Mr. Wignall has been a science teacher at Seward High School for 34 years. Mr. Wignall also taught advanced weight training and helped coach football earlier in his career. Mr. Wignall also taught for three years before coming to Seward to end his career with 37 years in education.



Kyle Hinkel- Mrs. Hinkel has been a math teacher at Seward High School for 22 years. She also was a cheerleading sponsor for one year. Mrs. Hinkel was in the military for a period of time and also taught seven years in another district before coming to Seward.



Steven Pinkall- Mr. Pinkall has been a science teacher at Seward High School for 28 years. In those years he has also helped coach cross country, track, and volleyball. Mr. Pinkall taught for four years in a previous district before coming to Seward High School.



Deb Snell- Mrs. Snell has taught at Seward Elementary for 19 years. Mrs. Snell taught fourth and third grade while at Seward Elementary. Mrs. Snell had 17 years of service before coming to Seward Elementary and will end her career with 36 years of teaching.



Mary Frisbie- Mrs. Frisbie has been at Seward Elementary for 31 years. Mrs. Frisbie has taught first grade for most of her career but also taught second grade earlier in her career. Mrs. Frisbie had four years in a previous district to end her career with 35 years of service to education.



Leslie Stratton- Mrs. Stratton has been the music teacher at Seward High School for 24 years. In that time frame she has been an assistant volleyball coach, musical director, helped with marching band, and Key Club sponsor. Mrs. Stratton had seven years of teaching experience before coming to Seward High School to end her career with 31 years of teaching.



Ruth Wogahn- Mrs. Wogahn has been a night custodian for 39 years at Seward Elementary. She will be missed at Seward Elementary.



Kathy McLaughlin- Mrs. McLaughlin has been an administrative assistant for 16 years at Seward Public Schools. She has worked in the special education and curriculum offices and most recently at the district office.



Pam McConnell- Mrs. McConnell has served as the accompanist for Seward High School for 21 years. She has played for countless practices, musicals and performances over her 21 years.



Richard Horton- Mr. Horton has served as an activity bus driver for 14 years. Mr. Horton has also been the lead trainer for the new charter bus. His bus driving expertise along with his jokes will be missed.

Thank you staff that are leaving Seward Public Schools:

Donna Maly- Middle School Resource Teacher

Kate Jungck- 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Sarah Morton- High School Agriscience Teacher

Strategic Planning Update

Strategic Planning has been a topic in other newsletters from this school year. Strategic planning is a process that guides our district to reflect on what we have been and what we hope to be. The process also allows us to engage a number of people from our community to get feedback and share aspirations for our school district. We have a number of plans that will guide our district over the next 5 years. Below you will find our objectives or our priority areas for this strategic plan that was approved by the board at the March board meeting. A full copy of our strategic plan can be found on the district website.

1. Well-Being: Each student will receive needed support that ensures physical, mental, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment.
2. Culture and Communication: Each student will be valued, known, safe, and supported by highly trained and caring staff members resulting in increased student growth.
3. Instruction: Each student, on a broad array of academic indicators that target their individual needs, will show continuous improvement and perform at the highest levels when compared to state and national performance.
4. Community: Each student will aspire toward personal excellence and responsible citizenship with community and family support.

Health Education Curriculum Update



Seward Public Schools implement a seven-year curriculum cycle for all of our curricular areas. This year the area that we evaluated was PE and Health Education. As part of the curriculum review, we analyze new state and national standards as well as our local expectations to develop a curriculum guide for each course. Once this is in place we identify the resources that are necessary to teach the standards. We will be recommending new health education materials to the Board of Education that includes more information about mental health, bullying, cyberbullying and making safe choices in addition to traditional health topics. The PE department does not have textbooks, but we will consider adding equipment such as spin bikes, cardio machines, digital weightlifting programs, and additional weight equipment. The seven-year cycle allows our district the opportunity to stay current regarding current practices in education.

Chromebooks

The first year with the new Chromebooks has gone extremely well at the high school. The Chromebook Cases will be replaced for all students starting in the fall from the company since they have not held up like they should have.

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 May 24, 2019. We will begin shredding files on June 3, 2019




The Seward Public Schools Wellness Committee is pleased to feature a world renowned leader in performance nutrition at the Seward High School Auditorium on **May 14th at 6:30PM**. Dave Ellis and his performance nutrition team will be sharing their insight from fueling all of Nebraska's athletes and how we can use this information at the high school level.

Mr. Ellis will focus on the following objectives:


*Explore how food impacts performance.


*Discuss strategies/ideas on how to fuel the student athlete during the season, during the off-season and leading up to the day of athletic competitions.

All athletes and parents of athletes should plan on attending.

IT'S TIME TO HEAD... 

BACK TO SCHOOL

DON'T WAIT... 

VACCINATE! 

IS YOUR FAMILY UP-TO-DATE ON IMMUNIZATIONS?

Kindergartners and other children enrolling in a Nebraska schools must provide schools with an official Immunization Record showing that the child has received the required number of doses of:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTap)
- Polio (IPV)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Students entering 7th Grade must be vaccinated with the following:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal (Meningitis ACWY)
- 11-12year olds are also recommended to receive Gardasil (HPV) vaccine.

Students entering college are recommended the following:

- Bexsero (Meningitis B)
- Gardasil (HPV9)

Flu vaccine is recommended annually to anyone 6 months and older

Low or no cost immunizations clinics are available for insured and uninsured children! For clinic information or a current immunization record call: **Blue Valley Immunizations.**
(402)826-2141x3 or Spanish: (402)641-1799

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

2019-2020 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

2019-2020 CALENDAR

SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST

- 7 New Teacher Orientation
- 8 New Teacher Work Day
- 9,12,13 Professional Development Days
- 12 Student Orientation/Open House: Elementary 5:00-6:30,
Middle 6:00-7:30 & High School 7:00-8:30 PM
- 14 First Student Day - Dismiss 1:30

SEPTEMBER

- 2 No School - Labor Day
- 16 Professional Development Day - No Students

OCTOBER

- 11 Elementary Planning Day--No Elem. Students
- 17 End of 1st Quarter - 45 Days
- 18 No School--Fall Break
- 21 Professional Development Day - No Students

NOVEMBER

- 27 Professional Development for staff until 2:15. No Students.
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

- 1-3 Winter Vacation
- 3 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 6 School Resumes
- 24 No Elementary School

FEBRUARY

- 14 No School
- 17 Professional Development Day - No Students

MARCH

- 2 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 6 No School Spring Break
- 9 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 13 End of 3rd Quarter - 46 Days

APRIL

- 10,13 No School--Spring Break

MAY

- 4 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 10 Graduation
- 15 Last Day Scheduled (subject to change) - 11:30 Dismissal
- End of 4th Quarter - 43 Days
- 18 Professional Development Day
- 25 Memorial Day



AUGUST 2019							SEPTEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

OCTOBER 2019							NOVEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4					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

DECEMBER 2019							JANUARY 2020						
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	31	

FEBRUARY 2020							MARCH 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				

APRIL 2020							MAY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3					1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	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 3 Tues., Nov. 12
 Mon., Jan. 27 Tues., April 7

Middle School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM
 Mon., Sept. 23 - Grades 5-8
 Thurs., Sept. 26 - Grade 5 Only
 Tues., Feb. 11 - Grades 6-8

Elementary School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM
 Tues., Oct. 15 Thur., Oct. 17
 Mon., March 2 Tues., March 3

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 15. 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 19, 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.