SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS
August 2019
BELL RINGER
Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School
www.spartaschools.org

State Of The Art...Small Town Heart

On July 15, the Sparta Area Schools Board of Education approved the district's new strategic plan. This plan was developed over four months last school year with the help of 28 core team members of our staff, students, and community that reviewed information gathered from our community forums and surveys and developed a new mission, vision, values, and goals for our school district. This plan will drive our improvement efforts over the next 5 years as we look to achieve our new vision. The entire plan can be found on our website at www.spartaschools.org .

Our new vision, Creating valuable relationships and innovative learning experiences within our schools and community that empower all learners to thrive and excel, answered the question "What would we like to become" for our core team. It describes both what we already do well, and value, but also what we would like to improve as a district. The tagline for that vision, State of the Art...Small Town Heart encompasses both the innovative experiences that we hope to bring to our district and the power of the relationships that one can form in a community like Sparta.

In our surveys, our community clearly stated that the quality of our staff was the biggest strength in our district. Our staff is committed to forming positive relationships with our students and parents, and we want to ensure, as we improve and grow, that we continue to value these relationships. We want to make them even stronger and become a district that every parent would want their child to attend.

But our surveys also communicated that our district sometimes focuses too much on maintaining the status quo and is not as creative and innovative educationally as many would like. Our staff needs to embrace potential change and dedicate themselves to being lifelong learners, engage in action research, and identify and utilize the best educational practices of current day. Many of our practices are tried and true, and will continue to be utilized as long as they remain effective. But our world and kids have changed a lot in the last 20-30 years, and we need to make sure we are continually seeking out new strategies and practices that will allow all our students to learn and grow as they should. Even one child that is not successful is too many.

In another year we will be opening our new middle school, and with it our community will have blessed our district and students with updated, "State of the Art" facilities. We must make sure that we utilize our new spaces, and the collaborative approaches that it will allow, to innovate and provide our children with the best possible learning opportunities, so we can achieve our new mission of "Empowering all learners to lead successful lives."

On Monday, August 19, we will be hosting a community forum at the high school, in the media center, at 6:30 p.m. to share our new strategic plan with anyone that would like to attend. We invite our community to join us, learn more about the current state of our schools, and also about our work ahead. Sparta is a special place, and many people have told me our district is one of the best kept secrets in Kent County. It is time for us to no longer keep our community and schools a secret, but to tell our story and share all that our district is and will become. I encourage you to join us on August 19, and to embrace the start of another school year as we work to achieve our new mission, vision, and goals. Thank you for all you do to support our children and our schools!!

With Spartan Pride,
Pete Bush, Superintendent

Sparta Senior Rayana Sahagun became the National Runner-Up at the Fargo USA

USA Women's Wrestling National Runner-Up Rayana Sahagun

National Championships! She entered the tournament ranked #7 and her hard work paid off to earn her the runner-up title. Congratulations Rayana!

Thanks to Spectrum Health!

White Early Childhood Center Summer Enrichment/Childcare Program would like to say thank you to Sparta Spectrum Health! They were generous and donated great water bottles for our students. The students use them to help beat the summer heat and stay healthy and hydrated! Thank you, Sparta Spectrum Health, for donating to our smallest community members!

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2019 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

In compliance with public act 399 of 1976, the Michigan safe Drinking Water Act, R325.10416, Sparta Area Schools has completed a source water assessment for White Early Childhood Center. Water samples were collected and tested for: coliform bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, metals, volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, lead and copper. The water collected at both sites met Michigan's drinking water standards. A copy of the summary of water sampling data for both buildings is available free of charge, upon request from:

Terry Johnson, Sparta Area Schools, 475 W Spartan Dr, Sparta, MI 49345.

You may also contact the Operations Supervisor by calling 616-887-8213 during normal business hours.

2019 ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE ASBESTOS SURVEY

Our school district has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all of our buildings. Based on the findings of this inspection, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions that the District will be taking regarding asbestos containing material found in our buildings. Even though the High School, Ridgeview, Administration and Transportation buildings do not contain asbestos materials, in compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHRTA) of 1990, we have an Asbestos Management Plan on file at the transportation office at 429 S. Union Street, Sparta. The management Plan is available for inspection at our offices without cost or restriction during normal business hours. Our goal is to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with this problem reflect that concern. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Terry Johnson, Sparta Area Schools, 475 W Spartan Dr, Sparta, MI 49345.

2019 PUBLIC NOTICE-ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Sparta Area Schools District hereby provides notice to parents, guardians and the general public of the 2002 Asbestos Management Plan for the District. In accordance with EPA40 CFR Part 763 – Asbestos containing materials in buildings, please note: Inspections, periodic re-inspections and surveillance and related activities are ongoing within the school district buildings according to EPA 40 CFR Part 763, 1, 2, 3, and OSHA 29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1926. Building management plans are available for review.

Questions may be directed to Terry Johnson, Sparta Area Schools, 475 W Spartan Dr, Sparta, MI 49345. You may also contact the Operations Supervisor by calling 616-887-8213 during normal business hours.

2019 PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sparta Area Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort. This program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem.

You will receive advanced notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel formulations at your child's school. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application.

The law requires us to do this notification by using two methods. The first method required by the law is the posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are those entrances that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot. The second method we are going to use is the posting in a common area located by the main office of the school. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact the Operations Supervisor at 616-887-8213. Please give the secretary your name, mailing address and what school your child attends.

In an emergency (for example, bees nest), pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application.

You may review our IPM program or pesticide application records for your child's school contacting the District's Operations Supervisor at 616-887-8213.

FREE
Sparta Adult Education
GED Preparation & High School Diploma
at the Sparta Middle School Media Center
Mondays & Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00pm
On Site and Online Classes
Open Enrollment All Year!
ENROLLING NOW
Call today to register: (616) 887-7321

2260A – Grievance Procedures for Title VI, IX and Section 504

SECTION I

If any person believes that the Sparta Area Schools or any of the District's staff has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, s/he may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the District's Civil Rights Coordinator: Mr. Joel Stoner, Director of Human Resources, 465 S. Union Street, Sparta, MI 49345.

SECTION II

The person who believes s/he has a valid basis for grievance shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the local Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complaint. S/he may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps:

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the local Civil Rights Coordinator within (5) business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

Step2

If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the local Civil Rights Coordinator, s/he may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of School within five (5) business days after receipt of the Coordinator's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within ten (10) business days.

Step 3

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, s/he may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board of Education within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's response in Step 2. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within forty (40) days of receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting.

Step 4

If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington D.C. 20201.

Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

The local Coordinator, on request, will provide a copy of the District's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure.

A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations, on which this notice is based, may be found in the Civil Rights Coordinator's office.

Sinking Fund Renewal on November Ballot

At their meeting on July 15, the Sparta Board of Education passed a resolution to place a sinking fund renewal question on the November ballot. The current sinking fund, that has been in existence since 2000, expires at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year.

Back in May, the Board placed a sinking fund request on the ballot, but that request was defeated by 150 votes. That request was asking for a renewal of the current sinking fund millage rate, but was also asking to take advantage of the 2017 law change that allowed sinking fund revenue to be used for improving security and implementing instructional technology. Because of that new language, the current law did not allow that request to be called a renewal, so it had to be called an increase. That will not be the case with the November request.

The November request will be a true renewal request. It will simply allow the district to continue to levy the current sinking fund, at the current rate allowed, for the sole purpose of the construction or repair of school buildings, for an additional ten years. The last renewal request approved by Sparta voters was for ten years back in 2010. Below is the language that will appear on the November ballot:

Shall the currently authorized millage rate of 1.2372 mills ($1.2372 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property in Sparta Area Schools, Kent and Ottawa Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2020 to 2029, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2020 is approximately $640,193 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2019 tax levy)?

The district will be providing additional information and holding community forums leading up to election day on November 5, 2019. If any community member has questions regarding this renewal request, please contact superintendent Pete Bush at 616-887-8253 or at pete.bush@spartaschools.org .

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SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019-2020
BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS & INFORMATION

SMS Open House for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students & Families

We will be hosting a **"SMS Open House/Meet the Teachers Night" on Wednesday, August 21st** from 4:00pm - 7:00 pm.

This event is for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their families. You will be able to meet all of your child's teachers on this night.

1-to-1 Technology Information & Required Forms:

Your child will be issued a Chromebook, cord and protective case that they will bring to school and take home with them. **To be issued a Chromebook, you and your student(s) will need to complete the Chromebook User Agreement Form at https://www.spartaschools.org/parentsstudents/1to1technology/. This link will also allow you to purchase insurance and provide answers to frequently asked questions.**

Student & Family Orientation Dates:

At the designated times below, your student(s) will have their picture taken, receive their schedule, get their locker assignment and pick-up their Chromebook.

- **6th Grade Orientation:** Tuesday, August 20th, from 4pm-7pm
  - Please arrive prior to 6pm.
- **7th & 8th Grade Orientation:** Thursday, August 22nd, from 5pm-8pm
  - Please arrive prior to 7pm.

SMS Recommended Supply Lists:

Content Area	Recommended Supplies
English/Language Arts	-A binder with pockets, used only for this class (or a folder with pockets and fasteners for paper) -A notebook for writing, used only for this class -Pencils and pens with blue or black ink -Headphones or earbuds to use with audio text -Novels for independent reading. They should be a little above your current reading level. They can be from the library, or you can buy or borrow them somewhere else. During the first week of school, we will talk about how to select the right novels and how to get them.
Mathematics	A 1.5 inch binder
	Divider tabs (optional) Spiral notebook or loose-leaf lined paper Pencils Erasers (cap erasers preferred) Jumbo stretch book cover A highlighter
Social Studies	3 Ring Binder 2 Spiral Bound Notebooks Pencils/Colored Pencils Highlighters Headphones/Earbuds for school only
Science	Your student's Science teacher will provide a list of needed materials during the first days of school.
Art	Pencils/Colored Pencils Markers
Band	**Pencils** **1 inch 3-ring binder with pockets and plastic page protectors for sheet music.** **Instrument** **Method Book:** 6th Grade--"Measures of Success, Book 1" -Included for those starting a new rental contract from a music store -Students using school-owned or family-owned instruments will need to purchase this separately. 7th and 8th Grade--"Foundations of Superior Performance" by Williams and King -May order on Amazon/online or find at area music store **Metronome/Tuner** -May also use an app for this (we recommend Bandmate or Tonal Energy for tuning, and any free metronome app is fine). **Woodwinds**: Reeds (visit http://www.spartabands.org/materials-and-uniform.html for specific brand and strength recommendations), cleaning swab **Percussion:** Vic Firth SD-1 General drum sticks (or similar), practice pad. Students may purchase their own mallets, but it is not required. -Mr. Walsh will have sticks and practice pads available at a huge discount at our beginning summer camp.

Sparta Area Schools
Fall Sports – Practice/Try Out Information

MS Football (boys and girls)

7th Grade Coach
Todd Toporski, todd.toporski@spartaschools.org

8th Grade Coach
Keith Tidey, keith.tidey@spartaschools.org

Who – All 7th and 8th grade students interested in football

Where – MS Practice Field/Old Stadium

When – August 26 from 3:00-5:00 pm

MS Cross Country (boys and girls)

Coach
Matt Landry, matt.landry@spartaschools.org

Who – All 6th-8th grade students interested in Cross Country

Conditioning starts August 26 after school

Practice starts August 28 after school

MS Volleyball (girls)

7th Grade Coach
Ally Wright, ally.wrighttt18@gmail.com

8th Grade Coach
Rory Barnes, rorybarnes21@gmail.com

Who – All 7th and 8th grade girls interested in Volleyball

Where – Middle School gym

When – Tryouts begins September 3 and 4 from 2:34-4:45 pm

Open gym for all girls on August 27th and 29th from 2:45-3:45 pm

HS Football (boys and girls)

Head Coach
Mark Chapman, mark.chapman@leggett.com

Who – All 9th-12th students interested in Football

Where – High School Football Field

When – Monday, August 12 from 7:00-11:30 am

HS Tennis (boys)

Head Coach
Tammy Cnossen, tamara.cnossen@spartaschools.org

Who – All 9th-12th boys interested in Tennis

Where – Tennis Courts (behind Appleview Elementary)

When – Monday, August 12th from 6:00-7:30 pm

HS Volleyball (girls)

Freshmen Coach
Nicole Hutchens, nicolehutchens@yahoo.com

JV Coach
Amy Fonnesbeck, amyfonnesbeck@gmail.com

Varsity Coach
Ellen Nichols, ellen.nichols@spartaschools.org

Who – All 9th-12th grade girls interested in volleyball

Where - All Tryouts/Practices at High School gym

JV/Varsity – August 14th and 15th from 8:00-10:00 am

Freshmen – August 14th and 15th from 3:00-5:00 pm

HS Cross Country (boys and girls)

Boys Head Coach
Ted Smith, ted.smith@spartaschools.org
When – contact Ted Smith for information

Girls Head Coach
Jessica Buckner, Jessica.buckner@spartaschools.org

Who – All 9th-12th grade students interested in Cross Country

HS Golf (girls)

Head Coach – John Richard, 616-558-8273

Who – All 9th-12th grade girls interested in Golf

Where – Moss Ridge Golf Course

When – August 12th from 10:00-12:00

HS Soccer (boys)

Head Coach
Nate Barr, nathanb24@yahoo.com

Who – All 9th-12th grade boys interested in Soccer

Where – High School Stadium

When – August 12th-14th from 6:00-8:00 pm

BELL RINGER

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

465 S. Union Street | Sparta, MI 49345
www.spartaschools.org
Phone: (616) 887-8253
Fax: (616) 887-9958

SUPERINTENDENT
PETE BUSH
pete.bush@spartaschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Meets at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Administration Building

President
Andy Jensen

Vice President
Amanda VanStrien

Secretary
Mark Alster

Treasurer
MaryBeth Dame

Trustees
Kim Eluskie
Jim Kerby
Pam May

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Executive Director of Student & Academic Services
887-8253
Joel Stoner

Director of Finance & Operations
887-8253
Matti Sullivan

Director of Special Education
887-7359
Tina Mortensen

Director of Title Grants & Migrant Program
887-2085
Deb Dufour

Director of Adult Education
887-7321
Heather Holland

Director of Operations
887-0136
Terry Johnson

SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL
Grades 9-12
Phone: 887-8213
475 W. Spartan Drive, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-1264
Principal:
Matt Spencer

SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Grades 6-8
Phone: 887-8211
480 S. State Street, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-1080
Principal:
Brad Wood

APPLEVIEW ELEMENTARY
Grades 3-5
Phone: 887-1743
240 E. Spartan Drive, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-7509
Principal:
Mike Birely

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY
Grades ECSE-K-2
Phone: 887-8218
560 W. Spartan Drive, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-1928
Principal:
Heather Guerra

WHITE EARLY CHILDHOOD CTR

Preschool/ Childcare
Phone: 887-0068
1655 - 12 Mile Road, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-2231
Director:
Amy Waldron

FOOD SERVICE
Phone: 887-1744
475 W. Spartan Drive, Sparta 49345
Fax: 887-1080
Director:
Melissa Alley

Construction Projects for Sparta Area Schools

There has been significant progress on our construction projects in the district. These pictures show the new Middle School construction and the paving of the new parking lot at the High School.

Middle School Classroom Roof

Middle School Gym Roof

High School Parking Lot Paving & Construction

Middle School Retention Pond/Landscaping

Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior toward Students

It is the policy of the district to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students.

This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board Members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the district, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment. Please visit the website for the complete policy.

Directory Information

Dear Sparta Area Schools: parents and students,

From time to time the district may be requested to make available certain information known as "directory information."

The Board of Education designates student "directory information" as a student's name, address, telephone number, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance; date of graduation; awards received, or any other information which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if disclosed.

This notice is consistent with Board Policy No. 8330 Operations.

Parents and adult students may refuse to allow the district to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification of the district within twenty (20) school days after receipt of this notice.

Mr. Pete Bush
Superintendent
Sparta Area Schools
465 S. Union Street
Sparta, MI 49345

Summer Programs

White Early Childhood Center Summer Enrichment/Childcare Program is having fun exploring the world around them. We have great activities at the Center and field trips out in the community! Check out some of their Summer time adventures from bike week to strawberry picking to water days fun!

BELL RINGER

Notice of Non-discrimination

The Sparta Area Schools District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its programs and activities. In order to protect these rights and assure compliance, the Sparta Area Schools District has appointed Mr. Joel Stoner and Mrs. Tina Mortensen as Coordinators of Title IX; Mr. Joel Stoner as Coordinator of Title II, VI, and the Age Discrimination Act and Mrs. Tina Mortensen as the Coordinator of Section 504.

Inquiries concerning the application of or grievances for any of these regulations should be addressed to: Mr. Joel Stoner, Director of Human Resources, 465 S. Union Street, Sparta, MI 49345 (616)887-8253.

Any person, who feels that the rights of an individual have been violated in relationship to the provision of equal opportunity in any education programs and activities, or in employment, may contact Mr. Stoner.

Sparta Area Schools Procedure for Identifying, Assessing, and Referring LEP Students

Identification of Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

1. All families of new students to the District will be given the Home Language Survey. The Home Language Survey is written in both English and Spanish, since these are the two dominant languages spoken in our area. In the event the District encounters a family which is unable to verbally communicate in English or Spanish, the District will assess assistance from other school districts in the Kent County Intermediate School District.

2. Based on the level of English proficiency determined, the ESL staff will determine the appropriate placement and instructional service to be provided to the student.

Referral of LEP Students

1. The ESL staff will meet with the building counselor assigned to the student and/or the building administration to determine the appropriate class schedule and services to be provided to the student.

2. Students who are monolingual or are determined to be two years or more below grade level will be provided service by the District's Bilingual program.

Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Deb DuFour, ESL Coordinator, Sparta Area Schools, 480 South State Street, Sparta, MI 49345, 616-887-2085.

OPEN HOUSE DATES/TIMES, BUILDING HOURS & DROP OFF TIMES, CONFERENCES 2019-20

OPEN HOUSE DATES & TIMES/CONFERENCES

WHITE - EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Open House: Thursday, Sept 5 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Child Care, GSRP, and
3's Preschool AM & PM Classes

First Day: Monday, September 9

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY

ECSE:
Open House: Wednesday, August 21 4:00-6:30pm

Great Start Readiness:
Open House: Thursday, Sept 5 5:00-6:30 pm

First Day: GSRP preschool – Monday, September 9

RIDGEVIEW – Grades K – 2
DK/Kindergarten Orientation: Monday, August 19 5:00 or 6:00pm
Open House 1st & 2nd: Wed., Aug 21 4:00-6:30pm

APPLEVIEW – Grades 3- 5 & BAC
Open House: Wednesday, August 21 3:30-6:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Grades 6 – 8
Open House: Wednesday, August 21**
6th Grade Orientation: Tuesday, Aug 20 4:00-7:00 pm
7th & 8th Grade Orientation: Thurs, Aug 22 5:00-8:00pm
(* please arrive 1 hour prior to orientation end time.)

HIGH SCHOOL – Grades 9 – 12
Open House & Freshman Orientation: Wed, Aug 21 5:30–8:00 pm
Freshman Parent Meeting: Wed, Aug 21 6:45 pm

SCHOOL HOURS & DROP OFF TIMES

WHITE - EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Child Care: 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Preschool:
AM: 3 yr. olds = Tues.-Thur. 8:40 - 11:40 am
PM: 3 yr. olds = Tues.-Thur. 12:40 - 3:40 pm
GSRP AM: 4 yr. olds = Mon.-Thur. 8:30 - 11:30 am
GSRP PM: 4 yr. olds = Mon.-Thur. 12:30 - 3:30 pm

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY

ECSE:
AM – 8:25 – 11:40 am
PM – 12:25 – 3:40 pm

Great Start Readiness:
AM – 8:20 – 11:40 am
PM – 12:45 – 3:45 pm
ALL DAY – 8:20 am – 3:45 pm

RIDGEVIEW – Grades K - 2
Drop Off: 8:20 am
Hours: 8:35 am. – 3:45 pm

APPLEVIEW – Grades 3 - 5
Drop Off: 8:05 am
Hours: 8:20 am. – 3:30 pm.
BAC 6:30 am – 6:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Grades 6 - 8
Drop Off: 7:05 am
Hours: 7:20 am – 2:20 pm

HIGH SCHOOL – Grades 9 - 12
Drop Off: 7:05 am
Hours: 7:20 am – 2:30 pm

Half Day Dismissals
Sparta High School – 10:45 am
Sparta Middle School – 10:35 am
Appleview – 11:35 am
Ridgeview – 11:50 am

Dual Enrollment Guidelines

Sparta Area Schools must notify parents and students in grades 8-12 regarding provisions of Public Act 160- Post Secondary Enrollment Options Act, which is more commonly known as Dual Enrollment. We consider this newsletter as our means to meet this obligation.

Public Act 160 requires school districts to use state school aid funds to pay college tuition and fees for high school students in grades 11 and 12 who choose to attend a Michigan public or private degree-granting post-secondary institution, under certain conditions:

Requirements/conditions for Dual Enrollment:

1. Students are in grades 11 or 12.

2. Students meet the qualifying score(s) in one of the following assessments: MSTEP, ACT, ACT PLAN, or College Board PSAT.

Note: Students are eligible to take courses such as computer science, foreign language, political science, or psychology as long as they have "taken" all the sections of the MSTEP, ACT, ACT PLAN or PSAT. State endorsement is not required in any specific area for this participation.

3. Students must be enrolled in both the post-secondary institution and the school district during the regular academic year.

4. The District must not offer the college courses.

Note: an exception may occur if the local board of education determines a scheduling conflict exists which is beyond the student's control.

5. The courses cannot be a hobby, craft, or a recreation course, or in the subject areas of Physical Education, Theology, Divinity, or Religious education.

Please contact the high school counselors for further information and details regarding Dual Enrollment.

spartaschools.org/sef since 1991

Sparta Education Foundation

Providing Extras for Education

The Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the entire Sparta Area Schools community for its continued support of our classroom grant program. Thank you for your generous donations and sponsorships as well as your attendance at our fundraisers held throughout the school year. Together, we're making Sparta a great place to learn and providing the Extras for Education!

You may donate anytime at spartaschools.org/sef. Please follow us on Facebook at Sparta Education Foundation MI for updates and event information.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming fundraisers:

SEF Pasta Night FUN-draiser

Monday, February 3, 2020
4-7:30 p.m.

The Garden Patch Restaurant 125 N. State St. in Sparta

RetroBowl 2020

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9:30 a.m. and noon bowling times

(sponsors welcomed and encouraged email us at sef@spartaschools.org)

Sparta Lanes 125 N. State St. in Sparta

Food for Thought at Trini's TBD.

Hope to see you there!

BELL RINGER

2019-2020 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals **Apply online:** https://www.lunchapp.com

One application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil)

STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper).

Definition of **Household Member.** "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related". Children in Foster care and children who meet definition of **Homeless, Migrant or Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals** for more information. **PLEASE PRINT**

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Student? Yes	Student? No	School	Grade	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
1)			☐	☐			☐	☐
2)			☐	☐			☐	☐
3)			☐	☐			☐	☐
4)			☐	☐			☐	☐
5)			☐	☐			☐	☐

STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR

If NO > Go to STEP 3. **If YES >** Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3). **Case Number:** ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

(Write only one case number in this space)

STEP 3: Report income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered "YES" to STEP 2)

Unsure what income to include here? Flip the page and review the charts titled, "Sources of Income", for more information. The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section. The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members Section.

A. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by All Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.

Child Income $ _____

How Often? Please put an X: Weekly ☐ Bi-Weekly ☐ 2x Month ☐ Monthly ☐ Annually ☐

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you enter "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How Often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	How Often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How Often? Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually
1)	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2)	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3)	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4)	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5)	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Total Household Members (Children and Adults) _____

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member ____ ____ ____ ____ Check if no SSN ☐

STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature. **Mail Completed Form to:** Sparta Food Service 475 W. Spartan Dr. Sparta MI 49345

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws".

Street Address (if available) _____ Apt# _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone and Email (Optional) _____

Printed Name of Adult Signing Form _____ Signature of Adult _____ Today's Date _____

Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Based on the information you gave on your Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals, your child may qualify for other programs. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

☐ Yes! **I DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals with Sparta Area Schools Athletic Department.

☐ Yes! **I DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals with Sparta Area Schools Paid Testing Programs.

☐ Yes! **I DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals with Sparta Area Schools Paid Field Trip Programs

If you check "Yes" to any or all of the boxes above, please fill out form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call _____at _____

Return this form to: Sparta Area Schools Food Service
Director Melissa *Alley 475 W. Spartan Drive Sparta MI 49345*

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information is available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: **mail**: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 **fax:** 202-690-7442; or **email:** program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

5/17

A Quick Note from the Transportation Department

Bus routes will be posted on the school web site, please refer to www.spartaschools.org under Departments/Transportation.

TIPS FOR ALL MOTORISTS AND PARENTS

• Be Alert and ready to stop. Prepare to stop for a school bus when overhead yellow lights are flashing.

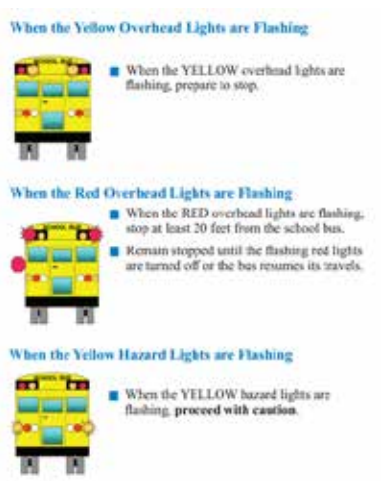
If you are approaching a bus that has its yellow over heads on, that bus will be stopping very soon. Drive with caution if you see the yellow overhead warning lights flashing on a moving or stopped bus. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.

• Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits. Red overhead flashing lights, accompanied by an extended stop arm, tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children. State law requires you to stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of a school bus when red lights are flashing and may not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or overhead flashing lights are no longer active, and stop arm is no longer extended.

• We also have what is called a hazard light stop, on a hazard light stop the bus is off the road way to allow traffic to flow without stopping the traffic. When a bus is doing a hazard light stop you do not have to stop, you may keep moving with the rest of traffic.

• We would also like to give a friendly reminder for drop off at the Middle School. Parent drop off is in front of the Middle School. Buses drop off on the east side of the building. The south side of the building is a public road and an unsafe place to drop off your child. Please use the west doors by the main office; this is the safest place to drop off your child.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.



BELL RINGER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Sparta Area Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **$1.55 at the elementary and $1.65 at the secondary buildings.** Lunch costs **$2.75 at the elementary and $2.90-$3.30 at the secondary buildings. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced-price is **$.30** for breakfast and **$.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
   - All children in households receiving benefits from the **Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP),** or **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** are eligible for free meals.
   - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
   - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
   - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
   - Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2019-2020

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	23,107	1,926	445
2	31,284	2,607	602
3	39,461	3,289	759
4	47,638	3,970	917
5	55,815	4,652	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	1,546
Each additional person:	8,177	682	158

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Sparta Area Schools, Joel Stoner at** joel.stoner@spartaschools.org **or call 616-887-8253.**

3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Melissa Alley, Food Service Director, 475 W. Spartan Drive Sparta, MI 49345**

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Melissa Alley, Food Service Director, at** melissa.alley@spartaschools.org **or 616-887-1744** immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit **www.lunchapp.com** to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Melissa Alley,** melissa.alley@spartaschools.org **or 616-887-1744** if you have any questions about the online application.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **OCTOBER 8, 2019**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.

8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Joel Stoner, 465 S. UNION STREET, SPARTA MI 49345, 616-887-8253, joelstoner@spartaschools.org**

11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOULD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make $1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made $900, put down that you made $1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime occasionally. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY, DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Melissa Alley, Food Service Director, 475 W. Spartan Dr. Sparta MI 49345,** melissa.alley@spartaschools.org **or 616-887-1744** to receive a second application.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **Food Assistance Program (FAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-855-275-6424**.

If you have other questions or need help, call Melissa Alley **616-887-1744 or email** melissa.alley@spartaschools.org

$10 off Registration Fee with Ad!
(*new registrations only)

Preschool & Childcare

- 3 year old Preschool ONLY
- Full Day Preschool Programing – including childcare
- Great Start Readiness Program-Free 4 year old preschool for those who qualify!

Sparta Area School's White Early Childhood Center offers full day child care or partial day preschool for children potty trained and ages 2 years 6 months through 5 years old. Children may attend preschool only or attend all day with childcare and experience the same preschool curriculum.

Open Monday through Friday; 6:30 am to 6:00 pm

White Early Childhood Center

Call 616-887-0068 to Register today!

Sparta Area Schools
Building great minds for the future!