



United South Central Schools

"Empowering students to reach their full potential through a supportive community and engaging school experiences, inspiring them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens."

Taylor Topinka, Superintendent

Hello United South Central Families,

The first semester of the 2025–2026 school year is complete, and it's hard to believe we're already halfway through! Over the past 18 weeks, it has been a privilege to work with such an outstanding group of students each day. We're excited to build on this success and look forward to an excellent second semester.

2026-2027 Academic Calendar Survey Results and Calendar - Even though the 2026–27 school year may seem far off, we are already well into preparations for the year ahead. One unique aspect of next year's calendar is that both Memorial and Labor Days fall later than usual. Our calendar community, which includes staff, students, and parents, met throughout November and December and reviewed survey feedback from parents, students, and faculty. While it's impossible to create a calendar that satisfies everyone, our goal is to develop a schedule that works for the majority and, most importantly, meets the educational needs of our students. A copy of the finalized calendar and the survey results are included below for your review as you plan for the year ahead.

[Link to 2026-2027 Academic Calendar](#)

[Link to Calendar Survey Results](#)

Facilities Task Force - We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals participating in our facilities taskforce. As the school board works toward a potential building referendum in the fall of 2026, the community perspective this group provides has been invaluable. The taskforce last met on January 12 to review multiple design options for potential projects. They are scheduled to meet again on February 2 to refine a proposal, followed by our second community meeting on February 19. More information will be shared as the date approaches. Our school is truly a shared community enterprise, and we welcome as many voices, perspectives, and feedback as possible to help develop the best plan for our district and students. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, I encourage you to reach out. If you are interested in participating in the taskforce or attending the community meeting, we would be delighted to have you join us.

Winter Weather & Virtual Learning - After enjoying a few relatively mild winters over the past two years, adjusting to a more typical winter has been noticeable. So far, we have used one snow day, one two-hour delay, and one early release due to weather. We have one "regular snow day" remaining, which we will likely use for the next significant weather event that is difficult to predict. Beyond that, we plan to implement our Virtual Learning plan if the situation warrants. As we move further into January, please help your student be prepared for the possibility of Virtual Learning during any future weather-related closures.

Board Meetings and Q & A Sessions - As we start a new year, our school board is once again planning to hold several meetings outside of Wells to stay connected with all of our District communities. We will begin by holding our February school board meeting in Easton at 5:30 PM on the 17th. Prior to the meeting, our board will be at the Community Center at 5:00 PM to host a question-and-answer session about our facilities project process. Following that, we are scheduled to meet in Bricelyn in April, Kiester in June, Walters in August, and Freeborn in October. We also plan to hold similar Q&A sessions prior to each of these meetings, as well as



Independent School District No. 2134

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a session in Wells on May 19th. We are happy to answer questions and provide as much information as possible about our future plans. We encourage everyone to participate in the democratic process of school governance and ask any questions you may have.

Upcoming Events and Activities at USC -

- February 16, Presidents Day - No School
- February 17, School Board Meeting (in Easton) - 5:30 PM
- February 19, Facilities Community Meeting - 6:00 PM
- March 12, K-12 Evening Conferences

Go Rebels!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Topinka".

Taylor Topinka
USC Superintendent