

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 319

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11-16-23

Dear NK Families,

We are into our second quarter of the school year. We appreciate your conference visits either in person or virtually. As a team, we will be able to provide the best support and learning opportunities for your child.

The School Board and the Strategic Planning Committee have met three times in the last two months to develop a Belief Statements, Core Values, a Mission Statement, and a Vision Statement. The School Board will review them on November 28th from 5pm-7pm and will formally adopt the Strategic Plan at the December School Board meeting. The district's leadership team will be developing an action plan to achieve the goals and objectives from the Strategic Plan.

Winter weather is on its way. The information below describes our process for determining whether school is canceled or if the buses will be running late. Our procedure for the decision is based on the following:

- Information regarding the road from the MN Department of Transportation.
- The amount of snow and ice that has accumulated or the amount we could possibly get based on weather forecasts from the National Weather Service.
- The temperature according to the National Weather Service forecasts.
- The decision of whether or not our school closes or remains open is not based on what other schools in the area are doing.
- The decision of closing school will typically occur before 5:45 a.m. to ensure sufficient notice to families and employees.
- An alert will be sent to all student contacts that are listed in your Campus portal.
- The notice of school closings will be given to TV stations: CBS Channel 3, KBJR Channel 6, and WDIO/WIRT Channel 10 & 13,
- Notices will also be posted on Facebook and the school website.
- If school is canceled or released early due to inclement weather, all evening activities will be canceled.

If school is open, and parents choose not to send their children to school due to weather, the absence will be excused and assignments will be able to be made up. However we need you to contact Melody at (218) 885-1280 ext. 51102 or Michele at (218) 885-1280 ext. 51151 to excuse your child. The decision to send your child to school during extreme weather conditions is one every parent must make. We make the decision after careful consideration because the students' safety and wellbeing is a high priority for us. Also, if your child drives to school, please consider having them ride the bus during inclement weather. Remember to contact NKG transportation at (218) 885-3864 for all transportation changes. You should also call Michele or Melody to let them know you have made changes.

Outside recess will occur each day as long as the temperature doesn't fall below -10 degrees with the wind chill. All children need to be dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Their winter gear should include: hat, mittens, winter coat, snow pants, and snow boots. They might be able to go out without snow pants depending on the temperature, but having snow pants will ensure the students stay warm and dry. If a child comes to school without appropriate winter gear, they might not be able to play outside. Please help us to keep recess enjoyable by sending your child to school dressed for winter. If you need help getting winter gear for your child, please contact Michele or Melody. We may be able to help.

Please log in to your Campus Portal to ensure that we have the most current contact information for you. If your contact information has changed, please check your portal to ensure that you get important messages from the school. If you need help connecting to your Campus Portal, please contact Michele or Melody.

There is no school, Friday, November 17th. School will also not be in session for Thanksgiving Break on November 23-24.

The gate separating the High School Gym and the rest of the school will be used during the winter sports season. It's important that fans enter the gym doors to basketball games this winter, as the rest of the school may be blocked off by the gate.

Mark your calendars for the Winter Program at Keewatin Elementary on December 14th. There will be two performances at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Feel free to choose to attend the performance that best fits your schedule.

We have a few new staff members to welcome to the district: Amanda Templin, Special Education teacher; Alissa Hilton-Spires and Trevor Foss, paraprofessionals; Ben Black, Behavior Interventionist at the high school; and Brittini Thurman, Finance Assistant.

We have had two amazing events in the district this past week. Both the elementary and high school had Veterans Day celebrations to honor our veterans. One of our little learners at the elementary was overheard asking another student "Have you seen a veteran yet?" He said it with such awe in his voice. Our staff is doing a great job of teaching the importance of veterans to our country and it showed in the reverence and excitement of our students

when the veterans were in the building. The second event was the Deer River Drum and Dance Group doing a teaching performance for our PK-6 students and staff. It was a beautiful performance and the students and staff enjoyed dancing to the drum music and learning about American Indian culture.

I'm happy to report that we continue to make great progress on the construction of our new PreK-12 school and community wellness center. The building foundations are nearly finished, and crews have begun erecting the first of many concrete walls for the buildings. After months of site preparation, it is exciting to see the structures themselves start to come to life! More walls will go up in the coming weeks, along with steel beams and support columns which together will form the basic structure of the buildings. You can follow along with the progress on the project webpage, [NKSpartanStrong.org/next-steps](https://NKSpartanStrong.org/next-steps).

Sincerely,

*Dr. Villebrun*