Sioux Valley School District No. 5-5

PO Box 278, 200 Hansina Avenue, Volga, SD 57071
Phone: 605-627-5657

July 2026

Dear Sioux Valley Parents and Students:

I am looking forward to the 2026-2027 school year and the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of the Sioux Valley School District again this year. A new school year is always an exciting time for students, staff, and parents. We are committed to working with you to provide the students with the best possible learning experiences and keeping them safe and healthy while at school and school events. **The first day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18.**

Registration for all students in grades JK-12 will be on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 8:00-12:30 and 1:00-5:00. For registration for JK-5 students, please use the elementary school entrance door (A1). For registration for 6-12 students, please use the commons doors (B8) to enter the building. **School pictures for all JK-11th grade students will be taken on Registration Day.**

In an effort to minimize large numbers of people in the school buildings and long lines, we ask that students register at the following times based on the first letter of your last name. If you cannot make the assigned time slot work, please come any time between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

T-Z	8:00-9:30	G-K	11:00-12:30	L-N	1:00-2:30	OPEN	4:00-5:00
A-F	9:30-11:00	LUNCH	12:30-1:00	O-S	2:30-4:00		

We will be having a Back-to-School Night on Thursday, August 13, from 5:00-7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for students and parents to meet the teachers and to check out their classrooms. It will also be a good time for students to bring in their school supplies.

Payments for school lunches and activity ticket purchases can be made on Registration Day or at the Back-to-School Night. Payments for school lunches can also be made online. Grades JK-5 student activity tickets are **$20** and grades 6-12 student activity tickets are **$25**. All students that participate in one or more extra-curricular activities (athletics or fine arts) are required to purchase an activity ticket prior to participating in their first event. Tickets will be purchased through Bound.

We will again offer a FREE breakfast meal to all JK-12 students enrolled at Sioux Valley for the 26-27 school year. To qualify as a FREE breakfast, students must take a complete breakfast meal that meets the "reimbursable meal" requirements, consisting of fruit and a combination of whole grain, protein, and milk. Additional servings and a-la-carte items will be available for purchase at an additional charge. The 26-27 Lunch Meal Prices are $3.20 for grades JK-5 and $3.30 for grades 6-12. The price for free and reduced meals will be covered by the State of South Dakota, therefore, students that qualify for free or reduced meals will not be charged for their lunch meal. If you think there is a possibility your child may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, we encourage you to complete a Free or Reduced Meal Application, which is enclosed with this packet. To obtain additional copies, please visit the district's website at https://www.svs.k12.sd.us/page/free-and-reduced-price-school-lunch or contact the Sioux Valley Business Office at (605) 627-5657. Completed applications should be returned to the Sioux Valley Business Office. All information is kept confidential. Your participation in Free or Reduced Meals helps to benefit our school and its programs. Various federal programs utilize statistical information from the Free or Reduced Applications to determine funding levels for programs and grants for our school.

We will continue to utilize the same five "in-town" bus stops again this year. The stops are at the City Park, Industrial Drive/Dakota Gold, 6th/Jefferson, 6th/Kasan, and the park at 6th/Ardis. In-town students will be picked up before school and dropped off after school at these five sites. Due to continued construction on Samara Avenue, bus stops may be adjusted if needed.

We will be utilizing Harlow's Transportation Services for our bus routes this year. We will <u>not</u> travel outside of the school district boundaries to pick up or drop off students. Any families that live outside the district must meet the bus along an established route. This will need to be coordinated with Harlow's before school starts. A message can be left for them by calling 605-627-5523.

We will use the Infinite Campus phone system during the school year to contact you with important announcements, weather-related closings or postponements, and emergency notices. It is important that you provide the school with a current phone number so we can reach you using our automated phone system.

You will find information on the Sioux Valley website at svs.k12.sd.us that will be helpful to you as the school term begins. Please take some time to become familiar with it. We frequently place informational items on our website and also provide links to other school related informational sites.

If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to contact us. We trust that your experience with our school will be a positive one.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Schuster, Superintendent
Sioux Valley Schools

SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-2027
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approved - March 9, 2026

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Month	C	N
August	10	2.25
September	20	0
October	20	0.75
November	18	0
December	15.75	0
January	18	1
February	18	0.75
March	19	0
April	21	1
May	11.5	1

Total Student Contact Days - C - 171.25
Total Non-Student Contact Days - N - 6.75
Total Contract Days - 178

August
- 4 - Registration Day/School Photos
- 11 - New Teacher Orientation - 9:00-4:00
- 12 - Staff Develop. Day - 8:00-4:00 (+1) - NO SCHOOL
- 13 - Staff Work Day - 8:00-4:00 (+1) - NO SCHOOL
- 13 - Back to School Night - 5:00-7:00 (+.25)
- 18 - CLASSES BEGIN

September
- 4 - Labor Day Weekend - NO SCHOOL
- 7 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

October
- 7 - P/T Conferences - 2:00-6:00 (+.25)
- 8 - P/T Conferences - 4:00-8:00 (+.50)
- 9 - P/T Conf. Comp Day - NO SCHOOL
- 12 - Native American/Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
- 21 - End of 1st Qtr (C-43, N-3.0)

November
- 25-26-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December
- 22 - 1:45 Dismissal - Includes Staff (.75)
- 22 - End of 2nd Qtr (C-40.75, N-0)
- 23-31 - Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL

January
- 1 - Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL
- 4 - Staff Develop. Day - 8:00-4:00 (+1) - NO SCHOOL
- 18 - Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL

February
- 10 - P/T Conf/Staff Dev - 2:00-6:00 (+.25)
- 11 - P/T Conf/Staff Dev - 4:00-8:00 (+.50)
- 12 - P/T Conf. Comp Day - NO SCHOOL
- 15 - Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
- 19 - Kindergarten Screen. - No school for Kindergarten

March
- 10 - End of Quarter (C-44, N-1.75)
- 11-12 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- 26-29 - Easter Break - NO SCHOOL

April
- 23 - Staff Develop. Day - 8:00-4:00 (+1) - NO SCHOOL

May
- 15 - Graduation - 2:00 PM
- 18- Last Day of School - Noon Dismissal (.50)
- 18- End of 4th Qtr/2nd Sem (C-43.5, N-2)
- 19--20 - Make-Up Snow Days
- 21 - Staff Develop. Day - 8:00-4:00 (+1) - NO SCHOOL
- 31- Memorial Day

The first two snow days will be made up at the end of the school year (May 19-20). Any additional snow days would be e-learning days. The last staff development day may be moved up if snow days are not needed and will be the day following the last day of school.

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- New Teacher/Staff Orient.
- Staff Development
- No School
- Registration; Conferences
- Homecoming Week
- End/Beginning of Quarter
- Make-Up Snow Days
- Kindergarten Screening
- Graduation

Revised:

SIOUX VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 Welcome Back Letter • Expect Excellence

Dear Sioux Valley Middle/High School Families,

Welcome back, Cossacks! I am delighted to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the entire Sioux Valley Middle School and High School staff. We hope your summer was enjoyable and restful. Our staff is excited to work with you to provide an exceptional educational experience for your child. Here is what you need to know to prepare for the fall semester.

Key Dates at a Glance

- **Tuesday, August 4:** Registration & Picture Day (8:00 am-5:00 pm, MS & HS Commons)
- **Thursday, August 13:** Back to School Night (5:00-7:00 pm)
- **Tuesday, August 18:** First Day of Classes

Tuesday, August 4: Registration & Picture Day

Join us in the MS & HS Commons. During registration, parents will update emergency contact information, and students will receive their class schedules, locker assignments, and have their school pictures taken. Activity tickets will be purchased through Bound again this school year. Athletic and fine arts participants must purchase an activity ticket. These funds get put back into all the programs to enhance programs in future years at Sioux Valley. Impact concussion testing will be offered throughout the day. Students can also deposit money into their lunch accounts and pick up their yearbooks.

High school students will receive their laptops during registration. Middle school students will receive their Chromebooks during the first week of school.

What to Bring

- **Signed laptop policy and email form** along with the $20 user fee. Please note that this is a user fee, not insurance for the device.
- **$40 to order next year's yearbook** ($45 for a personalized cover).
- Any money you would like to deposit into your student's lunch account.

Registration Times

Times are staggered by the first letter of the student's last name. If your assigned time does not fit your schedule that day, feel free to come anytime between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

T-Z	8:00-9:30 am
A-F	9:30-11:00 am
G-K	11:00 am-12:30 pm
Staff Lunch Break	12:30-1:00 pm
L-N	1:00-2:30 pm

O-S	2:30-4:00 pm
Open Slot	4:00-5:00 pm

Thursday, August 13: Back to School Night (5:00-7:00 pm)

This event is an opportunity for families to meet the teachers, visit classrooms, bring in school supplies, and organize lockers. Donations of tissues are always appreciated and can be dropped off with your student's first-period teacher or at the office.

Tuesday, August 18: First Day of Classes

- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:** classes run 8:20 am-3:30 pm.
- **Wednesday:** school ends early at 1:45 pm.

2026-2027 Student Handbook: What's New

The following is a quick reference to this year's procedure changes. The full handbook is posted on the district website, and I encourage you to review these updates and other procedures in our 6-12 handbook.

Cell Phones & Personal Technology

- **Grades 6-10:** devices go into the cell phone locker at an assigned grade level location and stay in the office all day.
- **Grades 11-12:** phones go into the classroom holder at the start of every period.
- Every confiscated device is returned to a parent or guardian, never to the student.
- Earbuds, AirPods, and headphones are not permitted during the academic day. Smart watches are permitted for now and will be reassessed at semester.
- Medical monitoring exemptions require a health plan or prior approval on file. Please direct questions to the office.

Backpacks

- **High school:** students may now carry a reasonably sized backpack, clear or opaque, in classrooms and hallways, placed to keep walkways clear.

Questions about any of these changes? Stop by the MS/HS principal's office and we will walk through them together before the year starts.

We are excited for another fantastic year at Sioux Valley! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff or contact the office. We truly value your involvement and support. Together, we will inspire, guide, and support our students as they grow and succeed.

With Cossack Pride,
Mr. Bolstad

SV Secondary Principal

SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOLS

2026-2027 School Supply List

Expect Excellence | Go Cossacks!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ☐ Colored pens
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ Pencils (replenish as needed)
- ☐ Pencil pouch
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Accordion folder or Trapper Keeper with 7 two-pocket folders
- ☐ Scientific calculator (TI-30X)
- ☐ Whiteboard markers and an old sock (works great as an eraser)
- ☐ 3 one-subject notebooks
- ☐ 1 composition notebook
- ☐ Loose-leaf paper
- ☐ 1-inch three-ring binder
- ☐ Headphones or earbuds (no Bluetooth)
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ 3 boxes facial tissues and 1 container disinfecting wipes*

HIGH SCHOOL

- ☐ Colored pens
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ Pencils (replenish as needed)
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Folders for each subject
- ☐ Separate binder for science classes
- ☐ Separate notebook for Spanish
- ☐ Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS scientific calculator
- ☐ Loose-leaf paper
- ☐ 3x5 lined notecards
- ☐ Post-it tabs
- ☐ 12 in / 30 cm ruler
- ☐ Facial tissues*

New This Year: Backpacks!

High school students may use standard-sized backpacks this fall. Clear bags are no longer required.

**Please bring tissues and wipes to your first period teacher or the MS/HS office. Thank you!*

2026-2027

Sioux Valley Elementary School Supplies

200 Hansina Ave Volga SD 57071

Item	Grade						
	JK	KG	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
	No label	No label	No Label	No label	No label	No label	No label
Fiskars Scissors (2nd-5th pointed)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Elmer's Glue Bottle	1	1					1
Glue Stick	6	12	2	4	4	6	12
Dry Erase Marker	4 fine	4 fine	4	4	4 fine	4	8
Dry Eraser or Old Sock	1		1	1	1	1	1
Box of 24 Crayons	4	3	1	2	2		
Small Supply Box (no bigger than 9x6x3, no zipper)	1	1	1	2	1	1 or the other	1 or the other
Pencil Bag			1				
Highlighter		1	0	2	1	1	4
Pink Eraser (white or pink)	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Colored Pencils	1	1	1		1	1	1
Crayola Fine Line Markers	1	1	1	1	1		
Wide Lined Notebook (100 count)	2	1	1	1	3		4
Wide Rule Loose Leaf Paper						1	
Composition Notebooks				2			
Crayola Watercolor Paints	1			1			
Pocket Folders (plain color, plastic)				1		1	4
Folders with 2 pockets & prongs - (blue, green, yellow & red)(plain colors only)	1 red plastic no prongs	1 red plastic no prongs	3 r,b,g		3 r,y,b		
3-Ring Binder w/slip cover (no cloth)	1.5"	2"	1.5"			1"	2"
8-pack of binder tabs							1
Headphones (earbuds ok for 3rd-5th)(no bluetooth)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
#2 Pencils- package	1	1	1	3	2	2	4
Red Pen					1		
Black Sharpies	1	1			2	2	4
Scotch Tape							4
Washable Markers Wide	1	1		1	1	1	1
Hand Sanitizer (small)						1	
Deodorant (to be kept in locker)						1	1
Clorox Wipes	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Box of Kleenex	2	1	1	2	4	2	2
Magic Eraser		1			1		

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

Dear Sioux Valley Elementary Families,

Welcome to another exciting year at Sioux Valley Elementary! Whether your child is joining us for the first time or returning for another year, we are honored to partner with your family. We look forward to a school year filled with learning, growth, meaningful relationships, and memorable experiences.

At Sioux Valley Elementary, we believe every child deserves to feel safe, valued, challenged, and supported. Our dedicated staff is committed to creating classrooms where students are encouraged to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. We strive to build relationships based on trust, kindness, respect, and high expectations because we know students achieve their best when they feel connected and cared for.

This year brings several exciting updates to our school:

- **Standards-Based Report Cards (JK–5):** Students in Junior Kindergarten through 5th grade will receive standards-based report cards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, providing families with a clearer picture of the skills and standards students are mastering.
- **New Transportation Partner:** We are pleased to welcome **Harlow's School Bus Service** as Sioux Valley School District's new transportation provider. We appreciate their commitment to providing safe and reliable transportation for our students.
- **"Everything is OK."** This year's school-wide phrase reminds us that challenges are opportunities to learn, grow, and support one another. By approaching each day with kindness, perseverance, and a solution-focused mindset, we know we can accomplish great things together.

What You Can Expect at SVE

- A safe, welcoming environment where every child is known and valued.
- High-quality instruction focused on student learning and growth.
- Clear communication between school and home.
- High expectations paired with compassion, encouragement, and support.
- A team of educators who genuinely love working with children and always put students first.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We value the partnership we share with our families and look forward to making the 2026–2027 school year a successful and rewarding experience for every student.

Together, let's make this our best year yet!

Everything is OK.

Warmly,

Heather Hiltunen
Elementary Principal
Sioux Valley Elementary

SCHOOL TIME PHOTOS
Photography by Mark inc.

Hello Sioux Valley parents,

We hope your summer is going great!
It's that time of year to start preparing for the next school year!
School Picture day is creeping up, so what better way to get ordering pictures out of the way than now.
It is easy to prepay your student's school day pictures online! Visit www.schooltimephotos.com

- **Preorder opens July 1, 2026**
- **If you are ordering for multiple students, you will need to complete an order for each student you are ordering photos of if they are not in the same school.**

How To Order Picture Day Photos Online:

1. Go to www.schooltimephotos.com
2. Click on "Order Here"
3. Enter "**SVSD**" for the event name, click "search."
4. Click on your school district.
5. Click on your student's school.
6. Enter your email address and click "login." All orders are tracked by the email address you enter.
7. You should now see a page with our photo packages. Choose from any of our packages and/or order ala-carte items.
8. Once you are done shopping, click on the "shopping cart" icon. You will be prompted for your student's information as well as yours. That is, it!

Picture Info You Should Know:

- All Picture Packages are on sale until 3 days after Picture Day!
- A valid email address is required to place an order.
- You will receive a confirmation email once an order is placed.
- All orders placed through Picture Day will be processed and delivered to the student's school 2-3 weeks following Picture Day.
- If you are ordering a Class Picture for an elementary student, the **Class Picture will be delivered to the school about a month after Makeup/Retake Day.**
- All portrait orders will be delivered to your students' school.

For more information, please visit our website www.schooltimephotos.com

Feel free to call or email us with any questions!
School time Photos by Photography by Mark, INC
605-362-9221 www.schooltimephotos.com

SIOUX VALLEY PTO

Help us support our Elementary Students & Staff!

Join the Sioux Valley Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to support our Elementary Staff & Students! Be a part of an organization that promotes healthy activities and relationships at our school, homes, and community!

What we support:

Dakota Players Children's Theater Performance, updating playground benches and sidewalk art, family movie nights, kids night in events, Homecoming Cossack store, staff appreciation activities, & more!

@SiouxValleyPTO SiouxValleyPTO123@gmail.com

School Hours

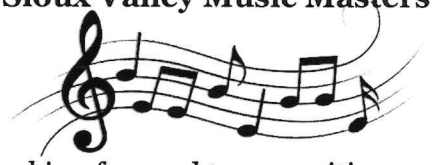
	Elementary School	Middle School ~ High School
Staff	8:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-4:00pm
Students	8:15am - 3:30pm (M, T, Th, F)	8:15am-3:05 pm (M, T, Th, F)
		SRP 3:10-3:30pm (M, T, Th, F)
	8:15 am – 1:45 pm (Wed)	8:15 am – 1:45 pm (Wed)
Tardy Bell	8:20 am (all students must be in their classroom)	8:20 am (all students must be in their classroom)

Students should NOT be on the school grounds or in the building before 8:00 am unless they are participating in the school breakfast program, in which case they may arrive at 7:50am and must remain in the commons area until 8:00am.

If for some reason your child will not be riding the bus after school, they need to be picked up no later than 5 minutes after the dismissal bell or make arrangements to enroll in BASE.

Sioux Valley Schools
Mailing Address: PO Box 278
Physical Address: 200 Hansina Avenue
Volga, SD 57071
Phone: 605-627-5657 Fax: 605627-5291 Website: www.svs.k12.sd.us

Sioux Valley Music Masters



The Sioux Valley Music Masters are looking forward to an exciting year! The Music Master's mission is to support the music programs of Sioux Valley Schools. If your child participates in any music program, you are officially a member of the Music Masters!

Projects supported by the Music Masters include: How Sweet the Sound, SV Marching Band Festival, All State Choir & Band participants, fundraising to provide needed equipment for the SV Music Program, planning and fundraising for a music student performance trip scheduled every four years, scholarships for high school senior music students, and MORE!

Music Masters meet once per month during the school year. For meeting schedules and announcements, please follow 'Sioux Valley Music Masters' on Facebook and email svmusicmasters@gmail.com to be added to our BAND group.

Music is Part of a Sound Education!

BASE (Before and After School Enrichment)

The Sioux Valley BASE program serves children residing in the Sioux Valley School District in grades JK-4 by providing quality care during out of school time hours. While at BASE, children will have the opportunity to participate in activities in a safe and supervised environment.

The BASE program opens at 7:15 in the morning and takes children to breakfast if needed. Afternoon care at BASE begins when school dismisses; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 3:30pm and Wednesday at 1:45pm. BASE closes daily at 6pm. ALL DAY BASE days are available by sign-up on specific days when school is not in session, for those enrolled in BASE.

	Monthly Rate
Morning BASE	$80/month
After School BASE	$180/month
All Day BASE – full day	$40/day/child

These are flat rates and are subject to change. If you are interested in having your child attend BASE please contact Crystal Niemann at crystal.niemann@k12.sd.us and she will send additional paperwork out to you.



Sioux Valley Alumni & Friends Foundation



The mission of the SV Alumni & Friends Foundation is to promote increased academic and co-curricular opportunities at Sioux Valley Schools through an organized network of friends and alumni representing the Bruce, Sinai and Volga communities. We invite new members and encourage anyone who is interested in helping with the many projects we assist with to attend a meeting. A few projects we have done include fundraising for the SV Performing Arts Center, collaborating with the SV PTO to fundraise for playground equipment, sponsoring the annual SV Distinguished Alumni award and recognizing past royalty at SV Coronation. We provide scholarships to SV Seniors and t-shirts for students of the month in the middle and high school. Recently, we've begun sponsoring the Junior Achievement program that has local businesspeople presenting in the individual classrooms in the elementary.

SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 5-5
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking forward to a successful year at Sioux Valley School.

Meal account deposits may be made at the business office between 8:00am to 12:00noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Lunch payments may also be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout). Activity tickets and season tickets may be purchased online through the Bound App. We encourage you to take care of these items prior to the beginning of school.

SEASON/ACTIVITY TICKETS

Grades JK-5 season tickets are $20, grades 6-12 activity tickets are $25.00, single ticket is $4.00.
Adult season tickets are 10 events for $40.00 or 20 events for $80.00, single ticket is $6.00.

All students that participate in one or more co-curricular activities (athletic or fine arts) are required to purchase an activity ticket prior to participating in their first event.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 4	Paperwork & Picture Day for JK-12 8:00-12:30 & 1:00-5:00
Aug 13	Back to School Night/Open House 5:00-7:00pm
Aug 18	Classes Begin
Sept 4-Sept 7	NO SCHOOL
Sept 7-Sept 11	Homecoming Week
Dec 22- Jan 4	Winter Break
May 15	Graduation
May 18	Last Day of School (weather permitting)

FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

We look forward to the coming school year at the Sioux Valley School District. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with some idea of what to expect from the school food service program this year. If you have any questions or comments about our program, call Shondra Glawe at 605-627-5657 ext 276 or Kim Jacobson, Business Manager at 605-627-5657 ext 402.

School Breakfast

Please encourage your child to participate in school breakfast. Research studies show that eating breakfast can help students perform better in the classroom. **Free Breakfast will be offered to ALL Sioux Valley students JK-12 for the 2026-2027 school year.** Breakfast prices are:

2026-2027 Breakfast Prices	Paid Students	Reduced Price Students	Free Students
JK-12 Breakfast	$2.05	$0.00	$0.00
Extra Breakfast Entrée	$1.75	$1.00	$1.75
Juice Cups	$1.00	$1.00	$1.00

School Lunch

School lunch offers a wide variety of choices for students. All meals include a choice of an entrée, hot vegetable, and milk choice. Sioux Valley Schools has a closed noon hour for grades JK-11 (students are not allowed to leave campus).

2026-2027 Lunch Prices	Paid Students	Reduced Price Students	Free Students
JK-5 Lunch	$3.20	$0.00	$0.00
6-12 Lunch	$3.30	$0.00	$0.00
Extra Lunch Entrée	$2.50	$2.50	$2.50
Extra Milk	$1.00	$1.00	$1.00

ALL CHECKS SHOUD BE MADE OUT TO "Sioux Valley School Lunch"

School Lunch

Extra Entrees/ Extra Milk

All Students, at an extra cost, can purchase an additional entrée offered as part of the school lunch program. For example, if a student wants an additional slice of pizza, then that entrée and be selected in the lunch line and charged to the student's account. Extra entrees are only sold to students who first purchase a school lunch. If a student receives free or reduced-price meals, they receive one entrée and milk with their meal; they must have money in their account to purchase any extra entrees or milk.

Snacks

Snack items are available during the breakfast period and include: muffins, yogurt, and juice. For High School students, snack items will be available during lunch period. Snack items offered include, but not limited to: fruit drinks, popcorn, a variety of chips, yogurt and granola bars. Snack items may be deducted from the student lunch account, so please visit with your student about any snack items that they may, or may not purchase in addition to the school breakfast or lunch. Snack items may also be purchased with exact cash (change cannot be made). Any Student. Paid, free or reduced, must have money in their account to purchase any snack items.

School Lunch & Breakfast Account Policy

The District has a meal account policy that may restrict negative lunch account balances to no more than $15.00 per student for school meals. When account balances become low and/or negative, automated emails and phone calls are made. Once an account is negative, a student will not be allowed to charge extra entrees, nor a la carte items. If an account is negative at least $15, a cheese sandwich and milk may be discreetly served until the account is brought current. Balance information and credit/debit card payments can be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout).

Point of Sale (POS) Software system is used for the school lunch program. Please note the following important information:

* Each Student will have is/her own individual Student Account.
* Deposits must be turned in by 9:00am.
* Please make checks to "Sioux Valley School Lunch". To ensure credit to the proper account, the student's name should accompany the check.
* If sending cash with a student, place in a sealed envelope, along with the student's name. We are not responsible for lost, unidentified or stolen cash.
* Students must have money deposited in their lunch account in order to purchase extra entrees, regardless or eligibility status (Paid, Free or Reduced).

Diet Modifications

Families are responsible for notifying the School Food Service if their child requires a diet modification to be addressed and monitored by the School Food Service. A licensed physician must provide specific written medical documentation. Please contact the School Food Service Director, Shondra Glawe at 605-627-5657 ext 276 for more information.

Outside Food and Beverage

The District does not allow the delivery of food or beverages from outside vendors or fast food establishments for student's breakfast or lunch meal. All meals are to be provided by the District's School Food Service or a prepared meal from home may be sent with your student. No soda pop is allowed during the breakfast and lunch serving times.

Join Us!

Please feel free to join your child for lunch or breakfast on any day. Adult lunch is $5.50 and breakfast is $3.65. We hope to see you there!

Sioux Valley School District Meal Charge Policy

I. Federal Requirement

The purpose of this policy is to address the need for school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to institute and clearly communicate a meal charge policy, which would include, if applicable, the availability of alternate meals. Because all students in participating schools may receive reimbursable school meals, all SFAs must have a policy in place for children who are participating at the reduced price or paid rate, but either do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of service. Such a policy ensures that school food service professionals, school administrators, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations in these situations.

You can find more information about this US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requirement at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-mealcharges.

II. PURPOSE OF POLICY:

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent meal account procedures throughout the district. Unpaid charges place a financial strain on the food service department. The goals of this standard of practice are:

- To treat all students with dignity in the serving line regarding meal accounts
- To support positive situations with district staff, district business policies, student and parent/guardian to the maximum extent possible
- To establish policies that are age appropriate
- To encourage parent/guardian to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of the student
- To establish a consistent district policy regarding charges and collection of charges

III. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The food service department, Business Manager, Administrative Assistants: Responsible for maintaining charge records and notifying the student's parent/guardian. The Parent/Guardian: Immediate payment

IV. ADMINISTRATION

1. Families are encouraged to apply for free and reduced price meal benefits. Applications are available in the school business office or on the school website www.svs.k12.sd.us

2. Families are encouraged to pre-pay for meals and money is accepted in the school business office daily for payments on the day of service. Lunch payments may also be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout) or mailed to PO Box 278, Volga, SD 57071.

3. Elementary students: The District has a meal account policy that may restrict negative lunch balances to no more than $15 per student for school meals. When account balances become low and/or negative, automated emails and phone calls are made. Once an account is negative, a student

will not be allowed to charge extra entrees nor a la carte items. If an account is negative at least $15, a cheese sandwich and milk may be discreetly served until the account is brought current.

a. Balance information and credit/debit card payments can be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout).
b. All delinquent accounts at the beginning of June of the current school year will be subject to collections for payment.
c. If a child has money to purchase a reduced price or paid meal at the time of the meal service, the child must be provided a meal. SFAs may not use the child's money to repay previously unpaid charges if the child intended to use the money to purchase that day's meal.

4. Middle School students: The District has a meal account policy that may restrict negative lunch balances to no more than $15 per student for school meals. When account balances become low and/or negative, automated emails and phone calls are made. Once an account is negative, a student will not be allowed to charge extra entrees nor a la carte items. If an account is negative at least $15, a cheese sandwich and milk may be discreetly served until the account is brought current.

a. Balance information and credit/debit card payments can be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout).
b. All delinquent accounts at the beginning of June of the current school year will be subject to collections for payment.
c. If a child has money to purchase a reduced price or paid meal at the time of the meal service, the child must be provided a meal. SFAs may not use the child's money to repay previously unpaid charges if the child intended to use the money to purchase that day's meal.

5. High School students: The District has a meal account policy that may restrict negative lunch balances to no more than $15 per student for school meals. When account balances become low and/or negative, automated emails and phone calls are made. Once an account is negative, a student will not be allowed to charge extra entrees nor a la carte items. If an account is negative at least $15, a cheese sandwich and milk may be discreetly served until the account is brought current.

a. Balance information and credit/debit card payments can be made online through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (Select Food Service from upper left menu, "pay", add amount, "add to cart", click shopping cart to checkout).
b. All delinquent accounts at the beginning of June of the current school year will be subject to collections for payment.
c. If a child has money to purchase a reduced price or paid meal at the time of the meal service, the child must be provided a meal. SFAs may not use the child's money to repay previously unpaid charges if the child intended to use the money to purchase that day's meal.

6. Families may contact the school business office at 605-627-5657 to discuss payment plan options.

SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOLS
200 HANSINA AVENUE
VOLGA, SD 57071

Family Educations Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Notification of rights for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age 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 School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) 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, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal [or appropriate school 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 advise them 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 the school discloses 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 an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the 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 another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate education interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School 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, DC 20202.
5. The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Sioux Valley Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However Sioux Valley Schools 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 Sioux Valley Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in 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 (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Sioux Valley Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by **August 10, 2026,** Sioux Valley Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- **Student's name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone listing**
- **Electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**
- **Date and place of birth**
- **Grade level**
- **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
- **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
- **Degrees, honors, and awards received**
- **Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)**

This is a first DRAFT. Detailed pickup times and route order will be published AFTER registration day.

2026-2027 Bus Schedule -updated 7/14/26

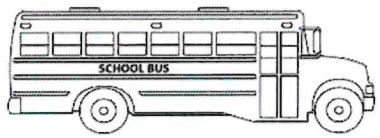
FIRST DRAFT- Subject to change * Designates student(s) do not usually ride (can be changed at anytime by calling bus barn)

Sinai		
Route 1		phone
Heylens, Dustin*	1	605-690-5449
Hanson/Syrstad/Colburn	9	605-695-4047
Hope	3	605-690-3841
Gerdes (Daggitt)*	3	605-690-7091
Fernandez	1	605-692-2362
Brezina	2	605-690-0009
Ailts	3	605-880-5504
Moe	1	605-651-4126
Wheelhouse*	2	605-690-7965
Burch	3	605-690-1283
Schnaidt	1	605-592-1989
Langum*	3	605-690-4870
Heylens (Hoeke)*	2	605-651-6569
Vanhorn/Root/Roder	2	402-340-3303
Svartoien*	2	605-660-0605
Nagelhout*	2	605-690-5402
Jacobsen*	3	605-690-6280
Knutsen	3	605-826-4500
Knutson	4	605-695-9115
Wilde	1	605-695-8559
Diaz	2	605-902-8594
Barsness*	2	605-530-0347
Sunne*	3	605-941-0484
Olson, Justin*	1	605-695-1528
Top*	3	605-881-3065
6th/Ardis Park AM & PM		
6th/Kasan AM PM		
VCS drop off		
		Red

Oakwood/Bruce		
Route 2		phone
Oines*	3	605-361-7716
Bjerke*	2	605-695-2061
Thomas*	2	605-695-9876
Edman	1	605-690-7352
Ness*	1	605-690-1248
Tangen*	2	605-627-5589
Benson*	3	605-645-7545
Ford*	2	605-690-5614
Koropatnicki	2	206-713-6010
Haroldson*	2	605-695-1514
Diedrich*	2	605-690-5254
Kruse*	2	605-691-4295
Lewis*	2	605-690-8111
Gunnink*	1	507-227-9527
Hawley*	1	605-690-5020
Suderman*	2	605-592-5803
Feldhus	1	605-690-7899
Hartley	1	605-651-9802
Celestino	3	605-592-2724
Cook	2	605-203-1877
Langland*	1	605-627-3065
Langstraat	5	605-360-0079
Hanten	2	937-307-4967
Rud	2	605-695-2105
Holderby*	2	605-695-1026
Boulais	2	605-651-4973
Jensen, Jesse	2	701-388-0661
Gross*	1	605-690-7709
Bothwell	2	605-530-0738
Janssen	4	605-690-6304
Bohnet*	1	605-690-6658
Vander Wal, Kyle*	2	605-252-0427
Severson*	3	605-212-4903
Larson	1	605-690-1625
Gatzke*	2	605-460-4275
VanderWal, Phil		605-690-0915
City Park AM & PM		
Dakota Gold AM & PM		
		Yellow

Brookings		
Route 3		phone
Miller, K*	2	605-695-9503
Olson, Jeff*	4	605-680-9853
Odegaard*	2	605-695-0212
Hansen*	3	605-695-4432
Johnson*	2	605-627-5239
Hanson (Ariah)	1	605-695-7151
Eighmy/Swier		605-690-7390
Underhill/Hovey	1	605-651-7477
VandeWeerd, James/Martens	4	605-690-2911
VandeWeerd, Justin	3	605-690-3106
Ahlers	2	612-834-4465
Franklin	2	605-651-3279
VanderWal, Thomas	3	605-690-7136
Ribstein	2	605-520-4073
Liljegren	3	605-690-2738
Meyer (Lemme)	2	605-201-5219
Volkers*	3	712-579-6602
Kahler*	1	605-693-6365
Schlimmer*	2	605-627-9144
Shoup/Steffensen	3	605-360-0474
Antonsen (daycare)		605-627-5443
Green Acres Trlr Pk		
6th/Jefferson AM		
VCS		
High School		
		Blue

Lake Cambell		
Route 4		phone
Richarz	1	605-690-4662
Hillestad, A	2	605-690-4007
Mulder*	1	507-298-0014
Bjerke*	1	605-826-4152
Raguse	2	605-951-3705
Sapp	3	605-695-5033
Eich	1	605-690-4899
Wagner*	2	605-695-4570
Pates	2	605-690-6857
Granum*	2	605-520-0040
Steege	2	605-695-2016
Strenge	5	605-864-1023
Moldenhauer*	2	605-695-8398
Murano	2	605-695-7805
Bortnem (Erickson)	1	605-661-4797
Post	1	605-690-9199
Skovlund*	1	605-693-3395
VanderMerwe	2	605-651-7323
Thiex, T	2	605-695-6161
Thiex, D	2	605-881-4993
Hillestad, C	3	605-695-2451
Peterson*	1	605-826-2525
DeGroot	2	605-690-6738
Wallace*	1	701-799-8224
Leite	1	507-995-1693
Howell	4	507-995-0952
Yonker	1	605-881-8604
Nelson, D*	1	605-690-3898
Intermill*	2	605-695-6982
6th/Jefferson PM		
		Green





If you are not going to ride in the AM
Call the bus barn by 6:45am
Bus Garage Number 627-5523

If your name is not on the list and should be, please contact the Elementary Office 627-5657 ext 2, or email crystal.niemann@k12.sd.us

School Year 2026-2027

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE & REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT** offers healthy meals every school day. A breakfast meal will be offered to all students enrolled at Sioux Valley at **NO COST ($0.00)**. The Lunch Meal price for students in **Grades JK-5 is $3.20, and Grades 6-12 is $3.30**. **Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduce-price meals.** Reduced-price meals for breakfast and lunch are provided at **NO COST ($0.00)**. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. *WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?*
   - All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or TANF are eligible for free meals
   - Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals
   - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals
   - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals
   - Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines; your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2026-2027			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	$29,526	$2,461	$568
2	$40,034	$3,337	$770
3	$50,542	$4,212	$972
4	$61,050	$5,088	$1,175
5	$71,558	$5,964	$1,377
6	$82,066	$6,839	$1,579
7	$92,574	$7,715	$1,781
8	$103,082	$8,591	$1,983
Each additional person:	$10,508	$876	$203

2. *HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD(REN) QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?*
   Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail our Elementary Principal, **Heather Hiltunen at** Heather.Hiltunen@k12.sd.us.
3. *DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?*
   No. *Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Sioux Valley School District, PO Box 278, Volga, SD 57071.**
4. *SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?*
   No. But please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any child(ren) in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Kim Jacobson at phone: (605) 627-5657, or email** kim.jacobson@k12.sd.us right away so those children get benefits, too.
5. *MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?*
   YES. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
6. *I GET WIC OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?*
   Children in households participating in WIC or Medicaid **may** be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. WIC and Medicaid are **not** automatic qualifications. Please send in a completed application.

7. *WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?*
   Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
8. *IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?*
   Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
9. *WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?*
   You should talk to school officials by calling **Kim Jacobson at (605) 627-5657 or email:** Kim.Jacobson@k12.sd.us. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Laura Schuster, PO Box 278, Volga, SD 57071. Phone: (605) 627-5657 or email:** Laura.Schuster@k12.sd.us.
10. *MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?*
    Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.
11. *WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?*
    List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make $1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made $900, put down that you made $1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
12. *WHAT IF MY INCOME CHANGES DURING THE YEAR OR MY SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR BENEFITS CHANGE?*
    If your application for free or reduced-price benefits was properly approved, you will remain eligible for those benefits for a certain period of time. You may visit with a school official to get the exact date the meal benefits will expire.
13. *WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?*
    Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a "0" in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as a zero. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. *WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?*
    Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments and any additional combat pay resulting from deployment are also excluded from income.
    IS COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?
    No, if the combat pay is received in addition to the basic pay because of deployment and it was not received before deployment, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
15. *WILL YOU TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THE INFORMATION ON MY FORM?*
    We will use the information on your form to decide if your children should get free or reduced-price meals. We may inform officials associated with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.
16. *WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?*
    List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.
17. *MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?*
    Contact your local Department of Social Services office to find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits.
18. *WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS SPECIAL FOODS?*
    The school will make substitutions to the regular school meal for children whose disability restricts their diet when a physician certifies that disability. If the parent requests changes, the staff may choose to make substitutions for individual children who do not have a disability, but who cannot drink regular milk due to medical or other special dietary needs that are supported by a certified medical authority. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please call the school food service department for further information to request special meals or milk.

If you have other questions or need help, call **(605) 627-5657**.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuster, Superintendent
Sioux Valley Schools

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in **the SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **Kim Jacobson at (605) 627-5657, or email:** kim.jacobson@k12.sd.us.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1:
LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN & STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12.

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here?
When filling out this section, please include **ALL** members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under **AND** are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending **SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**, *regardless of age*

A) ***List each child's name.***
For each child, print their first name, middle initial and last name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) ***How old is the child? Is the child a student? What school does the child attend?***
Fill in the information for the center or school to use.

C) ***Do you have any foster children?***
If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. **Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application.** If you are *only* applying for foster children, after completing STEP 1, skip to STEP 4 of the application and these instructions. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) ***Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway?***
If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, please mark the "Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway" box next to the child's name and **complete all steps of the application.**

STEP 2:
DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

A) IF *NO ONE* IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- *Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3*

B) IF *ANYONE* IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- *Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR*. You only need to write **one** case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your local assistance office.
- **You must provide a case number on your application**
- *Go to STEP 4*

STEP 3:
REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

A) Use the charts titled "**Sources of Income for Adults**" and "**Sources of Income for Children**," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.

REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

- **Report all income earned or received by children.** Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household
- ***What is Child Income?*** Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income

REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own
- ***Do NOT include:***
  - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household
  - Infants, children and students already listed in **STEP 1**

a) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in **STEP 1.** If a child listed in **STEP 1** has income, follow the instructions in **STEP 3, part A.**	**b) Report earnings from work.** Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. ***What if I am self-employed?*** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.	**c) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
d) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.	**e) Report total household size.** Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.	**f) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.** An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

B) Report all amounts in **GROSS INCOME ONLY**. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.

- Gross income is the total income received before taxes
- Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

C) Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.

D) Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

What if I am self-employed?
If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

E) To figure monthly income for self-employment/farming: The information to figure income from private business operation is to be taken from your U.S. Individual Income Tax Return – Schedule 1. Write the numbers from the corresponding tax form lines in the box below. Write it on the free/reduced-price meal application in the earnings column as annually. If it is a negative number, write it as zero on the application. All other income from the tax form must be listed separately for the person who earned it. Net loss carryover cannot be used to decrease the household income.

Line 1 of the IRS Form 1040 cannot be used to report income. Income from wages or salaries must be reported on the free/reduced price meal application for the most recent month by family member and frequency.

Line 7b (total income) and **Line 8b** (adjusted gross income) **of the IRS Form 1040** cannot be used for the purpose of applying for free and reduced-price meals.

The line items below are used to determine allowable self-employment income. Refer to the US Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 – Schedule 1 under Part I, Additional Income section.

Line 3, Business Income (or loss)	$	**NOTE:** If any members of the household have income from wages or salary, the gross income from last month must be reported on the application form. This attachment is used only to report income from self-employment and/or farming.
Line 4, Other Gains (or losses)	$	
Line 5, Rental Real Estate, etc.	$	
Line 6, Farm Income (or loss)	$	
Line 8, Other Income	$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE LINES:	$	
	Equals annual self-employment income**	

If the TOTAL OF THE ABOVE LINES is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the free/reduced price meal application

**Report this amount on the free and reduced-price meal application in the category labeled "Farming/Pensions/Retirement/Other Income."

F) ***Report total household size.*** Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number **MUST** be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced-price meals.

G) ***Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.*** The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4:
CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. ***By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported.*** *Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.*

A) ***Provide your contact information.*** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) ***Sign and print your name.*** Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." Sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."

C) ***Write Today's Date.*** In the space provided, write today's date in the box.

D) ***Share children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional).*** On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals; however, if you do not select a race/ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.

2026-2027 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals or Free Milk

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

☐ New Applicant ☐ Previous Applicant

STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)

Definition of **Household Member**. "Anyone who is living with you & shares income and expenses, even if not related."

Children in **Foster care** and children who meet the definition of **Homeless, Migrant,** or **Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals** for more information.

Child's Name	Age	Write name of child's school, or "not in school"	If a student, write in the grade	Check all that apply: Foster Child	Check all that apply: Homeless, Migrant, Runaway
				☐	☐
				☐	☐
				☐	☐
				☐	☐
				☐	☐
				☐	☐

STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR? (NOT Medicaid)

If you answered NO > Complete STEPS 3 and 4. If YES > Write your 9-digit SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Case Number:

Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3: Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

Are you unsure what income to include here?

Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information.

The "**Sources of Income for Children**" chart will help you with the Child Income section.

The "**Sources of Income for Adults**" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.

A. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children listed in STEP 1 here.

Child income	How often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
$	○	○	○	○

Child income	How often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
$	○	○	○	○

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	How often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Farming/ Pensions/ Retirement/Other Income	How often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually
	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	○
	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	○
	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	○
	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	○
	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	$	○	○	○	○	○

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member X X X X

Check if no SSN ☐

STEP 4 : Contact information and adult signature.

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Street Address (if available) Apt # | City | State | Zip | Daytime Phone and Email (optional)

Printed name of adult completing the form | Signature of adult completing the form (Required) | Today's Date

INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income

Sources of Income for Children

Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
• Earnings from work	• A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
• Social Security o Disability Payments o Survivor's Benefits	• A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits • A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
• Income from person outside the household	• A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
• Income from any other source	• A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Sources of Income for Adults

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income
• Salary, wages, cash bonuses • Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: • Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) • Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	• Unemployment benefits • Worker's compensation • Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Cash assistance from State or local government • Alimony payments • Child support payments • Veteran's benefits • Strike benefits	• Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) • Private pensions or disability benefits • Regular income from trusts or estates • Annuities • Investment income • Earned interest • Rental income • Regular cash payments from outside household

OPTIONAL: Children's Racial and Ethnic

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

Civil Rights: Information if you have a complaint

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
fax: (202) 690-7442; or
email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Do Not Fill Out: FOR SCHOOL / CENTER USE ONLY

Do not convert if only one income frequency reported. Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Bi - Weekly x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12.

Total income:	How Often?					Household Size:	Categorical Free Eligibility: (Select 1)					Income Eligibility: (Select 1)		
	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2xMonth	Monthly	Annual		Foster	Homeless	Runaway	Migrant	SNAP/TANF /FDPIR	Free	Reduced	Denied

Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date