



The Green Connection

Keeping Families Connected Educationally

AUGUST
2016
Edition

NEW START TIMES FOR 2016-2017! ALL BUILDINGS START AT 8:10 AM!!

GREETINGS & WELCOME IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR!!!

Summer was full of our staff being immersed in trainings to improve the learning of our students as well as lots of physical improvements occurring at the school in preparation for our new school year. Classrooms are being cleaned, many are being painted, floors waxed, and new furniture for several rooms are in order. The HS halls and bathrooms have been transformed with fresh coats of paint reflecting our GREEN Devil pride & spirit! The Seminary building was successfully moved to its new home and the Distinguished Alumni have been honored. What wonderful community support for education!

In conclusion, we are working very hard to provide our students with new and exciting opportunities. Our staff and administration continue to work hard to make Osage Schools one of the premier schools in the state of Iowa. Please read this edition of the Green Connection with much valuable information in it.

Barb A. Schwamman,
Superintendent



**VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR
THE MOST CURRENT &
UP-TO-DATE
SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES & ATHLETIC EVENTS!!**

OUR MISSION: To sustain and enhance a caring community to provide enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

AUGUST 2016

- ⇒ **August 8** **REGISTRATION**
7:00 AM — 3:00 PM
- ⇒ **August 9** **REGISTRATION**
10:00 AM — 6:00 PM
- ⇒ **August 16** **NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**
5:00 PM — 6:00 PM MS Cafeteria
- ⇒ **August 16** **6th GRADE COMPUTER ORIENTATION**
6:00 PM MS Cafeteria
- ⇒ **August 22** **BACK-TO-SCHOOL CONFERENCES**
ELEMENTARY PICTURES
10:00 AM — 6:00 PM
(All building / Scheduled during Registration)
- ⇒ **August 23** **FIRST DAY OF CLASSES K-12**
- ⇒ **August 29** **MS/HS PICTURE DAY**

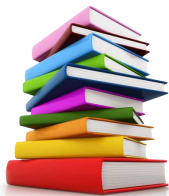




LUNCH ACCOUNT INFORMATION

All lunch account information is accessible via the Total Access website. Please contact your student's office if you don't have your username and password. You are able to make payments online if you want too!

BRING YOUR EXTRA SUPPLIES TO SCHOOL REGISTRATION!!! THESE DONATIONS WILL BE USED FOR FAMILIES IN NEED!!!!



BOOK FEE WAIVERS

Families who qualify for free or reduced meals may also apply for a Book Fee Waiver. **You must sign the form on the F/R application form to request a Book Fee Waiver.** If you have a letter from DHS, please bring a copy of the letter along with the signed waiver fee.

IN-TOWN BUSING IS FREE FOR 2016-2017 PICK-UP POINTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EACH QUADRANT SEE WHERE DURING REGISTRATION!!

Bus Pick Up

School buses will drop off and pick up students at the Middle School/High School in the front of the building along Sawyer Drive.

Parents can drop off and pick up their students in the High School parking lot. You may use the bus drive in front of the school on Sawyer Drive only after all school buses have left.

Please do NOT use the CRC Parking Lot.



What's for lunch???

Find the menu on the school website!

2016-2017 HOT LUNCH PRICES

Lunch: \$2.30 Elementary	Breakfast: \$1.00
\$2.35 MS/HS	\$1.05
\$3.45 Adult	\$1.90

PAYMENTS FOR YOUR ACCOUNT

Elementary and Middle School students may bring money for their Hot Lunch accounts in the morning to their building secretaries. High School students may turn money in from 7:30 AM—8:30 AM in the High School Cafeteria or the Office of the Superintendent from 8:00 AM—10:00 AM.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES WHO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE

Children from Food Assistance and FIP households do NOT need to complete paperwork to receive free/reduced lunches

The superintendent's office will receive, from the state, information on families that qualify for food stamps. Letters have been sent out in to families that have automatically qualified for free meals. If you did not get a letter from the school and you are on Food Assistance, please call Joleen Scharper in the Office of the Superintendent at 641.732.5381.

HELP BUILD OUR FUTURE!! See our flyer for details!!!

SCHOOL DELAYS / CANCELLATIONS

When calls are made the district will immediately post this information on the school website, Facebook, Twitter, and through JMC Messenger (email).



School delays / cancellations may be hear or found on the following TV and Radio Stations:

FM RADIO
KLSS 106.1
KISS 98.7

TV STATIONS
KIMT —Channel 3
KAAL—Channel 6
KTTC—Channel 10

INTERNET
www.klssradio.com
www.kimt.com
www.kribradio.com

AM RADIO
KGLO 1300
KRIB 1490

OSAGE HIGH SCHOOL

The start of every new school year is an especially exciting time. The atmosphere is charged with a sense that anything is possible. That is especially true at Osage High School where we have great teachers in the classroom! Those teachers will work hard this year to continue to provide a vital bridge between adolescence and post-secondary life, helping our students to seek a sense of purpose and place as they move toward adulthood. It is our job to provide our students with many opportunities, while also keeping them engaged, challenged, and supported both in and out of the classroom.

A primary vehicle through which we will accomplish this growth and development is through Project Based Learning and will be one of our main focuses this year. This type of learning involves meaningful inquiry that engages students' minds. Our professional development this year will have a strong focus on this type of instruction. Our staff will strive to implement seven essentials for Project Based Learning. Those include:

- 1) A Need to Know
- 2) A Driving Question
- 3) Student Voice and Choice
- 4) 21st Century Skills
- 5) Inquiry and Innovation
- 6) Feedback and Revision
- 7) A Publicly Presented Product

We are also extremely excited to begin offering a new model of learning called, Iowa Big, or Iowa's Initiative Based High School Experience. This model is based on the belief that educational options are necessary for every student to be successful and that we must provide students with as many contextually-rich experiences as possible so that they not only develop basic skills, but, more importantly, they can competently use those skills to solve real problems and make new things happen. The core design principles of this program are:

- ⇒ Using student passion to drive deep learning and deliver core academic credits.
- ⇒ Engaging students in authentic community projects, problems, and opportunities.
- ⇒ Connecting them more deeply to the businesses, people and resources of the North Iowa region.

Another exciting thing you will see as you come into the high school building this fall are all of the freshly painted hallway walls, classrooms, and locker rooms. We also have new locker room epoxy floors. Last and most importantly, we now have new toilet paper dispensers with 2-ply paper throughout the building.

In conclusion, Osage High school is indeed full of hope and optimism that anything is possible for our students. When parents, students, teachers, counselors, and administrators work together for the betterment of all....anything IS possible!! Here's to another great school year!

Tim Hejhal,
High School Principal

NEW SCHOOL TIMES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lincoln Elementary

8:10 AM — 3:07 PM

Middle School

8:10 AM — 3:15 PM

High School

8:10 — 3:15 PM



**FRESHMAN
WELCOME TO
HIGH SCHOOL**



**Together
Everyone
Accomplishes
More**



**GO OUT TO
VOTE ON
SEPTEMBER 13TH**





OSAGE BOOSTER CLUB

Consider being a member of the Osage Booster Club to further support our athletic and cheer programs. This group is a huge asset to our active youth!

ACTIVITY TICKETS

Activity tickets will be available for purchase at Registration or during the school year in the High School Office.

OSAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year at the Osage Middle School. A new start to a new school year. School settings are pretty special; they always have a beginning and an ending. Everyone gets to make changes and have the opportunity to do things even better!

I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to start over and to continue to work towards improving yourself. There is a tremendous amount of possibilities and potential in you, our students. Many times you may experience times of self-doubt, however, if you question your ability it will be hard to reach your full potential.

The best way to overcome doubt is to set a mission statement to reach your full potential. This will help give you focus on what you want to accomplish. So many times people think about what not to do rather than what to do.. Our Middle School mission statement, which our middle school student council developed several years ago, says, "The Osage Middle School believes education is the foundation for our future. We also believe that in order to achieve the best possible education and maintain a positive attitude, we need to treat others with kindness, respect, tolerance, and honesty each and every day." I challenge all of you to follow this mission statement and to come up with your own mission statement this school year. What are you to be about? What are your goals and ambitions in life? Your expectations and attitude will greatly influence your mission. Our teachers are working on their own mission statement too!

—Trust Yourself —Set Goals —Have a Mission

Jay D. Marley
Middle School Principal/M.S. Athletic Director

ASBESTOS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has guidelines for schools to use in identifying asbestos within buildings. The EPA has designed a system for determining relative risks and suggesting appropriate safety responses. Friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials will be maintained in good condition and appropriate precautions will be followed when the material is disturbed. If there is a need to replace asbestos, it will be replaced with non-asbestos containing materials.

Osage school facilities are inspected twice a year. All inspections are done by a certified asbestos inspector, as required. A copy of the district's asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in our administrative offices. Please direct any questions to Asbestos Program Manager, John Cramer at 641.732.5381.



STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student accident insurance is available to all students. Brochures which list coverage and costs are distributed at registration. This insurance is optional.

ABUSE OF STUDENT BY DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Recent legislation has specific guidelines pertaining to what will be considered acts of physical or sexual abuse by school employees, including inappropriate as well as intentional sexual behavior towards students. All such activities are clearly in violation of the policies of the Osage Community School District.

To ensure compliance, each building administrator has been appointed as the district's Level I investigators, with a designated Level II as their alternate. If the complaint is found to be without grounds, the Level I investigators can cause the complaint to be dropped. If legal action is required, or the incident becomes under the auspices of the Department of Human Services, then the appropriate agency is notified. The investigators may also refer the case to the Level II investigator, as can another person if the disagree with the Level I findings.



OPEN ENROLLMENT

Parents/Guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their child(ren) in another public school district in the state of Iowa should be aware of the following dates:

- ⇒ **September 1, 2016:** last date for open enrollment requests for entering kindergarten students and those students falling under “good cause” definition for the 2016-17 school year.
- ⇒ **March 1, 2017:** last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2017-18 school year.

Students who open enroll and participate in sports may have to sit out for 90 school days. Contact Joleen Scharper at 641.732.5381 or at jscharper@osage.k12.ia.us with any questions.



AT-RISK

The Osage Community School District has established the following definition of “At-Risk:” an At-Risk student is any student who needs additional support and who is not meeting the established goals of our educational system (academic, personal/social, career/vocational). At-risk students include, but are not limited to students in the following groups: homeless, lack of effort/low commitment, poor attendance, low achievement, low socioeconomic status, potential dropout/dropout, misbehavior, parenthood, and/or has a learning or emotional disturbance.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY: Summer of Updates

This summer has been busy as we update our professional knowledge and our facility to better serve the children of the Osage Community School District. We look forward to the upcoming school year.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

30 teachers attended the PL Conference in Minneapolis. We will be taking a group and it should be a great time to learn and share some time together. The focus of Professional Learning Communities is that we are most effective when we work together. Teachers are no longer independent contractors isolated to their classroom. We are all more effective when working together; establishing common curriculum, goals, and outcomes. We continue to provide this opportunity to staff with upcoming conferences in October and next summer.

Daily 5 & CAFÉ

11 teachers attended The Daily 5 Conference is a framework for structuring literacy time so students develop lifelong habits of reading, writing, and working independently toward personalized goals, while the teacher meets individual needs through whole-group and small-group instruction, as well as one-on-one conferring. These choices include:

- ◆ Read to Self,
- ◆ Work on Writing,
- ◆ Read to Someone,
- ◆ Listen to Reading, and
- ◆ Word Work



CAFÉ (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, Expanded Vocabulary)

Staff & Faculty Updates

- * Thank you to Aaron Boge, Trish Lang, Brittney Loftus, Tracy Mullenbach, and Sue Wilson for their work this summer to prepare Lincoln Elementary for the new school year. Classrooms have been thorough cleaned.
- * We welcome Valairie Berge as an Instructional Coach, ready to support teachers in collaboration and teaching strategies. We welcome Jackie Muller as a preschool teacher.
- * A permanent, soundproof wall has been constructed between the preschool and Title I classrooms to provide a quiet learning space.
- * Much work has been done beginning with the move of the Seminary building. The site will be filled with soil and seeded prior to the start of school. In addition, new lime will be added to the ball field.
- * For added safety of students, the main doors have been replaced with a camera and electronic locks.
- * The main entrance approaches have new concrete that provides a zero-entry approach for the safety of all.

Greg Adams,

Lincoln Elementary Principal



**SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS
CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE!!!**

NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL — SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

The 2009 Iowa Legislature adopted new laws related to Iowa's Sex Offender Registry (SOR). This bill makes a number of changes to Iowa's sex offender statute and moves Iowa toward compliance with the federal Adam Walsh Act. While there are some new details about who has to register, etc., generally the law prevents those on the SOR from being present on school grounds. Anyone on the SOR wishing to be on school grounds must get permission from the Superintendent of Schools; who has the authority to determine whether to grant access to registrants who have committed a sex offense against a minor. Questions regarding this legislation should be directed to Superintendent Barb Schwamman at 641.732.5381.



**It's a good day to be a
GREEN DEVIL!!!**

ANNUAL NOTICES TO FAMILIES

HOMELESS CHILDREN

Each state educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.

The definition of homelessness as covered by the McKinney-Vento Act is any child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence is considered "homeless" under the law. This includes students who are:

- * Living with a friend, relative or someone else because they lost their home or their family is having temporary financial problems.'
- * Staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground because they have nowhere else to go.
- * Living in a shelter, including emergency or transitional shelters, domestic violence shelters, and runaway and homeless youth shelters.
- * Staying in substandard housing
- * Living in places not ordinarily used for sleeping, including cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, or bus or train stations
- * Awaiting foster care placement
- * Abandoned in a hospital

School districts must make sure students who are homeless can enroll and succeed in school. School districts must make sure these young people receive appropriate services, including transportation, preschool, special education, English language learner services, and vocational education. The school must make referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services or other care providers.

Resources can be accessed through the District's Homeless Liaison, Michelle Dohlman. Please contact her at 641.732.3102 or at mdohlman@osage.k12.ia.us.

GENERAL EDUCATION INTERVENTION (GEI)

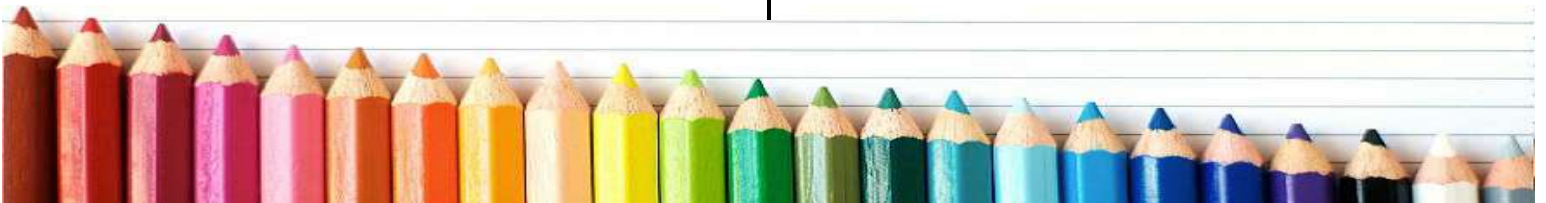
The General Education Intervention (GEI) process is available to all students. This process is interactive and ongoing. It involves teams of individuals collaborating with one another to create academic/behavioral interventions designed to meet the diverse needs of individual students. Members of GEI teams include parents, educators, caregivers, administrators, AEA 267 support staff, and others who are knowledgeable about the educational needs of a student.

The purpose of our GEI process is to identify and implement academic/behavioral intervention strategies that address individual student needs in general education classroom settings. The GEI process involves direct and frequent monitoring of student progress in the area of concern. It is also part of the assessment

COMPETENT PRIVATE INSTRUCTION (CPI) / HOME SCHOOLING

The rules and guidelines for CPI have changed over the last couple of years. If you wish to instruct your student in your home, please call the Office of the Superintendent for more information or go to the Iowa Department of Education website: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/faq-categories/competent-private-instruction>

Parents who will be dual enrolling their child(ren) during the 2015-16 school year are reminded that state law requires that you annually complete Competent Private Instruction forms. These forms are available on the district website or in the Office of the Superintendent. All forms must be completed and returned by August 31, 2015. Please call Joleen Scharper at 641.732.5381 with questions.



PHYSICALS & IMMUNIZATIONS



All students entering preschool and kindergarten must have a current physical along with the state required immunizations. All students entering 7th grade need to have an updated Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) immunization; as required by state law. Students entering 9th grade need a dental exam.

Additionally, students in grades 7-12 are required to have an athletic physical prior to participating in extracurricular sports. Middle School age students often require immunization boosters, so please check with your doctor's office.

More information will be available during Back-to-School Conferences. If you have any further questions about the immunization schedule for your child, you may contact Mitchell County Public Health at 641.832.3500.

DENTAL SCREENING

Beginning in 2008, Iowa law requires that children entering kindergarten, ninth grade and out-of-state transfer students receive a screening for dental disease. Proof of the dental screening must be documented on specific forms available from your school nurse.

No child will be prevented from attending school without proof of dental screening. If families have difficulty meeting the requirements, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and local public health will provide assistance to children and schools to ensure that the necessary dental screenings are obtained. IDPH encourages parents of children entering kindergarten or ninth grade to contact their health provider to check their child's records and to make appointments for check-ups if necessary. For more information on dental screenings, contact your school nurse.



District Nurse: Jolene Norby

CHILD ABUSE

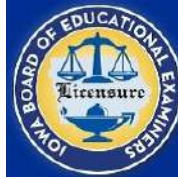
All certified school personnel are Mandatory Child Abuse Reporters according to state law. Suspected child abuse must be reported to the appropriate authorities.

BULLYING / HARASSMENT

Harassment, bullying and abuse are violations of school district policies rules and regulations and, in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials. A complaint form is available in each district office or on the district's website.

DISTRICT LEVEL I INVESTIGATORS

Barb Schwamman, Superintendent
Greg Adams, Lincoln Elementary



Iowa Board of
Educational Examiners

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Parents and guardians of students in the Osage Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teachers.

- ◆ State licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught
- ◆ Current licensing status and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree

The information is available online at www.state.ia.us/boee, or by contacting your building principal.



BUILDING SECURITY



Please be advised that the school doors will be locked during school hours. Visitors will need to go to the main entrance of each building to buzz into the secretary at each office. **ONLY** upon approval of who you are and why you are entering, will you be able to gain entry into the building. All other doors will be locked. **NEVER** come to a different door and request a student to open the door for you. All buildings utilize cameras for the safety and security of our students and our premises.

TOBACCO FREE POLICY

In an effort to provide a healthy, safe and productive environment to work and learn, the following board policies have been adopted.

- ◆ ALL district buildings, grounds and vehicles are tobacco free.
- ◆ Employees of the district are prohibited from the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs.

