



R.F. PETTIGREW panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER: **SEPTEMBER 2020**

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Principal's Notes
- Daily Screening
- 20-21 School Calendar
- Letter from Superintendent Stavem
- School Bus Rules for Elementary Riders
- Night at Sky Zone
- Skate City Neon Glow Skate

CONNECT:



www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents

From the Principal's Desk: Mr. Kevin Dick



Off to a great start, together! That is the overall theme of our first few days and weeks of school at Pettigrew. It is apparent that parents, students, and families have spent time talking about the changes that their students would be experiencing at school this fall. They had discussed going to a new classroom with no parent and without any introduction at a face to face Open House, they had discussed the importance of wearing masks and face coverings, they had discussed the need for social distancing, they had discussed the importance of being flexible and able to pivot, as situations require. We, the staff at Pettigrew, were able to benefit from this preparation and start the introductory stage of the teaching and learning relationships in our classrooms this year. So thank you, parents, for the gift of trust in us, and while the situation was not ideal and what we were used to, our staff was able to pick up from that spirit of trust and begin to establish the beginning building blocks of this relationship.

Research shows that the teaching—learning experience is so much more enhanced when the relationship between teacher and students and between teacher and family exists in an open, friendly, and communicative environment. It is very tough to develop these relationships in a digital environment, not meeting parents face to face, but rather virtually. When the faces are hidden behind masks and face coverings, this is also difficult establish trust and an openness to communication and feedback. But, once again, families and staff at Pettigrew came through this past week, proving that even those large barriers were not going to stop their efforts to establish the open relationship we all know is important. We will continue to face challenges this year, and we know that another key word besides “together” this year, is “pivot”, which simply means staying flexible and available to change in a moment’s notice. We may need to pivot to a different type of education model at some point, we may need to pivot our procedures in a certain area in school, we may need to pivot to care for a student who has been sent home from school, etc., etc.

Some basic procedures and activities that we should address in our opening article about school this year are as follows:

- Screening of student health conditions
- What is required information when a student stays home due to poor health?
- What are our lunch and recess plans for social distancing?
- Notification processes at school
- What is the release from school at the end of the day plans?

Screening of health conditions: The screening questions that every parent should be observing with their children are found in this version of the newsletter. Please take a moment each day to assess these questions. After students arrive, our staff are screening the children in their care with those same aspects in mind. When a symptom of COVID-19 is determined to be present, it may become necessary for students to be isolated and quarantined for 10 days. Families should have plans available for this contingency.

What information does the school need when I call a student in, sick and staying home? We need to know the symptoms that the child is experiencing in every case. Please be clear and thorough when you call if you have to leave a message. If you talk to someone, we will probably ask you questions if there is some ambiguity. If we receive a message that is unclear, we will call you back

to specify, so for the sake of time and efficiency, please state all the symptoms the student is experiencing and when they began.

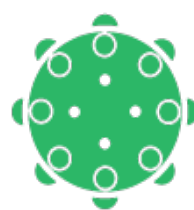
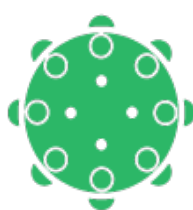
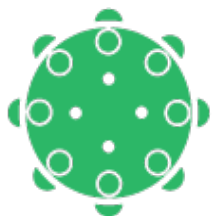
Lunch and recess plans: We were able to schedule each group in the lunchroom, with enough time to sanitize the tables in between the periods. We have half as many students in the lunchroom as in the past, one grade level at a time. We have half as many students sitting at each table and each table has a spot marked for the students to sit that is approximately 3 feet away from another student. Students sit in cohorts at these tables, sitting in the same group that they share a locker area with, sit with in class, at their desks, and also sit with at specials classes. Recess is a time for students to take an optional mask break if they wish. They are encouraged to play with their classroom cohorts and classroom friends, particularly when using equipment such as tetherballs, playground balls, footballs, etc. It is also taught to not spend more than 15 minutes with students outside of their cohorts, without masks on, as this social distancing practice may become important, should we have to contact trace a particular student on a given day.

Notification from school: If a family's child is exhibiting symptoms at school, the child may be isolated in a special area, the family is called and needs to come pick up the student from school. When this happens, the length of time the student is out will be discussed, but it may be up to 10 days. If a student is symptomatic of COVID-19, but gets checked for COVID-19, they may return to school with evidence of a negative test. The Sioux Falls School District will report via letter to an entire school (staff and families) when a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed at that building. Students and staff who are suspected as close contacts will receive a separate letter from SFSD and a phone call from the SD Department of Health who conducts contact tracing investigations.

Release at the end of the day: With nearly 800 elementary students needing to get released at the end of the day, we continue to practice a staggered release as we have in the past. We have simply added more time and groupings of release. We are working to ensure that all students continue to wear their masks in the hallway, and we want traffic to all be moving in one direction. Half our bus students are released at a time, walkers and riders are staggered, and then daycares are released as their transport area becomes available. Another slot is Kids Inc release, when students report to various spots around the building for check in and beginning of this care.

An interesting aspect of this year is that our enrollment has dropped. One important drop is the number of students choosing to enroll in the Virtual Academy. That transfer of programs affected the enrollment in our regular planning. But aside from that drop, we did experience a drop in Kindergarten students and a few other classes, due to community numbers of particular groups and somewhat unrelated to the pandemic. We have 32 classes at Pettigrew currently, down from 35 last year. That includes 5 classes of Kindergarten, Third grade, Fourth grade and Fifth grade. The other grade levels each have 6 sections, that being First and Second grade. One of these classes was cut just before school started, so a good amount of juggling and movement in grade levels happened very late in the process.

We have a great group of kids, of families, and an excellent staff at Pettigrew, and together, we are looking forward to a successful and effective school year. We plan to stay open all year and are taking measures to ensure that we can. If changes are required, we know everyone has plans to allow that pivoting, but we are hopeful we will not have to use those plans. Thanks for your part in these effective safety plans and the continued focus on the important aspects of school. Together, we can do this!!!



Student and Staff Daily Screening

Parents and staff must complete a daily health check by answering yes or no to the following questions before going to school or work.



Yes ___ No___ Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher



Yes ___ No___ Sore throat



Yes ___ No___ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing



Yes ___ No___ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain



Yes ___ No___ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever



Yes ___ No___ Has the student or staff been identified as having COVID-19, and not been cleared by the SD Dept. of Health for return to work and school?



Yes ___ No___ Has the student or staff been identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (15 minutes or more within 6 feet or less) within the last 14 days?*



If you answer Yes to any of the above...

1. DO NOT go to school or work.

2. Contact your healthcare provider.

3. Contact your school to inform them of symptoms. You may also contact the SD Department of Health with any COVID-19 questions 1-800-997-2880.

4. EXCLUDE until negative COVID test OR if untested, at least 10 days since symptom onset **AND 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved.**

*Close contacts must be excluded for 14 days from last close contact with positive case. You cannot test out of the 14-day quarantine.

**Screen criteria is subject to change based on level of community transmission and CDC and SD DOH recommendations.*

2020-2021 SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT CALENDAR

04/28/2019
Approved Revisions 04/27/2020

AUGUST

Elementary Open House - August 25, 2020
Middle School PST - August 24, 2020
High School PST - August 20, 2020

27 **First Day of School**

SEPTEMBER

4,7 **No Classes - Holiday - Labor Day Break**

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Elementary - Oct 13, 15, 19 Evening or Oct 13 Afternoon
Middle School - Oct 6, 8, 15 Evening
High School - Oct 5, 6 Evening

OCTOBER

12 **No Classes - Native American Day Observance**

13 **No Classes - Inservice**

28 **End of 1st Quarter**

NOVEMBER

6 **Elementary and Middle School - Early Dismissal**

11 **No Classes - Holiday - Veterans' Day Observance**

25 **No Classes - Compensatory Day**

26-27 **No Classes - Holiday - Thanksgiving Break**

DECEMBER

23-31 **No Classes - Holiday Break**

JANUARY

1 **No Classes - Holiday Break**

4 **Classes Resume**

13-14 **High School Semester Tests 7:30 - 12:30**

14 **End of 2nd Quarter**

15 **No Classes - Teacher Work Day**

18 **No Classes - Inservice and Martin Luther King Jr Day Observance**

FEBRUARY

15-16 **No Classes - Holiday - Presidents' Day Break**

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Elementary - Jan 21, 25, 26 Evening or Jan 18 Afternoon
Middle School - Feb 23, 25, Mar 2 Evening
High School - Feb 8, 9 Evening

MARCH

12 **No Classes - Compensatory Day**

19 **Elementary and Middle School - Early Dismissal**

24 **End of Third Quarter**

APRIL

2-5 **No Classes - Spring Break**

MAY

24-25 **High School Semester Tests 7:30 - 12:30**

25 **Last Day of School - End of Second Semester**

30 **Graduation**

Schedule for Early Dismissal

Elementary 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Middle School 8:55 am to 2:00 pm

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

MAY

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

CALENDAR KEY

○ - Noted day - See description in column to the right of the date

□ - Noted day - No Classes all levels

★ - End of Quarter

If weather causes school closing, days will be made up at the end of the school year.

A Fall to Remember

By Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent



No matter the age or the circumstances, the start of a school year is always an exciting time. This year, however, could be one of the most memorable since few of us have ever returned to school during a pandemic! The Fall of 2020 will certainly be an unforgettable milestone in my career as I begin my role as superintendent of the Sioux Falls Public Schools.

It is a role I eagerly embrace, especially amid this challenging time. COVID-19 has touched the lives of all of us in some way. It has altered plans. It has renewed our focus on basic practices like washing our hands often. It has even helped some of us recognize we are not cut out to be teachers!

While I add that line to lighten the mood, it is true that COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to experience the value of a strong public education system. There is an “art” to teaching and to helping students use their knowledge to problem solve and think critically.

District leaders have been using their problem-solving skills all summer to reimagine classroom configurations, develop new routines for simple things like lunch and recess, and create staggered dismissal times and one-way hallways to relieve congestion during passing periods.

We have defined learning expectations and added technology to streamline communications and connections with students and families. These tools will be valuable whether we are offering education “in-person” in our classrooms, remotely where students learn from home, or through some type of hybrid calendar.

We have involved hundreds of stakeholders in our planning, including parents, teachers, principals, community members, local and state medical professionals, and too many more to mention. Preparations for this school year look different than preparations of the past. While classrooms will “look” a bit different this year, too, it is important to remember that school is still school, and we are all capable of doing our best!

Thank you for partnering with us. Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

Rules for Elementary Riders



Student Responsibilities:

- Face coverings are expected.
 - If the student does not have one, driver will offer one.
 - If the student refuses, principal will communicate with parents/guardian.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided.
 - Apply when getting on the bus.
- Sit in assigned seat.

Driver/Bus Aide Responsibilities:

- Face coverings are expected.
- Clean railings and high-touch surfaces, regularly.
 - Buses will be disinfected at the end of each day and will dry overnight.
- Windows will be partially opened to increase air flow, when possible.

Going to School (AM) - buses are loaded from back to front as students are picked up.

Coming Home Elementary (PM) - buses are unloaded from front to back based on stops.

Coming Home Middle School (PM) - each MS will communicate expectations to students/families.

Designed by **Vecteezy**

RF Pettigrew Elementary Night at Sky Zone

Looking for an exciting way to earn money for your school?
Stay fit and have fun with your friends and family at Sky Zone!
Join us for the ultimate playing experience...and earn 10% back!

Visit Sky Zone on these special nights:

September 17, October 22, November 19,
December 17, January 21, February 18,
March 18, April 15 and May 20

Time: 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Price: 30 Minutes: \$9

60 Minutes: \$14

90 Minutes: \$18

120 Minutes: \$21

Sky Zone Jump Socks: \$3 (reusable)

Waiver: A Sky Zone liability waiver is required
for each jumper. Participants under age 18 must
have a waiver signed by a parent or legal
guardian. Please submit waivers at
www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls.



Earn 10% back for your school!

Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park
5129 S. Solberg Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls



SKY ZONE
TRAMPOLINE PARK



NEON GLOW SKATE

*Light Up
Prizes for
Games!*

R.F. Pettigrew

Monday, September 21st

6-8pm Adm. \$4.50

Skate Rental \$3 Skate Mate \$4

SKATE LESSON

JOIN US FOR OUR SKATE LESSON BEFORE YOUR SCHOOL PARTY! DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM AND IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF YOUR ADMISSION AND SKATE RENTAL.

Meal Deal

Hot dog, chips & drink
\$3.00

**SKATE MATES AVAILABLE
FOR BEGINNER SKATERS.**

**2901 W. 3rd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-332-7915**

**Buy a Glow Stick
at the rink for \$1.00!**