

West Sioux Falcon Newsletter

Covering Grades 6-12

Clear Expectations

How They Fit into the Educational Process

At West Sioux, we would like to create and maintain a behavioral climate in the school that is focused on teaching and learning. This type of behavioral climate will create an environment that is conducive to learning. Improving student behavior in schools creates conditions that make good teaching possible.

We've realized that we can't assume that students, even though they've attended school for many years by the time they arrive at the middle school or high school, know what the expectations for behavior are. If we want students to behave in a certain manner in the lunchroom, for example, we need to teach the behavior that we expect. This is true in all settings within the school.

Two summers ago, a group of 12-15 middle school and high school staff members met weekly during the summer to discuss and develop consistent expectations

for student behavior. This summer, another group of 10 middle school and high school staff members met weekly to revise and expand upon the expectations that were developed two years ago.

The entire 6-12 teaching staff will review and discuss the consistent expectations during the August inservice meeting. The expectations for behavior will be taught to students at the middle school and high school during the first days of school and reinforced throughout the school year. The clarification of expectations will create a more safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning.

The discussions and process that the staff used during the summer were similar to the discussions and processes used to develop the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) systems at the elementary and middle schools. The discussions were also in alignment with the APL strategies that were taught to teachers during last April's inservice meetings. The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) systems at the elementary and middle schools are being expanded to the high school.

To find more information about the student expectations for the upcoming school year, visit the school's website at: www.westsioxschools.org under the Programs and then PBIS link.

An open house will be held at the MS/HS on Tuesday, August 17 from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Come and walk through your child's schedule and meet his/her teachers.

Schedule Change

The daily schedule has been changed at the MS/HS to better meet everyone's needs

The following schedule will be implemented for the 2010-2011 school year to better meet teacher and coaches' needs, as well as students.

Middle and High Schools

1st	8:10-8:54
2nd	8:57-9:41
3rd	9:44-10:28
4th	10:31-11:15
5th	11:18-12:33
6th	12:36-1:20
7th	1:23-2:07
8th	2:10-2:54
9th	2:57-3:27
Lunch A	10:53-11:18
Lunch B	11:18-11:43
Lunch C	11:43-12:08
Lunch D	12:08-12:33

The middle school and high school students that ride a bus will be picked up at 3:30. The middle school students will have an activity period from 2:57 until 3:27 if they are not assigned to 9th period.

Extra curricular activities will be able to begin at 3:30 and at 3:00 on Friday.

One minute was shaved from each of the eight periods and the advisory period was dropped in order to shorten the school day.

Ninth period is time that teachers are made available to work with students that have low grades, questions, or are behind in their work. Students are assigned to 9th period or can attend voluntarily.

Bathroom Renovation Project Underway

Four bathrooms at the middle school/high school are being renovated. The bathrooms, original to the building, needed plumbing repairs and a brightened appearance. The school board authorized the project at a June board meeting.

The bathrooms will be made handicap accessible. New tile, partitions, lighting and fixtures will brighten the appearance. The renovation will leave students and guests with a positive impression of West Sioux.

Other improvements that were approved by the school board were updating the lighting in the high school and middle school gyms to a more energy efficient lighting and replacing the carpet in the office. Expenses for the renovation projects are being paid for from the PPEL and Silo funds, not the general fund.

Be sure to check out the improvements the next time you visit the school.

Behavior Doctor to Speak to Parents August 16

Teachers start back to school on August 12 and students start on August 18. Many people probably wonder what teachers do for four days before the students start. In addition to getting their rooms prepared and attending trainings required by the state, teachers this year will also be engaged in learning from the Behavior Doctor. This learning opportunity will be extended to parents.

The Behavior Doctor, Dr. Laura A. Riffel, has over 30 years of experience teaching children pre-school through high school. She taught regular and special education in three different states. She uses comedy and real world examples to teach audiences about the function of behavior and behavioral intervention planning. Participants will leave with ideas they can use the very next day.

So mark your calendars for August 16 and plan to attend the educational and entertaining workshop that will be held at the MS/HS auditorium from 6:30-8:30pm.

SCHOOL WEBSITE
Check out the school's website at www.westsiox-schools.org for calendar events, lunch menus, your child's grades and school news.