

Stanton Community Schools

Home & School CONNECTION! (Working Together for School Success)

Volume XVII, Issue 2

August 31, 2019

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

School District's Tax Valuation Down 4.82%

Stanton Community School District has lost approximately \$30,000,000 in valuation, which is down 4.82% from the previous year. This is the district's lowest valuation since the 2014-2015 school year.

I would guess that most of this loss is due to agricultural land going for less dollars per acre. How does this affect the school district's budget? As a natural conservative, I will propose a budget that lacks much growth. The school lunch, special building, qualified capital and student fee will all either stay the same or decrease. The biggest increased budget will be the depreciation fund due to saving money for future bus purchases and track renovation (The track is 20 years old). The general fund, by far the largest, will increase 2.51%. Of the \$214,487 increase in the general fund, \$132,426 is due to the large preschool grant we received from the Nebraska Department of Education. This leaves us with an \$82,061 increase for existing accounts in the general fund.

For the whole district, taxes for my proposed budget will only increase \$39,217. With that said, you will see the tax rate increase by 7.5 cents due to valuations going down. However, valuation shifts usually result in some people's taxes going up while others go down. In other words, we will see winners and losers.

On another note, I'm pleased to announce that the

Stanton Community Schools is in the preschool business. When Headstart indicated that they were leaving the community unless the school became a part of the preschool program, we saw this as an opportunity to open our own preschool.

As the educational force in the community, the district wrote and received a grant from the Nebraska Department of Education in amount of \$132,426. We partnered with Headstart so they would continue their support in Stanton. We also partnered with Noah's Ark Preschool and Educational Service #8. Our goal is to offer an exceptional educational experience to our preschool students regardless of where they attend.

Currently, we are all learning how to operate a

preschool. It can be a very challenging task, so please be patient with us!

I was amazed of the quality staff that we were able to put together on such short notice. Mrs. Christa Schieffer, teacher, along with paraprofessionals Kiki Reese and Sylvia Sherman will provide quality education and care for your children. And best of all, they are under the immediate direction of Mrs. Sarah Remm. Mrs. Remm has previous preschool experience from her days in Winside.

Our custodial and kitchen staffs will also be assisting to make sure everything operates smoothly. Both staffs have already been instrumental in getting the preschool running.

Bussing!! Please be patient as we try to figure out the safest and best way to pickup and deliver our new students.

Reporters

Dr. Sieh Superintendent
Dr. Cunningham..... H.S. Principal
Mrs. Remm Elementary Principal
Mrs. Fernau..... Counselor
Mrs. Liekhus Librarian
Mrs. Renn Business Instructor
Mrs. Schieffer... Preschool Instructor

Events Calendar

September 2

No School - Labor Day

September 9

School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

September 16

Elementary Grandparents' Breakfast
(7:30 - 8:30 a.m.)

September 23

- 1:20 p.m. dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 - 7:00 p.m.)

September 25

- 1:20 p.m. dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 - 7:00 p.m.)

September 27

- No School - P/T Compensation Day



Stanton Community Schools' 2019-2020 Preschoolers

www.scs-ne.org
(402)439-2233

Questions??? Please Call!
Central Office - 439-2233
High School Office - 439-2250
Elementary Office - 439-2639

Let's make this an "AWESOME" year at the Stanton Community Schools!

Connecting with Dr. Cunningham

By Dave Cunningham

Information Provided

Transportation

Transportation in schools is one of the toughest parts of the school environment. Many times the school bus and driver are the first things a student sees in the morning. That morning bus ride can make or break a student's day. Not only does the bus driver make an impact on students riding the bus, other students do also. There are a myriad of positives and negatives that can take place on a school bus.

Students riding a school bus to school or home from school can learn numerous good and bad things on a school bus. Students in all grades ride the school bus to and from school, creating some interesting dynamics because of the age discrepancies.

Several little details can be cleaned up with the help of parents talking with their student that is riding the bus and reviewing the bus rider rules located in both the high school and elementary handbooks.

Students of all ages have colorful language that they use when not around Mom and Dad or their guardians. Please remind your student that rides the school bus that they need to be a model of good behavior and language for the younger students. Younger students will model their behavior after the older students and the problem just goes in a vicious circle. Please talk to your student about the proper language and behavior on a school bus.

Loud talking, laughing or unnecessary noise diverts a driver's attention and may result in an accident. Students need to be seated at all times and may not leave their seat until so told. Horseplay is not permitted on the school bus. Students are expected to be courteous to fellow students and the bus

driver.

To ensure that safety of all students transported by school busses, the following procedure will be in effect should a student violate the outlined regulations. 1) Verbal warning from the bus driver to the student, and a telephone call to the students home, 2) Written warning to parents, 3) Suspension from the bus for a period of two weeks, 4) Suspension from the bus for a semester or the remainder of the school year.

Please spend time talking with your child(ren) about what proper behavior should look like. Distracting the driver with inappropriate behavior can cause accidents. We want students to arrive at school safe, and we want students to return home safe. Please take the time to speak with your student(s) about the proper behavior that is expected on the bus when riding. With everyone working together we can offer a safe mode of transportation to make sure all students are safe.

Hot Lunch/Breakfast

Please remember to keep your family lunch account balance in the positive. Email statements for all family lunch accounts, negative or positive, are sent on Mondays and Thursdays of each week that school is in session. Unfortunately, with the ever-increasing cost of food, it is not feasible for the school to keep financing breakfast and lunch and never get reimbursed.

Activity Passes

Activity passes are on sale in the high school office. Please stop by and purchase yours for the year.

- Couple - \$110
- Adult - \$60
- Senior Citizen/Students - \$30

Gate Workers

Parents should have received an email to sign-up for gate duty from Sign-up Genius.

Reminiscing with Mrs. Remm

By Sarah Remm

The More That You Read...

Most of us are probably familiar with the famous quote "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go". With his witty sayings and colorful characters, there is much to learn from Dr. Seuss. There's no doubt about it, reading is an important life skill. Starting at a very early age, children are exposed to the elements of reading and its processes. Bedtime stories, nursery rhymes, and library programs are just the beginning of a wonderful learning opportunity and the building of a foundation for success.

The reading instruction that takes place in schools must be one of high priority. The teachers at Stanton Community Schools have become well-versed in effective instructional reading strategies and have been very involved in writing reading templates that are not only used in our district, but in area schools as well. Their willingness to learn new ways and to grow as educators only makes the learning process for the students that much stronger.

With the focus on the importance of reading, a new initiative called NebraskaREADS goes into effect this school year. NebraskaREADS targets

students in grades K-3. Students will be assessed three times a year with a screener called Acadience, formerly known as Dibels. Students identified with reading difficulties will be the focus for interventions. All parents will be notified of their child's reading progress, and parents of children needing targeted reading intervention will be notified within 15 school days after the identification has been completed. An Individual Reading Improvement Plan will be developed with the collaboration of the teachers, administrators, and parents.

While this is a new initiative, many of the expectations outlined in the initiative were already established at Stanton Elementary. The teachers and staff are confident that NebraskaREADS will be a smooth transition for students, parents, and teachers this school year. Outcomes will include meaningful conversations about what is best for the students and consistency in our teaching practices. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's reading or learning progress, please communicate with his or her classroom teacher.

Child Find for Special Education Services

The Stanton Community School asks you to assist us in our childfind efforts. This is an ongoing statewide search for all unserved children with disabilities, ages birth through 21. If you know of a child who is experiencing difficulties with motor development, speech and language, vision, hearing or learning, please refer the parent to the number below. The Stanton Community School District will provide an educational evaluation at no cost to the parent. If the child qualifies under Nebraska law, a free and appropriate educational program will be developed to meet his/her educational needs. To contact us, please call Michael Sieh, Superintendent at (402) 439-2233.

You will be getting a reminder email through the sign-up Genius application we are using to schedule workers. Game workers may have to switch duties but please let the office know by emailing or calling. Hosting of contests cannot run smoothly without the help of everyone. One missing link can cause an undue burden on someone else. Please let us know if you have switched duties so we can make sure a contest runs smoothly.

CHILDFIND NOTICE

This notice is to inform the patrons of the Stanton Community Schools that Public law 94-142 and Nebraska Rules 51 and 52 mandate that a free, appropriate public education is available to each child with a disability, 0-21 years of age, who resides in a local school district.

STANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT TO ENHANCE STEM CURRICULUM WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL FARMERS

*By Working with Farmers, America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program, Sponsored by the Bayer Fund, Awarded \$2.3 Million in Grants to Strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education in Rural Schools
(Article Submitted by Mrs. Karla Renn)*

- America's Farmers Grow Rural Education \$10,000 grant will allow Stanton Community Schools to purchase a laser/engraver to supplement the growing MakerSpace program at Stanton Community Schools.
- Schools from across the country were nominated and selected by farmers to receive STEM grants through Grow Rural Education.
- Grow Rural Education has given more than \$18 million in grants to over 1,000 rural public school districts since 2011.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (8/13/19) - In early 2019, America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Bayer Fund, partnered with local farmers to nominate rural schools and awarded more than \$2.3 million in grants to enhance their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Because area farmers answered the call, Grow Rural Education has awarded Stanton Community Schools in Stanton, NE with a \$10,000 grant.

Stanton Community Schools is one of the many schools across the country that has benefited from the Grow Rural Education program. For each grant-winning school, teachers, students and, oftentimes, community members develop plans to create more engaging and innovative STEM programs. Grow Rural Education grants have helped schools purchase an array of STEM-related materials, such as augmented-reality sandboxes, weather-forecasting and robotics equipment. Stanton Community Schools will use the Grow Rural Education funds to purchase a laser/engraver to grow our MakerSpace program to promote hands-on education within our district.

"America's Farmers Grow Rural Education is a unique program because farmers play an important role throughout the process, from nominating schools to selecting the grant winners," said Al Mitchell, President, Bayer Fund. "With the incredible support of local farmers, countless grant-winning schools have shared with us how Grow Rural Education funds have made their STEM programs more engaging and, in several instances, positively impacted test scores."

To qualify for a Grow Rural Education grant, farmers nominated a school or school district to compete for a merit-based grant of either \$10,000 or \$25,000.

School districts that were nominated then submitted a grant application describing their STEM-focused project. Grow Rural Education's Farmer Advisory Council, consisting of approximately 30 farmer leaders from across the country, reviewed the finalist applications and selected the winning school districts, including Stanton Community Schools.

Since Grow Rural Education began in 2011, it has awarded more than \$18 million to more than 1,000 schools in rural communities across the United States. To view a complete list of winners or to learn more about the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program, visit AmericasFarmers.com or follow along on Facebook at facebook.com/AmericasFarmers.

About America's Farmers

The America's Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern U.S. Agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America's Farmers at www.AmericasFarmers.com.

About the Bayer Fund

The Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the overall health and wellbeing in communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work. Visit the Bayer Fund at www.monsantofund.org.

Homecoming Dress Up Days

(September 30th - October 4th)

- Monday-Fake an injury
- Tuesday-Decade day
- Wednesday-Advisory/class-pick your own color or a theme
- Thursday- Destination day
 - 5th-swimming pool
 - 6th Husker game
 - 7th-Nursing home
 - 8th-North Pole
 - 9th-Safari
 - 10th-Hawaii
 - 11th-Farm
 - 12th-Disney Land
 - Staff-4th of July parade/picnic
- Friday-spirit day
More details of homecoming week will come in the October newsletter.

No School

- Labor Day – September 2nd
- Parent/Teacher Comp Day – September 27th



Mrs. Schieffer, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Sherman and the Preschool Students

Middle/High School Scholastic Book Fair – 2019

(Liekhus) Mark your calendar for the 2019 Book Fair. The Book Fair will be held on September 23rd – September 26th at the Stanton High School. The theme will be "Arctic Adventure Book Fair: Snow Much to Read."

More information will be coming later!



(Schieffer) The Lil' Stangs Preschool is new and up and running. We have been working hard! They are learning all about the school, their friends and teachers, and the rules of the school. We are gearing up for a year full of fun and excitement!

Lil' Stangs Preschool

Counselor's Corner

By Lindy Fernau

September Newsletter - 2019

Financial Aid Night - October 2nd at Stanton High School Library 6:00pm

Important information for filling out the FAFSA form!!! Financial Aid Forms are completed using 2018 Tax information and the deadlines for submission to colleges have changed. If you have a senior student who is planning to attend college next year, please come to this important informational meeting. If you have a junior who will be attending college in the future, this meeting will also help you familiarize yourself with the processes and what to plan for financially and tax preparation.

Apply to College Event - October 2nd at Stanton High School

Seniors will have the opportunity to get help applying to the college(s) of their choice during the school day. Members of the faculty will be available to help them and answer questions. Teachers also share where they went to college and why they decided to attend that school.

Sophomore Career Day - October 15th at Wayne State College

All sophomores will be attending a Career Exploration Day at WSC. We will leave the school after 8:00am and return before 3:30pm. The sophomores have previously prioritized their interests and will be able to explore 3 different careers. They will also have several breakout sessions about college and career life skills. The only cost to the student is \$7.75 for lunch in the cafeteria.

Testing

All juniors will be taking the ASVAB or PSAT test on October 16th. Both tests are proctored in the morning. The ASVAB is a military entrance test that has a very good career assessment attached and the PSAT is a test only a few students can choose to take as an indicator of college readiness.

Conversation starters

I saw this article about ideas to start a conversation with school age kids other than "How was your day?" with the typical answer "Fine". Some of

the questions could help students to refocus their thoughts and goals to a more positive outlook.

Her View From Home writers were asked to share some of their favorite conversation starters with their kids. These are especially great after a long school day when your babies don't want to chat.

1. What made you smile today?
2. Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
3. Was there an example of unkindness? How did you respond?
4. Does everyone have a friend at recess?
5. Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?
6. What was the best thing that happened today?
7. Did you help anyone today?
8. Did you tell anyone "thank you?"
9. Who did you sit with at lunch?
10. What made you laugh?
11. Did you learn something you

- didn't understand?
12. Who inspired you today?
13. What was your least favorite part of the day?
14. Who did you play with today?
15. Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
16. Tell us your top two things from the day (before you can be excused from the dinner table!).
17. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
18. What are you reading?
19. What was the hardest rule to follow today?
20. Teach me something I don't know.
21. If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
22. What made your teacher smile? What made him/her frown?
23. Did you learn any new words today?
24. If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
25. If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

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