Henning Public School

Henning ISD 545
500 School Ave
Henning, MN, 56551

Melissa Sparks, Superintendent
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Phone: (218) 583-2927

Thomas Williams
Principal

Randy Misegades
Activities Director

Kayla Hoelscher
Assistant Business Manager

July 29, 2026

Dear Hornet Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome Back to the Hornets' Nest!!! It is that time of year when we trade beach towels for backpacks and fishing poles for pencils. We hope your summer has been filled with laughter, adventure, and time spent making lasting memories with family and friends. As we prepare to open our doors for a new school year, we are excited to welcome both familiar and new faces for a year of learning, discovery, and growth at Henning School. A special welcome goes out to our Kindergarten students (Class of 2039) and students new to our school. We are looking forward to reconnecting with all our students, as we continue to make the Henning School a GREAT place to

GROW INTO YOUR GREATNESS!

We are **EXCITED** to see everyone at our Back-to-School Open House on Wednesday, August 26 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Open house is a great time to take care of technology requirements, complete personal information updates, meet your teachers, and get reacquainted with your friends. Dinner will be served from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will serve Taco-in-a-Bag – Dinner will be FREE. We hope to see everyone on August 26.

Please be aware that all Back-to-School communication and documentation will be completed electronically through our Online Registration in the JMC Family portal. If you would like assistance completing the Online Registration, we will have staff available to assist in the completion of these items during the Open House in the library. New families should contact the school to receive their initial login information.

New students in grades 6-12 Orientation opportunity. On Thursday, August 20 at 1:30 pm in the School Library – Meeting Room. We will be hosting a New Student Orientation for students entering grades 6-12. The orientation is not required, but the intention is to provide information to our new junior high and high school students in an environment that will be less hectic compared to the first day of school. Parents are welcome to attend.

ALL students in Prek-12 grade will receive:

- Free admission to all Home Henning/OTC Athletic Events
- One free breakfast and one free lunch each day at school. If a student wants seconds/ala carte items, there will need to be money deposited into their meal account.

Technology – Chromebook Fee: there is an **NO** Technology fee for our Technology-Chromebook assignment and access. Students who intentionally damage their Chromebooks will be held responsible for the full cost of repair or replacement.

Parent & Student(s) are required to read and complete the e-signature (part of the online registration), a verified student e-signature and verified parent e-signature of the Student Handbook, which contains the **Technology: Chromebook Checkout Procedures** and **Internet and Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Policy**

- Chromebooks will be issued on the first day of school (not at Open House) – Again, only after the above steps have been completed.

The Application for Educational Benefits (will be completed in our JMC Online Registration) has historically been associated with qualifying for free and reduced meals, which is no longer applicable, but the application provides much more to our school in regard to qualifying for different types of educational funds, discounts and other program eligibility. Having families continue to complete the Application for Educational Benefits is very important to our school, so each household that completes an educational benefits application will have the following incentive:

- Each student in grades 6-12 will have one (1) Activity Fee waived

Important Notice Regarding Free & Reduced-Price Meal Forms: Direct Certification notices will be sent via mail or email in **mid-August** to eligible families. If you believe your household qualifies through Direct Certification, **please wait** to submit an ***Application for Education Benefits.*** Families who qualify via Direct Certification **do not** need to complete an application unless they believe doing so may result in a higher benefit level.

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Class Schedules: Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a copy of their class schedules on the first day of school. We encourage our families to utilize our Parent or Student Portal in JMC to review schedules. Students in grades 9th -12th, if you have a class period that does not have an assigned course, you need to stop by the School Counselor's Office or Principal's Office before the Open House. Requests for schedule changes will be considered until Tuesday, August 25. On August 26 or later, a Drop/Add form will need to be completed prior to the schedule change.

Elementary Teacher Assignment: Our Elementary Teachers (K-5) will be sending out a Welcome Back Letter to the students in their class regarding the start of the year – If parents and students do not know who their upcoming teacher will be, you can go into the JMC Family Portal and click on schedule to find out prior to receiving the Welcome Back Letter from your teacher.

New Course: Agriculture - Outdoor Skills will be replaced by **Agriculture Engines and Electricity** first period. The first quarter will focus on small engine repair and engine maintenance. If you would like a full course description, please visit the grades 9-12 Course Directory. Students will need to request a schedule change following the same process as described above.

Handbook Changes: Student Personal Electronic Communication Devices (including cell phones) will be banned for school from 8:10-3:12. Phones are to be powered off and stored in a student locker/backpack for the entire school day. If students enter the building after 8:10 or depart before 3:12, their cell phones need to be stored away prior to entry and until after they depart the building. Students can request to use the phone in the principal's office during break times to call home. Students will also be able to utilize their email accounts to communicate back and forth with parents/guardians. The cell phone policy can be found on page 7 in the student handbook.

If a student attends a state tournament as a spectator and they are not there as a participant or practice partner (one practice partner per participant) their absence(s) will be coded as Parental Excuse (counting towards their maximum of six parental excuses in a semester). A parent can communicate a week in advance regarding taking their child(ren) to a state tournament and count those days as a family trip/vacation, which allows for the parental excuses to be increased from six to nine days in a semester. *(This is an addition to the handbook, but not a new practice)*

Grades 9-12 Reading Intervention: Beginning fall 2026 we are required to provide reading intervention for students in grades 9-12 that have scored below grade level proficiency in reading. Students were tested last school year in six areas: Word Recognition, Decoding, Vocabulary, Morphology, Sentence Processing, Reading Efficiency & Reading Comprehension. If a student performs at a low/average and/or weak in two or more of the six assessments, they will be placed in our WIN Reading course (1st Period) for the semester. Assessments for placement are scheduled three times a year (fall, winter, spring).

Fall Activities: Make sure to have all forms and fees completed prior to the first day of practice. MSHSL Forms, Sports Physical (required every three years), Activity fee (the first activity fee is waived for each student if a parent/guardian has completed the Annual Application for Educational Benefits, which is part of the online registration in the JMC portal, . Forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Henning School District Office (7:00-4:30 – Monday-Thursday) or handed to your coach on the first day of practice.

Hornet Caring Closet: If you would like to make a donation to the Hornet Caring Closet during the Open House, we are taking school supplies, Hygiene supplies (deodorant, toothbrush - toothpaste, shampoo, etc…) and small financial donations. Donations can be dropped off at the School Counselor's Office.

School Supply Lists:

- Kindergarten-Grade 10: https://5il.co/vybw
- Preschool School Supply List: https://5il.co/wdoq

New Staff: We are eager to welcome a new staff member to the Henning School District this fall:

- ☻ Mr. Bill Klaers – Agriculture Teacher (Semester 1)

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Here are some important dates:

- August 17 – Fall sports begins
- August 18 – Grades 7-12 Locker Sign Up begins
- August 20 – New Student (Grades 6-12) Orientation at 1:30 pm (School Library-Meeting Room)
- August 26 – Open House 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- September 1 – First day of school
- September 7 – NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
- September 8 – First day of 4-year-old preschool
- September 10 – First day of 3-year-old preschool
- September 21 @ 5:00 pm – Early Childhood Family Education ***BIG WHEELS*** event
- September 23 – School Picture Day
- September 28 – First day of Early Childhood Family Education (9:00-10:30am & 5:30-7:00pm)
- September 28-October 2 – Homecoming Week

Online Registration – The Online Registration process will be completed in the JMC Family Portal, which is located on the Henning School website. We encourage families to complete the Online Registration prior to August 26 – Allow us to assist you if you need our help. Steps for families to complete the registration process can be found by clicking the link below: (If you do not have a Family Username & Password set-up, call the school or make sure to stop in the School Library between 4:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26).

- Click on the following link for a step-by-step instruction for Online Registration: https://aptg.co/T_XYfL

Make sure to stop at the **school library** at Open House Night for assistance with any of the following:

- Get assistance with Online Registration (Document Completion).
- Get Signed up for or get assistance with JMC Family Portal (Gradebook, Attendance Meal Acct, etc.)
- Update Health Record
- Transportation Questions
- Emergency Contacts - Please make sure to have at least one Emergency Contact outside of parents/guardians.
- Submit or get assistance on the 2026-2027 Application for Educational Benefits
- Pay fees or make a Meal Account deposits (Each student receives one free breakfast & one free lunch daily).
- Students will receive Chromebooks on the first day of school if they have completed the technology requirements
    - Verified Parent & Student e-signature on the Student Handbook

We will continue to communicate to you any changes or updates as they happen throughout the school year. We will communicate these changes to you via our JMC Message Center, School Website, and our Henning Public School Facebook & Instagram Pages. We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Have fun and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Your Partners in Education,

Mrs. Sparks
Superintendent

Mr. Williams
Principal