

STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

School Times and Contacts
Fall JV/Varsity Schedules
Marching Program - *Styx*
2012-13 District Calendar
Welcome New Teachers

FALL 2012



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Thomas M. Langdon
SPS Superintendent

Sturgis Public Schools is excited to begin yet another school year. As superintendent, I can assure you that the beginning of school never becomes "old hat" for me. Indeed, every year seems just as exciting as the first year I began teaching, leading a building as a principal, or leading an entire district. In fact, this is the thirteenth year that I have begun the school year as a superintendent. Unlucky? Hardly! In fact, I count myself as extremely fortunate to be able to work for such a great school, with such great people, in such a great community. What a privilege!



Continued on Page 2



Sturgis High School band students, **Catherine Milford** and **Haley Jordan**, practice for the 2012 marching band show "Paradise Theatre," based on the music of Styx.

Superintendent's Corner

(continued from front page)

SPS has just about completed another summer of planning, training, and organizing for the school year to come. Teachers go to training, take college classes, and begin preparing curriculum for the new school. Our custodians, many of our food service people, and our support staff work in the summer to make sure that school can resume better than ever in September. With so much to accomplish in the upcoming school year, the efforts of all our employees make a difference!

This school year we will continue Professional Learning Community (PLC) training. This allows our teachers to effectively take advantage of our delayed-start Thursdays and to learn how they can better meet the needs of every individual student in an era of increasing expectations for student achievement. We are also working on getting technology ready to roll out an iPad for every high school student to use throughout the school year (1+1 initiative), revamping our middle school technology offerings (3+3 initiative), and expecting that every elementary student will utilize technology every day (2+2 initiative). High school students will now have the option to participate in a new zero hour STEM class. This unique class will begin an hour before school starts and will teach engineering, computer numerical control (CNC), construction, and problem-solving skills.

We are confident of the success of these new initiatives. Not because it's easy to attempt new things, or because change is easy, but because we have a dedicated staff, a great community, and students who are up to the task.

I never take the start of a new school year for granted, and this year is no exception. In fact, this year seems even more exciting than most. I am proud to work in a community that encourages and supports the innovations we are implementing. As school begins, please remember that we are here to help you any way that we can. We are committed to communicating with all of the community through this newsletter, our revamped website, our various mailings and e-mailings, etc. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us at www.sturgisps.org with your questions, comments, or concerns. Thanks and see you soon!

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*

- LeeAnn McConnell.....*President*
- Geoffrey D. Smith.....*Vice President*
- Tom Robertson.....*Secretary*
- Ann Bird.....*Treasurer*
- Ray Sterling.....*Trustee*
- Frank J. Kalasky.....*Trustee*
- Kerri Millett.....*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 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: Senior 2012 varsity football players: (L-R) Brennan McConnell, Jalen Cox, Patrick Haas, Tyler Bennett, Chris Alexander, Jarred Finnerman, Travis Courtney, and Jacob Carrier.

** Photo compliments of Lesli Stewart Photography*



News

2012/13 New Teacher/Staff

Middle School

Aaron Miller - Social Studies and Math.

Pat Ahrens - Braille Translator Educational Assistant.

Wenzel

Julia Kurzeja - Second grade English and Language Arts (ELA) and Physical Education (half-time each).

Eastwood

Stephanie Ortmann - Third grade.

Other

Ryan Banaszak - School Resource Officer.

Dan Root - Transportation Facility Assistant.

Student Teachers/Interns

Heather George - Kindergarten at Congress School with **Karen Mullins**.

Margaret Dewar - Student teacher in Music with **Eric Cadena** at the High School and Middle School.



Did you know Sturgis High School has a Ski Team? **Ben Sisson**, **David Polzen**, and **Nathaniel Sisson** can't wait for the November sign-ups. The Ski Team is coached by **Ken Mills**.

District Information

District Office (Main Switch Board) 659-1500

Superintendent: Dr. Thomas Langdon
Assistant Superintendent: Julie Evans
Director of Finance: Vicki Watson

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/ Central Commons - Preschool/ Great Start/ACES 651-1540

Principal: Dave Watson
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

Custodial/Special Projects 659-1524

Craig Casault

Food Service 659-1545

Patti Miller

Transportation/Maintenance/ Grounds 659-1590

Mackie Melson

GED/Night Adult Education 659-1540

Peter Palasinski

Community Pool 659-1585

Ray Martin

Auspurger Courts/Harmon Field 659-3743

www.sturgisps.org

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.

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 yearbooks.

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.

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.

Notices

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.

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.

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 and following the set procedures.

Asbestos Management

The Local Education Agency (LEA) or Sturgis Public Schools 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.

No asbestos removal is scheduled for the current year. Periodic inspections of asbestos-containing materials will be completed every six months.

Mackie Melson is the designated person for the school district. If you have any questions, please call 659-1524.

Pesticide Advisory

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 **Mackie Melson**, District Facilities Director, at 659-1524. This number may also be used when school is not in regular session.

**** Sturgis Public Schools is required by the State and/or Federal government to post these notices annually.**

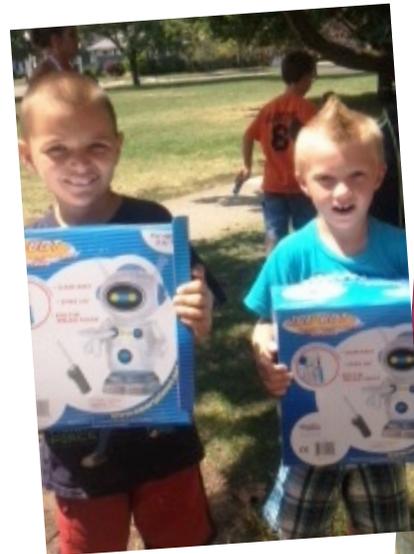
Annual Report

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 2011-12 District Annual Report link on the front page of the Sturgis Public School's website at www.sturgisps.org. Every building will also have a 2011-12 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.

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.



Happy raffle prize winners in the Sturgis Public Schools Summer Food Service's drawing.



The 2012 High School Marching Band

Top (L-R): Sturgis High School Band Director **Jim Whitehead**, **Maisilynn Brock**, **Scott Smith**, **Jacob Rheinheimer**, **Madeline Earl**, **Stephanie Cressman**, and **Jeneka Lund**.

Bottom: The Sturgis High School marching band has been practicing hard for their 2012 marching show, **Paradise Theatre**, based on the music story of Styx. The show will include such hits as *Rocking the Paradise*, *Renegade*, *The Best of Times* and *Come Sail Away*. **Steven Griffith** and **Kellyn Barnes** are the drum majors.

Happenings

Athletic Booster Club Needs Help

During a time when many high schools are cutting various athletic programs due to budget constraints, Sturgis High School is blessed to offer many sports to student athletes. One of the reasons Sturgis Schools can offer so many quality sports programs is due to the support of the Sturgis High School Athletic Booster Club. The Booster Club uses funds from its concession stand sales to meet the needs of all Sturgis High School sports programs. It is an absolutely essential part of each team's athletic budget.

If you have a child participating in sports at Sturgis High School, you are a member of the Sturgis High School Athletic Booster Club. There are no mandatory meetings to attend, however the booster club does ask that all parents of high school athletes volunteer at least three times during the year at the concession stand - and hopefully much more. We also welcome the help of grandparents or any other community member who wants to help. If you have never worked at the concession stand before, do not be intimidated to sign-up. You can be shown the "ropes" of the operation in a few minutes and someone with more experience will always be there to provide additional assistance.

It is best to sign-up to work the concession stand early so you can pick which days work best for your schedule. To see the most up-to-date volunteer schedule, check the Sturgis High School web page under the "Parent" tab, then click "Athletic Booster."

Volunteers who work at the concession stand are eligible for free admittance to the event that they are working, one free meal at the concession stand, and volunteer certificates for students looking for community service hours.

If you have any questions regarding the Sturgis High School Athletic Booster Club, or have trouble signing-up for volunteer times, contact **Toni Andrews** at 651-2739, or email the Booster Club at athleticboosters@sturgisps.org.



Quarterback **Chance Stewart** and receiver **Matt Phillips**

Fall 2012 Home Schedule

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS

08/27	Battle Creek Central	Home	4:00 PM
09/05	Loy Norrix	Home	4:00 PM
09/17	Gull Lake	Home	4:00 PM
09/24	Coldwater	Home	4:00 PM
10/01	Portage Northern	Home	4:00 PM

BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY TENNIS

08/22	Harper Creek	Home	4:00 PM
09/12	Lakeview	Home	4:00 PM
09/17	Gull Lake	Home	4:00 PM
09/19	Marshall	Home	4:00 PM
09/24	Coldwater	Home	4:00 PM
09/26	SMAC Crossover	Home	4:00 PM
09/27	Bronson	Home	4:00 PM
10/01	Portage Northern	Home	4:00 PM

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

09/12	Battle Creek Central	Home	5:30 PM
09/19	Loy Norrix	Home	5:30 PM
10/03	Gull Lake	Home	5:30 PM
10/06	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00 AM
10/17	Coldwater	Home	5:30 PM
10/23	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00 PM

GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

09/12	Battle Creek Central	Home	5:30 PM
09/19	Loy Norrix	Home	5:30 PM
10/03	Gull Lake	Home	5:30 PM
10/17	Coldwater	Home	5:30 PM
10/20	Sturgis Invitational	Home	9:00 AM
10/24	Sturgis Quad	Home	5:00 PM

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL

08/24	Benton Harbor	Home	7:00PM
09/14	Loy Norrix	Home	7:00PM
09/21	Battle Creek Central	Home	7:00 PM
10/05	Gull Lake (Homecoming)	Home	7:00 PM

VARSITY/JV CROSS COUNTRY

10/13	Kiwanis Invitational	Home	10:00 AM
10/20	League Meet	Home	11:00 AM

GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING

09/22	Sturgis Relays	Home	10:30AM
09/25	Lakeview	Home	6:00 PM
10/02	Harper Creek	Home	6:00 PM
10/04	Bridgman	Home	6:00 PM
10/23	Kalamazoo Central	Home	6:00 PM

BOYS JV/VARSITY SOCCER

09/04	Battle Creek Central	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/06	Loy Norrix	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/08	St. Joseph	Home	10:00/11:45 AM
09/13	Gull Lake	Home	5:00/6:45 PM
09/15	Vicksburg	Home	10:00/11:45 AM
09/20	Coldwater	Home	5:00/6:45 PM

GIRLS VARSITY GOLF

09/05	Jamboree	Home	3:30 PM
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Easy E-Alert Signups

A quick and easy way to keep tabs on school news, events, and the calendar is to sign up for e-alerts. Once you're registered, it's easy to navigate the options.

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.

That it! For additional assistance call 659-1515.

Last Mailed Newsletter

Due to budget constraints and timing issues, the Sturgis Schools district newsletter will no longer be mailed to Sturgis postal patrons. Copies will be available at our District Office, the Sturgis Public Library, the Sturgis Senior Center, and Thurston Woods Village. Home-bound readers can request a copy to be mailed to them by contacting **Tracy Stevens** at 659-1500 ext. 1746 or at tstevens@sturgisps.org. As always, our newsletter will be on our website at sturgisps.org.



107 W. West Street • Sturgis, MI 49091

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Postal Patron



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

2012-13 School Calendar

September

4 First Day of School for Students - Half Day
17 No School

November

21-23 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

24 - Jan. 4 No School - Christmas Break

February

15-18 No School - Mid-Winter Break

March

29 No School - Good Friday

April

1-5 No School for Students - Spring Break

May

27 No School for Students - Memorial Day

June

13 Last Day for Students



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