

STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

Sinking Fund Millage
Post Season Sport Honors
2016-17 Calendar
SPS Mobile App
Summer Fun Ideas

Summer 2016



Serving Students, Saving Money

Dr. Thomas M. Langdon
SPS Superintendent

It has been said that public schools are not businesses - rather they are servants of the community. Therefore, the “bottom line” that most businesses consider (money) is not the end-all for Sturgis Public Schools.

Continued on Page 2

“Proud of the Past, Prepared for the Future”



District News



Eastwood fourth grade students painted “flower hands” on the side of Headlines Hair Design & Spa’s building as part of a service project to beautify downtown Sturgis. They also washed windows, built book boxes, pulled weeds, and planted flowers for the community.

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*

- Dr. Kerri Millett.....*President*
- Paul Gorsuch.....*Vice President*
- Ann Bird.....*Secretary*
- Scott Swihart.....*Treasurer*
- Gwen Donmeyer.....*Trustee*
- Scott Boland.....*Trustee*
- Emily Halling.....*Trustee*

*The public is welcome to attend the monthly Study Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education. The Board meets at 5:30 p.m. 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 Photo: Eastwood fourth grade students help plant a tree in Free Church Park. They worked with the Sturgis Area Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to help beautify downtown Sturgis.

Superintendent’s Corner

(continued from front page)

However, schools are like a business in many respects. First of all, they employ people. At 400 employees, Sturgis Public Schools is one of the biggest employers in St. Joseph County. Schools must also act as a business as they consider their infrastructure and the tools needed to be successful - desks, textbooks, technology, buses, etc. The replacement costs of all of our buildings would easily go beyond 100 million dollars so we must continually assess the condition of the HVAC systems, roofs, parking lot surfaces, etc. Schools face utility costs like heating, cooling, and lighting. We know that the more efficiently we do this, the more money we will save to educate our students.

If you own your home you understand that saving on utilities takes a concerted effort by the homeowner. Mechanicals must be kept in good working order, conservation must be the order of the day, and habits (such as turning off the lights when you leave the room) can save a lot. For years Sturgis Public Schools has followed an energy conservation plan set up by **Rollin Mettler**. Mettler and our staff continually monitor our energy consumption so that we save as much money as possible while still providing a comfortable educational environment for our staff and students.

Sturgis Public Schools is proud to state that over the years we have saved \$2,000,000 with this plan. Some of this savings was spent on new lighting and more efficient boilers. However, even after buying new cost-efficient equipment and paying for employee support of these programs, we figure that Sturgis Public Schools netted more than a million dollars. We also figure that our conservation frugality has reduced 9,972 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which equates to removing 2,078 automobiles from driving for one full year.

Students can learn from our conservation efforts. As they see our staff modeling conservation at school, they hopefully mimic those behaviors at home. We can only guess how much energy and money is saved, not to mention how many metric tons of carbon dioxide that has been eliminated, because our students are adopting positive conservation behaviors that they see at school when they go home. Yes - schools are more about people than money, but we love to save where we can so we can use those savings to deliver the best education possible to our students.

As a superintendent and lifetime educator, I would be remiss in my duties if I didn’t remind everyone that another great way to save money and energy would be to turn off the computers and TVs. Travel “anywhere” by reading a great book or go outside to enjoy another beautiful Michigan summer. I know I will!

District News

Sinking Fund Request

On **August 2nd** Sturgis School District voters will be asked to decide whether to approve a ten year, 1.25 mil sinking fund request for Sturgis Public Schools:

What is a sinking fund?

A sinking fund is similar to what businesses refer to as a building reserve fund. A certain millage is assessed to all homeowners in the Sturgis Public School District for a specified amount of time. Each year this additional tax is collected with your property tax and passed on to Sturgis Public Schools.

How Much is the Sinking Fund and what does that mean to me?

Sturgis Public Schools is proposing 1.25 mils for 10 years. One mil is 1/1000 of the taxable value on your home. If your home's taxable value is \$50,000 then you would divide that by 1,000 to equal \$50 per year. In our case, we are asking for 1.25 mils so you would pay \$62.50 per year.

How often do I have to pay this?

Annually - in the same manner as your property taxes are currently billed and collected.

What will the Schools use this money for?

If approved, Sturgis Public Schools will create a fund strictly for renovations to facilities, sites, parking lots, roofs, windows, flooring, and school buildings.

What Your Vote Means

Yes - means you approve allowing the Sturgis Public School district to levy 1.25 mils for a ten year dedicated Sinking Fund. This would generate about \$513,665 each year for necessary repairs of school buildings.

No - would turn down the proposal and mean that the future costs of repairs to Sturgis Public Schools buildings must come from the district's general fund budget, which also covers students' instructional needs.

Where do I get more information?

Watch the Sturgis Public School website at www.sturgisps.org and/or checkout our Facebook page. If you have other questions, call the District Office at 269-659-1500.



Congratulations to Sturgis High School track runners **Jonathon Sholl** (L) and **Daniel Steele** (R) who recently took first place at the MHSAA Division II State Finals. Sholl won the 200 meter dash and Steele won the 800 meter run. Both boys also broke the Sturgis High School record in their respective events. (Photo courtesy of **Wes Morgan** at "Joe Insider")

School Time Changes

The State of Michigan has changed their required number of student days for school districts from 175 to 180 days. That means that **the 2016-17 school year will start on Tuesday, September 6th and end on June 15, 2017** (provided we don't have to add extra school days for exceeding our number of snow days).

Recognizing the benefits of the Professional Learning Communities for our teachers, every month we are also scheduling a half day for the students so the teachers can continue their professional development on those afternoons. This will also allow parents the unique opportunity of scheduling doctor and dentist appointments on those afternoons so students don't miss valuable class time.

The single bus runs will continue this school year but the **start time of school will be moved back to 8:25 a.m. for all students.** The 3:25 p.m. release time for all students will not be changed.



A Fond Farewell

Sturgis Public Schools wishes the following longtime employees a relaxing and enjoyable retirement:

Mel DeYoung (Wall)	Merrie Schlabach (Wall)
Debbie Doe (High School)	Karen Ringenberg (ECSE)
Jim Lioy (High School)	Deb Gelvin (Sturgis High School - Special Education)
Donnell Roberts (Congress)	
Diana Maynard (Wall)	Mike Oxender (transportation/grounds)

SPS Mobile App



Sturgis Public Schools will soon have a mobile app for the 2016-17 school year. Parents will be able to view the school calendars, local news, athletic schedules, and school menus all in a mobile-friendly environment. Online payments will also be accepted. When it's ready, it can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or App Store. Look for more information to come out this summer.

School News

Eastwood

Eastwood Garden Club students were excited to get back to work for a second summer at Eastwood Garden. The students planted seeds earlier this spring and put those seedlings in the ground after the garden was plowed. **Jayne Henricks**, gardening mentor and art teacher at Eastwood, supervised the whole process while finding ways to encompass lessons in math and science.



This year the garden is growing sweet corn in addition to all of their usual vegetables so students learn about the importance of detasseling. Once the vegetables are ready to harvest, Eastwood Garden Club members will sell the produce at the local

Farmers' Market in Sturgis. All proceeds from the sales go back into the garden for next year's supplies.

A big thank you to **LoneSpruce** and the **City of Sturgis** for donating supplies and materials to help get the garden started this year!

If you would like to help with the garden or at the Farmers' Market, please email Jayne Henricks at jhenricks@sturgisps.org.



Elementary Art News

Gail Suess-Brandow's elementary art students are really enjoying the new kiln that Suess-Brandow tirelessly fundraised to get for the kids. The first day students learned where clay comes from and were allowed to push, pull, slam, coil, and pinch the clay however they wanted. Each of the 800 elementary kids learned about the firing process as they worked on "tooth fairy pinch pots." Next year Suess-Brandow hopes to make more complicated forms like clay fish, textured dishes, and other vessels.



A special thanks to all the donors of this wonderful kiln: *Michigan Youth Arts; Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; Shawn Caldwell/Wall building funds; PACs of Congress, Wenzel, and Wall; Artsonia proceeds; MyCards fundraiser; Sturgis Area Community Foundation; and DonorsChoose contributors.*

Congratulations to Suess-Brandow who recently received the *Science Innovation Hall of Fame Award* from Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.



Top: Olivia Liston, a kindergarten student at Congress, holds up a clay "smile." Bottom: Tooth fairy pots wait to be fired in the new kiln.



Wenzel students **Timothy Scott, Josue Gurrola, and Carter Pletcher** love their summer book baskets.

Wenzel

"Do I get to keep these?"

"My brother loves trains. I'm getting this one."

"Hey, you like penguins. Here's a penguin book."

"DUDE, this is awesome!"

"I'm getting lots of chapter books so they last all summer!"

These were just a few of the exclamations uttered from stunned children as they received their year-end gift from Wenzel staff. Each student was given a basket with 25 books to continue his or her reading and learning all summer.

Wenzel staff worked all year to collect books from the community for this program. The staff and students are extremely grateful to all those who donated books for their baskets.



Wall Field Day: Fireman **Jason Albarran** helps **Addison Eicher** spray a fire hose. **Dayanara Ulloa Ramirez** throws a ball.

School News

Sturgis High School

Incoming Freshman Focus Camp

Calling all incoming freshmen for the 2016-17 school year! You won't want to miss the fun-filled Freshman Focus Orientation Camp (FFOC) held on Tuesday, August 2nd from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Sturgis High School. More than 60 junior and senior class leaders will be there to give tours and to guide you in your transition from middle school to high school. If you're wondering how you can get involved at the high school level, representatives from all of the different sports teams and school clubs will be there to help you join.

To register for the camp, call the high school at 659-1515 or go to the Sturgis Public Schools website at www.sturgisps.org and click on the *Welcome Freshman* icon on the front page. Students who register by July 15th will get a free Sturgis Trojan sling back pack.

Early Middle College

The Early Middle College program at Sturgis High School will have 22 participants this fall (up from 8 last year). Early Middle College allows students to earn their high school diploma and their Glen Oaks degree or certificate tuition-free and in half the time. For more information about Early Middle College, contact the High School guidance office at 269-659-1520, or call **Anita Lopez-Schlabach** at Glen Oaks Community College at 269-294-4234.

Sturgis Middle School



Participants in the 8th grade survival camp team "The Legion". (Front row) **Elijah Leonard, Derek Garmire, Brock Grabe, Jacob Wicke, and Taylor Albarran.** (Middle row) **Caleb Himebaugh, Isaiah Julien, Michael Metz., Morgan Griffith, and Brooke Wilson.** (Back row) **Matthew Hartman.**

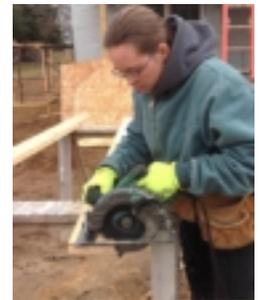


Students in **Dr. Tom Langdon's** Senior Leadership Development class pose in front of the Merrill Lynch Bull in New York City.

Building Trades CTE Program

The Sturgis Career Technical Education (CTE) Building Trades class worked with Habitat for Humanity and built a 1200 square foot house this year at 1003 Chella Street. The 24 students, seven of them females, collectively decided that they liked handling saws and drills. They also liked roofing, painting, caulking, and cement work. They unanimously decided, however, that they did not like siding. The house was purchased by the aunt and uncle of one of the CTE students. Thank you to the businesses that helped with supplies and labor to make this program happen.

Senior **Illeona Geroux** was the recipient of the *Golden Hammer Award* and the *Michigan Breaking Traditions 2016 Award*, which recognizes nontraditional gender successes in a CTE program. Geroux plans to study construction at SWMC this Fall.



Above: **Illeona Geroux** uses a circular saw. Below: CTE students work on framing the house that they built at 1003 Chella Street.



Extracurricular Happenings

Student Health Clinic

Did you know that there is a student health clinic right here in Sturgis AND that it's open all summer?

The *Gesundheit-Student Help and Healing Center* serves all St. Joseph County students ages 10-21 years old. They also have a health insurance navigator on staff who can assist anyone in the process of using the school-linked clinic, including helping with Medicaid or Marketplace enrollment applications.



The *Gesundheit-Student Help and Healing Center* is located in the Sturgis Medical Commons II building on East Chicago Road. It is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Smith Wins Award

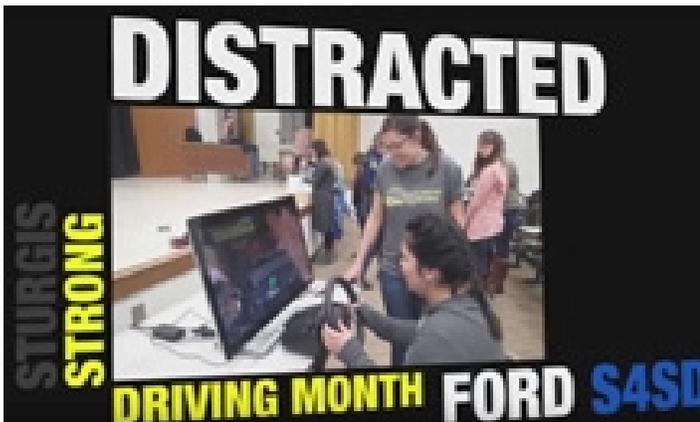
Congratulations to Social Studies teacher **Tim Smith** who recently received the *General Education Teacher of the Year Award* from the St. Joseph County Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Left: **Tim Miller** presents **Tim Smith** with the *General Education Teacher of the Year award*.



Sturgis Strong Wins

The *Sturgis Strong S4SD* (Strive for a Safer Drive) student group at the high school was recently recognized at the Ford River Rouge plant for their first place finish in a competition that promotes driving safety. As part of the *Sturgis Strong* campaign, students participated in driving simulations, made posters, hosted a distracted driver assembly, and took seat-belt selfies. Senior **Liam Adams** also produced a *Sturgis Strong* video that can be found on the high school website. Sturgis beat out 55 other high schools for the honor.



Students practice driving simulations as part of "Sturgis Strong".

Spring 2016 MITES

The Middle School MITES (Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society) team did an outstanding job again this year at the State competitions!

Special congratulations goes to **Lane Kimes** and **Avery Wheeler** for winning Divisional Grand Champion (first place in their division for Michigan). Kimes made a lamp and Wheeler made a *Chevy Fire Pit*. Another big honor goes to **Dalton Soergel** for earning a \$7,500 scholarship in the Metals category with his milled tractor project. Some of the other awesome projects included a wooden plate and bowl, a fire tower, a show box, several coffee tables, and a glass cabinet/shelf.

The tools needed for these projects include CAD drawings, CNC machines, mills, and several different kinds of welding saws. In the past 12 years Sturgis Middle School has had 25 Grand Champion Winners. The MITES team is taught by **Walter Wheeler** and **Ken Schau**.

Andrew Bowen - *Plate and Bowl* - 1st in State

Raymond Chen - *John Wayne Picture* - 4th in State

Hannah Glasscoe - *Shelf* - 1st in State

Lane Kimes - *Fire Tower* - 2nd in State

Lane Kimes - *Lamp Region* - 1st in State and 1st div. Grand Champion

Andrew Littlefield - *Show Box* - 1st in State

Brandon Martinez - *Bear Region* - 2nd in State

Isabelle Mizner - *Coffee Table* - 6th in State

Kiley Pudue - *Sunburst Table* - 2nd in State

Maddison Pueschel - *Coffee Table* - 1st in State

Maddison Pueschel - *Table* - 1st in State

Dalton Soergel - *Metal Tractor* - 1st in State and a \$7,500 Scholarship winner from Lincoln College of Technology

Grayson Swihart - *Crate Table* - 3rd in State

Avery Wheeler - *Chevy Fire Pit Region* - 1st in State and 1st div. Grand Champion



Sturgis Middle School students who participated in the State MITES competition.

Athletic News

Sturgis Sports Victories

Sturgis Trojans have two new State champions in **Track & Field**. Junior sprinter **Jonathan Sholl** won the 200 meter dash and senior distance runner **Daniel Steele** won the 800 meter run. Both boys also set new school records in their respective events. Four other school records were broken at State by Sturgis track members and the team finished 11th overall.

The **Varsity Baseball** team was crowned District Champions after their 2-1 win over Plainwell in the opening round and their 3-2 win over Vicksburg in the championship game.

iPads For the Summer

Sturgis High School students will be able to keep their iPads over the summer for the first time since they were issued several years ago. This allows:

- Students to use iPads for either remediation or acceleration - including credit recovery and testing out.
- Teachers to use iPads sooner in the Fall.
- Students to use their iPads for final exams. Previously, they were required to be turned in earlier so that they could be collected before students left for the summer.

The technology office in the Central Commons building will be open Monday - Thursday each week for any iPad issues this summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to call **Von Metzger** at 659-1527.

Summer Sports Camps

Boys High School Basketball - Grades 9 & 10

When: June 20-23 from 8:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Where: High School Gymnasiums

Cost: \$45 (includes a t-shirt, Gatorade, handouts, and awards)

Girls Basketball - Grades K-8

When: June 20-22 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Sturgis High School Gymnasiums

Cost: \$25 (includes t-shirt if registered by June 10th)

Girls Basketball - Grades 9-12

When: June 20-24 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Sturgis High School Gymnasiums

Cost: \$45 (includes t-shirt if registered by June 10th)

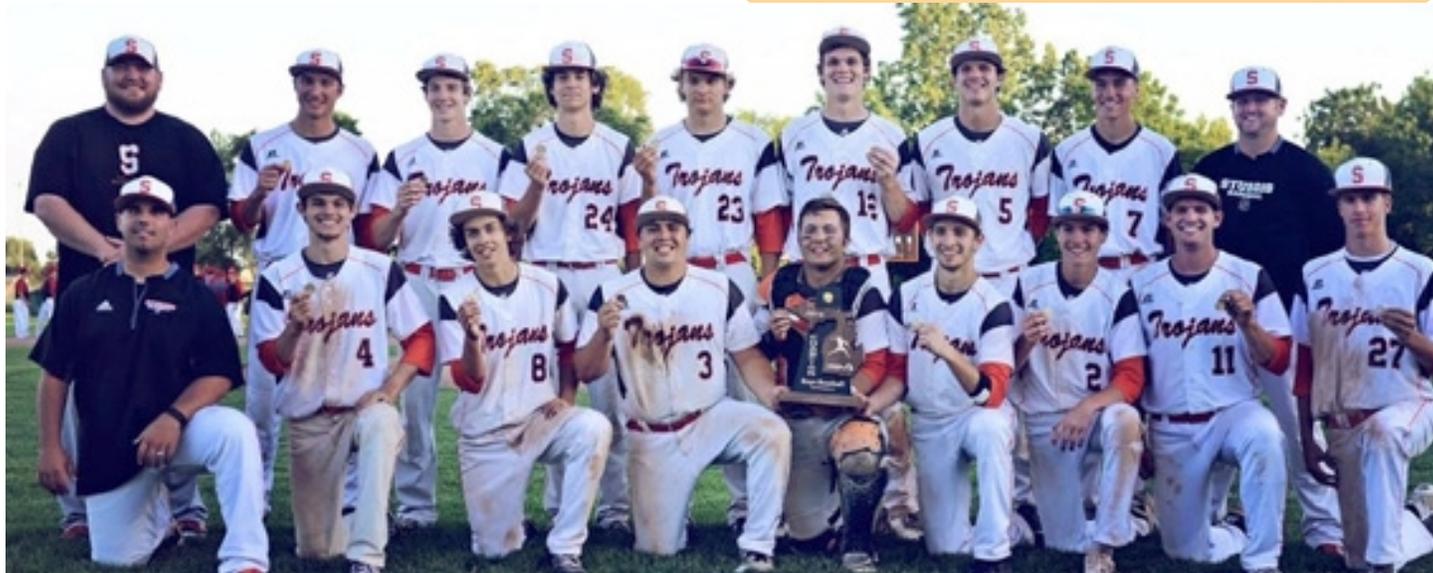
Football Camp - Grades 9-12

When: June 27-30 from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Sturgis High School Practice Field

Cost: \$35 (includes t-shirt)

For more information, or for registration forms regarding these camps, please check the school website at www.sturgisps.org. (Click on the "Athletics" tab and then the "summer camps" link) or call the Sturgis High School athletic office at 659-1535. Online payments can also be made through the school website.



Congratulations to the boys varsity baseball team for their recent district win. This is the first time in seven years that the team has won districts. (Photo courtesy of Lesli Zorn Photography)

Kindergarten Registration

Parents of all children turning five years old on-or-before September 1, 2016 may register their child in Kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. Registration packets can be picked up at either Congress, Wall, or Wenzel School.

Completed forms should be returned along with the following documents:

- Original Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Residency.

All GSRP and Headstart students must also register for the 2016-17 school year.

Summer Fun Everywhere

You shouldn't have to look hard for things to do this summer. Doyle Community Center, Sturgis Community Pool, Sturgis and Nottawa Public Libraries, and Sturgis Public Schools all have things going on throughout the summer. Summer activities can be found by visiting each of these places or by accessing a list through their various websites:

Sturgis Recreation Guide -

www.sturgisps.org/Parents/SturgisAreaRecreationGuide.

Sturgis District Library -

www.Sturgis-Library.org

Nottawa Township Library -

www.nottawatownshiplibrary.com

Keep watching the school website and the following school Facebook pages throughout the summer for more information and events:

- Sturgis Public School
- Sturgis High School
- Sturgis Middle School
- Eastwood Elementary
- Wall Elementary
- Wenzel Elementary
- Congress Elementary



Makenna Rose and Megan Williams enjoyed the bog walk at the 8th grade survival day.



Eastwood fourth grade students make "Trojan Pride" pennants to hang in downtown businesses as part of a service project to beautify downtown Sturgis.

2016 School Calendar

August

- 31 Sturgis High School Open House (4-6 p.m.)
Sturgis Middle School Open House (5-7 p.m.)

September

- 1 Eastwood Elementary Open House (4-6 p.m.)
Wall/Wenzel/Congress Open House (5-7 p.m.)
- 6 First Day of School K-12 (half day)
- 19 Fair Day (half day)

October

- 10 Half Day for students

November

- 14 Half Day for students
- 23-25 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

- 12 Half Day for students
- 23-Jan 6 No School - Holiday Break

January

- 9 School Resumes
- 16 Half Day for Students

February

- 13 Half Day for Students
- 17-20 No School - Mid-Winter Break

March

- 13 Half Day for Students
- 31-April 7 No School - Spring Break

April

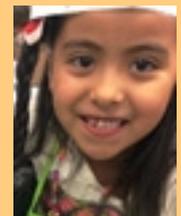
- 10 School Resumes
- 14 Half Day for Students

May

- 8 Half Day for Students
- 29 No School - Memorial Day

June

- 15 Last Day for Students - Half Day



Summer Meal Hours

Free breakfast and lunch is available from June 13th to August 19th for all Sturgis children ages 1-18. Adults that accompany children may purchase a meal for \$3. Meals are served at Thurston Woods Park and at Congress, Eastwood, Wall, and Wenzel Schools.

Breakfast - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch - Noon - 1 p.m. (Eastwood 11:30 - 12:30)

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