

# BACK TO SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK, ELEMENTARY RUSTLERS!

## I AM SO EXCITED TO START THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR WITH ALL OF YOU!

I hope everyone is still enjoying summer as we get closer to the first day of school. This is the first of my monthly parent newsletters to keep you up-to-date on the activities and happenings at Miller Elementary School. I look forward to welcoming students and parents during our Open House on August 15th! We are going to have an amazing school year, and I can't thank you enough for all of your communication and support during my first year as a Rustler.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 15th 4:00-8:00 Open House

August 17th 8:20 AM First Day of School for 1st-12th Grades

August 17th-18th TBD Scheduled appointments for Kinderstart and Kindergarten

August 21st 8:20 AM First Day of School for Kinderstart and Kindergarten

September 1st No School

September 4th No School

September 11th-15th Homecoming Week

September 27th School Pictures

September 28th 2:00 PM Dismissal and Parent Teacher Conferences

September 29th No School



## GREET YOUR TEACHER NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, August 15th from 4:00-8:00 PM we will host our Open House. This provides a great opportunity for your child to bring his/her supplies to school, visit with teachers, and fill out yearly paperwork. You can also take a tour of the new Ag Shop! A meal will be served in the Ag Shop from 4:00-8:00 PM.

I will have a parent meeting to discuss paperwork and welcome you to our school at 4:30 PM in the Elementary Gym. If you can't make it to the meeting, please make sure to stop in the Elementary Gym to fill out this year's paperwork for your child.

The 4th-6th Grade teachers have scheduled meetings to discuss information that is valuable for parents, such as classroom procedures. If you have a child in one of these classrooms, please attend the meeting if you can. These meetings are for parents only, and students will be able to play on the playground and enjoy the beautiful weather while they wait for you.

5:00 4th Grade Meetings with Mrs. Ketelhut and Mrs. Gesinger

5:30 5th Grade Meetings with Mrs. VanZee and Mrs. Clarke

6:00 6th Grade Meetings with Mrs. Schumacher and Mrs. Rogers

5th and 6th Grade students who are in band should bring their instruments with them. 5th grade students should take their instruments to Mr. Iverson; 6th grade students should take their instruments to Mr. Otteson

## DAKOTA DREAMS TUTORING PROGRAM

### 1. Dakota Dreams Online Tutoring returns, with new feature for grades 1-8

Sometimes, a student just needs a little extra time and attention to master particular concepts or skills. Last year, the Board of Regents and Department of Education launched the [Dakota Dreams Online Tutoring Program](#) to provide that support. Students K-12 were able to access FREE after-school homework help from tutors who were students training to be teachers at Northern State University and Black Hills State University.

The Online Tutoring program will be back again in school year 2023-24, with an added feature called Tutor Tracks. A toolkit for communicating with parents will be provided to principals soon. Please think about sharing information regarding this FREE service with your families (at open houses, via e-newsletters, school websites, etc.)

The basic Online Tutoring program makes tutors available seven days a week, at no cost. Tutors can be accessed on-demand or via pre-scheduled sessions. The new Tutor Tracks will be seven-week, curriculum-based sessions designed to help elementary and middle school students build skills in the areas of reading, grammar, and math. Like the basic program, Tutor Tracks will be led by teachers in training, and the sessions will be free.

### **Tutor Tracks**

- Parents register their students for Tutor Tracks (application opens Aug. 1 on OurDakotaDreams.com)
- Students meet with their tutor 2x per week over 7 weeks
- First term includes two session options:
  - Sept. 11 through Oct. 27, 2023 (reading and grammar available)
  - Oct. 30 through Dec. 15, 2023 (reading, grammar and math available)
- Reading lessons will be offered to 1st-8th grade students
- Grammar lessons will be offered to 3rd-8th grade students
- Math lessons will be offered to 3rd-8th grade students

## **VISIT THE ELEMENTARY GYM DURING THE GREET YOUR TEACHER NIGHT**

We will have a Back to School backdrop for you to take a picture of your child/children to remember the occasion!

All of the paperwork that needs to be filled out, such as Free/Reduced Lunch forms, medical forms, etc. will be in the Gym instead of each classroom.

If you don't make it to Greet Your Teacher Night, we will have the paperwork available at the Elementary Office.

We will have the backdrop available for the KS/K students when they come to their individual sessions on August 17th and 18th.

## **FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH FORMS**

Our school receives more funding through federal programs and we greatly benefit when the number of families on Free and Reduced meals increases. Even if you think you may not qualify, please fill out the paperwork. Remember, the paperwork can be filled out at any point during the school year if your family/employment circumstances change. Our business manager, Sara Gates, will be available during the Open House and will be in her office to assist families and answer questions. The information submitted is confidential, and we truly appreciate your time in filling out the paperwork!

An online application can be found on the school website under Elementary School/Food Service.

## **SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

Breakfast is available for students to eat from 8:00-8:20 each day. Students go to their classrooms at 8:20 AM to get organized, hear school announcements, and start their day! School menus are available on the school website under Elementary School/Calendar.

## **KINDERSTART AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS' FIRST DAY OF CLASS IS MONDAY, AUGUST 21ST**

Parents of KS and Kindergarten students-please watch the mailbox for information concerning your child's meeting time on either August 17th or 18th. You and your child will meet with your child's teacher at a specified time to bring school supplies, discuss classroom procedures, etc. Your child's first day of school will be Monday, August 21st.

## **SNACK DRIVE**

If any community member would like to assist students and families by providing healthy snacks, that would be greatly appreciated! Examples of snacks include goldfish, pretzels, fruit snacks, etc.

You can drop off snacks at any time throughout the school year at the Elementary School Office. This is an area of need that helps so many children! Thank you for your generosity and support!

## **INFINITE CAMPUS**

Infinite Campus is the program that is used for student records and grades. As students enter upper elementary, checking grades and assignments is very useful for parents and students. If you need information to help you access Infinite Campus, please ask Laela (our Elementary administrative assistant) at the Greet Your Teacher Night.



## COMMUNICATION

You can find a lot of information on the school website via your computer or the Miller Rustler app for your phone. If you are a Facebook user, please add Miller School District as a friend to see all of the wonderful things that are happening in the classrooms and at school!

Open communication is the key to strong partnerships, and we encourage you to reach out to your children's teachers when you have questions or concerns. You will receive communication from teachers through an app, email, or telephone call.

Through our partnership with parents, our goal is to foster an environment where children feel safe, valued, and encouraged while we help them to grow and reach their potential in all aspects of their life. We appreciated the relationships we have with parents and look forward to working with you during the 2023-2024 school year!

You can reach me by calling the school office at 605-853-2711 or sending an email to [jennifer.boomsma@k12.sd.us](mailto:jennifer.boomsma@k12.sd.us). I have really enjoyed getting to know the Elementary Rustler families and visiting with you at school activities and in the public.

**"IT'S A WONDER THAT A HEAD SO SMALL CAN HOLD SO MANY QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS, AND TRUE POTENTIAL." - ANONYMOUS**




## CONTACT INFORMATION

 Facebook

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