



Dreamcatcher

A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD 57555

VOLUME 29 - ISSUE 8 - JUNE 2020

Remembering...



These are unusual times, and affect all things. Current photos of our beloved students and awesome staff are now few and far between, thanks to COVID-19. However, we have volumes of photos from years past to share with you, beginning with School Year 2000-01. This photo comes from the honoring of Middle School Principal France Blanchard and Vice Principal Peggy Diekhoff, at the end-of-the year-school wacipi. Each school year will be featured in this and future issues. (see pages 24-27).

From the Superintendent...



On March 16, 2020, our world changed. Schools were closed. Busses were parked in their stalls. Students stayed at home. Staff was placed temporarily on leave. COVID-19 was slowly creeping across the nation.

But children still needed education, and they still needed food.

Todd County Elementary Schools, following state guidelines for flex learning, began to gather materials to send to those students, while administrators and teachers in charge of Middle and High School classes managed most of them online. Their efforts and the results were phenomenal. In fact, the Todd County High School Class of 2020 will set a new record on Saturday, June 27 with 102 graduates.

At first, feeding 2,200 children two meals a day seemed an impossible task, but thanks to the guidance of our Business Manager Chad Blotsky, the project was up and running in two days.

The Commons Area of

Todd County Elementary provided ideal space. Food Service personnel and the Bus Shop crew were outstanding, showing up at 6 a.m. to begin packing the brown bag meals. Many other TCSD staff members also pitched in during the two-and-one-half months we were on the assembly lines.

At the end of April, we had produced 100,000 meals.

Our grateful thanks goes out to all the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Community Chairpersons and Members. Without their help, the project would not have been possible.

On the last day of our school year, we packed the last meal - Number 219,318.

I am so proud of all of

our Todd County School District Family. We have come through some pretty scary times together. Our goal is to hopefully follow our 2020-2021 School Calendar as planned, with the first day of classes on Tuesday, August 25.

We missed out on a lot of end-of-the-year celebrations with our staff and students, and not having our Hope College Family visit us (which would have been their 30th Annual trip) was also very disheartening.

Thank you again to each and every one of our amazing TCSD Staff. We should all be together again in August.

Respectfully,
Carol Galbraith,
TCSD Superintendent

IEP data copies available...

The Family Educational Rights Privacy Act requires in part that "All personally identifiable data maintained on children be destroyed within five (5) years after data is no longer needed to provide educational services to the child."

The Todd County School District Exceptional Education Department has been maintaining information on some students. The data may consist of no longer usable Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), test results, progress reports, referral information, etc. If you would like to have a copy of any of the above listed information, please contact Anna LaDeaux on or before July 31, 2020 via phone at (605) 856-3513, via email at anna.ladeaux@k12.sd.us or stop in at the Exceptional Education Office in Mission, SD. Upon request, the information will be mailed to you.

Any of the dated information not picked up or requested by July 31, 2020 will be destroyed the following business week, starting August 3, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Anna at (605) 856-3513.

Sage Fast Dog elected to TCSD Board...

Results of the June 2 School Board Election show Sage Fast Dog winning the three-year seat on the TCSD Board with 601 votes. Incumbent Linda Bordeaux received 265, Glen Yellow Eagle 96, and Jennifer Bordeaux-Black Bear 90.

Thank You Educators...

May 1, 2020

Good morning, it's Teacher Appreciation Week, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for South Dakota students. I know this spring has presented unimaginable challenges with schools closed due to COVID-19. I've been so impressed with the way you've stepped up and done such creative things to stay connected with your students and to keep their education going to the greatest extent possible. I've also been impressed with how you have supported one another. The blogs, chats, videos, and texts filled with support and ideas you've all shared with each other are signs of a healthy profession and an example to us all.

This is a stressful time for everyone, and I'm deeply grateful for how steadfast you've been in staying in touch with your students, whether virtually, via phone calls, or at teacher parades. The importance of a calming voice and a familiar face during times like these cannot be overstated. Though you've been forced to be apart, you are as important as ever to your students' well-being. For retiring educators and teachers of high school seniors, I know that the way this school year is ending is particularly difficult. And yet even for you, I know that because of the creativity that just seems to be part of a teacher's DNA, these milestones will be marked in brand-new, innovative ways.

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.

Cabinet Secretary, SD Department of Education



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A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD

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the Todd County School District

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Debra Boyd - President

Linda Bordeaux - Vice President

Michelle Allen - Member

Shelley Means - Member

Tim Cournoyer - Member

Superintendent - Carol Galbraith

Business Manager - Chad Blotsky

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The Dreamcatcher is a monthly publication for patrons of the Todd County School District. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX or Section 504, Affirmative Action and the Americans With Disabilities Act, should be referred to Richard Medema, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 87, Mission, SD 57555, 605-856-3501, or to the Regional Director, Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 1244 Spear Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80202-3582.

Not business as usual, but business as adjusted...

Todd County Board, Staff, still working for the kids, meals hit 100,000 mark...

MISSION – Todd County's Board of Education held its April 14 Regular meeting as scheduled, although with a slightly different venue. It was live-streamed only, with an option for the public to call in with questions or comments.

Many things are different these days with no students in classrooms, people asked to remain in their homes, business closed. The corona virus has indeed changed our way of life. We are advised to refrain from touching others, stay six feet apart, and on and on.

Todd County Schools have met the educational challenge caused by the virus, with innovative, alternative methods of getting class materials to students via the internet, and packets to the younger students.

Information on the progress of Todd County's response to instruction was given in a written report by Dr. Krista Morrison, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director.

Dr. Morrison also discussed future Pro-

fessional Development opportunities for staff, possibly virtual.

Superintendent Carol Galbraith said a guide from the State urged schools to be mindful that the kids go on by meeting requirements.

She also noted that staff members are on hand at the District Office to answer calls, refer them or get messages to attendance centers when necessary.

The High School is making sure Seniors are getting what they need to complete their courses, she said.

Board Member Linda Bordeaux said many families do not have internet and are getting burned out trying to keep up with the classes.

"We will respect that hardship," Galbraith said.

Board Members asked how it will be determined which students move on.

"Basically, K-8 will be promoted, Galbraith said. "High School students, of course, will have to complete their requirements."

Board Members asked for a survey of the teachers to see how much response is coming back from the students.

Galbraith noted that the priorities right now are providing thousands of breakfasts and lunches, along with the academic opportunities. "The situation is ever-changing and fluid," she said.

The Superintendent and the Board all expressed their appreciation for the teachers and all TCSD Staff. Galbraith noted that the breakfast/lunch project now "runs like a well-oiled machine," that there is a feeling of good will, and team building on the assembly lines that was never planned.

Note: As of Friday, April 17, over 100,000 meals have been provided, and the project will continue through the end of May.

We have a ton of fantastic employees," Galbraith said. "We just keep on doing what we are doing."

"We are all in this together," President Debra Boyd added. "We are facing the unknown. Thank you everyone."

TCSD Board hears Middle, High School Reports, Graduation set for June 27 or July 24, Parmelee School on go...

MISSION – Todd County's Class of 2020 will be unique in a lot of ways. Besides having to finish their classes online or at home on paper, Commencement is still a bit "iffy."

It was announced at the May 11 TCSD Board Meeting, that "some type" of Graduation for up to 108 Seniors will be held on June 25 or July 24, depending on the route COVID-19 takes between now and then. So far, 10 cases are currently on the Rosebud, and residents are asked by Rosebud Sioux Tribal (RST) authorities to "shelter in place" as much as possible, and wear masks in public or in groups of people.

TCHS Assistant Principal Mike Hammer was asked what percentage of students he believes will be completing their classwork. He said it is very difficult to venture a guess, but maybe 80%.

Of the 437 Middle School Students, 421 have been contacted with work to complete their classes for the year. TCMS Principal Dana Haukaas said she had asked the RST Fairboard about a special honoring for the

Todd County Eighth Graders at the Fair, "If there is a Fair," she added.

She said there will be no letter grades given, just passing grades. "I know we are all behind the eight ball," she said, "but we just have to fit everyone in when school starts again."

Superintendent Carol Galbraith shared information about contacts with the state regarding possible make-up days in the school year, that there should be none added to the calendar. She also reported on ideas from the Cultural Curriculum Committee Meeting, including a list of books, a Lakota Dialect App for phones, Life Skills Classes in the curriculum, and a tipi on each campus.

Some discussion was held on safety for TCSD staff delivering and picking up paper packets. Superintendent Galbraith said the District is doing its part to keep employees safe in the process.

TCSD Business Manager Chad Blotsky said that speaking as a parent of Todd County Students, the staff has really stepped up to

help with continuing the students' education. "They have been phenomenal and creative. They have worked very hard, and I commend them," he said.

"Our kids need us around. We need to plan on the Fall," he continued. "I have had some conversations nationally about what we can provide. We have to still do all we can."

It was suggested that maybe now would be a good time to start enrolling students for next year. Blotsky said registration packets are already in the various attendance centers for the 2020-21 school year.

He said he will be coming to the next meeting and ask the Board to roll over this year's budget to 2021. "At this time, State funding is uncertain," he said. "As further details emerge, we will be able to better clarify our funding and will work to finalize numbers prior to the October 1 deadline for final budget approval."

Blotsky said the Parmelee School project is still moving forward, and planning for a new Rosebud School needs to continue.

TCS D Staff back to work, plans underway for 2020-21 School year

TCHS graduating 102, ceremony planned for June 27...

MISSION - Todd County School Superintendent Carol Galbraith gave an overview of current conditions in the District at the June 8 Board of Education meeting. Summer staff is now on the job for maintenance projects, and all other extended 12-month contract staff returned to work June 1, 2020

The Superintendent, Business Manager Chad Blotsky, and Maintenance Supervisor Brad Bartling have been reviewing summer projects to be completed on learning centers and housing, including replacement of Middle School and High School gymnasium bleachers. Antelope Community will be receiving some of the bleachers being removed, Blotsky said.

Interviews for new staff is going well, Galbraith said. Todd County currently has only six open certified positions.

With COVID-19 still a concern, plans for the upcoming school year are uncertain. However, the State and schools are continuing

to collaborate on Smart Restart for next fall.

Some concerns, especially if social distancing is in the picture, are how to arrange classes - possibly one group of students certain days of the week, then another group the other days? Maybe one group one week, the other the next, or one group in the mornings and the other in the afternoon? If the kids are home, who will teach them? How can the schools work with students who do not have access to the internet? How can the whole process be made more equal for all students?

And one huge consideration, especially for Todd County, what about the bussing? Would parents want their children to continue classes electronically, or ride the bus? How would that work with social distancing? Could their temperature be taken when they board the bus? But if they came to school and were then found to have a fever, how would they get back home?

It was suggested maybe a survey could be conducted.

"We need to use community monitoring and follow recommendations to keep everyone safe from COVID-19, while resuming learning and providing support to parents/guardians returning to work," Galbraith said. "We will collaborate with local health officials and other State and local authorities to help us assess the current level of mitigation needed."

"We have had a lot of conversation, and will continue to do so," she added. "There are so many variables."

Discussion was held on plans for the 2020 TCHS Graduation. One hundred two (102) students have completed their courses to receive their diploma. Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. at the Falcon Football Field. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this cannot be open to the public. (See Page 14 for information on the event).

Working with the State...

March 20, 2020

Dear South Dakota teachers and school personnel,

It's hard to believe it's only been a week that we have been dealing with school closures in South Dakota. I'm sure it feels much longer.

Your response has been remarkable. The vital in-person classroom connection that approximately 10,000 educators across South Dakota share with some 135,000 students was suddenly cut. But the need remains the same. And now we see you establishing new kinds of connections with your students with creativity, innovation, and courage.

From what I've observed over these past seven days, I'm confident that if this virus could be beaten by your unwavering devotion to your students and your tremendous flexibility in the face of these sudden and unprecedented challenges, you all would have conquered it by Tuesday.

However long this crisis endures, please know that your dedication serves as an example to all of us.

Thank you for everything you're doing for South Dakota students.

Benjamin F. Jones, PhD
Secretary of Education

April 14, 2020

Dear South Dakota Administrators, Educators and Support Staff,

"Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant." Horace wrote this quote over 2000 years ago. It still rings true today.

Members of the South Dakota Board of Education Standards are extending their thanks and appreciation to administrators, educators

and support staff throughout the state who have unexpectedly found themselves in a new uncharted world of education. Even though the world has changed remarkably from just a few weeks ago, each of you has remained committed to what you do best, teaching and providing support for all students.

We appreciate and uphold the work each of you do year-by-year, day-by-day under normal circumstances. This letter comes as encouragement during this difficult time. It is astounding to hear the many different ways South Dakota educators have stepped up to deliver education and support services under extraordinary circumstances. We know you would rather be in the schools greeting your students each day; but instead you have found new pathways to reach out to them.

There is a quote by Lin Yutang that expresses what each of you are doing. "Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence." Keep walking those new pathways to build the roads to reach the students you care for throughout the year.

Sincerely,

SD Board of Education Standards Jacqueline Sly, President

Becky Guffin, Vice President Phyllis Heineman

Scott Herman

Kay Schallenkamp

Lori Wagner

Julie Westra

TCSD Staff Recognition - 2020

Todd County Staff.....

'You are the Roses in our Children's Lives'

Retiring this Year:

Alice Hansen - 47 Years
Christine Rhodes - 40 Years
Lana Story - 39 Years
Penny Herman - 34 Years
Janen Epke - 33 Years
Carmen Black Wolf - 27 Years
Janet Cady - 25 Years
Merrill Feller - 16 Years
Sally Herman - 15 Years
Stacee "Robyn" Pyner - 10 Years

20 Years...

Katherine Saylor
Betty Sokol

15 Years...

Beth Valandra-Burnette
Tisha Moore
Shellaine Shaw
Robert Beauchman
Melinda Beel

10 Years...

Rosebud Brushbreaker
Sally Herman
Stacee Pyner
Larry Star Chief III

Length of Service Awards:

45 Years...

Judy Medearis

35 Years...

Marie Fisher
Patty Tinant
James Williams

30 Years...

Nancy Kornely
Rosanne Ruff
Karen Worsech

25 Years...

Jason Reinders
Janet Cady
Harry DuBray

5 Years...

Jeff Brown	Melanie Niehus
Julie Bunt	Nathan Niehus
June Elk Looks Back	Tammy Parkhurst
Merrill Feller	Katie Petry
Lisa Foley	Casey Weber
Dana Haukaas	Jill Stevenson
Walt Hernandez	Kevin Swalley
Roka Klein	Alyssa Walking Eagle
Josh Larson	Bret White Hat
Jae Logterman	Sonny Wright
Trevor Neal	

Employees are honored only for consecutive years of employment, except when retiring.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the 2020 Staff Recognition Banquet and Honoring event was cancelled.

However, Retirees and Length of Service Employees are receiving their awards.

(Some staff photographs are not current for obvious reasons).

***Kudos to our faithful Bus Drivers for their years
of transporting the children...***



***Jim Williams - 33 Years
Theresa Pretty Bird - 30 Years
Harry DuBray - 25 Years
Everett Felix Jr. - 18 Years
Lori Leese - 16 Years
Keith Olson - 16 Years
Pat Bordeaux - 16 Years
Harlan Walking Eagle - 14 Years
Donnie Farley - 10 Years
Sally Herman - 9 Years
Walt Hernandez - 9 Years
Vern Knox - 8 Years
Francis Young - 8 Years***

***Kenny Hespe - 6 Years
Tim Cournoyer Jr. - 5 Years
Daniel Razo - 4 Years
Lacey Bettelyoun - 4 Years
Justin Klein - 3 Years
Randy Klein - 3 Years
Spencer Bear Heels - 3 Years
Kelley Lafferty - 3 Years
Craig Scott - 3 Years
Josh Wilson - 3 Years
Mina Dillon - 3 Years
Paul Mitchell - 2 Years
Evanstine Wright - 1 Year***



***Wopila also to all the teachers, aides and other staff, who stepped up to the
plate this school year to safely transport our students to school and home
when we were short of drivers.***

2020 Todd County School District Retirees...



Alice Hansen
47 Years...

After 47 years of service with the Todd County School District, Alice is retiring at the end of the 2020 school year. She began as an aide at the High School, and later accepted a position in the Business Office. At the time of her retirement, she served as Supervisor/Payroll Clerk.

Alice has a wealth of knowledge about the District, and is known to be the "Master of the Calendar." Because of her expertise, she is frequently called upon to review calendars, and she also generates work calendars for support staff groups.

Alice is a hard-working, self-motivated employee.

The District will really miss her.



Christine Rhodes
40 Years...



This lady has been missed so much since she retired.

Sometimes it seemed Chris was everywhere at once. And you never knew if she would show up as Freddy Falcon or the Easter Bunny, or as a busy teacher or photographer.

She would drive miles and miles daily to support teachers at the outlying schools in their goal of educating the children. And always with the biggest smiles ever!

Mrs. Rhodes' first priority was always student success. She was willing to do whatever it took to make school a worthy and exciting experience for the kids.

We commend the fine work and dedication of Chris Rhodes to our District. Her generosity and support is so appreciated by all whose lives she touched.



Lana Story
39 Years...

Ask anyone who has happened by Lana Story's desk in the last 20 years, and they will tell you, "She's getting ready to retire! It will be any minute now!" It appears this time, she is serious about retirement.

Here's the thing about Lana Story. She works. She works diligently. She works every day - come rain or come shine. She loves to work. You can't make her stop working.

Lana managed the paperwork necessary for the implementation of IEP for hundreds of students each year. Over the years, Lana had a personal connection with the students - taking kids fishing, making costumes, and going above and beyond on their behalf. She also has great rapport with the families.

Lana approached her work with attention to detail. She is the definition of "down to earth." She has a special talent too. She gives great hugs - as welcome, congratulations, comfort, and goodbye.

Thank you, Lana.

Penny Herman
34 Years...



Penny began her employment with the District working for Superintendent Glen Barnes. She also worked for Dr. Larry Thacker, Richard Tays, Dr. Richard Bordeaux, Dr. Margo Heinert and Business Manager Chad Blotsky.

In addition to keeping track of leave balances for employees, Penny was responsible for conducting the student count for Impact Aid, Johnson O'Malley, and Title VI. She collected forms for each of the programs and prepared reports to determine the number of eligible students.

Penny is very meticulous and always strives for perfection. Her ability and knowledge about the workings of the District is to be envied. Ask her a question, Penny had the answer or knew where to find it.

After retirement, Penny plans to spend time with family, fishing, hunting, four-wheeling, and spending as much time as possible at their home in the Black Hills.



Janen Epke
33 Years

Gentle, but firm, Jan Epke is what one co-worker said is a "Teacher's Teacher," - what every teacher should aspire to be. She works with children who do not care about their schoolwork, their handwriting, their grades, and somehow turns them around.

Mrs. Epke is great to work with and an excellent communicator, keeping everyone in the loop, co-workers say. Some of Klein's eighth grade students gave their impression of Mrs. Epke a few years ago:

"She makes learning fun. It took a couple of years for me to want to go to school, and now I like weekdays more than weekends."

"She made it so that even if I said I couldn't do school work, I did it. She helped make us who we are as people with her little lessons in school."

Thank You Mrs. Epke!





**Carmen
Black Wolf**
27 Years...

Ms. Black Wolf has been a HUGE asset to Rosebud Elementary, having shared her cultural expertise with her colleagues. A fellow teacher referred to her as her "Go To Gal" for any questions on Lakota.

"It was amazing to see her students grow in their reading abilities when she was a reading teacher," another said. "Carmen has always cared for her students both academically and emotionally."

"It has been a wonderful experience working here at Rosebud Elementary," Carmen said. "The staff has always been helpful and caring. I have made many lasting friendships with the students, staff, parents, guardians and other staff in the District. I am going to miss Rosebud Elementary very much."

Your Rosebud Elementary Family will miss you too, Ms. Black Wolf! WOPILA for ALL you've done for our students, families and your colleagues. We wish you the very BEST!



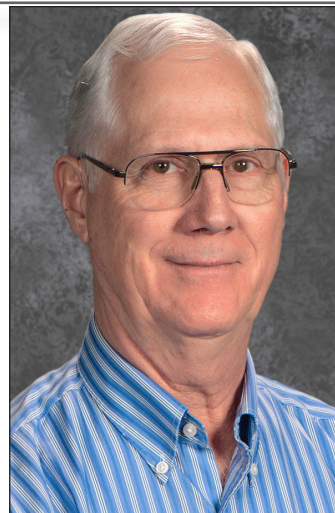
Janet Cady
25 Years...

The opportunity doesn't come along often enough, where you find yourself in an environment that fosters mutual respect, encourages humor, and is supportive in nature. However, we have had the privilege to be the co-workers of a phenomenal group of individuals for the past eight years.

Janet Cady has been an integral part of our team. Janet is the first person in the building every morning, prepared to provide our students with meals, lessons in table manners, and incredible work ethic. Each of these is always complimented with a good attitude and a smile on her face.

Students and staff alike will miss Janet's dedication to her job, outstanding work ethic, and amiable personality, for years to come.

Janet, we wish you many years of blissful retirement, and thank you once again for your devotion to Lakeview School.



Merrill Feller
16 Years...

Merrill Feller began teaching science classes at Todd County High School in January 1998. He also developed and taught meteorology and astronomy classes there.

Beyond his educational practice in the classroom, he spent many after school hours tutoring students and organizing after school activities for administrators. His dedication to supporting students in all areas of their school experience made him the model of what a teacher should be.

Merrill obtained his Master's Degree, and in 2009, he went to Alaska for five years as a principal and math teacher. Upon his return to Todd County, he taught science at the high school and science and math at the middle school.

Our students always knew they could depend on him to be there for them in and out of the classroom. They could always count on him to be in the stands cheering them on in their extracurricular events, and to also take the time

to help them through academic challenges.

We celebrate his dedication to our students and wish him well in his retirement. Mr. Feller, you will be missed.



**Stacey
"Robyn" Pyner**
10 Years...

Todd County Students will no doubt miss the great meals planned by this Food Service Director. She was talented in figuring what food went best with another food to appeal to the young appetites she needed to please. It was good to see an occasional cookie appear on her menus, too.

During her time at Todd County, Robyn was responsible for planning hundreds of thousands of meals, ordering the food, and making sure it was delivered, and prepared for the kids daily.

TCSB Business Manager Chad Blotsky said Robyn was extremely efficient in her position, and really regrets she had to leave so soon.

Thank You, Robyn, for feeding the children so well.



Sally Herman
15 Years...

Sally has been working since she was a young girl, growing up with her sisters on her grandparents' farm. She chose to spend her final working years with Todd County Exceptional Education.

Sally has been described as a woman with a sharp humor. If you would like to see this for yourself, you need only witness her reaction to an angry wasp flying about inside of her Suburban. Her "humor" will likely be peppered with a few other words.

Sally has a great deal of knowledge about our families and our community. Her most important asset, however, is her love for the children in her charge.

"Grama Sally" loves to tell stories of the little talks she and the kids have on their trips to and from school. She worries so much when they are ill or need a medical procedure. She gets excited to watch them grow and learn new skills.

Thank You, Sally!

2020 Retirees honored...

Beginning in March, end-of-the-year school events were either postponed or cancelled. Our annual Todd County Staff Recognition was one of those cancellations, due to COVID-19.

In these photos, two of our employees who retired this year were honored in an impromptu presentation of their quilts and plaques the last day of the brown bag breakfast and lunch project.

In these photos, Janet Cady, 25 years as Lakeview cook, right, and Food Service Director Robyn Pyner, 10 years, far right, are pictured below with some of the workers who were on hand usually every day of the project. They are Janet Colombe, Karen Worsech, Keva Stoneman, Bev Brandis and Johnna Stoneman, along with TCSD Business Manager and lunch project supervisor Chad Blotsky.

Other retiring staff will be receiving their awards soon.



45 Years...



Judy Medearis
Accounts Payable
District Office

Judy did not waste any time finding a job with the Todd County School District, starting as Accounts Payable Clerk right after she graduated from TCHS.

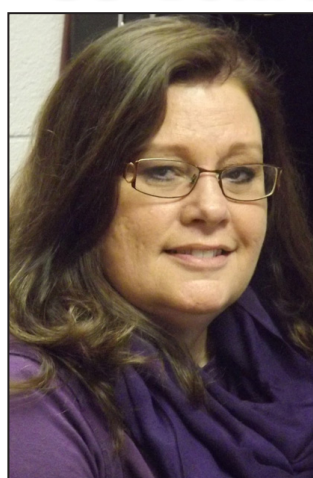
Because of her length of time with the District, she has worn many hats in the District Office, too numerous to mention. She has always been an asset to Todd County and can be counted upon to help in any capacity. She has an exceptional eye for detail and strives for perfection.

Judy was honored with the "Office Professional of the Year Award" from the South Dakota Association of Educational Office Professionals in 2009.

She is a dedicated and loyal employee, and more often than not, driving by the Administration Building, you will see Judy's car in the parking lot.

Congratulations, Judy, on 45 Years with the District!

35 Years



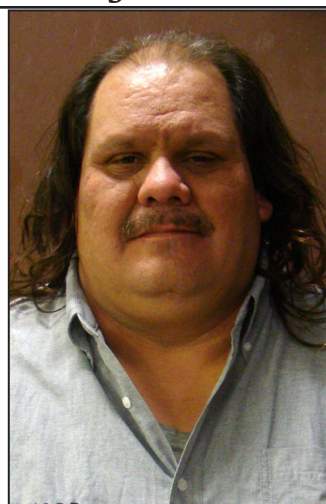
Marie Fisher
Speech Therapist
Resource Center

Marie Fisher, as a Speech Therapist for Todd County, works with students from birth through high school.

Over the years, Marie has gained a great deal of technical skill in working with children who have various challenges of language and articulation. She has tremendous dedication to student learning and a genuine concern for their needs.

Marie brings a smile to your face because of her down-to-earth attitude and warm voice. She is good at making any conversation a moment of kindness and growth. She also has some grit to her that gets the ball rolling.

Thank you, Marie, for years of service and generosity of spirit.



James Williams
Head Mechanic &
Lead Worker
Bus Shop

Jim Williams, Head Mechanic and Lead Worker at the Bus Shop, has been with the Todd County School District since the 1984-85 School Year. He began as a bus driver for three years, then moved to the mechanics department.

In 2007, he became the head mechanic of the Department for the Bus Shop and has the responsibility of keeping about 100 vehicles and equipment in running order. This is not an easy task, as the fleet consists of several different models and parts needed for repairs.

With Jim's excellent memory, he can relate a current problem to something that has happened to another vehicle in the past and between him and his crew come up with a solution.

Amazingly, most of the mechanics are not school-trained in their profession, but do wonders in solving the problems.

Jim has always been a very valuable employee of the TCSD.

30 Years...



Nancy Kornely
Family Service Worker
Resource Center

If a person walks away from a conversation with Nancy and didn't learn a thing or two, that person wasn't listening. Her intelligence is demonstrated by her strong communication skills and ability to reflect on any given social, political or community concern. Her sharp wit and tongue can uplift and humble a person in a moment, and that has made her an invaluable team member.

Nancy has been the person who introduces families with children who have special needs to the Todd County School District the past 30 years. As a result of her efforts to coordinate educational and therapy services for the Early Childhood Program, she has built and maintained enduring relationships with families in our communities.

It is both her passion and her privilege to serve the community that has always been home.



Rosanne Ruff
Ex Ed Teacher
TC Elementary

Rose is currently an Exceptional Education Teacher at Todd County Elementary School, after many years as a classroom teacher and technology mentor at Rosebud Elementary.

She brings years of experience in finding ways to motivate students to keep learning. She also serves on our TCES Leadership Team, and always helps recognize staff celebrations.

Rose comes to work with a smile on her face each day, spreading her cheer to students and staff.

We are pleased to have Rose celebrate her 30 years in Todd County with our TCES Team!



30 Years...



Karen Worschech
Manager III
Middle School

That wonderful smell of cooking food that greets you many times as you enter Todd County Middle School can be attributed to none other than Mrs. Karen Worschech, the lady responsible for the fine food service program at the school.

There is always a little bit of love in each meal that comes out of the kitchen too.

Karen's food nourishes the body and the minds of our young students, and we love her for that.



25 Years...



Harry DuBray
Bus Driver
Bus Shop

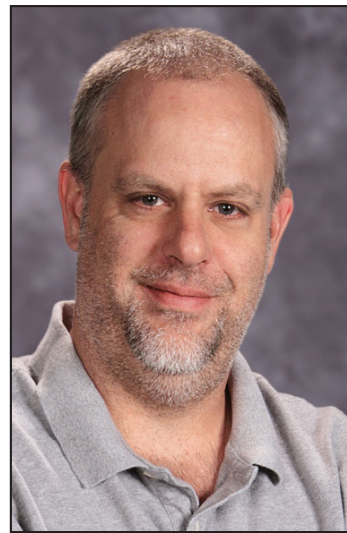
Harry DuBray always has a smile for everyone.

Harry has worked for the District as a bus driver and maintenance worker, which consists of many duties, including 'head painter.'

In his earlier years, he worked for the government and local farmers and ranchers. He attended elementary school at Klein.

Harry is always the first employee at the Bus Shop in the mornings, making sure everything is ready for the day.

He is truly one of our most valuable, dedicated employees.



Jason Reinders
CTE Teacher
Middle School

Jason has been with Todd County Middle School the past 16 years, and is a leader for innovation in the classroom, supporting students to explore their interests.

Jason pulls from his own passions to enhance the student experience at Middle School, and exposes students to experiences they carry with them through their school career and beyond. He takes classroom skills and helps students apply them to their personal life.

Jason continues to share his knowledge and creativity with the students in his classroom, and his commitment to them is unwavering.

We honor him for his years of service.

25 Years...



Betty Sokol
Secretary
Spring Creek

Ms. Betty is known to many as the 'heart' of Spring Creek School. She goes above and beyond to make sure all happenings at the school go smoothly. She steps up to take on any task asked.

Any time parents, students or staff need a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, a conversation about what to do, Betty is there for them.

She is valued and loved by so many who have had the opportunity to work along-side our wonderful Ms. Betty.

She was honored a few years ago with the National Education Association State Educational Support Person of the Year Award. She remains an active member of the ESP Association.



Katherine Sayler
Para Pro
TC Elementary

Katie is a valued member of our District and supports classroom teachers in her role here at Todd County Elementary as a paraprofessional.

She is willing to assist whenever needed and does what is necessary to complete projects, big or small!



15 Years...



Melinda Beel
Ex Ed Teacher
High School

Myndi began as a Para Professional at TCMS. Once graduating from Sinte Gleska and gaining her degree in Exceptional Education, she became part of the Todd County High School staff.

Myndi brings a positive attitude each day to school. She makes great relationships with her students by showing that she cares by having high expectations for each and every student on her caseload.

In all actuality, Myndi cares for every student at Todd County High School. She celebrates student success no matter how big or how small with little gestures that go a long way with our students.

Family is a major

part of Myndi's life. She has two daughters, Abby and Megan, and GRAND BABY TWINS, Sloan and Harper!!! When talking about her grandchildren she gleams with pride and at times sheds a tear or two with happiness!

In Myndi's spare time she loves to ride horse and spend time with her pet dogs, sliver and Hank. Here's to 15 more years, Myndi!



Robert Beauchman
Para Pro
He Dog

"Working with Bob Beauchman is a privilege," one of the HeDog teachers said. "He is smart and an on-task para pro, and an indispensable leader in the classroom."

"Our room is at its best when Bob can help students," she said. "Often, I have had kids ask me something, not get it the way I explain it, then have Bob explain the same concept in a dif-

ferent way and it works. He knows how to connect with the kids in a really awesome way."

Bob's rapport with all the students is admired. He has a knack for motivating them in a positive and respectful way.

And...the staff always has to be on guard, because Bob is always 'up to something!'



Beth Valandra-Burnette
Counselor
Middle School

Beth Burnette has a calm and patient character. If someone ever needs a listening ear, she has one, thus fitting her perfectly as a Middle School Counselor.

It takes a special person to support young students to develop social and emotional skills into their lives. Beth has helped both adults and children through many, many worries and struggles.

Beth's compassion for our students and her

dedication to the counseling profession has been instrumental in creating a caring and warm environment at Middle School.

In a large school system, having a steady and smiling person on board is worth a million bucks, and we are so glad that Beth has added to our Middle School value!



Tisha Moore
Para Pro
Middle School

Tisha came to Middle School four years ago and greets all our students each morning. She works in the Exceptional Education Department, but supports all of our students to be the best versions of themselves.

Tisha always has a smile on her face and approaches challenges with a positive outlook. Her kindness

and perseverance has served our students and families well.

We thank her for her dedication to the success of her students academically and socially



Shelliane Shaw
Ex Ed Teacher
Lakeview/Littleburg

This lady is a thinker. She is strong at curriculum and data and has been a great resource to the Exceptional Education department. Her steadfast attention to instruction is characteristic of a great teacher.

Shelly is a kind and dedicated teacher, who continues to be committed to the students she serves.

Thank You Shelly, for your continued commitment to Todd County.

10 Years...



**Rosebud
Brushbreaker**
Counselor
District-wide

Rosebud graduated from Todd County High School, went away to get her degree, and came back to her Alma Mater to

work with the children of her community. Her love for each and every one of them is obvious.

During her 10 years of service with Todd County, she has been a school counselor at six of the eight elementary schools in the District. She has also counseled older kids at Achievement and the Wanbi Wiconi Tipi.

Rosebud has had the pleasure of coaching students of nearly every age range in High School Volleyball and Elementary Track.

Rosebud considers it a great privilege to guide so many students in the place she calls home.



**Larry
Star Chief III**
Warehouse Clerk
Supply Office

Larry started as a substitute in the Custodial Department at Middle School, then to full time. He then became Head Custodian. A few years later he transferred to Supply.

Larry has a great work ethic and is always on time. He can always be depended upon to help find items needed from the supply warehouse.

Keep up the good work, Larry. Great to have you on board!



Five Years...



Jeff Brown
Teacher
High School



Julie Bunt
Teacher
TC Elementary



June Elk Looks Back
Teacher
He Dog



Lisa Foley
Teacher
Middle School



Dana Haukaas
Principal
Middle School



Walt Hernandez
Bus Driver
Bus Shop



Roka Klein
Teacher
Littleburg



Josh Larson
Teacher
Middle School



Jae Logterman
Teacher
TC Elementary



Melanie Niehus
Teacher
Middle School



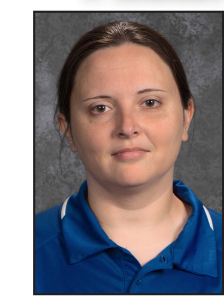
Nathan Niehus
ISS Proctor
High School



Tammy Parkhurst
Para Pro
Middle School



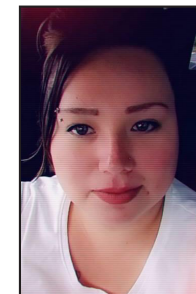
Katie Petry
Teacher
High School



Jill Stevenson
Teacher
Middle School



Kevin Swalley
Security Director
District-wide



Alyssa Walking Eagle
Para Pro
Spring Creek



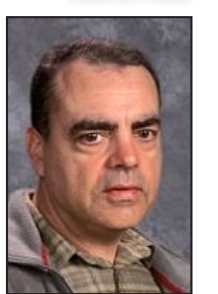
Casey Weber
Teacher
Okreek



Bret White Hat
Dean of Students
High School



Sonny Wright
Custodian
High School



Trevor Neal
Teacher
Middle School

Todd County Class of 2020 graduating 102

Ceremony far from the norm - not open to the public...

This year's Todd County School District Graduation will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at the Todd County School District Football Complex.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this year's ceremony will not be open to the public. Therefore, each graduating senior will be receiving 2 (two) tickets for 2 (two) people - family or friends to be in attendance for the event.

We realize this is not the ideal situation for families, but to have graduation, we must keep safety in mind. Those not in attendance can watch it live online at tcsdk12.org and click on live feed for viewing.

Parking will be available in the parking lots. Please do not park on the road. There will be no parking inside the football complex. Guests will use the west walk-in gate with their ticket. Anyone without a ticket will not be allowed admittance.

Everyone, including students, will need to wear a mask. Since there will be limited seating in the grandstand, we ask that guests spread out along the fence bordering the track. Please use the 6 (six) feet social distancing recommended by the CDC.

We ask that guests do not bring extra "gifts" for the graduates, such as star quilts. Each graduate will receive not only their diploma, but also a blanket and year sign (courtesy of the Todd County School District).

THE CEREMONY:

- Graduates will enter the complex and walk on the track in front of the grandstand to their assigned area.*
- There will be a brief welcoming and introductions.*
- Acknowledgement of Valedictorian and Salutatorian*
- Awarding of diplomas*

Student will be photographed with diploma by Kernit Grimshaw. All photos will be posted for families on Todd County Facebook page.

- Graduates will exit the complex by taking a victory lap while Class Song is being played.*

- Graduates will line up in the bus circle west of Todd County High School for a car procession. (Graduates will be spaced out along the circle, and families and friends can drive their vehicles past the graduates).

Again, we realize this is not the ideal or typical graduation, but we do want to honor the Class of 2020 in a safe and meaningful way.

*Sincerely,
High School Principal Randy Pirner
Assistant Principal Mike Hammer*



**Commencement:
Falcon Football Field
Saturday, June 25**

Meet the TCHS Class of 2020...

Class Song:
"Stole the Show"
- by Kygo

Class Officers:
President - Kassy Hardesty
Vice President - Bryce Hammer
Secretary - Patricia Villanueva
Treasurer - Kendra Elk Looks Back

Class Flower:
Lotus



Class Color:
Emerald

Class Quote:
"How lucky I am, having something that makes saying goodbye so hard."
- Winnie the Pooh

Valedictorian - Arvish Bhinder Salutatorian - Isaac Lindskov



High Honors:

Arvish Bhinder, Isaac Lindskov, Kendra Elk Looks Back, Haesel Brill, Bryce Hammer, King Horse Looking, Kassy Hardesty, Sadie LaPointe, Douglas Yellow Boy, Jacob Wike, Patricia Villanueva, Jaclyn Crow Eagle, Sierra Scott, Shaylyssa Charging Elk

Honors:

Shallon Bordeaux, Reeta Herman, Trent Poignee, Kelsie Herman, Nicole Peshlakai, Jesyka Dillon, Jaslin Murray, Jayce Palmer, Adelia White, Mary Gillette, Aleah McCloskey, Cole Castaway, Ralph Spotted Calf, Katlyn Whirlwind Soldier, Skylar Little Thunder

Regents Scholars:

Douglas Yellow Boy, Bryce Hammer, Jacklyn Crow Eagle, King Horse Looking, Arvish Bhinder, Patricia Villanueva, Jacob Wike, Bryce'son Neal, Kendra Elk Looks Back, Isaac Lindskov, Kassy Hardesty

National Honor Society:





Arvish Bhinder, Shallon Bordeaux, Jaclyn Crow Eagle, Jesyka Dillon, Kendra Elk Looks Back, Bryce Hammer, Kassy Hardesty, Kelsie Herman, Reeta Herman, King Horse Looking, Sadie LaPointe, Isaac Lindskov, Jaslin Murray, Bruce'son Neal, Nicole Peshlakai, Daisy Villanueva, Adelia White, Jacob Wike, Douglas Yellow Boy

Blood Donor Heroes:

Neena Colombe, Kassy Hardesty, Blaine LaPointe, Isaac Lindskov, Aleah McCloskey, Katlyn Whirlwind Soldier



					
Beau Arvik	Jaylen Bear Robe	Arvish Bhinder	Maria Black Lance	Peyton Blacksmith	Angel Bordeaux
					
Justice Bullshows	Benjamin Burning Breast	Cole Castaway	Shaylyssa Charging Elk	Crystal Chipps	Caleb Clairmont
					
Stephanie DeNoyer	Jesyka Dillon	Matthew Duysak	Kendra Elk Looks Back	Domenicos Escarsega Ruiz	Jolene Farmer
					
Eleesia Gunhammer	Bryce Hammer	Kassie Hardesty	Jayce Henry	Kelsie Herman	Reeta Herman

					
	Shallon Bordeaux	Cayliah Brady	Haesel Brill	Colleen Bronco Bill	Carli Brown
					
	Kolton Colombe	Neena Colombe	Riggin Colombe	Catolina Contreras	Jaclyn Crow Eagle
					
	Trey Fisher	Raymond Garcia	Sebastian Gary	Mary Gillette	Isabella Gilpin
					
	Anaya Horse Looking	King Horse Looking	Mitakuye Horse Looking	Tyson Iyotte	Dylan Kills In Sight



Akicita Lamb



Blaine LaPointe



Justin LaPointe



Nathan LaPointe



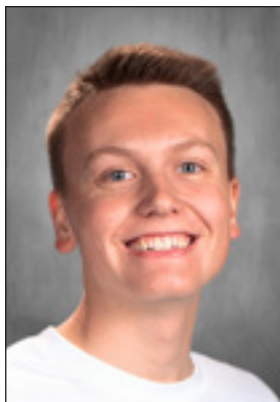
Sadie LaPointe



Emaree LeBeau



*Dwanna
Left Hand Bull*



Isaac Lindskov



Theron Little



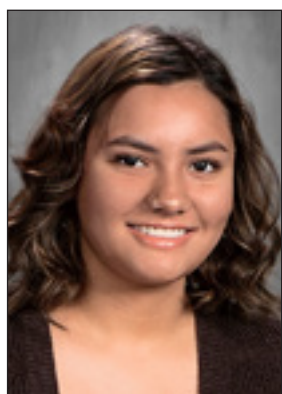
*Skylar
Little Thunder*



*Homer
Long Warrior*



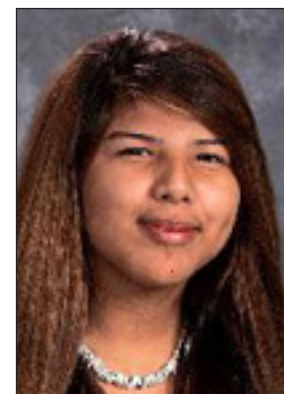
Waylon Marshall



Aleah McCloskey



*Bralei
Medicine Eagle*



Mauricia Montes



Travis Moran



Jaslin Murray



Pauline Murray



Tylan Murray



Bryce'son Neal



Corbin Nightpipe



Keanna Parker



Nicole Peshiakai



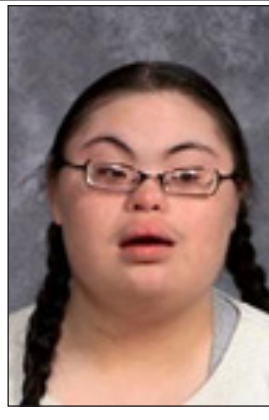
Wakiyan Picotte



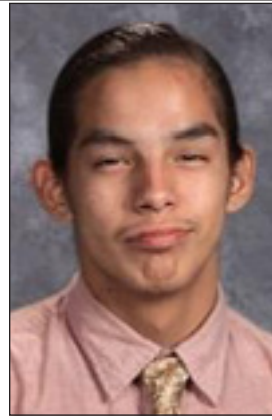
Trent Poignee



Isaiah Raspberry



Jolea Rattling Leaf



Maurice Red Cloud



Aiden Redday



Kajah Richards



Amber Running



Hoksila Running



Sierra Scott



Kendall Sharkey



Nicholas Siers



Gloria Sitting Bear



Maste Sleeping Bear



Ralph Spotted Calf



Baron Spotted Tail



Jeffrey Swan



April Swift Hawk



Orion Thunder Hawk



Aaron Torres



Alison Two Bulls



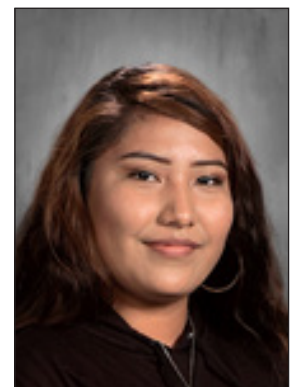
Patricia Villanueva



*Katlyn Whirlwind
Soldier*



*Mahpiya Whirlwind
Soldier*



Aady White



Adelia White



Lacey White Feather



Arianna White Hat



Brianna White Hat



Cyprian White Hat



Jacob Wike



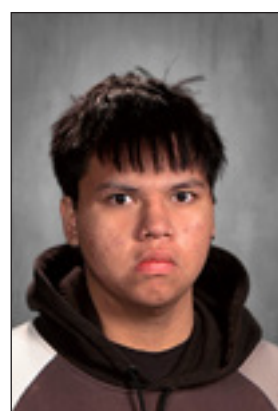
Royal Wike



Timothy Winters



Douglas Yellow Boy



Kody Yellow Hawk



Jeremiah Young

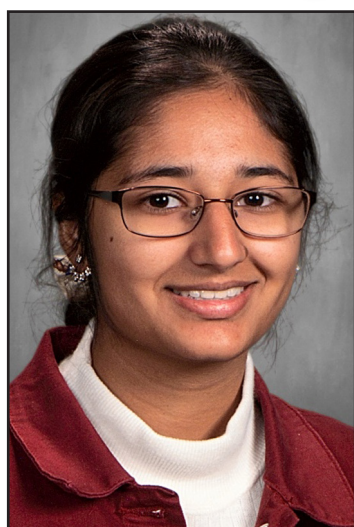
Congratulations to these young men and women of the Class of 2020, who have successfully completed the courses for their Todd County School District High School Diploma.

Apologies to the students who do not have a current photograph here. Due to the unusual circumstances of this year, these were the only ones available.

Each Graduate will, however, have a picture taken by Kernit Grimshaw at June 27, 2020 Commencement Exercises, in cap and gown with their diploma, which will be posted on the Todd County Facebook Page and printed in the next issue of the Dreamcatcher.



Todd County Senior named Best and Brightest for Academic Excellence ...



Arvish Bhinder

PIERRE - The best and brightest from the Class of 2020 are being recognized for their ac-

ademic achievements during their high school career.

Arvish Bhinder, a senior at Todd County High School, is a recipient of this award, sponsored by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota (ASBSD). Bhinder is also involved with HOSA - Future Health Professionals, also known as Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), an international career and technical student organization.

Due to the outbreak

of the Coronavirus, the 30th Annual Academic Excellence Luncheon was cancelled. However, Gov. Kristi Noem and ASBSD set out to honor the nearly 200 students, who were identified as the top one percent of their senior class, from the state's public, private and tribal schools, to celebrate their academic accomplishments.

Students designated as their district's honoree(s) received a certificate, letter signed by Gov. Noem and South

Dakota pin.

In her letter to the honorees, Gov. Noem noted she was "proud of you for your hard work and dedication to your academic career."

"You are part of a special group of young people," Gov. Noem wrote. "Your class will make the best of a tough situation and will strengthen our state with your talents and perseverance."

ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany added that while it was disappointing to

not be able to hold the luncheon it was still an honor to commend the students for their excellence in academics.

"This is clearly a group of students that have excelled in the classroom and beyond," Pogany said. "Each one of these future leaders deserves special recognition for their academic accomplishments."



State HOSA Conference cancelled, contests held virtually

Todd County High School Students place well at Conference...

The State HOSA Conference could not be held this year due to COVID-19, however, the contests that could be done were held through technology, with a virtual awards ceremony.

March 12, the last day students were in school, was the deadline for taking their knowledge tests for various categories. For many of these, they would have been asked to do a 'hands-on' part if the conference had actually been held.

There are also leadership events, such as public speaking and job interview. The students had to tape themselves and send in the videos.

There were technology glitches here and there, but overall, we did our best. For example, when Cheraye saved her Officer interview, it was upside-down. However, Natalie Johner worked her magic and got it fixed for us. Thanks Natalie, for your help.

Of course, there are some contests we could not enter, because the students did not have the materials at home to complete them.

That being said, here are the Todd County Results:

Thailee Baker - 1st Place in Vet Science;

Reeta Herman - 2nd Place in Medical Spelling;

Arvish Bhinder - 1st in Nutrition;

Kendra Elk Looks Back - 2nd Place in Cultural Divesities & Disparities; 3rd Place in Job Seeking;

Isaac Lindskov - 3rd Place in Prepared Speaking;

Kassidy Hardesty, Reeta Herman - 2nd Place in Public Service Announcement.

Arvish Bhinder - \$1,000 Health Professional Scholarship from Avera.

This is the best Todd County has ever done at the Conference in four years. All of these individuals qualify for the National HOSA Conference, which will be virtual, with all contests done through various modes of technology.

Other Todd County HOSA Members placing in the Top Ten in various contests include:

Mary Gillette - 8th in Nutrition;

Arvish Bhinder - 9th in Pathophysiology;

Madison LaVallie - 9th in Behavioral Health;

Heidi Ellert - 4th and Royal Wike - 5th in Medical Reading;

Summer Romero - 4th in Veterinary Science;

Trinity Burning Breast - 5th in Dental Science; Carmelita Karp - 9th in Medical Assisting.

EMT Team - Jacob Wike & Reeta Herman - 9th;

Jaslin Murray, Kassy Hardesty, Jesyka Dillon - 2nd in Public Service Announcement.

HOSA (Future Health Professionals) is the only nationwide student organization whose focus is 100% health care. An initiative of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and the South Dakota Area Health Education Center Program Office, South Dakota HOSA earned its National Charter on June 26,

2013.

This past year, South Dakota HOSA had a 14% membership increase with 1,008 members statewide.

Check out the Todd County School District Facebook Page of the sdhosa.org website for more information.



New HOSA
State President-elect



Cheraye Arcoren

Todd County's Cheraye Arcoren was named President-elect for the State HOSA Chapter. She will serve as Vice President of the organization this year and will be President of the State Chapter next year.

Kendra Elk Looks Back was the first Todd County student to serve as a State HOSA Officer this past year.

Outstanding HOSA Advisor



Marj Blare

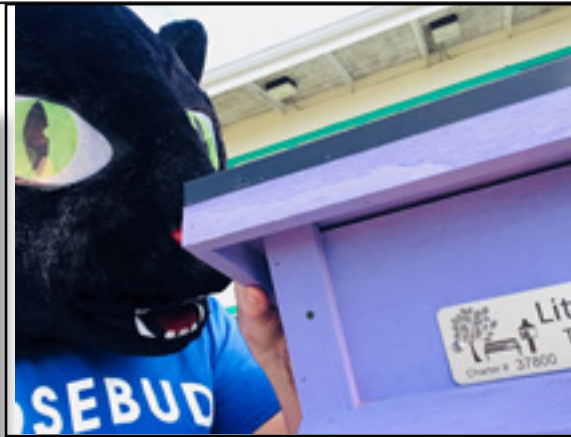
Todd County High School HOSA Advisor Marj Blare was named Outstanding Local HOSA Chapter Advisor at the State virtual HOSA Conference.

"I am so proud of the students," she said. "Thank you to the staff and administration for all of your support this year. We could have not done it without you."

From Rosebud...



Wopila to Families at Rosebud Elementary for picking up Grab & Go Learning Packets to continue student learning.



Above and right - a Rosebud Panther checks out the Grab & Go Library at the School



The Grab & Go Learning Packet pickup trophy goes to Ms. Hogan & Mr. Mason's Third Grade Families.

One hundred percent of the families picked up their children's Grab & Go Learning Packets .

...Rosebud Honorings...



Carmen Black Wolf, left (27 years at Rosebud) and Tatiye Jensen, right (three years at Rosebud) made history! They were honored for their dedicated service to students and families with the first ever Virtual Honoring at Rosebud Elementary. We will so miss them, their smiles, and cultural expertise they shared with us so freely.

Thank you to Mr. Brown who said a prayer and sang an honor song for the occasion.

Rosebud Elementary hosts 'Thank You' Parade for students, families...



Rosebud Elementary students and families were honored with an end-of-the-Year Parade. Thanks to the Lakota Riders, Kenny Provencial, and Mr. Emery for the use of the fire truck and ambulance! Rosebud ROCKS!



Remembering...Two Decades in photos with Todd County...



School Year 2000-2001

Clockwise, from upper left - those retiring in 2001: Ann McCloskey, Betty Emery, Lurene Emery, Galen Bush, Ken Orth; Middle School Wacipi, Food Service Director Arlene Chamberlain (left) with retiring Food Service employee Melva Logterman; Student Bill Long with award at AAA; Freda Heinert and twin granddaughters.





In the Spring of 2001, North Elementary Teacher Deb Waln brought her class to the District Office for a beautification project. Their efforts produced a welcoming floral view for visitors all summer; Mabel Blue Thunder and some family members at the 2001 Senior Wacipi; TCHS Falcon Football Coaching Staff honoring Head Coach Curt Littau when he left the District after 10 years; State of South Dakota Representative Larry Lucas presents a birthday cake to Superintendent Richard Bordeaux.





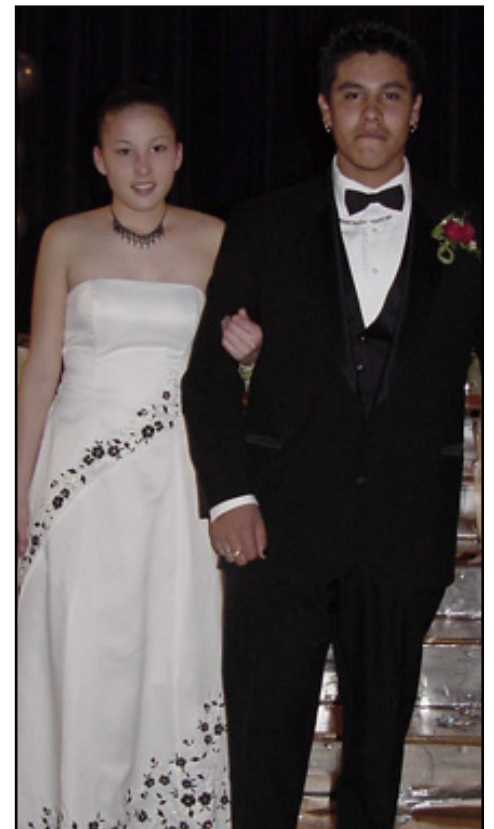
School Year 2001-2002

Top Row - 1. Littleburg Christmas; 2 & 3. Lakeview Christmas; 4. Klein Christmas
Bottom Row - A Rosebud Elementary play produced by Teacher Chris Mosner (right) in the aftermath of the 9-1-1 Destruction of the Twin Towers in New York City.



School Year 2002-2003

Chrystal Night Pipe reads to students on Read Across America Day; Board of Education Members: Back, from left, - Member Lavern Lanz, Member Sharon Swanson, Member Marlon Leneau. Front - President William Long, Vice President Randy Her Many Horses; Logan Gasdia with Kayla Herman at the Prom; Max Grimshaw at Klein Spring Concert; Teacher Lori Jackson talks with Nikki Whipple at Parent Night.



WOPILA



. Todd County School District Staff:

Chad Blotsky, Carol Galbraith, DeAnn Eastman-Jansen, Rick Medema, Bev Brandis, Karen Worsech, Keva Stoneman, Connie Rodriguez, Janet Colombe, Johnna Stoneman, Trey White Hat, Janet Cady, Carrie Kornely, Jenny Schmitz, Pat Eddie, Beth Hogan, Kalinda Persson, Brad Bartling, James Williams, Ken Hespe, Matthew Snethen, Lucas Beardt, Keith Olson, Jill Olson, Lori Leese, Daniel Razo, Jesse Allen, Toby Godoy, Chance Lewis, Ty Spotted Tail.

Rosebud Sioux Tribe:

Community Chairpersons - Community Members
(Grass Mountain, Two Strike, Spring Creek, Antelope, Okreek, Parmelee, He Dog, St. Francis, Soldier Creek, Sicangu Village - Lakeview & Littleburg)

. Also:

Tree of Life, Boys & Girls Club, St. Francis Indian School
Father Jacob, Mother Lauren Stanley, Area Businesses

Thank You does not begin to cover our gratitude for the hard work and cooperation of our staff and the Rosebud Reservation Communities the past three months. When our schools closed because of the COVID-19 virus, we still needed to provide food for our students. Thus, the brown bag school breakfast and lunch program was born.

At first, assembling over 2,000 breakfasts and as many lunches seemed an impossible task, and without the tremendous support of the RST Community Chairs and Members who pitched in and delivered these meals daily, it would never have been accomplished. The District can never thank these individuals enough. They did an amazing service for the people. On April 24, 100,000 meals had been distributed.

There was a core group of Todd County School District Staff (see those listed above) who were there packing food daily, many at 6 a.m. These workers came from all departments of the TCSD - Food Service, Bus Shop, Teaching Staff, Administration. Many other staff members also filled in occasionally.

On May 29, 2020, the last delivery of the project went out to the people.

Final Count 219,318 meals

- Pilamaya

Todd County School District Board of Education & Administration



Working with the State...

March 20, 2020

Dear South Dakota teachers and school personnel,

It's hard to believe it's only been a week that we have been dealing with school closures in South Dakota. I'm sure it feels much longer.

Your response has been remarkable. The vital in-person classroom connection that approximately 10,000 educators across South Dakota share with some 135,000 students was suddenly cut. But the need remains the same. And now we see you establishing new kinds of connections with your students with creativity, innovation, and courage.

From what I've observed over these past seven days, I'm confident that if this virus could be beaten by your unwavering devotion to your students and your tremendous flexibility in the face of these sudden and unprecedented challenges, you all would have conquered it by Tuesday.

However long this crisis endures, please know that your dedication serves as an example to all of us.

Thank you for everything you're doing for South Dakota students.

Benjamin F. Jones, PhD
Secretary of Education

May 1, 2020

Good morning, it's Teacher Appreciation Week, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for South Dakota students. I know this spring has presented unimaginable challenges with schools closed due to COVID-19. I've been so impressed with the way you've stepped up and done such creative things to stay connected with your students and to keep their education going to the greatest extent possible. I've also been impressed with how you have supported one another. The blogs, chats, videos, and texts filled with support and ideas you've all shared with each other are signs of a healthy profession and an example to us all.

This is a stressful time for everyone, and I'm deeply grateful for how steadfast you've been in staying in touch with your students, whether virtually, via phone calls, or at teacher parades. The importance of a calming voice and a familiar face during times like these cannot be overstated. Though you've been forced to be apart, you are as important as ever to your students' well-being. For retiring educators and teachers of high school seniors, I know that the way this school year is ending is particularly difficult. And yet even for you, I know that because of the creativity that just seems to be part of a teacher's DNA, these milestones will be marked in brand-new, innovative ways.

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education

April 14, 2020

Dear South Dakota Administrators, Educators and Support Staff,

"Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant." Horace wrote this quote over 2000 years ago. It still rings true today.

Members of the South Dakota Board of Education Standards are extending their thanks and appreciation to administrators, educators and support staff throughout the state who have unexpectedly found themselves in a new uncharted world of education. Even though the world has changed remarkably from just a few weeks ago, each of you has remained committed to what you do best, teaching and providing support for all students.

We appreciate and uphold the work each of you do year-by-year, day-by-day under normal circumstances. This letter comes as encouragement during this difficult time. It is astounding to hear the many different ways South Dakota educators have stepped up to deliver education and support services under extraordinary circumstances. We know you would rather be in the schools greeting your students each day; but instead you have found new pathways to reach out to them.

There is a quote by Lin Yutang that expresses what each of you are doing. "Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence." Keep walking those new pathways to build the roads to reach the students you care for throughout the year.

Sincerely,

SD Board of Education Standards Jacqueline Sly, President

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Becky Eddie Moosman, Middle School.....856-3504, ext. 2313

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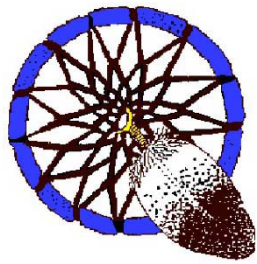
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Phyllis Littau.....856-3530





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TC HOSA Students fare well at State...



These Todd County High School Students in Marj Blare's HOSA (Future Health Professional's) Class were among those entering competition in the State HOSA Conference and Contest. Todd County placed well in several of the divisions, winning more awards than any year since they have entered. (See story on page 21). Pictured here, from left, Kendra Elk Looks Back, Isaac Lindskov, Arvish Bhinder, Reeta Herman.