



R.F. PETTIGREW

panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NO. September 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE.

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CONNECT.



www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents

From the Principal's Desk

Have you seen our video this year, about the procedures we are following in front of school, before school? If you are reading this, chances are you probably have, but if not, or would like to review it again, please see it at this link: [Drop Off Video link](https://youtu.be/BJxhqDrpNTY) (<https://youtu.be/BJxhqDrpNTY>) or follow this QR code:



In order to share some thoughts to keep in mind with this new procedure, I will share some of the most commonly held **myths** about our new process (or even about our old process) and their related **facts**:

Myth: The new process is faster.

Fact: This process may actually slow things down, at times. We fully expect that during bad weather (rain and snow or cold days), the drop off lane will back up onto 53rd Street, past Grinnell and may extend a couple blocks in that direction. On those

days, planning your route may be important, as it may prove difficult to turn left off of 53rd into our parking lot. Also, patience, as is stressed at the end of the video, will be important. Everyone will need to wait in line (no one likes to do this, myself included!!), there won't be any quick shortcuts, and people will need to plan to spend extra time in line, when dropping off.

Myth: When dropping off, I should always be able to drop my child off at the front spot, right by the flag pole.

Fact: The only way to make this process more efficient and move cars through quickly is to fill the entire drop off lane with cars before they stop and let their passengers out. This means pulling all the way through to the line or cone near the end of the drop off. We can fit approximately 15 cars between the first exit intersection of the parking lot exit and the loop (west side, near the bike racks) and the last entrance intersection of the parking lot entrance and the loop (east side, near the loading zone turn out), if all drivers pull as far ahead as possible. Once unloaded, pull into the left lane and make your way to the exit, planning the appropriate exit lane as you enter 53rd again (during busy times, it may be best to go right, away from the parking lot, and choose a route that moves away from school congestion as quickly as possible).

Myth: The parking lot is a short cut to dropping off my child, I will turn in there, drop and go through the lot.

Fact: The parking lot is for PARKING. When turning into the parking lot from the loop, you must park your car in a stall, turn off the car, exit all the occupants of the car, walk students to the crosswalk, cross the loop with them, and escort them across the crosswalk, either to the sidewalk by the school, to the playground, or to the front of the school. Another fact is that the more foot traffic we must cross at the crosswalk in the loop, the slower the loop will go. It is best to keep this traffic to a minimum and drop your student off in the loop. Another fact – You cannot stop in the loop and walk students to the school area. This must be done from the parking lot.

Myth: Students can take their time getting out of the car and heading from the loop to the school area.

Fact: The only way this will go quicker for everyone is if the students are ready to when the car is in position in the loop, with seat belts quickly unfastened, exiting car seats, good byes said, belongings collected, and after the car stops, the car door is opened and the student exits (this may take practice for the younger students).

Myth: You must use the drop off loop in the parking area in front of school.

Fact: This is the supervised area for the school, but many parents may choose to stay out on 53rd Street and drop students off, having them walk to the school property from an adjacent street parking spot. When driving around the school, please follow the posted 15 mph speed limit and keep eyes open for cars and families doing this. If dropping off on 53rd or Klein, it is recommended to pull over on the side of the school or the park (north side of 53rd, east side of Klein) and let students out on the passenger side. If you are on the opposite side of the road, students can be safely crossed by the crossing guards at the corners, or an adult will need to exit their car and carefully cross their students through traffic.

Myth: When all buses and day cares have dropped off on the west side, cars can drive through this lot and drop off students.

Fact: Private cars are not allowed in this area during bus and student loading and unloading times from 7:45 to 8:15 (this range could possibly be extended if one of these approved vehicles is delayed).

Myth: The school really changed this process this year.

Fact: We simply have decreased two lanes of traffic to one lane in the drop off area to decrease the amount of weaving in and out of the lanes, added more supervision staff in front of the school, and not allowed drivers to use the parking lot as a drop off loop. On busy days, this may actually prove to slow down the process, but will increase the safety for all students and drivers.

Myth: Construction on Sertoma will be done by the time school starts.

Fact: I throw this out in a light-hearted jab at road construction woes. We all like to drive on smooth roads, but don't like the congestion caused by construction to get them smooth. When Sertoma is done, it will be very nice and the utilities will be improved for years to come (we also enjoy clean water to drink on the west side of town, and appreciate effective storm sewers). However, the project has been delayed, and optimistically hope to be done around the first of October, but realistically, I am just hoping for completion before winter. Monitor the progress on the city site, here: [Sertoma Project Updates](https://siouxfalls.org/sertoma) (<https://siouxfalls.org/sertoma>)

In upcoming issues of this article, I intend to address various topics such as conversations with students about school, importance of literacy at home and some ideas to try, and the role executive function plays at school. If you have a topic you wish addressed in the PTO newsletter, chances are other have the same idea, so send me a message about a topic you would like me to address in upcoming issues of From the Principal's Desk.

Pettigrew School has always had a focus of developing relationships and discussing students' hopes and dreams during the first few weeks of school. We also conduct an important assembly for all students, regarding safety reminders about coming and going to school, and ways to stay safe at school. This year, during this assembly, I also gave a short presentation about harassment, including explaining what harassment is, when it could happen, why we avoid harassing behavior or language, and talking about how we can be sure that we don't engage in this behavior. Another outcome of this discussion was to outline to our young students what they can do when they observe this behavior, or when they are a victim of some sort of harassment, themselves. We encourage all students to tell an adult when they see or hear this behavior going on, and our commitment as educators is to step in, intervene, and ensure that this type of behavior does not continue, once it is brought to our attention. We look forward to working as a community, together, to raise responsible, caring, empathetic and compassionate individuals as we model these characteristics to them in our own lives, and teach them how we can live in harmony, together, at Pettigrew (as we continue our on-going focus on student growth in academics). Our mission statement really says it all, when we commit to this effort -- *To educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world by emphasizing growth in social skills, emotional well-being, and academic progress.*





PETTIGREW PTO activities + events



9/9/2019 6pm @ Pettigrew Elementary
First PTO meeting of the year!

- How to get involved at Pettigrew
- Fall events + fundraisers
- School update from Principal Dick
- Child care provided: Bring your kids!!

Pettigrew Festival + Fun Run

9/29/2019 3-6pm @ Pettigrew Elementary

Advance registration due 9/19

T-shirt orders due 9/8

<https://www.rfpettigrew.org/panther-dash>



Spiritwear Sale

Orders due 9/6

<https://www.rfpettigrew.org>

Coupon Book Fundraiser

9/9 - 10/9

Information coming home with students

Great prizes for students + classes!



**Grade-level
races!**

Food trucks!

Music!

**Face
painting!**

Pettigrew Festival & Fun Run

**Family
relay!**

**5th graders
vs. teachers!**

Inflatables!



9 - 29 - 2019
Southern Vistas Park
(next to Pettigrew Elementary)
3:00 - 6:00 pm



 T-shirts available! Order online by **9/8/19** @ <https://pantherdash2019.itemorder.com>

Visit the school PTO website for additional information and schedule of events: rfpettigrew.org

Detach at line and return order form to school by September 19, 2019

Pettigrew Festival & Fun Run entry pre-order

All attendees require armband for entry, 4 years and younger free.

_____ # armbands (ages 5+) x \$3 = _____ or \$15 (maximum charge of \$15/family!)

Name(s) and Grade(s):

Phone #:

Armbands and t-shirts (see online order information above) will be available for pickup at the registration table the day of the event. Armbands will also be available at the event for **\$4/person**.

Attach cash or check payable to "Pettigrew PTO"

“New” Never Gets Old

By Dr. Brian Maher, Superintendent



Pencils are sharpened and floors are shined! Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! The start of another academic calendar brings so much anticipation; not only for students, teachers, and staff, but also for parents who are excited to see their student flourish. A new year never gets old!

This new school year brings with it plenty of excitement as your Superintendent, as well. Now entering my fifth year as Superintendent of the Sioux Falls School District, I can't help but look back with pride on all we have accomplished together. Four years ago, we mapped out a plan to improve student learning, support our staff, make our schools safer and more welcoming, and to engage the community in all facets of the educational journey. This work is recorded in the District's Strategic Plan, which monitors progress, allows us to design initiatives to improve goals, and holds us accountable for that work. The Strategic Plan guides us in every decision we make with the sole purpose of providing the highest quality education possible.

Last fall at this time, our community overwhelmingly supported a \$190 Million bond to pay for three new schools (two of which are currently under construction) and upgrades to 14 existing buildings to account for growth and safety. In June, we broke ground on Thomas Jefferson High School in northwest Sioux Falls. In July, we broke ground on Ben Reifel Middle School in southeast Sioux Falls. These two new schools really serve as “book ends” to the thriving business community and strong schools we already enjoy.

While increasing enrollment in our schools is exciting to see, our number one priority has been and will continue to be the safety of our students and staff. The Strategic Plan addresses this. Construction projects address this. Staff routinely train. School Resource Officers paid for by the City of Sioux Falls work shoulder to shoulder with us to build relationships with students and to address concerns when they arise.

As we begin this new school year, I invite you to be an active participant in your child's education. Volunteer. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Ask your student about their classmates and what they are learning. Before we know it, we will be wrapping up another school year and setting our sights on the next one again. Time is a gift we cannot waste. Have a great year!

Back to School Reminder !

FLASHING **RED**

... **KIDS AHEAD**



Store closes TODAY - September 6, 2019!

RF PETTIGREW ELEMENTARY SPIRITWEAR



- Multiple designs and styles to choose from
- Store will be open until September 6, 2019

Order online at: defineink.com/pettigrew

SCHOOL BUS

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
Needed Immediately!

STARTING HOURLY RATE UP TO \$18.45 W/ANNUAL BONUS!

SCHOOL BUS INC.
5100 W. 8th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57107
kevinschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us

605.334.6644

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

STARTING WAGE UP TO \$18.45 /HR. W/ANNUAL BONUS!

SCHOOL BUS INC.
5100 W. 8th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57107
kevinschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us

PAID TRAINING 605.334.6644

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:

October 17, November 21, December 19,
January 16, February 20, March 19 and
April 16

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

Prairie West Library Events

September & October 2019

www.siouxlandlib.org | 978-6899



Kids Create

Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. K to 5th Grade
Registration is not required

Explore your creative side through stories, crafts, games, and activities.

September 4 Every Hero Needs a Villain

September 11 Exploring the Planets

September 18 Sink or Swim

September 25 Brain Quest

October 2 Poppa Penguin

October 9 Smartphones are Definitely Not
for Animals

October 23 Stargazing

October 30 Superheroes

Special Events

For ages 3-8

Dahl Day

Saturday, September 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Explore a world of pure imagination! Come for storytime followed by activities in the inventing room to spark your child's curiosity.

Teddy Bear Sleepover

Saturday, October 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Storytime at 10:30 a.m., then start your bedtime routine in the morning. Leave your stuffed animal to wander the stacks and discover what happens at Prairie West at night. Pick up stuffed animals before 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Library Closed

Monday, September 2

Monday, October 14



For the safety and comfort of children, a parent or responsible caregiver should be with their children while they are using the Library. Parents are responsible for supervising their children in the Library. The Library is not able to provide long- or short-term care.



If an ADA accommodation is needed, please contact the City of Sioux Falls Human Relations Office at 367-8745 or humanrelations@siouxfalls.org at least 72 hours before the event.

Downloading & Using the New Box Top App

Jaimi Verhey, Pettigrew Elementary PTO Box Tops Coordinator for 2019-2020
pettigrewboxtops@gmail.com

The **NEW digital program** is here! Packaging has begun to change from the **pink** Box Tops clip to a **blue** Box Tops label. Less scissors and you use an app on your phone to earn which automatically recognizes Box Tops products and **instantly** adds them to our school earnings!



Getting Started

1. Download in the apple app store or get it on Google Play.
2. If you already had the old bonus app, just update the app to the new one.
3. If that doesn't work, remove the old app and then download the new one.
4. Once downloaded, register and choose **RF Pettigrew Elementary School** as your school.

Using the App:

1. Use the app to access a list of current participating products by clicking the products tab on the bottom.
2. Scroll down the app's homepage to see all current **BONUS** offers. I will, periodically, post a few bonus offers on the PTO Facebook page.
3. **Purchase Box Tops items** then take the receipt and **scan/take a picture of it** through the app by pressing scan.
 - Hold your phone level over the receipt so that the edges of the receipt line up to the outline guide.
 - If your receipt is long, take the first picture then click the + button to add the next section. Repeat until done.
 - Scan your receipts within **14 days of purchase**. You are allowed 50 receipt scans daily.
 - The first time you scan, the app will unlock for you a ONE-TIME 24 hour window to scan receipts as far back as 4/15/19. After the window expired, only receipts scanned within 14 days will be accepted.
 - **Online and/or pick up grocery orders can also be submitted for credit**. Send your receipt/invoice to receipts@boxtops4education.com using the same email you use when signing into Box Tops. Credits should be applied to the school account within 10 days. Amazon purchases are not currently accepted but the retailer is working on it with Box Tops for future use.
4. Did the app miss credits? Click on the "report missing items" box that pops up and note the total amount (including bonuses) missed and submit. An email will be sent within 2 days to confirm and the earnings credited within 2 days.

*** Privacy concerns: The only required info is store name, transaction date/time, Box Top items, and purchase total.

Clipping Box Tops

CONTINUE TO CLIP **pink** box top clips and turn them into school! BTFE will honor all unexpired clips.

- Box Tops is letting us "double dip" on items. **Clip the Box Top AND scan your receipt to earn double!!**
- DO NOT CLIP the new **blue** Box Top labels. They serve only to remind you to save & scan receipts.

We will continue to learn how to maximize our earning potential using this new app. Box Tops is working hard to update the app regularly based on the feedback they receive from parents and coordinators.

Thanks for helping our school get what it needs! Please reach out for any questions or suggestions.

Box Tops Across America

This year, in lieu of monthly contests, we will be having fun competing in a contest called **Box Tops Across America**. Our goal will be to receive box top clips from all 50 states! Ask your friends and family from other states to send us a few box tops clips! Is someone you know going on vacation? They can send some from where they vacation, too. All they need to do is send 1, 2, 3 or 200 box tops in an envelope marked with their return address (so the miles can be determined), your child's name and room number. Have them mail it to you or directly to the school, Attn: Box Tops. Leaders will be posted for the furthest (in the United States) box tops received, the most states received by an individual student and most states by a classroom. Possibly, more. So, while we still have box tops clips out there, get them sent in!



Also, a reminder that we are using the Coca-Cola gives program. If you have any codes, you can send them in and I will enter them or you can enter them yourselves at <https://us.coca-cola.com/give> You can find the codes inside boxes or on bottle caps. You will need to manually enter the code, or you can take a picture of the code. This is very helpful for the hard to read codes.

Questions or Suggestions?

Jaimi Verhey

Pettigrew Elementary PTO Box Tops Coordinator for 2019-2020

pettigrewboxtops@gmail.com



Substitute Teachers Needed!

Are you looking for another way to support your public schools? How about Substitute Teaching? Substitute teachers are needed daily to maintain the educational progress of students.

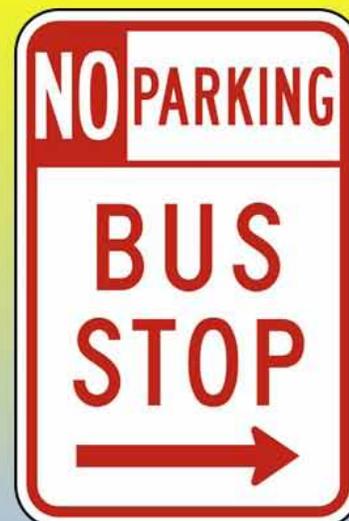
Requirements:

- HS diploma/GED & 5 years of work experience, **or**
- AA Degree & 2 years work experience, **or**
- Bachelor's degree
- Positive references and a criminal background check.

Schedule: You set your schedule! \$110 per day worked. Paid training!

Apply: sf.k12.sd.us/employment

Be aware of
the Bus Zones !



MEET THE RIDERS

FALL 2019-2020 EVENTS

FOOTBALL & CHEER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 6:00 @ HOWARD WOOD

SOFTBALL

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH 6:00 @ SHERMAN PARK

BOYS GOLF

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 5:30 @ ELMWOOD

BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH @ HOWARD WOOD
BOYS @ 4:00 GIRLS @ 6:00

BAND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH 8:00 @ HOWARD WOOD

GIRLS TENNIS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 4:00 @ KUEHN PARK

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 7:00 @ ROOSEVELT

COMPETITIVE DANCE & CHEER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 11:00 @ PENTAGON

CROSS COUNTRY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 5:30 @ YANKTON TRAIL

**WE ARE
ROOSEVELT**

WE ARE ONE



RR NATION