



Back to School Information Newsletter 2026-2027

A hard copy of this newsletter can be obtained at the Administration Office.



Mission Statement: We, the members of the Belle Fourche Community, are committed to building a learning community and ensuring all learners equal opportunity for an excellent education program that results in learners who are responsible and accountable, who value lifelong learning and know how to learn; and who are capable of succeeding in a changing society.

Belle Fourche School District
2305 13th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

<https://www.bellefourche.k12.sd.us>

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Welcome from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well and that you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful summer. As we prepare to begin another school year, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation throughout the Belle Fourche School District. The start of a new school year always brings fresh opportunities, renewed energy, and a continued commitment to helping every student learn, grow, and succeed.

As Superintendent of the Belle Fourche School District, it is my privilege to welcome our students, staff, and families back for what promises to be another outstanding year. Our district continues to build upon a strong tradition of academic excellence, student achievement, and community support, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Throughout the summer, our District has been hard at work making significant improvements to our school facilities. These upgrades and capital improvement projects are designed to enhance learning environments, improve safety, and ensure that our students and staff have access to modern, high-quality educational spaces. We are grateful for the support of our community as we continue investing in facilities that will serve our students for years to come.

We are also excited to continue expanding the Belle Fourche Learning Innovations (BFLI) Program. What began as a new opportunity to meet the diverse needs of students and families has continued to grow and evolve. BFLI provides flexible learning options while maintaining the high expectations and strong educational foundation that define the Belle Fourche School District. We look forward to building upon the success of this innovative program in the coming year.

Another exciting development for the 2026-2027 school year is the launch of our new preschool program. Early childhood education plays a critical role in preparing students for future success, and we are proud to expand educational opportunities for our youngest learners. This program represents an important investment in our students and families and strengthens our commitment to supporting children from the very beginning of their educational journey.

Academically, we have much to celebrate. State assessment results showed encouraging improvements across several areas, reflecting the hard work of our students, teachers, and support staff. While we are proud of this progress, we recognize that growth is a continuous process. We remain committed to building upon these gains and providing every student with the support, instruction, and opportunities necessary to reach their full potential.

Beyond the classroom, our students continue to excel in activities, fine arts, and athletics. The success of our extracurricular programs highlights the dedication, talent, and determination of our students and coaches. Additionally, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs continue to provide meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for both college and career pathways. These opportunities help students develop valuable skills, explore future careers, and graduate ready for success in an ever-changing world.

The Belle Fourche School District is fortunate to be served by exceptional educators, dedicated support staff, involved families, and a community that values education. Together, we are creating opportunities that empower students to achieve their goals and become productive, responsible citizens.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in the success of our schools and students. I look forward to another year of learning, growth, and achievement as we work together to provide the very best educational experience for every Bronc.

I am honored to serve this incredible community and excited for all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Dr. Orion Thompson

Superintendent of Schools

Belle Fourche School District

Contacts & Grade Assignments

School Assignments

Pre-School Special Needs

Early Intervention
29 North 6th Avenue
Phone 723-9139, Fax 723-3381

Kindergarten

North Park School
29 North 6th Avenue
Phone 723-3379, Fax 723-3381

Grades 1-4

South Park Elementary
1816 Valley Drive
Phone 723- 3382, Fax 723-3384

Grades 5-8

Belle Fourche Middle School
1302 Ziebach Street
Phone 723-3367, Fax 723-3374

Grades 9-12

Belle Fourche High School
1301 12th Avenue
Phone 723-3350, Fax 723-3357

Alt. High School

Belle Fourche Education
Connection (BFEC)
2315 Dakota Avenue, Lower Level
Phone 723-0955

Administrative Contacts

Superintendent

Dr. Orion Thompson, 723-3355

Business Manager

Billie Rae Person, 723-3355

HS Principal

Mathew Raba, 723-3350

MS Principal

Kevin Smidt, 723-3367

Elementary Principal

Dr. Julie Hatling, 723-3382

Activities Director

Beau Garcia, 723-3359

Special Education Director

Caleb Case, 723-3356

Director of Facilities

Tommy Coyle, 723-3360

Transportation/Bus Barn

892-2683

District Nurse

Brandi VanSickle 723-3382

Food Service Director

Angie Bohm, 723-3377 or 720-813-6615

Mailing address for all school buildings

2305 13th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Enrollment & Registration

New Student Enrollment

Welcome to BFSD! All new students must enroll online at:

www.bellefourche.k12.sd.us →
Click Enroll New Students

Documents Needed:

- Copy of the student's birth certificate
- Immunization records

These documents may be dropped off at our

Administration Offices at

2305 13th Avenue or emailed

to robin.waggener@k12.sd.us

[Link to New Student Enrollment](#)

Returning Student Registration

Welcome back! All returning students that completed the 25-26 school year, must complete the **Returning Student Registration** online.

Registration link available: **July 20**

Registration deadline: **August 3**

Access registration at: District website

[Link to Returning Student Registration - will be available July 20th](#)

Belle Fourche Education Connection (BFEC)

BFEC students will register in person.

When: Wednesday, Aug. 19
from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: BFEC (2315 Dakota Ave., Lower Level)

**ENROLLMENT &
REGISTRATION**

Open House & Orientation

Freshman & New High School Student Information Session

Open House & Information Session. Parents and students are welcome to attend!

When: Tuesday, Aug. 11th @ 6:30 pm

Where: High School Gym

Freshman Orientation

When: Wednesday, Aug. 19th from 12:15 pm-3:30 pm - freshman students will attend the entire session.

Where: High School Gym

Grades 10-12

10-12th grade students can pick up their laptops from the Student Center between 12:15 and 3:30 on Aug. 19th.

Welcome Back!

Middle School

Homeroom Assignment

Homerooms will be posted on the entrance doors at 4:00 pm on Monday, August 17th.

5th Grade Orientation

When: Wednesday, Aug. 19th, @ 1:00 pm

Where: Middle School Gym

Note: Please plan to meet in the Middle School gym to start things off promptly at 1:00. From there, we will be touring classrooms, organizing lockers, and participating in other fun activities.

6th - 8th Grade Open House

Welcome back! Stop any time between 1:00 and 3:00 pm on August 19th to meet your new teachers!

Elementary

Classroom Assignment

Students will receive introductory letters from their new teacher in early August.

Open House

When: Wednesday, Aug. 19th, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Where: North Park (Kindergarten), South Park (Grades 1-4)

Arrival & Dismissal Times

School

Start Time

Dismissal Time

North Park

8:10

3:15 (Dismiss from SP)

South Park

8:00

3:20

Middle School

7:55

3:43

High School

7:50

3:37

Drop Off/Arrival Times

For your child's safety, student drop-off begins at the times listed below. We kindly ask that you do not drop off your child before these times, as staff supervision is available starting then. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe and well supervised!

North Park: 7:50

South Park: 7:40

Middle School: 7:30

High School: 7:30

First Day of School

Kindergarten: Thursday, Aug. 20
OR Friday, Aug. 21. Please refer to your introduction letter for your child's start day. All Kindergarteners will attend beginning Monday, Aug. 24.

Grades 1-12: Thursday, Aug. 20

Kindergarten Dismissal

Kindergarten students will ride the bus to SP for specials at the end of each school day and will be dismissed from SP afterward.

Attendance

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in your child's success. When students attend school consistently and arrive on time, they build strong academic skills, develop positive routines, and stay connected with their teachers and classmates. Strong attendance is a partnership between school and home. By working together and making daily attendance a priority, we can help ensure your child has every opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

For safety reasons, parents/guardians must notify the school if a child will be absent. Prompt communication helps us ensure every student is accounted for each day. If your child needs to be absent, please use the contact information below to inform the school.

Attendance Office Contacts

Elementary: 605-723-3379 (Carrie House)

Middle School: 605-723-3367 (Corin Humbracht)

High School: 605-723-3350 (Debbie Millett)

BFEC: 605-723-0955

Important Note:

Absences that are not reported to the appropriate attendance office will be recorded as unexcused. For additional details, please visit the District website to review the attendance policy or click the link below.

Bussing & Pickup

Bussing (Grades K-8)

The School Board has authorized in-town bus service for K–8 students traveling between schools.

- **Morning:** Students may board a bus at any regular school stop and ride to their school of attendance.
- **Afternoon:** Students may board a bus at their school and ride to any regular school stop.

Parents who plan to use in-town bussing should check the District website and review registration materials for complete schedules, including locations, times, and bus numbers.

Important Reminders

- Bus riding is a privilege. Ongoing discipline concerns may result in loss of bus privileges.
- Rural bus students have priority seating.
- High school students are not eligible to use the in-town shuttle service.

Thank you for helping us ensure a safe and smooth transportation experience for all students!

Elementary Pickup

To help ensure a safe and smooth arrival and dismissal process, busses will load directly in front of South Park on Valley Drive again this year.

Please note: **Stanley Street will be one-way traffic during elementary loading and unloading times. All elementary pick-up traffic should enter using Stanley Street and follow the one-way flow.** This procedure helps us keep students safe and traffic moving efficiently.

We truly appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work together to provide a safe environment for all students.

[LINK TO BUS SCHEDULE](#)



Food Service

Lunchtime Solutions

Lunchtime Solutions is the contracted provider for food services at Belle Fourche School District 9-1. We look forward to another great year of providing nutritious meals for our students.

Monthly breakfast and lunch menus are available on the district website: www.bellefourche.k12.sd.us → Food Service → K-12 Lunch/Breakfast Menus

For questions, please contact:
Angie Bohm, Food Service Director
605-723-3377 or 720-813-6615
a.bohm@lunchtimesolutions.com



[LINK TO LUNCH MENU](#)

School Lunch

School lunch offers a wide variety of options to meet student tastes and preferences. Each meal includes an entrée choice, a hot vegetable, milk options, and unlimited fruits and cold vegetables.

Students are also welcome to bring a lunch from home. Please note that lunches should be packed cold or pre-heated before arriving at school, as microwaves are not available for K-4 students.

School Breakfast

Grades K-4: Breakfast will be served in the classroom after the bell rings.

Grades 5-8: Breakfast will be served in the dining area beginning at 7:15 am - 8:00 am.

Grades 9-12: Breakfast will be served in the dining area beginning at 7:15 am - 8:55 am.

Food Service

Snacks

Snack items will be available for Middle and High School students during lunch. All items meet the standards of the Belle Fourche Wellness Policy. Students must have available funds in their lunch account to purchase snacks.

Diet Modifications

Families are responsible for notifying the School Food Service if the child requires a diet modification because of a life threatening disability. A licensed physician must provide specific written medical documentation. Please contact the School Food Service office for paperwork and more information.

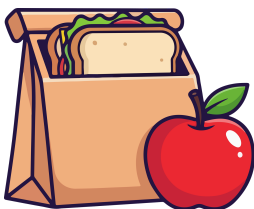
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides K-4 children with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day at no cost to families.

Extras

Students may purchase an additional entrée or extra milk for an added cost, which will be charged to their lunch account. Funds must be available in the account to select extra entrées.

Students who purchase a school meal may enjoy unlimited servings of fruits, vegetables, and salads at no additional charge.



Food Service & Payments

Lunch Accounts

Lunch account deposits should be made in the morning before school starts.

Payments by check may be mailed or dropped off at your student's school office. Please include your name, your student's name, lunch account number, and any updated contact information.:

Belle Fourche School District 9-1
Attn: Food Service
2305 13th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Students will receive a reminder when balances are low. Students will receive their school breakfast and lunch. However, extras or ala carte are not available on any negative accounts.

Meal Cost 2026-2027

	Lunch	Breakfast
Grades K-5	\$3.95	\$2.60
Grades 6-8	\$4.10	\$2.60
Grades 9-12	\$4.20	\$2.60

EZSchoolPay

We encourage families to use EZSchoolPay to make payments, view meal account transactions and balances, and set up payment reminders online. Visit the District website under the Parents section for information on EZSchoolPay.

We further encourage the use of EZSchoolPay to pay fees for annuals, class dues, laptop fees and student meal accounts.

Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior class dues are \$3.00. All class dues are to be paid at the class meeting which will be held on the first day of school. 2026-27 High School Annuals will be on sale during registration for \$40.00. Annuals purchased after January 1st will be \$45.00. Activity tickets will not be available on EZSchool Pay.

[LINK TO EZSchoolPay](#)

[LINK TO EZSchoolPay Instructions](#)

Checks

Returned checks are subject to a \$20.00 fee. By providing a check, you authorize us to process it as a check transaction or as a one-time electronic fund transfer, which may withdraw funds from your account as soon as the same day; for questions, please call 723-3355.

Free & Reduced Meals

Free & Reduced Meals

Meal application will be available July 15th.

Families may qualify for free and reduced price meals if your household is at or below the limits shown below.

Applications must be received in the Administration Office AND approved before school starts.

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
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 Add'l Membe	10,508	876	203

***Note** A new application is required each school year. Use the QR code or link for easy access to the forms.**

Applications

Applications are available at the District Administration Building or online at www.bellefourche.k12.sd.us (Menu → Food Service → Free and Reduced Meal Application → Online Version).

List all children on one application. You will be notified of approval or denial. Eligibility details and instructions are included with the application.

For questions or assistance, contact Ashley Nielsen, Food Service Secretary, at 723-3355 ext. 2.

School districts are automatically notified of children in approved SNAP and/or TANF households; no printed notice is required.

[LINK TO APPLICATION](#)

Technology & Virtual Learning

ClassDojo

This year, our District will begin using ClassDojo as the main way for families and teachers to communicate. Many of you may already be familiar with ClassDojo from using it with students in grades K–4. We are now partnering with ClassDojo to implement it across our District for grades K–12. ClassDojo has been a wonderful tool for communication in our elementary schools, and they have expanded platforms that are suitable for usage in the upper grade levels.

With ClassDojo, families will have one place to communicate directly with their children's teachers. You will also be able to see announcements and updates from the classroom, building, and District.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CLASSDOJO CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

School Laptops

All BFSF K–12 students will receive a school-issued laptop. Grades 5–12 may take laptops home and must bring them fully charged daily; elementary students may take Chromebooks home only for virtual learning or with teacher approval.

Incoming 1st, 5th, 9th graders and new students must pay a nonrefundable \$25 deposit or sign a self-insurance waiver (deposit may be waived for free/reduced meals). Laptops will be issued on the first day of school. Return the deposit and signed waiver by August 21.

GoGuardian Parent App

Parents and guardians are encouraged to install the GoGuardian Parent app to monitor school device use and manage settings outside school hours. Setup instructions are available on the school website.

[LINK TO GOGUARDIAN APP](#)

Parent Portal

Parent portals, via the internet, are available as a means to further promote educational excellence and to enhance communication with parents. The portal allows parents to view their own child's school records anywhere at any time via an internet connection. The portal is available to every parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the Belle Fourche School District. Parents may stop in at the Administration Office to pick up the forms necessary to access this service or print the form from the District website.

Internet & Email Permission

Belle Fourche School District 9-1 offers student access to email and the Internet to support learning and research. Students under 18 must have parental permission and return the signed form to the principal's office; students 18 or older may sign their own.

Parents and guardians are responsible for setting guidelines for their child's use and may choose whether to request access.

Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar

**Returning Student
Registration Deadline**

August 3

First Day of School

August 20

K-12 Fall Conferences

October 8

1:30-7:30

Thanksgiving Break

November 25-27

Christmas Break

Dec. 21- Jan. 1

K-12 Spring Conferences

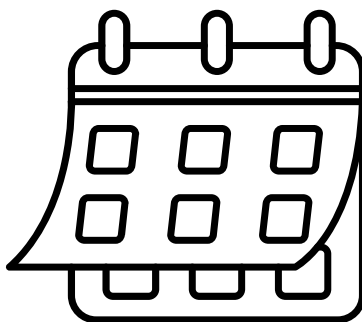
March 4

1:30-7:30

Last Day of School

May 28

½ Day



[LINK TO SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

Programs

TRAK (Grades KG-4)

The After School TRAK Program (Grades KG-4) will run Monday through Thursday 3:20- 5:00 p.m. sessions and Friday Intersessions as noted on the school calendar. A detailed schedule will be available at the start of the school year. Student enrollment may be limited, and enrollment forms must be completed for participation. These can be picked up at the South Park or North Park Elementary offices. TRAK does not provide transportation. Please contact 605-206-0979 for additional information.

JAM PROGRAM (Grades 5-8)

The After School Jam Program (Grades 5-8) will run Monday through Thursday 3:40-5:00 p.m. sessions and Friday Intersessions as noted on the school calendar. A detailed schedule will be available at the start of the school year. Enrollment forms must be completed for After School JAM participation. These can be picked up at the MS office. Please contact the MS office 605-723-3367 or 605-641-3139 for additional information.

HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (Grades 9-12)

The High School After School Program (Grades 9-12) will run Monday through Thursday 3:40-5:00 p.m. sessions and Friday Intersessions as noted on the school calendar. A detailed schedule will be available at the start of the school year. Please contact the HS office 605-723-3350 for additional information.

TEAMMATES[™] MENTORING

Teammates is a school based mentoring program that matches adults in our community with students in grades 3-12. Matches meet at school once a week to have lunch, play a game, or just talk. Our goal is to help students reach their full potential through mentoring. To find out more go to www.teammates.org or email ann-marie.hostetter@k12.sd.us.

Belle Fourche Band Night



Band students in 6th grade and students new to the district must attend band night. Haggerty's will be here to share rental plans. Students will make selections of instruments, cleaning kits, reeds, valve oil, and lesson books. Orders will be taken, and delivery will be made at the school, the first week of school in time for the first lesson.

When: Thursday, Aug. 13th @ 6:00 pm

Where: BFMS Band and Choir Room

Best Buddies

The Best Buddies Mentoring Program pairs juniors and seniors with elementary students to enrich lives through positive partnerships. Mentors build leadership skills and scholarship opportunities while sharing fun, one-hour sessions that create lasting memories. Volunteer to make a difference in a child's life!

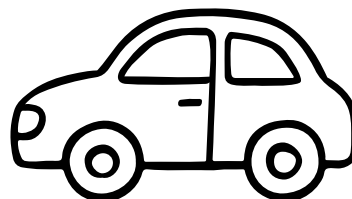
Sign up at registration or contact Brian Aspen (210-0056), Kyle Webb (723-3350) or Alia Brennan (723-3382).

Driver's Education

Contact: Kari Smith

Phone: 605-394-5120 or 605-721-7453

Email: kssmith@bhssc.org



Athletics

Reminder ALL athletic paperwork must be turned in prior to the first practice.

High School Athletics

Attention fall sports parents: The High School **parent/coach meeting is Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00 PM in the high school gym.** Important season information will be shared, and athletic paperwork may be submitted. Please contact the Activity Department with questions.

HS Fall Sports Start Dates

July 27-29 - SWAY Concussion Testing

Aug. 3 - Soccer, Competitive Cheer & Competitive Dance

Aug. 10 - Boys' Golf Meeting / Practice

Aug. 10 - Football / Cross County

Aug. 11 - Bronc Booster Fall Picnic

Aug. 13 - Volleyball

Sept. 14 - Coronation at HS Gym 7:30 pm

Sept. 18 - Homecoming Parade 2:30 pm

Middle School Athletics

Attention Middle School football, volleyball, and cross country parents:

Football SWAY concussion testing

—see High School information.

Aug. 10 - 4 PM Football (7th / 8th grade) helmet checkout; 5 PM parent/player meeting (MS gym). If time allows, short practice afterwards.

Aug. 17 @ 4:00 PM - Volleyball practice for 7th – 8th graders with 6:00 PM parent/player meeting (MS gym).

Aug. 20 - Cross country practice begins for 6th– 8th graders.

Please attend meetings for important season information. Contact the Activity Department with questions.



SWAY Concussion Testing

All 7th–12th grade athletes in cheer, boys' and girls' soccer, high school and middle school football, and high school volleyball must complete baseline testing.

When: July 27-29 | 8:00 AM–12:00 PM |

Where: High School Student Center

Bring a fully charged cell phone and wear tennis shoes (no sandals).

School Athletic Physicals

Gentle Touch Chiropractic PLLC

(723-5024) Offering FREE athletic physicals during the month of July. After July, the athletes will be CHARGED \$50.00 for physicals. Must call to book appointment – no walk-ins. A parent or guardian must complete forms before the physical can be performed – forms are available at location

Belle Chiropractic (723-3434)

Athletic physicals are available for \$50.00. Call ahead to schedule and specify it is for a school physical. A parent/guardian must complete required forms before the appointment (forms available on-site).

School Athletic Physicals (Cont.)

Tri-State Chiropractic (892-

4845) Offering FREE athletic physicals on Saturday, July 11th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and Wednesday, July 22nd from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm – ONLY. You must call ahead for an appointment and tell them it is for a school athletic physical. ALL the forms must be filled out and SIGNED at the time of appointment or we will not be able to see the athlete. Any other dates, the athletes will be CHARGED \$25.00.

Monument Health Medical

Clinic (723-8970) Offering FREE athletic physicals. Athletes may see any provider of their choice, but appointments are required. A parent or guardian must complete forms before the physical can be performed. Forms are available at the clinic.



Athletics

Welcome Broncs!

Beginning Fall 2026, Belle Fourche will partner with BOUND, an all-in-one athletic, activities, and facilities management system. Schedules, tickets, scores, standings, and fundraising will now be in one place.

BOUND Website

Access the Belle Fourche BRONCS page here (bookmark it):
<https://www.gobound.com/sd/schools/BelleFourche>

This site will serve as your one-stop resource for athletic and activities information.

LINK TO BOUND WEBSITE

2026-27 Admission Fees

K-12 - No Activity Pass - \$4.00

Adult - No Activity Pass - \$6.00

K-12 - Season Activity Pass - \$25.00

Adult - Season Activity Pass - \$45.00

Senior Citizen (Age 55) - Free Pass
from High School Office

PreKindergarten - Free

Activity Passes will not be honored at Tournaments or playoff games.

If you are interested in volunteering to work for a **FREE** activity pass, please contact Brooks Audiss via email - Brooks.Audiss@k12.sd.us.

Notifications

Stay informed about schedule changes, postponements, and cancellations by clicking the green “Notifications” button at the top of the site.

- Sign up on the Home page for school-wide updates.
- Visit specific activity pages (e.g., girls basketball) to subscribe to activity-specific notifications.
- Enter your name, email, phone number, and notification preferences.

Repeat for each activity you wish to follow.

Ticketing & Passes (2026-2027)

Digital ticketing will be available for home events. Families may:

- Purchase passes or single-game tickets online
- Use credit/debit cards or Apple Pay at the gate
- Pay cash (still accepted)

Click “Tickets” on the BOUND site to get started.

Notifications

Child Custody Notification

By law, if parents are legally separated or divorced, each parent has equal rights to the custody of the child/children UNLESS a parent has a court order that indicated which parent has sole custody of the child/children. The school MUST HAVE A COPY of the court order on file, otherwise either parent may check the child out of school with proper identification.

Building & Grounds Report

Federal and South Dakota law require annual notification about asbestos in school buildings. All buildings were first inspected in 1988, and areas containing asbestos have since been monitored and maintained. Any asbestos removal, such as past work at the High School, is reported as required.

The Asbestos Management Plan is on file at the Facilities Office, 2305 13th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD. For more information, call (605) 723-3360.

INTERESTED IN SUBSTITUTE TEACHING?

A substitute teacher in-service will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at the Middle School Library at 2:00 p.m. and/or apply on our District website under Join Our Team.

Immunization & Health Requirements

All children entering Belle Fourche School District must be up to date on South Dakota immunizations:

- DTP: 4 doses (1 after age 4)
- Polio: 3 doses (1 after age 4)
- MMR: 2 doses
- Chickenpox: proof of disease or immunization before kindergarten
- Tetanus booster: every 10 years
- Hepatitis B: recommended, not required

6th Grade Requirements:

- Tdap (on/after 11th birthday)
- Meningococcal (MCV4, on/after 11th birthday)

Proof must be provided at registration. Failure to provide records will result in exclusion until updated.

Contact your physician or Public Health Office (892-2523) for immunizations. Notify the school of allergies or health concerns. Medication at school requires parent authorization; nonprescription pain relievers are only given under the School Nurse's direction.

We look forward to a healthy, happy school year!

NOTICE - To promote safe and healthy schools, the Belle Fourche School District will continue to conduct unannounced random drug searches of our facilities. These drug searches may be conducted by, but not limited to, a school administrator, the School District Resource Officer, a private contractor hired by the School District or police. All drug searches will be conducted in a prudent and professional manner under the direction of a School District Building Supervisor or Superintendent of Schools.

Policies

FAPE

Belle Fourche School District offers free, appropriate public education for all children with disabilities (birth–21), including those in public or private programs. Special Education programs follow the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) model, educating children with and without disabilities together whenever possible.

If your child struggles academically, socially, or emotionally, contact Special Education Director Caleb Case at 723-3356 to learn about the referral process.

Equal Opportunities Title IX-504

The Belle Fourche School System is a nondiscriminatory institution that offers education opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, or disability. Equal Opportunity Grievance Procedures – Specific allegations of violation may be submitted in writing to Title IX Co-coordinators, Beau Garcia/Caleb Case, 2305 13th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, (605)723-3359 or (605)723- 3356, within thirty (30) days of the grievance.

Child Find

Belle Fourche School District identifies and evaluates children under 21 who may need special education. Anyone concerned about a child's development can contact Special Education Director Caleb Case (723-3356) or Julie Erskin (723-9139). Evaluations are conducted with parental consent, and results guide the development of an appropriate education program. Quarterly public screenings are also offered at the Early Intervention Classroom, 29 6th Avenue, in collaboration with local health and parent organizations.

Screening Dates:

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 8:30am-2:30pm

Friday, October 23, 2026 - 12:30pm-2:30pm

Friday, January 15, 2027 - 12:30pm-2:30pm

Friday, March 19, 2027 - 12:30pm-2:30pm

All screenings held in Early Intervention Classroom.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS COMPLAINT POLICY AND TITLE X PART C -HOMELESS EDUCATION

A parent, student, employee, or District stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal NCLB funds and is unable to resolve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the District's superintendent.

[LINK TO DISTRICT POLICIES](#)

All District policies are currently being updated

Notice of Rights

Notice of Rights for Students with Disabilities and Their Parents Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

The purpose of this notice is to inform parents and students of the rights granted to them under Section 504. The federal regulations that implement Section 504 are found at Title 34, Part 104 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and entitle parents of eligible children and the student themselves to the following rights: 1. You have a right to be informed of your rights under Section 504. The School District must provide you written notice of your rights under Section 504. (This document represents written notice of rights required under Section 504). If you need further explanation or clarification of any of the rights described in this notice, contact Caleb Case, Section 504 Coordinator, at 605- 723-3356, and he will assist you in understanding your rights. 2. Under Section 504, your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her educational needs adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met. 3. Your child has the right to free educational services, with the exception of certain cost normally also paid by the parents of nondisabled students. Insurance companies and other similar third parties are not relieved of any existing obligation to provide or pay for services to a student who becomes eligible for Section 504 services. 4. To the maximum extent appropriate, your child has the right to be educated with children who are not disabled. Your child will be placed and educated in regular classes, unless the District demonstrated that his or her educational needs cannot be adequately met in the regular classroom, even with the use of supplementary aides and services. 5. Your child has the right to services, facilities, and activities comparable to those provided to nondisabled students. 6. The School District must undertake an evaluation of your child prior to determining his or her appropriate educational placement or program of services under Section 504 and also before every significant change in placement. 7. If formal assessment instruments are used as a part of an evaluation, procedures used to administer assessments and other instruments must comply with the requirements of Section 504 regarding test validity, proper method of administration, and appropriate test selection. The District will consider information from a variety of sources in making its determinations, including aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, reports of physical condition, social and cultural background, adaptive behavior, health records, report cards, progress notes, parent observations and test scores. 8. Placement decisions regarding your child must be made by a group of persons (504 committee) knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, possible placement options, and the requirement that to the maximum extent possible, disabled children should be educated with nondisabled children. 9. If your child is eligible under Section 504, he or she has a right to periodic evaluations to determine if there has been a change in educational need. Generally an evaluation will take place at least every three years. 10. You have the right to be notified by the Belle Fourche School District prior to any action regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 11. You have the right to examine relevant documents and records regarding your child (generally documents relating to identification, evaluation or placement under Section 504). 12. You have the right to an impartial due process hearing if you wish to contest any action of the District with regard to your child's identification, evaluation, or placement under Section 504. You have the right to participate personally in the hearing or to be represented by an attorney if you wish to hire one. 13. If you wish to contest an action taken by the Section 504 committee by means of an impartial due process hearing, you must submit a notice of appeal or request for hearing to the District's 504 Coordinator (Caleb Case, 2305 13th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, Ph. 605-723-3356). A date will be set for the hearing and an impartial hearing officer will be appointed. You will be notified in writing of the hearing date, time and place. 14. If you disagree with the decision of the hearing officer, you have the right to seek a review of the decision before a court of competent jurisdiction (normally the closest federal district court). 15. With respect to other issues surrounding your child's education that do not specifically involve identification, evaluation or placement, you have a right to present a grievance or complaint to the District's 504 Coordinator, who will then investigate the situation, taking into account the nature of the complaint and all necessary factors, in an effort to arrive at a fair and speedy resolution. 16. You also have a right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education. The address for the regional office that covers the Belle Fourche School District is US Dept. of Ed., 10220 North Executive Hills Blvd., 8th Floor, Kansas City MO 64153- 1367, Ph. # (816) 880-4200.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District 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 principal 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 student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask Belle Fourche School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want to be changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District 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 consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in 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 District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational 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 District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5901.

A copy of these policies and regulations may be obtained in the building principal's or superintendent's office of the Belle Fourche School District. Complaints regarding violation of rights accorded parents and students should be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools of the Belle Fourche School District, or the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5901.

For further information, please contact the Special Programs Director, Caleb Case, 2305 13th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD, 57717 or (605) 723-3356.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ClassDojo Information Continued

To get started, parents and guardians should create a ClassDojo account using the email address they provided to the school. You will not see students connected to your account immediately, but at the beginning of the school year, the program will be fully implemented and activated. Further details will be shared with District families to ensure that everyone gets connected!

If your family is already using ClassDojo in our District with a younger student, you do not need to do anything right now. Students who are not already connected in ClassDojo to your account will be connected automatically.

Finally, if you have trouble getting your ClassDojo account set up, ClassDojo support can be reached at parent@classdojo.com.

A few additional notes to help avoid confusion or address potential concerns:

- **Cost:** ClassDojo is free for families and low-cost for the District. The app does offer optional paid features, but families do not need to purchase anything to communicate with teachers or receive school updates.
- **Privacy:** ClassDojo is designed for school communication and has privacy and security protections in place for student and family information. They do not sell personal data, and protecting student privacy is a key part of how the platform is built.
- **Public Information:** ClassDojo will be used for communication with families in our district. The district website and social media pages will still be maintained, and information meant for the general public will continue to be posted there.
- **Urgent Announcements:** For urgent District-wide communication, such as snow days, school security updates, or other time-sensitive notices, we will continue to use the same robocall and mass text system families are already familiar with. These updates will also be shared through ClassDojo when appropriate.

Thank you for helping us make this transition. We are looking forward to having one simple place for families and staff to stay connected throughout the school year!

SNOW DAYS/POSTPONED SCHOOL DAYS

When weather OR other reasons/events requires us to cancel school, families will be notified through our automated phone system.

Any days missed due to weather or other events will either be made up later in the school year, as determined by the School Board, or transitioned to a Virtual Learning Day to make the most of our flexible learning options and available technology.

DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY

The Belle Fourche School District will provide all students with a strong foundation of knowledge, fitness, nutrition and healthy choices in a challenging and changing world. The District will provide an environment that promotes, protects and preserves health. Effective health education is a shared responsibility that begins in the home and reinforced in the community by its citizens, health agencies and schools. Hardcopies of the District Wellness Policy are located in each school attendance center and the Central Office. There is also a link to the District Wellness Policy on the School District's webpage. Direct any questions concerning the District Wellness Policy to the Superintendent's office. (723-3355)

Claiming Mileage

Patrons of the Belle Fourche School District who claim mileage for the 2026-2027 school year, must turn in mileage vouchers to the Administration Office by May 31, 2027.

School Supply Lists Grades EI-2

Early Intervention (EI)

- 1 – regular sized backpack (large enough for papers & supplies)
- 2 – large purple glue sticks
- 1 – ream of white paper
- 2 - boxes Kleenex
- 2 - containers of Clorox wipes
- 1 - box of snacks (fruit, crackers, etc.)



Kindergarten

- 1 ream white copy paper
- 1 Large pink eraser
- 2 boxes of 8 Crayons, regular size
- 6-8 small Glue sticks (not Elmer's liquid or rolling glue)
- Fiskars blunt scissors (metal)
- Box for supplies, plastic (no larger than 8" x 5")
- No. 2 wooden pencils (no plastic or glitter coated pencils)
- Watercolor paints, Crayola or Prang brand
- 1 Kleenex (large box)
- Back pack
- 8 wide-tipped Crayola markers (classic colors only)
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 spiral bound wide-ruled notebook
- 2 – containers of Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes snacks per month
- REQUIRED: Tennis shoes for P.E.

1st Grade

- Box of Crayons, 24 pack
- 4 - large Glue sticks
- 2 - large green or pink erasers
- Fiskars scissors
- 12 - No. 2 lead pencils -plain yellow
- 2 Kleenex (large boxes)
- 1 - box crackers per month (individually wrapped for 24 students every month)
- 8 - Crayola washable wide-tipped markers - (Classic colors only)
- 3 - Clorox wipes
- 2 - 2 pocket folders - sturdy plastic
- School box – 8" x 4" x 1 ¾" (pencil box)
- Colored pencils
- 2 - Black Thick Expo Markers
- REQUIRED: Tennis shoes for P.E.

2nd Grade

- No. 2 lead pencils – 1 pack
- 2 - Glue sticks
- 2 - Large pink erasers
- Box of 24 crayons
- Fiskars scissors
- 8 - Crayola washable markers (optional)
- Kleenex (large box)
- School box, about 8" x 4" x 1 ¾" deep
- 2 - Clorox wipes
- Dry Erase Markers – 2 packs
- REQUIRED: Tennis shoes for P.E.

Some of these supplies need to be replenished during the school year. Please put your child's name on all supplies. Everything listed per grade level is required.

School Supply Lists Grades 3-4

3rd Grade

No. 2 lead pencils-package of 24 - (no mechanical pencils)
2 - large erasers (white preferred)
1 - wide-ruled spiral notebooks
Scissors (Fiskars recommended) – 7" long
3 - white Glue sticks
Washable markers
2 - Kleenex (large boxes)
Plastic box for supplies
2 - large containers of Clorox wipes
1 - box of crackers per month
Colored pencils
12 - Dry Erase Markers
REQUIRED: Tennis shoes for P.E.

4th Grade

8 - Dry Erase markers
3 - Spiral notebooks, wide-rule – hole punched
- glue sticks
10 - No. 2 pencils
Scissors (large/pointed)
2 - Kleenex (large boxes)
Colored pencils
1 - Pocket Folder
1 – 1" (inch) White 3 ring binder – (2 binders for teacher McCrackin)
3 - Clorox wipes
Small pencil box or zipper pouch
3 prong folder for Music
REQUIRED: Tennis shoes for P.E.
Markers

3rd Grade Music Supplies

1 Baroque Soprano Recorder (not needed until after Christmas). You may bring your own recorder to be approved by the music teacher. Information about ordering recorders will be made available in January.



4th Grade Music Supplies

1 pocket folder with fasteners
1 pencil
1 Soprano Baroque Recorder (Not needed until after Christmas. Can be the same recorder from 3rd grade.)

You may bring your own recorder to be approved by the music teacher, or information about ordering recorders will be made available in January.



K-4 Headphones

We will provide headphones for each student. If you prefer to send your own, please make sure they are non-wireless headphones. If a pair of headphones breaks during the school year, we kindly ask families to provide a replacement (**no ear buds**).

Some of these supplies may need to be replenished during the school year. Please put your child's name on all supplies. Everything listed per grade level is required.

School Supply Lists Grades 5-12

5th - 8th graders: locks are no longer available to rent from the Middle School Office

5th Grade

Lock for locker
24 - No. 2 pencils (re-supply as needed)
Pencil top erasers
2 - Fine tip black permanent marker
12 - Glue sticks
Scissors (larger size)
4 - black Expo markers (re-supply as needed)
(Erasers/pencil top erasers (re-supply as needed)
4 - Composition notebooks - 100 pages
(1 with graph paper if available)
3 - Pocket folders (heavy duty)
1 - thick marker & 1 thin marker (10 count)
2 - Kleenex (large boxes)
Markers (10 count) – (thin and thick)
Earbuds or headphones required
2 - large Clorox wipes
Earbuds or headphones (no Bluetooth)
MUSIC – 2 pocket folder
Computer Class – 2 pocket folder

6th Grade

Combination Lock for locker
1 - Trapper for carrying materials between classes
4 - pocket folders (3 hole punched)
2 - packages of No. 2 pencils
3 - large boxes of Kleenex
2 - large pink erasers
1 - pack of Pencil top erasers
3 - pens (blue or red) (no black)
3 - glue sticks
1 - scissors (larger size)
2 - highlighters
1 - pack of Expo markers & 1 Dry erase eraser
3 - Composition notebooks
2 - packages of loose-leaf lined paper
3 - Kleenex (large boxes)
2 - large Clorox wipes
Earbuds or headphones (no wireless)
Computer Class – 2 pocket folder
BAND/CHOIR – 6-8 grade – 1 box Kleenex and pencils.

5-8th Grade PE

Gym bag
Athletic clothes (shorts, shirt, socks)
Solid (not spray) deodorant
tennis shoes (shoes may be an old pair)
Sweats for cold weather.

7th Grade

Lock for locker
6 - heavy duty folders
3 - Composition notebooks
1 - 2" 3-ring binder
1 - package wide-lined composition paper
Twistable colored pencils
No. 2 pencils
4 - packages of 12 pencil top erasers
Red pens or pencils
3 - Elmer's glue sticks
3 - jars of rubber cement
1 - package of multicolor highlighters
1 - pack of Expo markers
3 - Kleenex (large boxes)
3 - Clorox wipes (large)
Corded headphones (no Bluetooth)
Computer Class – 2 pocket folder
BAND/CHOIR – 6-8 grade – 1 box Kleenex and pencils

8th Grade

Lock for locker
Laptop bag, backpack or satchel
Refillable water bottle
Folders or Trapper or Binder with dividers (optional)
No. 2 pencils (replenish throughout the year)
Colored pencils
Loose leaf paper (replenish throughout the year)
2 - Kleenex (large boxes)
1 - Clorox wipes (large)
Earbuds or headphones (no wireless)
Computer Class – 2 pocket folder
BAND/CHOIR – 6-8 grade – 1 box Kleenex and pencils

9-12th Grade

2 -Three ring binders (1 ½" or 2" inch)
No. 2 lead pencils or mechanical pencils Black or blue pens
5- 7 spiral notebooks
Bag or backpack with a sleeve specifically for carrying a laptop
Clorox wipes