

Meade School District
46-1

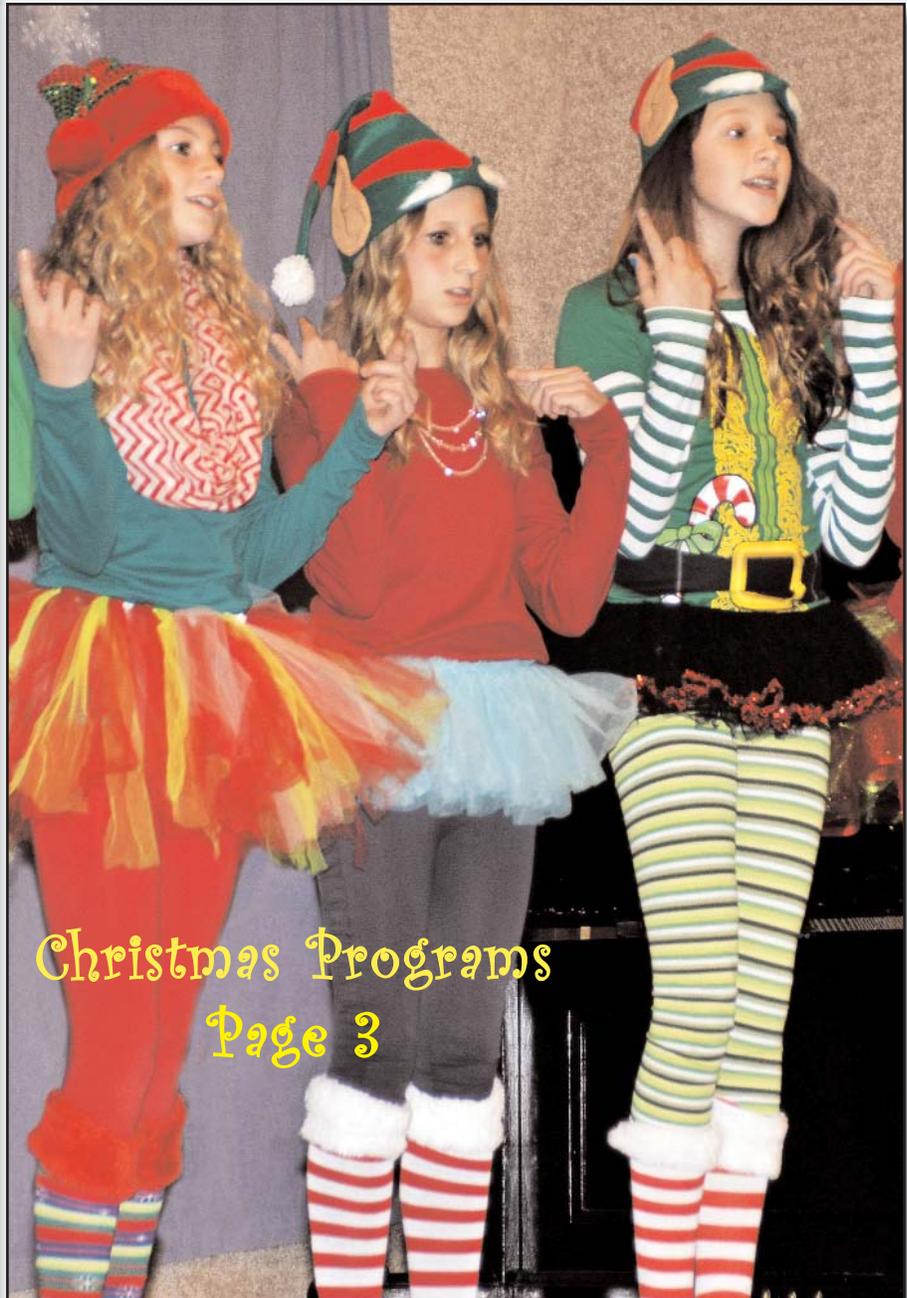
In Touch

A publication of Meade School District

December 2015

Volume 12, Issue 4
www.meade.k12.sd.us

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"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"



A recent simulation about how making bad decisions can affect lives resulted in injuries and the death of two students in a three vehicle mock crash held at the high school. After observing the medical, fire and law enforcement responses to the accident, the freshmen, for whom the accident was staged, visited a mock ER and courtroom, learned about jail and probation options, and attended their classmates' funeral.

Repercussions of making bad decisions

The freshmen at Sturgis Brown High School recently participated in a simulation to help them understand how making bad decisions can affect their lives.

In Touch

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Questions or comments about the contents of this publication should be directed to the editor. This publication can be found on the district website:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/intouch

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Pictured on the front are Enning Union Center School students Kylie Shaw, Sydney Shaw and Emily Gray-Smith.

The fourth annual event, which took place at the high school under the sponsorship of the Youth Leadership Team at the school, began with the students attending a house party, a simulated car crash and subsequent rescue, medical transport and treatment of some students and death of others. Depending on the scenario the freshmen followed, some of them died at the house party from an overdose, were injured in the car crash or were arrested and had to appear in court where they were given probation or sent to jail. Following the scenarios, the students were debriefed about their experiences.

Speaking on behalf of the Youth Leadership Team and advisers, Sturgis Brown High School counselor Dadra Avery thanked all the community partners who helped make the simulation a suc-

cess. "I am amazed each year by the support from the community in facilitating this annual event for the approximately 150 who were able to attend," she said. "This activity is such a massive undertaking and we could not do it without all of our partners."

In addition to the members of the SBHS Drama Club, those partners included the Sturgis Meade County Ambulance Service, Sturgis Fire Department, S.D. Highway Patrol, Sturgis Police Department, Meade County Sheriff's Office, Sturgis Regional Hospital, Kinkade Funeral Chapel, S.D. Department of Corrections, Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Services, Juvenile Services Center, Action for the Betterment of the Community and Zylstra Towing.

Photos from the event can be accessed by clicking on this link:

<http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/photos/>

Schedule of Music Programs



The public is invited to the following Meade School District music programs to be held during the month of December.

Sturgis Elementary School students in third and fourth grades will be performing "Snapshots from Christmas Around the World" on Tuesday Dec. 1, at the Sturgis Community Center Theater. The third-graders are divided into two performance groups by classes. Group A (Russell, Cook, Steffes) will be performing at 5:30 p.m. and Group B (Stofferahn, Pankratz, Dahl) will be performing at 6:30 p.m. The fourth grade will hit the stage at 7:30 p.m. Music teacher Hillary Hill, who will be directing the musical program, also wrote the script which features music from Africa, Hawaii, Germany, France, England and the United States.

Sturgis Williams Middle School winter choir concert will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre. Connie Feekes and Gary Nelson are the directors.

The winter concert presented by the Sturgis Brown High School band will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre. Directors are Rebecca Fahey and Gary Nelson.

Elm Springs School Christmas program, directed by music teacher Amy Wicks, will be held at the Elm Springs Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14.

Atall School Christmas program is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the school basement. Amy Wicks is the music teacher.

The Enning Union Center School program will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Central Meade County Community Center in Union Center.

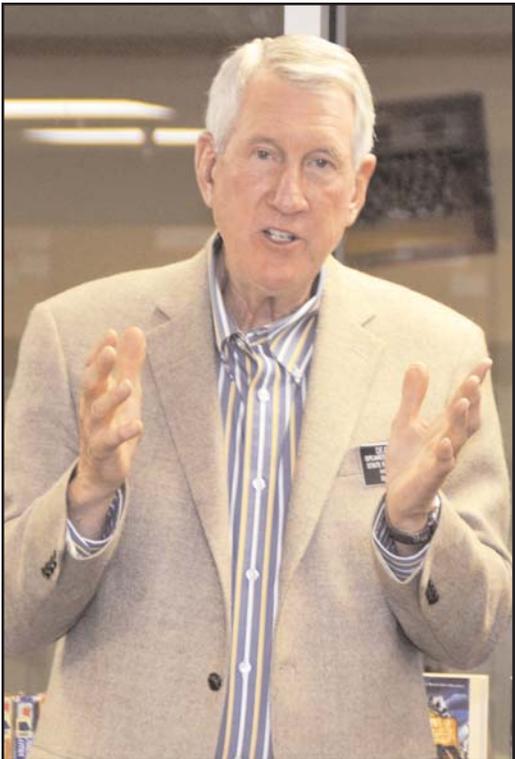
Piedmont Valley Elementary School concert by the kindergarten, first and second grade students and the sixth grade band will be held on Friday, Dec. 18, in the school gym. "Gifts in Song" is the title of the program which begins with the sixth grade band performing from 8-8:30 a.m.; second grade, 8:30-9 a.m.; first grade, 9-9:30 a.m.; and kindergarten, 9:30-10 a.m. The concert will also be presented in the afternoon as follows: second grade, 1-1:30 p.m.; first grade, 1:30-2 p.m.; kindergarten, 2-2:30 p.m. Becky Fischer is the music teacher.

The Whitewood Elementary School Christmas play, "A Holiday Moosical" by all students in kindergarten through sixth grade under the direction of music teacher Marlene Kotab, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, in the school gym. The sixth grade band and third through sixth grade choir will also be performing. The Whitewood PTO will be holding a Christmas bake sale prior to the program as a way of raising funds for school projects.

The Hereford Hall is the location of the Hereford School Christmas program scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. Music teacher is Amy Wicks.

Opal School students will hold their Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, at the Opal Hall. Music teacher is Amy Wicks.

The Sturgis Brown High School choir, under the direction of Bart Torbert, will present a concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre.



Rep. Dean Wink

Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations dominate discussion at roundtable

Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students was the main topic of discussion at the 14th annual roundtable hosted by the Meade School Board for area legislators.

The gathering is held as a way for the school board members, administrators and staff to ask questions of the legislators, to inform the lawmakers of their concerns regarding education, and for the legislators to share their perspectives on education issues.

In addition to District 29 legislators Sen. Gary Cammack, Rep. Dean Wink and Rep. Tom Brunner, also present was District 33 Rep. Jacqueline Sly, who served as co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force established by Gov. Dugaard earlier this year.

The task force was charged to focus on three goals: a quality system of schools focused on student achievement, a workforce of great educators and an efficient and equitable funding system.

"The task force has identified the needs and recommended

solutions for K-12 funding," said Sly.

"Solutions for funding education in South Dakota will be a step of courage for all of us," she said.

The final report includes numerous recommendations to meet the task force's goals, including a significant increase in teacher salaries, and an increase in the sales tax and some use taxes.



Sen. Gary Cammack, left, and Meade School Board member Corey Johnson

ROUNDTABLE:
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ROUNDTABLE

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"The 900 pound gorilla in the room this legislative session is education; last year it was roads and bridges," said Cammack. "And like the legislation last year, a package needs to be put together to set the roadmap for the future," Cammack said.

"All of the pieces of this report need to work together; adopting it in a piecemeal fashion won't be good," said Cammack.

Wink concurred, adding, "I am hopeful that we have reached the tipping point with regard to education."

"We are a frugal state," offered Brunner, "and by in large the citizens expect that from us.

However, the state is falling behind with funding for education. The state needs to come up with more funds," he said matter-of-factly.

Sly explained that the task force, which included representatives of the legislative and executive branches of government, school administrators, teachers, and businessmen, spent an inordinate amount of time looking at data, specifically the funding formula, revenue sources and tax levies.

The Task Force, she said, also held meetings throughout the state for the purpose of taking public input.

"We need to proceed with an open mind regarding the task force's recommendations," said Meade School District Superintendent Don Kirkegaard. "I truly believe there is more momentum now for teacher salary increases than at any time in my 35 years in education," he said.

"We can't let this opportunity slide," Kirkegaard continued. "This is our chance to do something significant, now."

To view the final report of the South Dakota Blue Ribbon Task Force, click on the following link:

http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/6514/4875/2926/Blue_Ribbon_Report_-_Final.pdf



Rep. Tom Brunner



Rep. Jacqueline Sly, left, and SBHS teacher Eric Johnson



A day in the life of a scientist

To help students understand the work that is being done at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead, Julie Dahl with the Center for Advancement of Mathematics and Science Education, above right, was a recent presenter at Whitewood Elementary School.

She talked to the kindergarten through third grade students about how the scientists who work at the lab get underground, what they wear and what they do once they get to the lab. First-grader Ryan Hale models the protective gear in which the scientists must clothe themselves to just ride the cage or elevator car one mile underground to their office. The students learned that once the scientists arrive underground, they must then change into a protective Tyvek suit.

Dahl also spoke to the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students about dark matter and the Large Underground Xenon experiment at the lab.

Music, Soup Festival will not be held

Along with snow and Santa, the past 22 Decembers have brought the Music and Soup Festival to the Meade School District community. Unfortunately for its faithful attendees, however, it will not be held this year.

The Music Booster Club, the organizers of the event for all of its 22-year history, say that a lack of Booster Club members and other volunteers has made it impossible to put on this year.

The Music and Soup Festival was known as the Turkey Dinner for its first 15 years, when it served-you guessed it-turkey. Due to lengthy preparation time and health regulations, in 2008 the Booster Club changed the entree from turkey to soup, and with it the name changed to the "Holiday Music and Soup Festival."

The event was, and hopefully will be again, a fundraiser for the Music Booster Club and a way to showcase the vocal and instrumental music programs at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Brown High School. Musical entertainment was provided throughout the three-hour event by the schools' choirs and bands.

For the last two years, the festival was held at the SBHS west gym, and prior to that at Grunwald Auditorium. For the first several years it was held at the Fort Meade Rec Center.



Cindy Ferguson is educator of the year

During last month's Veterans Day assembly, Sturgis Williams Middle School paraprofessional and former high school teacher Cindy Ferguson, left, was named Educator of the Year by the Sturgis American Legion Post #33.

She was recognized for her dedicated efforts over the years to promote citizenship, teamwork and leadership and for demonstrating qualities recognized by the American Legion as essential to maintaining an informed, loyal and patriotic citizenry. Making the presentation was Jerry Lolley.

To view photos from all schools' Veterans Day programs, click here:

<http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/photos/>

Monthly meeting of the school board is Dec. 14

The regular monthly meeting of the Meade School Board will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, in the board room of the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The meeting will be preceded with an executive session for the purpose of preparing the superintendent's evaluation.

The program report will be given by Business Manager Brett Burditt on the district's five-year capital outlay plan.

Action will be taken on financial reports, personnel, technology and vehicle purchase, memoranda of understanding with Behavior Management Systems for a counselor and Action for the Betterment of the Community for the Project Success program at the high school and middle school.

The board will also hold the third and final

reading of board policies JB "Equal Educational Opportunities," JC "School Attendance Areas," JEB "Entrance Age," JECB/JECC "Admission of Nonresident Students, Assignment of Resident Students," and JHCE "District Wellness Policy."

Discussion items include the review of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota legislative proposals, contract with M&B Cleaning, rezoning of Piedmont Valley Elementary School property, inservice date for the ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate) Training, and district property surrounding SBHS.

For further information, contact the superintendent's office at 347-2523 extension 2.

The agenda, background information and attachments will be posted on the district website beginning Dec. 11 at:

<http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/school-board/agenda-information/>

Event to be held at SBHS

Volunteers needed to help with concessions at this year's State Oral Interpretation Festival

Sturgis Brown High School will be hosting this year's State Oral Interpretation Festival on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5. Students from AA, A and B schools from across the state will converge on Sturgis for this two-day event at the high school.

As a way to raise money for the speech and debate program at SBHS, the coaches and students involved in the program at the high school will run a concession stand during the Festival. They are looking for volunteers to help sell food, clean up at the conclusion of the event and bake bars, cookies and muffins for the concession stand. Donations of food have already been received from Sturgis Pizza Hut and Lynn's Dakotamart.

SBHS coaches Megan Jones and Beth Johnson

are asking Sturgis restaurants to consider staying open until 10 p.m. the two days of the Festival. "When we hosted this event before, many of the parents, coaches, competitors and judges reported they had difficulty finding restaurants that were still open at the conclusion of the day's competition," said the two women.

"We would hope our Sturgis restaurants will show their hospitality to the large number of people coming here and consider staying open a little later than usual," they said. The women added that those restaurants would be listed in the hospitality material that will be given to all participants.

To volunteer or for further information, contact Jones at 490-8804 or Johnson at 490-8903.

Substitute teacher training set for Friday, Jan. 8

A training for persons wishing to serve as substitute teachers in Meade School District will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, in the board room of Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The purpose of the training is to review the district's substitute teacher handbook and to answer questions about local procedures and policies.

Persons holding a high school diploma, GED, college degree or teacher's certificate are eligible to substitute.

Substitutes are needed in Sturgis, Piedmont, Whitewood and the rural areas of Atall, Elm Springs, Enning, Hereford, Opal and Union Center.

For further information call Donna Trigg in the district office at 347-2523, option 1.

Check out the school district Facebook and website

Meade School Board firmly believes that communicating accurate, complete and timely information about the school district - its programs and operations, staff and students - not only enhances the district's image but also promotes support for education in the community while also strengthening its relationship and partnership with parents and community members. The district's Facebook and website pages are two ways of accomplishing this. Check out Meade School District and its schools at: <https://www.facebook.com/MeadeSchoolDistrict> and www.meade.k12.sd.us.



This Old School House

**July 8, 1915,
meeting of the
Sturgis
Independent**

School District #12:

Motion was made that the treasurer publish a notice asking for bids to be offered by the banks for the rate of interest that they will pay on the daily balances of the school funds. The motion carried.

**April 26, 1916, meeting of the
Sturgis School District #12:**

It was moved and carried that Miss Blanche A. Barber be elected to teach the sixth and seventh grades for the ensuing year at a salary of \$60 per month if one grade is taught and \$65 per month if two grades were taught for the full term of nine months.

**Feb. 16, 1917, meeting of the
Sturgis School District #12:**

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the board rent the building recently vacated by the Roy Ellerman confectionary for a period of six weeks beginning with the 19th of February, 1917, for a total consideration of \$10 for the full length of time to be used for a basketball hall.

Prof. Steman, who will be in charge, can permit the boys of the Sturgis Schools from and including the seventh grade up through the high school to gather and practice the playing of basketball an hour and a half at

each meeting, and that Prof. Steman is to have the rooms open for such practice two or three nights a week as he may arrange.

The discipline and control of said room, and the conduct of the boys playing therein to be strictly under the control of the instructor, Prof. Steman, and he is instructed to see to it that no one who takes part in such practice, uses profane language, improper conduct, or to his knowledge uses tobacco in any form during the evening that practice is held.

**Dec. 28, 1917, meeting of the
Sturgis School District #12:**

Superintendent Belt reported that he had started the standard tests in the school to test the scholars and for comparison of their work with other schools and their work in this school a year ago. The test showed that all had advanced considerably over last year and that the school stood well with the larger schools of the country.

**Dec. 26, 1925, meeting of the
Sturgis School District #12:**

Moved and carried that any girl coming to school with lips painted or cheeks rouged shall be dismissed from school indefinitely. Moved and carried that any boy or girl caught writing notes during school hours shall be dismissed from school indefinitely.

**Feb. 16, 1934, meeting of the
Sturgis School District #12:**

The meeting was called by reason of the general epidemic of measles and flu and the many students being out of school. The Board discussed the situation thoroughly and called health officer Dr. Richards into consultation on the matter, and after a thorough study of the situation, it was moved and seconded that the school and all school activities be closed and discontinued for a period of two weeks, or until March 5, and that before resuming school at such time, all buildings be given a thorough fumigation.

**Jan. 24, 1978, meeting of
Meade School District 46-1:**

Ramona Britton, Sturgis city councilwoman, requested the board accept a share of the city library expansion costs. During an earlier information dinner session, Carol Davis, city librarian, had defined the present activities of the library in relation to serving the district's library needs. Mrs. Davis informed the board that the expansion of the Sturgis City Library is in the best interests of the Meade School District.

Motion by [Earl] McPherson, seconded by [Shirley] Massa and carried that the school district contribute \$10,000 toward the purchase of Bob's Locker Plant adjacent to the present library facility and a part of the total library remodeling project.

Learning the art of persuasion

Middle school students speak their minds

Sturgis Williams Middle School eighth grade English teachers Beth Johnson and Kerry Skinner started a friendly debate competition this year between their classes. The speaking activity involved two sides of students arguing the merits of a resolution in an attempt to convince their classmates, who served as judges, that their argument was the best.

This process of convincing the judges is done through both real world examples and persuasive arguments made by the debaters who have researched specific topics such as "Should violent video games be sold to teens?" "Should students who engage in cyber bullying be suspended from school?" and "Should people traveling on public transportation be subject to intensive screening?"

"I suggested we do this because I wanted to make research relevant for the students," said Johnson. "We also wanted to emphasize that listening to another's argument can spark a friendly discussion even when we may not completely agree with what they are saying."

Under the format of this competition, students had to develop both a pro and con case. Eighth-grader Autumn Cassen said it was difficult to argue both sides of the question. "It was particularly hard if you didn't agree with an issue," she said.

Johnson was pleased that the students took an interest in the outcome of the debates and were excited to see who won every day. "They would say 'I voted for them because their argument was the best,'" she said. "And that was our desired outcome."



Eighth-grader Lisa Williamson, left, makes a point during a public forum debate held in the library at Sturgis Williams Middle School. The opposing team, consisting of Will Tracy and Drake Bogart, listen to the evidence and take notes. Not pictured is Autumn Cassen.

Sign up underway for driver ed classes

Sign-up is currently underway for driver education classes offered this spring through the Meade School District Curriculum Office.

The session is scheduled for 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, May 16-24, 2016, and then 9 a.m. to noon beginning May 25 and continuing until the 30 hours of mandatory classroom instruction has been reached. The class will be held in Room 116 at Sturgis Brown High School.

Cost is \$274, which must be paid in advance. Registration deadline is April 22, however, once the class is full, registration ends. Placement will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students must be at least 14 years of age and must attend the entire 30 hours of classroom instruction. In addition, six hours of driving time is required, which must be individually scheduled with

the instructor and completed by the end of June 2016.

It is strongly recommended that students have their Instruction Permit (SD Learners Permit) prior to the start of this class.

Many insurance companies give discounts to those who have completed a driver education course.

The registration form is available at the offices of Sturgis Williams Middle School, Sturgis Brown High School and the curriculum and technology office, or can be downloaded by this link:

http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/7014/4778/2230/Spring_2016_Driver_Education_Registration_2.pdf

The completed registration form and class fee should be dropped off or mailed to Meade School District, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785.

For further information call the curriculum office at 347-4454.

Meade School District calendar for 2015-16

The following is the approved calendar for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year. Any snow days will be made up by adding additional days to the end of the school calendar. Furthermore, Feb. 15 (Presidents Day), March 11 (Spring Break), and March 28 (Easter Monday) could be used as make-up days at the discretion of the Meade School Board upon recommendation of the superintendent.

Inservice Day (no school)	Dec. 4, 2015	Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 15, 2016
Christmas Vacation (no school)	Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
Inservice Day (no school)	Jan. 15, 2016	Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 23, 2016
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)	Jan. 18, 2016	Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 25, 2016
Parent-Teacher Conferences:		Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 10, 2016
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 8, 2016	Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 11, 2016
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 9, 2016	Good Friday/Easter Monday (no school)	Mar. 25-28, 2016
Middle & High Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2016	Graduation	May 22, 2016
		Last Day of School	May 24, 2016

Directory for Meade School District

Schools

Rural Schools

Bev Rosenboom, principal.....269-2264
Atall.....985-5916
16375 Atall Road, Union Center, S.D. 57787
Elm Springs.....798-2492
21309 Elm Springs Road, Wasta, S.D. 57791
Enning.....985-5364
Highway 34 Box 22, Enning, S.D. 57737
Hereford.....985-5380
15998 Cross S Road, Hereford, S.D. 57785
Opal.....748-2426
18010 Opal Road, Opal, S.D. 57765
Union Center.....985-5367
1700 Highway 34, Union Center, S.D. 57787
Office.....985-5532

Piedmont Valley Elementary School

16159 Second Street**
P.O. Box 90, Piedmont, S.D. 57769
Ethan Dschaak, principal.....787-5295

Sturgis Brown High School

12930 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-568-3514
Pete Wilson, principal.....347-2686
Chad Hedderman, assistant principal.....347-2686
Mike Paris, activities director.....347-4487
Academy.....347-9349

Sturgis Elementary School

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chantal Ligtenberg, principal.....347-2386
Dave Olson, assistant principal.....347-2386

Sturgis Williams Middle School

1425 Cedar Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-567-8274
Ann Nonnast, principal.....347-5232
Dave Olson, assistant principal.....347-5232

Whitewood Elementary School

603 Garfield, Whitewood, S.D. 57793
Bev Rosenboom, principal.....269-2264

Superintendent

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Don Kirkegaard.....347-2523 x2
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Business Manager

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Brett Burditt.....347-2523 x1
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Buildings and Grounds

12940 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Cody King, maintenance foreman.....347-2649

Communications Office

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Kristine Hubbard.....347-2523 x3

Curriculum and Technology

1610 Fulton Street, Sturgis**
Jeff Ward, director.....347-4454

Food Service

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Joe Schaffer, director.....347-3601

Nurses' Office

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Marcia Potts.....347-2610

School Social Worker

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Ginger Johnson.....347-2386

Special Services

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chrissy Peterson, director.....347-2523 x4
Deb Kerstiens, assistant director.....347-2523 x4

Harlow's School Bus Service

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Andy Ellingsen, transportation manager.....347-5066

Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis**347-2003

** Not a mailing address