NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Northwestern Area School District #56-7

221 3rd St Mellette, SD 57461 Phone # (605) 887-3467 Fax # (605) 981-5626

https://www.northwestern.k12.sd.us

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026-2027

August 2026

Welcome Back Students & Staff

Help us welcome our new Northwestern staff members!








Top left to right: Mrs. Brianna Haven, Preschool; Mr. Colby Rumpza, Elementary PE/MS Science & Math/Weight Training, Asst. Football Coach; Mr. Mike Johnson, Custodian; Bottom left to right: Dana Lewis, Custodian; Mrs. Lori Halvorson, Paraprofessional; Mrs. Stephanie Sumers, Paraprofessional.

We welcome all new preschool and kindergarten students along with new iSucceed online students!

Welcome to new students Legacy Minnick (1st), Cassidy Minnick (6th), Archer Bahr (7th).

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: It is the philosophy and purpose of the Northwestern Area School to give each individual student the best education possible. We recognize that in today's society, education is a continuous process of learning, not only for the present but also for the future. Therefore, the Board will provide an educational environment that promotes and enhances learning as a life-long endeavor. In addition, the Board believes that education is not just the development and refinement of mental capacity but a process that assists the students in meeting their physical, social, aesthetic, and emotional requirements. The philosophy is to consider each student separately, giving consideration to different attitudes and abilities with the welfare of the student the most important factor. We will strive to provide a good environment for learning by providing good instructors, up to date materials, and classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. The Northwestern Area School Board and Administration will continue to improve by searching for new ideas and methods to provide the learning environment in the school that fosters maximum student growth. It is further realized that mutual rapport among the home, student, staff, administration, School Board and total community is necessary to implement this policy.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: *Parental cooperation and involvement is an essential component in helping the school successfully educate children. The Northwestern Area School District encourages parental involvement in planning and implementing Title I and other Federal programs, volunteering in the school, visiting students' classes, attending conferences and programs, overseeing and assisting with homework assignments, attending School Board and School Boosters meetings, serving as room parents in elementary grades, reading daily announcements and notices by e-mail, accessing students' records and progress reports via the internet, and giving support to the school in ways that create a positive working partnership for the good of all students.*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: "EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO BECOME LIFELONG LEARNERS"

Northwestern Area School Board

Bill Clemens	**605-380-9026**
Megan Clemensen	**605-520-6137**
Adam Hahler	**605-460-7669**
Katrina Metz	**605-450-8248**
***Kevin Nash**	**605-324-3232**

***denotes School Board President**

Northwestern Area School Administrative Team

Rob Lewis, Superintendent/Special Ed Director x1002

Holly Randall, Elementary Principal x1003

Christopher Ulrich, 6-12 Principal x1040

Sydney Hammrich, Business Manager x1004

Nora Groft, Athletic Director x1019

Jessica Halvorson, Administrative Assistant x1001

A full staff directory can be found on our website https://www.northwestern.k12.sd.us/staff.

Our first day of school will be Tuesday, August 18th with a 12:30 dismissal.

ELEMENTARY K-5 hours are 8:30 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL hours are 8:22 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PRESCHOOL hours are 8:30 a.m. - 3:25 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Students must be 4 years old by 9/1/26 to enroll.

Northwestern Area School will be holding an Open House on Monday, August 17th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. All students and parents are invited to attend! We also welcome any community members to join us and tour our facilities to see our updates over the past few years.

Kindergarten through 5th grade students/parents can come and meet their teacher, bring supplies, and get settled in the classroom prior to the first day.

- Preschool students and parents please schedule a time during open house to allow Mrs. Brianna Haven direct time with each family. Please use this link to register for a time slot: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A4A729A3F4CE9-64925846-preschool

The first day of preschool will be Monday, August 24th.

Northwestern High School & Middle School Students (6-12) students will need to come in August 17th between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to get locker assignments and class schedules, pay their fees, technology checkout, etc. Students are welcome to come during the Back to School Open House 4:00-7:00 or during the daytime hours 8:00-4:00 before/after athletic practices. Please check in at the office during the daytime hours.

For those who come during the Open House:

6th grade – pick up iPad, schedule, locker # in Room #311 (during orientation 6:00)
7th grade – pick up iPad, schedule, locker # in the Choir room
8th grade – pick up iPad, schedule, locker # in Miss Jackson's room #316

High school - pick up Chromebook, schedule, locker # in the library

Students can bring in supplies and get settled in their lockers, pick up their iPad & schedule, talk to/meet their teachers, etc.

All students 6-12 will need to pay their technology insurance fee of $40 prior to checking out their technology (or opt out by filling out that portion of the fee payment form).

NW Ink will have remaining apparel for sale in the lunchroom, so all are welcome to come shop and get some Wildcat gear!

6th graders and any new middle school students, please arrive before 6:00 for orientation. Students/parents will meet in Room 311 for an informational meeting followed by a tour. Students will get their schedules, locker assignments, and iPads during this orientation.

Please take this opportunity to pick up yearbooks, pay any fees that you haven't paid, and take care of any other school related business!

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY – SEPTEMBER 1ST ! We will again be using Tailfeather Photography for our school pictures. A retake date will be set after the initial picture day. Please contact Mrs. Halvorson if you need order forms mailed to you. You may also pick up order forms from the office. Otherwise, the online ordering process is very simple! Visit https://tailfeatherphotography.accessmyevent.com/northwesternschool to place your online order.

Enrollment for New Students Please contact Mrs. Jessica Halvorson at 605-887-3467 x1001 or e-mail jessica.halvorson@k12.sd.us to enroll new students. Please be prepared to provide previous school information. A birth certificate and immunization records. We ask that you please enroll prior to the first day of school so that we may be prepared with enough desks, books, lockers, and other materials.

All parents/guardians will need to fill out our Online Form Sign-off and Contact Info Update which will be sent in a separate e-mail. This will ensure we have the most up-to-date information for your family. This is also an electronic version of many of the paper forms that we have sent home in the past. This link will be e-mailed out to parents (separate link for elementary and middle school/high school). Please contact Mrs. Halvorson with any questions regarding this process. Please watch for this e-mail next week!

BE SURE TO UPDATE PHONE, ADDRESS, CELL PHONE, E-MAIL ADDRESS OR EMPLOYMENT CHANGES WITH THE OFFICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! ALL INFORMATION ON FILE IS USED TO CONTACT PARENTS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR CANCELLATIONS/DELAYS TO TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

The Apptegy calling system will keep you informed by call/text/e-mail within minutes of an emergency or unplanned event that causes early dismissal, school cancellation or late start. This service may also be used periodically to communicate important announcements or reminders. Please make sure we always have the most current contact information! Do not count on Apptegy as a sole communication tool in the event of inclement weather, etc. Please also stay tuned to the local media (Dakota Broadcasting Radio stations & 3 local news stations)

Daily Announcements - if you would like to receive daily announcements by e-mail, please visit: https://www.k12.sd.us/MailingLists/NorthwesternAreaAnnouncements to subscribe.

All parents/guardians are assigned a login for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you are unsure of your login information, please contact Mrs. Halvorson by e-mailing jessica.halvorson@k12.sd.us. It is important to log in to check student in-progress grades, meal balances, attendance, etc. The link for the Parent Portal is https://northwesternsd.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/northwestern.jsp

Our student handbooks will be available on our website after approval at the August school board meeting.

Reporting Absences - We all share responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of the students attending our school. For this reason, it is essential that the school be notified of any absence BEFORE IT OCCURS. If your child is to be absent or late, please send a note or e-mail in advance, or call our school office at 605-887-3467 x1001 between 7:30-8:30 a.m. Any student that does not provide this type of verification will be considered unnecessarily absent. Students arriving within twenty minutes of the start of the period will be considered tardy. Students arriving after the first twenty minutes will be considered absent.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CELL PHONE POLICY

Every teacher who has students 1st period will have a clear plastic bag with their name attached to it. Students will put their phones in their 1st period teacher's bag as they enter the room. Bags will be kept in a secure location for the remainder of the day. After the last bell, students will go back to their 1st period classroom to retrieve their phone. Students who arrive after 1st period will turn their phone into the office. Students who will be leaving before the school day is over will need to notify their 1st period teacher as they turn their phone in. These phones may be kept in the main office so students can get them as they sign out. Punishment (being caught with a cell phone during school hours) 1st offense: 30-minute detention, cell phone will be returned upon the completion of the detention 2nd offense: 30-minute detention, cell phone will be returned once a parent/guardian comes to school to get it 3rd offense: Saturday school, cell phone will be returned once a parent/guardian comes to school to get it.

High School Class Changes

1. No class changes will be allowed after the first week of each semester. Contact Principal, Chris Ulrich for any class changes.
2. Any student that drops a class after the second week will receive a failing grade for that class.

Middle School Class Changes

1. Students must have parental permission to make any changes to their schedule.

Student Checkout Procedures

1. If it is necessary to leave school before the end of the day, report to the office with your excuse BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS. Remember, no one will be allowed to leave during the day without an excuse.
2. Students that have not brought in an excuse before school will not be allowed to leave unless a phone call is received from a parent, parent picks up their student, or an illness/emergency occurs.
3. Do not leave the school building or grounds without informing the administration and signing out in the office.

   **Please give all absence related notes to Mrs. Halvorson before school starts. You will be questioned if a note or call is not received prior to signing out in the office.

Northwestern Area High School is a closed campus, which means that no student is allowed to leave the school building without permission from the administration.

1. No vehicles are to be moved from the school grounds during the school day without permission from administration.
2. Reminder: You do not drive in the bus loading zone when buses are present.
3. Avoid parking three deep. Areas along the building are reserved for staff.
4. No one is to be in the parking lot during the school day without permission from administration.

Saturday School will be held from 8:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays determined by Administration.

The behavior of Northwestern Area School students will befit that of respectable young adults. Students will show respect to all staff members of the Northwestern Area School District. School spirit is a term we apply to that enthusiasm and loyalty, which will reflect, honor and put credit on the school.

Freshman initiation practices, rituals, and activities that take place outside school hours are not sponsored or endorsed by the school or its officials. School officials discourage parents from allowing children to participate in these practices. Students who choose to participate in these activities do so at their own risk.

Sexual Harassment Policy - Because sexual harassment is a form of sexual discrimination and compromises the attainment of education and work excellence, the Northwestern Area School District strictly prohibits sexual harassment of its employees or students. Such behavior may occur between members of the same or opposite sex and may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees and termination of services for others. This policy applies to employees and students attending any events on the Northwestern Area property and at any event or location when the behavior involves Northwestern Area employees or students.

Families having moved into the district in the last six years: If you have moved into the district within the last six years for the purpose of seeking or securing employment or seasonal employment in agriculture, fishing, or food processing activities, please contact Mr. Lewis.

Internet Policy - Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege - not a right. That access entails responsibility. Inappropriate use will result in a suspension or cancellation of Internet privileges. See complete Internet Acceptable Use Policy for details. Updated version will be available on our website after the August school board meeting.

We appreciate any Kleenex/tissue donations throughout the year. These can be dropped off in the office at any time.

Visitor Procedure - All visitors must check in at the main office. Volunteers and substitute teachers must check in at the main office when they arrive. Visitors are not permitted to go past the office/entry area unless they have a scheduled meeting or are given permission by office staff for reasonable school business. This is mandatory for the safety of our students and staff!

Peanut allergies - Northwestern Area has a number of students with peanut/nut allergies. It has not been our position to outright ban peanut butter or peanut related items as you would see in a "peanut free" facility. However, we would consider ourselves a "peanut aware" facility and would ask your cooperation in not sending your child with peanut butter in their lunches. We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter.

REMINDER TO SAVE: Please remember to save Kessler's & Ken's receipts to help our school. There is a collection box in the office for receipts to be dropped off at any time.

REMINDER: Northwestern Area is a NON-SMOKING/ NO TOBACCO facility. This includes e-cigarettes or "vaping" on the grounds and athletic fields.

Band Instrument Rentals - There will be a $7.00 per month rental fee for those students who play a school-owned instrument. There will be no fee during the summer months. In addition, students renting instruments from the school will be required to leave a $50.00 damage deposit at the beginning of the school year. If at the end of the school year there is no major damage to the instrument, the deposit can be returned at the renters request. Otherwise, it will be rolled over the following year. If a student already owns an instrument and is asked by the instructor to play a school-owned instrument, the student will not be required to pay a rental fee. Percussionists will not be asked to pay a rental fee, but will be asked to pay a one-time per year user fee of $15.00. This covers the use of all of the percussion instruments and mallets.

FOLLOW NORTHWESTERN AREA SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 Northwestern Journalism

 Northwestern Area Elementary

 nw_journalism

 @NW_Journalism

@northwestern.jour



School health services are designed to promote and improve the health and wellness of students. Providing school health services assists students in developing and applying academic knowledge to help promote continuous growth toward becoming an effective citizen within our society. The eCARE eSchool program assists Northwestern Area School District in providing basic emergency care for students and staff; assessment and referral for all students; nurse oversight of medication; essential health services for special needs students; and health promotion and disease prevention activities which address wellness across the lifespan. With the philosophy that "healthy students learn better", professional school nurses address the physical, mental, emotional, and social health needs of our students on a daily basis and work with parents and community partners to best serve these needs. For more information about school health services, call the Northwestern Area School District at 605-887-3467 or the eCARE School Health office at 605-606-0550.

For more information regarding school health services, please visit the AVEL Care website by clicking the link Avel eCare School Health

Parents - Please add the phone number 605-606-0550 as a contact in your cell phones! It is important that you do not miss their call in the event of a sick or injured child.



BUS ROUTES

We are still finalizing bus routes. Bus drivers will be in contact with families regarding pick up times. Rob Lewis is our Transportation Director and can be reached at 605-450-1076.

An e-mail with bus route information will be sent once routes are finalized!

Please contact your driver with any daily changes to your route! We understand that daily plans may change which will also change transportation needs. Please contact the office at 605-887-3467 x1001 if you cannot reach your driver. Early morning changes or late afternoon changes which may be urgent in nature can be handled via the office staff.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact your bus driver and the office directly. It is not the driver's responsibility to notify the school regarding student absences and vice versa.

In such instances where a student's behavior or actions may jeopardize the safety of other students on the bus, the student in violation may be suspended or expelled from school transportation at the discretion of the administration.

Activity & Athletic Information

Cheer practice begins August 3rd. Football practice begins August 6th. Cross Country practice begins August 10th. Volleyball practice begins August 13th.

Fall athletic team photos and senior banner photos will be taken on Friday, August 14th by Tailfeather Photography. There will be a rolling schedule is as follows:

Senior banners 2:00/Cross Country/Cheer/Combined Cheer & Football/Football

****Volleyball photos will be taken on school picture day Sept. 1st****

Online orders can be done at:
https://tailfeatherphotography.hhimagehost.com/V2/Home/Organization/Northwestern

We will be doing our football parking spots again this year with a total of 48 spots around the field. Cost is $20 per spot which includes parking for our 4 home games. Priority will be given to rostered player families (1 or 2 spots per family). After these are drawn, we will review the number of spots left to offer to support/coaches, cheerleaders. If there are any spots left, we will send an e-mail to open remaining spots to the public.

Head's up! Our 24/7 NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS Sideline Store has the latest fan wear and accessories. Then get out there and cheer on your team. You can shop Nike, Under Armour, North Face, Lululemon, etc. for Northwestern Wildcats gear! Or shop by sport: Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheer, Track and Field, and Volleyball. We have gear for all activities offered at Northwestern classes, family, and alumni!

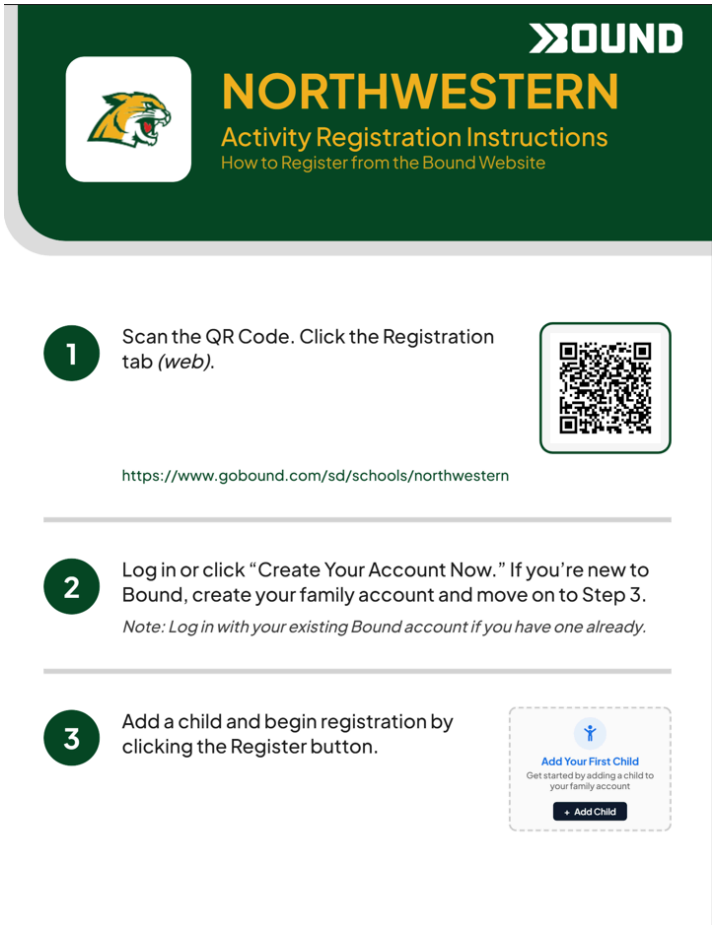
Click the link below to order:
https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/south_dakota/mellette/northwestern-high-school

https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/south_dakota/mellette/northwestern-high-school/design/picker

Bound School Sports & Activity Management

Wildcat fans are encouraged to download the Bound app found in the App Store or on Google Play! Follow the Wildcats all season long – get scores, schedules, rosters, game day programs, and more! Ticket takers will have QR codes you can scan with your phone for game day programs. Printed programs will be available as well. Check out the Events calendar to view our school master calendar! We are utilizing this for all school scheduling this year. You can also access through their website gobound.com. All events are synchronized to our calendar on the Northwestern website. You may notice Level 1, 2,3, etc. This is how Bound determines their levels. For our school, level 1 is varsity, level 2 is JV, level 3 is C-team, and level 4 & 5 are middle school. All physical paperwork and forms for activities will be done through Bound. We will also be using the Bound messenger for communication from coaches/advisors.

Students must be registered for any activities they plan to participate in. See directions below!





Northwestern will be streaming its events on the HudlTV platform again this year! Just click on the Livestream link at the top of the school homepage at www.northwestern.k12.sd.us to watch the action in both gyms.

You can also download the Hudl Fan App from your app store to watch on your phone, or you can download the app onto your smart TV. Hudl Fan is available on Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, or Android TV.

Homecoming week will be September 28-October 2. Coronation will be held on Monday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Elementary students attending athletic events should be seated in the bleachers with their parents. Students in grades 6-12 can sit in the student cheering section and support our teams.

[Bound | Northwestern Wildcats High School Athletics]

Follow the link above for updated schedules for all Northwestern related events, activities, etc.

NORTHWESTERN ATHLETICS

PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENERGY THAT YOU BRING INTO THIS GYM.

Wildcat Energy

· **SHOW UP: Having many supportive fans helps boost our athletes' performance!**

· **CHEER FOR OUR TEAM: Encourage our athletes by celebrating their successes and encouraging them to dig deep in big moments.**

· **HONOR THE GAME: The sport is bigger than all of us. Treat the moment with respect.**

· **APPRECIATE THE OPPONENTS: The word "compete" means "to struggle with." Without our opponents, there is no competition. Cheer for our team, not against the opposing team or individual players.**

· **SUPPORT THE CAUSE: Education-based athletics are an extension of the classroom. Be patient while learning takes place in this space.**

· **GIVE THE OFFICIALS SOME LOVE: Without our officials, there is no competition. Respect the knowledge level of our officials and treat them as the professionals they are.**

· **MAKE US PROUD: Athletics is often the first impression people have of a school and its community. Represent Northwestern community standards in this space.**

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING POSITIVITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP TO THIS CONTEST!

The SDHSAA would like all fans to remember:

1. You are at the contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
2. School athletics are learning experiences for students and mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
3. A ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
4. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
5. Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
7. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
8. Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censoring those around you at events whose behavior is unacceptable.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

The South Dakota High School Activities Association, of which Northwestern Area High School is a member, sets the following standard for extra-curricular eligibility: Students are required to have passed at least twenty hours of coursework per week from the previous semester. Students must also be enrolled and attending at least twenty hours of coursework per week during the current semester. Four academic subjects per week generally constitute twenty hours of coursework per week. Students not passing a minimum of twenty hours of coursework per week at the conclusion of the semester are ineligible the following semester.

Northwestern Area School District places a higher importance on the academic performance of our students and sets the following standard for extra-curricular eligibility: Students participating in extra-curricular activities are required to pass all courses. Extra-curricular eligibility will be determined after the 3rd week of each semester every Monday morning. If a student is failing a class, they will be put on probation for a week. Students may fully participate in extra-curricular activities while on probation. If a student is failing the same class during the next eligibility check, they will be ineligible for one week. Ineligible students may still participate in practices and rehearsals, but may not take part in games, contests, performances, etc. This applies to all extra-curricular activities and co-curricular competitions and activities that require a student to miss school, those that are SDHSAA sanctioned and those that aren't.

Northwestern Area Extra-Curricular Activity Guidelines

The code of conduct set forth by the Northwestern Area Board is considered to be a minimum standard. Each coach, director, supervisor, etc. may set codes above and beyond those minimums set by the school board. The code of conduct applies to all extra-curricular participants and is in effect from the first practice to 24 hours after the last event of the school year.

1. **Transportation** - Students will ride to and from out of town activities in school transportation when provided, unless driven by a parent or a note is provided to a school official from the parent granting permission to ride only with another parent.

2. **Conduct** - Students should always act in the best interest of their school.

3. **School Suspension** - If a student is suspended from school he/she will miss all events during the suspension.

4. **Dress** - Dress will be determined by the individual coach/supervisor.

5. **School Attendance** -Students must be in school before noon in order to participate in an evening event. Any exceptions to the above rule will require prior permission from the administration.

6. **Alcohol, Nicotine and Other Drug Abuse** - The School Board and staff at Northwestern School recognize their share of responsibility for the health, welfare, and good of the students who attend the district's school. Alcohol, tobacco use, vaping and other drug abuse are wrong/illegal and harmful and can interfere with a student's ability to learn and function responsibly in the school setting and community. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, the Board adopted the following 4-pronged approach to address the issue of drug and alcohol use: prevention/treatment, education, intervention, and discipline.

Violations must be observed by any coach, certified staff member, administrator, law enforcement agent, the student's parents or guardian, or any adult 21 years of age or older. Violations will be noted by a signed complaint of the person who observed the infraction. The coach and administrators will investigate the validity of the complaint. If it is determined that the complaint is valid, a hearing involving the student, student's parent or guardian, coach, and administrators will be conducted and a determination of offense will be made in compliance with the above mentioned guidelines. The hearing may be waived if the student chooses to admit to the infraction and accept the consequences as outlined above.

7. **Academic Requirements** - please see the extra-curricular eligibility guidelines.

8. **Acceptance of Regulations** - Each student and his/her parent/guardian must sign the Acceptance of Extra-Curricular Participation Regulations Form before being allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities.

Fee Payment Information

*All fees are to be paid to Mrs. Halvorson in the office so that she can keep track of all payments and receipt for them accordingly. Please use our fee payment form when paying all fees. You may also pay for meals and technology fees online through the Parent Portal. Follow the links on the left message center toolbar (Food Service to pay for meals online) or (Fees to pay for technology fees).

ACTIVITY FEES
Grades K-12 No charge this year!
Adult $50.00
Age 65+ FREE activity pass - contact the school office!
gold 65+ passes are valid every year, so please hold onto these

TECHNOLOGY FEES
There will be a technology insurance fee for students in middle school & high school which covers accidental damages to their assigned device.
Grades 6-12 $40.00
Or option to self-insure (see fee payment form attached)

MEAL PRICES
Breakfast
Grades PK-12 $2.50
Adult price $3.25
Reduced meal approved $0
(Cost of reduced meals is covered by the state this year. You will not pay for the meals if you are qualified for the reduced meal rate. See House Bill (HB) 1082 below)

Lunch
Grades PK-5 $3.00 (Monthly $60.00/Yearly $528..00)
Grades 6-12 $3.50 (Monthly $70.00/Yearly $616.00)
Reduced meal approved $0
(Cost of reduced meals is covered by the state this year. You will not pay for the meals if you are qualified for the reduced meal rate. See House Bill (HB) 1082 below)
Adult price $5.25

Extra Milk $.50
Extra side/fruit/vegetable $.50
Extra Entrée $.1.50

House Bill (HB) 1082 - Reduced Price Meals
As of July 1, 2026, public schools can no longer charge students who qualify for reduced-price meals. Beginning in School Year 2026-2027, the Department of Education will reimburse public schools for the cost of these meals that would typically be paid by households, $0.30 for breakfast and $0.40 for lunch. All districts will continue to receive the Federal reimbursement for all reduced-price meals served. Parent notification packets should show $0.00 for reduced price lunch and breakfast.

IMPORTANT LUNCH NOTICE: Please send a check made payable to Northwestern Area Lunch Fund the first week of school or earlier if you wish! (You may combine all your students' lunch money into one check, but do not combine lunch money with other fees). Please avoid sending cash as payment. If you must send cash, send it in a sealed envelope with your student's name and grade on it. Place a note inside stating what it is for. You may also pay online through the Parent Portal. Lunch money needs to be paid for in advance. Reminders will be sent by e-mail on a weekly basis if balances are low.

If you think your family may qualify for FREE & REDUCED MEALS, please complete the application, or you may also qualify by direct certification through the State. Anyone who does not qualify for Free or Reduced meals will need to pay for breakfast and lunch starting on the first day of school, August 18th.

Click here for the free & reduced meals application link: Free & Reduced Meals Application You may also find this application on our school website. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 605-887-3467.

The Northwestern Area Meal Program welcomes donations of fresh produce! Please contact Rita Walter at 887-3467 x1101 to ensure we can use your donations. Please only drop off donations after making arrangements with Rita.

We are also accepting donations of local beef for our Farm to School program. If you are interested in supporting our school with a donation, please contact Rob Lewis at 887-3467 x1002.

Breakfast is served daily from 7:50 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. Monday-Friday.

Monday & Friday - Cereal, toast, fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, milk.

Tuesday-Thursday - Hot breakfast options in addition to cereal, toast, fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, milk.

August & September Lunch Menus can be found on our school website https://www.northwestern.k12.sd.us/dining

Menus are subject to change at any time due to supply issues. Please watch daily announcements and online menu for updates

Breakfast is not served the first week of school.

FARM TO SCHOOL

Northwestern Area School

Seeking Local Beef

Northwestern School District will launch the farm to school program in the fall of 2023.The expected cattle needed is 6-8 head for the entire school year.

OUR GOAL IS TO SERVE STUDENTS 100% LOCAL BEEF WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, YEAR ROUND!

Our district is currently seeking donations of fat cattle, open heifers, or healthy cull cows.



Animals will need to be received at Dehaai's in Chamberlain throughout the school year. We hope to continue this program for many years to come with the possibility of a local processing facility.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DONATING TO THE NORTHWESTERN FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT



ROB LEWIS

(605) 887-3467 x1002

All donations are tax deductible!

$ **Financial donations will be accepted to offset the cost of processing** $

PUBLIC NOTICES

CIVIL RIGHTS INQUIRIES

Parents or students concerned about civil rights may contact: U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights 10220 N Executive Hills Blvd., 8th Floor Kansas City, Missouri 64153-1367 Phone: (816) 880-4200 TDD: (816) 891-0582 FAX: (817) 891-0644 DUE PROCESS In compliance with SDCL 13-32-4 (1973), on January 22, 1974, the South Dakota State Board of Education adopted a resolution defining the minimal standards for procedural due process guaranteed a public school student when suspended or expelled from school. The Northwestern School District is in compliance with this resolution, which sets forth the following minimum standards. 1. Adequate notice of charges 2. Reasonable opportunity to prepare for and meet the charges 3. An orderly hearing adapted to the nature and circumstances of the situation 4. A fair and impartial decision Due process as defined in Article 24:07 Administration Rules of the Division of Education (DOE).

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Northwestern Area School District in compliance with Public Law 94-142 provides Individual Education Programs for all district children who have a disability. Included are those persons who may have cognitive disability, hard of hearing, speech/language impaired, visually handicapped, orthopedically impaired or other health impaired or children with specific learning disabilities. Educators are implementing this law by using the Individual Education Program. Parents, teachers, administrators and the school psychologist are all part of the team who helps organize and individualize a written plan for the child with a disability. If a child should need such attention, please contact the school administration. You may call Superintendent Rob Lewis at 887-3467 x1002.

COMPLIANCE WITH GEPA472

It is the policy of the Northwestern Area School District that no barriers may exist which prohibits any stakeholder from taking advantage of any technological service, equipment, curriculum or program administered by the school. Students, teachers, and the community at large shall not be restricted or prohibited from participation because of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age; and shall be protected under all applicable state statute and federal laws (e.g. Equal Employment Opportunity, Civil Rights, Disabilities, Acts, NCLB, etc.) Furthermore, steps are taken to ensure that all users have equal access and/or assistive technology when and where required. The NWA is an equal opportunity employer.

NOTICE OF NON DISCRIMINATION

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional

agreements with the Northwestern Area School District 56-7 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the school's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 is directed to contact: Rob Lewis, Section 504 Coordinator at 887-3467, x 1002.

CHILD FIND

Northwestern Area School District Conducts Special Education Child Find

The Northwestern Area School District is required to provide appropriate educational opportunities for all children, regardless of their special educational needs. The Northwestern Area School District is conducting an annual Special Services and Section 504 "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate all district children under 21 who may not be receiving appropriate educational opportunities. Rob Lewis of Northwestern Area School has been named Child Find coordinator. Persons who know of a child in the district with inappropriate or unserved educational needs may give the child's name to Rob Lewis, the district's Special Services and Section 504 coordinator, at 887-3467, ext. 1002. After obtaining parental consent, the district will conduct an evaluation of the child's needs, and a placement meeting will be held with the child's parents or guardian. Parents are not expected to be able to diagnose a child's difficulty before they ask for help. It is the philosophy of the Northwestern Area School District to see that every child, regardless of their special needs, may develop to their fullest potential.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are: 1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the Northwestern Area School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate official) a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. 2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask Northwestern Area to amend the record should write the school principal (or appropriate official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. 3. The right to provide written

consent before to disclose personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting school in performing his or her tasks. A school official has legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.] 4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Northwestern Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The Name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, SC 20202. [NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by § 99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA).

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION FOR ELEMENTARY AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that the Northwestern Area School District with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the Northwestern Area School District, in line with school board policy JOA, may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Northwestern Area School District to include this type of information from your child's education records to certain school publications. Examples include: a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; and sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations

include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks, In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEA) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. If you do not want the Northwestern Area School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing. The Northwestern Area School District has designated the following information as directory information: Student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of member of athletic teams; degrees, honors, and awards received; the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

ESEA Statute (Section 1112)(e)(1)(B)(ii) **Section 1112** (e) covers the **Parents Right to Know**, which includes the following required notifications to parents:

(1) INFORMATION FOR PARENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

(i) Whether the student's teacher—

(I) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

(II) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and

(III) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

(ii) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph (A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent of a child who is a student in such school, with respect to such student—

(i) information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part; and

(ii) timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

(2) TESTING TRANSPARENCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, February 2018 which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.
(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.— Subject to subparagraph(C), each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the local educational agency's website and, where practicable, on the website of each school served by the local educational agency) for each grade served by the local educational agency, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with section 1111, other assessments required by the State, and where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required districtwide by the local educational agency, including—
(i) the subject matter assessed;
(ii) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
(iii) the source of the requirement for the assessment; and
(iv) where such information is available—
(I) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and
(II) the time and format for disseminating results.
(3) LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.—
(A) NOTICE.—Each local educational agency using funds under this part or title III to provide a language instruction educational program as determined under title III shall, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, inform parents of an English learner identified for participation or participating in such a program.

1. **Do parents have the right to know the qualifications of the educational staff working with their child?**
Yes. Title I Part A, (Section 1112)(e)(1)(B)(ii) specifies the following requirement. At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner).
The information must include, at a minimum, the following:
(i) Whether the student's teacher—
(I) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
(II) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
(III) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

(ii) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. Parents may also request information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part and timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. The notice and information provided to parents must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Sample 2:
What do I know about my child's teacher? The federal education law put in place by the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that all parents in a Title I school be notified and given the opportunity to request information about the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals instructing their child. You may also request information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments. If you are interested in this information, you may send your request to the building principal who will provide a timely response.

ASBESTOS INSPECTION
August 2026
Dear Parents, Teachers, and Employees of Northwestern Area School; As of October 10, 1988, the Northwestern Area School District has implemented its management plan. The management plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the administration office in the Northwestern Area School. Copies will be made available for $25.00 with five days of written request. Friable (Easily Crumbled by hand pressure) The Northwestern Area School District as required by law has completed their three-year inspection of Asbestos and found no friable asbestos in the Northwestern Area School District buildings. Non-Friable (Not Easily Crumbled) 12" X 12" floor tile As response actions and preventive measures are conducted or completed and at least semiannually, you will be notified of any changes to the amount and condition of asbestos containing building materials in the school building.

Sincerely, Dan Duenwald
Local Education Agency

Important Back to School Document Links

A staff directory can be found on our website. Please note extensions are subject to change for some staff members, but will be updated online.

Click for Fee Payment Form
2026-27 Fee Payment Form

Click for School Supply List
2026-27 School Supply List

Color Coded Northwestern Area School Calendar
2026-27 Master Calendar

List View Northwestern Area School Calendar
2026-27 Calendar List Style

Click for Northwestern Area High School Athletic Schedule
2026-27 Athletic Schedule

Click for Northwestern Area Volleyball Full Schedule (MS/C/JV/V)
2026-27 Volleyball Schedule

Click for Northwestern Area Football Schedules (MS/JV/V)
2026-27 Football Schedule

Click for Northwestern Area Cross Country Schedule
2026-27 Cross Country Schedule

Click for Northwestern Area Music Schedule
2026-27 Music Schedule

Click for FREE & REDUCED Meal Application
2026-27 Free & Reduced Meals Application

Northwestern Area FFA Schedule
****dates are not yet finalized - please watch for updates!**