

Crazy Horse School

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Dear Crazy Horse School Families, Community Members, and Staff,

Welcome to the 2024-25 School year! My prayer is you had an opportunity to relax and recharge this summer and that this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we start this new school year, I extend a warm welcome to Crazy Horse School to all of our students, both new and returning, along with their families. It is with great excitement we begin this year's journey together, with a shared commitment to provide the best possible learning environment for the students we serve.

This year we have a new calendar that includes a limited 4-day week concept. Two Fridays per month, students will come to school for half the day. Those Fridays will be dedicated to Lakota Lifeways teachings and activities. During the afternoons of those Fridays, we will conduct additional professional development for staff and host any other staff meetings. The other two Fridays each month, there will be no school for students or instructional staff. If there is a holiday or administrative leave day within any week, regular school schedules will be held on that Friday. A copy of the updated calendar is posted on our website and Facebook page.

Our dedicated staff have worked diligently to prepare for this school year. We hosted multiple professional development opportunities this summer and are excited to implement the things we learned about student learning styles, questioning techniques, relationship building and classroom environment. Our Strategic Planning Committee and Action Teams continue to work on a long-term plan to carry out in the upcoming years. Details of this plan will be shared with all stakeholders in the near future.

The top priority of all of us, along with the School Board, is to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We have hired an additional counselor and adjusted work responsibilities for other staff to provide the support and guidance our students need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. The concept of "See Something/Say Something" will be encouraged for students and staff alike.

Please stay connected with our school through our social media channels, including Facebook, the All-Call telephone system, the Crazy Horse School website and participation at our monthly Parent Nights and quarterly Parent-Teacher Conferences. These platforms will provide you with important announcements, academic resources and information about upcoming events. We also encourage and invite you to visit in person whenever you can. Finally, do not hesitate to reach out to any staff member should you have questions, concerns, or suggestions. We value your feedback and are committed to continuous improvement.

Once again, welcome back to Crazy Horse School. Please be assured we will continue to concentrate on increasing academic success for every student and improving attendance. These two issues are tied closely together and will take intense efforts on all of our parts. We are specifically reminding students that **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!** Together, I know we can overcome any obstacles, celebrate achievements and create an exciting learning and working environment for students and staff alike.

Thank you for your unwavering support and I look forward to a successful and rewarding year ahead. If you need to contact me, I can be reached per the following: School-605-462-6792, Cell phone-605-828-2002 or email- margo.heinert@k12.sd.us. Let's have a great 2024-25 school year!