

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD NEWSLETTER

August, 2019



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.

Welcome from the Superintendent, Dr. Fields

It is hard to believe that the start of school is around the corner and with the cooler weather last week it felt more like fall than summer. Seward Public Schools continues to be a model for excellence in student learning. We were recognized last December as one of two districts in class A and B to receive the highest rating of “Excellent” by the Nebraska Department of Education. Seward Public schools also got a glowing review from an external team last spring through our accreditation visit. These great accomplishments would not be possible without our great students, staff, and the support of our parents and community.

This year my focus for the staff is how will we “Come Together” for the success of our students. It is imperative that staff, parents, and community work together to ensure our students reach their highest aspirations. Just like the community comes together to have one of the largest Fourth of July celebrations in Nebraska, this same mentality is necessary with our school community. Please don’t hesitate to join the booster club, your schools PTO or get involved with other volunteer work this school year.

With the support of the board of education it has been a busy summer with projects. I know that students and parents will be excited to see these new improvements throughout the district. The old high school gym now looks like a new gym with new bleachers, new paint, and the floor completely redone with new graphics. Through the support of the booster club the old gym also received new scoreboards. The high school English hallway got a new coat of paint and new carpet. The high school industrial technology space was redone with the support of Hughes Brother and Tenneco. We are also working on replacing interior doors at the high school through a phased process. District-wide we will be installing a door access system to continue to improve the safety of our students and staff. Concrete work and resurfacing of parking lots were completed where needed. A new storage building at the football field and a Two-bus bay addition to the bus garage is also scheduled to be completed this fall. This proactive approach to addressing maintenance needs is done through a comprehensive maintenance plan that was developed by the board of education and administration.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and I can’t wait for another great school year at Seward Public Schools. Please do not hesitate to call the schools or district office for any questions you may have.

New Teachers and Staff Members



This year we welcome eleven new teachers to our school district. We have numerous new classified staff additions, but we are still in the process of filling some of those positions. If you have any interest please pick up an application at the district office for bus drivers or custodian positions.

At the high school Erica Crouch will be the new 10th grade English teacher, Ashlee Rickert will be the new 12th grade English teacher, Ben Rickert will be the new high school music teacher, Laura Goracke will be the new Physical Science Teacher, Jeremy Fries will be the new Algebra II teacher, Aaron Blersch will be the new Algebra teacher, and Emilia Brozek will be the new agricultural teacher at the high school/middle school. Audrey Ahrens will be the new 8th grade English teacher, and Lori Voss will be the new special education teacher at the middle school. At the elementary, Jamie Moore and DeAnn Warren will be the new third grade teachers. We have also added the following new classified staff members. Jessie Burrows will be the new administrative assistant for Dr. Dominy and Mrs. Biaggio. Christal Fehlhafer and Amy Kearney will be new para professionals at the middle school and Kelly Jarzynka is a new para professional at the elementary school. Jenny Krause will be a new para professional at the high school and Barbara Knox and Lori Stecker will be the new high school piano accompanists.

Student Handbooks

Communicating with the public is an important part of what we do in the School District of Seward. In an effort to save paper, we will not send home paper copies of our high school and middle school handbooks; however, parents and students should read the handbooks on our school website at <http://www.sewardpublicschools.org> (the handbooks are located under the “For Parents” section).

High school and middle school students will be given signature pages to take home for students and parents/guardians to sign stating that they have gone online and read the handbook. Those forms will then need to be returned to the school. There will also be a place on the form for parents to indicate that they do not have access to the internet or would prefer a hard copy of the handbook. We will send home a printed copy for any parents requesting one.

The elementary school handbook will be available online, but we will be sending home hard copies with all elementary students as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Chromebook Summer Distribution Plan

Chromebook distribution this year will take place on the dates indicated below. Students in grades 9-12 can pick up their Chromebook in the high school library. *Students will need to come with a signed parent/student handbook receipt as well as an Chromebook User Agreement.* Both have been included in this newsletter for your convenience. The ([2019-2020 SHS Handbook can be found online at www.sewardpublicschools.org or www2.connectseward.org/edu/shs/index.html](#))

9th/12th Grade Chromebook Checkout times

Thursday, August 8th: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday, August 9th: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday, August 12th: 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

New Physical Education and Health Curriculum



Seward Public Schools is committed to having the best resources for our students and teachers. To keep our materials relevant and tied to Nebraska and National standards, we implement a 7-year curriculum cycle. This year our Health and PE curriculum was up for revision. A team of teachers and administrators with feedback from the Wellness Committee came together to examine state, national, and local standards for our Health and PE classes. Our teachers then identified the resources that can best help them meet these standards for each individual class. At the Elementary level, our school counselor will be using materials from McGraw-Hill to teach lessons on physical and mental health. In the Middle School, we will also be using McGraw-Hill products to teach targeted units on mental and physical health during our Family and Consumer Science class. The High School will use Glencoe Health as a resource to teach the Nebraska standards in Health class. Our PE teachers have been busy this summer revising units and integrating new standards into our curriculum guides. Students will get additional opportunities from obstacle courses at the elementary to spin bikes at the High School.

Did you know that you can pay for your child's lunch online?

Seward Public Schools has contracted with E-Funds for a second year to provide the service of online cafeteria payments. For those of you who have used E-Funds in the past, the interface has changed but the process is still the same for funding your account. For those of you who are new to E-Funds, please click the link below to register, all you will need is your student's ID number, please feel free to contact your child's school for this number if your child does not know their number. To access this link from our website, please go to Quick Links and click on E-Funds Log-in.
<https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/56180>

Bluejay Alerts



We are currently using a notification system to notify enrollees in the event of an emergency, school closing, and event cancellations.

Our alert system pulls contact information of parents from PowerSchool, our student management software, so if we have the correct information in PowerSchool, you will automatically receive notices.

If you have questions or are having issues with the system, you may send email to ticket@sewardschools.org.

Hot Lunch and Breakfast Program

All elementary, middle, and high school hot lunches will be served beginning Wednesday, August 14th. Breakfast at the elementary and middle school will start on Wednesday, August 14th. The cost of breakfast and lunches for the 2019-2020 school year are:



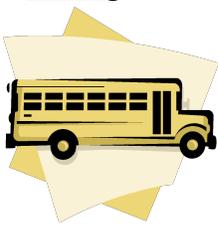
	Daily
K-4 Lunch	\$2.70
5-12 Lunch	\$2.85
K-8 Breakfast	\$1.80
Milk	\$0.30

Free and Reduced price meal application forms will be sent home with students the first day of school on August 14th. If you wish to apply for free or reduced priced meals, please fill out the application and return it to the school. Please follow the directions and fill out the application as accurately as possible. Accurate and complete applications will speed up the determination process.

Sex Offender List

The link to the sex offender list for Seward and Butler counties can be found at <https://sor.nebraska.gov/> This is the most update list and can be referenced at anytime for your area.

Busing



Seward Public Schools has numerous bus routes traveling many miles each day. We do what we can to ensure that students do not ride an excessive amount of time, yet, we know some students are going to spend a good deal of time on the bus each day. We try to do the best we can with the limited resources that we have available, and we appreciate the cooperativeness of the parents and students.

COMMUNICATION is an important aspect of our transportation program. It is important for us to be notified of any changes. **If your child or children regularly ride the bus and for some reason do not plan to on any given day, please call ahead and let us know of the change.** In the morning you may call the bus garage after 6:30 AM at (402) 643-6069 or contact the route driver before their route starts. For changes in the afternoon route you may either call the bus garage, the route driver, the district office at (402) 643-2941, or your child's school office: Elementary School (402) 643-2968, Middle School (402) 643-2986, or High School (402) 643-2988. If we do not answer the phone, keep trying—other people may be calling, and we might be on the other line. Parents may also send a written note in advance to the bus driver or the school

office describing the bus route changes.

Bus routes for this school year will soon be scheduled, and bus drivers will be contacting parents to let them know times for the morning and afternoon routes. If you plan to ride the bus and do not receive a phone call from a bus driver by August 9th, please call us and make sure we have you placed on a route. Also, if you are new to the district, or if you have changed addresses, please call and let us know where you live and phone numbers where you can be reached so we can get you on a route.

Bus evacuation drills will be conducted once per semester for all students.

SHUTTLE BUSING will be provided for students to shuttle back and forth between public school buildings before and after school. The schedule is included in the newsletter.

Pre-Registration Information

Kindergarten: Children must have reached the age of five years on or before July 31st to be enrolled in kindergarten. **Birth certificates and immunization records are required for registration for all new students. Students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring from out of state must have a visual evaluation. Students will not be allowed to begin school without these records.**

K-12 students who did not attend Seward Public Schools last year should register in the principal's office starting August 1st. Each kindergarten student, 7th grade student, and students moving into Seward Public School District from out of state, must have a physical before the start of school. Starting on August 1st, all school offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to answer any questions.

Grades K-4

Elementary School
200 East Pinewood
402-643-2968

Grades 5-8

Middle School
2401 Karol Kay Blvd.
402-643-2986

Grades 9-12

High School
532 Northern Heights
402-643-2988

Elementary Open House



Seward Elementary “Open House” will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 12th. Kindergarten families and families new to Seward Elementary are invited to attend open house from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to meet teachers and other staff members and visit their classrooms. Parents may also bring in meal money, immunization records, vision evaluations, and physicals if you have not already done so.

You may also bring school supplies to open house. Marty Telecky, busing supervisor, will also be present to answer any busing questions parents might have.

School Building Information

Regular School Hours:

Seward Elementary School 8:15 a.m. to 3:17 p.m.

Seward Middle School 8:05 a.m. to 3:23 p.m.

Seward High School 8:15 a.m. to 3:37 p.m.

Phone Numbers:

District Office – 643-2941	Bus Garage – 643-6069	Elementary – 643-2968
Middle School – 643-2986	High School – 643-2988	Maintenance – 643-2664

Middle School Open House

Seward Middle School is having an open house for students and parents this year on Monday, August 12th. See the schedule below:

6:00-6:30 p.m. – 5th Graders and any new students at SMS

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Returning 6-8 Graders



Ninth Grade/New Student Orientation

Seward High School will be hosting a freshman and new student orientation on Monday, August 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the new theater and may visit different clubs/organizations in the new gym starting at 6:15 pm. Parents and students will have an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers, find lockers, receive their Chromebook, and become acclimated with the building. Information will also be provided regarding schedules, school policies, college planning, activity tickets, the automated lunch program, school organizations, and other relevant school information. We encourage parents to come prepared to put money in your student’s lunch account and to pay for activity tickets before school starts in order to avoid the rush on the first few days of school. This should be an exciting night to continue the journey of transitioning to high school!



Athletic Practices

Varsity football, softball, cross-country, volleyball and girls golf practices will begin on Monday, August 12th. All middle school activities will start after school starts. Each student in grades 7-12 must have a physical in order to participate in practice. Please contact the high school office at (402) 643-2988 for any high school athletic questions.

Student Surveys

From time to time our school district works with agencies to educate our children about the consequences of risky behaviors such as alcohol and illegal drug use. In an effort to determine how often our students engage in risky behaviors, we aid these agencies in conducting surveys. The data we gather from these surveys is confidential and individuals cannot be identified. We can use the group data to apply for grant dollars to help educate our students.

If you prefer that your children do not participate in these, or similar, surveys, please inform their principal, in writing, of your objection.

Save the Date

The Second Annual Bluejay Bash will be held at the Agriculture Pavilion on Friday, November 22, starting at 6:00 PM with dinner being served at 7:00 PM along with silent and live auction. This great event that will be sponsored by the Seward Booster Club as a fundraiser to help pay for renovations in the high school middle lobby.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Seward Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, or based on such protected classes, in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having information or inquiries regarding any such discrimination is directed to contact Superintendent Josh Fields, in writing at 410 South Street, Seward, NE 68434 or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599, regarding complaints of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability as well as complaints concerning the denial of access or other discrimination against Boy Scouts or other youth groups.

Babies Can't Wait!

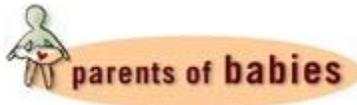
An Important Message to All

If you Suspect Something is Wrong...Early Intervention Can Help

If you suspect that your child isn't developing as he/she should, it's important to get another opinion as soon as possible to see if a problem really does exist. You can turn to a variety of places for help: doctors, health clinics, school districts, and community agencies.

While some professionals may believe that a child will outgrow a problem, it's better to provide help early to make sure that the child has a better chance of success. Many children do not "outgrow" a problem - they may need extra help called early intervention.

Your school and the ESU #6 Preschool Interagency Coordinating Council have a service called Child Find designed to identify children (birth to age 3) who may be at risk for learning and could benefit from special services. Children who display trouble with learning, moving, playing, hearing, seeing, and talking may qualify to receive free assistance. All children develop at different rates.



If your child is found eligible for services, an Individual Family Service Plan will be developed by you, the parent, and the people who will help you meet your child's special needs. The program will build on your child's strengths and improve areas of weakness. The program will provide support, encouragement, and assistance for you in working with your child.

Make the call that really counts. A professional will be happy to discuss your concerns about your child's development.

Call a Services Coordinator at:

Educational Service Unit #6

210 5th Street

Milford, NE 68405

800-327-0091 or 402-761-3341

Seward County Sixpence

Sixpence



Seward County Sixpence is a joint countywide program between Seward, Milford, and Centennial Public School Districts and ESU 6. The program is beginning its third year and is currently recruiting families for our program. Specifically, the program works with families who are prenatal or have children up to three years old to track development, promote learning and strengthen families. Families who are interested or would like more information about Sixpence may contact us at 402-587-0800. The new address for Sixpence is 1300 Hillcrest, Seward Nebraska.

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							
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
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.

7/26/19

SHUTTLE BUSES FOR 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

A.M. SHUTTLE BUSES

All times listed are approximate.

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

BUSES #9, #10, & #13

Will depart the High School at 7:45 A.M., then go to the Middle School, then go to the Elementary School.

BUS #6 Will depart the High School at 7:45 A.M., then go to the Middle School, then go to the Elementary School, then drop off rural St. John's students.

BUS #20 Will depart the High School at 7:45 A.M., then drop off rural St. Vincent DePaul students, then go to the Elementary School.

AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

BUS #14 Will depart the Middle School at 7:55 A.M., then go to the Elementary, then drop off rural St. Vincent DePaul students.

BUS # 21 Will Depart the Middle School at 7:55 A.M., then go to the Elementary School, then the High School.

PM SHUTTLE BUSES

BUS # 10 Depart Elementary, then Middle School, then pick up rural St. John's students, then the High School.

Bus #14 Depart Elementary, then Middle School, then pick up rural St. Vincent Depaul's students, then High School.

BUS #20 Depart Elementary, then Middle School, then Bright Beginnings CDC, then High School.

BUSES #6, #9, #13, & #21
Depart Elementary, then Middle School, then High School,

BUSES #12 & #19
Depart Elementary, then Middle School, then High School, then take students to St. John C.D.C.