

The Red Review

13-14 August/September Vol. 1

<http://sites.esu7.org/clarkson>

From the Administrator's Desk

by Rich Lemburg

As the summer break starts to wind down we are excited about the start of the 2013-2014 school year for Clarkson Public Schools. Each new school year brings new opportunities and memories for the students, staff, and community and we are looking forward to having a great school year.

As we start to prepare for the start of this upcoming school year, I would like to thank our summer help for their efforts in getting the school ready. Pat Nebola, McKenzie Bahns, Destiny Indra, Dale Novak, Thomas Bunner, Jesse Gall, Lucas Gurnsey, Trent Pekny and Shane Svoboda have done a great job of getting the school facilities and grounds prepared for the upcoming school year.

As we start the new school year you will see a couple of major adjustments to the school operations and physical appearance. First, you will see a change in our school's website. Our new address will be **clarksonpublicschools.org** and the website should be up and running by August 15th. The new website will be more user friendly and will give us a lot more options to communicate with the public and share what is going on in the school.

The next major change you will see will be from our coop of sports with Leigh Community Schools. In our gym we have replaced the Red Devil Country mural with a Patriot mural and logo. The mural looks great and will be one of continual changes with the coop. Another change you will see this year is the playing of all football games in Leigh. With the balancing of the coops home activities and the chance to maintain just one football field this allows us to play more of the home basketball games in Clarkson.

With the start of the school year please remember Clarkson Public Schools will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, August 20th from 6:00-7:30. This will give an opportunity for students to show their parents their classroom, and the parents get a chance to meet their child's teacher, and open up communication lines for the upcoming school year. We will be serving hotdogs, chips, and pop during the open house.

We will be starting Pre-School on Wednesday, August 21. This is a great program that allows three and four year olds to get a jump start on their education. If you have not registered for the Pre-School please call us at school, 402-892-3454 or email Amy Gurnsey at agurnsey@esu7.org.

Please make sure if you have changed your cell phone number this summer you get the change to Amy Gurnsey. With the use of the Alert Now system it is vital for us to have your updated information so you may be contacted for changes to the calendar, school closings, etc. Please make sure on the forms you fill out for the school, that we have your updated home and cell phone numbers along with your current email and physical addresses.

I am looking forward to a great school year. As the school year goes along and you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns please email me at rlembur@esu7.org, or call me at the school.

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Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

Class registration seems so long ago, but it is time for parents and students to revisit their plans for this academic year. We will not mail out schedules. Instead, parents and students will be able to access their schedule on JMC through the internet before school starts. If you do not have reliable internet access at home, give me a call and we can help you! Please utilize the school's website:

<http://sites.esu7.org/clarkson/>

1. Select the link JMC Online
2. Select the link Parents JMC 13-14
3. Enter your username and password (this information has been sent home in the past and has not changed) Please call the school if you need assistance.

Please make sure to fill out the Free and Reduced meal application that will be sent home on the first day of school as your family may qualify for free or reduced meal prices.

4. You will be able to access information on: attendance, report cards, progress, parent contact information you provided the school, and lunch account. The progress report will show the courses your student is registered for.

If students want to make changes on their schedule, that needs to happen before the start of school. I will be available to meet with students Monday, August 12th in the afternoon, Tuesday, August 13th in the morning or Wednesday, August 14th in the morning.

School begins AUGUST 15th!!

Classes for grades K-12 will commence at **8:10 a.m.** on Thursday, August 16th. High school students should report to the new gym at 8:10 a.m. for orientation. Elementary students report to the multipurpose room. School will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. with buses running. A normal school day will run from **8:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.**, this includes kindergarten.

School Registration

Kindergarten students must reach their fifth birthday on or before July 31, 2013. New students should register as soon as possible. Physical forms for kindergarten, seventh grade students and new students are available at the school office.

Breakfast and Lunch News

Clarkson Public Schools receives no district funds to operate the breakfast and lunch program. Our program is self-sufficient. Therefore the district is asking lunch account holders to keep their accounts up to date. Due the increased charging of meals and extras, a different limit has been set on the amount of money a student/family will be allowed to charge before action is taken. Any student/family with charges of \$30.00 or more will not be able to charge for extras and will be on a cash only basis for the extras. Any student/family with charges of \$100.00 or more will receive a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, milk, vegetable and fruit for lunch. The student will be charged the regular price meal. Cereal will be given at breakfast and absolutely no extras will be charged. We feel this is a better approach than not allowing students to eat until charges are paid. School lunch and breakfast is a privilege and we try to keep meal prices affordable for everyone.

Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

As the school year approaches I have heard and seen some good things out of the Clarkson youth sports over the summer. It sounds like there was some success on the diamond, and whenever I was at the school kids were coming and going out of Jessica's gymnastics class. Of course there is the weightroom, which was busy all summer. It is great to see so many of our students active all summer long. I love sports and games and hopefully the joy of play will help keep us all young at heart. I do have one request for the school year. Please get some gym shoes for PE class. I realize kids grow very fast, so you do not have to buy a new pair, just clean up the bottoms on an old pair. Also I know Walmart does have cheap shoes but please do not buy Starter brand, as they really mark up the gym floor. Thank you I know it is a little bit of hassle but is better for their feet if they have shoes.

Photographs Scheduled

The photographer from Lifetouch National School Studios Inc. will be at Clarkson on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. Each student will have their picture taken. If you choose to purchase photographs you must give your order form and check to the photographer. Checks need to be made payable to the photographer. The photographer will not accept combined order forms or checks from families. Order forms will be handed out to students on August 19th.

Activity Calendar

We will not be printing an activity calendar this year. Calendars will be posted on our website sites.esu7.org/Clarkson. There are too many changes made throughout the school year that make the year calendar ineffective.

Patriot Football

By Jim Clarkson

Football season is upon us. Things get pretty hectic the first part of the season it will be important for parents to try and stay informed on what happening as possible. There are a couple ways to accomplish this, you could ask your son what is happening, but I think we all know how that works out. So if you are

remotely computer (or phone) savvy there are a couple forums you can get info. You can follow us on facebook or twitter (@CLPatriotsFB), there is also info available at maxpreps.com just search for Clarkson-Leigh. I also know Amy is revamping the school website and we will try and get things posted on there as well. I will put as much info as I can on these sites to try and keep the Patriot community in the know. There will be a parent meeting August 8th at 6:00 in the Clarkson High school gym. This is an exciting time of year I hope everyone feels the excitement that I feel. I am very happy to see how so many people have bought in to the Patriots. Two great communities coming together has been an awesome adventure for me to be a part of. No matter the outcome of the playing fields it is great to be a Patriot, I know I am proud and hopefully you will be proud of the effort the coaches and players will put in everyday this season. GO PATS!

Junior High Football Camp

By Troy Mach

All incoming 7th and 8th grade junior high football players from Leigh and Clarkson are invited to attend a football camp. The camp will take place August 7th and 8th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Leigh football field. It will be put on by the Jr. High coaching staff. Coach Mach will drive a bus for players from Clarkson. The bus will leave Clarkson Public School at 5:10 each evening. Any questions can be directed to Coach Mach at (402)920-1589.

Bus Service

Buses will arrive at the school after 7:50 a.m. Parents are asked not to bring children before that time. Buses will leave school at 3:45 p.m. (5 minutes after classes are dismissed).

Drivers will contact parents concerning times prior to August 15th. Exact routes will be sent home with your child. Contact the driver, NOT the school office, for any needed clarification.

If you wish to have bus transportation and haven't previously had children riding the bus, or if your children will not be riding the bus this year, please notify school personnel as soon as possible (892-3454).

Season Activity Passes

For the 2013-2014 school year, admission to athletic events will be adults \$5.00 and students \$3.00. We are offering fall sports, winter sports, or yearly sports passes. Each pass will be good for all home

athletic games, excluding tournaments and NSAA playoff games.

Individual fall - \$25.00

Family fall

(two adults and an unlimited number of children-through high school) \$75.00

Individual winter - \$25.00

Family winter

(two adults and an unlimited number of children-through high school) \$75.00

Individual year - \$45.00

Family year –

(two adults and an unlimited number of children-through high school) \$140.00

These passes can be purchased at the high school office (892-3454) after August 16.

Free Senior Citizen Activity Passes are available for sporting events for those who qualify (65 years of age or older). These passes may be picked up at the high school office during school hours.

If you have a Senior Citizen pass from last year it will still be honored. There is no need to get a new one.

School Hours and Inclement Weather

The school day will begin at 8:10 a.m. and end at 3:40 p.m. If it is necessary to dismiss or cancel classes because of inclement weather, an AlertNow message will be sent via the phone number and the email address you furnish. It will also be broadcasted on KETV channel 7.

Food Service

Breakfast At School

Mornings can be really crazy! The alarm doesn't go off, the kids don't want to get up, there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes or they're just not ready to eat. Or maybe your teenager grabs a can of soda and a candy bar on the way to school. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you.

Breakfast will again be available at Clarkson Public Schools. Take advantage of this option to ensure your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Recent studies show a link between nutrition and learning. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can actively participate in class. Breakfast has vitamins and nutrients for a strong and healthy body.

Breakfast at school is affordable, too. If you qualify for free and reduced price meals, you also qualify for the breakfast program, with no additional paperwork. So take advantage of this opportunity to start the day on the right foot. Your child will find breakfast at school provides not only a nutritious meal but also a relaxed atmosphere for socializing with friends and siblings.

Serving time: 7:45-8:05 a.m.

Price: \$1.75 per meal,

\$.30 reduced*, free* (*if qualified)

No advance registration necessary! All students are welcome every day!

Each day your student will be served milk, juice and will have their choice between cereal, a cereal bar, or the main offered that day.

School lunch prices will be \$2.30 for grades K-6, \$2.55 for grades 7-12 and \$3.35 for adults. If you do not want your child(ren) to purchase extras, you need to discuss that with your child(ren) so they know. We will not be able to control if students get extras. We are looking forward to serving your children nutritious and exciting school lunches this year.

Lunches will be served the first day of school. Free and reduced price meals will be available to those who qualify. 2013-2014 application forms will be given to the oldest child in each family the first day of school. Complete the application and return it to the office by Friday, August 23rd. Students who received free or reduced meals at the end of last school year will continue to receive them until this year's application is approved, changed or denied or 30 days into the school year.

In your student's packet of information, your family should receive a Free and Reduced Price Meal Application. This application actually serves two purposes:

1) It helps the school to determine if your family qualifies for full-price, reduced-price or free school meals. This includes full-price, reduced-price or free School Breakfast as well!!

2) The application is also used to determine how much state funding our school receives for supplies like books, classroom furniture, and other school resources. It is important that all families complete and return these applications to the school.

The lunch account system is NOT a retail (pay as you go system). It is intended to be a "drawdown" system. This is where you put a "bulk" amount in your account (be it once every two weeks or once a month). Please keep a positive amount in your account at all

times. Monthly statements are simply to advise you on your status. They are not bills or invoices. Student lunches will be kept track of with the JMC Lunch Program. You can monitor your lunch account through your JMC account. Please inform your student if you will not allow them to purchase extras. It is too hard for our lunchroom staff to control this.

Student Absences

If you know in advance that your child(ren) will not be in school because of an appointment, funeral, or other upcoming event, send a note with your child several days before so he/she has a chance to get a planned absence form signed by the teachers.

Please keep us informed! Call us by 8:30 a.m. if your child(ren) will be late or absent. We take attendance and lunch count first thing every morning. It is MANDATORY that the student bring a note explaining the reason for the absence.

Clarkson School District

Seeks Children with Special Needs

The Clarkson School District is looking for unidentified children with special needs as it participates in "Nebraska Childfind." This is an ongoing statewide search for all unserved children with disabilities, birth through age 21.

Children who would benefit from special education services may not be receiving them because parents may not know of available programs or because they do not recognize the handicapping condition of their children.

Special programs are available through public schools for children with disabilities which may pose restrictions on learning. These areas may include: speech/language; hearing/vision; learning disabilities; mentally handicapped; behavioral disorders; physical, severe, or multiple handicaps. Nebraska law guarantees a free appropriate public education to children.

Parents who feel their children should be receiving special education services are asked to contact Administrator Rich Lemburg, at the Clarkson Public School, 892-3454. Nebraska Childfind provides information also through their toll free number 800-742-7594.

Puzzled by All the Forms??

Your children will receive numerous forms on the first day of school. The following instructions will help you speedily process this important information.

Each K-12 student should receive a Student Assurance Services insurance application form and cover letter with waiver form. If you decide to insure your child through this insurance plan you need to:

- 1) complete the application form,
- 2) enclose a check made out to Student Assurance Services, Inc. and

3) return both to the school office by Friday, August 23rd. If you do not intend to purchase Student Assurance Services insurance:

1) indicate on the waiver form (or the insurance application form) that you do not plan on purchasing this insurance,

2) return the waiver form with your signature to the office by Friday, August 23rd.

It is acceptable to return only one waiver form per family provided all students in your family are listed on the form.

We will have one student handbook for students K-12 this school year. Each student will receive a handbook. At the back of each handbook are forms which require signatures. Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the guidelines established by Clarkson Public School. Please sign in the indicated places and return the forms to your child's teacher or the high school office by Friday, August 23rd. Please note the additional medical information sheet in the handbook.

The oldest child in each family should receive a Free/Reduced Lunch Application packet. If interested, please complete the application and return it to the office by Friday, August 23rd.

If you did not receive any of the above forms contact Amy. The deadline for returning all of the above forms is: Friday, August 23rd

Immunization Requirements for 2013-2014 School Year

A second dose of varicella (chickenpox) or documentation of varicella disease ***will be required from all students, K-12***, under the rules and regulations (Title 173, chapter 3). Although not a legal requirement until the 2011-2012, 2 doses of varicella have been the routine immunization recommendation since 2006 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of

Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previous rules and regulations (2004) have required all students to have at least one varicella immunization or documentation of disease on file.

Documentation of varicella disease can be signed by healthcare providers or parents/guardians. If a student has had varicella disease, no varicella immunizations are needed.

Exemptions that apply to school immunization requirements:

- * Medical waiver from an MD, DO, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant documenting the reason for the identified vaccine;

- * Notarized religious affidavit.

Because the immunization rules and regulations have a provisional immunization clause, no child will be prevented from beginning the school year. The provisional enrollment status allows children who have received at least one of each of the required immunizations to attend school as long as they are moving as quickly as medically-feasible to complete the series.

Reminder: Entering 7th graders also need documentation of a dose of Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis).

The regulatory authority for this requirement is found in Title 173 Nebraska Administrative Code Chapter 3, as revised 7/13/10, sections 3-008.01B and 3-008.01C (page 4). Find the full text of the regulations:

http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-173/Chapter-3.pdf

For a useful chart of school-entry immunization requirements, see the DHHS Immunization Program website for schools. Scroll to the bottom for documents related to compliance:

http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/immunization/school_i.htm
. For more information, contact the Immunization Program at 402-471-6423.

Reminder for all kindergarten and 7th grade students to have their immunizations completed before the start of school. The following are the required immunizations for these students:

- 3 doses DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine
- 3 doses Polio vaccine
- 2 doses MMR vaccine
- 3 doses Hepatitis B vaccine
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or written documentation of chickenpox from parent or health care provider

Title I Welcomes You to a New School Year

Title I is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools. The goal of Title I is a high-quality education for every child, so the program provides extra help to students who need it most. These are children who are the furthest from meeting the standards the state has set for all children.

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I. States send the money to school districts based on the numbers of low-income families. The local school district identifies eligible schools and provides Title I resources.

Our school identifies students most in need of educational help (students do not have to be from low-income families to receive help). Goals are set for student improvement, we measure progress made each year, and welcome parent involvement.

To meet the student improvement goals Title I offers smaller classes, additional teachers and assistants, extra time for instruction, and a variety of teaching methods and materials. Title I teachers and classroom teachers work closely together.

Clarkson Public School receives Title I money. Clarkson Public School has employed certified teachers and paraeducators. They are highly qualified and meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind and Nebraska's Rule 10 expectations. You may request information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher and teachers. This information can be reviewed in our District's Administration Office. Because research and common sense tell us that quality teaching is the single most important factor in helping students learn and achieve, we are committed to recruiting and keeping caring, competent school staff.

Clarkson Mentoring Program

Students have the opportunity to work with peers before or after school in different academic areas in an effort to maintain passing grades. We generally have a group of students nominated by the staff for the academic talent, who volunteer to meet with underclassmen. This may be a one-time event or a set schedule throughout the year. Students or parents can express their interest in this opportunity by contacting Mrs. Kappel. Mentoring will begin in September.

Telephone Guidelines

Parents and students, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

Students will not be called to the phone during the day unless a family emergency or crisis occurs. Messages can be left with someone in the office who will deliver it and post it on the students' locker.

Students are to make calls only before and after school and during their lunch hour.

Students are to get permission to use the phone to make local calls. Calls must be limited to three minutes. In an emergency a student must get permission from the office to make a long distance call. The use of cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices without permission is prohibited during school hours.

Sexual Harassment Policy

It shall be the policy of the Clarkson Public School District to prohibit sexual harassment of employees, applicants for employment, and students on any work premises where the District has total control of the premises or can otherwise lawfully exert its jurisdiction. For further information contact Administrator, Rich Lemburg, Human Rights Officer of the District (892-3454).

Discrimination Statement

The Clarkson School Board believes that each student and employee should be treated fairly. If you feel you have been treated unfairly because you are a member of a certain race, you are a boy or girl, you speak English as your second language, you are from a country other than the United States, or you have a disability - please tell us! Talk to Rich Lemburg, Administrator, 892-3454, 649 Cherry St., Clarkson, NE. This person will help you and is in charge of our schools compliance with these laws to protect you:

*Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments

*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, regarding this school's compliance with these laws: Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

Annual Asbestos Notice

Current Federal Regulations require all schools to identify and manage asbestos containing materials (ACM) and develop a management plan to identify and control ACM in their buildings.

The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of the building occupants is necessarily endangered. As long as asbestos containing material (ACM) remains in good condition and is not disturbed, exposure is unlikely. When building maintenance, repair, renovation, or other activities disturb ACM, or if it is damaged, asbestos fibers are

released creating a potential hazard to building occupants.

The plan is now available for inspection to the general public, or any school personnel at the office. For further information, contact Rich Lemburg, 892-3454. The school may charge for copies of the plan. The plan for the Clarkson Public School has also been submitted to the Nebraska Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health and Housing Surveillance, in accordance with current federal regulations.

AlertNow

Clarkson Public Schools will again be using the program AlertNow. This program will be used to notify parents, students and staff of school information such as school cancellations, postponements, early dismissals, calendar changes and other pertinent school information. A database will be developed to get this information out to parents, students and staff. Parents will be receiving a paper to fill out at the beginning of the school year. We would like you to provide us with the telephone numbers and email you would like to be used for notification. This program will call the number(s) you have listed with a message from the school. If you do not answer, a message will be left. The system will not be able to leave a message on your cell phone if you have to type in a mailbox number to get to your voicemail. You can list your home number, cell phone number, and any other number(s) you want called. The number that will show on your caller ID will be the school's number. If you have any questions regarding this please give the school a call.

Back to School “Spirit Night”

As another summer comes to a close it is time to start thinking about the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. On Friday, [August 16th](#) at 6:30 p.m. the Clarkson Booster Club will be hosting “Spirit Night” in the Clarkson City Park to kick off the new school year. The Booster Club will be frying burgers and serving chips and beans to all students and faculty that night. We hope to see many of the parents there also. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Booster Club and pay for your dues that night, your meal is free. There will be a small fee to eat if you are not paying for your membership that night. If anyone would like to help cook, serve or clean up afterward it would be greatly appreciated.

The Booster Club will be taking pictures of the teams and individuals for buttons to be ordered and paid for at Spirit Night. We will have the order forms available there and buttons will cost \$5.00 each. This will be the **only** time we are able to take pictures of the teams and individuals for orders for buttons for **ALL** of the extracurricular activities; football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, softball, dance, cheer and track. If your child is in any or all of these and you want to order buttons to wear at their activity please, order and pay for them at Spirit Night. I would like to thank everyone in advance for their support and help in the upcoming year.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to call:

Beckie Janousek - home 402-892-3851 or cell 402-860-3334

Trish Paprocki - home 402-487-2831 or cell 402-841-4603