

STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

School Times and Contacts
Fall JV/Varsity Schedules
New eCademy
2013-14 District Calendar
Welcome New Teachers

FALL 2013



Dr. Thomas M. Langdon
SPS Superintendent

The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

As we begin a new school year, and as I consider the state of education right now, it reminds me of the famous line from *A Tale of Two Cities*- "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." It is the best of times for many reasons, including what great students, staff, and parents we have at Sturgis Public Schools. It is the worst of times because of all the school funding cuts and cost increases schools have seen these past several years.

Continued on Page 2





Louis Dramm and Jaden Rustad, students in **Pandora Day's** third grade class at Eastwood, dissect sheep brains. Day's students spent much of their science class learning about the human brain. Dissecting a sheep brain was one of their last activities of the year.

Superintendent's Corner

(continued from front page)

These concerns are not unique to Michigan. Indeed, these same issues are occurring across the United States. Many people are asking for it to stop. As a state, Michigan has to start looking at a more proper level of funding for its students. You can help us achieve our funding goals by joining in any discussions that will help our students receive the resources needed to be successful.

However, even with such significant financial uncertainty, it is great to reflect on all of the awesome things going on at Sturgis Public Schools. We have made remarkable gains over the last two years at Sturgis, especially in the 3rd-8th grade level on the MEAP (Michigan's state standardized test). For example:

Math grades (3-8 grade) at or above the state average:

- 2012- One class above state average (1/6 = 17%)
- 2013- All six classes above the state average (6/6 = 100%)

Reading grades (3-8 grade) at or above the state average:

- 2012- One class above state average (1/6 = 17%)
- 2013- Three classes above state average (3/6 = 50%)

Total for SPS:

- 2012- Two classes above state average in 3-8 math and reading (2/12 = 17%)
- 2013- Nine classes above state average in 3-8 math and reading (9/12 = 75%)

Sturgis High School was also nationally recognized as a "Best High School" by US News and World Report. It was awarded a "Bronze Medal," the only school in our area to attain such a noble distinction.

These kinds of results don't happen without hard work from students, staff, and parents. We are fortunate to enjoy a community that values and supports education. With all the local support that we enjoy as a school district, we can do even better. I want to thank you for the part you play in making Sturgis Public Schools a success. Here's to another great year at SPS - together we will attain even more in the many years to come!

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Sturgis Public Schools, in partnership with parents and community, is to ensure each student has the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for a successful transition to the next educational stage ultimately leading to a productive and satisfying life.

Board of Education*

Geoffrey Smith.....	<i>President</i>
Tom Robertson.....	<i>Vice President</i>
Ann Bird.....	<i>Secretary</i>
Ray Sterling.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Hamlin.....	<i>Trustee</i>
Frank J. Kalasky.....	<i>Trustee</i>
Kerri Millett.....	<i>Trustee</i>

*The public is welcome to attend the monthly Study Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education. The Board meets at 5:30 for the Study Session at the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room on the second Monday of each month. On the third Monday of the month the Regular Meeting is held at 5:30 p.m. in different schools in the District. Please see the schedule of the meetings posted on the Sturgis web page at www.sturgisps.org under the Board of Education menu listing.

Cover: Dan Root, new Transportation and Facilities Director, poses in front a Sturgis Public Schools bus. Root replaces longtime Transportation and Facilities Director **Mackie Melson** who retired last year.

News

eCademy Opens Up

This Fall Sturgis Public Schools opens Sturgis eCademy, a school designed to meet the educational needs of all its enrolled students by using several individualized instructional models:

Full-Time Online School - Offers complete school online for students who want to learn from home.

Full-Time Alternative School - Designed for students not able to attend school in a traditional setting. It offers on-line full courses and remediation programming.

Blended Learning - Offers online and classroom experience.

Blended Classroom - A classroom that provides online learning and classroom experience.

Credit Recovery/Remediation - Online lessons designed to prepare students to pass required courses and to pass the State test. It also supports students who need additional options to complete courses.

Homebound Education - An option for home-schooled children to use the district's facilities, curriculum tools, and/or teaching support to engage in learning.

To enroll or to receive more information about eCademy, contact **Jill Snyder** at jsnyder@sturgisps.org or call 659-1540.

2013/14 New Teacher/Staff

Wall School

Kayla Vettes - Second Grade

Eastwood

David Northrop - Dean of Students

Heather George - Third Grade

Megan Wait - Third Grade

Lauren Howell - Third Grade

Natalie Yoder - Fifth Grade

Carol Furney - Special Education

GSRP Jerolene

Darcy Ford - Preschool

Central Commons

Stephanie Walley - Begindegarten Teacher

Transportation

Dan Root - Transportation and Facilities Director

Sturgis High School

Dave Setterblad - Building Trades

District Office

Susan Zeeb - Accounting Manager

District Information

District Office (Main Switch Board) 659-1500

Superintendent: Dr. Thomas Langdon

Assistant Superintendent: Julie Evans

Director of Finance: Vicki Watson

District Hours: 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.

High School - Grades 9-12 659-1515

Principal: Ronald Ehlers

School Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Middle School - Grades 6-8 659-1550

Principal: Eric Anderson

School Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Eastwood - Grades 3-5 659-1560

Principal: Bob Matkin

School Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Congress - Grades K-2 659-1565

Principal: Teresa Belote

School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Wall - Grades K-2 659-1570

Principal: Nicole Airgood

School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Wenzel - Grades K-2 659-1575

Principal: Teresa Belote

School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Community Education/ Sturgis eCademy 651-1540

Principal: Jill Snyder

School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m./12:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Technology Department 659-1512

Janene Kosman

Athletic Department 659-1535

Athletic Director: Mark Adams

Special Projects 659-1524

Craig Casault

Food Service 659-1545

Patti Miller

Transportation/Maintenance/ Grounds/Custodial 659-1590

Dan Root

GED/Night Adult Education 659-1540

April McMillin

Community Pool 659-1585

Ray Martin

Augspurger Courts/Harmon Field 659-3743

www.sturgisps.org

Freshmen Focus

Sturgis High School will host Freshmen Focus Orientation Camp on August 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Incoming freshmen will participate in team-building, leadership, school spirit, and other school orientation activities. The camp will be led by upper-classmen who will help students make new friends and get familiar with the building. At the end of the camp day, from 5-7 p.m., incoming freshmen will receive a free iPad to be used throughout the school year. One parent or guardian is required to accompany their student to the iPad distribution. They can meet their student in the main gym at Sturgis High School.

iPad Rollout/SHS Open House

All incoming sophomore-seniors will be issued an iPad at the Sturgis High School open house scheduled on August 28th from 5-8 p.m. Anyone who does not attend the open house will get their iPad after school on September 3. A parent or guardian must attend the iPad distribution with their student.

SPS Photography Policy

Photos and/or video footage for the purpose of media coverage and/or documenting the school year is taken of school children throughout the year. If you do not want your child to appear in any of the published pieces, please advise the principal at your child's school.

GSRP Free Preschool

Welcome to the **Great Start School Readiness Program** at Sturgis Central Commons. This free preschool program is for four-year-old children who live in the Sturgis Public School District or reside in St. Joseph County. Children must be four (but not yet turned five) by November 1, 2013. In 2014 the eligibility date will be October 1, 2014. In 2015 the eligibility date will be September 1, 2015. Free transportation is provided.

Children can attend a morning session (8:45-11:45) or an afternoon session (12:50-3:50) Monday thru Thursday. There are three preschool classrooms with qualified teachers and assistants.

For more information, please contact the Community Education Office at 659-1537.

Half Day Release Times

School	Time
Sturgis High School	10:50 a.m.
Sturgis Middle School	11:05 a.m.
Eastwood Elementary	12:15 p.m.
Congress Elementary	12:00 p.m.
Wenzel Elementary	12:00 p.m.
Wall Elementary	12:00 p.m.
Jerolene	12:00 p.m.
Alternative Education	11:35 a.m.



Eastwood Summer Library

Sturgis Public School libraries held regular summer hours so children could participate in crafts, reading, or computer times. The following students were some of the regular Eastwood attendees: Front Row (L-R) **Ahtziri Denova, Guadalupe Gutierrez, Devin McVicker, Saturnino Denova, Jr., Victoria Bucio, and Luzclarita Rodriguez.** Back Row (L-R) **Delanee Murphy, Arisbeth Garcia Munoz, Evelyn Bucio, Alondra Garcia Munoz, Samantha Garcia Carmona, Cecelia Reaper, and helper Grandma Connie Gentry.**

Information

STEM Class

Sturgis High School started a new class last year called STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). As one of their projects, STEM students had to create, design, and build a shed made completely of old doors, windows, and recycled wood. The photograph shown at the right is the completed shed that is for sale. Projects like this will generate enough money to begin a STEM Scholarship. To enroll in the 2013-14 STEM class, contact the Sturgis High School Guidance office at 659-1530. STEM class meets during “zero hour,” before the regularly scheduled school day.



The STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) class shed project. The entire shed was built using recycled materials.



Student BPA Needs

The Sturgis High School Business Professionals of American (BPA) needs new or gently used men’s suits or women’s dress clothes to be worn by the students when they are participating in business functions or BPA competitions. They are also looking for local business professionals to volunteer their time to come and talk to BPA students about what it means to be a business professional. If you have any contributions to make or any questions regarding the BPA wishlist, contact **Laura Penner** or **Kris Leach** at 659-1515.

IT Needs at Sturgis High

Sturgis High School is looking for capable students or adults who are interested in either paid or unpaid IT internships. They also need volunteers in their classroom who know computer programming languages like Java and C++. Volunteers who understand app developer for Android and IOS (Apple) would also be appreciated.

If you are interested in donating unused computer equipment such as laptops, desktops, switches, servers, hard drives, or anything else related to IT, please call **Kris Leach** at 659-1515 for more information.

Military Release

Two federal laws and one Michigan law require the Sturgis Public School District to provide military recruiters, upon request, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students. A parent/guardian or 18-year-old student may exercise the option to withhold consent for the release of this information to military recruiters by contacting Sturgis High School 659-1515 and following the set procedures.

Food Service News

Effective 8/29/2013 the Sturgis Public Schools will discontinue their use of PaySchools and use www.sendmoneytoschool.com for all on-line food service deposits. Some of the benefits of Send Money to School vs. PaySchools are:

- On-line deposits **and** the ability to transfer money from one student to another.
- Deposits are done in “real-time” vs. a 24 hour waiting period.
- Transactions are deposited right to the student(s) account without having to go through the Food Service office first - a real time saver!
- Parents without computer access have the ability to pay by credit card over the phone by using an 800 number.
- Parents have the ability to track student purchases on-line.
- Parents pay the fee for credit card use but Sturgis Public Schools Food Service Department will cover the cost for any e-check deposits over \$11.25.

If you have any Food Service questions call (269) 659-1545.

2013-14 Meal Prices

Breakfast:

FREE for students, K-12 / Adults \$1.75

Lunch at Eastwood, Middle and High School, Central Commons:

Full Pay Students \$2.25 a day / Adults \$3.00 a day
Reduced Priced Students \$.40 a day

Lunch at Congress, Wall, and Wenzel Elementary Schools

FREE due to a CEO (Community Eligibility Option) program

Milk

\$.35 at all schools

From SMAC to Wolverines in '14

Sturgis High School will leave the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference (SMAC) to join the Wolverine Conference in the 2014-15 school year. SHS has been in the SMAC since 2001 and prior to that was a member of the Twin Valley Conference. The move was prompted by several factors and triggered by Comstock departing the Wolverine Conference to join the Kalamazoo Valley Association. This left the Wolverine conference with 11 teams. Additionally three teams from the SMAC East, Coldwater, Harper Creek, and Marshall are departing the SMAC to form a new conference with schools in the Jackson area. This would leave Sturgis as one of only two traditionally Class B schools remaining in the SMAC.

The 11 other Wolverine Conference schools are Three Rivers, Vicksburg, Edwardsburg, Berrien Springs, Dowagiac, Paw Paw, Coloma, South Haven, Allegan, Plainwell and Otsego. Sturgis will have the highest enrollment of all the schools. The move to the Wolverine Conference will give the Trojans the opportunity to renew their rivalry in football and other sports with Three Rivers, and to develop new rivalries with schools within a 50-mile radius like Vicksburg, Edwardsburg, and Dowagiac.

The Wolverine Conference is currently considering two different division scenarios. The one favored by Athletic Director, **Mark Adams**, is a North/South alignment with Sturgis, Three Rivers, Vicksburg, Edwardsburg, Dowagiac, and Berrien Springs in the South Division. The other option is an East/West split where Sturgis would join Allegan, Otsego, Plainwell, Three Rivers, and Vicksburg in the East Division.



Amie Burger, the new Sturgis Public Schools Girls Varsity Basketball coach (upper right corner), poses with the K-2 girls who participated in her Lady Trojan Basketball camp this summer. Burger will be assisted by her twin sister **Melanie** (upper left corner). Burger is from LaGrange, IN.

Enviro-Clean On Board

The Sturgis Public School District Board of Education unanimously voted to privatize custodial cleaning services on May 13, 2013 and hired Michigan-based Enviro-Clean. They employ 15 local people, including five of Sturgis Public Schools' previous custodial staff members. Enviro-Clean's mission is to be the leader in providing exceptional, uncompromising services for its customers and employees. Enviro-Clean was founded in Holland, Michigan 38 years ago and services 34 other Michigan school districts.



Happenings

Safe Sports Award Received

Sturgis Public Schools was awarded the Safe Sports School award by the National Athletic Trainer's Association. The award salutes schools focused on safety and recognizes those that provide safe environments for its student-athletes.

"Sturgis Public Schools is honored to receive this first-team recognition from NATA," Sturgis superintendent **Thomas Langdon** said, "and we remain committed to keeping our student-athletes safe during physical education classes, team practices and games so they can accomplish their own goals of great competition, winning records, fair sportsmanship and good health. Our goal is to lead our athletic programs to the highest safety standards for our players."

Langdon added that the award would not have been possible without the leadership of athletic director **Mark Adams**, as well as head athletic trainer **Jim Lioy** and his staff and student trainers.



The 2013-14 Sturgis High School Marching Band and Dance/Flag Line have been working hard since July on their marching program, "How to Train a Dragon."

Fall 2013 Home Schedule

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL

08/29	Portage Central	Home	7:00PM
09/20	Marshall	Home	7:00PM
10/04	Harper Creek (Homecoming)	Home	7:00 PM
10/25	Lakeview	Home	7:00 PM

BOYS FRESHMAN/JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

09/05	Niles	Home	4:30/6:30PM
09/12	Gull Lake	Home	4:30/6:30PM
09/26	Coldwater	Home	4:30/6:30PM
10/10	Battle Creek Central	Home	4:30/6:30PM
10/17	Loy Norrix	Home	4:30/6:30PM

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS

08/28	Sturgis Quad	Home	3:00 PM
09/09	Lakeview	Home	4:00 PM
09/16	Marshall	Home	4:00 PM
09/23	Harper Creek	Home	4:00 PM
09/25	SMAC Crossover	Home	4:00 PM
10/08	Mattawan	Home	4:00 PM

BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY TENNIS

09/09	Lakeview	Home	4:00 PM
09/14	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00 AM
09/16	Marshall	Home	4:00 PM
09/23	Harper Creek	Home	4:00 PM
09/25	SMAC Crossover	Home	4:00 PM
10/08	Mattawan	Home	4:00 PM

GIRLS VARSITY GOLF

08/28	League Meet	Home	10:00 AM
09/05	Three Rivers	Home	4:30 PM
09/11	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	4:30 PM
09/26	Sturgis Invitational	Home	10:00AM
09/28	League Meet	Home	10:00 AM

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

09/25	Lakeview	Home	5:30 PM
10/09	Marshall	Home	5:30 PM
10/12	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00 AM
10/23	Harper Creek	Home	5:30 PM
10/30	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00 PM

GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

09/25	Lakeview	Home	5:30 PM
09/30	Bronson	Home	5:30 PM
10/09	Marshall	Home	5:30 PM
10/23	Harper Creek	Home	5:30 PM
10/26	JV Invitational	Home	9:00 AM
10/28	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00 PM

GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING

09/12	Otsego	Home	6:00 PM
09/28	Sturgis Relays	Home	10:30AM
10/08	Marshall	Home	6:00 PM
10/10	Mattawan	Home	6:00 PM
10/15	Loy Norrix	Home	6:00 PM
10/22	Battle Creek Central	Home	6:00 PM

BOYS JV/VARSITY SOCCER

09/05	Lakeview	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/07	Lakeland (varsity only)	Home	5:00 PM
09/12	Marshall	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/14	Hastings	Home	10:00/11:45 AM
09/19	Harper Creek	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/28	Niles	Home	10:00/11:45 M
10/10	Three Rivers	Home	5:00/6:45 PM

VARSITY/JV CROSS COUNTRY

09/10	Tri (Elkhart Christian/Niles)	Home	5:00 PM
09/25	Tri (St. Joe/Lakeshore)	Home	5:00 PM
10/01	SMAC	Home	5:00 PM
10/12	Kiwanis Invitational	Home	9:00 AM

Know All With E-Alerts

A quick and easy way to keep tabs on school news, events, and the calendar is to sign up for e-alerts.

1. From our main webpage, www.sturgisps.org, follow the prompt on the upper right of the screen that says 'Register'.
2. Follow the prompts to sign in. Choose 'Edit Account Settings' from the drop down menu. You will now see your profile displayed and can edit the options to suit your needs.
3. Your options –
E-alert settings: Enter the phone number that you want to receive text message information.
Subscribe: Choose the school/schools from which you would like to receive email information.

Delays and Emergencies

What is the best way to stay informed of weather related and other emergency cancellations or delays?

1. **Sign up for E-Alerts!** See above instructions to get the latest information sent to your phone or computer.
2. **Listen to local radio.** Tune in to WBET-Sturgis, WTHD-LaGrange, WLKM-Three Rivers, WKFR, WRKR, WKMI-Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.
3. **Check one of these TV stations:** WWMT(CBS)-Kalamazoo, WNDU(NBC)-South Bend, WOOD(NBC)-Grand Rapids, WOTV(ABC)-Battle Creek, WXSP-Grand Rapids, and CW7-West MI for the latest info.

2013-14 School Calendar

September

3 First Day of School for Students - Half Day
16 Half Day

November

13-14 Parent Teacher Conferences - Grades 6-12
18-22 Parent Teacher Conferences - Grades K-5
26 End of First Trimester - Half Day
27-29 No School - Thanksgiving Break
29 End of First Trimester

December

23-Jan 3 No School - Winter Recess

January

6 School Resumes
24 No School - End of First Semester

February

14-17 No School - Mid-Winter Break
24-28 Parent Teacher Conference Week - Grades K-5

March

7 No School - End of Second Semester
26-27 Parent Teacher Conferences - Grades 6-12

April

7-11 No School for Students - Spring Break
18 No School - Good Friday

May

No School for Students - Memorial Day

June

10 Last Day for Students



107 W. West Street • Sturgis, MI 49091

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Fall JV/Varsity Schedule

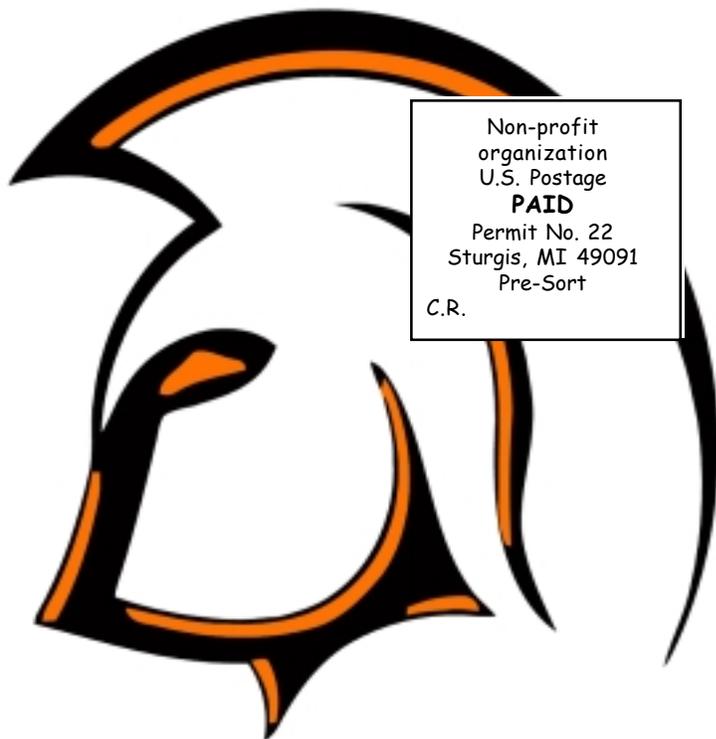
New SPS Teachers

2013 Band Program

New eCademy

iPad Rollout

Postal Patron



Non-profit
organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 22
Sturgis, MI 49091
Pre-Sort
C.R.

Conceive It...Believe It...Achieve It...At Sturgis Public Schools

Required State and Federal Notices

Parental Involvement Plan

Parental involvement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents are involved in—

- developing and implementing appropriate strategies for helping their child achieve the learning objectives that lead to accomplishing desired learning outcomes.
- providing a mutually supportive school and home environment which encourages learning.
- their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Action Plan

1. The Sturgis Public School (SPS) District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its *district/school* parent involvement plan:
 - The School will form Parent Advisory committees with representation from: parents (including representation from significant subgroups), teachers and administrators to review parent involvement policy and how parent involvement dollars will be spent.
 - The Parent Advisory committees will meet to review the parent involvement plan as well as achievement data and strategies for improvement.
 - Each school will distribute to parents in writing the parent involvement policy in a language parents can understand.
 - Each school will convene an annual meeting at a convenient time in which all parents of children participating in the Title I program are invited in order to inform parents about Title I and their right to be involved.
2. The SPS District will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, flexible and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of parent involvement plans and Title I programs, including planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement plan.
3. The SPS District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
4. The SPS District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Educational Services

Educational Services to Homeless and Migrant Children and Youth

Homeless students—Students who qualify as homeless by state guidelines are eligible for immediate enrollment and educational services, with or without required entry documents.

Migrant students—Students whose families have moved within the past 36 months to obtain temporary employment in agriculture or fishing are eligible for regular school year and summer programs designed to provide basic instruction in the core curriculum. Priority will be given to those who have moved during the academic year and are in jeopardy of not meeting the academic standards of the core curriculum.

Family Rights

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Parents may inspect and review educational records of their students within 45 days of making a written request to the building principal.

Parents may request that records be amended by the school where there is a belief that inaccuracies exist. Such requests shall be made in writing and directed to the building principal.

The school may disclose the contents of a student's educational records to school officials having a legitimate educational interest without parental consent. School officials include administrators, supervisors, counselors, teachers, support staff members, a school board member, or a person or company contracted by the district to perform a special task.

The school may release directory information without parental consent, unless the parent has filed a written objection to releases with the principal of Sturgis High School. Directory information about a student includes: Name, address, telephone number, date of birth, photograph, major field of study or grade, participation in school activities, dates of school attendance, honors and awards, and other general information generally found in year-books.

Parents have a right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Ed. The above parental rights transfer to the student when he or she turns 18 years of age or enters a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Protection of Pupil Rights

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) governs the administration to students of a survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight protected areas:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with who respondent have close family relationships;
6. legally recognize privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

If such surveys are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, prior written parent approval must be received before the survey is administered. Non-department funded surveys may be conducted without written parental permission provided there is prior notification to the parent indicating the purpose, approximate dates of administration, and an opt out of participation option.

Asbestos Policy

The Local Education Agency (LEA) or Sturgis Public School is required under Federal law to maintain a copy of the management plan in the administrative office and each school building. Sturgis Public Schools must notify in writing; parents, teachers and employee organizations at least once a year regarding the management of the asbestos in the schools. The management plan shall be available during school business hours for review without cost or restrictions by the public, including teachers, other school personnel and parents.

Asbestos removal was completed at the Central Commons building, in the original mechanical room and gym area in July. Periodic surveillance (inspections) of asbestos containing materials will be completed every six months. **Dan Root** is the designated person for the school district. If you have any questions, please call 659-1590.

Required State and Federal Notices

Grievance Procedures

Section I

Any person believing that the Sturgis Public School district or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (4) Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance to:

Julie Evans, Assistant Superintendent
Sturgis Public Schools
107 W. West Street
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-659-1500

Section II

The person who believes a valid basis for grievance exists shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the Assistant Superintendent, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer within five (5) business days.

If the complainant feels the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, s/he may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps.

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent within five (5) business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Assistant Superintendent shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

Step 2

A complainant wishing to appeal the written (or Step 1) decision of the Assistant Superintendent may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) business days after receipt of the Assistant Superintendent's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within (10) business days.

Step 3

If still unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Board of Education within five (5) business days of receiving the Superintendent's response in Step 2. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within forty (40) days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) days of this meeting. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final.

The local Assistant Superintendent, on request, will provide the complainant with a copy of the district's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure. A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the Assistant Superintendent's office.

Annual Report

The Annual Education Report (AER) is a report designed to meet federal and state requirements. The report provides detailed data on state administered student assessment results, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results, teacher qualification information, and the state results for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). There is a District Annual Report link on the front page of the Sturgis Public School's website at www.sturgisps.org. Every building will also have an Annual Report link on the front page of its website.

Hard copies are available at the Sturgis Central Commons. Please contact **Connie Batten**, Administrative Assistant, at 659-1500 x 1700.

Nondiscrimination Policy

In Compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Sturgis Public Schools District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment.

Pesticide Management

Sturgis Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort. This program **does not** rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem.

You will receive advanced notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel formulations at your child's school. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. The law requires us to do this notification by using two methods. The first method required by the law is the posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances posted are those entrances that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot. The second method we are going to use is the posting in a common area located by the main office of the school. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact the Maintenance Department at the following number 659-1524. Please give the maintenance secretary your name, mailing address and what school your child attends.

In an emergency (e.g. wasp nest), pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application.

You may review our IPM program or pesticide application records for your child's school by calling or e-mailing **Dan Root**, District Facilities Director, at 659-1590. This number may also be used when school is not in regular session.

Parents Right to Know

Our district receives funding from many resources, one of which is Title I, Part A, a grant provided by the federal government through the recent legislation, *No Child Left Behind*. As a requirement for receiving funds under this program, each school must meet the guidelines for "highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals" in each subject area using a system approved by the Michigan Board of Education.

Parent(s), may request information on your child's teacher(s) qualifications:

- Certification for grade level and subject.
- Emergency or provisional status.
- BA major and graduate degrees.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals.

The district will notify you when your child is being taught for four (4) consecutive weeks by teachers NOT highly qualified.

If you would like to receive this information, please put your request in writing to **Julie Evans**, 107 W. West Street, Sturgis, MI or email jevans@sturgisps.org. A response to your request for information will be provided in five business days.