

Spring Ridge Review

Spring Ridge Elementary

Elkhorn Public Schools
Elkhorn, Nebraska



A Message from Mrs. Petersen

August 2017

Inside This Issue

- 1 From Mrs. Petersen
- 2 Solar Eclipse Viewing
- 3 School Basics
- 3 Be a Partner
- 3 School Lunches
- 4 New Faces
- 4 Walking Club
- 4 PTO Meeting Schedule
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 5 Back to School 101
- 5 Open House
- 6 School Entrances/Exits
- 6 Visitor Guidelines
- 6 5th Grade Outdoor Education
- 7-9 Spring Ridge PTO

Dear Spring Ridge Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year! Our first day of school is August 17, 2017. A new school year is always exciting. Our focus will be on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. Academic emphasis on the core content areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies will remain a priority as well as providing a learning program that builds on each year to reach state standards. Instruction in the fine arts, foreign language, technology, guidance, and physical education complete our program providing each student with the opportunity to develop areas of interest and skill.

Our goal is to challenge our students intellectually, grow them socially, and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving. As we strive to promote healthy development in all aspects of each student's life we also strive to develop a student body of good character; students who make good choices and decisions resulting in successful and healthy outcomes. We encourage students to demonstrate the best of themselves every moment of every day and to make positive contributions to the groups and organizations to which they belong. We strive to instill within our student body a sense of pride as well as collective pride and love of and for our school.

Add us to your favorites:

www.elkhornweb.org

www.springridgepto.com

As we begin this year, please remember that this is your school and we welcome your involvement. Family commitment is vital to our success. When the partnership between Spring Ridge Elementary and the families we serve is strong, achievement is also strengthened. Our children truly benefit! That is why our theme once again this year is "Soaring STRONG Together". I look forward to working with you this academic school year!

2017-18
School Theme:
"SOARING STRONG
TOGETHER
AT SPRING RIDGE
ELEMENTARY"

Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation! If you have any questions, please call 402-637-0204 or email me at lpetersen@epsne.org Can't wait to see you Wednesday, August 9th!

Laurinda Petersen
Spring Ridge Principal



Solar Eclipse Viewing

On August 21, 2017, (our first Monday of the 2017-2018 school year), Elkhorn will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. This event is being called “The Great American Solar Eclipse,” because it is the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States. Elkhorn will experience 98% blackout at approximately 1:04 pm and will remain dark for approximately 2 minutes. This eclipse is special because the moon is in perfect alignment relative to the sun to create darkness (i.e. seeing stars, feeling a temperature drop) and still be able to see the sun's corona. This will never happen again in Nebraska in any of our lifetimes. Planning is already underway to ensure our students can experience this once-in-a-lifetime event. Thanks to our Spring Ridge PTO for purchasing eclipse-safe viewing glasses for students and staff.

Safety is always a top priority for Elkhorn Public Schools and Spring Ridge Elementary. We will take all precautionary measures with both students and staff to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars or other optical devices, with or without glasses. (For more information regarding the safety certification of the special viewing glasses, please visit www.eclipseglasses.com/pages/safety)

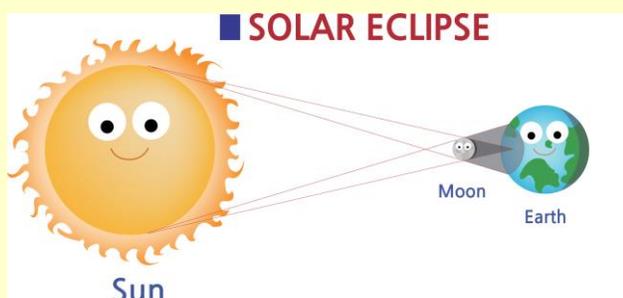
Because of these safety concerns, a parent signature on our Solar Eclipse Viewing Permission Form is required by **August 21** in order for your student(s) to participate using the eclipse glasses. Students whose parents either do not complete this form or choose to opt out their child will not be allowed to participate in this event and would remain in the building. Alternate activities will be planned for students who are not allowed to participate so they are still given the opportunity to learn more about the Solar Eclipse. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will not participate in the viewing, but will discuss and watch a video about the eclipse in their classrooms.

Please be looking for the Solar Eclipse Viewing Permission Form in your Back to School 101 packet, which you should receive in the mail by August 3rd or 4th.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please don't hesitate to call the Spring Ridge Office at 402-637-0204 or email me at lpetersen@epsne.org.

We look forward to safely guiding our students' learning experience of this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Petersen



School Basics.....

The first day of school is Thursday, August 17. The school day begins at 8:10 AM and the tardy bell rings at 8:15 AM. Dismissal is 3:06 PM. Please make every effort to arrive on time. Students who arrive on time are more likely to make the most of his/her day. Your help is appreciated.

If your child is not attending school or will be coming late due to illness, doctor appointments, or another type of appointment, please call the school office at 402-637-0204. Please minimize doctor appointments and vacations during school hours.

Students arriving to school late or leaving early must sign in/out of the front office. When students leave early, a parent must come to the office to sign his/her name out. Parents of students in the cottages must enter the building through the front doors and check in at the office.

Be a Partner in Your Child's Education

Your child will have dozens of terrific instructors over the years, but you'll always be your child's most important teacher. To become a partner in your child's education:

- Volunteer in class or within the school.
- Attend open house, curriculum night, and parent-teacher conferences.
- Read every handout and paper your child brings home.
- Make school a priority. Schedule appointments and vacations outside of school hours.
- Expect your child to succeed in school. Children try harder to meet parents' expectations.
- Respect homework. Sit with your child as he/she works. Show him/her that you take it seriously.
- Speak up. If there's a problem at school, talk to your child's teacher immediately. Work together on finding a solution.
- Show and tell your child often that you love him/her.
- Celebrate! Your child is learning more every day!

The **Spring Ridge Review** is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School,- Elkhorn Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. Article submissions are due on the 20th of each month.

17830 Shadow Ridge Drive
Elkhorn, NE 68130

Spring Ridge Principal
Laurinda Petersen:
lpetersen@epsne.org

Secretary
Muriel Manske:
mmanske@epsne.org

Contact: 637-0204 for more information.
www.elkhornweb.org

School Breakfast and Lunch

Money may be deposited into your Sodexo lunch account on-line or at school. Emails are sent for students at \$5.00, a note is sent home at \$0.00, and students are only allowed to charge up to -\$10.00. An email will be sent at the end of each month regardless of the balance. Breakfast runs from 7:35-7:55 AM. For lunch, there will be a four-entrée menu selection each day unless notified by the kitchen staff. You are welcome to have lunch with your child any day. The cost of an adult lunch is \$3.85. Please make your lunch reservation with the school office before 9:00 AM on the day you are planning to join your child for lunch. You are welcome to bring a sack lunch but please do not bring lunches from outside vendors (McDonalds, Subway, etc.). Carbonated beverages are permitted only on special days designated by your child's teacher. Cost of school meals is:

Student Breakfast	\$1.50
Student Lunch	\$2.50
Adult Lunch	\$3.85
Milk	\$0.45



New Faces

We are welcoming two new teachers to our 5th Grade Team. Brittany Nielsen student taught with us second semester of last school year in 5th Grade. Larisa Oatman, originally from Milford, NE, comes to us with teaching experience in ELL, 3rd Grade, and 5th Grade.

Please join me in giving these new staff members a very warm Spring Ridge welcome!!!

2017-18 PTO Meeting Schedule:

August 21, 7:00 PM
October 2, 7:00 PM
November 6, 7:00 PM
December 4, 7:00 PM
February 5, 7:00 PM
March 5, 7:00 PM
April 2, 7:00 PM
May 7, 7:00 PM



Walking Club: A Great Way To Start The Day!

Walking Club is a daily activity that begins at 7:55 a.m. Children arriving to school between 7:55 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. will participate in this supervised exercise. Supervision is not provided before 7:55 a.m. Please do not drop children off before 7:55 a.m. Teachers will bring students into the building at 8:10 a.m. Students arriving between 8:10-8:15 a.m. may go directly to their classrooms. Any student arriving after 8:15 a.m. will be marked tardy. **Walking Club begins Monday, August 21.** Parents are welcome to walk with children. Please leave pets at home! Thank you!

Pick-up

School dismisses each day at 3:06 PM. No supervision is provided after 3:15 PM. Please make sure your child(ren) are picked up on time.

Thank you!

Calendar of Events

August 2 & 3	New Student Registration
August 8	Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 6-7 PM
August 9	Back to School 101 School Registration, 10 AM – 7 PM
August 15	Open House, 6 – 7 PM
August 17	First Day of School
August 21	PTO, 7 PM
August 28	Curriculum Night (First – Fifth Grade), 6:00-7:00 PM
September 4	No school, Labor Day
September 13	Mid Quarter Reports Go Home
September 14	First Grade Field Trip to Arbor Day Farm
September 15	Fall Fundraiser, Celebrate Spring Ridge
September 18	No School, In-Service
September 21-22	5 th Grade Outdoor Ed

Back to School 101

Please plan to attend “Back to School 101” registration. Parents and students are invited to attend “Back to School 101” to turn in completed and updated registration forms received in the mail. During this time, you will turn in forms, take LifeTouch pictures, deposit money into your child’s lunch account and find out your child’s teacher! Please bring your students with you!

Wednesday, August 9, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

For those students unable to attend, pictures will be taken on “Picture Re-take” Day on Monday, October 9.

Open House

Spring Ridge Open House will be held on **Tuesday, August 15 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM**. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to meet their new teacher. The school will be open for self-guided tours. Please stop by to meet new staff members and to become reacquainted with familiar faces! See you there!



Student Entrances & Exits

Kindergarten: Students enter and exit the school through the kindergarten classroom door.

First Grade/Second Grade/Third Grade:

Students enter and exit the school through the front doors of the building.

Cottage Second Grade/Third Grade: Enter and exit their specific classroom in cottage.

Fourth Grade/Fifth Grade: Enter and exit the school through the staff entrance doors on the east side of the building.

Students in the cottages and fourth and fifth graders may use the sidewalk between the east staff parking lot and the school building or the sidewalk north of the staff parking lot when arriving or leaving school.

Visitor Guidelines

School safety is a major concern to both parents and school personnel. Several procedures at Spring Ridge need to be followed by all visitors to our building:

- All visitors are required to sign in/out when arriving and leaving the building.
- Visitors will be asked to wear a visitor's badge while at Spring Ridge.
- All visitors must use the front entrance (including kindergarten parents and parents of students in the cottages). Please do not go directly to the classrooms without checking in at the office. If you have brought something that your child has forgotten, please drop it off at the office and we will be happy to take it to your child. Please help us minimize classroom interruptions.

5th Grade Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education has been a part of the 5th grade curriculum in Elkhorn Public Schools for many years. Outdoor Ed is a two-day field trip designed to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom by taking students to explore nature, science and physical activity at a camp located just outside the Metro area.

Prior to the 2012-13 school year, this field trip included an overnight stay at the camp cabins. Beginning the 2012-13 school year, students no longer stay overnight. Outdoor Ed will remain a two-day program and will continue to meet all of the intended learning objectives.

Several factors led to the District's decision to discontinue the overnight stay during Outdoor Ed:

- The increasing volume of mediations students require during an overnight stay away from home has become a liability concern.
- Many schools have experienced difficulty recruiting staff members to provide overnight supervisions.
- In order to ensure student safety, all volunteers must complete a background check to accompany students to Outdoor Ed. Background checks take time to process and Outdoor Ed volunteers had to make the commitment several weeks in advance in order to ensure their background check would be completed on time.
- For some students, Outdoor Ed is their first experience away from home and it can be upsetting. The increasing requests for special accommodations at nighttime made the overnight stay difficult for supervising staff members.
- A review of the Outdoor Ed curriculum confirmed that all learning objectives could be accomplished with out an overnight stay.

Outdoor Education for our fifth graders is scheduled for September 21 & 22! There will be a parent meeting prior to Outdoor Education to learn more about this exciting program. The students will have an extended day on September 21st at the camp and on September 22nd the day will be normal school hours (8:00 AM – 3:00 PM). Transportation will be provided to and from camp.



Kati Cramer, President
 Beena Burg, Co-VP
 Jenny Zetterman, Co- VP
 Matt Hoppe, Treasurer
 Katie Liekweg, Secretary

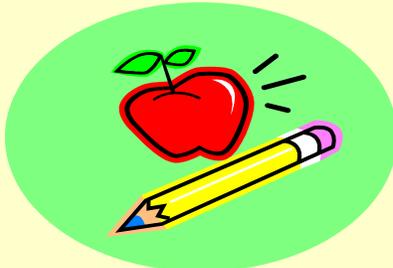
Spring Ridge PTO News

New Website!

Our website is currently under construction. This site will be the *new hub* for all information pertaining to PTO: volunteer opportunities/schedules, downloadable forms, calendar of events, fundraising information, and much more. Look for more information from us as soon as it is available.

Calling All Volunteers!

Looking to get involved in PTO? Stop by our table at Back to School 101 to sign up, or email your interest to springridgeelementarypto@gmail.com



Kindergarten Playdate

Do you have an incoming Kindergartner? If so, consider staying after Open House on August 15th for a kindergarten playdate. Incoming kindergartners and their families will meet on the west playground at Spring Ridge (closest to their classrooms). Meet other parents and let the kids get to know one another and develop friendships!

Online Directory

Access to school and family information will be **FREE** this year! Please stop by the PTO table at Back to School 101 to confirm your information is accurate. You can also opt out at this time. (*note: your information will only be available to Spring Ridge families through personal ID and password.*)

Classroom Parties

While PTO will still be managing the fall and winter classroom parties, we will **NOT** be collecting money from parents this year. However, volunteers will still be needed to plan and chaperone the parties, so be sure to sign up to help when the time comes!

Yearbook

We will be using a new yearbook company this year. All ordering will take place online, so you will NOT be submitting a form and paying in person, like in previous years. Look for more information in your child's Friday folder during the school year.

Sponsorships

Do you own a business that you'd like to advertise at events and on our website? If so, complete the form included in this packet and return to Back to School 101, or email it to springridgeelementarypto@gmail.com or Chaley at chasmitherines@aol.com



Notes from the Spring PTO

You can reach the homes of 500+ students when you become a 2017-2018 sponsor of Spring Ridge Elementary School

Throughout the school year, Spring Ridge Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) coordinates many activities for our students and families, all of which provide an excellent marketing avenue for the business community. We appreciate the support of local businesses, which is why we extend to you the opportunity to become a sponsor of Spring Ridge for the 2017-2018 school year.

Spring Ridge is continuing with our online school directory, which will reach the homes of over 500 students, teachers, and staff. We have many exciting activities scheduled this year where our school banner will be prominently displayed – **Curriculum Night, Fall FUNdraiser, Parent Teacher Conferences, Book Fair, Music Programs, Breakfast Buddies, Family Fun Nights**, and at our **Spring Carnival**. You may display business cards and marketing materials at our sponsor table during Carnival, and your logo and website link can be posted on our PTO website (www.springridgepto.com).

Outlined below are different sponsorship and advertising levels to best suit your advertising needs:

- **\$250:** Logo & link on our PTO website (www.springridgepto.com) • Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link, and logo) • name & logo on Spring Ridge banner • yearbook recognition
- **\$125:** Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link, and logo) • name & logo on Spring Ridge banner • yearbook recognition
- **\$75:** Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link and logo)

To secure your sponsorship or directory advertisement, simply complete the enclosed form and return with your check payable to Spring Ridge PTO, 17830 Shadow Ridge Drive, Omaha 68130, by **Friday, August 25**. Sponsor logos in .jpeg or .eps for the website can be emailed directly to SpringRidgeElementaryPTO@gmail.com.

The support from parents and community businesses like yours has been imperative in helping the PTO fund new classroom technology, additional educational field trips, supplemental curriculum requests, and much more to enrich the education experiences of our students.

We hope you will consider a sponsorship to support the students at Spring Ridge Elementary School, and welcome the opportunity to discuss the options available to increase your visibility within the Spring Ridge Elementary community. Please feel free to contact us with your questions and ideas.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Best Regards,

Kati Cramer

President, Spring Ridge PTO

SpringRidgeElementaryPTO@gmail.com

Save the Date!
The Fall Fundraiser,
Celebrate Spring Ridge, will
be held on Friday,
September 15!

Spring Ridge Elementary School 2017-2018 Sponsorship

Company Name: _____

Ad Title: _____

Ad Text (Max 100 Characters): _____

Website Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ **Yes! I want to partner with Spring Ridge Elementary School as a sponsor!**

_____ Artwork and payment are enclosed.

_____ Payment is enclosed - I will email a new logo or ad for publication to
SpringRidgeElementaryPTO@gmail.com.

_____ I will pay and upload my logo or ad to the Spring Ridge PTO website (available after August 17th):
www.springridgepto.com

Select Option **Sponsor Level**

_____ **\$250:** Logo & link on our PTO website (www.springridgepto.com) • Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link, and logo) • name & logo on Spring Ridge banner • yearbook recognition

_____ **\$125:** Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link, and logo) • name & logo on Spring Ridge banner • yearbook recognition

_____ **\$75:** Advertisement in the online school directory (includes Ad Title, Ad text, email address, website link and logo)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Drop Dead Sponsor Deadline: Friday, August 25, 2017

*Submit completed order form, ad artwork and check payable to:
Spring Ridge PTO, 17830 Shadow Ridge Drive, Omaha NE 68130
OR*

*Fill out form, pay and upload logo or ad to the Spring Ridge PTO website:
<https://sites.google.com/a/springridgepto.com/front-page/SpringRidgeSponsors>*

Questions?

SpringRidgeElementaryPTO@gmail.com

or [Chaley chasmitherines@aol.com](mailto:Chaley_chasmitherines@aol.com)

The Spring Ridge Elementary PTO thanks you for your support!

