

Irene-Wakonda School District No. 13-3

High School

P.O. Box 5

Irene, South Dakota 57037

605-263-3311

Elementary School

PO Box 268

Wakonda, South Dakota 57073

605-267-2644

Administration

Larry Baker, Supt/HS Principal

Deb Lyle, Elementary Principal

Pam Rudd, Business Manager

Stephanie Ganschow

Network Administrator

Board Members

Mike Logue, President

Brian Spurrell

Mike Girard

Amanda Healy

Mike Pollman

Welcome Back to Irene-Wakonda School District!

Dear Irene-Wakonda Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year at Irene-Wakonda School District. As I begin my first year serving as your Superintendent and 7-12 Principal, I want to express how honored and excited I am to be part of this wonderful community. Irene-Wakonda has a proud tradition of supporting students, families, and staff, and I look forward to partnering with you to make this an exceptional year for every child.

Our staff is eager to welcome students back into our classrooms, hallways, activities, and events. We are excited to see familiar faces, meet new families, and help every student grow academically, socially, and personally. Thank you for entrusting us with your children—we consider that both a privilege and a responsibility.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Please review the important information below, which will serve as a helpful resource as we prepare for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, please contact the High School Office at 605-263-3311 or the Elementary Office at 605-267-2644.

Welcome New Staff Members

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to the Irene-Wakonda School District for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **Larry Baker** – Superintendent / 7-12 Principal
- **Josh Arlt** – Activities Director; Business, Accounting, and Physical Education
- **Jenna Diede** – Elementary Special Education
- **Janelle Bless** – Elementary Vocal and Band
- **Veronica Rhead** – 4th Grade Teacher / Assistant Volleyball Coach
- **Maddie Mohr** – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional
- **Chelsea Gustad** – Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional
- **Kelsey Weber** – Junior/Senior High Special Education (Grades 10-12)
- **Tara Schieffer** – Head Volleyball Coach
- **Eric Anderson** – Head Football Coach
- **Chris Torgerson** – Assistant Football Coach

We are excited to have these talented professionals join our team and serve our students.

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Bus Transportation

Bus drivers will contact families on their route prior to the start of school with pick-up and drop-off times. Please discuss the importance of following bus rules with your children to help ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone.

First Day of School Information

Classes will begin on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 8:15 a.m.

Dismissal times are:

- Junior High and High School: 3:32 p.m.
- Elementary School: 3:47 p.m.

On the first day:

- Students in Grades 7-12 should report directly to their 1st period class.
- Students in Grades K-6 should report directly to their classroom.

The breakfast program will begin serving at 7:45 a.m.

Please note that school will not be in session on Friday, August 14.

Open House and 7th Grade Orientation

An Open House will be held at both the Elementary and High School buildings on:

Monday, August 10
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

In addition, 7th Grade Orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the High School lunchroom.

We encourage families to attend, meet teachers, visit classrooms, and prepare for a successful start to the year.

Preschool Information

Preschool for 4-year-olds will begin on Wednesday, August 12.

Two sections will be offered:

- Monday/Wednesday
- Tuesday/Thursday

Hours: 8:15 a.m. – 3:47 p.m.

Ms. Sarah Watts will serve as the preschool teacher. Additional information will be shared directly by the preschool program.

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School Calendar

The district calendar, school schedules, and activity calendar can be found on our website:

www.irene-wakonda.k12.sd.us

Homecoming Week

Homecoming will be celebrated September 14-18, 2026.

Important dates include:

- Coronation: Monday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wakonda Parade: Friday, September 18 at 12:00 p.m.
- Irene Parade: Friday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m.

We look forward to celebrating our students and community during this exciting week.

Highly Qualified Teachers

The teachers of Irene-Wakonda School District meet highly qualified standards. This means teachers are either teaching within their major content area, have at least three years of teaching experience, or have successfully passed the required state-approved Praxis examinations.

Parents have the right to review teacher qualifications and backgrounds by contacting the school office to arrange an appointment.

School Report Card

The Irene-Wakonda School District and school report cards will be released by the South Dakota Department of Education in September and can be viewed at:

<https://sdschools.sd.gov/#/home>

School Meals

We encourage all students to participate in our breakfast and lunch programs.

Breakfast

- PK-12 Students: \$2.40
- Extra breakfast entrée: \$2.20

Lunch

- PK-6 Students: \$3.50
- Grades 7-12 Students: \$3.60
- Extra lunch entrée: \$2.35

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Students bringing a sack lunch may purchase milk for \$0.60 per carton.

Menus can be found on the district website.

Families may add funds to student meal accounts at any time. Statements will be sent weekly for accounts with balances of \$10.00 or less. Students may charge up to \$15.00. If charges are not paid, students will not be allowed extras or second servings until the account is current.

Students are welcome to bring sack lunches; however, refrigeration will not be available.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available through online registration. If you need printed forms, please contact:

- Katey Rempp at the High School
- Kayla Muilenburg at the Elementary School

The cost of reduced-price lunches for the 2026-2027 school year is \$0.00.

Activity Passes and Admission Prices

Season Activity Passes

- Student: \$20
- Adult: \$40
- Couple: \$60
- Family (K-12 students only): \$90

Adult and couple passes may be purchased by contacting:

- Katey Rempp: 605-263-3311
- Kayla Muilenburg: 605-267-2644

Student passes may be purchased in the office.

Residents age 65 and older may receive a lifetime pass for home events by stopping in the office.

Please note: Activity passes are valid for home games only and are not valid for tournaments.

Regular Game Admission

- Varsity Games:
 - Students: \$4
 - Adults: \$5
- Varsity Doubleheaders:
 - Students: \$5
 - Adults: \$6

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Student Supervision at Activities

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, we ask parents to supervise their children during school activities.

While games are in progress, students should remain seated in the bleachers watching the event rather than running through the building or congregating in entryways. Students who are disruptive may be asked to leave.

During concerts and performances, please help us maintain a respectful environment by ensuring children remain quiet and attentive.

School Closings and Weather-Related Information

In the event of severe weather, school closings or delays will be announced through:

- KELO
- SOCS Notifier
- Facebook

The safety and well-being of students will always be our top priority when making weather-related decisions.

If school is dismissed early and both parents work, please make arrangements in advance with relatives or friends and notify the school. Families living in rural areas should also have a town-based emergency plan if buses are unable to travel due to weather conditions.

Weather-related closures due to storms, snow, ice, or other emergencies will be handled according to the district calendar. Up to three missed days have already been built into the schedule.

Medication Procedures

Prescription medications brought to school must be in the original pharmacy container displaying:

- Prescription number
- Date prescribed
- Prescribing physician

A Parent/Guardian Authorization of Medication Form must also be completed, including:

1. Medication name
2. Dosage
3. Time medication should be administered

No medication may be administered without proper authorization.

Vaccination and Student Records Requirements

All students must provide proof of required immunizations before attending school. Please ensure your child is properly vaccinated prior to the beginning of the school year.

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South Dakota law also requires that a copy of each student's birth certificate be on file. Students may be sent home if a birth certificate is not provided within two weeks of the start of school.

Please note that incoming 6th-grade students who are 11 years old or older must have documentation showing receipt of:

- Tdap vaccine
- MCV4 (Meningitis) vaccine

Visitors Welcome

Parents and community members are always welcome at Irene-Wakonda School. If you would like to visit, please stop by the office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass.

We believe strong partnerships between school and home are essential for student success, and we welcome your involvement throughout the year.

As we begin this new school year together, I want to thank our families and community for the tremendous support you provide our students and staff. I am truly excited to serve the Irene-Wakonda community and to work alongside our dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and students. Together, we will continue to build on the traditions of excellence that make Irene-Wakonda such a special place.

We cannot wait to welcome your children back on August 12 and begin another year of learning, growth, and success.

Warm regards,

Larry Baker
Superintendent
Irene-Wakonda School District
308-627-3477

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