

September 2017
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Pirate News



Special Interest Articles:

- September is Attendance Awareness Month.
- Learn about Title I and what it can do for students on p. 2.
- Find tips for P/T Conferences on p. 3.

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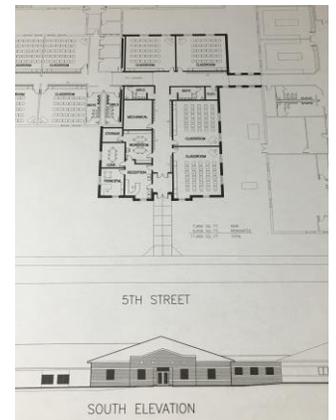
Highmore-Harrold School District 34-2

Elementary Construction Underway

Elementary students return for the 2017-2018 school year to new construction. The 1953 Elementary building that housed Kindergarten and First grade has been demolished to make room for a new four-classroom building that will include an elementary office, reception area, conference room and teacher work room. As of the writing of this newsletter the

construction crew has been able to stay on schedule, which will allow teachers and students to move into their new classrooms in April 2018. At that time renovation will begin on the west Elementary building, with overall project completion

slated for August 6, 2018.



September is Attendance Awareness Month

More than seven million students nationwide are chronically absent from school—missing so much school, for any reason, that they are academically at risk. Starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, chronic absence erodes students' ability to learn and achieve in school. It increases the likelihood that children are unable to read well by third grade, fail classes in middle school and drop out of high school. When chronic absence reaches

high levels in a classroom or school, all students—not just those with too many absences—may suffer because the resulting classroom churn hampers teachers' ability to engage all students and meet their learning needs.

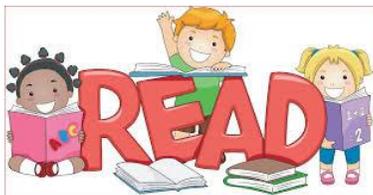
South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard has also proclaimed September Attendance Awareness Month. "Don't underestimate the importance of showing up," said Gov. Daugaard. "Some absences cannot be avoided, and that is

understandable. Sometimes, though, absences add up without students and families noticing. Research tells us that missing just 10 percent of a school year negatively impacts student achievement. That breaks down to missing only two or three days of school a month. So it's easy to see how those absences can accumulate, yet escape families' attention."

For more information on attendance please visit <http://attendanceworks.org/>



"Title I helps provide supports for identified students in the areas of Reading and Math."



Title I: What Is It and What It's All About

In grades 2-8, we use the pull-out program and push-in program. In grades 1-4 the students come to the Title I rooms and the teachers work with them. The content area is reading and math. Title I teachers set up a schedule with the classroom teachers and make sure the students don't leave their regular classroom during reading or math class. Title I teachers meet weekly with the classroom teachers to see what skills need to be

worked on. The classes meet 4-5 days a week for 20-30 minutes per class. Grades 5-6 use a combined push-in, pull-out program. Title I teachers go into the classroom during the lesson and make sure the Title I students are staying on task and understanding the lesson. Title I teachers and students then go to the Title I room where the teachers reteach the lesson and students work on the assignment. The junior high Title I program is a

push-in program in math and language arts for students who fall in the basic and below basic proficiency range. The classes meet 5 days a week for 58 minutes a day. We follow the Common Core standards for reading, language arts and math when developing the lessons. The Title I program uses the IXL computer program in math and language arts.

How Students Qualify For Title I

Each spring, the K-7 grade teachers fill out a needs assessment for each child. Classroom teachers rank the student's reading and math skills, work habits and whether the teacher would recommend the students for our program. Title I teachers rate the student's reading and math skills using a K-2 checklist, parent referrals, results from the Smarter Balanced assessment and whether the student is

currently is enrolled in our program. Points are assigned for each of these categories. Students with a score of 30 or more are eligible for Title I. In the fall of the year, we test the eligible students in reading and math using diagnostic tests in grades 2-4, and Star Math and Reading tests in grades 5-8. If the results fall below the 50th percentile (average) we enroll them in the program. Students new to the district are

recommended by their teacher. Teachers can recommend a student any time during the school year.

Parents are informed by mail of the intent to enroll their child in the Title I program. Identified students are served by Title I unless the parents sign them out of the program. Students are dismissed from Title I services when they have met or exceeded the goals set by the Title I teachers.

Communicating With Parents

The Title I program uses various forms of communication. When students are enrolled in the Title I program, a letter is sent to the parents informing them that their child has been enrolled in Title I. In the same mailing we send a copy of our parent involvement policies.

The Student Parent Compact pledges our school community to increase student reading and math skills by the end of the year. The parent, student and teacher each agree to different ways to reach our goal. A parent advisory council is formed every year. The purpose of

the PAC is to help plan any parent training, evaluate our policies and make program change suggestions. Please let one of the Title I teachers (Mrs. Wheelhouse, Ms. Olson, and Mrs. Miller) know if you are willing to be a council member.

Parent Teacher Conferences on September 21

Although we are only in our third week of school, Parent Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Conferences are scheduled for September 21 from 2:30 to 8:00, pre-school through 6th grade parents will need to refer to their child's scheduled time to come meet with their teacher(s), while parents of junior high and high school students are welcome to come anytime during this evening to meet with teachers. School will dismiss at 2:00 on Thursday and we will not have school on Friday, September 22.

Here are some tips for parents leading into their conference with their child's teacher: before the conference, ask your child how he or she feels about school, or if there is anything they want you to talk about with their teacher. It can also be helpful to make a list of topics or questions to ask, such as: what are my child's strengths/weaknesses? Does my child hand homework in on time? Does my child participate?

During the conference tips include being on time, ending the meeting on

time, relaxing and being yourself, and staying calm. The purpose of conferences is to help students, so it is in everyone's best interest to keep the needs of students first. Please also ask for explanations of anything you do not understand.

After the conference make sure you talk to your child, about both the positives and anything that needs addressed/changed. Be direct, and be sure to keep in touch with your child's teacher throughout the school year.



Tips to Help With Student Attendance

With September being attendance awareness month, below are some tips for parents on how to encourage good school attendance:

Communicate the importance of school and show interest in their school activities.

Start at an early age: make sure your child goes to school regularly and on time to build a positive view of their education.

Do not provide inappropriate excuses for your child to miss school.

Do not let older children stay home from school to babysit younger siblings.

Establish a routine and give yourself and your children enough time to get ready in the morning.

Set a regular bedtime schedule.

Volunteer in your child's classroom and at school events.

Keep open the lines of communication between yourself, the teacher, administration and the school office.

Good school attendance helps prepare children for the workforce. We must work together to ensure our children are in school to receive a quality education. This will set them up for great success in the future. The Highmore-Harold school district looks forward to working with parents to get all of our students to school!

"We all share a responsibility to act in order to ensure that children are in school every day."

First Lady Linda Daugaard to Visit Kindergarten

"Famous South Dakota Fridays to include First Lady Mrs. Linda Daugaard."

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Chantrel LaMont is initiating a new Friday staple in her classroom titled "Famous South Dakota Friday."

During this time the Kindergarten class will learn about Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, the Sturgis Motorcycle

Rally and Laura Ingalls-Wilder.

On October 20 the class will be in for treat when First Lady Linda Daugaard pays the class a visit. Mrs. Daugaard will interact with the class, answer their questions, and will read the class a story.

What a great opportunity for our Kindergarten class!

Library Book Fair

The fall book fair will begin Monday, Sept. 18 and run until Thursday, Sept. 21. A special preview will be held Sunday night (Sept. 17) from 6-8, so plan to visit and be the first to see what books and items are available. Students and parents can order books

and items all week during the school day, plus 6-8 on Monday evening and Thursday during conferences from 4-8. If it is more convenient you may order on-line at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/highmoreelementaryschool>.

The books will be shipped to the school to be delivered or sent home with students. The money earned during the book fair is used to purchase books for the library and classrooms, so thank you very much for your support!

Home Sweet Homecoming 2017!

Highmore-Harrold's week is scheduled for September 25-30th.

Festivities for the week:

Monday: Theme-Home Run "Sports Day". Students will vote for King, Queen and Marshall during first period. Cross Country is at Miller while JV Football hosts Parkston in Miller.

Tuesday: Theme-PJ Day. Students will paint the street south of the

Auditorium at 2:10. Volleyball is at Woonsocket.

Wednesday: Theme-Class Day. Each class will select its own theme. The student council will have a picnic for lunch with grilled hotdogs, hamburgers and fries. Cost is \$3.00 per plate with an additional \$1.00 for seconds.

Thursday: Theme-Home Away From Home "Future

You". The 281 Conference Volleyball tournament starts, so please stay tuned to see if H-H hosts a game.

Friday: Theme-Pirate Day. The students will have activities all morning, a parade at 1:00 with a pep rally to follow, and homecoming game at 7:00. The homecoming dance will be Saturday from 9:00-12:00 in the school gym.

Friday Activities:

Volleyball 8:30

Powder Puff Football 9:20

Tug-o-War 10:00

Capture the Flag 10:15

Work on Floats 11:00

Lunch 12:05-12:30