



EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN A CHANGING WORLD

September 2017

From the Desk of Mr. Olson:

Pick-up and Drop-off

In an effort to improve the Creekside drop-off/pick-up area we recommend the following procedures for all parents. If you plan on leaving your vehicle please pull into a designated parking spot and walk to the sidewalk to get your child. Avoid having children walk across the parking lot without an adult escort.

Children enter and exit the playground area on the far end of the parking lot so we ask parents to pull forward to the end of the sidewalk or up to the next vehicle. After drop-off or pick-up go to the far side of the parking lot to exit (please do not make a u-turn and travel into traffic) utilizing the entire loop. Two lanes of traffic may be used in the drop-off/pick-up areas.

Drop-off/pick-up on the south side of the building is designated for bus traffic. If you feel you must utilize the streets near the school, we ask that you are courteous to our neighbors. Do not park in front of driveways and treat their neighborhood as you would like yours treated.

Please do not park in the Regional Health Dialysis Center parking lot.

Bicycle and Foot Traffic

On Oct. 14th Creekside Elementary will be participating in the National Walk to School Day. While this is a healthy alternative to catching a ride from parents or the bus it is also important to keep safety at the fore front. There are two areas that are a major concern when walking or riding a bike. Hillsvie Street between Creekside and the High School can get very busy especially when the HS students are entering or leaving the parking lot. We recommend that students do not walk between the HS to Creekside. If your child wishes to walk or bike from the Rec. Center or apartments we ask that “walkers” stay on the East (Rec. Center) side and “bicyclers” remain on the West (apartment) side of the street. Bicyclers should walk their bikes across all intersections and we ask students to walk their bikes on school grounds. (if anyone is interested in acting as a crossing guard in this area we ask that you call the school)

Afternoon Crossing Guards needed

We are looking for volunteers to take an afternoon as a crossing guard at 5th and Yankee for the students walking to the Rec Center after school. Please call 717-1210 if you're interested! Thank you.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Spearfish School District



The Spearfish School District is increasing our focus and attention on a critical issue that impacts student learning and achievement – attendance. It's a major part of our school improvement efforts to improve student outcomes, since, let's face it, teachers can most effectively reach students who are present at school.

It could be argued that the Spearfish School District is already doing its part to get students to school on time. Our start and end times for each building are published and consistent. We provide busing for all elementary, middle, and high school students in addition to other public transit opportunities such as Prairie Hills Transportation. We work with local authorities to create safe paths to school for students who walk or ride bikes, we train students as safety patrol officers to help their peers get safely to school in busy school zones, we staff loading/unloading zones at schools, and encourage students at every level on a daily basis.

And so a portion of the responsibility falls on the community - specifically parents/guardians, grandparents, close relatives, friends and neighbors. As students get older, they too gain responsibility for their own attendance.

Here are some tips and ideas for starting this school year with the expectation that every student will be to school on time, every day. By eliminating common obstacles, students will rapidly gain the benefits of the academic and social development of being in the classroom every instructional day.

- ✓ **Before school starts: Have dentist and doctor's check-ups for your child and make sure immunizations are up to date.** Keeping students healthy is the first step in keeping them in the classroom.
- ✓ **Visit the library frequently.** Get a week's worth of books at once. Developing a love of reading is a crucial step in creating a successful student. Best part? *Borrowing books costs you nothing!*
- ✓ **Make sure your child is enrolled in school for the fall and has school supplies.** Enrolling is easy – **it's all online** (but schools can help you if you don't have internet access). School supplies can get expensive, but there are many local agencies helping students get what they need to be successful.
- ✓ **Fill out all forms that come home, update your contact information, and put up the school calendar where everyone can see it.** In addition, your classroom teacher may have additional forms for you to fill out. The calendar part is easy: every household in Spearfish will receive one in the back to school packets.
- ✓ **Set bedtimes that allow for a story or reading and 8-10 hours of sleep.** The more reading, the better. Getting enough sleep is integral to getting kids up in the morning and prepared to learn when they reach the classroom.
- ✓ **Get your child up in time to have breakfast at home or at school, and get to school early.** Every student loves recess and social time. Being at school early allows time for breakfast and to get the blood pumping to those young brains!
- ✓ **Give your child their own alarm clock and help them use it.** This teaches responsibility and allows students to start taking ownership of their own academic success.

Empowering All Students To Succeed In a Changing World

- ✓ **After school: Ask your child about the day, check for notes from school, review the day's homework assignments, and make sure there is a place and enough time to do homework.** Make homework the first priority, followed by relaxation or play.
- ✓ **At the start of a new school year, semester or trimester: Help your child set goals for good grades. Write down the goals you and your child set, and more importantly, develop strategies for achieving them.** Keep this list front and center and continue to remind students of the goals that were set.
- ✓ **Check your child's Infinite Campus and report cards for grades, attendance and behavior reports.** Go through things with your student, give praise where it is due and ask how you can help with trouble areas, developing a strategy for improvement.
- ✓ **Go to school events, join parent groups, attend parent-teacher conferences, get to know your child's teacher.** Maybe this should have been the first item on the list. The more invested YOU are in your child's education, the more they'll take it seriously too. Let them know how important it is for them to be active and do well in school by demonstrating your commitment.
- ✓ **Ask for help when you and your child need it.** Your child's teachers and administrators are there to make children successful. If at any point you need help, just ask.
- ✓ **Praise your child for hard work and learning!** Rather than telling a child he or she is "smart," praise them for their work ethic, which will then continue to develop. Make sure they know your pride if they are getting to school on time every day.
- ✓ **Develop a plan for getting to school on time and plan for contingencies.** Snow, traffic, family emergencies and any number of issues can affect the morning routine. Have someone established as a "back-up" to help get students to school on time if you can't. Ask a friend, neighbor, grandparent or other family member before the school year even begins so that on those morning when you need to be at work early or something happens, your student won't miss a beat.

Working together, we can make sure every student is on time, every day!

Important Dates

No School Friday, September 22nd - Teacher Inservice

Wednesday, September 27th ~ 5th Grade Science in the Canyon Field Trip

Thursday, September 28th ~ All School Fall Fitness Festival

Wednesday, October 4th - Early Release for Staff Development at 12:50