

# News From the Middle



April 3rd, 2024

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

## Important Dates

4/2/2024 Summer School Letters Mailed Home this Week  
4/16-4/17 State Assessment (ELA)  
4/18/2024 State Assessment (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science)  
4/23/2024 Yearbook Order Deadline  
4/23-4/24 State Assessment (Math)  
5/22/2024 Last Day of School

## ELA State Testing

South Middle School will be taking the state ELA test Wednesday and Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There are a few items that will help our school be successful for this test.

- Headphones with Aux Cable Attachment (No Wireless Allowed)
- Fully charged iPad
- A good night sleep
- A great breakfast

If you know your child will be gone during this time, please let us know. Makeup testing will be done during normal school hours. Thank you!

## Tiger Athletics

**4/5/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Brandon Valley High School**  
**4/8/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Harrisburg High School**  
**4/15/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Howard Wood Field**  
**4/22/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Howard Wood Field**  
**4/29/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Howard Wood Field**  
**5/6/2024** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Track Meet **4:15 PM** vs. Multiple Schools @ **Tea Area High School**

## Congratulations March Top Tiger!

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Bennett P.  
Johanna S.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Henry W.  
Derek B.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kate E.  
Carson F.

### Advanced

Danika L.  
Briella B.

## Summer School Letters

Parent/Guardians:

Letters for learners that have been identified with an 'N' in a standard will be mailed home this week. We want to communicate this early in Quarter Four so that your learner can remedy the situation before the end of the school year. Please understand that your learner has the opportunity to complete or improve work from previous assessments in the year, but they need to be diligent in communicating with our teachers. At the time of this letter, Power Hour is available for your child with tutors available to assist. The sessions begin at 7:30am daily and from 3:00-4:00pm daily. Please feel free to set up a conference with your learner's grade-level team or individual teacher to discuss items related to their academic performance. You can check your child's grade on Canvas. On your **child's** Canvas, click a course – click grades (top middle) – “View Assignment Group Totals” – standards will populate.

## Color Guard Interest Session

Have you ever considered joining the HHS Color Guard? If so, come check out our interest session on **Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the high school commons! No experience required! Just come to spin some flags and meet some of the current color guard members. We hope to see you there!

## Peanut/Tree Nut and Caffeine/Energy Drink Policy

### PEANUT/TREE NUT POLICY:

Harrisburg School District’s Middle and Elementary Schools have been declared a Peanut & Tree Nut Restricted Zone! Please see the Harrisburg Website for the complete [PEANUT/TREE NUT POLICY](#). Students that have peanut or tree nut allergies can have life threatening reactions, even without consuming the item. Do not send snacks or foods that contain peanuts or tree nuts. This includes all items sent in student’s sack lunches. A list of peanut free foods & snacks can be found in the school office or on the District website.

### CAFFEINE / ENERGY DRINK POLICY:

As a reminder, drinks containing caffeine are not allowed at school during school hours (8:04-3:05). This would include energy drinks, bubblers, pop, etc. Please keep this in mind if you are bringing outside food for your student from a restaurant.

**Students found with items including peanut/tree nut or caffeine will be taken and stored in the office. They will be allowed to pick up their items in the office at the end of the day.**

## Neurodiversity Month Dress Up Calendar

APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH.

Show your acceptance of neurodiversity and our friends with autism by participating in our dress up days all month long!

april 2024

Did You Know...

Neurodiversity means that everyone has a differently wired brain and their own unique way of thinking, interacting, and experiencing the world? It's amazing that we're all different!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT					
	1	light it up <b>BLUE + RED</b>	2	Promote Creativity <b>NEON DAY</b>	3	blend together <b>TIE DYE DAY</b>	4	<b>SOCKS &amp; CROCS</b>	5	6	
7	be a good sport --- <i>jersey day</i>	8	be unique <b>crazy socks</b>	9	kindness gear	10	<b>HATS OFF TO INCLUSION</b>	11	SENSORY FRIENDLY <b>PJ DAY</b>	12	13
14	BE YOUR OWN <b>superhero</b>	15	<b>WEAR DENIM</b>	16	be who you aspire to be character day	17	<b>DRESS FOR SUCCESS</b>	18	BE BRAVE <b>CAMO DAY</b>	19	20
21	STRIVE FOR GREATNESS college team apparel	22	ride the kindness wave <b>Tourist Day</b>	23	show your passion <b>CAREER DAY</b>	24	be a good friend --- <b>TWIN DAY</b>	25	UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS	26	27
28	YOUR PAST DOESN'T DEFINE YOU <b>DECADES</b>	29	YOU CAN DO IT! <b>Tiger pride</b>	30							

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**GOT ANY EXTRA GARDENING SUPPLIES?**

**BRING THE SUPPLIES TO THE LIBRARY**

**THIS WILL HELP US START A GARDEN FOR OUR SCHOOL**

**OR EVEN ANY SEEDS THAT YOU DON'T USE?**

**IF YOU DONT KNOW WHAT TO BRING HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES**

- SEEDS**
- GARDENING TOOLS**
- POTS**
- WATERING CANS**
- PLANT STARTERS**
- ETC.**



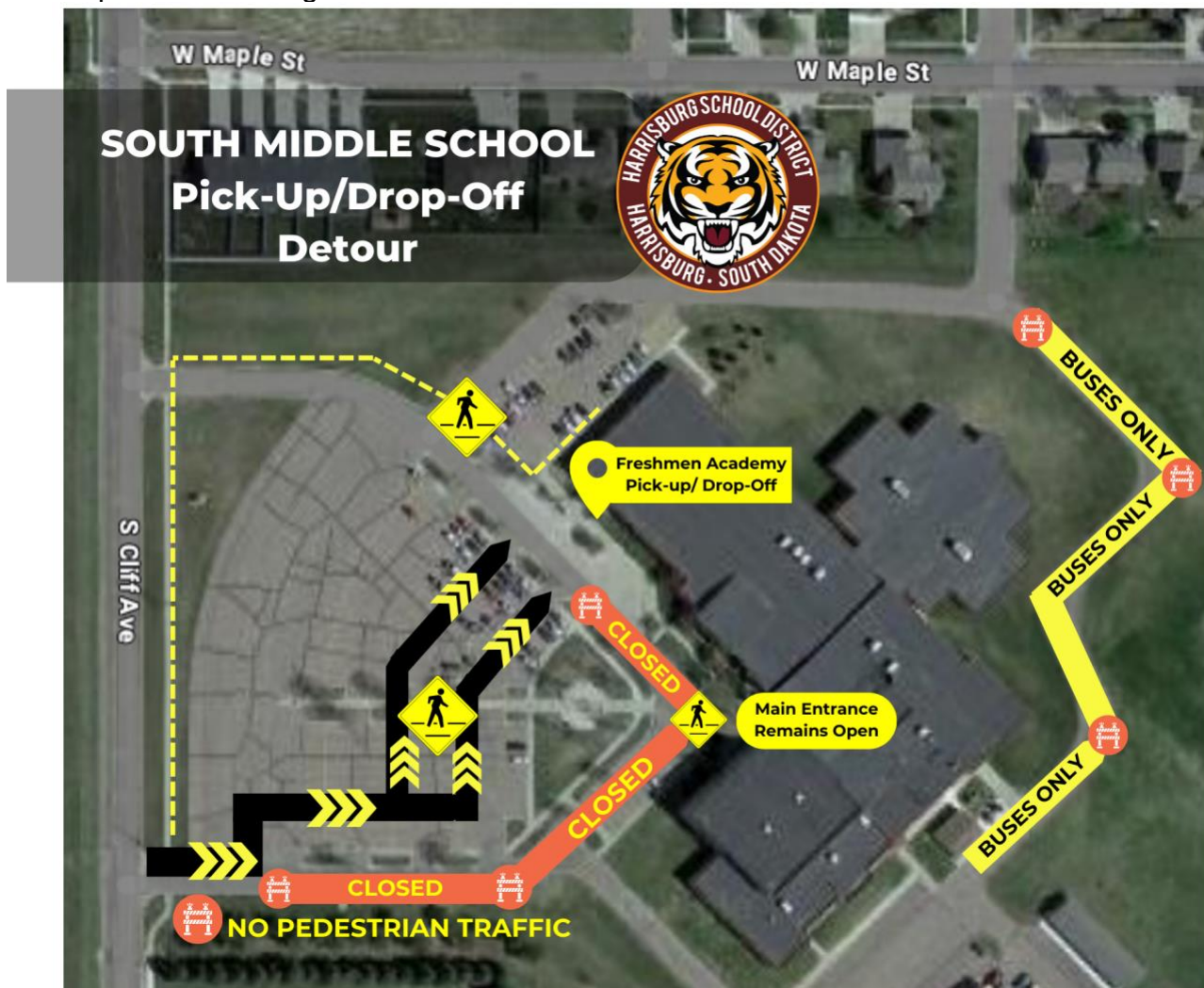
## Construction Pick-up/Drop-Off Detour (Updated)

SMS Parents & Staff:

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 REFRAIN from using the service road behind the school during pick-up and drop-offs. **This is for BUSES ONLY.** If you enter through Maple/Jeannie Ln., turn to the WEST toward the main parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation. Note the new location for pickup and drop off of students for the Freshman Academy. View the updated map here: <https://bit.ly/3ukTpiT>

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.





2023-24

# YEARBOOK

**Order Now!**

**SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Deadline to order:  
4/23/24

**\$16.50**



<https://buytheyearbook.pictavo.com>

Direct questions to [jennifere@harrisburg.k12.sd.us](mailto:jennifere@harrisburg.k12.sd.us)

# 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.

# Harrisburg School District

# COVID

## Guidelines



We are seeing a few cases of Covid popping up in the community. Currently the HSD is recommending families follow the current CDC guidelines regarding Covid absences.

[https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0301-respiratory-virus.html?fbclid=IwAR3dAeiA0o5\\_WtirI2tOb0Lo9boQxf\\_ov6i6dRyv2pn8xeiXBuC9gz4gRtw\\_aem\\_AYCygrnfJyDdbYIYUkkDvmXELzsdhzKImS8wZxqsVQm5sITpJL7mDsUIKKw-axXS5Hg](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0301-respiratory-virus.html?fbclid=IwAR3dAeiA0o5_WtirI2tOb0Lo9boQxf_ov6i6dRyv2pn8xeiXBuC9gz4gRtw_aem_AYCygrnfJyDdbYIYUkkDvmXELzsdhzKImS8wZxqsVQm5sITpJL7mDsUIKKw-axXS5Hg)

When in question whether you should have your child attend school, please call or email the office for direction. Thank you!

SMS phone number: 605-743-2567 ext. 3007

SMS Attendance: [smsattendance@harrisburg.k12.sd.us](mailto:smsattendance@harrisburg.k12.sd.us)





# The Flu:

## A Guide for Parents

### FLU INFORMATION

#### What is the flu?

**Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. There are many different influenza viruses that are constantly changing. Flu viruses cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States each year.**

**The flu can be very dangerous for children. Each year about 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.**

#### How serious is the flu?

Flu illness can vary from mild to severe. While the flu can be serious even in people who are otherwise healthy, it can be especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long-term health conditions, including asthma (even mild or controlled), neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine

disorders (such as diabetes), kidney, liver, and metabolic disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medication. Children with these conditions and children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy can have severe illness from the flu.

#### How does the flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

#### What are the symptoms of the flu?

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

#### How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?

People with the flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can infect others for longer periods of time, especially if they still have symptoms.

### PROTECT YOUR CHILD

#### How can I protect my child against the flu?

To protect against the flu, the first and most important thing you can do is to get a flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- ▶ Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- ▶ It's especially important that young children and children with long-term health conditions get vaccinated. (See list of conditions in "How serious is the flu?")
- ▶ Caregivers of children with health conditions or of children younger than 6 months old should get vaccinated. (Babies younger than 6 months are too young to be vaccinated themselves.)
- ▶ Another way to protect babies is to vaccinate pregnant women. Research shows that flu vaccination gives some protection to the baby both while the woman is pregnant and for several months after the baby is born.

Flu vaccine is updated annually to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season. Flu vaccines are made using strict safety and production measures. Over the years, millions of flu vaccines have been given in the United States with a very good safety record.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

### Is there a medicine to treat the flu?

Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that can be used to treat influenza illness. They can make people feel better and get better sooner. Antivirals can mean the difference between having milder illness instead of very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay. Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics, which fight against bacterial infections. They work best when started during the first 2 days of illness. It's very important that antiviral drugs are used early to treat the flu in people who are very sick (for example, people who are in the hospital) or who are at high risk of serious flu complications. Other people with flu illness may also benefit from taking antiviral drugs. These drugs can be given to children and pregnant women.

### What are some of the other ways I can protect my child against the flu?

In addition to getting vaccinated, you and your children can take everyday steps to help prevent the spread of germs:

These include the following:

- ▶ Stay away from people who are sick.
- ▶ If your child is sick with flu illness, try to keep him or her in a separate room from others in the household, if possible.
- ▶ CDC recommends that your sick child stay home for at least 24 hours after his or her fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after it has been used.
- ▶ Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs, including bathroom surfaces, kitchen counters and toys for children. Clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.



Clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.

**These everyday steps are a good way to reduce your chances of getting sick. However, a yearly flu vaccine is the best protection against flu illness.**

## IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

### What can I do if my child gets sick?

**Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.**

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids. If your child is 5 years and older and does not have other health problems and gets flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed.

Children younger than 5 years of age – especially those younger than 2 years old – and children with certain chronic conditions, including asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system, are at high risk of serious flu-related complications. If your child is at high risk for flu complications, call your doctor or take them to the doctor right away if they develop flu symptoms.

### What if my child seems very sick?

Even previously healthy children can get very sick from the flu.

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids. If your child is 5 years or older and does not have other health problems and gets flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed:

- ▶ Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- ▶ Bluish or gray skin color
- ▶ Not drinking enough fluids (not going to the bathroom or not making as much urine as they normally do)
- ▶ Severe or persistent vomiting
- ▶ Not waking up or not interacting
- ▶ Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- ▶ Flu symptoms improve, but then return with fever and worse cough
- ▶ Has other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes, or asthma) and develops flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough.

### Can my child go to school, day care or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid giving the flu to other children or caregivers.

### When can my child go back to school after having the flu?

Keep your child home from school, day care or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C) or higher.

**For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or call 800-CDC-INFO**

## 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](mailto: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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April 24						
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July 24						
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**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		<del>No School</del> - *Make up Snow Day
May 12		Graduation
May 22		Last day of School
May 23		Teacher Work Day (.5)