

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Important Upcoming Dates
Open House
Curriculum Night
PTO Information
& 2018-2019 Dates!

AUGUST 2018

BLUE SAGE ELEMENTARY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August

Wednesday, August 1st

- Facility Use Forms Accepted

Tuesday, August 7th

- Back to School 101
 - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Monday, August 13th

- Open House & Curriculum Night

Tuesday, August 14th

- First Student Day

Subscribe to both the Blue Sage online calendar and the Elkhorn District calendar to stay informed about important calendar events.

<https://www.elkhornweb.org/bluesage/calendar/>

Spirit Days At Blue Sage
Every Friday is a spirit day at Blue Sage. Wear your Blue Sage gear or our school colors (blue and green) to show your BEAR pride!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Blue Sage Elementary! The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time of the year, but especially this year as we open the doors for students for the first time. We extend a warm welcome to you and hope that you will quickly feel at home.

We are looking forward to working with each of you and encourage you to become active in our school community as we begin to establish our school's traditions. The partnership we establish between our community, parents, and educators will be the key to success at Blue Sage Elementary. Only together can we ensure the best possible future story for each student.

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 14th. The students will meet their teachers the first three days outside. Kindergarten and first grade students will meet their teachers in front of the school. Second, third, fourth and fifth grade students will be meeting their teachers near the playground on the backside of the school.

As always, feel free to email (achrist@epsne.org) or call me (402-332-0125) with any questions or concerns! See you soon and enjoy the last days of vacation!

Mrs. Christ
Blue Sage Principal



Together we will ensure academic, social, and personal success to craft the best possible future story for our students.

Back-to-School 101

Tuesday, August 7th 12:00PM to 6:00PM

Please plan on attending BTS 101 with your child/children. During this time, we will verify that you have updated/provided any required forms, turned in medication and medication authorization forms, purchase school apparel, take Lifetouch pictures, deposit money into your child's breakfast/lunch account, sign up for PTO opportunities and find out your child's teacher.

For those students unable to attend BTS 101, pictures will be taken on Picture Re-take Day on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Every year, there are families that are unable to attend BTS 101, but they are still wanting to find who their child will have for a teacher. If you are able to get your information turned into us ahead of time, you may call the school on Wednesday, August 8th, and we will share that information with you.

Open House and Curriculum Night

Blue Sage Open House and Curriculum Night will be held on Monday, August 13th from 5:15pm to 7:00pm.

Open House is from 5:15 to 6:00. It is a great opportunity for parents and students to meet their new teacher. The school will be open for self-guided tours.

Curriculum Night--Two Sessions will be offered for all grade levels.

- Session One 6:00 to 6:30
- Session Two 6:30 to 7:00

Location for Curriculum Presentations:

- Kindergarten--Mrs. Knust's room
- First Grade--Mrs. Dahl's room
- Second Grade--Mrs. Nielsen's room
- Third Grade--Mrs. Lee's room
- Fourth Grade--Mrs. Mull's room
- Fifth Grade--Mrs. Carlson's room



Meet the Team

- Principal-Amy Christ
- Administrative Assistant--Sonya Terrill
- Head Custodian--Rich Wesch
- Assistant Custodian--Kurt Edgerton

- Kindergarten Teachers--Katie Knust & Katya Endelicato
- First Grade Teachers--Gwen Dahl & Jacquie Mack
- Second Grade Teachers--Tracy Nielsen & Heather Timm
- Third Grade Teachers--Andrea Lee & Elli Samuelson
- Fourth Grade Teachers--Miranda Mull & Kelle Lawrence
- Fifth Grade Teachers--Lindsey Carlson

- Art Teacher--Chloe Kelly & Olivia Harder
- Vocal Music Teacher--Cory Smith & Tori Colwin
- Physical Education Teacher--Jessica Kempcke & Ashley Willms
- Media Specialist--Kayla Farrell
- Reading Specialist-- Janet Lech

- Special Education Teacher--Natalie Shirley & Sam Armstrong
- Speech & Language Pathologist--Diana Meyer
- Occupational Therapist--Cecilia Kozeny
- Physical Therapist--Nikaela Schroeder
- Nurse--Tina Sibbernsen
- School Psychologist--Kristen Phillips
- Counselor--Sarah Champion
- High Ability Learner Teacher--Gaile Craig
- Teacher Assistants--Sandra Fleissner, Patty Rowell, Joey Johnson, Jen Kaiser, Ann Kuecker, Mary Jo Mayberry & Lisa Naylor
- Spanish--Cindy Perrien & Alice Connelly



Lunch/Recess Schedule

Kdg & First	Recess 11:00-11:15	Lunch 11:15-11:35
Second & Third	Recess 11:30-11:45	Lunch 11:45-12:05
Fourth & Fifth	Recess 11:50-12:05	Lunch 12:05-12:25

Sodexo Lunch Prices 2018-2019

Elem. lunch \$2.50
Adult lunch \$3.85

Breakfast
K-5th \$1.50
Adult \$2.20

Parents are welcome to come have lunch with their children during their lunch time; however, having too many visitors during the first few days can make learning the lunch procedures challenging for students. We would ask that parents do not start joining us for lunch until Monday, August 27th. This will give us time to ensure that students learn the correct lunch procedures along with having an opportunity to socialize with their classmates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Blue Sage Student Treat Guidelines

Birthdays are important milestones in each child's life. At Blue Sage Elementary, we look forward to sharing in the students' excitement over their own special day. Each morning birthdays will be read over the announcements and students will be invited to come select a book from the office to keep. Summer birthdays will be announced on the student's ½ birthday to ensure each student enjoys this special recognition during the school year.

If you would like to send a special treat or token for your child to pass out to classmates, **please send only NON-EDIBLE tokens or treats to school.** Ideas or suggestions may include items such as pencils or stickers. Classroom teachers may also offer other suggestions. This decision has been made with considerable thought given to healthy eating habits, food allergies, and convenience for parents. I appreciate your support as we create a healthy and welcoming environment for every student at Blue Sage.

Party Invitations

Invitations to birthday parties and other events must be distributed away from the school grounds to students for out of school parties according to District policy.



Elementary School Hours

The elementary school day is from 8:15-3:06.

Before School: Breakfast is offered for all children from 7:35 to 7:55 everyday and then students go to Walking Club. Students not eating breakfast may attend Walking Club at 7:55. Morning outside supervision starts at 7:55, so students not attending breakfast should not arrive before that time. A student that arrives to school on time is more likely to make the most of his/her day. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

After School: The dismissal bell rings at 3:06. Students should leave the building to go home upon dismissal unless specifically directed by a teacher to remain. There is no supervision after 3:20, so please make arrangements to have your children picked up by that time.

Arriving Late/Leaving Early: Students arriving late or leaving early must sign in/out at the front office. When a student leaves early, a parent must come into the office to sign his/her child out.



After School Plans

Please have an understanding with your child before he/she leaves home in the morning about what he/she is to do after school. It can be disruptive when classes are interrupted with the delivery of telephone messages, or the need for them to call home to find out what is going on after school. We realize that there are times when the unexpected happen, and in those times, we will be happy to let your child know if your plans changed.

Meeting with Teachers

Parents wishing to confer with teachers are asked to call the school or email the teacher. If the teacher is unable to take your call, we are able to forward your call to his/her voicemail, so you can leave the teacher a message to return your call at his/her earliest convenience.

If wishing to meet in person with a teacher, please schedule an appointment in advance. Often, teachers feel bad when a parent arrives at school to confer with them and they cannot meet with that parent due to other demands and responsibilities. By scheduling an appointment, they will be prepared to meet with you to address your questions and/or concerns.



Visitor Guidelines

At Blue Sage, the doors will remain locked during the school day, and all visitors will gain access using the security camera/access panel outside of the school's main entrance. Office staff will grant access after you do the following steps:

1. Push the button and wait for an identification request.
2. Give your name and purpose for entering the school.
3. When you hear the door unlatch, enter and proceed to the office.
4. Sign in on the visitor sheet and take a visitor sticker/badge.
5. When leaving the building, return to the office and sign out and place your sticker in the trash can.

If you have brought something that your child has forgotten, please drop it off at the office, we will be happy to take it to your child. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to minimize classroom interruptions.

WALKING CLUB

Starts Friday, Aug. 17th 7:55-8:10

. Walking Club is a daily activity that begins at 7:55 a.m. Students arriving at school between 7:55 and 8:10 will participate in this supervised exercise. Supervision is not provided before 7:55. Please do not drop off your children before this time unless they are coming for breakfast. Staff will bring students into the building at 8:10 a.m., and students should go directly to their locker area. Walking Club and recess will occur outside if the temperature is 20 degrees or above.

Safety Patrol

Our fifth grade students have been trained to help students cross the street when it is safe. Please respect their role and encourage their leadership opportunities. Patrol members carry walkie-talkies in order to report inappropriate behaviors by our students, traffic endangerment or other policy violations on school grounds.



Traffic Reminders

For the safety of all children, please adhere to the following reminders regarding traffic at Blue Sage Elementary.

- The left lane is the thru lane for cars. NEVER load or unload in this lane.
- The right lane is the drop off/pick up lane.
- Please drop off/pick up on the curbside of your vehicle.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicles during the drop off/pick up times.
- Pull all the way forward (up to the flag pole) before unloading or picking up.
- If you are needing to park, please use the visitor parking lot. Then proceed up to the school by using the designated crosswalk.

Furry Friends

If you walk to drop off or pick up your child please do not bring along your dog. We appreciate you being cognizant of those with allergies or fears. Thanks for helping to keep our students safe.



The kids are heading back to school, how about you?

The Elkhorn Public School District is currently seeking teacher assistant/paraprofessionals in our early education, elementary, and secondary settings. EPS is seeking caring and collaborative individuals with a desire to help students achieve.

- Family friendly hours – follows the school day and calendar
- Competitive pay (\$14.20/\$14.70)
- Rewarding working environment

Apply at www.elkhornweb.org Employment: Support Staff Non-Certified: Teacher Assistant



Attendance Policy

Regular school attendance helps to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility along with helping to ensure student success. Absences from school should be minimized whenever possible. Parents or guardians will receive a letter from the school when their child has been absent 5 days within one quarter. Letters will also be sent to parents when a child has been absent 10 days and again at 15 days, as a reminder of the importance for the student to be in attendance at school every day. Meetings with the teacher, counselor, and principal may be set up during the year to help solve problems with attendance. A letter will be sent to parents and possibly the County Attorney if a child accumulates 20 days of absences during the school year with the request to schedule a conference with the principal.

It is our goal to have all students accounted for and fully present at the beginning of the each school day. We ask for your cooperation with attendance. Please contact the office if your child is going to be absent preferably by 8:30.

STAY INFORMED

A newsletter in this format will be emailed to you each month. It is also posted on our website <https://www.elkhornweb.org/bluesage/news/>. If you need to change email addresses, please call the office to let us know (402-332-0125). This newsletter is our main means of communication.



follow us on
twitter

We are excited to announce that Blue Sage is officially on Twitter! Give us a follow @ElkhornPS_BSE in order to stay up to date with events, news, and highlights from the classroom.



From the Nurse...

Welcome back, I hope you had a great summer! We want to keep your student(s) happy, healthy, and safe while at school, so please read the following information carefully.

Sick Child Policy ~

Please remember if your student is running a fever of >100.0 or has vomiting/diarrhea, please keep them home from school until fever or vomiting free for 24 hours, without the aid of medication (Motrin, Tylenol, Advil, acetaminophen, ibuprofen).

Physical and Immunization Requirements ~

Nebraska law requires that all school children have a physical examination upon entry into school, at seventh grade, and when transferring from an out-of-state school. Students must provide proof of a visual evaluation to include testing for amblyopia, strabismus, internal and external eye health and visual acuity upon entry into school and when transferring from an out-of-state school. The law also requires your child be immunized and provide proof of immunization before attending classes. Please visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (link below) which outlines specific vaccine requirements. Link to DHHS vaccine summary for 2017-2018: Link to DHHS vaccine summary for 2017-2018:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Immunization/Documents/2017-2018%20School%20RR%20English.pdf>

Medication for the 2018-19 School Year ~

If your student requires any medication (over-the-counter and/or prescription) while at school, each medication must have a Medication Authorization form (link below) signed by the parent and a physician, before we can administer. All medications must be unexpired and provided in the original packaging and/or pharmacy container. For prescription medication, please only provide a maximum of 30 day supply at a time. All medication must be dropped off in the office by a parent or guardian. Please do not send any medications with your student. Link to print blank medication authorization form:

<http://www.elkhornweb.org/parents/student-medication-form/>

Students with Asthma, Severe Allergies, Diabetes, and/or Seizures ~

If your child has asthma, severe allergies, diabetes, and/or seizures, please submit an emergency action plan signed by your physician. Plans must be updated annually. Blank forms can be obtained at the school office, or your physician's office can use whichever form they prefer.

