Salt Creek School District 48

Salt Creek Primary & Stella May Swartz

Principal: Sarah Smith
Assistant Principal: Sarah Monroe
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www.saltcreek48.org



August 20, 2020

Dear Stella May Swartz Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I hope that you are enjoying your family time this summer. I am extremely excited about your child's upcoming school year. Even though this will be a different year, I know it will be full of growth and discovery! Everyone at Stella May Swartz can't wait to be a part of that journey with you and your family.

In this letter, you will find information regarding the start of our school year in the eLearning model. Salt Creek School District 48's goal is to return to an in-person hybrid model of learning, for those who choose, beginning mid-September. At that time, eLearning will remain an available option for families. Information pertaining to in person instruction during the hybrid model will be sent to families prior to the start of instruction.

We can't wait to "see" you back on Thursday, August 27th!

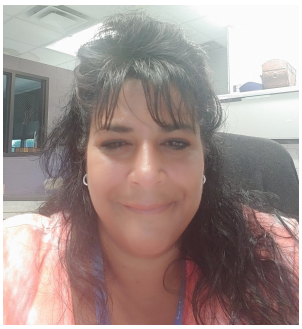


My name is Sarah Smith and I am honored to be the principal of Salt Creek Primary and Stella May Swartz Schools. This is my fifth year as an administrator for Salt Creek Primary, Stella May Swartz, and Albright Middle Schools. I have learned so much from the staff, administration, and families of District 48 about what it means to be a member of this amazing educational community. Prior to my years at Salt Creek, I taught 1st, 3rd, and 4th grades. I am looking forward to building relationships with you and your child. As your child's principal, I will encourage your child every day and spend time making sure that they know they are valued and have a special place in our school community whether in person or virtual. On a personal note, I love to read, sing, and am an avid sports fan. I also enjoy spending time with my husband, family, and our dog, Kuma.

Assistant Principal: Sarah Monroe

My name is Sarah Monroe and I am so excited to start my first year as the assistant principal at Stella May Swartz. This is my second year in the district. Last year I was the assistant principal at Salt Creek Primary and Albright MIddle School. I truly enjoyed building relationships with students last year, and can't wait to meet Swartz's Vikings! Your child(ren) and family make Salt Creek School District 48 such a special place to be. I am excited to spend another year working alongside Sarah Smith and the rest of the Stella May Swartz staff who create a safe, warm, and inviting environment for your child to learn, grow, explore, and achieve. Prior to working in Salt Creek School District, I was a special education program coordinator and special education teacher. Outside of the school day, my favorite time is spent with my husband and two sons, Henry (3 years old) and Elliot (almost 2). We love being outside bike riding and hiking. I also consider myself lucky when I have the chance to spend time with family, friends, and squeeze in a run or good book.





Administrative Assistant:
Another familiar person on our team is Stella May Swartz's Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Angela Trexler. She truly keeps everything running smoothly in our office. She is the person who usually answers the phone when you call and can help you with anything you need!

First Day of School: August 27th
The first full day of eLearning is Thursday, August 27th. Your child will meet with his teacher virtually at 8:00 am. Please look for communication from your child's teacher regarding how to access their lessons.

My Child's Teacher
On Thursday, August 20th, you will be able to see who your child's teacher is in Skyward. You can access Skyward by downloading the app, or visiting our website, www.saltcreek48.org. Click on "More" then "Parents and Community" to find the link.

Please log into your Skyward account and click the schedule tile to see your child's teacher. Please note your child's teacher will not be listed if registration is not complete.



When planning class sections, we took careful consideration to make sure our students have a consistent year. However, please understand that if we are able to move into a hybrid model in mid-September, your child's teacher may change depending on your enrollment selection.

Supply/Device Pick Up and Meet the Teacher
On Tuesday, August 25th, we will be holding a supply pick up and meet the teacher event. On this day, you and your child will have a chance to meet their teacher and pick up materials necessary to start the

2020-2021 school year. In addition, kindergarten students and families new to the district will receive their device.

This year, we will be upgrading devices for the following groups of students:

- Students entering 3rd grade
- Students entering 4th grade
- Students who were in Miss Rein's kindergarten class during the 2019-2020 school year

Students receiving upgrades need to bring his/her old device **and** charger to school to get a new one. We will only be able to upgrade devices for students who return their old device.

If you have any library books from last year or a yard sign to return, we will be accepting those items at this time.

Please arrive at your child's school within the designated time frame of your child's classroom teacher. For the safety of all, please follow these guidelines:

1. Post a sign on your car that has your child's name.
2. Pull through the bus lane to the front of the building and remain in your vehicle.
3. We will place your child's materials in your trunk, and take any materials you are returning.
4. Please wear a face covering.

Time Slot:	**Stella May Swartz**
9:30-10:15	LeGal
10:15-11:00	Vicicondi
11:00-11:45	Jurgutis
11:45-12:30	Oyen
12:30-1:15	Walsh
1:15-2:00	Kawka
2:00-2:45	Noll

We will take safety measures when preparing your child's materials. However, you may wish to leave the materials untouched for 72 hours before unpacking. If these times do not work for you, please contact Sarah Smith at ssmith@saltcreek48.org or Sarah Monroe at smonroe@saltcreek48.org to schedule an appointment to pick up your child's supplies and device.

Attendance:
Attendance during eLearning is essential for your child to build a relationship with his/her teacher and classmates and to master the grade level standards. Teachers will be taking attendance during their morning meeting. Please contact the office if your child will be absent from his/her eLearning.

eLearning Schedule:
We will begin with eLearning for all students on August 27, 2020. Your child's teacher will send a specific schedule of your child's day.

Learning will consist of synchronous and asynchronous opportunities. Synchronous learning is happening with the teacher for all students *at the same time*, Learning takes place in real time in a virtual environment. An example of this would be meeting with a teacher and three students in a small group lesson. Asynchronous learning is happening *at individual student pace and time*, such as watching a video or working on an assignment independently.

We believe that following the schedule of your child's class will benefit your child by providing consistency and structure. However, we understand that families have different needs during this time. Therefore, families should prioritize attendance during synchronous instruction, as these are the only opportunities to see the teacher and classmates and interact.

While the actual schedule varies for each grade level, instruction for all begins at 8:00am. Each grade level has a 30 minute lunch and the instructional day will end at 1:40. You can expect the following instruction in your child's day:

- Morning Meeting
- Whole group and small group ELA instruction
- Whole group and small group math instruction
- Writing/social studies/or science
- Specials (STEM, PE, Music, Art)

eLearning Platforms:
All Salt Creek School District 48 students have a gmail account. When using a Chromebook, your child is automatically logged into his/her gmail account. In addition, you will receive your child's email address and password during device pick up.

All classroom teachers and specials teacher will have a Google Classroom. Google Classroom is where your child's assignments, recorded lessons, and resources can be found. Your child will be invited to his/her Google Classroom through an email invitation.

The following websites may also be utilized during your child's instructional day. Your child's Chrome browser will have the following platforms bookmarked for use as directed by the classroom teacher. Login information for each site will be provided by your child's teacher:

- IXL
- Savvas
- Brain Pop Jr.
- Newsela (Grades 2-4)
- Raz-Kids
- Dreambox

Library
The Stella May Swartz library will be open for book check out, even during eLearning. Be on the lookout for instructions on how to request a book.

Communication Methods
The procedures and requirements are subject to change based on public health guidance and conditions. To stay updated on the most current information:

1. Check your email often
2. Visit our district website at www.saltcreek48.org
3. Follow us on Twitter and facebook

4. Download the Salt Creek App for notifications

Salt Creek 48 App

Please make sure to take a minute to download our Salt Creek School District 48 app. This is a great place to get school and district information, as well as see photos, updates on the events at school, and the lunch/breakfast menus (when applicable). We will be using this app for all communication and it's directly tied to our website, Twitter, and Facebook page.

Breakfast and Lunch

Salt Creek School District 48 is offering bagged breakfast and lunch for all district students, even when in eLearning. Meals will be picked up on a weekly basis. The first meal pick up will be on Thursday, August 27th. It will include three days of meals. Following the first week back, pick up will be every Tuesday and will include five days of meals. All meals can be picked up at Albright Middle School's main entrance from 10:00 AM-10:15 AM.

Every purchase includes BOTH breakfast AND lunch. These meals CAN NOT be split. If your child qualifies for free meals, there is no charge for this service. If your child does not qualify for free lunch, the cost for the meals is as follows:

- Full Price Fee: $1.65 for breakfast and $3.40 for lunch. Total of $5.05 daily
- Reduced Fee: $0.30 for breakfast and $0.40 for lunch. Total of $0.70 daily.

Meal balances can be paid through e-Pay: https://tinyurl.com/tzop37k

Those wanting to pay by credit card can log onto our website www.saltcreek48.org, click "More" then "Parents and Community" then "ePay". You will receive an automated e-mail when a meal balance falls below $10.

Curriculum Night

Our virtual experience for our Curriculum Night will be during the week of October 5th. More to come.

Thank You

Our teachers, custodial staff, and office staff have been working endlessly to prepare for this upcoming school year. We can't wait to have our students back in our lives learning, growing, and smiling!

I also want to thank you for your flexibility, understanding, and grace with the changes to our school year. This school year would not be possible without your help and support at home. Sarah Monroe and I are extremely thankful for the opportunity to build relationships with you and your child.

We will be splitting our time between Salt Creek and Stella May Swartz. Please reach out to either of us at any time! Thank you for your support! We are looking forward to a FANTASTIC year!

Warmest Regards,

Sarah Smith
Sarah Smith
Principal

Sarah Monroe
Sarah Monroe
Assistant Principal