



Elementary Handbook



**Halverson Elementary
Hawthorne Elementary
Lakeview Elementary
Sibley Elementary**

WELCOME

We hope that your elementary school years are a productive and enjoyable learning experience. The program we offer will provide a bridge to our secondary schools.

An important component of the elementary school program is to provide a safe, caring nurturing environment for our students. This can be accomplished through a spirit of cooperation and respect for each other. Schools face the same concerns that we see throughout our community. Students bring to schools the values they experience in the family and community. We are not immune from problems of society and must deal with these concerns daily.

In all areas of society, we have laws and expectations to follow. Schools are no different if we expect order and a safe environment.

This handbook explains to parents and students our expectations. We recognize that expectations do not always meet the needs of each individual. The expectations establish standards for all students to follow. Students know what the expectations are for them and all students are treated with fairness.

We can only offer quality education when we have the discipline, which allows learning to take place. We encourage parents and students to read the handbook and become familiar with the contents. We appreciate your support and cooperation in making this a safe learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your cooperation and we hope you and your family have a great year.

Tonya Franks
Halverson

John Mahal
Hawthorne

Nick Sofio
Lakeview

Nicky Severtson
Sibley

If you do not understand the information presented to you in this notice, please contact a Success Coach through the main office in your child's school. Interpreter services can be provided for you.

Si no entiende la información presentada en esta noticia, por favor contacte la oficina principal de la escuela de su hijo para comunicarse con un coordinador de logros estudiantiles (Success Coach). Se puede proveer servicios de intérprete.

နမူနာတန်ဖိုင်ပုံစံတိုင်ကစီလ်ပဒုးသုင်ညါနုတခါအံဝံသးစူဆဲးကျိုးဘိုင် **Success Coach**
လ်နုဖီအကုပိဝဲဒုး(Main Office)နုင်တကုင်.
ပုကတိကျိုးထံတိုင်ဖိကအိင်ကတဲဘိုင်ကတိပတင်စုလ်သုဂီင်နုင်လီ.

Revised 7.21.2020

**ALBERT LEA AREA SCHOOLS
SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR
2020-2021**

August 18 & 19	PK-5	Family Interviews
August 18 & 19		School Pictures
August 20	PK-12	First Day of School
September 4	PK-12	No School
September 7	PK-12	No School
October 15 & 16	PK-12	No School - Fall Break
October 22	PK-5	Elementary Conferences
October 26	PK-5	No School - Elementary Conferences
November 25 - 27	PK-12	No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 22	PK-12	End of Semester 1
December 23 - January 5	PK-12	No School - Holiday Break
January 6	PK-12	School Resumes
February 15	PK-12	No School
February 18	PK-5	Elementary Conferences
February 22	PK-5	No School - Elementary Conferences
March 15 - 19	PK-12	No School - Spring Break
April 2	PK-12	No School
May 26	PK-12	Last Day of School
May 26	PK-12	End of Semester 2

ABSENCES & ATTENDANCE

Students who are absent, or who plan to be absent, must have their parent/guardians call our attendance line by 9:00 AM on the day of the absences to inform the school of the absence. If the phone is not answered, please leave a message with your child's name, their teacher, and the reason for their absence.

If your child will be leaving early for the day, please call the office or send a note with your child. Students who leave early will need to be signed out in the office by an adult.

Halverson Attendance Line	507-379-4904
Hawthorne Attendance Line	507-379-4964
Lakeview Attendance Line	507-379-5024
Sibley Attendance Line	507-379-5084

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing his or her academic success. Any unexcused absences can negatively impact student learning. Unexcused absences throughout the year can be considered educational neglect and after a certain point, will be reported to the county.

Elementary schools attendance procedures:

- After 3 unexcused absences
 - Letter will be sent home informing parents of the absences.
 - Teachers will call home to inform parents.
- After 5 unexcused absences:
 - Parents will be contacted by the teacher and an attendance contract will be developed to help improve attendance.
 - Parents may also receive a phone call from a member of the attendance team.
- After 7 unexcused absences:
 - Information regarding the absences' will be sent to the county as Educational Neglect.
 - Parents may receive a phone call again from a member of the attendance team to discuss further action.
- After 10 unexcused absences:

- Letter will be sent home informing parents of accumulated absences and the importance of consistent attendance.
- Parents may be contacted by a member of the attendance team to develop an attendance contract
- Other guidelines regarding absences include:
 - If child arrives after 10:00 am, this will be considered a half-day absence.
 - If child leaves before 1:30 pm, this will be considered a half-day absence.

Excused absences include:

- Illness
- Medical
 - The school district reserves the right to require medical documentation in order to excuse an absence. Extended illnesses require a doctor's note.
- Family emergency
- Death, illness, funeral family
- Ongoing treatment of illness
- Religious
- Other exceptions included in district guidelines or pre-approved by administrator
 - Pre-approval forms must be completed and returned to the main office in order for the absence to be counted as excused

Unexcused absences include:

- Missed bus/Overslept
- Car troubles
- Baby-sitting or other family obligations not school related
- Non-school designated weather-related absences

Tardies

- Letter will be sent home informing parents of accumulated tardies and the importance of consistent attendance.
- Parents may be contacted by a member of the attendance team to develop an attendance contract

Pre-approved Family Absence

- If your family is planning a vacation that will require your child to miss school, please fill out a pre-approved family absence form from the office *prior* to the absence.

eLearning Attendance

- See EMERGENCY CLOSING information below

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

If behavior issues arise, we make every effort to model correct behavior and promote positive interaction.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

If a student violates the school rules/behavior expectations, certain consequences will be followed. The specific consequence will be determined by the severity and frequency of the offense. Potential consequences include:

Loss of Privilege:

First-time violations of school rules will typically result in a loss of one or more privileges.

Detention:

- Morning detention
- Lunch detention

In-School Suspension (ISS):

Students will be expected to work on assignments provided by the teacher. Students must be respectful of the office work environment and remain in their assigned space.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

OSS may be assigned for up to ten (10) days for serious offenses such as fighting and drug, alcohol, and tobacco violations, as well as violations of attendance and behavior contracts. Repeated violations or serious acts of violence against individuals or the school may result in suspensions up to ten (10) days in

length. Students are expected to complete class assignments during the time they are suspended. Assignments will be provided by teachers; teachers are available by email or phone during school hours.

Student Code of Conduct/Discipline

It is the responsibility of all school district employees to safeguard the health, safety, and rights of each student. The School Board and District Administrators will support district personnel who, in dealing with students on disciplinary matters, act in accordance with State statute, State Board of Education regulations and School District Policies. Appropriate staff will be notified of circumstances in which a student has a history of violent behavior in an effort to provide a safe school environment that is conducive to learning and teaching and to ensure maximum educational opportunities for all of our students.

It is the responsibility of all students to follow Albert Lea Area School's policies so that all students receive the opportunity to learn in a safe and respectful environment.

- Students will be in class, prepared, and on time.
- Students will commit to honesty and integrity in all they do.
- Students will keep the building clean and orderly.
- Students will use the furniture and equipment properly.
- Students will understand that loud, abusive, profane, and obscene language is disrespectful and will not be tolerated.
- Students will follow school dress code at all times.

BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS/ROLLER BLADES

Children may ride bicycles to school. Riders should observe all safety rules. Bikes are to be locked in assigned areas. Bikes are to be walked on school grounds. Skateboards, rollerblades, roller shoes, ripsticks, scooters etc. can be brought to school and stored in their locker or classroom.

BIRTHDAYS

Teachers strive to acknowledge birthdays as special occasions. We encourage you to donate an age-appropriate book or to supplement your child's classroom or to our media center instead of an edible treat. If you bring a treat to school, please comply with the Minnesota health guidelines, which states that all food brought to school must be commercially made. State law prohibits homemade food from being shared at school. Please also refer to our health and wellness policy (Policy #533) for guidelines.

If treats are brought to school, they **MUST** be brought to the office. The teacher will determine when the treats are shared. Parents will **NOT** be allowed to deliver birthday treats to classrooms or host birthday parties in class.

Birthday invitations are not to be brought to school because it disrupts the learning environment. Please make arrangements to mail them or deliver the invitations in an alternate way. PLEASE NOTE: Data privacy laws prohibit office and teaching staff from disclosing names, addresses, and phone numbers of our students.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS HOURS

The first bell will be a warning bell ringing each morning ten minutes before school opens. This bell is at 8:10 a.m. The final bell rings at 8:20 a.m. at which time students are expected to be in their seats, ready to begin for the school day. If your child walks to school, please make sure they do not arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. It is recommended that students not be on school grounds before 7:50 a.m. when supervision is available. After 8:20 a.m. all students are to report to the office when entering or exiting the building. School hours are 8:20 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. for Gr. K-5. Dismissal begins at 2:50 p.m. Students will reach buses and crosswalks between 2:55-3 p.m.

Each Wednesday, the first bell rings at 8:20 a.m., with classes beginning at 8:30 a.m. Students will be supervised for the additional 10 minutes of outdoor time. This is due to the Professional Learning Community Team meetings which occur each Wednesday until 8:15. Note that this does not change when students can be dropped off in the morning. The additional time will be an additional 10 minutes of supervised recess time at school.

BUS

The Albert Lea Public School System provides bus transportation for your child to and from school. It is necessary to have certain rules and regulations in order to protect the welfare of every child. Each person, regardless of age, must take the responsibility of following these rules. They should realize that carelessness, thoughtlessness or misconduct can cause injury to themselves or their fellow passengers. Please review the safety rules listed below.

1. Only pupils assigned to the bus by the school board or designated administration officer shall be transported at district expense. In no case shall the number assigned result in more than three passengers per seat.

2. At the bus stop (home or school) students are asked to:

- Be on time. Board the bus only at your assigned pick-up point.
- Stay back from the curb so that you will not accidentally slip or fall into the street or distract passing motorists.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the driver to open the door before proceeding to the bus.

Do not push, crowd, or cut the line. Line up in a single row.

- Take a seat promptly, remain seated, and do not move around the bus.
- When it is time to leave the bus, stay seated until the bus has completely stopped. Do not push or crowd to get off.

3. On the bus: The school bus ride is part of the school day. Your driver is on the bus to provide a safe and pleasant trip:

- Please follow the instructions of the driver promptly and courteously.
- For everyone's safety, materials such as: guns, loaded or unloaded; gasoline cans, empty or full; animals or any other object of dangerous or objectionable nature are not allowed in a school bus.
- A student may be charged for damage to the bus. Please respect your bus.
- Remember to keep voices quiet so that your driver can hear traffic noises and be especially quiet at railroad crossings.
- First aid kits, flares and the emergency door are for emergency use only, and should not be handled by students.
- Fighting, abusive language or profanity, throwing objects, use of chemicals or tobacco and general "horseplay" will not be tolerated.
- Windows may be opened only with the permission of the bus driver. Never put your head, arms, feet (or any object) out of the window.
- Spitting, littering, lighting matches and other behavior threatening the safety, well-being and respect for others will not be allowed.

4. When leaving the bus:

- Use the handrail when stepping off the bus.
- When you step off the bus, move away from the bus.
- If you must cross the street, inside or outside the city limits, you should:
 - Walk ten feet ahead of the bus.
 - Stop and look back at the bus driver and wait until the driver gives you the signal to cross. Then look left, right, and
 - left.
 - Walk quickly across the street. Don't stop or turn back.

Students who do not obey these safety rules and regulations may be denied transportation as outlined in the following "Discipline Procedures."

Any action by a student that threatens the safety of the bus driver and/or passengers or that violates a school regulation will be dealt with according to the following policy. In all cases, the decision of the bus driver is final and will be reported in writing to the appropriate school administrator.

- **Referral #1** - The bus driver will make a written report to the principal. The student will be informed of The remainder of the policy and written notice will be sent to the parents.
- **Referral #2** - The bus driver will make a written report to the principal. The student will be suspended from riding the bus for a period of one (1) to five (5) days. The parents will be contacted informing them of the duration of the suspension.
- **Referral #3** - The bus driver will make a written report to the principal. The student will be suspended from further bus service for a period of more than five days or until the end of the school year. Furthermore, the School District also reserves the right to suspend students from bus service for the entire period of the student's enrollment. The parents may request a conference with the principal, Director of Transportation, and/or a representative of the bus company to review the reasons for the suspension or propose alternatives to suspension.

However, Referrals #1 and #2 may be waived by the District if the severity of the first violation is such that common sense dictates immediate suspension of any amount of time up to the balance of the school year for the safety of other students and/or a bus driver.

If your child needs to ride an alternate bus, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the bus company PRIOR to your child riding the bus. Students without these arrangements being made will not be allowed to ride the alternate bus. School staff will not be making these arrangements.

Albert Lea Bus Company
507-373-1467

COMMUNICATION

Staff encourages you to visit the school during the school year. Remember, you are required to stop by the office to sign our Visitor's Log and receive your Visitor's pass. This process is for the safety and security of our students and staff.

For direct contact with the teacher we recommend you call between 7:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. or 3:05 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. During the school day, you may call a teacher's direct line and leave a voicemail message or call the main office.

SIBLEY PHONE NUMBERS

Office 379-5080
Attendance Line 379-5084

HALVERSON PHONE NUMBERS

Office 379-4900
Attendance Line 379-4904

LAKEVIEW PHONE NUMBERS

Office 379-5020
Attendance Line 379-5024

HAWTHORNE PHONE NUMBERS

Office 379-4960
Attendance Line 379-4964

Please use the attendance line whenever your child is absent from school. You may call this 24-hour line at any time and leave a recorded message. The office clerk checks this recording daily. If there is not a message on the recording and your child is not at school, you will receive a phone call. This is for the safety of your child.

School staff contact information including email contacts is available on our webpage.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may have cell phones at the request of parents at school. The phones are to be OFF and placed in the students' locker, bookbag, or given to the classroom teacher throughout the entire school day. Other electronic devices should be left at home.

If these guidelines are not followed, the item will be held by the school office until a parent comes to pick it up. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or electronic devices.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS

Halverson:

Entering Building at the beginning of the day:

- Students arriving at school before the 8:10 bell are expected to go to the playground.
- ALL students will enter through Door 2 on the east side of the building at the direction of morning supervisors.
 - a. Students who are bussed or dropped off on Todd Avenue Street will enter through Door 2 on the east side of the building
 - b. Students who are dropped off in the parking lot will proceed to the playground and enter through Door 2.

Student Dismissal:

All students, with the exception of students utilizing special education transportation, will exit the building through Door 2 following the 2:50 p.m. bell. Students will all exit the building by 3:00 p.m. Parents may meet students outside door 2. **Please respect school safety patrol flags and all traffic laws, including use of crosswalks whether with or without your child.** Student and family safety are of great importance to us.

Students are dismissed in the following order:

1. Pick Up
2. Bus riders
3. Walkers

Hawthorne: Entering the building: ALL students arriving at school before the 8:10 bell are expected to stay on the playground/black top area. Around 8:08, our playground supervisors will blow a whistle to line each classroom up on the blacktop and when the bell rings at 8:10, students will then enter the building near the playground for their school day. Should there be any inclement weather, our students will be allowed in the building prior to 8:10 and have designated areas to wait for the 8:10 bell.

Exiting the building at the end of the day:

At the end of each day, Sheridan St. (front of Hawthorne) will only be used for student pick up (students not riding the bus). The goal is to have parents "flow" (think about a drive through at a restaurant) through this area while not having to compete with buses that are also parked on Sheridan. If you are trying to pick up your student and they are not ready or out at the curb, we would encourage you to go around the block and get back in line so cars can continue to "flow" through this area. We will also set out cones for the "pick up" area to help guide parents/family members through.

Students are dismissed in the following order:

- Bus Riders
- Walkers/Pick Up

Lakeview:

Entering Building at the beginning of the day:

- Students arriving at school before the 8:10 bell are expected to go to the playground
- Kindergarten and 1st Grade will enter the building through the main entrance.
- 2nd and 4th Grade will enter the building through the North Door.
- 3rd and 5th Grade will enter the building through the East Door.

Student Dismissal:

- K-5 students riding the bus will exit the building through the North Door.
- K-2 students who walk or get picked up will exit the building through the Main Entrance.
- 3-5 students who walk or get picked up will exit the building through the East Door.

Sibley:

Entering Building at the beginning of the day:

1. Students who are bussed will enter through the cafeteria doors on the east side of the building on the playground;
2. Students who are dropped off on Front Street will enter through the cafeteria doors on the east side of the building on the playground.

Exiting the building at the end of the day:

1. Students in grades K-3 that walk, ride the bus, or get picked up will exit through the doors on the west side of the building (front doors);
2. Students in grades 4-5 that walk home or get picked up on Front Street will exit through the north door on the first floor;
3. Students in grades 4-5 that are bussed will exit through the doors on the west side of the building (front doors).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency procedures, such as tornado, fire, evacuation and active shooter, are taught early in the school year and practiced periodically throughout the year.

Emergency School Closings

District 241 uses an instant alert system called BlackBoard to deliver general, emergency and weather related messages to parents/guardians and students. Phone numbers and email addresses listed with the school will be used to communicate all closings, delays, and early outs immediately. Please keep all your contact information updated with the school office. if you make any changes. School closings will also be posted on the School District webpage at alschools.org.

You can also check the Albert Lea Area Schools Facebook page and tune into radio stations KATE - AM 1450, KCPI - FM 94.9, POWER 96 - FM 96.1, or television stations KAAL - Ch 6, KTTC - Ch 10 and KIMT - Ch 3 for school closing information.

Inclement weather days: The Minnesota Legislature has created "e-Learning Days," which allows students to do school work at home in the event school is cancelled due to inclement weather. These days now qualify as a regular school day.

eLearning Days

Albert Lea School District has a learning plan in place for students. Elementary students will receive eLearning BINGO boards, and will complete one for each inclement weather day. The BINGO boards are to be signed by the parent and returned within one week. BINGO boards not returned will result in an absence.

ENROLLMENT

Each elementary school has an attendance area which includes the neighborhood around the school in town and an area in the county. Each school tries to maintain the neighborhood school concept., but there are several factors that can impact where a child will attend school. **The factors considered include:**

1. **Where the child actually lives on a daily basis**
2. **Special Education needs of the student**
3. **District budget considerations**

A Request for Records form will be processed for all students transferring into the district. These records are to include:

- Cumulative folder
- Medical records
 - Immunization Information (See Immunizations under Health Services)
- Special instructional and related services
- Attendance records
- Consent to release data form

- Behavioral reports

FIELD TRIPS

To enhance classroom learning and provide a variety of experiences, classes will occasionally leave the school grounds for curricular activities (field trips). When field trips occur out of town, parents will be notified and a permission slip will be needed for students to attend the trip.

FOOD SERVICE

A computerized food service accounting system is used for payment of school meals. All students enter their student I.D. number into a keypad when they come through the serving line each day. The cost of their meal will automatically be deducted from the balance in their account.

Please review the following payment information:

The system will accept payments up to a maximum of \$999.99.

- CHECKS: Students may bring prepayments to school and place them in the specially marked boxes before school. Write the student's name, school and student I.D. number in the memo section.
 - or Checks can be mailed to:
Food Service Office
Southwest Middle School
1601 W. Front St.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
- CASH: Please deposit money in an envelope and write the student's name, school and student I.D. number on the outside of the envelope.

Ways to Verify Balance:

- Call the Food Service Office at 379-5300.
- Student may ask the cashier.
- Parent/Guardian may check student's account on the Parent Portal available on the District Website.
<http://www2.albertlea.k12.mn.us/parent-student-tools>

Breakfast

Student \$1.35
Adult \$1.95

Hawthorne and Halverson have free Universal Breakfast.

Snack Cart / Milk Program

Each elementary school offers a snack cart and milk program option per semester.

Snack Cart

Grades K - 5 \$30.00 per semester

Milk Program

Kindergarten \$12.00 per semester

Grades 1 - 5 \$30.00 per semester

Lunch

Student \$2.90
Adult \$4.05

Milk can be purchased with cold lunches for \$.40 per carton.

Milk is included with hot lunches.

HEALTH SERVICES

Our district has three licensed school nurses that work with children's health needs. In the elementary schools, the secretary and health clerk in the building are both certified in First Aid and CPR. They provide First Aid and administer medication under supervision of the licensed school nurse. In case of a medical emergency, First Aid is provided and 911 is called.

The licensed school nurses are responsible for the management of district health services in all of the schools. They are responsible for: health screening; vision and hearing screening, referral and follow-up; scoliosis screening, referral and follow-up; early childhood screening; health counseling; individualized health plans and emergency medical plans for students with special health concerns; health office supervision; and training of staff providing health services. The licensed school nurses are responsible for immunization verification and follow-up in compliance with immunization law. They are also responsible for training of staff regarding infection control, infectious diseases and specific health conditions. If at any time during the school year there are changes in your child's health status, please notify the licensed school nurses. Nurses are available by phone, e-mail, for conferences and meetings to address any health related concerns.

ILLNESS

- Attendance in school is very important, but we value your child's health. If your child is vomiting or has a fever, we advise that he/she stay home. If your child becomes ill during the day, they may not

leave the school without reporting to the school office. The health office staff will evaluate your child and depending on the situation, will allow them to rest on a cot or contact you to take them home. It is important that either the parent/guardian or another responsible individual be available for your child if they become ill. Your child may return to school when he/she is feeling well and body temperature has been less than 100 degrees for 24 hours. For vomiting or diarrhea, the child should stay home 24 hours after the last episode.

- Any child having a communicable disease such as strep throat, impetigo, conjunctivitis (pink eye) or ringworm will be excluded from school. The child should report to the school office upon return. If there is a question regarding the child returning, the licensed school nurse should be contacted. Decisions regarding this will be made on an individual basis dependent on the risk of transmission of illness to others.

IMMUNIZATIONS

District Policy #530 states:

The school district may allow a student transferring into a school a maximum of 30 days to submit a statement specified in Section III.A. or III.B., above, or Section IV., below (see policy 530). Students who do not provide the appropriate proof of immunization or the required documentation related to an applicable exemption of the student from the required immunization within the specified time frames shall be excluded from school until such time as the appropriate proof of immunizations or exemption documentation has been provided.

- Kindergarten Students/Students new to the country
 - A complete immunization record is to be provided and reviewed by school district personnel no later than September 30, 2020. If the record is incomplete, and it is not determined to be an exception to State Statute 123.70, the student will be denied admission to school until the student complies with all immunization requirements, or is in the process. A valid birth certificate must be presented for school inspection within 30 calendar days of enrollment.
- Transfer Students
 - A student transferring into the district from a public school in the State of Minnesota will be allowed 30 calendar days to comply with meeting all immunization requirements.

MEDICATIONS

See Policy [10230](#) for prescription and over-the-counter medications

HOMEWORK

District #241 recognizes that homework of the right type and amount can significantly enhance academic learning. In the best interests of elementary students and their parents,

- The school staff should encourage students and parents to establish a regularly scheduled time for homework. This time should be used for learning activities related to school work. Staff and parents should encourage regular reading of library books daily and independent writing activities.
- Homework should be a meaningful activity and an extension of previous instruction in the classroom. Children should have a good understanding of the concept(s) involved in their homework. With such understanding, homework activities will serve to reinforce concepts taught previously.

LOST AND FOUND

We display lost items in a cabinet near the front office. Valuable items such as money, keys and watches are brought to the office where they can be claimed after identified.

MEDIA CENTER

Our elementary Media Centers are here to help students and staff access information to promote learning, supply classrooms with makerspace materials and create an environment for life-long readers.

Our elementary Media Centers provide flexible scheduling; open access throughout the day. With teacher permission, students may come at any time and are encouraged to do so. The student borrowing materials is responsible for taking care of the items and returning them on time. Most items may be borrowed for 14 days. If an item is lost or damaged, the student is responsible for its replacement.

Each student is issued a library card. Students are responsible for the cards and required to bring the card to the

media center when checking out materials. If a student moves from the school, the card is returned to the media center. At the end of the school year all cards are returned to the media center.

PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Parent involvement is a vital part of a successful educational experience! We have fun organizing and planning many different school activities! Please join us and help your child achieve their best school year yet! The meetings are open to all parents and we encourage your attendance.

Lakeview: LESO (Lakeview Elementary School Organization)

When: Second Tuesday of each month

Time: 5:45 pm

Where: Lakeview Media Center

Halverson: SPIRIT (Students and Parents Involved and Reaching for Ideas with Teachers)

When: Second Tuesday of each month

Time: 5:30 pm

Where: Halverson Conference Room

Hawthorne: PTO

When: Second Monday of each month

Time: 5:30 pm

Where: Hawthorne Media Center

Sibley: SHARE is the Sibley Elementary School Organization, Inc.

When: Second Monday of each month

Time: 5:30 pm

Where: Sibley Main Office Conference Room

RECESS

Students receive 20 minutes of scheduled recess to promote physical activity and social learning. In the event of inclement weather, inside recess kits are available for all classrooms.

- Please prepare your child for cold temperatures by dressing them properly with a heavy coat, hat, gloves/mittens, snow pants, and boots.
- Students will be outdoors for recess before school and during the day if the temperature and windchill is 0 degrees or above.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR/SOCIAL WORKER

School counselors and social work services are available in each of the elementary buildings. School Counselors and Social Workers serve both children and their parents with a wide range of needs. They are educated and experienced in child development and family systems. School Counselors and Social Workers also provide information regarding community resources (i.e. clothing, employment, housing, health and human services and parenting).

Direct services available include, but are not limited to, the following:

- One-to-one student contact regarding various issues
- Support services regarding grief/loss
- Small groups for children dealing with various topics, such as:
 - divorce support groups
 - social skills groups
 - increasing positive self esteem
 - organization skills and self-control
 - conflict solving skills
 - consultations with parents regarding:
 - discipline strategies
 - increasing desirable behaviors
 - decreasing undesirable behaviors
 - child socialization issues
 - child development issues
 - increasing responsibility
 - recreation/leisure opportunities for youth

If you wish to contact your child's School Counselor, please call them at:

Lakeview School

379-5045

Halverson School

379-4948

Sibley School

379-5130

Hawthorne School

379-4979

If you wish to contact your child's School Social Worker, please call them at:

Lakeview School	379-5065
Halverson School	379-4909
Sibley School	379-5125
Hawthorne School	379-4993

STUDENT TESTING

District assessments will be given throughout the year to help measure your student's achievement, but even more importantly, how effective your student is progressing in his/her classroom. Testing as mandated by the State Legislature will be administered at the appropriate grades. If you would like to have your student not participate in statewide testing, you can click on one of the following links to print off a copy to return to the office. If you would like a printed copy of the [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing](#), please contact the school office.

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

[KAREN](#)

VISITORS & GUESTS

Visitors are always welcome. Visitors **MUST** report to the office to sign in and get a visitor badge.

Parents are welcome to have lunch with their child; however, due to health regulations, food from outside vendors is not allowed.

School District Policies

Student behavior policies are directed by School Board adopted policies. This document can be found at: www.alschools.org Go to tab School Board / School District Policies.

Parents are asked to sign acknowledgement of the handbook and school district policies during Parent Teacher Interviews or upon enrollment.

Employee/Personnel

[Policy 413 - Policy Against Religious, Racial, and Sexual Harassment and Violence*](#)

This policy is to maintain a learning & working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, family status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability.

[Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse](#)

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the statutory requirements of school personnel to report child neglect or physical or sexual abuse. All licensed school personnel are mandatory reporters. The Department of Human Services/Freeborn County is responsible for all investigations. Minn STAT. § 626.556

Students

[Policy 501 - School Weapons Policy](#)

This policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff, and the public. It defines a weapon, exceptions, and consequences for students and non-students.

[Policy 502 - Lockers](#)

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school district's policies against contraband.

[Policy 503 - Attendance](#)

The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.

[Policy 504 - Student Dress & Appearance](#)

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and grooming that are related to educational goals and community standards. The policy of the school district is to encourage students to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards. This is a joint responsibility of the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

[Policy 506 - Student Discipline](#)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate

disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

[Policy 514 - Bullying Prohibition Policy*](#)

An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.

[Policy 515 - Protection & Privacy of Pupil Records](#)

The school district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes.

[Policy 522 - Student Non-Discrimination](#)

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

[Policy 524 - Technology Acceptable Use Policy](#)

This policy sets forth guidelines for access to the school district computer system and acceptable and safe use of the internet, including electronic communications. This policy applies to any personal computing devices (iPads, iPods, cell phones or other personal devices) that access the internet at school.

[Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibition*](#)

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

[Policy 529 - Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students](#)

The purpose of this policy is to address the circumstances in which data should be provided to classroom teachers and other school staff members about students with a history of violent behavior and to establish a procedure for notifying staff regarding the placement of students with a history of violent behavior in an effort to provide a safe school environment.

[Policy 532 - The Pledge of Allegiance*](#)

The school board recognizes the need to display an appropriate United States flag and to provide instruction to students in the proper etiquette, display, and respect of the flag. The purpose of this policy is to provide for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and instruction in school to help further that end. Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reasons may elect not to do so. Students and school personnel must respect another person's right to make that choice.

[Policy 533 - Wellness Policy](#)

The purpose of this policy is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

[Policy 10230 - School Medication](#)

This policy includes BOTH prescription AND over-the-counter medications. Students requiring medicine at school shall be identified by parents to the school nurse, health coordinator, secretary, principal or teacher.