



August 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and we are about to embark on another new school year. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and are well rested and ready to begin school on **Monday August 17th**.

Included with this letter is the Re-Opening Plan for the school district which was approved by the school board on August 3rd. The plan details the strategies that will be used to keep our students safe while they are back at school. Please review this information with your child. Also, in this packet you will find an at home screener that parents should use daily before sending their students to school and a page regarding available learning opportunities if you do not wish to have your child return to school. Now more than ever, it is extremely important that if you child is not feeling well, please keep them home. Also, please note that each student will need a water bottle with them when they return to school. This may have not been on the school supply list. Parents who are **NOT** sending their children to school on August 17, must notify the office of their choice of plans listed above by **August 13th**.

There have been a couple of staff changes here at the Bison School District over the summer. We welcome **Ms. Kelsey Schmitz, our part time Art teacher for grades K-12, and Mrs. Joyce Matthews, our FACS/Computer teacher is now on staff full time.**

As you may have read in the paper, high school sports practices will begin in August. Football practice will begin on **August 6th** and Volleyball practice will begin on **August 13th**. Information about Cross Country runners will be announced. All athletes will need to have physicals and the completed athletic paperwork before they will be allowed to participate in practices of these athletic programs. Physical forms are available to pick up in the Bison school office. They are also available at the Bison Clinic. This year each student will also receive a copy of the Athletic Handbook. A parent meeting for all parents of students participating in athletics will be held August 13th in the school gym at 5:30PM.

Our sports programs will be up and running this coming season. I would like to welcome our returning coaches. Mr. Charlie Harpster is our varsity football coach. Our assistant coach and junior high football coach is Dylan Beckman. Brad Burkhalter will return as our cross country and track coach. Mrs. Ashley Frischknecht will be our girls' volleyball coach and Ms. Lenae Pinnow will be the assistant volleyball coach.

Prices for admission to athletic events haven't changed. Adult admission is **\$5.00** and student admission is **\$3.00**. Season pass are available for our home events but cannot be used at conference or district events. Adult passes are **\$50.00** and student passes are **\$15.00**. They can be purchased at the Bison school business office or at the gate at any home athletic event. It is a great bargain if you regularly attend our home sporting events.

The Box Tops for Education program has really changed. If it seems there are less Box Tops to cut out, you are not imagining things. Box Tops for Education will be going digital. No more clipping and collecting. It is all done with a smart phone, your store receipt, and the Box Tops app. Mrs. Collins is working on learning how this works so she can pass on the process to you. In the meantime, please continue to clip and save any physical Box Top you can see. We will work through this change together. You can contact Heidi Collins if you have questions.

Health screenings by the Community Nurse will be done at the school on **Wednesday and Thursday September 2nd and 3rd**. A letter from the Community Health Nurse is enclosed. Be sure to complete and return it to the school with your child. All incoming 6th grade students will be required to be vaccinated with one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis vaccine, also known as Tdap and one dose of meningococcal vaccine. Both of these vaccines should be received on or after the 11th birthday. This requirement will be deferred for students that have not yet reached their 11th birthday. On the 11th birthday the requirement would apply. Please visit with your physician or your local community health nurse to see if your child needs these and other recommended vaccines.

Preschool screenings will be taking place on **Friday September 11th** from 9AM-3PM at the Bison School. Students from birth to kindergarten age can be screened to provide families with early intervention services. Please call Bristol Palmer at the school to make an appointment.

Updated handbooks will be approved by the Board of Education at the August monthly meeting. There is only one student handbook this year for all students' grades K-12. Each year there are changes and revisions in our handbooks so it is very important that you read them over with your child.

School lunch prices did not change this year. Prices are **\$3.50** for students in grades K-12 and **\$4.25** for adults. The price of a milk ticket is **\$8.00** for **20** cartons of milk. The extra milk tickets apply to grade 7-12 students who want extra milk at lunch, and apply to elementary students who want a carton of milk in the afternoon. The price for a lunch ticket for **20** meals is **\$70.00**.

Please remember that the Bison School has a Lunch Payment Policy, which allows **no credit** for school meals. Meals must be paid for in advance. Lunch and milk tickets may be purchased at the school office. Tickets are for up to 20 meals at the price stated above. Individual lunches may be purchased for cash at the school office. This no credit policy applies to full price and reduced-price lunches. Existing past due lunch accounts must be paid in full before any pre-paid lunch tickets are purchased. The Bison School District Business Office is authorized and directed to file small claims actions to collect any past due accounts.

Substitute teacher training will be held on **Tuesday September 1st at 3:00PM** in the conference room. If anyone is interested in subbing for the Bison School District this year, plan to attend this meeting.

School pictures will be taken by Leonard's Studio out of Mobridge, SD. A summary of photo packages is included in this mailing. School pictures will be taken on **September 14th** beginning at 7:30AM for siblings not in school whose parents want their picture taken.

Also included in this month's mailing are the school year calendar, individual calendars for August and September, and an Activities schedule for August and September. There will be no school on most Fridays. There is only **ONE** Friday scheduled for students to be in school at this time. This will be **Friday September 25th** during Homecoming Week. Homecoming Week is scheduled for September 21st- September 25th. More information about our homecoming events will be sent with our students.

The first day of school is Monday August 17th. School starts at 8:00AM. Students are dismissed at 3:45PM. The Bison School Staff and Administration are excited about the start of another great school year! See you on August 17th!

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn L. Azevedo

Superintendent