

June 2018

Volume 9, Issue 2

Pirate News



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Highmore-Harold School District 34-2

Building Project Still on Schedule

Phase 2 of the school district building project is underway, as the west elementary building is undergoing some renovations. Built in 1964, the west building classrooms have all been gutted, and in the end will look similar to the new classrooms built during Phase 1. The building is also undergoing an appearance change on the outside as a new pitched roof is being

installed, with shingles to match the rest of the district buildings.

Completion of the entire building project is scheduled for August 3.



State Superintendents Propose New Graduation Endorsements

The South Dakota School Superintendents Association, with the help of high school principals, have begun the process of modifying the current state graduation requirements. Currently the state requires students to accumulate 22 credits in the following credit groups: 4 English, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 1 Fine Arts, .5 PE, .5 Health, .5 Personal Finance or Economics, 1 Career and Technical Education (CTE), and 5.5 credits of Electives. The

superintendents propose that the state create three endorsement lanes for graduates: Advanced, Advanced Career, and Advanced Honors. The Advanced and Advanced Career Endorsements are similar to the current graduation requirements, with the only change being that students can earn the Advanced Career Endorsement by taking 2 or more CTE courses from the same career cluster. A student can earn the Advanced Honors endorsement by taking 4

Math and 4 Science credits, and completing every class with a "C" or higher.

Currently the Highmore-Harold graduation requirements are more rigorous than the South Dakota state requirements. Students at Highmore-Harold are required to take 4 years of Math and Social Studies to graduate, and students are encouraged to take 4 years of Science, while many students opt to take 5 Science classes.

2017-2018 School Year is Wrapped!



The 2017-18 school year came to a close on May 18. High school and junior high students spent their last day in school running around to take care of classes, lockers, lunch bills and other items so they could be ready to dismiss at 11:30. Most elementary students had their lockers cleaned already due to the building project, but many still had garbage bags full of supplies and clothing to take home for the year.

The sports seasons have also come to an end, as Oakley Jandreau represented Highmore-Harrold at the state track meet, while Zoe Tvedt qualified for state golf.

Finally, 19 seniors closed out their high school year when they received their diplomas at Graduation on May 20!



Senior Class Presents Projects to Community

For the second year in a row, this year's senior English class, under the direction of Mrs. Megan Brummel, once again spent a good portion of the 4th Quarter of the school year finishing up their senior projects. Although the students had guidelines to follow, they did have the freedom to choose the topic of their choice. These projects,

and the experience the students gain while completing them, will prove invaluable as many of the seniors transition into college for the next school year.

As part of the grading requirement the seniors had to present their finished projects to people outside of the school and classroom. Several

parents were able to attend, and Mrs. Brummel also invited several retired Highmore-Harrold teachers to come and listen and to provide feedback for the students. The school district appreciates the support from the community and we will continue to look for activities to involve you in our buildings!



Mission, Values and Purpose Statement Re-write

The school district will look for stakeholder and community input this fall as we work to review and modify our current Mission, Values and Purpose statements. This work will be led by the district accreditation team

and administration, with the purpose of revamping our statements for our upcoming accreditation review and to make our statements current so they more accurately represent our goals in an ever changing educational

environment. Please email Mr. Cermak at Quinton.Cermak@k12.sd.us if you have any ideas and wish to be involved.

Computer Classes Dabble in Coding

Students in the computer classes in the high school and elementary began coding this spring, and the reviews show the students enjoyed it! Students were able to create various games through the coding projects, such as a classic maze, Moana wayfinding, basketball games, Minecraft, Star Wars, and Flappy Birds.

When students code they are telling a program how they want it to look and function. Students have to work on their computational thinking skills while breaking down

complicated problems, which can help them both on and off computers. The students are providing code for all of the minute details of their project, so problem solving and attention to detail are just two examples of the skills students develop while they code. We are excited to continue to develop coding in our computer curriculum for the future!



Preparing for 2018-2019

Even though summer break has just started, here are some reminders as we prepare for the next school year:

- Notify the school if you have any changes of address, phone numbers, email address, etc. This will ensure all of our information gets to you in a timely manner.
- Continue to check out the school calendar on our

website: <https://highmore-harold.k12.sd.us/calendar> You will find all of our summer activities in our buildings, as well as important dates regarding our return to school in August.

- Encourage your child to remain academically active. We realize everyone needs a break, but it is

also important to read during the summer to help fight off any summer regression of reading skills.

- Wear sunscreen and mosquito repellent, and stay safe! Have fun, but please take care of yourselves (parents too!). We all look forward to seeing you on August 22!