



Stockton Unified School District

Enjoy the Break and Get Ready for a Strong Second Semester

As we head into break, we hope our students, staff, and families take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments with those who matter most. Breaks are an important opportunity to pause, reflect, and return refreshed and ready for new challenges. When the next semester begins, it brings a fresh start—new goals, renewed focus, and opportunities for growth. Students are encouraged to return ready to finish the school year strong by maintaining good attendance, staying organized, and continuing to give their best effort in the classroom.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff throughout the first semester. Thank you to our families for your continued support and partnership.

Enjoy the break, stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back energized and ready for a successful second semester!



Attendance Matters!

Supporting Student Success Through Consistent Attendance

Why Attendance Matters More Than Ever

Attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. Every day of instruction builds skills, confidence, and academic progress. When students miss school, whether through full absences or frequent checkouts, they fall behind in ways that can be difficult to recover.

To get students where they need to be, they must be in school consistently and remain in class during instruction time. Last year's attendance patterns show us where our strengths are and where we need to improve.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ADD UP!

3 Unexcused Consecutive Absences:

Truancy is filed with the appropriate authorities.

3 Unexcused Absences Per Semester:

Letter is mailed home to inform parents or guardians of the absences.

5 Unexcused Absences Per Semester:

Truancy is filed with the appropriate authorities.

EXCUSED ABSENCES DOCUMENTATION

0-5 Excused Absences Per Semester:

No documentation is needed but highly suggested.

After **5 excused absences** at any point during the school year, a **doctor's note will be required for all future absences.**

1ST SEMESTER

In this newsletter you can expect:

Attendance Matters

What's Happening at the High School with Chronic Absences and call-outs to leave school?

Class Attendance Reminder: Credit Will Not Be Awarded if Too Much Class Time Is Missed

Celebrations

USD 271 Celebrates our first Student Social Media Intern

Sub. Job Fair Night
February 16th
6-7 pm

December 20-Jan. 5



Students return on the Jan. 6th.



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM SNAPSHOT FOR USD 271 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR (GRADES K-11)


CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM = MISSING 10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



Elementary School (Grades K-5)

Grade	Students	Chronically Absent	Rate
Kindergarten	22	4	18.18%
1st Grade	23	2	8.70% (lowest rate!)
2nd Grade	14	5	35.71%
3rd Grade	26	4	15.38%
4th Grade	19	6	31.58%
5th Grade	19	6	31.58%

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Grade	Students	Chronically Absent	Rate
6th Grade	16	4	25%
7th Grade	19	5	26.32%
8th Grade	17	12	70.59% 

► 8th grade stands out as our highest-need area, with 70% of students missing significant instructional time.

High School (Grades 9-11)

Grade	Students	Chronically Absent	Rate
9th Grade	22	11	50%
10th Grade	24	12	50%
11th Grade	14	4	28.57%

These rates are above Kansas state averages, which range from 22% to 27% at the high school level.

ARE TRUANCY AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM THE SAME THING?

No, they are different. Chronic absenteeism includes both excused and unexcused absences, with a student being considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of school days in a year.

Truancy, on the other hand, specifically refers to unexcused absences, occurring when a student is absent without a valid excuse, leading to potential legal consequences.



What's Happening at the High School with Chronic Absences and call-outs to leave school?

We have seen an increase in students being pulled from class or leaving campus for non-emergency reasons, such as retrieving practice clothes, getting forgotten items, taking bathroom trips outside of normal procedures, getting over-the-counter medicine, picking up food or lunch, or collecting forgotten homework. While these may seem minor, each interruption results in the student missing valuable instructional time, often 20 minutes or more. When combined with chronic absenteeism, these frequent disruptions create significant learning gaps and limit students' ability to keep up with course expectations.

An additional concern not reflected in the state's chronic absenteeism data is the number of individual class periods students are missing. Chronic absenteeism reporting only captures full-day absences, not partial-day checkouts or time lost during class. At the high school level, these period absences are critical, especially during the first hours of the day when core classes such as English, math, science, and social studies are taught. Missing even part of these classes has a direct impact on academic progress.

In high school, missing more than 10 minutes of a class period counts as an absence for that class. Because our class periods are typically around 45 minutes long, missing 10 minutes means the student has missed over 20% of the instructional time for that class. The recommended guideline for a one-hour class is a maximum of 10 minutes and our classes are shorter. As a result, students who leave class for non-emergency reasons accumulate class-period absences quickly, and these absences do count toward the 10-day limit for earning credit in that course.

These lost minutes matter. When students leave class unnecessarily, they miss direct instruction, practice time, explanations, and guided work. Over time, these small absences add up, putting students at risk of falling behind in critical subjects. Students who exceed the allowed number of absences will receive a grade but will not receive credit for the course, requiring them to retake the class or enroll in credit recovery. Frequent interruptions not only disrupt learning but jeopardize students' academic progress and graduation pathways.

Class Attendance Reminder: Credit Will Not Be Awarded if Too Much Class Time Is Missed

We want to remind families of an important high school attendance requirement: students must be present for a minimum number of instructional hours in order to earn credit for a course. If a student misses more than 10 days of a class period, they will receive a grade but will not earn credit, even if all classwork has been completed.

When reviewing absences, we will consider excused absences supported by a doctor's note and cases of documented illness. However, once a student reaches 10 total absences, whether excused or unexcused, they must provide a doctor's note for every additional absence. Without a doctor's note, the absence cannot be excused for reporting purposes.

In accordance with state law, chronic absence must be reported. If a student continues to miss class without a doctor's note after reaching the 10-day limit, the school is required to report the student for chronic absenteeism. This applies to all students who exceed the absence threshold without proper documentation.

Students who lose credit due to excessive absences must make up the class. They may retake the course the following school year at no cost, or they may enroll in a credit-recovery or remedial option, which is offered during summer or the next semester at the parent's expense.

Let's Celebrate Student Success



Cheyenne Hoeting Goes to State in Cross County

We are thrilled to celebrate one of our outstanding seniors, Cheyenne Hoeting, for her incredible performance at the KSHSAA State Cross Country Meet in Wamego. Competing against a strong field of 94 runners, Cheyenne finished an impressive 24th overall, crossing the line with a remarkable time of 22:01.

This achievement highlights her dedication, discipline, and the hard work she has put in throughout her high school career. What a powerful way to represent her senior year!



We are proud and excited to announce that the following students tried out for and made the NW District KMEA Honor Choir and Band:

Katara Schreiber
Paytyn McNulty
Brenna Odle
Shae Yohon
Skylar Amlong
Lina Gaffney

Congratulations to these talented students on this outstanding achievement!

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to their teacher, Megan Riener, for her dedication and the incredible work she does for our school and students.



On November 13th, Stockton Schools proudly sent 18 talented students to participate in the annual Math Relays. This event brought together bright minds from across the region, and our students stood out not only for their academic skill but also for their teamwork, determination, and Tiger pride.

We are especially proud to recognize several outstanding accomplishments from the competition. Vince Thayer, Meredith Gasper, and Lina Gaffney earned an impressive 5th place finish as a team, showcasing their combined strengths and problem-solving abilities. In addition, Lina Gaffney placed 10th individually, a remarkable achievement in a highly competitive field.

We extend a huge congratulations to all of our participants for representing Stockton with such dedication and excellence. Their hard work reflects the strength of our academic programs and the pride we have in our students.



Celebrating Our Fall Sports Teams



As the fall season comes to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and spirit shown by our student-athletes across every level. This season has been filled with growth, teamwork, and Tiger pride, and each team has played an important role in making it a memorable fall for our school community.

Our Junior High Volleyball Team demonstrated impressive determination and sportsmanship throughout the season. From mastering new skills to working together on the court, these athletes showed tremendous growth and represented Stockton with energy and heart.

The Junior High Football and Cheer Team brought strength, discipline, and teamwork to every practice and game. Their effort, resilience, and commitment to improving each week made this season a strong foundation for their future athletic success.

At the high school level, our Volleyball Team displayed incredible hustle, communication, and perseverance. Their dedication to the game, both in competition and in practice, highlights the passion and leadership within our program.

Our High School Football, Cheer, Band, and Dance Team also showed remarkable effort and determination, facing challenges head-on and pushing themselves to grow individually and as individual teams. Their hard work, pride, and teamwork have inspired younger athletes and brought our community together under those Friday night lights.

Fall sports are more than wins and losses—they build character, confidence, and friendships that last well beyond the season. We are proud of every athlete who represented Stockton this fall and grateful for the coaches, families, and fans who supported them along the way.



The Stockton FFA began the year with the officers going on their annual retreat in July, which was in Salt Lake City, UT.

-In August, they put up their FFA Fair Booth at the county fair, and cut up watermelons for the Watermelon Feed.

-In September, they competed in Dairy Cattle judging in Colby, then won both the NWD Land Judging contest and the NWD Homesite contests held in Quinter.

In the Land Judging contest out of 124 people and 21 teams

Skylar Amlong placed 2nd,

Kolby Dix placed 3rd,

Mia Odle placed 4th, and

Piper Creighton placed 6th.

In the Homesite Judging contest out of 81 people and 16 teams

Mia Odle placed 1st,

Kolby Dix placed 2nd,

Piper Creighton placed 5th,

Brenna Odle placed 6th, and

Skylar Amlong placed 7th.

-They also won the NW Area Homesite Judging contest and qualified for the National competition held in May, and placed 2nd in Land Judging. In the land competition out of 107 people and 13 teams

Piper Creighton placed 2nd,

Isaac Thayer placed 5th,

Mia Odle placed 6th,

Skylar Amlong placed 8th, and

Brenna Odle placed 10th.

In the homesite contest out of 73 people and 9 teams

Mia Odle placed 1st,

Kolby Dix placed 2nd,

Piper Creighton placed 3rd,

Isaac Thayer placed 4th, and

Skylar Amlong placed 9th.

-And volunteered at the NOVA theater.

-In October, The Ag Leadership class helped with the Rooks County Farm Bureau's "Day on the Farm" at the fairgrounds. Where they taught county grade schoolers about seed germination.

-The FFA Greenhands attended the NWD FFA Greenhand Conference held in Hays, where Lyllyn McNulty won the FFA Spelldown.

-Held Goblin's Glory at the high school.

-Attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

-And volunteered at the NOVA theater.

In November, they competed in Logan at the Milk Quality & Food Science contests, with Mia Odle placing 5th in Food Science.

-Then in Norton at the NWD Vet Science and NWD Ag Business Management contests, where the Senior Team placed 2 out of 28 teams, with Mia Odle placing 5th and Shae Yohon placing 6th. Vince Thayer also placed 9th in the Ag Business Management contest.

Celebrating the People Who Make Stockton Extraordinary

As we reflect on this school year so far, one thing is clear: we have so much to celebrate when it comes to our staff and our community. The dedication, pride, and heart shown by the people who serve our students each day deserve to be recognized and appreciated.

A huge shout-out goes to our maintenance and janitorial crew, who worked all summer and fall completing projects that needed attention throughout the year. Their efforts, often behind the scenes, ensure that our buildings are safe, functional, and ready for learning every single day. We appreciate all four of you more than words can say.

To our teachers and paras, thank you for giving your best day after day. You step in to cover classes when substitutes aren't available, often giving up your own planning time or even your lunch to make sure students continue to learn. Your flexibility, teamwork, and dedication do not go unnoticed.

We also want to recognize our bus drivers, many of whom work additional jobs yet still devote their time to transporting students safely to and from school and activities. Their reliability and care make a tremendous impact on our students' daily lives.

Our secretaries keep everything running smoothly, managing the constant movement, questions, and needs of a busy school system. Their organization and patience are the backbone of our buildings.

To our cafeteria staff, thank you for making sure our students are fed and cared for every day, even while working with limited staff and tight schedules. Your efforts fuel our students, literally and support their ability to learn.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to our administrators, Mrs. Moffet and Mrs. Green, who work tirelessly alongside teachers and students. They put in countless hours beyond the school day, leading with dedication and care to create a positive learning environment.

We also want to acknowledge our Board of Education. These individuals volunteer their time for a role that is far from easy. They face challenges, make difficult decisions, and remain focused on the big picture improving student learning, strengthening our district, and protecting our long-term success. From shoveling snow last winter, to helping move equipment to save the district money, to countless acts of service that no one ever sees, their commitment to the school, community, and students is extraordinary.

And finally, to our community: thank you for stepping up in so many ways. From filling coaching positions to helping with extracurricular events and providing valuable support where needed, your willingness to help has made a tremendous difference. It truly does take a village, and we are grateful for every person who contributes their time, energy, and heart to make Stockton Schools stronger.

To every staff member and every community supporter, thank you. The work you do, seen and unseen, makes Stockton Schools a place where students can learn, grow, and thrive. We appreciate you, we value you, and we celebrate you.

High School Announces Security Upgrades to Enhance Campus Safety

Campus Safety

Our high school is committed to maintaining a safe, secure environment for all students and staff. As part of that commitment, we are implementing several significant upgrades to our building's security systems. These updates will strengthen building access, improve monitoring abilities, and support a safer daily experience for everyone on campus.

Expanded Camera Coverage

Over the past several months, the school has installed new, high-resolution cameras throughout hallways and around the exterior of the building. These improved cameras offer clearer visuals and wider coverage, enabling administrators to more effectively monitor activity, respond to concerns, and investigate incidents when needed. This enhancement has already proven helpful in supporting our efforts to maintain a safe learning environment.

New Tap-Entry Door System

In addition to updated camera technology, all exterior doors and classroom doors are now equipped with a secure tap-entry system. Students will use their school-issued ID badges to access every door in the high school.

This update reduces the need to leave doors propped open—a safety risk—and ensures that only authorized individuals are entering classrooms and the building. It also helps the school maintain better control over student movement during the day.



Improved Accountability and Emergency Response

The new system supports safer building management in several ways. During emergencies, tap-entry data helps staff quickly identify where students may have traveled after leaving a classroom. Additionally, in situations involving vandalism, such as the incidents we have experienced this year in bathrooms and locker rooms, the system assists administrators in determining who was in the area at the relevant time.

Student ID Expectations

Students are expected to carry their school ID at all times. IDs should not be shared or given to others. Allowing another student to use an ID is a serious security concern and will result in consequences.

If a student loses their ID, a replacement may be purchased for a \$10 fee.

System Launch After Christmas Break

The updated security system will officially go into effect after Christmas Break. When students return from Winter Break, staff will review the new procedures, expectations, and door-entry processes with all students to ensure everyone understands how the system works.

Our Ongoing Commitment

While it is unfortunate that today's world requires more advanced security measures, the safety and well-being of our students remain our highest priority. These improvements allow us to create a more secure, supportive learning environment where students can focus on what matters most—their education.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and support as we implement these important changes.



USD 271 Welcomes First-Ever Social Media Intern

USD 271 is proud to announce Cheyenne Hoeting as the district's very first Social Media Intern. This new role reflects the district's commitment to student leadership, communication, and career-ready learning.

As Social Media Intern, Cheyenne assists with creating positive and informative content that highlights student activities, academic achievements, athletics, and special events across USD 271. She helps capture photos, write posts, and promote the many great things happening in our school community while learning valuable skills in digital communication, responsibility, and professionalism.

Cheyenne's work helps strengthen the connection between the school, families, and the community by sharing timely updates and celebrating student success. Her creativity, reliability, and willingness to learn have made her a great fit for this inaugural position.

USD 271 congratulates Cheyenne Hoeting on this achievement and thanks her for helping set a strong foundation for this new opportunity.

Applications for the Social Media Intern position will be available to juniors and seniors for the 2026–2027 school year after spring break. Students interested in communications, marketing, photography, or media are encouraged to apply.



Congratulations Cheyenne, and thank you for representing USD 271 so well!



Winter Is Coming: Stay Informed About School Closures and Bus Mud Routes

As winter approaches, we want to remind families how important it is to stay informed during severe weather. School closures, delays, and transportation changes can happen quickly when snow, ice, heavy rain, or melting snow create unsafe driving conditions. All announcements will be shared on our district's official media pages, and notifications will be sent directly to the phone numbers and email addresses listed in PowerSchool. Please take a few moments to log in and verify that your contact information is correct. Accurate information ensures you receive important updates without delay.

When weather makes county roads too dangerous for regular bus routes, the district will implement mud routes. These modified routes allow buses to stay on safe, accessible roads while still providing pickup and drop-off points for students. Families who live on roads prone to mud, snow, or washout conditions should plan to use their designated mud route stop whenever a weather alert is issued. Below is the current mud route information for each bus:

Bus #22

Woodston Co-Op

Pickup: 7:15 AM Drop Off: 4:05 PM

22 Rd & Hwy 24

Pickup: 7:25 AM Drop Off: 3:55 PM

Wiggles

Pickup: 7:35 AM Drop Off: 3:40 PM

Donna

Drop Off: 3:45 PM

Bus #11

R Rd & Hwy 183

Pickup: 7:20 AM Drop Off: 3:55 PM

Vet Center
on Hwy 24

Pickup: 7:35 AM Drop Off: 3:45 PM

Bus #20

12 Rd & Hwy 24

Pickup: 7:25 AM Drop Off: 3:50 PM

We encourage families to arrive at mud route locations a few minutes early, as buses must stay on schedule and cannot wait due to road conditions. Your cooperation helps keep all students safe during winter weather and ensures that transportation runs as smoothly as possible.

**JOIN US FOR THE SUBSTITUTE JOB FAIR – FEBRUARY 16TH
BECOME PART OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY!**

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE
SCENES IN OUR SCHOOLS? ARE YOU SEEKING A FLEXIBLE WAY TO SUPPORT
STUDENTS, STAFF, AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY? WE WARMLY INVITE
YOU TO ATTEND OUR SUBSTITUTE JOB FAIR!**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 16TH
TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
COME AND ENGAGE WITH US AND OUR FANTASTIC STAFF!**

**WE ARE CURRENTLY IN SEARCH OF SUBSTITUTES IN VARIOUS AREAS,
INCLUDING:**



**CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
BUS DRIVERS
JANITORIAL STAFF
CAFETERIA STAFF**



AT THE JOB FAIR, YOU'LL DISCOVER:

**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING OPTIONS
LICENSING AND REQUIREMENTS
TRAINING AND NEXT STEPS
INSIGHTS INTO WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE TO WORK IN A SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT**

**WHETHER YOU'RE EXPLORING A NEW OPPORTUNITY, LOOKING FOR EXTRA
INCOME, OR SIMPLY WANT TO LEARN MORE, THIS IS A FANTASTIC CHANCE
TO SEE HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—ON YOUR TERMS.**

**JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, STAFF, AND
COMMUNITY. EVEN DEDICATING JUST ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME CAN CREATE
A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT!**

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR DISTRICT SITE COMMITTEE FOR THIS
WONDERFUL INITIATIVE AND THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOLS.**