

## **Family Communication**

### **September 2, 2022**

#### **Hello Families,**

As the first two days of school comes to a close, and we navigated an unexpected situation today, I want to reiterate that the safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. Thank you for your patience and understanding today as we dealt with a threat sent to the district Facebook account overnight.

Again, the threat was not specific to any of our schools. Still, we had additional security personnel, district staff, and law enforcement officers at our schools today. Schools and school activities continued as scheduled without incident. I sent an email with more information earlier this evening. That message can be viewed [HERE](#).

As you may recall, the District has added two new members to its school safety team for the 2022-23 school year.

- Gary Chaney has been selected as a school security officer at Stanwood High School. Chaney has been in law enforcement for 25 years, the past 23 years as a deputy with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.
- Sam Andrews has joined the district as Coordinator of Student and District Safety. She previously served in safety-related positions with the Marysville, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington-Edison school districts.
- Chaney and Andrews join the district's School Resource Officer, Bud McCurry, a deputy with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, which contracts with the City of Stanwood.

In addition, the district utilizes SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting system that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns. Families concerned about student safety can alert all district administrators with one text, email, phone call, website, or app. Visit [HERE](#) for more information.

### **Reminder: Late Start Wednesdays begin Sept 7**

Please be reminded that Sept. 7 will be the first late start Wednesday of the new school year, meaning that school will begin at 9 a.m. for grades 6-12 and 10:20 a.m. for grades K-5. Buses will be at stops 80 minutes later than the scheduled time. Sept. 7 is the first day of school for our kindergarten students.

Families can access individual student transportation information online.

Versatrans eLink is the portal to access the bus route, stop time, location, and the bus your child will be riding. The "User Name" and "Password" on the login page is your student's 7-digit identification number.

[Click here for instructions on finding bus routes](#)

[Click here to go to Versatrans eLink](#)

Please arrive at the bus stop in the morning and after school 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up and drop-off time. Kindergarten families must meet the bus in the afternoon, or their child will be returned to the school or transportation center.

For more information, please call the Transportation Center at 360-629-1229.

### **Return to Paid Meals for the 22-23 School Year**

Federal funding for no-cost breakfast and lunches for all students during the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. Some districts have been able to qualify for no-cost meals to continue due to poverty rates in the community. SCSD does not qualify to participate under the new federal Community Eligibility Provision. This means the district will return to paid breakfast and lunch meals for students for the 2022-23 school year.

We encourage parents/guardians to apply for free or reduced meals to determine eligibility for the National School Breakfast/Lunch Program. Completing a meal application takes less than 10 minutes, and parents only need to complete one application per household. Information about free or reduced meals is available on our district website [HERE](#).

### **Our First Day**

It was a joy seeing schools return to traditional routines focused on in-person connections with students and families! We look forward to seeing you over the school year. Watch our first-day video [HERE](#). Have a safe and healthy Labor Day weekend!

**Respectfully,**  
**Deborah Rumbaugh, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent**