



**SCRIBNER-SNYDER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
2023-2024

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Scribner-Snyder Community School Patrons,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we dive into another exciting couple of months at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. The school year is in full swing, and I am delighted to share with you some of the latest news, and upcoming events from our school community.

In the last few weeks, our students have been busy completing their beginning of the year benchmark tests. Our teachers use this information to plan instruction for our students and determine academic needs. As we move through the year, students will test again in the winter and spring. We want to see that our students are making academic progress and intervene quickly if necessary.

Now that we have all the staff and students back in the building, germs have started spreading. Please keep your child at home if he or she is running a temperature or feeling ill. Students with a temperature over 100 degrees will be sent home. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without medicine before returning to school. Also, we ask that if your child has vomited or has bowel issues due to sickness, please make sure your child is feeling well enough before returning to school.

I know it seems early to be writing this, but we are approaching the cold and wet season. Please make sure all phone numbers are up to date. We will be using our school messenger phone system to call parents if there is a cancelation due to weather or any other possible notifications.

PowerSchool is our student information platform. Parents can stay up to date on grades and breakfast/lunch money accounts. You can access PowerSchool from our school website. You will need a username and password to access your child's information. **If you do not have a username and password, please call the school offices and Deb (elementary) or Shelly (high school) can help you.**

During the week of September 18th – 23rd, the students enjoyed Homecoming activities. Each day of the week students participated by dressing up for Generation Day, White Lie Day, Rhyme without Reason Day, Barbie Day, and our favorite – Spirit Day. This year the coronation took place downtown during the pep rally. Congratulations to this year's Homecoming candidates: Jillian Adams, Garrett Hunke, Hannah Ryun, Ashley Stadt, McKenna Stewart, and Kadyr Wheelock. All SSCS Students could attend the LV Homecoming Dance at Logan View that was held on September 23rd and all LV students can attend the SSCS Homecoming Dance at SS on October 7th. Pictures are at 7 p.m. with the dance to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Our door is always open at SSCS! Come see what we are doing. Below is a list of ways you can get involved in our school and some upcoming events. **Check out the school calendar on our website to see additional events.**

HOMECOMING CANDIDATES



School Involvement Opportunities

- Volunteer in your child's classroom – We love visitors!
- Join PTA – This is a great opportunity to support elementary students and teachers.
- Join SSCS Booster Club – Support our students in their High School Activities.
- Come to a School Board Meeting – Listen to discussion and decisions made by the school board.
- Come to Events – We have talented children in our district. Come see what they are doing!

Upcoming Events

- eSports Tournament: On October 7th, the SSCS eSports Team will be hosting their annual tournament. The tournament will be in the high school buildings. Patrons are welcome to stop in and cheer on our team!
- End of 1st Quarter: October 19th is the last day of the 1st quarter. **Students will have a 1:30 dismissal on Oct. 19th and NO SCHOOL on Oct. 20th.**
- Veteran's Day: Please join us at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and a program.
- Thanksgiving Break: Students have a 1:30 p.m. dismissal on Nov. 21st, and NO SCHOOL on Nov. 22nd, 23rd, and 25th.

In closing, we wish everyone a happy and healthy fall.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Nemececk

Parent's Night planned for SS Athletes

Oct. 5th-Volleyball vs Syracuse, 5 p.m.

Oct. 13th—Football vs Louisville, 7 p.m.

***FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:
By Joe Peitzmeier***

Can you believe that we are already entering our third month of the school year? Where does time go? I hope that you and your children have had a great experience in school so far this year. The more and more that I walk the halls and experience what is going on in classrooms, the more confident I am in the great educational experience our staff is providing to our students.

We have enthusiastic, caring teachers that are engaging students to enhance their learning. Our focus is on student learning and we continue to collaborate effectively as a staff to continue to build on our strong educational focus. We truly do want what is best for all of our students. We continue to enhance our “Positive Behavior Support” System. Last spring this program provided great end of the year rewards for students, and this fall we continue to improve the program with new behavior incentives. This is a great program that will continue to build, acknowledge, and reward positive behavior by students and staff. As you enter our buildings, you will notice signs that support our mission of this program.

One main objective of this behavior system is to provide students with clear/consistent expectations of behavior. We feel strongly that this program will help to facilitate successful life-long learners. According to Harry Wong, “The First Days of School”, four characteristics of well-managed school systems are:

- students are deeply involved in their work, especially with academic, teacher-led instruction
- students know what is expected of them and are generally successful
- there is relatively little wasted time, confusion, or disruption
- the climate of the classroom is work-oriented but relaxed and pleasant

I wish everyone a great school year and hope that we continue to work together for the best possible education for our kids. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or visit the schools.

School Closing/Dismissal Information

- *Please understand that safety for students is the main concern in the decision to close schools.
- *When school is dismissed early for bad weather, students who drive their own vehicles and live outside the city limits will be required to contact their parents by telephone prior to leaving school.
- *Bus/Van students will ride the bus/van home as usual.
- *Parents are asked to listen to KTIC 107.9 (The Bull), or Channels 3, 6, or 7 in Omaha, and check the School Website for any school closings, late starts, or early dismissals in case the weather is threatening.
- *On late starts, we typically plan to start school 2 hours late. We realize that some roads are more hazardous than others and we do not expect students or parents to endanger their safety in order to get to school. If a student legitimately cannot get to school because of weather conditions, they will be considered excused.
- ***In case of late starts, early dismissals, and/or school closings a message will also be sent out on School Messenger.**



**PICTURE
RETAKES ARE
OCTOBER 12TH!**

eSports Tournament scheduled at SS—Oct. 7th—Open to the public!!!

S-S Veteran's Day Program set for Nov. 10th



SSCS BENEFITS FROM SMEAL'S DONATION
THANK YOU SMEAL FIRE APPARATUS FOR PICKING SSCS AS ONE OF
YOUR THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECIPIENTS FROM YOUR SCHOOL
SUPPLY DRIVE! WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL!!

Mrs. Laura Enos Keeping Busy in the Classroom

Language Arts has always been my favorite subject since I was a young child and bringing out students' talents and skills that will help them reach their highest potential will continue to be my professional goals while leading my classroom in the curriculum areas of English, Public Speaking, Drama, and Yearbook.

9th grade English is designed to give all freshmen an opportunity to sample and be exposed to each main literary genre and subgenres, review grammatical rules and functions, and become even more confident in their personal narrative and expository writing abilities. We are currently reviewing independent and active reading comprehension skills while growing in our literary and figurative language terminology knowledge. English 1 is the foundation for the rest of the students' high school Language Arts experience.

Sophomores are currently focusing on the commonly used literary formula, the “Hero’s Journey”. Students will be exposed to many literary classics and will be introduced to analytical writing and deeper-level literary discussions. 10th graders also take a Communications class first semester targeting public speaking skills and a Creative Writing course second semester, which has always been a fan favorite.

The 11th graders have been discussing, creating, and reading about the universal theme “Identity/Individuality”. American Literature, argumentative/persuasive writing, and ACT preparation is the bulk of the junior curriculum. Seniors have the option of either English 4 or Dual Credit through Peru State College. Both options offer a composition/writing focus in the fall semester and a literature-based course in the spring semester.

9th-12th graders also have the option to be a part of the Yearbook staff where we have been learning the ins and outs of Photojournalism, cover design, story writing, theme conception, and photo editing. Some of our 11th and 12th graders enrolled in a brand-new elective offered this year, Drama I. We’ve explored the importance of setting the plot, and are learning about Ancient Greek Theater and its origins and influence in the performing arts, and also reading plays/works from this time period along with writing our own chorus pieces.

The 2023-204 school year already feels like a positive and supportive environment on campus. One-Act season and rehearsals have officially started, and with 22 students participating in the cast and crew, we’re excited to prepare a hilarious comedy for this year’s production.



BIG CHANGES IN THE GYM!

It is hard to believe that we are already several weeks into the 2023/2024 school year. The PE classes this year have hit the ground running with several different and exciting activities. We have added preschool PE this year and I am now in charge of junior high PE, so I see students each day ranging from 4 years old all the way up to 18 years old. It makes for a busy day but that is also my favorite part about teaching at a small school. Getting to see all the students every single day and working with them is a very rewarding experience.

So far this year we have been busy with many different activities in the gym and kids are having a blast. At the lower elementary grades, we have been reviewing our locomotor skills, which include running, skipping, galloping, jumping, etc. We have also been working on our teamwork, communication, and cooperation skills with numerous fun activities and games that require the students to work together. In the upcoming weeks, we are going to be introducing some volleyball skills, throwing and catching, and frisbee activities to the elementary students. I look forward to a year of continued growth from all my students and of course, a ton of fun!

The high school students started the year sharpening up on their volleyball skills. We have worked on bumping, setting, and serving. After our skill work was completed, we had some fun playing volleyball games and the kids did a great job. We then moved to our football unit where we learned different routes receivers can run and we learned some of the positions that different players can play in the game of football. Some of our upcoming units include frisbee activities, floor hockey, badminton and pickleball. The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start and I look forward to having a great rest of the school year!

Quarter 1 ends on Oct. 19th—1:30 p.m. dismissal
NO SCHOOL ON OCTOBER 20th & 23rd!!
Thanksgiving Break begins Nov. 22nd.
Classes resume Nov. 27th!

2nd Grade News from Mrs. Wuestewald

Fall is here! The farmers are getting ready to harvest. Apples and pumpkins are being picked. And we're heading to the Harvest Moon Pumpkin Patch north of Oakland. We're looking forward to an exciting afternoon! A special "Thanks" goes out to the Scribner-Snyder PTA for paying our admission fees.

We have 19 students in the 2nd Grade this year. It's been a busy beginning to a new school year. We've already had School Pictures, Labor Day Break, MAPS Testing, Homecoming, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and the Scholastic Book Fair. WOW! That's a lot of activity and excitement in a month.

We adopted a new Math series, Reveal Math this year. We've been finding patterns, reading and writing numbers to 1,000, and comparing 3-digit numbers.

In Science, we've been learning about living things and their habitats, pollination, and plants.

******Please mark your calendar******

You're all invited to attend the VETERANS DAY PROGRAM on Friday, November 10 in the school gym at 10:00 a.m. The Coffee Hour will be in the Commons from 9:00-10:00 a.m. I hope you can come help us honor these SPECIAL people we call "VETERANS!"

New course offering at S-S **'Fundamentals of Nutrition'**

Foods, Foods and Nutrition, Nutrition, FCS – however you refer to one of the new classes at SSCS, this year will have students learning about the importance of different types of foods, cultures from which they come, knife skills, kitchen safety, careers in nutrition, and so much more.

To begin the year the nine students in Fundamentals of Nutrition have learned about macro and micronutrients. They kept a weekend food log to assess what they ate and thought about what changes they could make to try to incorporate good sources of both macro and micronutrients. Food day is obviously a favorite day each week in class. Up to this point they have made dirt cups, overnight oatmeal, applesauce, and grilled cheese. During food prep, the class learned about *mise en place*. They have become more aware of how to have "everything in its place" before they get started with a recipe.

Students are making posters, presenting PowerPoints, giving presentations, and making study sheets to help others learn the material quickly. There is so much to learn and so little time to be in the kitchen in a semester-long class!

Coming up next for the nutrition class will be making healthier choices in foods, looking at all the tools in the kitchen, and keeping the kitchen clean. We will be reading and writing recipes, designing menus, and grocery shopping. At the end of this quarter, we will be making a dessert chosen by the winner of our latest poster contest. Near the end of the semester, we will be diving deeper into the different food groups and making recipes focused on those food groups all while considering MyPlate guidelines. We are so grateful to have this opportunity as a class at SSCS.

FAFSA application changes

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) is changing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), affecting *all* students and families who complete the application for the 2024-25 academic year.

When will the 2024-25 FAFSA open? The FAFSA will open in December 2023, but FSA has not specified an exact date.

What's changing with the FAFSA? First, your FSA ID will be more important than ever. Both students and parents must create an FSA ID using full legal names, birthdates, and Social Security Numbers. The Social Security Administration must verify the FSA IDs before tax information can be accessed for the FAFSA, so allow *at least three days*.

Both parents and stepparents must have an FSA ID so their tax information can be accessed accurately. Parents who don't have a Social Security Number must also create an FSA ID. More direction on that will be forthcoming from FSA.

Second, the parent you include on the FAFSA could change. For dependent students with separated/divorced parents, the parent who provided the most financial support in the last 12 months must be included. If the support were equal, you would use the parent(s) with the highest income/assets. This aligns with the previous requirement of including the custodial parent for many students.

Third, and perhaps most notably, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will become SAI (Student Aid Index). The most significant implications of this change are that the net worth of small businesses and farm assets will now be considered in the SAI calculation. Parents will no longer report child support paid, but child support received will be considered. Also, the number of students a family has enrolled in college will no longer factor into the SAI calculation. What does this mean for you? Unfortunately, your financial aid eligibility could decrease.

As the year progresses, changes to the activities and lunch calendar happen on a weekly if not daily basis. For the most updated information, please log on to the www.sstrojans.org website

NOTICE OF DISCRIMINATION: The Scribner-Snyder Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Students, Employees and Others: Megan Stock, 400 Pebble Street, Scribner, NE 68057, 402.664.2567, mstock@sstrojans.org