



# South Heart Public School

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August 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome back to South Heart Public School!

On behalf of the South Heart School Board/Administration/Faculty/Staff, we hope all of you have enjoyed a great summer and are excited to return to school. Those of us that chose to spend our professional lives as educators working in schools are very excited to be working with our students again. We have missed you all!

Obviously due to COVID-19, preparing for the 2020-21 school year has been extremely busy this summer and a tremendous amount of planning and decisions have taken place. Thank you once again for all the support you give to our students and staff! We are looking forward to a safe and productive year for our students and school community.

**It is extremely important that you review all Back-to-School documents that are included on our website with this letter. Several changes in terms of scheduling, the school day, and daily school procedures are being implemented due to COVID-19.**

In addition to these documents, below you will find some general information as we begin the 2020-21 school year.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Day of School:**  
The 1<sup>st</sup> day of school is Wednesday, August 19. As a part of our Health and Safety Restart Plan, our 2020-21 school calendar and school day have changed. Again, these documents are included in our Back-to-School information. Please review these carefully.
- **New Staff:**  
We are very excited to welcome new staff members to South Heart School. Those individuals are:

Rachel Stagner	K-3	Interventionist
Tommi Genre	K-6	Paraprofessional
Pamela Dean	7-9	Special Education
Lindsey Delvo	7-12	Science
- **Insurance:**  
As a reminder, South Heart School does NOT have insurance to cover injuries suffered before, during, or after school hours. It is the responsibility of parent/guardians to provide insurance for their children/dependents.

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- Open Enrollment:  
Over the past few weeks, we've had several questions regarding open enrollment, both students wanting to open enroll to South Heart School, and some that have already open enrolled to South Heart School and want to return to their home district.
  - a. At the March 2020 School Board meeting, the Board closed open enrollment in all grades with the exception of incoming Kindergarten. Therefore, South Heart School is currently not accepting students from other school districts, which includes those students that may choose to leave South Heart School and want to return in the future.
  - b. Students that were previously approved for open enrollment prior to March 2020 are obligated to attend South Heart School. Per the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the [Open Enrollment Application](#), the following is stated *"Open Enrollment Finalization (April 1st): All applications for open enrollment must have been acted upon. After this date, a student is obligated to attend school the following school year in the admitting district, unless the admitting district and the district of residence both agree in writing to allow the student to return to the resident district or the students' parent relocates to another district."* Therefore, if a student has applied for and been approved for open enrollment at South Heart School and wishes to return to their home district, a parent must submit a letter to the Superintendent asking for the open enrollment to be dissolved. This request will then be considered and decided by the South Heart School Board at the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting.
  
- Directory Information – Per School Board Policy FGA:  
The District may disclose directory information without parental/eligible student consent if it has given parents/eligible students a reasonable amount of time to opt-out of directory information release. The Board approves release of directory information as follows:
  - a. Publication on the district's website
  - b. To board-approved vendors for purposes of sale of school-related items such as, but not limited to, yearbooks, school pictures, graduation items, district apparel, and book orders
  - c. To military and college recruiters in accordance with applicable laws (NDCC 15.1-07-25.1 and 20 U.S.C. 7908)
  - d. To official district newspaper for purposes of recognizing student accomplishments and coverage of extracurricular events
  - e. To school-affiliated groups for purposes of communicating and fundraising
  - f. To school-sponsored student publications including, but not limited to, newspapers and yearbooks
  - g. When the Board receives and approves a directory information release request; directory information shall only be released and used for purposes specified in the release request and the Superintendent shall add approved requestors to the district's master list of individuals and entities having access to student information. The Board shall develop criteria in regulations for approving and denying these requests.

**If you do NOT want directory information released to outside agencies for the 2020-21 school year, please complete and return School Board Policy FGA-E (located on the school website at <http://www.southheart.k12.nd.us/files/2018/03/FGA-E-Notice-of-Directory-Information.pdf>) and return to the school office asap.**

- NOTICE OF POLICY ON OPTING OUT OF ASSESSMENTS  
School Board Policy GCE-E  
The South Heart School Board has adopted a policy on opting out of state and federal assessments, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be viewed online by visiting <http://www.southheart.k12.nd.us/files/2018/03/GCE-Opting-out-of-State-and-Federal-Assessments.pdf> and the necessary form that must be completed to opt out of state and federal assessments can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SFN%20Forms/ADA%20-%20SFN61287.pdf>

Again, welcome back to South Heart School. The entire staff is excited to welcome back our students and our goal is to make the 2020-21 school year the best one ever! Let's have a safe and awesome school year!

Sincerely,  
Calvin Dean, Superintendent  
South Heart Public School District #9