

SISSETON SCHOOL DISTRICT 54-2

516 8th Avenue West

Sisseton, SD 57262

Phone (605) 698-7613 Fax (605) 698-3032

www.sisseton.k12.sd.us

John "Jack" Appel, Activities Director
Cory J. Kranhold, Technology Director
Dr. Michelle K. Greseth, Special Services Director

Dr. Tammy L. Meyer, Superintendent
Lori A. Kuschel, Business Manager

James D. Frederick, HS Principal
Michael A. Drew, MS Principal
Dr. April D. Moen, Elem. Principal

July 30, 2020

Sisseton School District Students & Families,

This letter aims to share information about the Sisseton School District's plans as we move into the 2020-21 school year. District administrators and staff have been meeting throughout the summer to review guidance from the SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health, the CDC, and other organizations to develop plans that will work best for our students and community as we return to school this fall.

The Sisseton School District will follow the established school calendar, with classes starting **in person** on August 25, 2020. We have increased districtwide cleaning protocols and put additional safety measures into place, such as increasing spacing between desks, increasing handwashing opportunities, and decreasing large group gatherings. The district has developed supplemental plans for blended learning and distance education that may have to be utilized based on community COVID-19 activity and recommendations from the SD Department of Health. Based on family feedback, we are also offering a Virtual Academy for those students/families who do not feel comfortable sending their child to school at this time. Virtual Academy registrations are available on the district website or school offices and are due August 10, 2020.

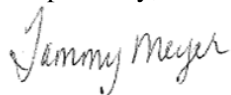
While we plan to begin the school year in a traditional, on-site model, we will continue working with the SD Department of Health to monitor localized health data and adjust instructional plans as necessary. Modifications to our educational delivery based on the SD Department of Health recommendations may include limiting the number of students on campus each day in conjunction with distance learning or moving to a full distance learning plan if needed. As such, we ask that you contact your child's school with any new contact information, including addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

High School registration will occur on August 3-7. All High School students should register during their designated time/date. Middle School registration is August 10-14. Westside registration for new students is August 10-14. Additional registration information is found on the Sisseton School District website (Sisseton.k12.sd.us). Please visit the district website and district Facebook pages or call your student's attendance center for additional information. Students and families new to the district are encouraged to contact the student's school building or the District Administrative office to begin the registration process.

District representatives are in continual contact with the SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health, and other schools through the region to finalize our fall start procedures. Please be aware that all plans are subject to change at a moment's notice, based on guidance and recommendations from the SD Department of Health and local health data.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we continue to work through this together. We will continue to strive to provide strong educational opportunities for students in the Sisseton School District.

Respectfully,



Dr. Tammy Meyer
Superintendent

Sisseton School District 54-2 2020-2021 School Calendar

Sisseton School District 54-2
516 8th Ave W
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-7613
www.sisseton.k12.sd.us

August 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Aug 19-20, 24	Professional Development Days
Aug 25	First Day of School for Students
Sep 7	Labor Day - No School
Sep 25	No School - Professional Development
Sep 28	HS/MS PT Conferences
Oct 5	HS/MS/WS PT Conferences
Oct 6	WS PT Conferences
Oct 9	Early Dismissal
Oct 12	Fall Break - No School
Oct 23	End of 1st Quarter (41 days)
Oct 30	Student Early Dismissal; Staff PD
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School
Dec 22	End of 2nd Quarter (38.5 days)
Dec 23-Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 4	No School - Professional Development
Feb 1	HS/MS PT Conferences
Feb 8	HS/MS/WS PT Conferences
Feb 9	WS PT Conferences
Feb 12	No School - Professional Development
Feb 15	No School
Mar 10	Student Early Dismissal; Staff PD
Mar 10	End of 3rd Quarter (44.5 days)
Mar 11, 12	No School - Spring Break
	OR weather Make-up Days (See Below)
Apr 1	Student Early Dismissal; Staff PD
Apr 2, 5	Easter Break - No School
May 18	Last Day of School for Students
May 18	Student Early Dismissal; Staff PD
May 18	End of 4th Quarter (44 days)
May 19-21	Weather Make-up Days
May 22	High School Graduation; 2:00 p.m.
May 24-25	Professional Development Days

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

***Snow days to be made up March 11 & 12 if weather event occurred prior to March 6. Additional Snow days made up May 19-21. End of school year will adjust with weather make-up days. Additional weather days will be made up at end of year with Board approval.

Teachers:
4 Professional Flex Hours Required
2.5 Professional Development days at end of year
First Semester: 79.5 Days
Second Semester: 88.5 Days

February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			




April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	




May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Updated July 27, 2020

-  Parent Teacher Conferences
-  First & Last Day of School
-  Weather Make-up Days

-  School Closed
-  No School for Students (Staff Professional Development)
-  Early Release: HS/MS @ 12:45; WS Elem @ 12:55

Sisseton School District Return to School “At a Glance” Guidance

The Sisseton School District 54-2 will follow guidelines from the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Education when developing and implementing return to school plans.

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The Sisseton School District has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the District cannot guarantee that individuals will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, school attendance could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk.

All plans in this document are subject to change based upon guidance and recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Student/Staff Health Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians are required to complete a daily symptom screening checklist each day for each student. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, the student must stay home. • Staff are required to conduct a temperature and daily symptom screen upon arrival or prior to arrival to work. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, the staff member will go home. • Staff and students must stay home if they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms for COVID-19. ○ Have SD Dept of Health confirmed close contact with a person with COVID-19. ○ Staff/students are only allowed back in school after criteria to return have been met
Entering/Exiting Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students & staff are expected to practice social distancing and maintain a 6’ space from other individuals when entering/exiting the building. • Designated entrances and exits will be used by students and staff.
Facemasks – Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that students wear masks at all times when feasible to do so, and whenever within 6’ of another student or staff member. • Facemasks are required for students using district transportation.
Facemasks - Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are REQUIRED to wear masks in common locations, such as hallways, lunchrooms, and when within 6’ of a student or another staff member.
Hand Washing & Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, near all entrances, in common areas, and school vehicles, including buses. • Increased opportunities for handwashing will be provided throughout the school day.
Classroom Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms will be arranged to allow for maximum social distancing. A 3-6’ space between all students might not be able to be maintained in all locations. Seating charts will be maintained by all teachers. • Clear barriers will be added in locations where students may need to work in close proximity to each other.
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have staggered lunch periods or expanded dining locations to increase the distance between students during meal service. • An open salad bar will be eliminated to reduce shared contact with salad bar utensils.
Bus Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Due to the nature of bus transportation and difficulty in maintaining social distancing on the bus, there is a heightened risk in using bus transportation. • All individuals utilizing school transportation are required to wear a facemask through the duration of the trip. • Parents/guardians must complete a daily symptom screening checklist for each student

	<p>before they board the bus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide private transportation when able to reduce the number of passengers on a bus. • Students will apply provided hand sanitizer when entering the bus. • Seating will be assigned by household. • Guests will not be allowed on district buses. • Buses will be sanitized after each trip.
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All buildings will have increased access to water bottle filling stations. The use of individual, transparent, water bottles is encouraged. • Spigots for water fountains for individual use will be turned off.
Hallway Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will walk on the right side of the hallway and will be encouraged to practice social distancing to the extent possible during passing periods.
School Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for individuals who are not district employees or students will be limited. Appointments are encouraged for those needing to meet on-campus. Virtual appointments are also available. • Visitors entering school buildings must wear a facemask.
Facility Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside organizations using district facilities must follow the SD Department of Health guidelines, including expectations for social distancing and crowd sizes.
Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD Department of Education, and the SD Department of Health will be followed when making decisions on extracurricular Activities. • SDHSAA activities will begin following established dates and SDHSAA updated requirements. • Attendance at athletic activities may be limited.
Student Illness During the School Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students presenting any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will immediately be required to wear a mask and will be isolated from their peers. • A parent/guardian or family member will be required to pick up the student from school. • District transportation will not be available for students presenting any COVID-like symptoms. • Students with COVID-like symptoms will remain home for ten days unless given clearance to return to school by a medical professional. Students will participate in distance learning during this time frame.
COVID-19 Positive Activity with School Affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SD Department of Health will contact the Sisseton School District if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. • The Sisseton School District will work with the SD DOH to determine close contacts within the school setting. The SD DOH will notify these close contacts. • A student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-isolation (typically 10-14 days after symptom-onset or a positive test if asymptomatic). • A student or staff member who has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-quarantine (currently 14 days after exposure). • Students with COVID-19 and close contacts will engage in distance learning during their isolation or quarantine period. • The SD Department of Health, in consultation with district administrators, will determine if a classroom, building, or all district buildings may need to close for a period of time. This decision will align with a move to blended learning or long-term distance learning.

Instructional Plans

The Sisseton School District intends to begin instruction, on-site, on August 25, 2020. However, localized COVID-19 activity will be monitored throughout the school year to determine which method of instruction will be used. It is anticipated that the district will utilize traditional, blended, and distance learning throughout the year as COVID-19 activity fluctuates. Changes from one instructional method to another will be based upon recommendation from the South Dakota Department of Health.

The Sisseton School District communicate with district families when schedule changes are needed. Updates will be provided on the district website, Facebook pages, and through the all-call system. **Please contact your student’s building with any updated contact information, including addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.** If any of this information changes throughout the school year, please contact your student’s school building to share updated information.

<p>Traditional Instruction - Zero to isolated cases in a school building. - 100% on-site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will attend classes on-site. • All students in grades K-12 will receive a school-affiliated email address. This email address will be used to access Google Classroom accounts that will be utilized for all courses. • Access to online instruction will begin at the onset of the school year, so all students are familiar with and able to utilize online platforms in case a move to blended learning or distance learning is required. • Students and teachers in grades JK-4 will remain in a consistent group throughout the day, as much as possible. Students in grades 5-8 will remain in grade-level instructional groups. Students in grades 9-12 will remain normal schedules. Mixing between groups will be limited as much as possible during recess, lunch, and hallway times.
<p>Blended Learning - Substantial cases in a school building, as determined by SD Dept of Health. - 50% on-site; 50% off-site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive a blend of on-site and off-site instruction to reduce the number of students present on campus at one time. • Students will be placed into one of two attendance groups with alternating on-site attendance. • Students who are not on-site will be required to complete assignments via Google Classroom. • Course grades will be assigned based on the quality of assigned and completed work. • This scenario will be enacted if COVID-19 activity increases, and the DOH recommends limiting the number of students on campus each day. • Students must participate in daily educational activities in order to be considered as “present” for the instructional day. Students may be considered truant, defined by local district policies for unexcused and excused absences.
<p>Distance Instruction - Substantial cases in building, as determined by SD Dept of Health, or lack of staff due to COVID-19 Activity. - 100% off-site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction will be provided from district teachers through the Google Classroom interface • Staff will make direct contact with students via Google Classroom during pre-determined times. • Course grades will be assigned based on the quality of assigned and completed work. • Instructional packets will be available for those families without adequate internet access if requested. • This method of instruction will be implemented if schools are required to

	<p>physically close for any reason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This method of instruction may be implemented by classroom, building site, or throughout the district. • Students must participate in daily educational activities in order to be considered as “present” for the instructional day. Students may be considered truant, defined by local district policies for unexcused and excused absences.
<p>Online Academy - 100% off-site - No Live Instruction - Must remain in this placement until end of quarter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This choice may be selected by families who wish to continue off-campus instruction. • Students will remain enrolled in the Sisseton School District. • Students eligible for special services, including Special Education services, will receive equitable services in accordance with their IEP. • Students will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities. • Access to instructional materials and lessons will be through Google Classroom. • Quality of assigned and completed work will be used to determine quarter and semester grades. These grades will be placed on the final student transcript and will be calculated into the final GPA (high school). • Students must participate in daily educational activities. • Families must opt into this plan and will be required to remain in this placement until quarter or semester calendar breaks. • Students in grades 3-4, 5-8, and 11 are required to participate in assessments as required by the SD Department of Education. These assessments must be proctored by a certified Sisseton School District teacher. • Families will be responsible for providing internet service. • A technology device will be provided to each student with a deposit/device. • Families choosing this option must fill out the attached form and return to the school by August 10, 2020.
<p>Home School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families wishing to withdraw students from the supervision of the district should complete the SD Department of Education’s Certificate of Alternative Instruction. Please contact the Sisseton School District or SD Department of Education for further guidance on home school participation.

* All options will follow the Sisseton School District 2020-21 School Calendar. Calendar modifications may be made through the school year with Board approval.

* It is possible that one attendance site may host traditional instruction while another hosts distance instruction, based on COVID-19 activity in a specific building.