

RAPTOR REPORT

ISSUE NO 1 | AUGUST 22, 2026



Back-To-School Reminders

We are so excited to begin a new school year with our students and families! The first day of school is Monday, August 24, 2026, and school begins at 7:55 a.m. Doors will open at 7:48 a.m. for students. Students who are eating breakfast may enter through the doors beginning at 7:35 a.m.

On the first day, all students should report directly to their assigned El

room, where they will receive their class schedule.

If you submitted a schedule change request during Open House, we did our best to accommodate your request. If a change was not made, it was most likely due to a scheduling conflict.

Save the Date: Early Release Fridays

School will be released at 1:07 pm on the first Friday of every month, except January.

The first Early Release Day will be on September 4, 2026.

Fall MAP Testing

Students will participate in Fall Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing on August 27, 28, and 31, 2026. Students will follow a modified block schedule on August 27 and 28 for ELA and math testing. On August 31, students will follow their regular schedule while completing ELA and math testing.

Please encourage your student to get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and arrive at school on time each day.

See pages 2-3 for policies and procedures...

See pages 4-5 for upcoming activities...

IKEA: Late Assignments and Make-Up Opportunities Policy

Under the Rapid City Area School District's late assignment policy, students are encouraged to complete and submit all assignments by the established due date. Late assignments may receive a score reduction of up to 40%. Assignments that are not submitted by the due date will initially be marked as missing and entered as a zero in the gradebook until the work is completed and submitted for grading. All late or missing work must be submitted no later than one week before the end of the quarter.

Cell Phone Policy JT

All electronic communication devices must be kept in the student's locker during the school day. Students may not carry or use these devices during class periods unless specifically authorized by administration for educational or safety purposes.

Failure to follow these expectations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the RCAS Discipline Matrix.

Parking Lot Procedures

To help keep traffic moving safely and efficiently, please use designated parking spaces if you need to stop or wait. The driving lane must remain clear at all times. Please do not stop or park in a way that blocks parked vehicles or prevents traffic from moving. If a vehicle is blocking traffic, the driver will be asked to move. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and respectful parking lot for everyone.



New Attendance Policy JED

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, we want to provide additional clarification regarding the District's updated attendance policy, particularly how student absences will be reported and classified.

We recognize that some of these expectations are different from previous years, and we want families to clearly understand the changes.

Reporting an Absence Does Not Automatically Make It Excused

One of the most important changes this year involves parent/guardian reported absences.

In previous years, families may have used the "verified personal" absence category. Under the updated attendance policy, verified personal is no longer an excused absence category.

Parents/guardians should continue to report all student absences to the school. However, there is now an important distinction between reporting an absence and the absence qualifying as excused.

For an absence to be considered excused, it must be reported within the required timeframe (no later than one full school day following the absence), and the reason must fall within one of the District's identified excused absence categories.

What Qualifies as an Excused Absence?

Under RCAS policy, excused absences include the following:

- Student illness or illness in the student's immediate family
- Medical appointments or treatment
- South Dakota Department of Health exclusions
- Working as an election official if the student is 18
- Cultural or religious observances
- Bereavement
- Military obligations
- Inclement weather impacting transportation
- Family emergencies
- Family leave, including weddings, vacations, and non-District sponsored club or sporting events, up to five days per academic year
- Participation in state or nationally recognized youth programs of educational value, up to five days per academic year.

The school may request documentation when necessary to determine whether an absence qualifies as excused.

An absence that is reported by a parent/guardian but does not fall within an excused category will be recorded as unexcused. For example, a parent reported personal day does not, by itself, qualify as an excused absence under the updated policy. Please note that if a student receives an unexcused absence, work due on that day may be subject to the late work reduction (District Policy IEA).

Attendance Tiers and Interventions

The South Dakota Department of Education (SDDOE) identifies three attendance tiers used to monitor student attendance and identify students who may need additional support. Attendance percentages are calculated based on the District's 170 instructional-day school year. Attendance tiers are based on a student's total number of absences, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused, consistent with SDDOE guidance regarding chronic absenteeism. The attendance tiers are as follows:

Tier	Attendance Level	Absence Rate	Approx. Days Absent
Tier 1	Good Attendance	0-4%	0-7 days
Tier 2	Warning Attendance	5-9%	8-16 days
Tier 3	Chronic Absenteeism	10% or more	17+ days

We appreciate your partnership as we work together to support regular attendance and student success.

Quarter 1 Activities



EAST RAPTORS



Register Now



SCAN HERE

<https://bit.ly/2026Q1RaptorActivities>

Quarter 1 Activities

- Annual Sports Physical needs to be on file with East office
- Parent consent form needs to be filled out on Skyward
- \$25 Activity Fee
 - Pay in office
 - Maximum of \$60 for the year
 - Scholarships available in the office

SportsYou Team Codes

7 th Football	NU4A-3FET
8 th Football	53UA-9VKZ
Cross-Country	YFYL-T6Z7
Knowledge Bowl	4NFV-3EWQ
6 th Girls V-Ball	DBFN-3SF7
7 th & 8 th Girls V-Ball	Team codes available after athletes are split into teams

New Users

- On mobile device download **sportsYou** app from the **App Store (iOS)** or **Google Play Store (Android)**
- Create Account
- Open the **sportsYou** app and tap **Join Team/Group**
- Tap **Enter Access Code** to enter code, then finish set up

Existing Users

- On mobile device log in
- In bottom tray, tap **Teams/Groups**
- Tap **blue +** button, then tap **Join Team/Group**
- Enter access code and click **Join**

EAST FOOTBALL



8th Grade - SportsYou: 53UA-9VKZ
Coaches: Casey Salazar, Levi Shute, Jeremy Reeve

7th Grade - SportsYou: NU4A-3FET
Coaches: Joshua Weilbacher, Vansinh Sayalane

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AUGUST	17. Practice 8 th & 7 th 4 - 5:20	18. Practice 8 th & 7 th 4 - 5:20	19. Practice 8 th Grade ONLY 3:00 - 3:45	20. Practice 8 th & 7 th 4 - 5:20	21. Practice 8 th & 7 th 4 - 5:20
	24. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	25. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	26. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	27. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	28. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55
	31. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	1. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	2. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	3. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	4. Morning Practice 8 th & 7 th 6:30 - 7:30
SEPTEMBER	7. No School	8. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	9. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	10. Game @ West MS 8 th 4:00 7 th 5:30	11. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55
	14. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	15. Game @ South MS 8 th 4:00 7 th 5:30	16. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	17. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	18. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55
	21. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	22. Game @ East vs. SW 8 th 3:45 7 th 5:15	23. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	24. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	25. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55
OCTOBER	28. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	29. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	30. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	1. Game @ East vs. Douglas 8 th 3:45 7 th 5:15	2. Morning Practice 8 th & 7 th 6:30 - 7:30
	5. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	6. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	7. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55	8. Game @ East vs. North 8 th 3:45 7 th 5:15	9. Practice 8 th 3:15 - 5:10 7 th 3:15 - 4:55
	12. No School	13. City Tournament TBA	14. City Tournament TBA	15. City Tournament TBA	16. City Tournament TBA

Schedules are subject to change - Changes will be posted on SportsYou
Away Games - Bus will depart East at 2:10 for location (8th Grade only)
7th Graders are NOT bussed to games - there is NO return bus for either grade level
7th Graders need be at game 45 minutes before game start time
City Tournament information will be on SportsYou when available

EAST RAPTORS CROSS-COUNTRY



SportsYou: YFYL-T6Z7 Coaches: Jerriek Jensen & Chad Bento

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AUGUST	24. No Practice	25. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	26. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	27. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	28. Practice 3:15 - 4:35
	31. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	1. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	2. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	3. Meet @ West MS Starts @ 4:00 No Bus	4. No Practice Early Release
	7. No School	8. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	9. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	10. TBA	11. Practice 3:15 - 4:35
SEPTEMBER	14. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	15. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	16. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	17. Custer Invite Rocky Knolls Golf Course Starts @ 4:00 Bus Leaves East @ 12:30 Returns to East @ 6:00	18. No Practice
	21. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	22. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	23. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	24. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	25. MS Invite @ Hart Ranch Starts @ 9:00 Bus Leaves East @ 8:00 Returns to East @ 10:45
	28. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	29. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	30. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	1. Sturgis Invite @ Ft. Meade Starts @ 2:30 Bus Leaves East @ 12:45 Returns to East @ 6:00	2. No Practice Early Release
OCTOBER	5. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	6. Meet @ East MS Starts @ 4:00	7. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	8. Practice 3:15 - 4:35	9. Practice 3:15 - 4:35
	12. No School	13. All City Meet @ East Starts @ 3:30			

Schedules are subject to change - Changes will be posted on SportsYou

EAST VOLLEYBALL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
24. No Practice	25. Practice 8 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - No Practice	26. Practice 8 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	27. Practice 8 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	28. Practice 8 th - Aux Gym (6:30 - 7:30) 7 th - Main Gym (6:30 - 7:30) 6 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:30)
31. Practice 8 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	1. Practice 8 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	2. Practice 8 th - Main Gym (3:15 - 4:50) 7 th - Aux Gym (3:15 - 4:40) 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	3. Practice 8 th - TBA 7 th - TBA 6 th - Valley View (3:15 - 4:30)	4. No Practice Early Release

The season schedule will be available by labor day for each grade level

8th Grade Coaches

A - Tiffany Wolla
Red - Shana Ward
Gold - Madison Kowand

7th Grade Coaches

A - Sarah Steiger
Red - Jayce Marks
Gold - Kendall Matthias

6th Grade Coaches

Justina Schmelz
Emily Martin
Meghan Louder

- Communication done via SportsYou
 - 7th & 8th team codes won't be available until teams are divided into their teams
 - 6th Team code: DBFN-35F7
- 6th Grade meets in the 6th grade pod before each practice
- Annual Sports physical must be on file with the East office
- \$25 to play (pay in the office)
- Parent consent form needs to be filled out on Skyward
- Black spandex or black shorts may be worn for games
- Do not leave anything unlocked in the locker rooms
 - see a coach for a gym locker if needed



sportsYou

Join Via App

New Users

- On mobile device download sportsYou app from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play Store (Android)
- Open the sportsYou app and tap Create Account
- Tap Enter Access Code to enter code, then finish set up

Existing Users

- On mobile device log in
- In bottom tray, tap Teams/Groups
- Tap blue + button, then tap Join Team/Group
- Enter access code and click Join

Central High School COMMUNITY NIGHT



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 • 11AM-9PM

Mackenzie River and Central High School invite you to dine with us in Rapid City to help raise funds for their initiatives. Simply present this flyer to your Mack Riv server on specified date above and 20% of your food sales will be donated back to Central High School.

MACKENZIE RIVER - RAPID CITY

1205 Elgin St. • Rapid City, SD
605-791-1292

Tag Us!
@MackRiverPizza

Flyer distribution on Mackenzie River property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation. Donation amount is not calculated on alcohol and gift card sales. Donations will not be made on past purchases. Mackenzie River donations cannot be combined with coupons or other offers.

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Stevens High School COMMUNITY NIGHT



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 11AM-9PM

Mackenzie River and Stevens High School invite you to dine with us in Rapid City to help raise funds for their initiatives. Simply present this flyer to your Mack Riv server on specified date above and 20% of your food sales will be donated back to Stevens High School.

MACKENZIE RIVER - RAPID CITY

1205 Elgin St. • Rapid City, SD
605-791-1292

Tag Us!
@MackRiverPizza

Flyer distribution on Mackenzie River property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation. Donation amount is not calculated on alcohol and gift card sales. Donations will not be made on past purchases. Mackenzie River donations cannot be combined with coupons or other offers.

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Alternative Academy COMMUNITY NIGHT



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 • 11AM-9PM

Mackenzie River and Alternative Academy invite you to dine with us in Rapid City to help raise funds for their initiatives. Simply present this flyer to your Mack Riv server on specified date above and 20% of your food sales will be donated back to Alternative Academy.

MACKENZIE RIVER - RAPID CITY

1205 Elgin St. • Rapid City, SD
605-791-1292

Tag Us!
@MackRiverPizza

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