



August 2016

Issue 1

Volume XVIII



ALL students AND their parents or legal guardians should attend.

Pride Day:

- Class schedules*
- Locker assignments
- School pictures
- Bus information
- YMCA After School Program info
- Free & reduced lunch forms available
- PTSA Membership
- Athletics information
- Counselors available
- Tour the building and meet your teachers

** Online registration must be completed by a legal parent or guardian prior to receiving your schedule.*



Pride Day

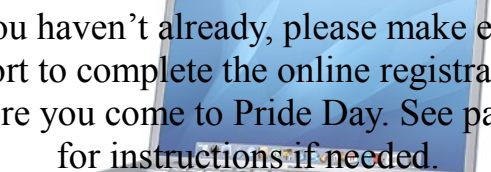
Wednesday, August 31

6th grade: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

7th grade: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

8th grade: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



If you haven't already, please make every effort to complete the online registration before you come to Pride Day. See page 3 for instructions if needed.

You'll be glad you did!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



From the Principal's Desk:



Parents/Guardians,

WELCOME BACK to the first communication of the 16-17 school year. We are excited about the opportunity to once again spend the next 10 months with your son/daughter. During this time, chances are our staff and your child will experience humor, stress, adoration, frustration, pride, joy, and other emotions as we move through the year.

6th grade parents, there are still a few spots left in JUMPSTART. JUMPSTART is a tremendous way to start the transition into middle school. JUMPSTART will effectively relieve anxiety, build friendships, introduce our wonderful staff, and learn the Whittier building. If you have not signed up yet, please call our office at 367-7620.

PRIDE day is Wednesday, August 31st. We know that you are incredibly busy and if you only have one moment to preregister, please use that moment. If time provides you with more options, please use the times listed below to help the flow of parents/guardians/students. We are seeking to offer services, converse, and answer questions as quickly and efficiently as possible, while moving you onward towards the rest of your day. If you have multiple students, please choose the best option for you. Thanks for your understanding and flexibility as we try to effectively and efficiently help ALL our parents.

6th grade 12:30-2:30

7th grade 3:00-5:00

8th grade 5:30-7:30

Taken from an excerpt from the Harvard Business School - https://hbr.org/2016/07/what-great-listeners-actually-do?utm_source=pocket&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pockethits

Chances are you think you're a good listener. People's appraisal of their listening ability is much like their assessment of their driving skills, in that the great bulk of adults think they're above average. In our experience, most people think good listening comes down to doing three things:

- Not talking when others are speaking
- Letting others know you're listening through facial expressions and verbal sounds ("Mmm-hmm")
- Being able to repeat what others have said, practically word-for-word

We found some surprising conclusions, along with some qualities we expected to hear. We grouped them into four main findings:

- **Good listening is much more than being silent while the other person talks.** To the contrary, people perceive the best listeners to be those who periodically ask questions that promote discovery and insight. These questions gently challenge old assumptions, but do so in a constructive way. Sitting there silently nodding does not provide sure evidence that a person is listening, but asking a good question tells the speaker the listener has not only heard what was said, but that they comprehended it well enough to want additional information. Good listening was consistently seen as a two-way dialog, rather than a one-way "speaker versus hearer" interaction. The best conversations were active.
- **Good listening included interactions that build a person's self-esteem.** The best listeners made the conversation a positive experience for the other party, which doesn't happen when the listener is passive (or, for that matter, critical!). Good listeners made the other person feel supported and conveyed confidence in them. Good listening was characterized by the creation of a safe environment in which issues and differences could be discussed openly.
- **Good listening was seen as a cooperative conversation.** In these interactions, feedback flowed smoothly in both directions with neither party becoming defensive about comments the other made. By contrast, poor listeners were seen as competitive — as listening only to identify errors in reasoning or logic, using their silence as a chance to prepare their next response. That might make you an excellent debater, but it doesn't make you a good listener. Good listeners may challenge assumptions and disagree, but the person being listened to feels the listener is trying to help, not wanting to win an argument.
- **Good listeners tended to make suggestions.** Good listening invariably included some feedback provided in a way others would accept and that opened up alternative paths to consider. This finding somewhat surprised us, since it's not uncommon to hear complaints that "So-and-so didn't listen, he just jumped in and tried to solve the problem." Perhaps what the data is telling us is that making suggestions is not itself the problem; it may be the skill with which those suggestions are made. Another possibility is that we're more likely to accept suggestions from people we already think are good listeners. (Someone who is silent for the whole conversation and then jumps in with a suggestion may not be seen as credible. Someone who seems combative or critical and then tries to give advice may not be seen as trustworthy.)

While many of us have thought of being a good listener being like a sponge that accurately absorbs what the other person is saying, instead, what these findings show is that good listeners are like trampolines. They are someone you can bounce ideas off of — and rather than absorbing your ideas and energy, they amplify, energize, and clarify your thinking. They make you feel better not merely passively absorbing, but by actively supporting. This lets you gain energy and height, just like someone jumping on a trampoline. Of course, there are different levels of listening. Not every conversation requires the highest levels of listening, but many conversations would benefit from greater focus and listening skill.

We suspect that in being a good listener, most of us are more likely to stop short rather than go too far. Our hope is that this research will help by providing a new perspective on listening. We hope those who labor under an illusion of superiority about their listening skills will see where they really stand. We also hope the common perception that good listening is mainly about acting like an absorbent sponge will wane. Finally, we hope all will see that the highest and best form of listening comes in playing the same role for the other person that a trampoline plays for a child. It gives energy, acceleration, height and amplification. These are the hallmarks of great listening.

Sincerely,

Principal Fink

Sioux Falls School District – Annual Student Information Update

This option should be used by parents/guardians that currently have students enrolled with the Sioux Falls School District. (This is equivalent to completing Blue Card update)

- Log into Parent Portal (<https://parentview.sf.k12.sd.us/campus/portal/siouxfalls.jsp>)


Make sure you are logged in as a parent and not as a student or staff for this.

****If you do not remember your user name or password or have not set up a Parent Portal user account, please contact your child's school for assistance.**

- From the left menu, select the Online Registration link

- Select 16-17 for the Registration Year and then select “Begin Registration”.
 - Complete all tabs along the top, making sure to complete each page by selecting “Next” or “Save & Continue” at the bottom of each tab.



- When all tabs have been completed, click 
- Your online registration is now complete.

Your application number can be found at the top right hand corner of the screen. It may be helpful to record your application number in case there are any questions regarding your registration.

Application # _____

School Supplies

Required:

Dry erase markers
3-ring binder
Paper
Pencils
dividers

Local stores such as Lewis, WalMart and Shopko have lists of suggested school supplies. However, before you buy additional supplies, we suggest that you wait until you and your student attend Pride Day/PST and learn from their team what supplies will be required.

Sioux Falls Middle School DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Because there is a definite relationship between appropriate dress, good work habits, and proper school behavior, the Sioux Falls Middle Schools have developed student dress guidelines consistent in all middle schools. Our goals are to help students focus on their schoolwork and their success, to decrease the number of harassment issues, and to have our schools be places where students feel good about themselves.

Items not permitted:

- * Clothing promoting alcohol, violence, drugs, sexual innuendo, tobacco, gangs or racism, including those that display obscene or questionable printing and slogans.
- * Immodest clothing, which includes clothing that exposes undergarments or inappropriately exposes the body. Examples would include spaghetti strap tops; tube tops; halter tops; midriff tops; belly shirts; backless tops; "muscle" tops, etc. Skirts, skorts and shorts must reach mid-thigh length.
- * Slippers or pajama pants.
- * Clothing or accessories with chains or spikes.
- * Pants worn in a sagging manner, below the hips.
- * Headgear such as caps, hats, scarves, kerchiefs, or bandannas inside the building.

*We appreciate your cooperation
with these guidelines!*

2016-17 Calendar

September

5 No School - Labor Day
6 First Day of School

October

13 Fall Parent Teacher Conferences - PM
18 Fall Parent Teacher Conferences - PM
20 Fall Parent Teacher Conferences - PM
21 No School - Non- School Day
24 No School - In-service

November

4 End of 1st Quarter
11 No School - Veteran's Day Observance
23 No School - Compensatory Day
24-25 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

23-30 No School - Holiday Break

January

2 No School - Holiday Break
19 End of 2nd Quarter
20 No School - Teacher Work Day

February

17 No School - in service
20-22 No School - President's Day Break
28 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences - PM

March

2 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences - PM
6 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences - PM
24 End of 3rd Quarter
27 No School - Teacher Work Day

April

13 Late Start (10:45am- 3:48pm) - in-service
14-17 No School - Spring Break

May

29 No School - Memorial Day

June

1 Last Day of School

.....PTSA News...PTSA News...

The first PTSA meeting for the 2016-2017 school year will be held in the Whittier Office Conference Room on

August 30, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Whittier PTSA will be collecting *Box Tops For Education* again this year. Each box top coupon is worth **\$.10 cents for Whittier!**



You can drop off the box tops in the office, and we ask that you please trim the labels.

**Meal Prices
2016-2017**

BREAKFAST

Elementary	\$1.80
Elementary Reduced	.30
Middle & High School	\$1.80
Middle & High School Reduced	.30
Adult	\$2.10



LUNCH

Elementary	\$2.60
Elementary Reduced	.40
Adult	\$3.30

MILK

Middle & High School	\$2.80	Elementary	\$.30
Middle & High School Reduced	.40	MS & HS	.30
Adult	\$3.50	Adult	.35



**WEB Leaders
2016-2017**

Daniel Akuei
Aimee AlemoaFuentes
Kira Andrews
Elda Aquino Ortega
Angie Barrientos-Lopez
Zoie Bertsch
Jasmine Chheng
Isaac Corado
Cappi Dang
Bethany Davis-Baker
Katherine Escalante
Andrew Evenson
Sanju Gajmer
Mayra Galicia
Dan Gide
Jendy Gonzalez

Angel Hernan
Felicity Herr
Robert Morrison
Ashley Newcomb
Nicole Underberg
Taylor Hinrichs
Abigain Iversen
Ashia Johnson
Data Privacy
Annie Johnston
Sabina Kaiser
Matuda Kelay
Raegan Klein
Prince Kpah
Leyton Kramer
Nyannas Kur

Sadie Lieser
Merari Martinez
Abbie Mayer
William McMartin
Rahele Megosha
Council Mohamed
Sandhipa Mongar
Lana Monich
Addison Nieuwsma
Elizabeth Walter
Agir Nomar
Alaa Omer
Grace Pease
Abraham Peralta
Dylan Peterson
Nadia Pinos

Emma Reck
AleI Riak
Kayley Rolfes
Hector Salas
Mackenzie Scheerhoorn
Kayley Serie
Chloe Shelburg
Rachel Spier
Ethan Strawn
Riley Stroh
Carson Strom
Macey Strutz
Benita Tiwari
Hiermiela Tsegai
Holly Weidner
Keile Wood

WEB TRAINING

**Wednesday, August 17th & Thursday, August 18th
8:00-12:00 p.m.**



SMILE!

Picture Day is Wednesday, August 31, 2016 ON PRIDE DAY!

Pictures **MUST BE** taken for school bus passes/ID's. However, ordering pictures for yourself is optional.

You are **not** required to purchase pictures. However, if you wish to purchase a packet, payment must be made when pictures are taken. See flier on the next page.



Picture make-up day & staff - Monday, October 3, 2016
Picture retake day - Thursday, November 3, 2016

**If you have any questions, you may call
Lifetouch at 1-866-955-8342.**



FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For families with limited resources

PROJECT S.O.S.

Saturday, August 20, 2016

Whittier Middle
School Gym

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

(please do not arrive before 7:00 a.m.)



**NO SUPPLIES WILL BE GIVEN OUT
BEFORE THIS DATE - NO EXCEPTIONS**

- * Child must be present
- * An adult must accompany the child
- * Child must have one form of identification (social security card, birth certificate, Medicaid card, library card, passport)

If you already have a backpack, bring it and we will fill it with supplies!

TRADITIONS
THAT BRING LASTING
MEMORIES

SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED
We'll retake your portrait
or return for a full refund.



Order before Picture Day at
mylifetouch.com

Picture Day is:
Whittier Middle School
Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Picture Day ID: GF016411Y0

FREE digital image with online purchase when
you join **myFamily Rewards™** program.

Order at **mylifetouch.com**
No need to return this form for online orders.
See you at Picture Day!

Picture Day ID: GF016411Y0

If you did not order online, please fill this form out completely, enclose EXACT payment, and return to school on Picture Day. Enclose cash, money order or check payable to Lifetouch. Photographer won't make change.

PACKAGES

A. Deluxe \$30

1 8x10, 2 5x7, 4 3x5, 8 2x3, 18 1.5x2.5

B. Premium \$35

1 8x10, 3 5x7, 6 3x5, 24 2x3, 27 1.5x2.5, Portrait CD

C. Value \$24

2 8x10, 4 5x7, 8 3x5, 18 1.5x2.5

D. Ultimate \$46

3 - 8x10, 4 - 5x7, 4 - 3x5, 36 - 1.5x2.5, Portrait CD

E. Family \$41

2 - 8x10, 4 - 5x7, 4 - 3x5, 26 - 1.5x2.5, Portrait CD

F. Basic \$20

1 - 5x7, 2 - 3x5, 8 - 2x3, 8 - 1.5x2.5

G. Entry \$14

2 - 3x5, 4 - 2x3, 8 - 1.5x2.5

Customize your portrait package at **mylifetouch.com**

PORTRAIT LOOKS (POSE + BACKGROUND)

1-8: Various poses and backgrounds for students.

NOTE: Background for your yearbook is selected by your school.

More choices at **mylifetouch.com**

SPECIAL OFFERS

Upgrade Special \$11
Name & Grade on All Portraits & Basic Retouching (Removes blemishes)

Variety Special \$18
Variety 4 - 3x5 & Variety 8 - 2x3

Combo Special \$15
Name & Grade on All Portraits & Variety 8 - 2x3

Questions? Call: 866-955-8342

Lifetouch School Portraits

PACKAGES	Qty	Price	Total	LOOK CODE
A. Deluxe		\$30		
B. Premium		\$35		
C. Value		\$24		
D. Ultimate		\$46		
E. Family		\$41		
F. Basic		\$20		
G. Entry		\$14		
SAVE				
H. Upgrade Special Offer		\$11		N/A
I. Combo Special Offer		\$15		N/A
J. Variety Special Offer		\$18		N/A
ADD-ONS				
K. (8) 2x3 Wallets		\$12		
L. (2) 5x7		\$12		
M. (1) 8x10		\$12		
N. (4) 3x5		\$12		
O. CD High and Low Resolution		\$15		
P. (4) Variety 3x5		\$12		N/A
Q. (8) Variety 2x3		\$12		N/A
ENHANCEMENTS				
Premium Retouching		\$12		
Basic Retouching		\$6		
Name & Grade On All Portraits		\$8		
Name & Grade On Wallets		\$5		
SUBTOTAL				
Add 6.5% sales tax.			6.5%	
TOTAL				

70468 © 2016 Lifetouch National School Studios Inc.

Whittier Middle School GF016411Y 1019170468

Jump Start

...for incoming 6th graders

August 22-25

If you registered, watch for a postcard to be mailed out mid-August with details.

We can't wait to meet you for this fun opportunity to get a Jump Start on 6th grade!



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL—Tuesday, September 6

School hours are **8:55 AM—3:48 PM**. The first bell rings at **8:45 AM**. Buses will run their regular schedule. Bus information is available on Pride Day, August 31.

- 6th Graders** enter through the Administration Door A on Fairfax and report to the Gym.
- 7th Graders** enter through Door N on 6th Street and report to Pro-Time.
- 8th Graders** enter through Door M on 6th Street and report to Pro-Time.



Sioux Empire

Smiles

A Free
One Day
Children's
Dental Clinic



A Free One Day Children's Dental Clinic

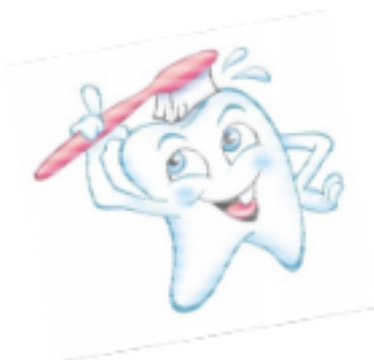
Saturday, October 1, 2016

Children's Dental Center

3813 S Kiwanis Circle, Sioux Falls

Doors open at 9 a.m. Lines are expected.

This clinic is for children through 18 years of age who need dental care or who may not have seen a dentist in several years.



Sponsored by: Sioux Empire United Way, Delta Dental Foundation, Henry Schein & Southeast District Dental Society.

It's the Rule... Shots before School!

New 6th Grade **VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

South Dakota requires all 6th grade students to get:

- One dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (**Tdap**) vaccine on or after the 11th birthday
- One dose of Meningococcal (**MCV4**) vaccine on or after the 11th birthday

For more information, talk with your family physician or your local community health nurse about these and other vaccinations your preteen should receive.

VACCINATE YOUR 11-12 YEAR OLDS



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DOH.SD.GOV
1-800-592-1861



SIoux FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 49-5
P.O. Box 5051
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5051

WHITTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL
930 E. 6th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT NO. 771
SIoux FALLS, SD

Sioux Falls School District 49-5
Whittier Middle School
930 E. 6th Sioux Falls, SD 57103
The Whittier *Pride* newsletter is
published monthly, August
through June.

PTSA Officers
President - *Linda Weidner*
Vice President - *Betsy Kringen*
Treasurer - *Dawn Taborda*
Secretary - *Gwen Oakland*

Newsletter Staff
Lynette Zimmer



2016

2017

Whittier Office
367-7620

Fax
367-8357

Counselors
367-8336

Absences
367-4279

Child Nutrition
367-7615

Relay Services for Hearing
Impaired: Dial 711, then the
desired number.