

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at Jones County. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways filling them with their energy and enthusiasm for learning. We strive to challenge each student to grow in their academic abilities. Teachers have spent hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning. Some new things being added include coding and escape classrooms activities. Custodians have spent the summer thoroughly cleaning the schools till they shine and office staff have spent the summer preparing for the new school year by ordering materials and updating student files. If you drive by the elementary you will see a lot of activity as the new building gets started and street project taking place on the north and west side of the school.. It will be very nice when both are completed. We will have to be creative for recess this year! We will use the south entrance as the main door for students to enter and exit the building, except for bus kids who will use the north entrance and they will be escorted by an adult. Please remind your children to stay away from the building project and to use care if walking or biking to school. We will have an adult watching for students at both the north and south entrances. Any adult (or students arriving after 8:20) needing to enter the elementary please use the north door buzzer. We would appreciate any volunteers to assist with dismissal. Until the cement is cured, the preschool children and parents will also need to enter the south entrance of the grade school and walk their child over to the preschool. For those that ride the bus we will escort them over. Parents will need to use north entrance when picking their preschool child up. Thank you for patience. It will all be worth it when the street project is complete. Kindergarten through 12th grade will begin school on Wednesday, August 22 and the first for Pre-school is August 27 at 8:00.

If you wish your child to have breakfast, please drop them off no later than 8:00 so they have time to eat. They will use the west door of the lunchroom

Elementary school starts at 8:20 with the pledge and announcements in the classrooms. Students may arrive at 7:50 and recess will begin at 8:00 in the mini-gym for our K-4th grade students. 5th and 6th grade students will come to their rooms for accelerated reading and math and then will have a break later in the morning.

The Junior High and High School begin classes at 8:17 with the pledge and announcements in their classrooms. Any questions about 7-12 grades can be directed to Mrs. Valburg at 669-2258 or missy.valburg@k12.sd.us

Our PTO will be announcing when in September they will have a meeting for all staff, parents and community members. They will be looking for volunteers to help in the concession stand and to prepare food before a game.

We are peanut aware this school year for those students with allergies. Please check with your child's teacher before sending in snacks containing nuts. We ask no cupcakes be brought in as we have found over the years students eat the frosting and leave the cake. We are striving for healthier snacks and healthier kids. We also want to be considerate of students with other food allergies and students with diabetes. Please check with your child's teacher before bringing in any snack.

We will continue to honor students with 95% attendance each nine weeks. While we have programs put on by students we will not have the monthly character awards. Teachers will honor their students with notes home and by having a secret star student. We have expectations for all our students for good character.

Our focus is to provide each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. We want your child to be happy and successful at Jones County, and parents play a key role. That role is to continually show interest in, and to support your child. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience.
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers.
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills.
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so you are aware of his/her school life.
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject.

Our staff are dedicated and passionate towards education and I look forward to working with each of them, visiting with students, parents, and community members as we begin this new school year. I am honored to serve as the superintendent and elementary principal here at Jones County. It is truly a privilege to be part of a community where parents, teachers, volunteers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at 669-2297 or lorrie.esmay@k12.sd.us. We hope you will find our website helpful and informative. All the information we send out can also be found on this site. <https://jonesco.k12.sd.us>

//Signed// Lorrie Esmay
Superintendent,
Jones County School District