

Sturgis School News

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Fall 2010



Bethany Brown and April Blanchard practice the keyboards for the upcoming Sturgis High School Marching Band season. This year's show is called "Spanish Sketches"

New School Year Finally Here!

The buildings are clean, books and supplies are delivered, and buses are ready to roll! We look forward to a variety of new and exciting challenges this school year and will constantly work toward quality change in the future for our students.

At the risk of sounding redundant, I want to reestablish the focus on what is important for students and faculty alike. For me, that focus is about teachers seeking continuous improvement and students performing at their very best... It is no surprise this year to find ourselves facing the same challenges as before... understanding that if we are to be successful we must once again focus on the "main thing"... teaching and learning.

Our vision for Sturgis Public Schools remains as it has been for the past three years... "that given the choice, literally all children throughout this entire area, south-central Michigan and northeastern Indiana, attempt to enroll in the Sturgis Public Schools."



**Robert Olsen
Superintendent**

We reach this vision by holding ourselves accountable for creating high academic standards for all children. We accept the scrutiny of the State and the public at-large with the variety of measurement standards... We learn to not only work under this microscope, but to compete and excel under it if we are to survive as an institution serving all kids from all backgrounds.

Our district will continue to focus all of our energy, all of our expertise, all of our compassion, and all of our commitment on making students successful. Failure never was, and never will be, an option. This is the primary goal of the district and the primary task that drives everything we do.

To that end, it must be said that nothing helps a child succeed like an involved parent. Positive support and encouragement from a child's parents can work wonders in the classroom. In school, as in life, consistent support from parents is crucial to sustaining a student's confidence and sense of achievement. And remember, the key determining factor of success in your child's future is tied to the achievement and learning habits they develop beginning in the home and continuing throughout their K-12 experience.

What can you do to ensure success for your sons, daughters, and grandchildren? Parents play four distinct roles in their child's education: cheerleader, friend, teacher, and enforcer. An understanding of these roles can help you help your child step up to the challenges of learning. See the orange box on page 11 of this newsletter for an explanation of these roles.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Sturgis Public Schools, in partnership with parents and community, is to ensure each student has the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for a successful transition to the next educational stage ultimately leading to a productive and satisfying life.

Board of Education*

- LeeAnn McConnell.....*President*
- Geoffrey D. Smith.....*Vice President*
- Tom Robertson.....*Secretary*
- Ann Bird.....*Treasurer*
- Ray Sterling.....*Trustee*
- Frank J. Kalasky.....*Trustee*
- Kerri Millett.....*Trustee*

**The public is welcome to attend the monthly Study Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education. The Board meets at 5:30 for the Study Session at the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room on the second Tuesday of each month. On the third Tuesday of the month the Regular Meeting is held at 5:30 p.m. in different schools in the District. Please see the schedule of the meetings posted on the Sturgis web page at www.sturgisps.org. under the Board of Education menu listing.*

Cover: It's back to school for Abbey Barnell, Lydia Welborn, Mya Dowell, Jayden Caley, and bus driver, Bev Currier.

News

Transportation Alert!

Sturgis Public School buses will run behind schedule in the morning, and especially after school, for the first two weeks of school. As the students become familiar with their buses and the after-school routine, the route times will improve. Some buses may run as much as 40 minutes behind schedule after school. If you have any questions or concerns about transportation for your child, please call us at 659-1590.

SPS News Goes Paperless

In an attempt to reign in costs and secure our finances, we are planning a new format for future *Sturgis Public News* newsletters. At the beginning of each school year, we will publish a printed, hard-copy format that will be mailed to your house. All other editions of *Sturgis Public School News* will be published in electronic format and posted on our website. If you are a subscriber to our district email alert system, the newsletter will be automatically emailed to you. To become a member of our email alert system, which will also update you as to school closings or other timely issues, contact our technology office at webmaster@sturgisps.org or call 269-659-1500.

Welcome New Staff

Please give a warm welcome to our new accounting manager, **Dawn Griffith**. Griffith has a master's degree in accounting from WMU and is a CPA. She is Treasurer of the Village of Mendon and previously worked with Mendon Schools and with an accounting firm in Portage.

Dawn and her husband Shane live in Mendon and have a six-year old daughter, Payton, and a three year-old son, Bailey. Griffith is active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and with Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo. She also volunteers for Mendon Riverfest and the Mendon Elementary School PTO.

Sturgis Public Schools would also like to welcome the following new teachers:

Jessica Farmer	High School Science
Preston Ferry	Middle School Special Education
Courtney Miller	Middle School Special Education
Ashley McCurry	Wall School Special Education
Heather Vettes	Wenzel 1 st Grade
Anthony Wolbert	Eastwood 5 th Grade
Jaclyn Meiste	Eastwood 4 th Grade
Jan Modert	Eastwood 3 rd Grade
Bryan Boughton	Alternative Ed. (Math/Science)

District Information

District Office (Main Switch Board) 659-1500

Superintendent: Rob Olsen
Assistant Superintendent: Julie Evans

High School - Grades 9-12 659-1515

Principal: Rusty Stitt
School Hours: 7:25 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

Middle School - Grades 6-8 659-1550

Principal: Eric Anderson
School Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Eastwood - Grades 3-5 659-1560

Principal: Bob Matkin
School Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Congress - Grades K-2 659-1565

Principal: Teresa Belote
School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Wall - Grades K-2 659-1570

Principal: Nicole Airgood
School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Wenzel - Grades K-2 659-1575

Principal: Teresa Belote
School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Central Commons - Preschool Great Start/ECSE 651-1540

Principal: Peter Palasinski
School Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 11:35 a.m./1:00 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Technology Department 659-1512

Janene Kosman

Athletic Office 659-1535

Athletic Director: Mark Adams

Custodial/Maintenance 659-1524

Craig Casault

Food Service 659-1545

Patti Miller

Transportation 659-1590

Mackie Melson

Adult and Community Education 659-1540

Pete Palasinski

Community Pool 659-1585

Ray Martin

Auspurger Courts/Harmon Field 659-3743

www.sturgisps.org

Eastwood Elementary

Childhelp SWM hosts Children's Jubilee

All families are invited to join in the fun on Saturday, September 11 at the 2nd annual Childhelp SWM Children's Jubilee on the school grounds at Eastwood. This fun-filled kids day is a great way to celebrate the beginning of a new school year! The event goes from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and features a free magic show at 11 a.m., balloons, a bounce house, a dunk tank, food, games, prizes, and contests. Childhelp SWM is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. All proceeds from the event will help with the fight against child abuse in our community. For questions about the event, or to volunteer, please call DJ at 269-788-5324.

Make a Splash: Read!

Eastwood's Summer Library Program made a splash with all its participants. Using the theme, "Make a Splash: Read!" the program featured mystery readers, crafts, computers, movies, and games. We are proud of all of our kids who read during Summer vacation.



Maxwell Altimus shows off a windsock he made at Eastwood's Summer Library Program.



Eastwood Summer Library participants (clockwise from front left), Kitrina Bravo-Miller, Kalie Bravo-Miller, Searra Goheen, and Jada Armstrong, model their underwater viewing masks after hearing the Story Time Book: The Manfish: The Biography of Jacques Cousteau.

Wall Elementary

Raz-Kids Reading

Wall School held a Summer Reading Program this summer that featured an online program called Raz-Kids.com. This program was designed to help children improve their reading skills.



Cheryl Neiser helps Kaleb Hendricks, Mason Ritchie, and Cecelia Lopez use the Raz-Kids.com reading program at Wall School's summer library program.

Sturgis High School

Summer School was offered to high school students interested in gaining credit during the summer. Three different sessions were held daily, including an evening session from 4:30-6:30 to accommodate students that worked. A new online program used this year called OdysseyWare showed step-by-step methods in solving problems and allowed students to review previously completed units at any time. The online learning environment was helpful to students because it allowed each student to work at his or her own pace.



Stephen Wood, Colton Weitting, and Josh Summey work online at summer school.

Happenings

Freshman Focus

Sturgis High School hosted its fourth Freshman Focus Orientation Camp last week. The Camp was facilitated by students and instructors from Central Michigan University's Leadership Institute. Incoming freshmen participated in team-building, leadership, school spirit, and other school orientation activities. Friday's activities culminated with a spirit competition and a pregame cook-out with food provided by **Chef Stitt** and **Chef Meek**. Students also attended the first home varsity football game for free!

The fun (and learning) won't be over after camp. All Freshman must attend Segment II of Freshman Focus in their first trimester to help them transition from the middle school to high school. Students learn countless skills in classes that deal with personal identity, relationships, tolerance, study and listening skills, test preparation, character development, and leadership.

During camp and throughout the school year, over 40 junior and senior mentors will train with the CMU staff to learn to work with the freshmen as part of their Leadership Development class. In September, the mentors will attend a leadership activity day at Camp Eberhart.

New Vaccinations

Effective this 2010-11 school year, all Michigan school children will require these vaccines in addition to the ones that have been previously required: a Tdap booster, 2 Varicellas (chicken pox), and Meningitis vaccine. Please schedule any necessary vaccinations today!

Camp Fort Hill

Summer Day Camp was held at Camp Fort Hill this summer for over 200 children ages 7-12 in St. Joseph County. Activities included swimming, canoeing, sailing, wall climbing, archery, arts and crafts, hiking, fishing, and nature study. The program was directed by **Hunter Raiford** and supported in part by a grant from the St. Joseph County United Way.



Beach time at Camp Fort Hill Day Camp.

Studying Efficiently

Whether your child studies at home or spends most evenings in the library, it's important to provide a work space of their own where they can go to study or just work on something more personal. With a familiar and reliable place, he or she will have the environment they need to excel in school.

Check Your Inventory!

While kitchen and dining room tables are great for larger projects, they aren't suited for regular study. Set up a place where your child can settle in and leave papers and pens at hand without having to pack up each night.

A good, sturdy desk, a comfortable chair, and a clear, bright lamp are essential. Your child should be able to sit for reasonable blocks of time without becoming fatigued or bleary-eyed. Shelves and drawers are important for organization and it helps if all the surfaces are easy to clean.

Location, Location, Location

Location is important. Setting up a space in a common area of your home can be a good idea for some children. These children need to feel like part of the family and they actually work better closer to other people. This also allows you easier access to you child so you can monitor their progress if needed. For a child that thrives in privacy, set aside a corner of their bedroom, but keep it well separate from distractions like games, music, and other hobbies not related to studying. By keeping the spaces separate in the bedroom, you will ensure that your child still has a haven he or she can retreat to when it's time to forget about school and just be a kid.

Maintain Order

You should encourage your child to spread out as much as needed during work time, but to keep some semblance of order and neatness when their area isn't being used for study. A child who learns to organize their space will carry organization into every corner of their life

Ground rules about food and drink, games and telephone use, and the kinds of things used to decorate their space with are also a good idea. The work space should be personal, but not an extension of the playroom.

Pay attention to the area around the work space. You can't expect your child to keep their area neat when the rest of your house isn't. Set the example by organizing your home in a comfortable, useful way.

A supportive home environment will help enable your child to excel by making study and productivity part of daily life. Organizing and running your home with your child's development in mind will provide the supportive structure and atmosphere needed for success in the classroom.

STURGIS VARSITY HOME SPO

Season Athletic Passes

Season athletic passes for the 2010-11 school year are now available for purchase. You may download the Pass form from the SPS website (www.sturgisps.org): *select High School, Athletic, Athletic Home Page, Forms, Season Tickets* or call the athletic office at 659-1535 for more information. An annual family pass is \$175, a student/senior annual pass is \$50, and a student/senior 10-game punch pass is \$25. See you at the game!



The Sturgis Football team gets ready for a new season.

FOOTBALL

Friday	08/27/10	* Lakeshore High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday	09/10/10	* Coldwater High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday	09/24/10	* Battle Creek Central High	Home	7:00PM
Friday	10/01/10	* Kalamazoo Central High	Home	7:00PM
Friday	10/15/10	* Lumen Christi High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday	10/29/10	MHSAA Playoffs begin	TBA	TBA

BOYS SOCCER

Wednesday	09/01/10	* Marshall High School	Home	6:45PM
Friday	09/10/10	Three Rivers High School	Home	6:45PM
Thursday	09/16/10	* Coldwater High School	Home	6:45PM
Tuesday	09/21/10	* SMAC Crossover	Home	6:45PM
Thursday	09/30/10	Niles High School	Home	6:45PM
Tuesday	10/05/10	* SMAC Tournament	TBA	6:45PM
Thursday	10/07/10	* SMAC Tournament	TBA	6:45PM
Saturday	10/09/10	Albion High School	Home	11:00AM
Thursday	10/14/10	South Haven High School	Home	6:45PM
Monday	10/18/10	MHSAA Playoffs begin	Away	TBA

VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday	08/31/10	Edwardsburg High School	Home	7:30PM
Wednesday	09/29/10	* Coldwater High School	Home	6:00PM
Wednesday	10/06/10	* Marshall High School	Home	6:00PM
Saturday	10/09/10	Sturgis Invitational	Home	8:30AM
Wednesday	10/13/10	* SMAC Crossover	Home	6:00PM
Monday	11/01/10	MHSAA Tournaments begin	Away	TBA

CROSS COUNTRY

Monday	08/30/10	Three Rivers High School	Home	4:30PM
Wednesday	09/29/10	St. Joseph High School	Home	5:00PM
Wednesday	09/29/10	Kalamazoo Central High	Home	5:00PM
Saturday	10/16/10	Kiwanis Invitational	Home	10:00AM



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SPORTS SCHEDULE - FALL 2010

BOYS TENNIS

Wednesday	08/25/10	Sturgis Quad	Home	9:00AM
Saturday	08/28/10	Sturgis Invitational	Home	8:30AM
Wednesday	09/01/10	* Marshall High School	Home	4:30PM
Tuesday	09/07/10	Portage Northern High	Home	4:30PM
Monday	09/20/10	* Coldwater High School	Home	4:30PM
Wednesday	09/22/10	* SMAC Crossover	Home	4:30PM

GIRLS GOLF

Wednesday	08/18/10	Dowagiac High School	Home	10:00AM
Monday	09/13/10	* SMAC Jamboree @ Sturgis	Home	4:00PM
Tuesday	09/21/10	Three Rivers High School	Home	3:30PM

GIRLS SWIMMING

Tuesday	09/14/10	Bridgman High School	Home	6:00PM
Tuesday	09/21/10	Kalamazoo Central High	Home	6:00PM
Saturday	09/25/10	Sturgis Invitational	Home	10:30AM
Tuesday	10/05/10	* Lakeview High School	Home	6:00PM
Tuesday	10/12/10	* Harper Creek High School	Home	6:00PM
Fri-Sat	11/19-20/10	* State Finals	Away	TBA

* Denotes SMAC Game



The Sturgis High School Band, under the direction of Band Director, **Joe Ehlert**, held its annual band camp at Sturgis High School earlier this month. Students worked hard each day to learn their new program, "Spanish Sketches," for the 2010-11 marching season.

Protection of Pupil Rights

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) governs the administration to students of a survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight protected areas:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondent has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognize privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

If such surveys are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, prior written parent approval must be received before the survey is administered. Non-department funded surveys may be conducted without written parental permission provided there is prior notification to the parent indicating the purpose, approximate dates of administration and an opportunity for the parent to opt their student out of participation.

Parent Involvement

In accordance with the requirement of Section 1118 of Title I, programs supported by Title I funds must be designed and implemented in consultation with parents of the students being served.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the Title I plan contains a written statement of guidelines which has been developed with, approved by, and distributed to parents of participating students. The guidelines shall describe how:

- The District expects the parents to be involved in the program, including their participation in the development of the plan;
- Meetings will be conducted with parents including provision for flexible scheduling and whatever assistance the District may be able to provide parents in order to better ensure their attendance at meetings;
- Meetings will include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessment, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- Opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decision-making about the program and revisions in the plan;

- Parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- Information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance will be communicated to parents;
- Parents will be assisted in providing help to their children in achieving the objectives of the program by such means as ensuring regular attendance; monitoring television watching; providing adequate time and the proper environment for homework; guiding nutritional and health practices; and the like;
- Timely responses will be given to parental questions, concerns, and recommendations
- Other activities will be conducted as appropriate to the plan.

Education Services to Homeless and Migrant Children and Youth

Homeless students—Students who qualify as homeless by state guidelines are eligible for immediate enrollment and educational services, with or without required entry documents.

Migrant students—Students whose families have moved within the past 36 months to obtain temporary employment in agriculture or fishing are eligible for regular school year and summer programs designed to provide basic instruction in the core curriculum. Priority will be given to those who have moved during the academic year and are in jeopardy of not meeting the academic standards of the core curriculum.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Parents may inspect and review educational records of their students within 45 days of making a written request to the building principal.

Parents may request that records be amended by the school where there is a belief that inaccuracies exist. Such requests shall be made in writing and directed to the building principal.

The school may disclose the contents of a student's educational records to school officials having a legitimate educational interest without parental consent. School officials include administrators, supervisors, counselors, teachers, support staff members, a school board member, or a person or company contracted by the district to perform a special task.

The school may release directory information without parental consent, unless the parent has filed a written objection to releases with the principal of Sturgis High School. Directory information about a student includes: Name, address, telephone number, date of birth, photograph, major field of study or grade, participation in school activities, dates of school attendance, honors and

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Continued on Page 9

Notices

Parents Right to Know

Sturgis Public Schools must inform you of information available to you regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). Information about the following areas will be provided to you **upon request and in a timely manner**:

- Whether your child's teacher has met Michigan qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Michigan qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of your child's teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

You may also request additional information on the level of achievement of your child on Michigan's testing program (MEAP), and you will also receive timely notice if your child is, for whatever reason, assigned to, or taught, for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Cont.)

awards, and other general information generally found in yearbooks.

Parents have a right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Ed. The above parental rights transfer to the student when he or she turns 18 years of age or enters a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Asbestos Management

The Local Education Agency (LEA) or Sturgis Public Schools is required under Federal law to maintain a copy of the management plan in the administrative office and each school building. Sturgis Public Schools must notify in writing parents, teachers and employee organizations at least once a year regarding the management of the asbestos in the schools. The management plan shall be available during school business hours for review with out cost or restrictions by the public, including teachers, other school personnel and parents.

No asbestos abatement (removal) is scheduled for the current year. Periodic surveillance (inspections) of asbestos containing materials will be completed every six months.

Craig Casault is the Designated Person for the school district. If you have any questions, please call 659-1524.

Military Release

Two federal laws and one Michigan law require the Sturgis Public School District to provide military recruiters, upon request, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students. A parent/guardian or 18-year-old student may exercise the option to withhold consent for the release of this information to military recruiters by contacting Sturgis High School and following the set procedures.

Pesticide Advisory

Sturgis Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort. This program **does not** rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pest from becoming a problem.

You will receive advanced notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel formulations at your child's school. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. The law requires us to do this notification by using two methods. The first method required by the law is the posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are those entrances that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot. The second method we are going to use is the posting in a common area located by the main office of the school. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact the Maintenance Department at the following number 659-1524. Please give the Maintenance secretary your name, mailing address and what school your child attends.

In an emergency (for example, bees nest), pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application.

You may review our IPM program or pesticide application records for your child's school by calling or e-mailing **Craig Casault**, District Facilities Director, at 659-1524. This number may also be used when school is not in regular session.

Food Service News

HealthierUS School Challenge

Sturgis Public Schools will make changes to the entire school environment as we work toward becoming certified as an award-winning school by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's voluntary *HealthierUS School Challenge* - a program that nationally recognizes schools for:

- 1) Serving school lunches that reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- 2) Offering foods and beverages that meet healthier guidelines of lower fat, added sugars, and sodium.
- 3) Offering nutrition education for students to learn to make healthy choices.
- 4) Providing physical education and opportunities for students to be physically active during the school day.

We believe that our participation in *HealthierUS School Challenge* will help students continue these habits into adulthood. Some changes on our school lunch menu include:

- Lots of fresh fruits and vegetables - including dark green and orange vegetables, dry beans, and peas
- Frequent use of whole-grain products
- Low-fat or fat-free milk

If you are interested in serving on our *HealthierUS School Challenge* Advisory Team, please contact our office at 659-1545.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Wall and Wenzel Elementary have qualified for the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the 2010-11 school year. They will be one of 132 Michigan Schools to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to their students during the school day, but outside of the regular scheduled meal times. Funding is targeted to elementary schools in which 50% or more of their students are eligible for free and reduced meals. Sturgis Public Schools hopes to add Congress and Eastwood elementary schools to this exciting program as well.

Sturgis Public Schools Meal Prices

Universal Free Breakfast to ALL students K-12	
Adults	\$1.75
Full Price Lunch:	
High School, Middle School and Eastwood	\$2.00
Life Skills, Community Ed (Even Start)	\$2.00
Congress, Wall and Wenzel	\$1.75
St. John's Lutheran	\$1.75
Adults	\$2.75
Reduced Price Lunch Students	
K-12	\$.40
Milk:	\$.35



Children enjoy the free lunches provided by Sturgis Public Schools throughout the summer.

Chasing the Cure

There will be a 5K Run/Walk, 5K Pump and Run, and a 1 Mile Fun Run on Sept. 18, 2010 beginning at the Doyle Center. The race is dedicated to **Joan Dykstra**, longtime SPS employee, who has been battling ovarian cancer for two years. All proceeds will fund research and support public awareness of ovarian cancer. For more information call **Terra Draper** at 651-5581, call **Leanne Barnell** at 269 251-8740, or email chasingthecure@yahoo.com.



Jamey Swarts, co-drum major for the 2010 Sturgis High School Marching Band, practices the famous hat-to-the-ground backbend that he will perform at the beginning of each show.

Happenings

Technology News

The Paperless Classroom

In today's budgetary climate, we need to make every penny count. With this in mind, our theme for technology integration this year is "Go Green...the Paperless Classroom."

While we don't anticipate going completely paperless, we do hope to use **less paper** by using our technology more efficiently. Going paperless will also allow students access to their learning resources 24 -7, as long as they have an Internet connection. For those that don't have an internet connection at home, the Sturgis Central Commons Computer lab will be open from 6-9 p.m. on Monday-Thursdays for all students.

Last December, our district switched email systems to a free Google Apps domain for all staff. It gives applications to help us collaborate and communicate in an easy, 21st-century manner. This will help us achieve our goal of going paperless for our staff, department, committee, and school board meetings. We will also use these digital tools instead of printing some student assignments, projects, and organizational needs.

So how can you help us go paperless?

- Sign up for E-Alerts on our website to be one of the first to know school is closed or to receive other important information
- Use email to communicate with our faculty and staff
- Digitally subscribe to our district Google calendar and athletic schedules instead of printing
- Read *Sturgis Public School News* online
- Encourage your children to use these technology tools instead of clicking on print.

Internet for Students

Our students in 3rd -12th grade also have their own Google Apps email which is filtered and flagged for inappropriate language or images. We teach students how to use their student email in an appropriate manner and to keep their personal email for personal correspondence, similar to how the students will communicate when they get to college or their eventual work place.

Middle School and High School, students can bring their own computers to school and access our filtered Internet. Teachers will always have the right to allow or not allow the devices when appropriate to their lesson plans, so check with your teachers before bringing in your laptop or other device.

Please take some time to review our website, especially the Resources tab for more ideas on how to guide your child in this digital world.

The Roles Parents Play

Cheerleader

Children thrive on encouragement - whether it's supporting a child who doesn't perform well or congratulating him or her for success. Real learning is based on the value your child places on the process itself. Ask your child what they do when they fail at something they're good at - a missed tackle in football or a missed key on piano. This helps them understand how important it is to keep trying and teaches them to access skills when faced with less interesting challenges.

Friend

School work is not always your child's only struggle. Sometimes they need someone who is willing to hear what they're thinking—and that someone should be you.

Without a confidant, your child will have extra stress, which can decrease self-esteem and motivation. Listening respectfully to your child's concerns can be a confidence booster all by itself. Taking your child seriously makes him or her take education seriously.

Teacher

You can't just leave it all up to the teacher. Even the best and brightest teachers are hard-pressed to address the individual needs of every child in a classroom. Children still need personal attention from their parents.

Stay in touch with your child's assignments, tests, and ongoing projects. Set aside time each day to offer help and be available and enthusiastic so your child doesn't feel like it's a chore for you to help them. Connect with teachers regularly to keep up with how things are going in the classroom. If you find your child needs extra help, get a tutor or tutor him or her yourself.

Enforcer

Help your child set and keep schedules, reach goals, and complete assignments on time. Don't expect your child to automatically know how to use an assignment pad or understand a class schedule.

Sometimes you'll have to be strict, but a little firmness each day will teach your child vital time-management skills. This will give them a sense of control and can help prevent a homework or term paper crisis. Be willing to be the bad guy, but don't make school or homework seem like a punishment. Think of yourself as the leader of an expedition, not a jailor. When things get difficult, they'll respect your authority and see you as a resource for the help they need.

Adult Education

Daytime and evening high school completion classes for teens and adults are now forming. There is no cost for the program, and the daytime program offers a free, fully-licensed daycare to allow parents of young children to continue their education. Evening classes for High School Completion, ESL, and GED programs will serve students whose work and family responsibilities make attending during the day difficult. High school and adult students will also have an opportunity to try on-line classes as part of the Adult Education Program.

All Adult Education classes are held at Sturgis Central Commons. For more information or to enroll, contact the Adult and Community Education office at 659-1540.

SPS Photography Policy

Photos and/or video footage for the purpose of media coverage and/or documenting the school year is taken of school children throughout the year. If you do not want your child to appear in any of the published pieces, please advise the principal at your child's school.

Tell Us What You Think

Sturgis School News welcomes letters, comments, and critiques. All correspondence should be sent to Editor, Sturgis School News, 107 W. West Street, Sturgis, MI 49091. We can be reached by phone at 659-1542 or by e-mail through our web site at www.sturgisps.org.

Sturgis Public Schools

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Conceive It...Believe It...Achieve It...At Sturgis Public Schools

2010-11 School Calendar

September

7 First Day of School - 1/2 Day for Students
20 Fair Day - 1/2 Day for Students

October

1 SHS Homecoming
8 Mid-Term
27-28 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences (Grades 6-12)
29 No School

November

15-18 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences (Grades K-5)
24 End of First Trimester - 1/2 Day for Students
25-26 Thanksgiving Break - No School

December

20-31 No School - Winter Recess

January

3 School Resumes
26-27 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences (Grades 6-12)
28 Mid-Term

February

11-14 No School - Mid-Winter Break

March

11 End of 2nd Trimester - 1/2 Day for Students
17-18 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences (Grades K-5)

April

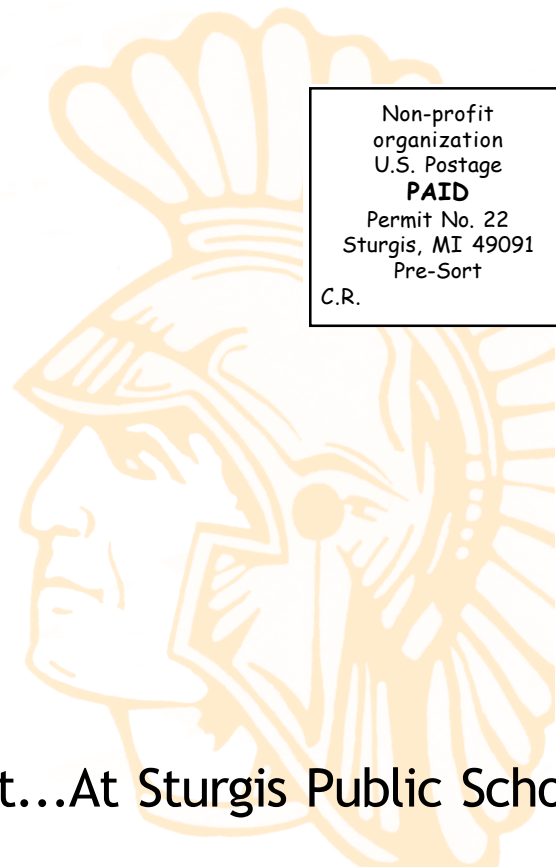
4-8 Spring Break - No School
22 Good Friday - No School

May

6 Mid-Term
30 No School - Memorial Day

June

9 Last Day of School for Students



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