



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

August 2010

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, Aug. 18**
Back to School night at ALL attendance centers
- **Thursday, Aug. 19:**
First Day of School
1:30 pm dismissal
- **Friday, Aug. 20:**
1:30 pm dismissal
- **Thursday, Aug. 26:**
Picture Day at all elementary schools
- **Monday, Sep. 6:**
Labor Day—no school

Mailing address for all elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949

Phone Numbers:

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Holdrege Public Schools
Website:

www.thedusters.org

Back to School Night

Holdrege Elementary Schools will be hosting Back to School Night for all elementary buildings on Wednesday, August 18th. The schedule will run a bit differently from previous years to help families that have students in more than one building.

Back to School night times are: R7: 5:00 pm—6:00 pm
Franklin: 5:30 pm—6:30 pm
Washington: 6:00 pm—7:00 pm

Classroom assignments will be posted outside the classroom doors. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and familiarize themselves with the building. Staff members will be available in the hallways to assist you in finding the classroom. This is also a good time for families to practice going to and from school safely.

Required Paperwork for Students

School policy and state law require that all students have the following: birth certificate issued from the state of birth (not a hospital or keepsake copy), immunization records, physical examination, and eye examination (can be a part of physical exam or by an optometrist). Incoming students **must** have these items by the first day of school or they will not be allowed to attend until we have them. Parents can bring any of these items to your child's school office starting August 2nd. We will make any copies needed for you. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to bring these to your child's school.

School Supplies

Attached to this newsletter is a school supply list for grades K-4. This is a district-wide list. Classroom teachers may send home requests for other items for special projects that particular class is doing.

We do have a number of donated school supplies; please contact the school office if you need help in this area.

Besides the school supplies on the list, students may need to purchase the following:

Headphones: can be purchased at school for \$4.00. All K-4 students will need these, whether purchased at school or at a store.

Assignment Notebook: all 4th graders will be required to have one. The cost is \$5.00.

Because these items are paid for out of different funds, you will need to pay for them separately.

School Office Hours

Starting August 2nd, the Washington and Franklin school offices are open each weekday. If you would like to make payments, ask questions, set up an Infinite Campus account for your family, or receive assistance filling out forms before the school year starts, please stop in. If your child is attending R-7, you can go to Franklin Elementary for these things. The phone numbers for each school are listed to the left of this page.

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
*EMPOWERING STUDENTS
FOR SUCCESS*

Early Dismissal

School will be dismissed at 1:30 pm on Thursday, August 19th. School is dismissed at 1:30 pm every Friday school is in session so all teachers can participate in Whole Faculty Study Groups. If school days will be shortened due to heat in the coming weeks, families will be notified by our automated calling system, BlackboardConnect, and notes that come home with your child from school.

Activity Passes

If you would like to purchase activity passes for your elementary student, please contact the High School Activities Department at 995-6558.

Picture Day

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, August 26 at all elementary buildings. Detailed information will be sent home at the beginning of school so please check your child's school bag.

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up

On Back to School Night, instructions will be distributed for information on proper student drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please read this information carefully to ensure student safety.

Holdrege Public Schools strives to provide each student with access to nutritious food each day. Below are some important things to note and included in newsletter is detailed information and policies about our food service program.

Meal Prices

Meal prices for K-4 students for the 2010-11 school year are:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Lunch: \$2.20

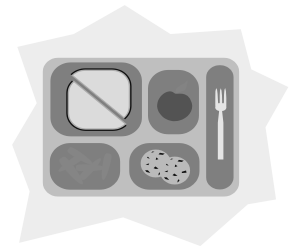
Reduced Price Breakfast: \$0.30

Reduced Price Lunch: \$0.40

Adult Breakfast: \$1.45

Adult Lunch: \$2.80

Milk: \$0.35



Through Infinite Campus, you can check to see what your child's meal account balance is, as well as see what days your child has eaten. If you do not have a login set up, please contact your child's school office to do this.

Free and Reduced Meals

In this newsletter, you will find information about free and reduced meals and an application form. If your family meets certain guidelines based on income, you may qualify for free or reduced meals. If you received free or reduced priced meals last year, you will need to fill out another application this year; they are only effective for one year at a time. You only need to fill out one application for your entire family; be sure to include all family members in your household on the application form.

The application is the gold form. You can fill it out and turn it in at any time at any school building office or at the Central Office (505 14th Ave). If you need help filling out an application, please let us know and we will help you.

Also in this newsletter is a Fee Waiver Form. If your household receives free or reduced meals, you are eligible to receive assistance for things such as assignment notebooks, headphones, field trips, activity tickets, and other items/programs as determined by the school. If you qualify for free or reduced meals and would like assistance with these items, you must fill out a Fee Waiver Form. Please fill it out and turn it in with your Free and Reduced Meal application.

We encourage you to fill out these forms and return them as early as possible so that your status can be determined before the school year starts. If you need assistance for items such as headphones, assignment notebooks, activity passes, etc., you must qualify and fill out a Fee Waiver form.

Paying for School Items

In order to make sure our accounting stays accurate and that we serve you in the best way possible, we are asking you to do the following when paying for various things at school.

- Write a separate check for each item (headphones, assignment planner, meal account). Because all of these items are paid into separate accounts, we cannot take one check to pay for everything.
- If you are paying with cash, please have exact change. We keep very little petty cash in the school offices and are unable to make change for so many items.
- Identify either in the memo section of the check or on an envelope which items you are paying for and your child's name.
- If possible, come to the school office before Back to School night to pay for these items.
- If you are receiving free or reduced price meals and would like assistance with purchasing headphones or assignment planners, please be sure you have filled out the Fee Waiver Form that is included in this mailing. We must have this form in order to do give you these items at no cost.

School Website

The Holdrege Public Schools website, www.thedusters.org, is a great way to keep up with information that pertains to every building in our district. On our website, you can find calendar information, menus, phone numbers and email addresses, medical forms, access to Infinite Campus, articles about what is happening with our students and staff, and a whole lot more. Please take time to check it out.

Paying Online

Holdrege Public Schools will be offering families the opportunity to pay for student meals and activity passes online. When this information is available, we will send it home with your child and also post it on the Holdrege Public Schools website, www.thedusters.org.

Correction to School Supply List

Third grade students will NOT have to purchase assignment notebooks.

Principal's Corner...

I am so excited for the school year we have planned for your child at Franklin, R-7, and Washington Elementary Schools in Holdrege Public Schools. We have many plans for instruction excellence. Our teachers will be participating in an inservice on August 17 and 18 in planning our core curriculum in Reading. Through this training, we will be increasing our efforts at all grade levels to individualize instruction. We want to ensure that all students are challenged to progress at a level that is best for them.

As most of you know, Mr. Walker, former Elementary Principal at Franklin and R-7 Elementary Schools, retired in June. I will be taking on the role of Elementary Principal at all three elementary buildings. To help maintain a safe and secure environment for students and staff, two other administrators, Scott Schoneman and Kathy Vetter, will be assisting me and will be in the buildings part of the day.

Involvement from parents has a huge impact on student achievement and your partnership with us is valued. This year we will have parent involvement teams that include teachers and staff in the elementary schools. If you would be interested in becoming a part of this team, please contact me by calling your child's attendance center.

We will continue to cultivate a safe, responsible, respectful school climate where every child has the opportunity to become successful learners in elementary school and beyond.

Have a great school year and we look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night.

Amber Porter, Holdrege Elementary Schools Principal