



Trojan Talk

Tri County Schools District Newsletter

AUGUST 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

RANDY SCHLUETER

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year!

Welcome back to all of the students, staff, parents, and patrons of the school district. The doors of Tri County Public Schools will open to students on Tuesday, August 15th. Each year, I look forward to seeing the students and listening to them as they tell me about their summer has always been enjoyable. Staff members will start on Friday, August 11th with a variety of staff development activities to prepare them for the upcoming school year. As with the students, staff members like to share their summer experiences with their colleagues. The start of the school year will bring changes and new looks to Tri County as students and staff start the school year.

New Staff for the 2017-2018 School Year

Tri County Public Schools will add several new staff members to the district for the 2017-2018 school year. The staff members are excited about the additions to the Tri County family and feel that the new staff will continue the quality education and experiences students receive. Please take time to welcome the new staff to the school district.

- * **Alex Wooten** will teach vocal music and comes to Tri County from Doane College
- * **Brittney Siebrandt** will teach 6th grade and comes from Southern Public Schools
- * **Samantha Pfingsten** is the preschool teacher and comes from Beatrice Public Schools
- * **Susan Holsing** is the paraeducator who will help in the preschool classroom
- * **Dave Barnard** is the agriculture education instructor and the FFA advisor and he comes from Lewiston
- * **Emily McAllister** will teach Language Arts and she comes from Waverly Public Schools
- * **Ashton Feldkamp** will teach science and she comes from Fairbury Public School
- * **Linda Baumann** works with the students in the Level III special education classroom and she comes from Elkhorn South High School
- * **Alecia Gerdes** will work with the special education students in grades 10-12 and she comes from Peru State College
- * **Diane Jiskra** is one of the secretaries in the secondary office and she comes from Southeast Community College in Milford
- * **Sue Shepler** is part of the cafeteria staff for the district
- * **Nicky Porter** is part of the cafeteria staff for the district

Introducing "e-Funds For Schools"!!

New on-line payment option for families is now available!!

The Tri County Public School District is pleased to introduce a new program call e-Funds for Schools. This program offers various options for parents/guardians who choose to make payments on-line and is extremely user friendly. Not only will you have the ability to have various school fees and lunch payments electronically withdrawn from your checking account or charged to your credit card, you also have the flexibility to make a payment at any time through the school's website. **Tri County Public Schools will list in e-Funds the different activities, clubs, student fees, and other costs to allow families to pay for all of the school related cost with a single payment.** The e-Funds For Schools service is offered to you by a third party service provider and they charge for processing your payment(s), similar to other on-line banking services. The district does not request or keep records of family checking or credit card account information.

The "e-Funds For Schools" electronic payment service is provided to the school by a third party service provider. The service provider has a nominal fee for their service. **There is a \$1.00 transaction convenience fee for each electronic checking payment that you make. The system carries a Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) charge if the payment is "bad". For payments made by credit or debit card, there is a convenience fee of \$2.65 per each \$100 increment in the transaction.** When you set up your account, please review your options carefully. Tri County Public Schools will still accept lunch money in the school offices.

You are in full control of your account and can make a payment at any time that is convenient for you. No payments will be allowed without your knowledge and authorization through this secure payment system. By providing your home and/or work email address, an email notification informing you of the student's name, purpose of the payment, and the amount of the item will be sent to you each time that a payment is to be processed.

The e-Funds For School site is secure and uses industry standard data encryption.

How does e-Funds for Schools work?

- * Families set up and maintain their own logins, passwords, and payment preferences. Your account information is retained in a password-protected file.
- * e-Funds For Schools will help to eliminate last minute check writing hassles, improve efficiencies, and help cut costs for both you and the school district
- * On-line payments will help eliminate the worry that your children could lose or forget the money intended for school items or that it might be spent on other non-school related items.
- * Payments from a credit card or checking account may easily be set up.
- * Parents/guardians may establish a recurring payment or may opt to make a one-time payment.
- * The program offers various types of payment to families that include but are not limited to instructional materials, field trip fees, yearbook fees, graduation fees, and of course food service payments. The system may be expanded to include other fees as well.
- * Your payment history for the year is available with a click of the mouse.

You will be able to access e-Funds by logging into the school website, www.tricountyschools.org, and click on the e-Funds link. From there you will select "New Users" and complete the registration process. Once that is complete, you will enter your child(ren)'s "student number" to link them to your account and then set up payment information. You will enter a "student number" for each child that you have in the district.

Additional information will be sent to parents/guardians with the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

The Tri County School District has a long tradition of commitment to serving the education needs of all its children, including those with disabilities.

6010

Special Education and Section 504 Identification, Evaluation and Verification

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying, and providing services to students who may be entitled to special education services pursuant to Rule 51 of the Nebraska Department of Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or rehabilitative services pursuant to Section 504 regulations at 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 104.

School administrators, teachers and other education staff will implement all provisions of Individualized Education Plans and Section 504 Plans. The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

Changes to Parking in Circle Drive

Please park in the designated parking areas

Tri County Public Schools has added two angle parking spaces in Circle Drive for handicap vans. The two additional angle spots are on the east side of the drive in front of the school. There are also two parallel spots on the west side of the drive. The new spots are painted blue and have the appropriate signage to indicate the spots are reserved for vehicles with handicap plates or window tags. During last school year, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) did an inspection of Tri County to determine if the district met the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. The OCR report required the district to add the parking spots along with several other changes to doors, mirrors, and signage. In addition to the two reserved angle spots, there are angle parking spots along the west portion of Circle Drive that are marked. Along the north and south sides of Circle Drive parallel parking spaces have been marked to allow for the maximum number of vehicles to park on Circle Drive.

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

Thursday, August 10 – New Teachers Report

Friday, August 11—Inservice Workshop (Teachers)

Monday, August 14—Inservice Workshop (All Staff)

Tuesday, August 15– First Day of Classes (K-12) **1:00 P.M. DISMISSAL**

Starting time on Tuesday is 8:00 a.m. for grades K-12. Dismissal will be at 1:00 p.m. for all students. Buses will run and lunches will be served.

Free and Reduced Applications: Free and reduced application forms will be handed out to students the first week of school. Please complete and return applications as soon as possible. Last year's free and reduced lunch qualifiers will carry over until September 1st. After that time new applications must be received and processed or you will be expected to pay full price for your child(ren)'s lunches. **I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BENEFITS FROM HAVING A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM.**

2017-18 SCHOOL LUNCH PRICES ARE: Grades K through 6 - \$2.80 and Grades 7 through 12 - \$2.90. **BREAKFAST PRICES ARE:** Grades K through 12 - \$2.00. Free and reduced price lunch information will be sent home with students on the first day of school. Adults from the community are welcome to eat for \$3.60. The cost of extra milk will be .50 cents.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS: State Law requires that ALL Kindergarten, Seventh Grade and NEW students to Tri County Schools have a physical examination prior to the beginning of the school year. Anyone not having received a physical form should contact either the Elementary Office at 683-4035 or the Jr.-Sr. High Office at 683-2015 or 656-4035. The completed physical forms and the "Acknowledgment of Receipt" page at the beginning of the Secondary Student Handbook (to be sent home with students the first day of school) are to be submitted to the Principal's Office the second day of school. If a student's appointment for a physical exam is after school begins, please notify the principal.

Athletes in grades 7-12 must have physical and consent forms completed prior to participation in practice. These forms can be found on the Tri County web site: www.tricountyschools.org.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE: State Law requires all NEW students entering Tri County schools to present an official Birth Certificate at the time of registration to the Principal's Office for the student's file.

REGISTRATION: New families to the District are encouraged to register their children by August 14, 2017. Secondary Office - 683-2015 (Plymouth - 656-4035) Elementary Office - 683-4035 (Plymouth 656-4035).



BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN!!!

Soon the buses will be going down highways and country roads with precious cargo. It seems as though every year we get more bus drivers letting us know that drivers of other vehicles are going through their yellow or red stop arm lights. This is against the law and you may get a ticket citation for this offense. We realize that everyone is in a hurry and hates to get stuck behind a school bus that is going to make you come to a complete stop, but this is for the safety of our children.

When you are following that big yellow school bus this year and see those yellow flashing lights come on, this does not mean hurry and get around me, it means get ready to STOP!

**WELCOME
BACK**

Jr/Sr High School

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECONDARY PRINCIPAL / ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR.... MR. MATT UHER

A new school year will be here soon, and the excitement and enthusiasm for another great year at Tri County is upon us. We had a successful year last year, and I'm so excited about what great things are ahead of us for this upcoming year. I truly hope you all have had a tremendous summer. You all deserve the time away. I hope you had a chance to vacation, play ball, swim, and even had a chance to do some fishing or reading a book. My summer was one of coaching and trying to catch a fish or two...!

The school once again looks fabulous thanks to our custodial staff. They take tremendous pride in preparing our school for the beginning of the school year. We had a many projects completed this summer. We have new tile in the C Wing hallway, and the old paneling has all been removed. The lights in all the C Wing and D Wing classrooms have been updated. Please come out and take a look!

Our theme for this upcoming year will continue to be RELENTLESS. I believe our students and staff have made a strong connection and have made a commitment to a relentless work ethic which will assist in creating a positive and productive school environment. My continued challenge to our student body this coming school is to stay relentless in their pursuit of excellence: in the classroom, on the field, on the court, on the mat, on the stage, and in life! The challenge is to make our students realize that it doesn't take talent to be successful. The relentless pursuit of excellence will be what makes them successful. Students must acknowledge that average is not acceptable because people all around them are finding ways to prepare and pursue knowledge which will prepare them for the competitive world we live. I sincerely hope this term continues to resonate with our students, and relentlessness becomes a habit for all!

I sincerely hope everyone has a wonderful end to their summer vacation. I am looking forward to yet another productive and exciting school year at Tri County.

Activities Director Notes and News...

- * **School Physicals and NSAA Consent forms must be turned in prior to the first day of practice, or participation will not occur until such paperwork is filed in the office. Please turn those forms into Mrs. Lintz. (These forms can be found on the TC website or picked up in the office)**
- * First Day of Practice for ALL Fall high school athletics is August 7th. This is new this year where all fall sports will start at the same time. Look for junior high sports to begin after the first week of school. Please look to the weekly schedule for updates.
- * Parents please attend your pre-sport meetings with the coaches. These meetings are informative, allow you to meet the coaches, and get vital information for the season.
- * Practice and promote GREAT sportsmanship during the 2017-18 school year.
- * Please come out and support our student/athletes. They would truly appreciate your support! Show our athletes our Relentless Trojan Pride!
- * Students, Parents, and Patrons show positive spirit in your support of every program and support all coaches and sponsors...They deserve it!
- * FB Scrimmage will be on August 18th @ 6:00pm
- * VB Gatorade Scrimmage will be on August 24^h @ 6pm
- * I would like to thank the Booster Club for all that you do for our student/athletes, and we are looking forward to another great year!
- * Good Luck to all activities this fall! First contest will be our golf team on August 21th at Pioneer Golf Course, and the football team plays on the road Friday night, August 25th @ Superior @ 7pm. The Junior High Team will play at 4pm prior to the start of the varsity game. Go Trojans!!

Health Office Reminders:

***All New Students, Preschoolers, Kindergarteners, and 7th graders need the following:**

-Physical within the last 6 months

-Immunization Record

-Vision Exam

-Health History Form

***Students with Asthma, Severe Allergies, or Chronic Illnesses need an Action Plan signed by their parent and their medical provider.**

These forms can be found on the TC Website under Parents & Students/Health Forms.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Tri County Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the School District's non-discrimination policies: the superintendent of schools, who may be contacted in writing at Tri County Public Schools, 72520 Hwy 103, DeWitt, Nebraska, 68341, by e-mail at randy.schlueter@tricountyschools.org or by telephone at (402) 683-2037.

Elementary School

FROM THE DESK OF THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL....

MR. JESSE GRONEMEYER

Where did the summer vacation go? It seems just like yesterday it was May and the students were running out of school on the last day before break. However, I am super excited about the upcoming school year and to get back into the action. I am confident it is going to be one of the best years ever at Tri County Elementary! Your teachers and I have been working very hard lately getting the school ready for you all.

Students, did any of you go on a vacation this summer? If so, I would like to hear about those when you return. I would also like to tell you about my trip to Florida...it was great! I even got to see a wild alligator outside our hotel! I have to admit, it kind of freaked me out at first.

A reminder the first day of school starts on August 15th. Remember parents that school dismisses early at 1 PM. If you are wondering about bus schedules, please check out the main page on the Tri County website. All routes and schedules are posted for your access. Please call the school if you have any questions. Keep in mind buses may be a bit early or late on the first few days. It usually takes a few days to nail down an exact arrival and departure time. So, please be patient with the bus schedule.

The first day for preschool is Monday, August 21st. Preschool parents do not forget about preschool open house which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th at 6 PM. Students will get the chance to meet the new head preschool teacher Mrs. Sam Pfingsten and preschool para educator Susan Holsing. Students will also get the opportunity to practice riding the school bus. I hope you can all make it.








Speaking of open house, the all elementary open house is scheduled for August 29th starting at 6 PM. The PTO will have a meal starting at 5:30 PM. More details on the meal will come out in the near future. Again, I hope all parents can attend this great event to see the school and meet your child's teachers.

Tri County is planning some neat activities for the eclipse on Monday, August 21st. Several staff members met over summer break to make this day exciting for kids. We ask parents to volunteer and help out in your child's classroom on this day. We will need volunteers to help with activities and help make sure children keep on their glasses during the eclipse. Please contact your child's teacher if you can help.

As I mentioned above, I am super excited about the upcoming school year. Tri County offers one of the best educations around! We are very excited to see you all and cannot wait to visit on August 15th. As always parents, do not hesitate to call the elementary office if you have any questions.

2017 August LUNCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 
All Menu's Include: Fresh Salad Greens Fruits & Vegetables Low Fat & Skim Milk Choice of a Sandwich	7	8	9	10	11	12 Sandwiches Mon - Salami Tue - Turkey Wed - Ham Thurs - Club Friday—PB & J
13 	14	15 Hot Dog Potato Baked Beans	16 Pizza Green Beans Dessert	17 Chicken Nuggets Mash Potato w/gravy Cinnamon Roll	18 Hamburger Potato Corn	19 
20 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer.	21 Corn Puppies Scalloped Potatoes Vegetable	22 Orange Chicken w/ Wild Rice Corn Apple Crisp	23 Sub Sandwich Potato Salad / Chips Jell-O	24 Creamed Turkey w / Mash Potatoes Biscuit Green Beans	25 Taco Crunch -Scoops Spanish Rice Corn - Refried Beans	26 Optional main entrée of a Salad or Cold Sandwich Everyday
27 	28 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Corn	29 Pork Cutlet Mash Potato w/ Gravy Dinner Roll	30 Chicken Sandwich Winter Blend Potato	31 Nacho Potato Dessert		

2017 August BREAKFAST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Every Breakfast Includes Fruit, Juice, & Milk!	7	8	9	10	11	12 ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!
13	14	15 NO BREAKFAST	16 French Toast Sausage Link Grab-n-Go— Cereal	17 Donut Yogurt Grab-n-Go— Pizza	18 Breakfast Pizza Grab-n-Go— PB & J Gramwich	19
20 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer.	21 Scrambled Eggs Toast Grab-n-Go— Crackers & Cheese	22 Sausage or Ham Sandwich Grab-n-Go— Pop tart	23 Taco to Go Sausage Link Grab-n-Go— Egg & Cheese Sandwich	24 Donut Yogurt Grab-n-Go— Muffin	25 Breakfast Pizza Grab-n-Go— Cracker & Yogurt	26 Optional main entrée of a Cereal, Cereal Bars, or Poptarts
27	28 Pancake Sausage Link Grab-n-Go— Donut	29 Sausage or Ham Sandwich Grab-n-Go— Sliders	30 Omelet Toast Grab-n-Go— Ultimate Breakfast Cookie	31 Donut Yogurt Grab-n-Go— PB & J		



Tri County

August, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	Fall Sports Practice Begins for ALL Fall Sports	7	8	9	10	11	12
		6:30pm VBMT @ Cafeteria 7:00pm FBMT @ Auditorium		6:00pm 7th Grade / New Student Orientation	8:00am Teacher In Service		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
8:00am Teacher In Service 7:00pm Board of Education Mtg	8:00am EARLY DISMISSAL 1:00 8:00am First Day of School				6:00pm FB HS Scrimmage		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
8:00am Map Testing 3:30pm GO-G/Varsity Norris vs. Multiple Schools @ Pioneers Golf Course	8:00am Map Testing 7:00pm-8:15pm FFA Mtg @ Ag Room	8:00am Map Testing	8:00am Map Testing	8:00am Map Testing 9:00am GO-G/Varsity Syracuse @ Syracuse Country Club 6:00pm VB-Varsity @ Tri County Junior-Senior High School	NE State Fair 8:00am Map Testing 4:00pm FB-JH Superior Junior / Senior @ Superior Junior/Senior High School 7:00pm FB-B/Varsity Superior Junior / Senior @ Superior Junior/Senior High School	NE State Fair 8:00am FFA State Dairy /CDE	
27	28	29	30	31			
NE State Fair	NE State Fair 8:00am Map Testing 6:00pm FB-JV Diller-Odell @ Tri County High School	NE State Fair 8:00am Map Testing 6:00pm-7:30pm Elementary Open House	NE State Fair School Pictures 8:00am Map Testing	NE State Fair 8:00am Map Testing 4:30pm CC-Varsity Beatrice @ Beatrice State Developmental Center 5:00pm VB-Varsity Thayer Central Community School @ Tri County High School			