

# Irene-Wakonda School District No. 13-3

## *Administration*

*David Hutchison, Superintendent*  
*James Strang, Secondary Principal*  
*Deb Lyle, Elementary Principal*  
*Pam Rudd, Business Manager*

## **High School Box 5**

**Irene, SD 57037**  
**605-263-3311**

## **Elementary School Box 268**

**Wakonda, SD 57073**  
**605-267-2644**

## *Board Members*

*Mike Logue, President*  
*Brian Spurrell*  
*Mike Girard*  
*Amanda Healy*  
*Mike Pollman*

## **Dear Parents and Students,**

Welcome back to the 2025 – 2026 school year. The first day of school will be Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Please find enclosed in this letter additional information that will serve as a great resource for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the high school office at 263-3313 or the elementary school office at 267-2644.

**New Staff for 2025 – 2026:** The Irene-Wakonda School District will have the following new staff members: Emily Hunhoff – Jr/Sr High Math, Kelsey Weber – Elementary Special Education, Tori Lodmell - 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Kayle Diefenderfer - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Peggy Wegner – Elementary Special Education Aide, Kelly Christ, Elementary Special Education Aide, Alexandra Fischer – Elementary Special Education Aide, Naomi Martz – Elementary Special Education Aide, Lisa Ringling – Elementary Cook.

**Bus Transportation for 2025 - 2026:** Bus drivers will contact the students on their route prior to school starting informing them of pick-up and return times. **PLEASE IMPRESS UPON YOUR CHILDREN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED TO FOLLOW THE BUS RULES.**

**Classes for the school year will begin on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 A.M. with dismissal at 3:32 P.M. for students in Junior High School and High School and dismissal at 3:47 P.M. for students in Elementary School.** On the first day, all students in grades 7-12 should report to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class and students in grades K – 6 will go directly to their classroom. The school breakfast program will be serving at 8:00 A.M. There will be school on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**There will be an Open House at the high school and elementary on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. There will also be 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation at 5:30 P.M. in the lunchroom at the high school.**

**Preschool for 4-year olds will start on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.** The 2 sections will be held on Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday which will be from 8:15 A.M. – 3:47 P.M. Ms. Sarah Watts is the 4-year old preschool teacher. More information will be provided by the preschool teacher. **The Monday/Wednesday group will start on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**A school calendar** which shows the days school will be in session and calendar of school activities can be found on the school website at [www.irene-wakonda.k12.sd.us](http://www.irene-wakonda.k12.sd.us)

**Homecoming** is the week of September 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Coronation will be held on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Homecoming parades will be held on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The parade in Wakonda will be at 12:00 P.M. and the parade in Irene at 1:30 P.M.

***Home of the Eagles!***

**Highly Qualified Teachers:** The Irene-Wakonda teachers are of highly qualified status. This means the teachers are either teaching in their major content area, have had 3 years teaching experience, or have passed a state specified test(Praxis) on the content of the areas they teach. Parents have the right to review any teacher's qualifications and background by contacting the school office for an appointment.

**Report Card:** The Irene-Wakonda School District and individual schools Report Card will not be released until September by the South Dakota Department of Education. They can be viewed at the following address: <https://sdschools.sd.gov/#/home>

**Meals for the 2025 – 2026 school year:** We encourage all students to participate in both the breakfast and lunch programs. Breakfast is available for PK – 12 students at a cost of \$2.20 per breakfast. The extra breakfast entrée price is \$1.25. Lunch is available for 7 – 12 students at a cost of \$3.45 per lunch and for PK – 6 students at a cost of \$3.35 per lunch. The extra lunch entrée price is \$2.25. For students choosing to carry sack lunches, milk may be purchased for .60 per carton. Menus can be found on the school website at [www.irene-wakonda.k12.sd.us](http://www.irene-wakonda.k12.sd.us). You may add any dollar amount to your family account. Statements will be sent out each week for families who have a balance of \$10.00 or under in their account. **A student will only be allowed to charge up to \$15.00. If the charges are not paid in full, the child will be denied lunch or breakfast privileges.** Students are welcome to bring their own sack lunches; however, a refrigerator will not be provided for the students. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school. **\*Confidential**  
**Application forms/instructions for free and reduced lunches are available through the online registration. Please fill out the necessary information on these forms and return them to the school offices as soon as possible. If you need forms printed for you, please contact Katey Rempp at the high school or Kayla Muilenburg at the elementary.**

**Season athletic passes** are available for \$20.00 for students, \$40.00 for adults, \$60.00 for couples, and \$90.00 for a family (only includes students in K – 12). If you wish to purchase adult or couple passes, call Katey Rempp at 263-3311 or Kayla Muilenburg at 267-2644. Student passes can be purchased in the office. Senior Citizens age 65 years of age or older, may pick up a lifetime pass for home events in the office. All activity passes are for home games only. The pass **is not** good for tournaments.

Admission for regular varsity games is \$4.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults. Admission for varsity doubleheaders will be \$5.00 for students and \$6.00 for adults.

**Supervision of students at school activities:** It is important that parents supervise their children at school activities. While a game is going on, children are to be in the bleachers watching the game rather than running back and forth to the gymnasium or playing in the entryway. This is for safety of the children and players, as well as the convenience of the spectators. Older students may be asked to leave if they are messing around instead of watching the event. During concerts and plays, please instruct your children to remain quiet so all in attendance can hear the performances and so they do not disrupt the performers.

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**School closings** will be announced on KELO and Dakota News Now television stations as well as WNAX, KVHT, and KYNT radio stations when appropriate. SOCS Notifier is our parent notification system and will also be utilized during inclement weather. Tune in or call the school if you have concerns or need information. Decisions regarding school closings will be made with the welfare of the students in mind. If school is dismissed early during the school day and both parents work, please make arrangements with friends or relatives to care for your children. Please inform the school of these arrangements. Also, if you live in the country, please arrange for a place that your children can stay in town if buses cannot get children home from school. Reasons for closing school include storms, snow, ice, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE: All days missed due to weather and etc. will be made up in the following manner:**

- **Any missed days of 3 or less have been built into the school calendar.**

**Prescriptions** that are sent to school need to be sent in the pharmacy bottle, which also shows the prescription number, date of prescription, and the prescribing physician. **This is very important.** No medication will be allowed in school without a **Parent/Guardian Authorization of Medication Form** from the parent/guardian in which the following is given:

1. The name of the medication
2. The dose to be taken
3. The time it is to be administered

**Vaccinations:** All students must show proof that they have had the proper vaccinations before attending school. Please see that your child is appropriately vaccinated before attending school this year. Also be sure your child has a copy of his/her birth certificate on file at the school. This is a state requirement and children will be sent home if a birth certificate is not on file within 2 weeks of the start of school. Also, there is an immunization requirement for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It requires all students who are 11 years of age or older to have Tdap and MCV4(Meningitis) vaccinations to enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year.

**Visitors are always welcome at the Irene-Wakonda School.** If you wish to visit, please call or just stop in the office to register and receive your visitors pass. We are glad to have parents visit the school.

The administration, teachers, and staff are looking forward to a great 2025 – 2026 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the high school office at 263-3313, the elementary office at 267-2644, or the superintendent's office at 263-3311.

Sincerely Yours,

Irene-Wakonda Administration

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