

News From the Middle



February 6th, 2024

Like us on  ! Follow us on  ! Check us out on  !

Important Dates

2/5-2/9 Hope Week Dress Up Days (Flyer Below)
2/14/2024 NAEP Testing (8th Grade Only/Select Students)
2/15/2024 Advanced Class Google Form Due (Information Below)
2/16/2024 No School
2/19/2024 No School
2/28/2024 2 Hour Early Release (1:04 PM)
3/4/2024 Augustana Jazz Festival-Jazz Band Only
3/5/2024 Band Booster Showcase @ Washington Pavilion
3/5/2024 NWEA Testing
3/7/2024 NWEA Testing
3/12/2024 Harrisburg Middle School Jazz Night @ NMS Commons
3/13/2024 End of the 3rd Quarter
3/13/2024 Junior Achievement (6th and 7th)
3/14/2024 No School
3/15/2024 No School
3/29/2024 No School
4/1/2024 No School
5/22/2024 Last day of School

Tiger Athletics

2/6/2024 8th Boys (C-D) Basketball **4:15 PM** vs. Whittier Middle School @ **Whittier Middle School (Main Gymnasium- 133)**

2/6/2024 8th Boys (A-B) Basketball **4:15 PM** vs. Whittier Middle School @ **Harrisburg South Middle School**

2/8/2024 7th Boys (A-B) **4:15 PM** vs. Whittier Middle School @ **Whittier Middle School (Main Gymnasium- 133)**

2/8/2024 7th Boys (C-D) **4:15 PM** vs. Whittier Middle School @ **South Middle School**

2/12/2024 8th Boys (C-D) Basketball **4:15 PM** vs. George McGovern Middle School @ **South Middle School**

2/12/2024 8th Boys (A-B) Basketball **4:15 PM** vs. George McGovern Middle School @ **George McGovern Middle School (Gym Main C109)**

Advanced Course Content and Criteria

Advanced Classes are available in all three middle schools for learners who meet criteria for participation. See attached document for details. Parents can refer learners who they feel need an additional academic challenge by completing this [google form](#) by February 15th.

[Harrisburg Middle School- Advanced Course Expectations & Criteria for 2023-24](#)

Email additional questions to laurie.wenger@k12.sd.us

Congratulations January Top Tiger!

6th Grade

Cole H.
Andres F.

7th Grade

Ellie R.
Owen C.

8th Grade

Lexi H.
Aiden G.

Advanced

Gavin J.
Bodin W.

Band/Jazz Band Information

South Middle School Band – Upcoming Dates

3/4 – Augustana Jazz Festival – Jazz Band only – Parent volunteers needed

3/5 – Band Booster Showcase @ Washington Pavilion

- SMS 6th @ 6:30PM – Three parent volunteers needed
- SMS 7th @ 7:30PM (Combined with NMS/EMS) – One parent volunteer needed
- SMS 8th @ 8:00PM (Combined with NMS/EMS) – One parent volunteer needed

3/12 – Harrisburg Middle School Jazz Night @ NMS Commons

Parent volunteers will get a comped ticket for the event. Please contact Mr. Nelson (Robert.Nelson@k12.sd.us) or Mrs. Reuer (Kerri.Reuer@k12.sd.us)

Yearbook Photo Submissions

Hit me with
your best



SHOT!



SMS Year book Photo Submissions

Have an incredible photo
of your student and their
friends from a school
event this year?

Submit your picture(s) using
the QR Code or [link](#)
and it may just make it
into the year book!

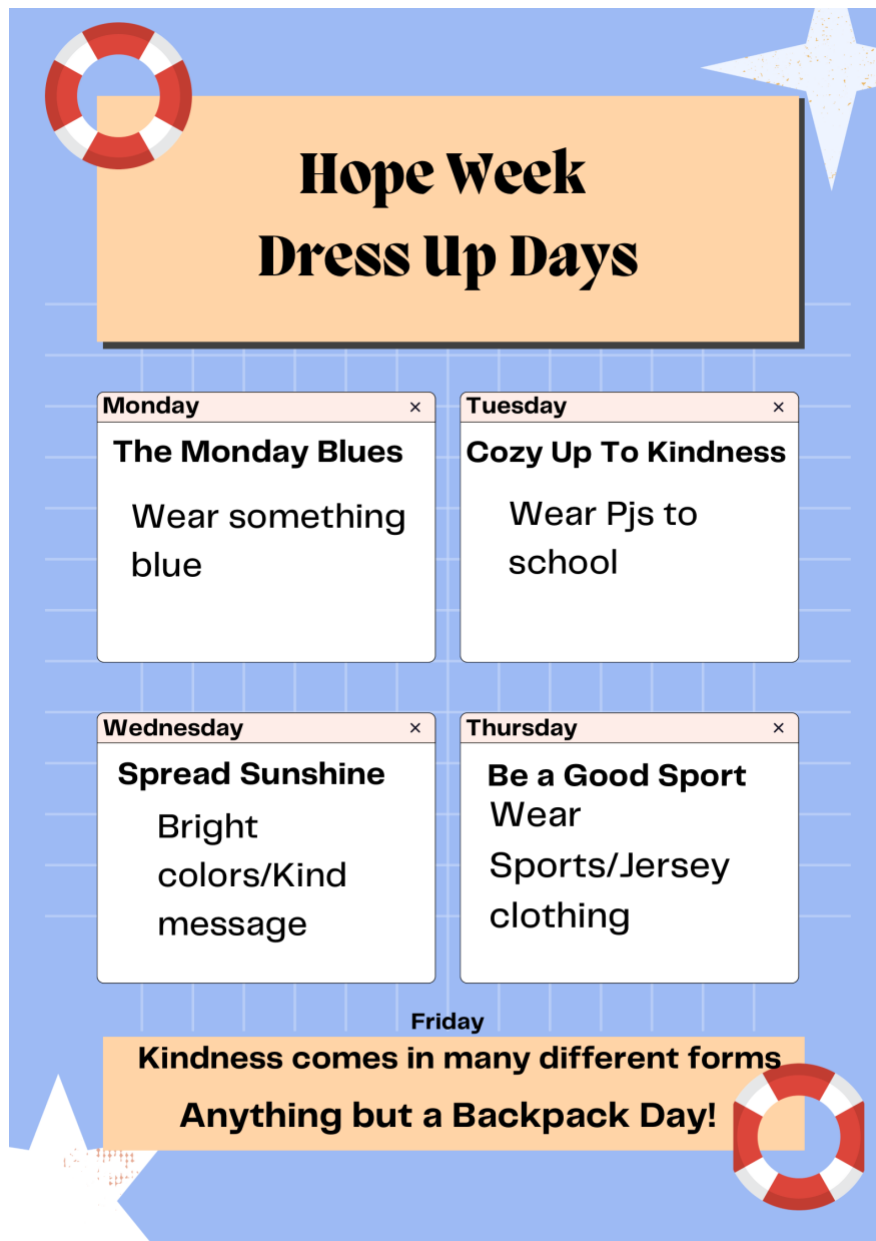
If you do not have a Google Drive account please email
pictures and direct questions to Jennifer.Esser@k12.sd.us.

Hope Week: Dress up Days February 5th-9th

Hope Squad's goal is to prevent suicide through awareness and education, reduce stigma, and serve as a resource to others touched by suicide. Hope Week's goal is to spread awareness and provide hope and connection for all learners at HSMS.

The list of restrictions for Fridays "Anything but a Backpack Day":

1. Can't ride in it or on it
2. Can't be motorized.
3. Can't be living
4. Must be able to fit in the space next to their desk.
5. Must be school-appropriate and follow school dress code



The graphic is a blue-themed poster for Hope Week. At the top left is a red and white life preserver. In the top right corner is a white star with gold dots. The main title, "Hope Week Dress Up Days", is centered in a large orange box. Below the title are four white boxes, each representing a day of the week with a title and a theme. The Friday section is at the bottom, featuring an orange box with the text "Kindness comes in many different forms" and "Anything but a Backpack Day!", with a red and white life preserver on the right.

| Monday | Tuesday |
|---|---|
| The Monday Blues Wear something blue | Cozy Up To Kindness Wear Pjs to school |
| Wednesday | Thursday |
| Spread Sunshine Bright colors/Kind message | Be a Good Sport Wear Sports/Jersey clothing |
| Friday Kindness comes in many different forms Anything but a Backpack Day! | |

Dakota Dreams Summer Camp



SUMMER CAMPS

To those with students who will be 7th and 8th graders next school year,

Middle school is an amazing time for students to learn about themselves and start thinking about their future. That's why Our Dakota Dreams, a partnership between the South Dakota Department of Education and the South Dakota Board of Regents, is sponsoring free Career Exploration Camps for students who will be entering 7th and 8th grade in the 2024–2025 school year.

With nine camps being held at universities across the state, these multi-day sessions help students explore at least ten different career paths through hands-on activities led by college faculty members and with the guidance of counselors. Potential careers including everything from health care and engineering to marketing, finance and aviation.

Each free summer Career Exploration Camp includes:

- Five full days on a college campus
- Free on-campus housing for four nights
- Field trips and business tours
- Experiential activities, lessons and classroom discussion
- Evening social activities to meet new friends
- Transportation
- All snacks, meals and drinks

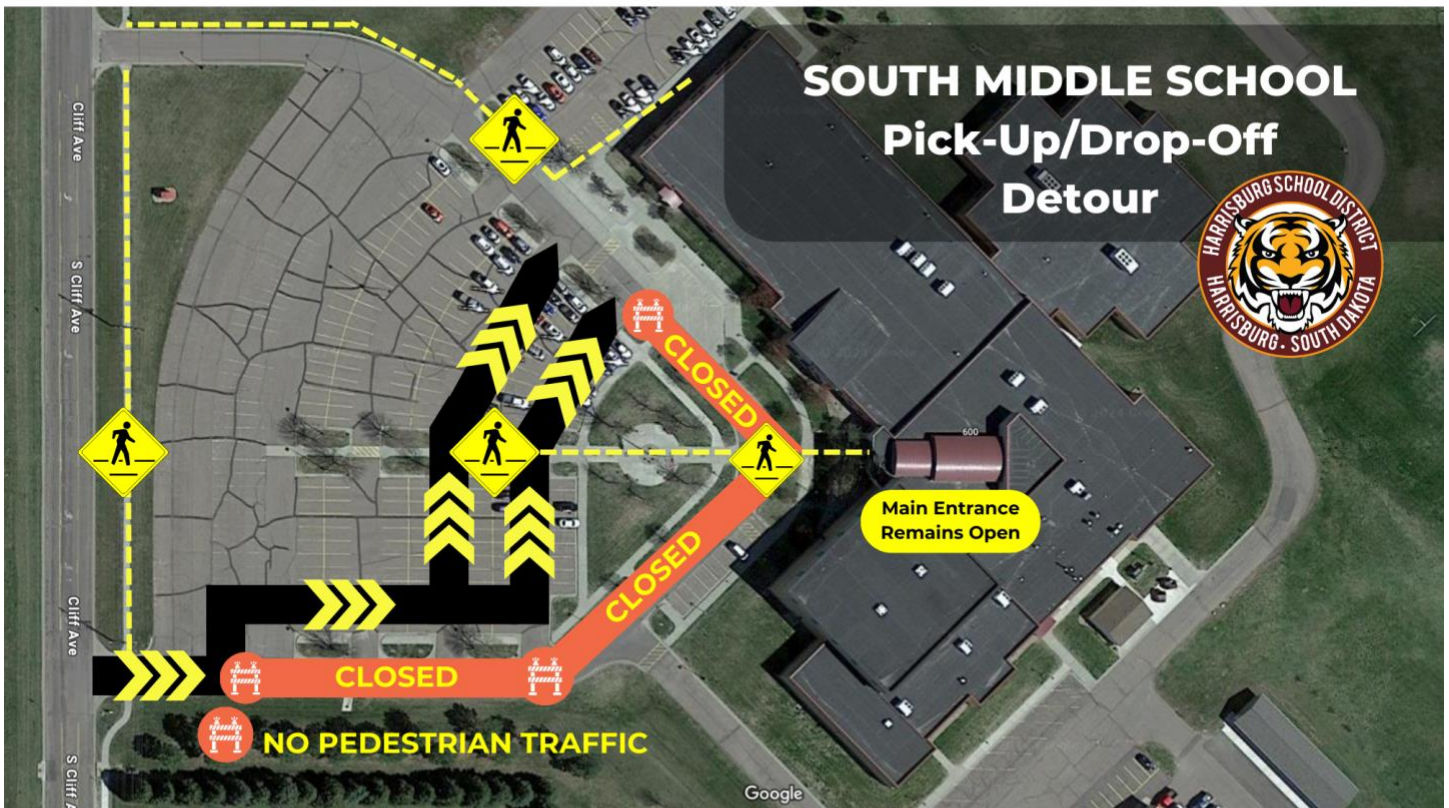
By the end of camp, students will have a better idea of their interests, potential career paths and how their education can help get them there. Space is limited for these free camps, so visit <https://ourdakotadreams.com/elementary-middle-school/career-exploration-summer-camps/> today to see dates, view campus locations, and apply to attend by March 31.

Construction Pick-up/Drop-Off Detour

SMS Parents & Staff:

Starting tomorrow, as we prepare for the new addition to South Middle School, please note changes in pick-up and drop-off traffic, which will be rerouted through the parking lot with cones and signage for guidance. Please watch for pedestrians as you proceed through the parking lot. The sidewalk on the south side of the campus will also be closed. Students are encouraged to follow the sidewalk to the north side of campus and enter through the north entrance.

Please speak with your student about the construction and remind them that for their safety the fences, cones and construction materials are off limits and should not be touched or moved by students. If students are found to be in the construction area or touching the materials/equipment consequences will be given.



Embrace Neurodiversity T-Shirts for Sale!

EMBRACE NEURODIVERSITY T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!



Pastel Design



[https://ancellsattic.com/
products/embrace-
neurodiversity-t-shirt](https://ancellsattic.com/products/embrace-neurodiversity-t-shirt)



Vibrant Design

Harrisburg Middle Schools will be hosting a **NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION** throughout the month of April. We will be celebrating with dress up days, advisory activities, an inclusivity wall, a daily fun fact about a neurodiversity area, and so much more!

We have "Embrace Neurodiversity" t-shirts for sale if you're interested in purchasing one. Staff plan on wearing theirs throughout our celebration, and we'd love to see students showing their support as well.

Shirts cost \$20 each. All orders will be placed through Ancell's Attic using the link or QR code above. At checkout, you will be given the option to have the shirt shipped to you or to pick up in the office.

All orders will be due by February 15th.

Please contact Katie Osmanski at katie.osmanski@k12.sd.us if you have any questions.



OUR DAKOTA DREAMS ONLINE TUTORING PROGRAMS

**OUR DAKOTA DREAMS OFFERS FREE
ONLINE TUTORING FOR ALL K-12
SOUTH DAKOTA STUDENTS THROUGH
TWO UNIQUE PROGRAMS.**

Students and Parents,

I'm excited to tell you about an addition to our Dakota Dream's Online Tutoring Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Dakota Dreams is now offering two amazing learning opportunities, Tutor Tracks and Homework Help.

TUTOR TRACKS (1ST-8TH GRADE)

Tutor Tracks is a seven-week, guided tutoring program, available for students in grades 1-8, designed to firm up your student's foundations in Reading, Grammar or Math. These sessions are scheduled for 30 minutes, twice a week, with tutor-led lesson plans.

HOMEWORK HELP (K-12TH GRADE)

Dakota Dreams offers online tutoring for homework help on an as-needed basis for K-12 students. Sessions can be scheduled ahead of time or accessed on-demand during program hours as students need help or have questions on schoolwork.

These two programs are staffed with university students pursuing education degrees at Black Hills State University and Northern State University.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT

[OURDAKOTADREAMS.COM/ONLINE-TUTORING](https://ourdakotadreams.com/online-tutoring)

OR SCAN
THE QR CODE



www.OurDakotaDreams.com



FREE ONLINE TUTORING PROGRAMS

Our Dakota Dreams offers free online tutoring for all K-12 South Dakota students through two unique programs. Developed to support individual student learning needs, one-on-one tutors help with homework, specific subjects and broader educational concepts.

TUTOR TRACKS: SUBJECT-SPECIFIC TUTORING

Tutor Tracks is a seven-week, guided tutoring program designed to help firm up your student's foundations in Reading, Grammar or Math.

- Available for students in grades 1-8
- Three Tutor Tracks available:
 - **Reading track:** morphology and spelling (grades 1-8)
 - **Grammar track:** parts of speech and writing (grades 3-8)
 - **Math track:** focus on fractions (grades 3-8)
- Tutor-led instruction — all students have to do is show up
- Recurring 30-minute sessions, twice per week, over a seven-week period

ON-DEMAND HOMEWORK HELP

Your student can also access free homework help anytime with on-demand sessions. Schedule an appointment in advance or get help with no appointment necessary during program hours.

- Available for students in grades K-12
- Four tutoring subjects: Math, English, Science or Social Studies
- Students bring homework or questions for tutor assistance
- Scheduled or on-demand sessions
- Tutors available during program hours

Parents or guardians can register students using our simple and secure online platform.

LEARN MORE AT
OURDAKOTADREAMS.COM/ONLINE-TUTORING

OR SCAN
 THE QR CODE



This opportunity is being administered by the South Dakota Board of Regents with federal dollars available to the South Dakota Department of Education through the American Rescue Plan.

Add Funds to Lunch Account

[My School Bucks](#) is an online service that allows parents to do any of the following:

- Ask to be alerted when a child's meal account balance runs below an amount the parent sets.
- Apply money to student meal accounts using a credit/debit card or electronic check.

If you are new to the district or have not created a lunch account, click on the blue link above to create an account.

Tutor Program and Student Help

At South Middle School, we offer a variety of different programs to help learners who struggle or need more work time to complete assignments. These programs include:

Power Hour

Power Hour is held every afternoon from 3:05pm-4:00pm and every morning from 7:30am-8:00am.

Success Advisory and Success Directed Study

We assign learners to Success Advisory and Success Directed Study, where they develop study skills and plan to get and stay caught up in school.

Attendance

If your learner is going to be absent or late for school, call the school office at 605-743-2567 ext. 3007 **before 9:00AM daily**. Or email smsattendance@harrisburg.k12.sd.us. If your learner is going to be out for an extended period of time and/or you would like classwork for the day, please let the office know about attendance and contact your learner's advisory teacher for missing work.

• **Safety Policy**-- Please be aware that a safety plan has been put into place by the Harrisburg School District. Whether you are visiting or signing out a student, you will need to show identification and sign them out in the office. If parents arrange for someone other than themselves to pick up their student, please make them aware of our policy and inform the office of whom will be coming. Thank you.

Harrisburg School District 41-2

2023-2024

Revised 01-15-2024

| July 23 | | | | | | |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

| August 23 | | | | | | |
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| September 23 | | | | | | |
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| October 23 | | | | | | |
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| November 23 | | | | | | |
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| December 23 | | | | | | |
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| January 24 | | | | | | |
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| February 24 | | | | | | |
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| March 24 | | | | | | |
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| April 24 | | | | | | |
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| May 24 | | | | | | |
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| June 24 | | | | | | |
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| July 24 | | | | | | |
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| August 24 | | | | | | |
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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

SNOW MAKE-UP DATES:

The first and second snow days will not be made up. *If a third snow day occurs by March 1st, the third snow day will be made up on April 26th. The fourth snow day will be made up on May 23rd and the fifth snow day will be made up on May 24th.

If a third snow day occurs after March 1st, the third snow day will be made up May 23rd and the fourth snow day will be made up on May 24th.

Any additional snow days will be up to the discretion of the Harrisburg School Board.

Events

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Aug 14 | | New Teacher In-Service |
| Aug 15 | | New Staff In-Service |
| Aug 16 | | All Staff In-Service |
| Aug 17 | | Instructional Staff In-Service |
| Aug 21 | | Orientation Day Kg-8th Grade |
| Aug 22 | | Teacher Flex Work Day (.5) |
| Aug 23 | | Orientation Day 9th - 12th Grade |
| Aug 24 | | First day of classes |
| Sep 4 | | No School |
| Sep 20 | | 2 Hour Early Release - PLC In-Service |
| Sep 29 | | Homecoming- Early Release |
| Oct 3 | | P/T Conferences 3:30-7:30pm- 9th-12th Grade |
| Oct 6 | | In-Service/PLC Day- No School |
| Oct 9 | | No School |
| Oct 23 | | P/T Conferences 3:30-7:30pm- K-8th Grade |
| Oct 25 | | P/T Conferences 3:30-7:30pm- K-8th Grade |
| Oct 20 | | End of the 1st Quarter |
| Oct 27 | | No School- Comp Day |
| Nov 8 | | 2 Hour Early Release - PLC In-Service |
| Nov 22 | | No School |
| Nov 23 | | No School |
| Nov 24 | | No School |
| Dec 22 | | 2 Hour Early Release for Christmas Break |
| Dec 25-31 | | No School |
| Jan 1 | | No School |
| Jan 2 | | In-Service/PLC Day- No School |
| Jan 3 | | Classes resume |
| Jan 12 | | End of the 1st Semester |
| Jan 15 | | In-Service/PLC Day- No School |
| Feb 12 | | P/T Conferences 3:30-7:30pm- 9th-12th Grade |
| Feb 16 | | No School |
| Feb 19 | | No School |
| Feb 28 | | 2 Hour Early Release - PLC In-Service |
| Mar 13 | | End of the 3rd Quarter |
| Mar 14 | | No School |
| Mar 15 | | No School |
| Mar 29 | | No School |
| Apr 1 | | No School |
| Apr 26 | | No School - *Make up Snow Day |
| May 12 | | Graduation |
| May 22 | | Last day of School |
| May 23 | | Teacher Work Day (.5) |