



August 2009, Volume 13 Number 1

The Source Online

The Spencer Community School District Online Newsletter

Welcome Back to All Students! Spencer Schools Registration Information 2009-10

**ONE-STOP REGISTRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS
AT SPENCER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Registration for ALL STUDENTS will be held at the Spencer Middle School. By having registration centrally located we hope to accommodate those families who have children attending in more than one building. We also hope to better meet the needs of all parents by pooling our resources and offering more assistance during this time.

REGISTRATION DATES/TIMES

Wednesday, August 5 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 6 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Please register ALL STUDENTS at Spencer Middle School
1400 10th Ave East**

There will be no early registration. Parents who do not register on August 5 or 6 will need to go to individual buildings to register their children after August 7.

This newsletter is dedicated to registration. Inside you will find detailed information on the following:

Assistance available at Registration – p. 2

New Student Information - p. 2

Elementary, Middle School and High School Information - p. 3

Transportation Information - p. 3

Athletic Information – p. 3

Insurance Information – p. 4

Student Fee Rates – p. 4

August 20 is the first day of school for students in grades 7-12. August 21 is the first day of school for K-6, with parent/teacher conferences being held on August 20. **Elementary parents are asked to sign up for a conference time when registering their child(ren) for school.**

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT REGISTRATION

LUNCH PERSONNEL – Complete your free/reduced waiver form and bring it with you for immediate processing. Forms are available at Central Office and will be available at registration.

TRANSLATORS – Parents who aren't English proficient can find assistance with our translators in completing forms and registering their children for school.

TRANSPORTATION – Bus personnel will be on hand to give out times and locations of bus stops. **ALL stops have changed, so be sure you meet with this department on the proper pick up times and locations for your children!**

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

Families new to the district should come to Spencer Middle School on August 5 and 6 to complete the registration process. Spencer Schools has a family-centered approach to placing Kindergarten through 6th grade students in our three elementary buildings. Keeping family members together in one building is a priority. It is also a priority for the district to balance student/teacher ratios at each grade level. Parent requests for building placement will be honored when possible, but cannot be guaranteed.

Iowa Code Section 139.9 requires that, as a prerequisite to admission to an elementary or secondary school, an applicant shall present (1) a certificate of immunization showing that all required immunizations are up-to-date, or (2) a provisional certificate of immunization, or (3) a certification of immunization exemption. All parents of Kindergarten students **must** bring their child's immunizations records indicating dates and types of immunizations, and completed physical form to registration. A copy of the child's birth certificate is also required.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS INCLUDE:

POLIO –

3 doses with one dose received \geq 4 yrs of age if born on or before Sept. 15, 2003 OR

4 doses with one dose received \geq 4 yrs of age if born after Sept. 15, 2003

DTP –

3 doses with one dose received \geq 4 yrs of age if born on or before Sept. 15, 2000 OR

4 doses with one dose received \geq 4 yrs of age if born after Sept. 15, 2000 but before Sept. 15, 2003 OR

5 doses with one dose received \geq 4 yrs of age if born on or after Sept. 15, 2005

MMR – 2 doses: 1 dose \geq 12 months of age, 2nd dose no less than 28 days after first dose

VARICELLA –

1 dose received \geq 12 months of age if born on or after Sept. 15, 1997 but before Sept. 15, 2003 OR

2 doses received \geq 12 months of age if born on or after Sept. 15, 2003 OR

A reliable history of natural disease.

(NOTE: This requirement must be met **before** the first day of school and is not eligible for “provisional” certificate of immunization.)

HEPATITIS B: 3 doses if born on or after July 1, 1994

LEAD SCREENING: Prior to entering Kindergarten children must have a blood lead test

DENTAL SCREENINGS: Prior to enrollment in Kinderkids/Kindergarten AND prior to High School enrollment.

VISION SCREENINGS: Prior to enrollment in Kindergarten/Kinderkids.

ELEMENTARY STUDENT INFORMATION

All Elementary parents are asked to sign up for a Parent/Teacher conference when registering their child(ren) for school. Conferences will take place on August 20. **NO SCHOOL FOR GRADES K-6 ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20.** The first day of classes will be Friday, August 21. Parents of Kindergarten students are reminded to bring their child's immunization records indicating dates and types of immunizations, completed physical form and a copy of their child's birth certificate with them to registration, if you have not already provided this information. **DENTAL AND VISION SCREENING REQUIRED UPON ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN/KINDERKIDS.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Orientation for **all 7th graders** and **new 8th graders to the district** will be held at Spencer Middle School on Wednesday, August 19 at 9 a.m. Further details will be available at registration. If you have other questions please call the office at 262-3345.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

All **9th grade** students and **new students** in grades 10-12 are asked to attend an orientation meeting on Friday, August 14 from 8:15 – 11:00 am in the Spencer High School Little Theatre. High school students who are new to the community will register for classes during registration on August 5 & 6. **All High School students** need to meet with their advisor at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 20. **DENTAL SCREENING REQUIRED FOR ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN.**

FREE/REDUCED MEALS

Information regarding the Free and Reduced Priced School Meals is included in this newsletter. See Income Guidelines on page 5. Applications will be available at registration or may be picked up prior to registration at Central Office. Personnel will process applications during registration and assist with any questions. **To ensure that free or reduced pricing is in place by the first day of school, application forms must be submitted by August 14, 2009.** Forms may be turned in at any time; however, the pricing becomes effective on the day the application is processed.

BUSING INFORMATION – SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

ALL bus routes and times have changed from previous years. Please do not assume that your child's bus stop location and time are the same. Bus personnel will be on hand at registration to inform you of bus stop location and times. **All individuals planning to use bus service must stop at the Transportation Table to sign up for busing and learn the time and location of your bus stop.**

The Spencer Community Schools and the City of Spencer are partnering with the Iowa Department of Transportation to present a new program known as "Safe Routes to Schools." The program will encourage safety and wellness by creating safe routes for students to walk or ride to their schools. Additional information will be available at Registration.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

Athletic physicals, parent permission slips and insurance waiver forms for fall sports should be turned in at registration. All necessary forms will be available at registration and in your school office.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Hawk i (Healthy And Well Kids In Iowa)

This insurance program is designed to provide health care coverage for uninsured children under the age of 19. In addition to hospital and physician coverage the program covers dental, prescription and vision care. A simple application form can be obtained by calling the hawk-I customer service center at 1-800-257-8563. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Details are also provided at www.hawk-i.org.

Pupil Insurance Basic Plan

Since the school district **does not** purchase accident insurance to cover injuries incurred by your child at school we encourage all families to have accident coverage on their children prior to participation in any sports or school-sponsored activity. The cost to obtain this coverage is as follows:

- Full-time coverage:** Grades PreK-12 \$89.00 (with no sports)
- Full-time coverage:** Grades 7-12 \$154.00, with all sports except football 9-12
- School-time coverage:** Grades PreK-12 \$14.00; no interscholastic sports grades 7-12
- School-time coverage:** Grades 7-12 \$79.00; with all sports except football 9-12
- Football coverage only:** for 9-12 \$189.00
- Extended Dental:** PreK-12 \$9.00

Brochures and applications will be available at registration and at your school office.

STUDENT FEES FOR THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR

Book Fees	Grades K-6	\$20.00
	Grades 7-12	\$40.00
Parking Permit	Grades 10-12	\$30.00
Activity Ticket (optional)	all grades	\$20.00
Hot Lunch Fees	Breakfast	\$1.25
	Lunch	\$2.50
	Milk (carton)	\$.30

If you are eligible for free or reduced meals, some fees/prices may be reduced. Applications are available at Central Office and at registration as well.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Representatives from several community groups will be available during registration. As parents your involvement in our schools help make our students successful. Without volunteers like you we couldn't accomplish all the wonderful things we see at Spencer Community Schools. Check out the opportunities available to you during registration. Groups such as parent organizations, Taittwisters, Positively Spencer Youth and Spencer School Foundation are just a few of the many ways you can be involved. All will have information available to you at registration!

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services, today announced its policy for free and reduced price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the After-school Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
Effective 7-1-2009 to 6-30-2010

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Free Meals</u>					<u>Reduced Price Meals</u>				
	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every Two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every Two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
1	14,079	1,174	587	542	271	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	18,941	1,579	790	729	365	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	23,803	1,984	992	916	458	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	28,665	2,389	1,195	1,103	552	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	33,527	2,794	1,397	1,290	645	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	38,389	3,200	1,600	1,477	739	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	43,251	3,605	1,803	1,664	832	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	48,113	4,010	2,005	1,851	926	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
For each additional family member add:	4,862	406	203	187	94	6,919	577	289	267	134

Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free meals or for reduced price meals. Households will complete one application listing all children and return it to your child’s school. Food Assistance households and children receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) are eligible for free meals. Most children from Food Assistance and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their children’s schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their children to receive free meals.

Some Food Assistance and FIP households will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the child’s school to receive free meals. Food Assistance or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from DHS must complete an application for their children to receive free meals.

Only complete applications will be approved by the school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals for them, instructions for making application for such children are contained on the application form. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

Households with children who are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start Program or the Migrant Education Program or who are considered homeless or runaway by the school district’s homeless liaison should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the ruling of the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school’s designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable State and Federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their local school for additional information.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.