

Henry SCHOOL DISTRICT 14-2

111 Cedar St. N. • PO Box 8
Henry, SD 57243

Phone (605) 532-5364
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Landon Hammer, SUPERINTENDENT · · Nicky Watson, BUSINESS MANAGER

Henry School District 14-2

Superintendent's Office

July 28, 2026

Dear Henry School Families,

As we look forward to the start of a new school year, I'd like to share several important updates designed to strengthen student success, enhance safety, and enrich learning opportunities at Henry School. These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for all students.

Cell Phone Policy

Continuing this fall, students will not be allowed to have cell phones in their possession during the school day. Upon arrival, each student will place their phone in a personal phone locker, where it will remain securely stored until the end of the day. Each student will be issued a key to their assigned locker, and the school office will retain a master key for administrative access if needed.

If a student is found with a phone during school hours:

- **First offense:** Detention in the In-School Suspension room.
- **Second offense:** One day In-School Suspension, and the phone must be picked up by a parent or guardian
- **Third offense:** Three days of In-School Suspension, meeting with parents, and the phone must be picked up by the parent or guardian.

This policy is designed to minimize distractions, promote engagement, and foster a more focused learning environment. By eliminating the disruption of notifications and social media, students can concentrate more effectively on academics and develop meaningful peer relationships.

In addition to phones, **any devices that connect to a phone—such as smartwatches, wireless earbuds, or similar accessories—are also not permitted during the school day.** These devices must be stored with the phone in the assigned locker.

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Exceptions will be made for students with documented medical needs, such as diabetes or other health conditions that may require phone access. This accommodation will be arranged through the school office on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that **the school office phone will be staffed at all times during school business hours**. We encourage parents and guardians to use it for urgent messages or needs during the school day.

Semester Test Policy

The purpose of the Semester Test Exemption Policy is to recognize and reward students who demonstrate consistent academic achievement, attendance, and positive citizenship throughout the semester.

Eligibility Requirements

Students may be exempt from taking their semester tests and will be allowed to stay home from school two days before Christmas break, and the last two days of school if they meet **ALL** of the following requirements during the semester:

- **Attendance:** Miss no more than **three (3) full school days** (school-sponsored activities do not count as absences).
- **Academic Performance:** Maintain a **minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5** for the semester.
- **Tardiness:** Accumulate **fewer than three (3) tardies**.
- **Behavior:** Receive **fewer than three (3) detentions**.

Additional Guidelines

- Eligibility will be determined at the conclusion of the semester after attendance, grades, and discipline records have been finalized.
- Students who qualify may choose to take a semester test to improve their course grade if they choose.
- Students who do not meet **ALL** of the eligibility requirements are expected to take all scheduled semester tests.

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- The administration reserves the right to review exceptional circumstances, such as documented medical emergencies or extended school-sponsored activities, when determining eligibility.

Administration

Mr. Hammer will certify the list of exempt students before the semester test schedule begins. Students and families will be notified of exemption status prior to the first scheduled semester test.

This policy is effective beginning with the current academic year and is subject to annual review by the school administration.

Watertown Bus Route Updates

As of now, the bussing route will stay the same and pick up times will be as follows:

- **7:15 a.m. pick-up** at the Boys and Girls Club
- **7:30 a.m. pick-up** at the old Hockey Arena

The **primary Watertown bus** will now make a **direct trip to Henry School**. Additionally, we are providing a **second bus** to serve students along the route. This change is designed to alleviate overcrowding and ensure a smoother, safer ride for everyone.

We believe these updates will have a positive impact across our school, supporting student learning, fostering stronger connections, and ensuring a safe and structured environment. As always, your support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

We are excited to welcome students back and look forward to a successful, enriching, and safe school year.

Sincerely,

Landon Hammer
Superintendent
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