

Monday, August 4, 2025

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

It's just under a month before the start of the 2025-26 school year, and we're sending a final reminder to all recipients of this e-newsletter: our annual all-school registration is scheduled to take place on Thursday, August 7, 2025. As has become tradition, it will take place at Wisconsin Dells High School from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Most of the registration format will be very similar to years past; however, one exception is that the district has transitioned to a new Student Information System (SIS), and Infinite Campus is now the SIS being used beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Many families have already completed their online registration process, and the feedback has been that it is relatively easy to navigate. However, if you get stuck, please don't hesitate to contact district office staff members. District Registrar Heather McLaughlin (hmclaughlin@sdwd.k12.wi.us) or Executive Administrative Assistant Tiffany Clary (tclary@sdwd.k12.wi.us) can assist you with this process. Finally, as a reminder, there will be no school pictures taken as part of this day or stations where you can pay your fees. School pictures will take place early in the school year as part of a regular school day, and school fees will be posted to your parent portal at a later date. You can expect more details via our social media channels as well as via email and phone messages for parents & caregivers. We look forward to seeing you this Thursday!

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION WRAPPING UP SOON!

Over the next two to three weeks, the final phases of the safety and security construction work are scheduled to be completed at Spring Hill Elementary and Wisconsin Dells Middle School. For those who have students attending Spring Hill Elementary, you can anticipate additional communication prior to the start of the school year detailing instructions for how the traffic flow will take place in the newly configured parking lot. While I believe you will find the new layout fairly intuitive and easy to follow, a few instructions on the revamped traffic flow would be greatly appreciated. As a reminder, this new layout separates bus & car traffic, featuring a westside bus-only drop-off and pick-up point. Additionally, there is a much more expansive drop-off and pick-up area for those who are car riders, allowing parents to drop off or pick up their children each school day. Please see the rendering provided below, which details the new traffic flow.



At Wisconsin Dells Middle School, there are two notable updates to share. The first is that students arriving after 8:00 am will need to come through the front doors and will be admitted through the newly constructed, secured entrance. Parents may temporarily park in the parking lane added a few years ago on Race Street to access the office. Secondly, WDMS will now have a formal playground area featuring two basketball courts, with playground equipment sandwiched between them, including an obstacle course that can also be used for physical education courses. Currently, there is a slight delay in the installation of the equipment, which was scheduled to be completed by mid-September. I know students will greatly appreciate the upgrade to the formal playground area being established at WDMS. Please see the architect's rendering of the soon-to-be-installed equipment.



Finally, in addition to the revised safety features and efficiency of separating bus and car traffic, one of our goals is to load the buses at the end of the day in a much more efficient & safer manner. With the bus pick-up infrastructure, this should reduce the amount of time needed to load the buses by at least ten minutes. The less time students spend loading the buses should correlate with less bus discipline, making for a more positive experience for both students and drivers. We look forward to sharing a final update with you in the coming weeks, which will provide an opportunity to experience the soon-to-be-completed safety and security infrastructure at the open house on Thursday, August 28, 2025.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS

As I have done in previous newsletters, I will mention the district's continued work with its strategic plan. As we approach the 2025-26 school year, our goals are to continue living our mission statement: ***Connect, Inspire, Achieve, Everyone, Every Day!*** These words will continue to be a part of our focus as staff and students return for the new school year. Since developing the initial multi-year strategic plan in June 2016, our district has become increasingly focused on making continuous improvements in four core strategies and strategic objectives. Throughout the school year, we regularly provide the Board of Education with updates on various benchmarks and goals the district is striving to meet. Progress has been made in a variety of areas, and we recognize that there is much work and opportunity for improvement that lies ahead. However, it is reassuring to see the district's focus improve, thanks to the plan's implementation almost ten years ago.

Finally, with the start of the 2025-26 school year just around the corner, there is no better time to begin discussing goals with your children for the upcoming school year. Whether it's looking to improve their daily attendance, boost their grades, or try something new, the first month of school is the perfect time to commit to setting personal goals for the most enjoyable school year ever!

In closing, we wish you a wonderful remainder of August. We are excited and preparing to begin what will be yet another exciting and successful school year!

Jerran Stark