

STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

Fall Sports Schedule
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New District Staff
Upcoming Events

Fall 2011



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Thomas M. Langdon
SPS Superintendent

The new school year has arrived! Here at Sturgis we have excited students, teachers, and staff. I suspect that we have some pretty happy parents as well! It's great to have our children with us all summer, but it's also nice to get them back to school in the fall. We are ready for your children. Sturgis Public Schools has accomplished some great things in the past year, and we can expect even better things in the future. We can thank committed teachers, a great staff, and you - for sending us such awesome kids!



Continued on Page 2



Sturgis High School recently hosted a Freshmen Focus Orientation camp for incoming freshman. The camp allowed students to get comfortable with each other and their new school building before school started.

Superintendent's Corner

(continued from front page)

I would like you all to know how busy we've been this summer in making sure that we take care of YOUR schools. I'm sure you will notice this as you look at our building and grounds and the interior of the buildings. But we have been doing more than just improving the physical elements of our schools. We have also been taking care of the training and professional development that makes good school districts great. From teachers, to bus drivers, to custodians, we make sure that people are prepared to be the best educational practitioners they can be.

Now I would like to give every person reading this newsletter a big "Thank You!" Thank you for what, you might ask? Well, if you are a parent - thank you for entrusting your child to us. We feel that it is a high calling to help your child become as successful as possible as he or she travels their way through their educational journey. Thank you also if you are a grandparent of one of our students and you volunteer to help in our schools. Thank you if you are a community member and you come to some of our athletic events and support our student athletes. Thank you for just showing enough interest in Sturgis Public Schools to read this newsletter!

You see, we could never be as successful as we are without the support of this great community. And a big part of the community is YOU! At Sturgis Public Schools we truly believe that ALL children can succeed. In fact, we believe that all children should be college-ready when they leave as seniors from Sturgis High School. We are looking at partnering with you as we work towards accomplishing that goal. Together we can accomplish great things for every Sturgis Public School student. Thanks for working with us on that endeavor!

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 Monday of each month. On the third Monday 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: *Shelby Bennett and John Andrews show the puppets that they made as they "traveled the world" at Eastwood's Summer library program.*



Alexis McCallum, Sam Miller, Marty Zinke, Jolee Wojahowski, and Sayre Beccasio practice archery at Camp Fort Hill Summer Camp.



Welcome to the District

Dave Watson – Alternative Education Director - Watson is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where he earned two masters degrees – one in educational leadership and another in counseling. He last worked as Head of School at The Howe School. We are particularly excited about Watson’s expertise with alternative students as well as his interest in giving back to the community.

Ron Ehlers – High School Principal - Ehlers comes to us from Climax Scotts Jr./Sr. High School. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University and holds a Master of Arts degree in educational leadership. He has a particular expertise at leading school improvement, staff professional development, and curriculum alignment.

Nick Herblet -High School Assistant Principal - Herblet comes to us from the Ithaca Public Schools where he was their 7 – 12th grade assistant principal/athletic director. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University and holds a Masters in educational leadership. Herblet’s prior administration experience was with Lakeview Community Schools as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director. He has experience in the school improvement process and in writing new curriculum.

New Teachers

Narissa Ross – Special Education Instructor - Ross is a 2011 graduate from Spring Arbor University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education with a major in special education and a minor in psychology. Ross enjoys organizing special community projects.

Natalie Niblock – HS Math - Niblock is an Adrian College graduate. She earned a Bachelors of Art, majoring in math and minoring in communication arts and science. She enjoys coaching volleyball and was involved in mentoring at the Boy’s and Girl’s Club of Lenawee County.

Tony Warmington – 5th grade Special Education Instructor - Warmington was a long-term fifth grade special education substitute at Eastwood this past Spring. He graduated from Miller College in Battle Creek and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education/Learning Disabilities (K-12).

Laura Nalette – 5th grade Classroom Instructor - Nalette is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelors of Arts in elementary education and a language arts endorsement for grades 6-8. Nalette likes reading, traveling, gymnastics, cheerleading, and swimming.

District Information

District Office (Main Switch Board)	659-1500
Superintendent: Dr. Thomas Langdon Assistant Superintendent: Julie Evans Director of Finance: Vicki Watson	
High School - Grades 9-12	659-1515
Principal: Ronald Ehlers School Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	
Middle School - Grades 6-8	659-1550
Principal: Eric Anderson School Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	
Eastwood - Grades 3-5	659-1560
Principal: Bob Matkin School Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	
Congress - Grades K-2	659-1565
Principal: Teresa Belote School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.	
Wall - Grades K-2	659-1570
Principal: Nicole Airgood School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.	
Wenzel - Grades K-2	659-1575
Principal: Teresa Belote School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.	
Community Education/ Central Commons - Preschool/ Great Start/ECSE	651-1540
Principal: Dave Watson School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m./12:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	
Technology Department	659-1512
Janene Kosman	
Athletic Department	659-1535
Athletic Director: Mark Adams	
Custodial /Special Projects	659-1524
Craig Casault	
Food Service	659-1545
Patti Miller	
Transportation/Maintenance/ Grounds	659-1590
Mackie Melson	
GED/Night Adult Education	659-1540
Peter Palasinski	
Community Pool	659-1585
Ray Martin	
Auspurger Courts/Harmon Field	659-3743

www.sturgisps.org

Elementary Schools

Wall/Jerolene Schools

Fall Tailgate Party

When: Friday, September 24th
Where: Wall Elementary
Who: Wall/Jerolene Families

4:40 5:00 Meet on the front lawn (off Lafayette Street). We will serve dinner from 4:45 - 5:50 pm. Please bring lawn chairs or a blanket. We will feed nearly 1,000 people, so please expect lines and a wait.

4:45–5:00 The High School Band and Varsity Cheerleading Team will teach us the Sturgis Fight Song and some cheers. Coach Keim and the Varsity Football players will join us.

5:00–6:00 Visit your child's class to sign-in, pick up a roster and an English handbook, and get your free tickets for the Varsity Football game. **You must present your ticket at the game for free admission.**

Other fun includes a book fair, balloons and ice-cream.



There was fun for everyone at last year's Wall School Tailgate party.



Left: Olivia Feyes picks out school supplies to start her kindergarten year at Congress School. Right: children enjoyed summer library and computer time at Wenzel Elementary.

Wenzel Elementary

Wenzel library averaged 20 students a day during its summer reading program. Children checked out books to read at home and participated in RAZ Kids, a computer-based reading program. The summer program allowed students to polish their reading and computer skills and enjoy puzzles, crafts, and drawing.

Wenzel School is sporting fresh paint in the hallways and gym. The staff is well rested, and excited about spending time with our students. We are pleased to announce that **Melissa Wilcox** will be joining our staff in second grade. She will be sharing a classroom with **Mrs. Thomasma** and teaching reading and language arts. Another special addition to our staff is **Eden Alvey**, one of our favorite former students. Alvey will be returning to Wenzel School as **Mrs. Rutenbar's** student teacher.

Eastwood Elementary

Eastwood's Summer Library Program traveled the world this summer. Kids participated in many craft projects, including coloring and trading bookmarks of all the countries in the world, decorating cookies, designing Chinese dragons, making bug masks, creating circus animal/performers puppets, and much more. The program also featured mystery readers, computers, games, and book selections. Kids could chart their reading during the summer with stickers. The top three readers received a \$10 gift card to Lowry's Book Store.

Jr./Sr. High News

Sturgis High School

We welcome **Ron Ehlers** as our new principal and **Nick Herblet** as our new assistant principal. The vision for our school community is to maintain a culture of respect for each other as well as for the policies and procedures of our school community. We will continue to work together to improve in all academic areas and to keep pace with the knowledge necessary to prepare our young people for college and career opportunities.

New Staff (Cont. from page 3)

Selena Glasgow – 5th grade Eastwood - Glasgow was a long-term fifth grade substitute teacher this last spring at Eastwood Elementary. She is a graduate of Grand Valley State University, earning a Bachelors of Arts in mathematics and elementary education. She enjoys participating in community projects and the Sturgis Wind Symphony.

Sue Langdon – 4th grade Eastwood - Langdon is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where she earned a Masters degree in educational leadership; a Bachelor of Science degree in special education (K-12); a minor in language arts; and certifications in elementary education and cognitive impairments. She has 10 years of combined experience in the Walkerville Public Schools, Reed City Area Public School, and Big Rapids Public Schools.

Mary Murray – 4th grade Eastwood - Murray is a graduate from Western Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in elementary group minors. Previously she taught seventh and eighth grade Science at Bancroft Middle School in Los Angeles, California. She enjoys drama, music, choir, orchestra, band, reading, and film.

Pandy Day – 3rd grade Eastwood - Day graduated from Goshen College, earning her Bachelors of Science in elementary education. She taught elementary education in the Lakeland School Corporation for nine years.



Climbing the wall at Camp Fort Hill Summer Camp.

Amy Bekemeier – 2nd grade Wall School - Bekemeier is a graduate from Michigan State University where she earned a Bachelors of Arts in elementary education and a major in social studies. Bekemeier specializes in several technology applications.



Freshman Focus was a fun way to introduce incoming freshman to the high school.

Sturgis Middle School

All New Academic Support Programming

Throughout the year you will hear the acronym “RTI” or Response to Intervention. RTI is a multi-tiered model of instruction that provides early and intensive academic and/or behavioral interventions in the regular educational setting using a student’s individual learning characteristics. RTI includes regular monitoring and assessment to determine the progress of students.

This year, RTI will focus specifically on students struggling with math, reading, and general assignments/homework. Students will be placed in the following programs based on past test scores and past classroom performance.

During the Day

Assignment Support: Students struggling with assignments, low grades, or weak attendance will be placed in this class until they prove they can handle assignments on their own.

Lab Support in Math or Reading: Students who score low on classroom common assessments, the MEAP test, or the NWEA test, will be placed in the program that focuses on their deficient areas. Initially students will be placed in these programs if they score a 4, 3, or low 2 on the MEAP.

Before or After School

After School Tutoring and Homework Huddle: Students who continue to struggle after receiving support during the school day will be placed in one of these programs. Busing will be available after school for students who normally receive busing.

Students will remain in these programs until their skill level reaches grade-level expectations. Some students who are in advanced classes may still have skill deficits that need support and may also be placed in these classes. **Students placed in these programs will still participate in exploratory and or music classes.**

STURGIS VARSITY HOME SPO

Season athletic passes for the 2011-12 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.



VARSIY FOOTBALL

Friday	09/09/11	* Harper Creek School	Home	7:00PM
Friday	09/30/11	* Lakeview High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday	10/14/11	* Marshall High School	Home	7:00PM

JV FOOTBALL

Thursday	09/15/11	* Loy Norrix High School	Home	5:30PM
Thursday	09/22/11	* Battle Creek Central High	Home	6:30PM
Thursday	10/06/11	* Lumen Christi High School	Home	6:30PM
Thursday	10/20/11	* Coldwater High School	Home	6:30PM

BOYS JV/VARSITY SOCCER

Saturday	09/10/11	Allegan Public Schools	Home	10:00/11:45AM
Tuesday	09/13/11	* Lakeview High School	Home	5:00/6:45PM
Thursday	09/15/11	Parchment High School	Home	6:00PM (Varsity only)
Tuesday	09/20/11	* Marshall High School	Home	5:00/6:45PM
Saturday	10/01/11	Lakeland High School	Home	12:00PM (Varsity only)
Tuesday	10/04/11	SMAC Tournament	TBA	5:00/6:45PM
Thursday	10/06/11	SMAC Tournament	Home	5:00/6:45PM
Tuesday	10/11/11	SMAC Tournament	Home	5:00/6:45PM
Thursday	10/13/11	Hartford Public Schools	Home	6:00PM (Varsity only)

Girls JV/VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Wednesday	09/07/11	* Harper Creek High School	Home	5:30/7:00PM
Monday	09/19/11	Bronson High School	Home	5:30 (JV only)
Wednesday	09/28/11	* Lakeview High School	Home	5:30/7:00PM
Saturday	10/08/11	Sturgis Invitational	Home	8:30AM (Varsity only)
Wednesday	10/12/11	* Marshall High School	Home	5:30/7:00PM
Saturday	10/15/11	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00AM (Freshman only)
Thursday	10/20/11	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00PM (Varsity only)
Saturday	10/22/11	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00AM (JV only)
Monday	10/24/11	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00PM (JV only)

SPORTS SCHEDULE - FALL 2011

CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday 10/15/11 Kiwanis Invitational Home 10:00AM

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS

Wednesday 09/07/11 * Lakeview High School Home 4:30PM
 Wednesday 09/14/11 * Marshall High School Home 4:30PM
 Tuesday 09/20/10 Western High School Home 4:30PM

GIRLS GOLF

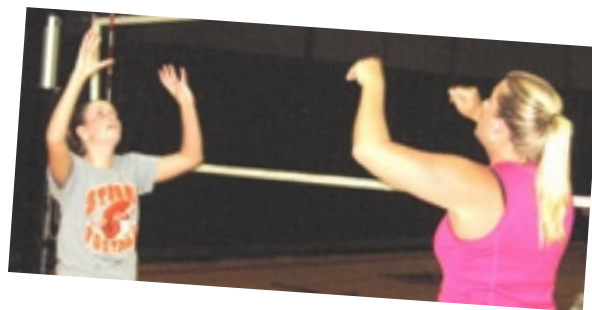
Monday 09/12/10 SMAC Jamboree Home 3:30PM
 Tuesday 10/14/11 Three Rivers High School Home 3:30PM

GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING

Tuesday 09/20/11 Hackett Catholic Central Home 5:00PM
 Tuesday 09/20/11 * Battle Creek Central High Home 6:00PM
 Thursday 09/22/11 Albion High School Home 6:00PM
 Tuesday 10/11/11 * Marshall High School Home 6:00PM
 Thursday 10/13/10 Mattawan High School Home 6:00PM
 Tuesday 10/18/11 * Loy Norrix High School Home 6:00PM

* Denotes SMAC Game

Above Left: Jack Caywood and Jack Scheske lead the charge in their first JV football game against Benton Harbor. Right: Katie Higgs works with JV Volleyball coach, Tracy Stevens.



School Fight Song

*Sturgis High School, we are for you; To our school we'll always be true.
 The teams are on the field to fight; We'll yell with all our might, Rah, rah, rah!
 Sturgis, to you we'll be true; Whether we win or lose, we'll win!
 So get in the fray and we'll win today. Sturgis High School, we love you.*

Parental Involvement Plan*

Parental involvement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents are involved in—

- *developing and implementing appropriate strategies for helping their child achieve the learning objectives that lead to accomplishing desired learning outcomes.*
- *providing a mutually supportive school and home environment which encourages learning.*
- *their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.*

Action Plan

1. *The Sturgis Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent involvement plan:*
 - The School will form Parent Advisory committees with representation from: parents (including representation from significant subgroups), teachers and administrators to review parent involvement policy and how parent involvement dollars will be spent.
 - The Parent Advisory committees will meet to review the parent involvement plan as well as achievement data and strategies for improvement.
 - Each school will distribute to parents in writing the parent involvement policy in a language parents can understand.
 - Each school will convene an annual meeting at a convenient time in which all parents of children participating in the Title I program are invited in order to inform parents about Title I and their right to be involved.
2. *The Sturgis Public School District will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, flexible and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of parent involvement plans and Title I programs, including planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement plan.*
3. *The Sturgis Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.*

4. *The Sturgis Public Schools District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement.*

Educational Services*

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.

Parents Right to Know*

Our district receives funding from many resources, one of which is Title I, Part A, a grant provided by the federal government through the recent legislation, *No Child Left Behind*. As a requirement for receiving funds under this program, each school must meet the guidelines for “highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals” in each subject area using a system approved by the Michigan Board of Education.

You, as a parent, may request information on your child's teacher(s) qualifications:

- Certification for grade level and subject.
- Emergency or provisional status.
- BA major and graduate degrees.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals.

Also, the district will notify you when your child is being taught for four(4) consecutive weeks by teachers NOT highly qualified.

If you would like to receive this information, please put your request in writing to **Julie Evans**, 107 W. West Street, Sturgis, MI or email jevans@sturgisps.org. A response to your request for information will be provided in five business days.

Notices

Family Rights*

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 awards, and other general information generally found in year-books.

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.

* *Sturgis Public Schools is required by the State and/or Federal government to post these notices on a yearly basis.*

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.

Demolition of a section of Central Commons will involve asbestos abatement (removal). Periodic surveillance (inspections) of asbestos containing materials will be completed every six months. A three-year re-inspection was performed this year.

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

Sturgis Public Schools Meal Prices

Universal <i>Free</i> Breakfast to ALL students K-12	
Adults	\$1.75
Full Price Lunch:	
High School, Middle School, and Eastwood	\$2.05
Life Skills, Community Ed (Even Start)	\$2.05
Congress, Wall, and Wenzel	\$1.80
St. John's Lutheran	\$1.80
Adults	\$2.80
Reduced Price Lunch Students	
K-12	\$.40
Milk	\$.35

Did you Know?

- You can deposit money to your students account on-line by going to www.sturgisps.org and selecting the PaySchools icon.
- You can fill-out a Free/Reduced Application on-line by going to www.sturgisps.org and selecting Department, Food Service.
- Free/Reduced Applications need to be filled out completely to avoid delays in the approval process.
- Free/Reduced Applications need to be filled out every year, one application per family.
- You need not fill out an application if you feel you do not qualify for Free/Reduced meals.
- **Food allergies need to be updated every year.** Please provide a doctor's slip if the allergy is severe or food substitutions are required.

If you have any questions, please call our Food Service office at (269) 659-1545.



*Sturgis High School freshman and sophomore violinists participate in summer orchestra camp at Camp Fort Hill. The four-day camp that focused on music and technique was run by director **Eliot Gitelman** and counselor **Louie Steptoe**.*

Transportation/Grounds/Maintenance

Throughout the summer, many service employees have been attending CPR, first-aid, and continuing education classes. Others have been in the buses; on the grounds; and in the buildings cleaning, repairing, and working together to get things ready for our students. Most transportation employees are cross-trained and have the ability to help in more than one department. Grounds and maintenance employees will also be cross-trained as the school year goes forward.

Some of our most noticeable accomplishments include repairing the crumbling sidewalks outside of Sturgis Central Commons; adding a new bus to the fleet, # 23 (it has a rear engine rather than the traditional engine in the front); painting, tiling, and ceiling tile replacement in many areas; removing the 'islands' in the parent parking lot at Eastwood; and adding rock borders at Eastwood and Central Commons.

Greg Forster is our new maintenance foreman. He brings extensive experience in the electrical field. **Cleo Currier**, our newest bus driver, is looking forward to starting her new route and meeting all her passengers!

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.



Happenings

Technology Tools for All

Sturgis Public Schools strives to provide a technology-rich environment for all of our students so they will be prepared for any path they choose after high school.

Students in third-twelfth grade have their own *Google Apps* email which is filtered and flagged for inappropriate language or images. Students are taught how to use their student email in an appropriate manner, and how to keep their personal email for personal correspondence, similar to how the students will communicate when they get to college or their work place.

Every third-eighth grade student will create and maintain a private website within their email account that they will share with their teachers. This ePortfolio accounts allow students to practice and demonstrate their technology skills. Their ePortfolios will follow students to the high school to collect all the data they need for their Senior Portfolio presentation.

Students and staff can access their network resources (H drive) from any device connected to the Internet via *SPS Access* found on our Resources tab at sturgisps.org.

We have reworked our wireless infrastructure to allow high school students to access filtered Internet on their own devices for educational purposes. Teachers have the right to allow, or not allow, the devices when appropriate to their lesson plans. We are currently training our staff how to teach in this environment. We are also working on lesson plans that will offer common language and consistency for the entire school and district.

The Sturgis Central Commons lab will continue to be open Monday through Thursday from 6 PM-9 PM for all students and parents of Sturgis Public Schools.

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

An Open letter to Teens from socialmediatoday.com*

We haven't met yet IRL (*in real life*), but I've seen you online and...**we need to talk**. You are growing up in a world where privacy is an old-fashioned concept. Almost everything you do is recorded, watched or monitored somehow. We have cameras on our computers, our cell phones, in stores, parks, and on the highway. We check in on Facebook and Foursquare and whatever other check-in app you choose. Your phone goes everywhere you go, and the GPS on your phone always knows where you are. You're in a relationship with social media and "**It's Complicated.**" Most of your parents don't get it. (*Sorry parents, it's true.*) Well, let me tell you the hard truth that you don't like to think about:

People are watching - That creepy guy at the mall? *Yep, he's online and he can read your Twitter stream.* That jerk you wish you never met? He can Google you and get your life story in a flash. Yes, **Google indexes your Facebook feeds and your tweets** and lots of other things you forget about 5 minutes after you post them.

The Internet never forgets - I heard on the news that the FCC (people who set the rules for the Internet) have decided **it's OK for people to do social media background checks**. That means that 10 or 15 years from now when you apply for that job that you've been dreaming about since you were, oh, the age you are right now, the people thinking about hiring you can pull up all those old messages you forgot about and WOW...won't they be surprised? **Is that what you want for your future you?**

What about right now - Would you stand up in front of a million people today and do that sexy dance or act like an idiot or talk about how you drank too much when you weren't old enough to drink at all? Really? 1,000,000 people? What about 1,000 people? Or even 15 people? Probably not. **Well, tweet about it and you have the power to reach a lot more than 1 million people.** PEOPLE. YOU. DON'T. KNOW. Just because you don't see them doesn't mean they aren't out there. They are. Ask former Rep. Weiner. Or Gilbert Gottfried. Lots of people saw their messages, and look where it got them.

It's not a secret - Maybe your mom and dad don't know you are on Twitter. You went behind their back and created that account, so no one will ever know except the 1,579 friends you've collected on Facebook (including the ones you've never met). How many of those people are who they say they are? You can be anyone you want to be online, right? Do you really know your "friends"?

My point is that you need to be CAREFUL online. - I'm not that old, but the world sure has changed since I was a kid. People used to talk about being "street smart," which meant that you knew a thing or two about life and weren't likely to be taken advantage of or do something that could get you in trouble. **The new "street smart" is "social smarts"** There's way more trouble online, just waiting for you if you're careless. And you might not see it coming.

I'm not trying to scare you, but wake up.

Protect your privacy online. Be careful what you post. Think twice. Would you want your grandma to see that? *Then it probably shouldn't be online.* It's really hard to undo social media mistakes. Mom and Dad can't bail you out. You can't buy your way back from a bad reputation. Poor judgement will follow you, because the Internet never forgets and yes, people *are* watching. Don't get me wrong. I'm a big fan of social media. It's a great tool for sharing, communicating and staying in touch. But any tool, when it's misused, can create a lot of damage. **Don't let that happen to you.** Have fun, but be careful out there. **Please.**

* Article has been slightly modified for length

GED/Adult Education

The Community School office at Central Commons can help you further your education with their new ACES program.

The ACES (Acceleration Center for Educational Services) replaces our traditional alternative education program. ACES is project-centered and offers individualized attention. On-line classes along with teacher assistance are also offered individually.

David Watson, director of the program, has several years of experience in developing new programs for students who need to complete high school. He once was the Director of the Cooperative Learning Center in Sturgis and has held many administrative positions as a school principal and school superintendent. **Kathy Webb**, our Administrative Assistant, previously worked for 16 years in the Technology Department of Sturgis Schools.

ACES teachers **Pat Ort**, **Brenda Reed**, and **Brian Boughton** all have a great deal of teaching and mentoring experience. They will help all students develop realistic educational goals.

For more information about ACES or any other classes offered through the Adult and Alternative Education office, please call 269-659-1540.

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 659-1500 ext. 1700 or by e-mail through our web site at www.sturgisps.org.



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2011-12 School Calendar

September

6 First Day of School (AM) - 1/2 Day
30 SHS Homecoming

October

26-27 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences - Grades 6--12

November

14-17 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences - Grades K-5
23-25 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

2-5 No School for Students
25-Jan 6 No School - Winter Break

January

9 School Resumes
25-26 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences - Grades 6--12

February

17-20 No School - Mid-Winter Break

March

16-19 No School for Students
22-23 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences - Grades K-5

April

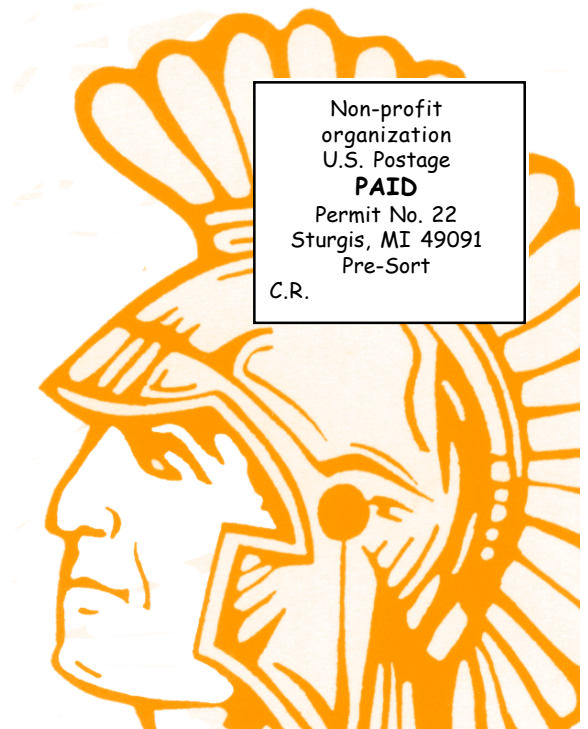
2-6 No School for Students - Spring Break

May

28 No School - Memorial Day

June

14 Last Day for Students



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