



Special points of interest:

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December 2018



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## From the Superintendent

Our fall extra-curricular events were very successful. The football, volleyball and cross country teams were very competitive this year and created quite the buzz in the school. Our oral interp team and marching band was very successful as well. The all-school play has been pushed back to March this year to help accommodate for the very busy fall schedule and allow more students to be able to participate. There is now a short window of breaks in events before the winter activities get rolling.

With this break in events held in the evenings, the gym calendar is cramming full for our elementary age student-athletes. Please check the school calendar on our website before attempting to schedule times in the gymnasium. Also, for those that do use our facilities and weight room in the evening, please be courteous to our custodial staff and pick up after yourselves. With nearly forty memberships for the weight room and all of our students using the facilities, it can be difficult to keep up keeping the facility clean. Our custodial staff does an amazing job of keeping our school

clean and safe and your help in this effort would be greatly appreciated. Contact Jeani for scheduling gymnasium times.

As I said last month, the weather is changing. There may be times that we call off school. If you do not get a phone call from our school messenger program, please contact Jeani to make sure that you are on the appropriate list to receive information coming from the school. We will also post cancellations to our facebook page, television and radio broadcasts. Also, I would like to reiterate that students should be sent to school appropriately dressed in the event of weather cancellations.

Due to the state changing school report cards, the district packet will not be delivered until December this year. There will also be a link to this information on our website in the coming future as well as testing dates for the tests that students are given. All of the scores will be compiled as we receive them from the state and you will again be able to see where we rank

amongst the area schools. Our results look very positive again so far. There will again be copies in the office as well as various businesses throughout Arlington.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and discuss them.

Sincerely,

Justin Downes  
Superintendent

## Principal Greetings

Last week, a very important document went home in the students' Wednesday folders: the annual parent survey. I am glad to report many have already made their way back to the office, and I have had a chance to look over and think about much of what you had to say.

Truly, this information spurs in us a desire to be better tomorrow than we are today. That is the purpose of the survey, after all. The affirmation is nice as we appreciate knowing you value the work we do; meanwhile, the constructive criticism provokes reflection, challenging conversations, and necessary change.

In particular, I have paid attention to whether or not parents think their child has at least one adult advocate in the building. This matters to me because the young people who spend their days in Arlington Elementary, Arlington Junior High School, and Arlington High School need to know **we care**, and their parents need to share that sense. **We care** about their academic performances. We want them to learn all they can while they are with us so they are able to pursue their dreams upon graduation. And our concern does not stop there. **We care** about their hobbies, their families, their friends, their favorite music and movies, their pets, their hopes and dreams, their doubts and insecurities...**we care** about it all.

Because we are a small district, getting to know and subsequently **care** about our students happens quite naturally. We spend a great deal of time with each one before they walk across the gym in a red cap and gown, and in that time we talk, laugh, and sometimes cry together. It is our hope that on that day, every graduate can look out into the crowd and find the face of a staff member who literally and metaphorically walked beside them during the journey.

If you are a parent of a student attending Arlington Schools who has not yet filled out the parent survey, I encourage you to do so. We want to know what your child is experiencing as a Cardinal. If you need an additional copy, please contact the office. We would be happy to get another for you.

To close, I wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! I hope you have an opportunity to gather with those you love the most to enjoy life's blessings this holiday season.

Your partner in education,



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## Counselor's Corner

Feel free to contact the Guidance Office if you have any questions or are seeking assistance of any kind. Our Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Steve Gilbertson, the School Counselor is in the classroom for part of the day, so he is not always available to come to the phone. Feel free to leave a message or send an email to [steve.gilbertson@k12.sd.us](mailto:steve.gilbertson@k12.sd.us) and he will get back to you as soon as possible.



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## Financial Aid Information Night

A Financial Aid Information Night will be held Tuesday, December 4th, at 7:00 P.M. in the Jr High computer lab of Arlington High School. The program will be hosted by Arlington Public Schools and presented by the financial aid department from Dakota State University of Madison South Dakota. Valuable information for anyone who plans to attend technical school or college during the 2018-19 school terms will be presented. Information about financial assistance and how to qualify, and how to apply will be discussed. High school seniors and their parents, and any individuals who plan to further their education next year, and have any questions concerning financial assistance are encouraged to attend this free meeting. For further information contact Steve Gilbertson at Arlington Public Schools.

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## Juniors to take ASVAB

AHS Juniors will be taking the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) on January 11th, 2019. We use the battery to assist with career exploration as the test matches the student's abilities with their interests to compile some career matches that students can explore. The armed services may also use the student's scores to assist them in placing students interested in the military in appropriate military careers. The test is free to all students and will administered during school hours.

Erin M. Larsen

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## Find Us Online!

<https://arlington.k12.sd.us>

### Wednesday Folders

Every Wednesday, your child will bring home a Wednesday folder filled with information intended for parents. This folder and any forms completed should be returned to your Study Time teacher with your signature on Thursday. If a student was absent on Wednesday, the folder needs to be returned the day after they received it. If the folder was not returned to the Study Time teacher on Thursday (or the day after it was received it), it must be back to Erin by Tuesday morning. Please take care of each Wednesday folder!

If you would like access to your child's grades online, please email [michaelparry@k12.sd.us](mailto:michaelparry@k12.sd.us).



### Meal Balances

Meal balances are available online by logging into Campus! You are able to access your current account information online-anytime. Families must know their account ID and PIN to access family account information. Meal balances will be sent on Wednesday evenings via automated call to all that have \$35 or below in their account. To be included in the parent portal in Campus, please contact Mr. Parry at [michaelparry@k12.sd.us](mailto:michaelparry@k12.sd.us). This will allow you to log in and check your real time balance anytime you would like! If you have any other questions please contact Erin at [erin.m.larsen@k12.sd.us](mailto:erin.m.larsen@k12.sd.us).

## January Newsletter Deadline:

December 10th.