

We Have Cardinal Pride



Showcasing Student Artwork



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- Superintendent's Update
 - Elementary Updates
 - Middle-High School Updates
 - FFA Update
 - Community Education
 - Strategic Planning Update
- And more!

Dear Spring Valley Community,



John Groh
(715) 778-5551
grohj@springvalley.k12.wi.us

From the
Superintendent's Desk

From everyone at the School District of Spring Valley, we hope this newsletter finds you and your family well! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with some timely information, spark interest, and hopefully give you more reasons to be proud of the students and staff of SDSV. Much has developed since the Fall 2023 newsletter. Here are some highlights from my perspective:

Spring Valley's Report Card Growth Outpaces Others!

In November the Department of Public Instruction released the results of the 2023 accountability report cards. These measure the combined performance of all students in grades 3-11 who took the tests. SDSV's results were impressive. SDSV saw larger gains than any of the other eight districts in the Dunn-St. Croix Conference. SDSV earned a ranking 105 out of the 420 districts across Wisconsin, putting the district in the top 25%. To add to that our elementary, middle, and high schools received an "Exceeds Expectations" rating!

There are many reasons for these results. Some of the key reasons are as follows:

- *A yearlong focus on three district wide goals that centered around strengthening literacy, mathematics, and meaningful connections for all students
- *Investment in professional development for teachers and staff
- *Implementation of best practices for instruction
- *Effective use of student learning data throughout the year that led to changes in instruction
- *Teachers collaborating to try new approaches to reach all students
- *Strong leadership from the principals and district interventionist
- *Investment in new curriculum
- *School Board prioritized student learning and support for staff
- *A lot of hard work and focus by our students, staff, and families

Our challenge for this year is to build off this success. Our 2023-24 goals relate to mathematics, literacy, and attendance. It takes sustained effort and is not easy, but worth it. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

Unexpected Good News!

My message in the fall newsletter asked each of you to consider contacting your state legislators. The purpose was to share your opinion on the 2017 WI Act 141. This statute penalizes districts that fail an operating referendum by not allowing them to receive any low revenue increases. In six out of the last eight years, legislators have approved a \$0 increase to per pupil funding. This past summer, they did something unexpected . . . they raised the low revenue limit per pupil. However, because of Act 141, Spring Valley would be banned from seeing this increase for three consecutive years beginning this year.

This is where the good news comes in. Due to a technicality in the language of the state budget approved in 2023, Spring Valley and a handful of other districts in the state were informed that they would receive the increase. For SDSV, this means an increase of approximately \$500 per pupil. This increase has bought the district some time and in effect helped delay the need to return to an operating referendum this spring. It is likely that there will be a need in the future, but not this year! The 2017 WI Act 141 is still law. It will continue to impact districts into the future, so please consider reaching out to your state legislators and share your thoughts. To find your legislators visit this website: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials>

SDSV Facilities - Planning for the Future

Overall most district facilities are in good condition and well maintained. However, there are some exceptions. For that reason the School Board recently interviewed facility planning/project management firms. Nexus Solutions was chosen to partner with the district in examining needs, creating plans, listening to the community about what they want, and incorporating feedback to implement a plan to move forward. Some questions that will be asked include:

- *What are wants vs. needs?
- *When is the best time to make repairs and improvements?
- *Do our facilities meet the needs for a 21st century education?
- *How will we pay for projects?

Look for updates to come over the next few months and throughout 2024. Your input is critical to helping the district create a long range plan that best serves the needs of our students and meets the standards of the community. If you are interested in serving on a facilities advisory committee, please reach out to me anytime.

Thank you and **Go Cardinals!**

John Groh
SDSV Superintendent

Thank You For Your Donations

Donations were made to the Scholarship Fund by the following:

Dean & Susan Timm in memory of Laura Severson, Susan Dahm, LaVonne Hampton & Darlene Timm

Frances Ellefson in memory of Mary Bol

Roger & Bonnie Timm in memory of Roland Larson

In memory of Logan Jacobson: Jill and Bill Klanderma, Desire and Jeremy Passe, Heidi and Mike Jacobson

Matt & Mary Huepfel in memory of Anne Ellefson Jensen

Other Donations:

Backpack Program

The Spillway
Vanasse Transport
Michael & Claudia Traynor
Shawn & April Miller

Women's Missionary Foundation Junior Class

Thomas & Sharon Fontana
Elementary Birthday Books

SVE Parents' Club

Thank you for your continued support and donations!

School District of Spring Valley,
C/O Scholarship Fund or SVEF,
S1450 County Road CC
Spring Valley, WI, 54767

Donations made to the Spring

Valley Education Foundation, Inc.

In memory of Mary Louise Olson
Gerald & Erlene Barriault
Kristen & Nhan Tran
Delmer & Sandy Blegen
Emily Lyon-Hansen & George Hansen
Dean Blegen
Kjersti & Brian Duncan
Family & friends of Mary
Thomas & Bonnie Carroll

Gerald & Erlene Barriault in memory of Donald Richardson & Rita Jensen

Kevin & Peggy Larson in memory of Sharon VandenBerge

Bill & Julie Richardson, Susan Reese, and Bob & Mary Ann Richardson in memory of Russell M. Spence

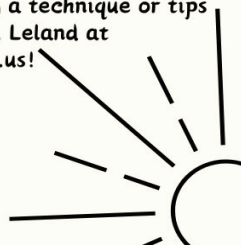
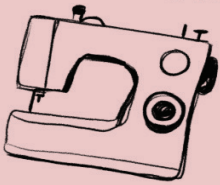
You Can Make a Difference

For many years, the Spring Valley Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund has worked hard to build a strong scholarship program, providing post-secondary scholarships for students of the Spring Valley School District wishing to further their education. Your support, at any value, will continue to provide scholarships for our students! Likewise, the Education Foundation gives back to the district in grants for student-focused needs. Donations can be made at any time! Please make checks payable to: "Spring Valley Schools Scholarship Fund" or "Spring Valley Education Foundation." For more information, please contact Chris Segerstrom at 715-778-5554.



Sewing Donations Welcome!

With the addition of our new sewing and baking class this spring, the art department would gladly take donations of any unused fabric that is in good condition. Small ironing boards, irons, and embroidery hoops are also needed. If you are interested in volunteering in a sewing class, maybe sharing a technique or tips and tricks, please reach out to Mrs. Leland at lelandb@springvalley.k12.wi.us!



Thank You
Newton
Earthworks &
Softscapes for
donating the
beautiful greenery
for our pots in front
of our buildings!



The School District of Spring Valley has partnered with CareSolace, an online portal for mental health resources. They hold the family's hands through the mental health care process. They can match based on insurance needs, language preferences, and more! This service goes beyond the school and is open to the community. There is a link on the school web page for CareSolace's CareMatch program, an anonymous self-serve tool to find mental health resources. CareSolace is not a crisis response team. If you or someone you know faces a mental health crisis, please contact your local law enforcement or reach out to a national hotline.



- ~National Suicide Prevention Lifeline- 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK)
- ~National Hopeline Network- 1-800-784-2433 (1-800-273-SUICIDE)
- ~Child Abuse Hotline- 800-422-4453 (800-4-A-CHILD)
- ~National Domestic Violence Hotline- 800-799-7233
- ~Trevor Helpline- 1-866-488-7386 (1-866-4-U-TREVOR)
- ~Crisis Text Line- Text HOME to 741741

CareMatch Link:

<https://caresolace.com/site/springvalleysd>



Middle/High School News



Shell Lake Arts Center Middle School Honors Band was Thursday, November 2nd. Students from all over traveled to Shell Lake for a day of concert music practice and performed a concert that evening. Congratulations to McKenna, Grace, Emma L., Naomi, Brynn, & Emma M.



Danika, Danny, Merideth, & Lana participated in the UW-Eau Claire High School Honors Band on Saturday, November 4th. Many students from area schools traveled to the Pablo Center where they practiced during the day and performed a concert that night.

Homecoming Court



Freshmen Royalty: Kate & Sam, Sophomore Royalty: Kamdynn & Toby, Junior Royalty: Isabella & Caleb, Senior Royalty: Hannah & Joel, Mara & Kaden, Queen Charli & King Wyatt.

SVMS Donates To Community Cancer Fund

SV Middle School Student Council representatives presented a check to the SV Community Cancer Fund from the proceeds of their recent Pink Out Dance!



A big thanks to our Seniors for picking apples for the entire district so we could participate in the Great Lakes Apple Crunch! Seniors spent a morning at Happy Earth Orchard picking apples. They picked 700 apples for staff and students to enjoy!





Build My Future Event
 Mr. Stimmel took over 30 Juniors and Seniors to the "Build My Future" event at the St. Croix County Fair Grounds. Students had a great time! This gives students the opportunity to spend a day in the construction industry through a hands-on interactive showcase. Student activities included educational displays, equipment operations, and learning labs. The students had a great time!



Student Council Collects Canned Goods

On Halloween, the Student Council members collected canned goods for their annual Trick-or-Treat for canned goods community service project. This year, over 1,172 pounds were collected for the local Spring Valley Food Pantry. Pictured is one of the groups. Thank you to everyone that donated for a great cause!



National Honors Society Hosts Blood Drive

On November 17, 2023, the Spring Valley National Honor Society students hosted a blood drive at the school. It was an extremely successful day. We had 25 high school students, 19 staff members, and many community members donate. Many were first time donors. We collected 61 units of blood and when divided into 3 separate blood components, there is the potential to help up to 183 patients in need. We hope everyone had a wonderful experience and hope we will see them all again next fall! The National Honor Society will be helping with the upcoming blood drives on Friday, February 23, 2024 at the Spring Valley Ambulance Bay and on April 19, 2024 at the St. John's Lutheran Church. Please consider signing up to donate at one of these future drives. The American Red Cross has a very generous scholarship program for our high school seniors. The more blood collected at these upcoming drives, the more they give our students. Mark your calendars and watch for notifications in the near future!



We would also like to thank the following local businesses who helped make our blood drive so successful – Spring Valley Drug and Hardware, A Butchery Shoppe, Nana's Spring Valley Bakery, Subway, Team Oil, and MBC Sports.

~Karen Fesenmaier, NHS Advisor



Elementary News

Fun in First Grade

National Children's Book Week is an age old tradition. Celebrated since 1919, it is devoted to spreading the word about children's literature and encouraging the love of reading. Annually, Spring Valley Elementary 1st graders celebrate books and reading through several stories and activities that help them discover the importance of reading in their lives. 1st graders brought their favorite books to school to share, dressed as a favorite book character, created book bag reports, and challenged themselves to read at least 400 books throughout the week. First graders also read many different versions of the Cinderella story and had a Cinderella Ball. Students dressed up and danced away. They enjoyed face painting and snacks. Another fun thing was learning about the first Thanksgiving and having a Thanksgiving feast. Our 1st graders have been busy!



"Before we ever put a pencil in a child's hands, those hands should dig, climb, press, pull, squish, twist, and pinch in a wide array of environments and with a variety of materials." - Amanda Morgan. Kindergarten sensory art explores just that. This time creates the opportunity for kids to explore in an authentic and meaningful way where the teacher is the guide on the side rather than demonstrating a specific lesson. Each week there are materials set out so that the children can enter the setting, be it in the art room or outside and be free to investigate on their own.



Kindergarten friends had fun with their watermelon snack. They used it to estimate and measure throughout the week and then they were able to enjoy it!





Shout out to Mr. Stimmel!
He volunteered his time and talent to help Spring Valley's Cub Scout troop create their Pinewood Derby Cars.

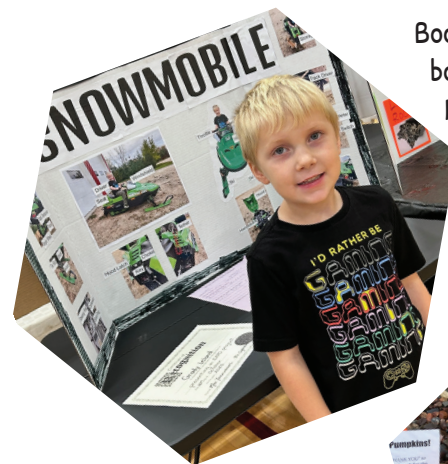


Shout-out to Angie Rud with Star Belgians. Our elementary students had so much fun with her on horse-drawn wagon rides!



EXPO Fun

SVE EXPO was held in October. Students had so much fun sharing their projects, watching Mrs. Dykhouse and Mrs. Fesenmaier get a pie in the face, participating in other activities, and the shopping at Book Fair. Thank you to both Kevin Kroning and Iron Ridge Ranch for their donations of pumpkins! Thank you to all of our staff who made this fun night possible!



Cardinal Sports



Congratulations to the Cardinal Football team! They ended the regular season 8-3 and made it to level 2 in the playoffs.



Congratulations to the Spring Valley Volleyball team for going undefeated 8-0 in the Dunn-St. Croix Conference and winning conference! Way to go, Cards!



10 student athletes attended the Dunn-St. Croix Conference Sportsmanship Summit. Students participated in hands-on learning activities to help them grow as leaders!



Photo courtesy of Jacob Maes Photography

The 2023 Cross Country season ended very well for the majority of our athletes. Many athletes achieved all-time personal records and improved in over half of the races this season. We had many first-year athletes show improvements over the course of the season and achieve their goals each race. I would like to thank the following seniors for their time and dedication to the Spring Valley Cross Country Program:

Brody Gregg, Travis Koenning, Colton Hoyt, Mason Zimmerman, and Aidan O'Meara.

Congratulations to Brody on his 12th place finish at the Dunn-St. Croix Conference Cross Country Invitational! Brody received the Second Team All Conference award! ~ Coach Ricketts

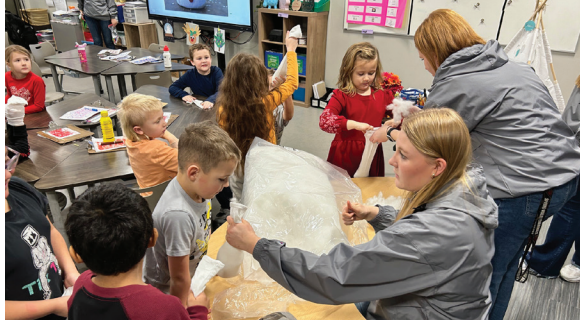


Congratulations to the Vallettes on a successful season so far! They participated most recently in the Western WI Conference Competition where they placed 1st in Jazz, 3rd in Pom, 2nd place in the Dunn-St. Croix Conference. Congratulations

to Abby on her 1st place solo, Dani on her 3rd place solo, and to Abby, Dani, and Danielle for making it on the 1st Team All-Conference!

FFA NEWS

Spring Valley FFA has been hard at work for the past 4 months! Ms. Anderson and the chapter officers have had the opportunity to plan various activities. This year our chapter has roughly 68 members! Some of the events we have put on this year include the FFA Hayride, our annual fruit sale, a craft night at the Pierce County Light Up the Fair event, and Elementary Ag Day. During the Light Up the Fair event, we made small pinecone Christmas trees and cards for the Spring Valley care center with event attendees. For the Elementary Ag Day with K-2nd grade students, we gave them a short lesson on sheep and wool, made and decorated sock snowmen out of wool socks, and had a snack. Our officer team started an annual member of the month award where members nominate other members that they see going above and beyond.



Some of our upcoming events include our LDE (Leadership Development Events), which are public speaking events, and our CDE (Career Development Events), which are agriculture based competitions. We are excited about a trip to the World's Toughest Rodeo for current FFA members. We are also planning another Elementary Ag Day with grades 3-5. Coming up in February, our chapter will be celebrating National FFA Week. Officers select dress up days and the rest of the school can participate and dress up! Member and officer Jordan Lamb was recently selected into the Next Gen Agricultural Communications Conference in Dallas, Texas held in March. She had to undergo a competitive application process to be one of the few people selected to attend! Member and officer Jaci Mader was also recently selected as one of the top recipients for the National FFA SAE Grant. After a competitive application process, she was awarded \$1000 to spend on her purebred dairy goat operation. She states that she plans to spend this money on "An aluminum Dairy Goat stand and two goat kids." It has been an amazing few months for our FFA chapter and the members are looking forward to what the future holds!



Veterans Day

A big shout-out to everyone involved with our Veterans Day. Thank you to the crew that brought in the Vietnam War helicopter, SV Legion Post 227, Mr. Janassen for the great message, and others who helped make the program successful. A special "Thank You" to the Veterans in attendance as well!



Regular Open Enrollment 2024-2025

Opens midnight February 5, 2024 and

Closes at 4 p.m. April 30, 2024

Guidance for Parents and Guardians:

* Parents and guardians may complete open enrollment applications online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

* Parents are limited to no more than three applications to nonresident school districts for each child during the open enrollment application period.

* Applications must be filled out completely and accurately. Contact the local school district office or DPI if assistance is needed in completing the application.

* Parents may request enrollment in a specific school or program in the nonresident school district. However, enrollment is subject to space and other limitations and is not guaranteed.

* Most students who attended a nonresident school district under open enrollment in the current school year (2023-24) are not required to reapply for the 2024-25 school year. However, if the student will be entering middle school, junior high school, or high school in the 2024-25 school year, parents should call the nonresident school district to find out if reapplication will be required.

* Parents may apply for their children to attend 4-year-old kindergarten under open enrollment only if the resident school district also offers a 4-year-old kindergarten program for which the child is eligible.

NOTICE OF ELECTION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SPRING VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION - APRIL 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of Spring Valley on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for a school board member is three years beginning on April 22, 2024.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Board Member	Sandy Jacobs
Board Member	Jennelle Wolf

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in the office of the school district clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

A description of the school district boundary may be obtained from the school district office.

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Done in the School District of Spring Valley on November 14, 2023
Sandy Jacobs,
School District Clerk

Pancake Supper

February 13, 2024

5:00—7:00 P.M.

Spring Valley High School

**Boys Basketball vs. Elk Mound
C Team & JV @ 5:45 p.m. (both SVE)
Varsity @ 7:15 p.m. (MS/HS)**

**Girls Basketball vs. Cumberland
Varsity @ 5:30 p.m. (MS/HS)**



**Menu:
Pancakes, Sausage,
Applesauce, Bars,
Beverages
Pure Maple Syrup**

Free Will Offering

The Spring Valley School District Staff is hosting a Pancake Supper to raise money for scholarships for seniors. Come out and help support the staff scholarship!

New Cardinal Kids and Wrap-Around Director

My name is Sylvia Holmstrom, and I'm the new Cardinal Kids Club director. I am super excited to be a part of the Spring Valley School District! I hold a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in child advocacy studies, through Winona State University. I am actively achieving my master's degree in clinical social work, emphasizing children. Some of my hobbies outside of school include spending time outdoors, such as camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and spending time with my friends and family. I look forward to meeting and connecting with the staff, the kiddos, and the community.



Cardinal Kids Club and Wrap-Around

* **Cardinal Kids Club** is a before/after school and summer program offered for students in 4K through 6th grade. A variety of activities, field trips, STEM activities, art and crafts, and so much more are offered each day. Students are given the opportunity to grow through play and exploration. School year hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Summer hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rates vary per session.

* **Wrap-Around** is a curriculum based, educational experience for students enrolled in 4K during the academic year. Students learn through play, sensory, STEM activities, and arts and crafts each day. Students are fed lunch and walked to their afternoon 4K classroom. Hours of operation are 7:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Rate of care \$20/day. Contact Sylvia with questions or to enroll: holmstroms@springvalley.k12.wi.us or 715-778-3111.

Community Education

To Register, Contact:

Eric Johnson
Spring Valley
Community Education
715-778-3185

johnsone@springvalley.k12.wi.us
S1450 County Rd CC, SV



ADULT OPEN GYM

Are you looking to get back in shape? Join us for some fun, yet competitive basketball. All ages above 18 are welcome. We can play two courts if there are 16 or more players; which happens often. Hope to see you on the court. Register with Eric (info above)!

Days: Wednesdays
Time: 7:00-9:00pm
Dates: Through March 27th
Location: Spring Valley High School Gym
Fee: \$1.00/night or \$10.00 for the year

Little Dribblers

1st & 2nd Grade Boys & Girls Instructional Youth Basketball

It's time for some basketball! The high school boys and girls basketball teams will be helping to instruct our 1st & 2nd graders in the fundamental skills of basketball in a fun and encouraging format. Have your kids gather their friends and join in the fun!

Days: Mondays, February 19, 26, March 4
Who: Boys and Girls in 1st and 2nd Grade
Time: 6:30 ~ 7:30 pm
Location: SV Elementary Gym
Cost: Free!!
Please register with Eric by February 16th (info above)

Spring Training

Are you eager to start throwing and hitting to get ready for baseball season? Spring Training is right around the corner. Find your glove and bring a bat if you have one and let's start practicing.

Grade/Time: 3rd grade - 2:00-3:00pm
4th grade - 3:00-4:00pm
5th grade - 4:00-5:00pm
6th grade - 5:00-6:00pm
7th grade - 6:00-7:00pm
8th grade - 7:00-8:00pm

Location: Elementary gym
Cost \$4.00/time or \$10 for all three dates.
Contact Eric for dates.

Middle School Trips on No School Days!

Monday, February 19th -
Trollhaugen - Tubing

More information to follow!

FAMILY OPEN GYM

This is a great opportunity for families to play together or kids in grades to 3rd to 12th grade to get more court time. This is a supervised open gym. There will be at least one lower basket for younger players. Any kids below 3rd grade must be accompanied by an adult. Find your basketball shoes and join fun! Register with Eric (info above)!

Days: Sundays
Time: 6:30-8:00pm
Dates: November 13th - March 26th
Location: Spring Valley Elementary Gym
Fee: Free!

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

The season is not over yet... the 3 on 3 season is just getting started! Team captains/coaches will be contacted by Friday 4/4 with first game time. T-shirts for division champs!

Date: Saturday, April 6th
Location: Spring Valley Elementary Gym
Cost: \$56 per team (4 players/team)

Girls/Boys Divisions: Grades 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th (divisions determined by registration)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 29th
@ 4:00pm
To Register or Questions: Contact Eric Johnson (info above)

CPR FOR BLS PROVIDER

This course is designed for the healthcare provider to help them learn the principles of adult, child, and infant CPR. Course includes Automatic External Defibrillator training. Upon completion of the course, the graduate will be able to correctly perform CPR according to the New American Heart Association standards. This class will take place at the Spring Valley Fire and EMS Hall. Please call 715-778-4452 x1 or email svaa@svtel.net for more information on date and time!

WALKING FOR HEALTH

The school will provide you with a safe place to do some walking. Both the elementary and middle/high school buildings are connected, and provide a long indoor walking path. Just stop outside the high school office at the bulletin board. Sign in and grab a lanyard. Days are Monday through Friday from 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 4:00-8:00 p.m. We hope to see you soon!

TAE KWON DO

Now is the time to try this alternative form of exercise and learn how to defend yourself at the same time. You are welcome to come and observe the class and then decide whether you want to join. This is a year round class. The instructors are: Jerome Wittig, Pam Rathbun and Kevin Kerr. Any questions please call Pam at 715-279-0511.

Days: Wednesdays
Time: 5:00-6:30pm
Location: Spring Valley Elementary
Fee: \$25; K-5th grade
\$30; 6th grade-Adult

OPEN PICKLE BALL FOR ADULTS

Here is a great opportunity for some fun exercise. Join in on the fastest growing game in the US. It is a game that combines aspects of tennis, ping pong and badminton into one game. Paddles and balls will be available to use. Find some tennis shoes and comfortable clothes and join us! No registration necessary. Courts available for beginners and experienced players.

Dates: Sundays thru March 24th
Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Location: SV High School Gym
Cost: Free!



SPRING VALLEY CARDINAL QUILTERS

They meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to exchange ideas and instill an interest in quilting for area residents through inspiration, community service and education in quilt making. All new beginner and experienced quilters are welcome. For more information, please call President Roaslie Sowatzke at 715-495-3698. \$15/year for projects. Room S101 at SVHS.

Heart Code CPR/First Aid Course

This course will review how to position the victim, ventilate and perform chest compressions. Upon completion of the course, the graduate will be able to correctly perform CPR according to the New American Heart Association standards. This course will also provide basic first aid skills and also teach how to provide basic care for injuries or illness until medical help takes over. This class will take place at the Spring Valley Fire and EMS Hall. Please call 715-778-4452 x1 or email svaa@svtel.net for more information on date and time!

Return Address:
School District of Spring Valley
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Spring Valley WI 54767-0249

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SDSV Strategic Plan Update

Strategic Plan Progress

In the fall of 2021, SDSV underwent a process to determine strategic goals. This process included listening to: community members through a survey and public meeting, students through a brainstorming session, and staff through meetings and surveys. The following six goals were adopted as strong themes identified from all of the gathered feedback:

- *Fiscal Planning for athletic & co-curricular facilities
- *Employee salary/benefits in the top 50% or higher when compared to other conference & area school districts
- *Develop a Family Consumer Science curriculum/life skills
- *Clear communication with students & families re: Academic & Career Planning
- *Examine possibilities to offer more clubs/activities
- *Professional development for staff

Over the past few years a significant amount of progress has been made toward goal achievement. For example there was a big focus on securing funds to address outdoor athletic and co-curricular facilities. This took place in the form of an April 2023 referendum. As many of you remember, the community voted and approximately 41% voted in favor of that plan. The purpose of the referendum was to give the community a chance to voice their level of support for the plan. The referendum feedback will help in making a plan that is better supported by the community in the future. Outdoor facilities will be examined and be part of a long-range facilities plan that will be developed over the next few months.

Another very important update relates to the goal centered around employee salary/benefits. Both the School Board and I take these strategic goals seriously. As we all know inflation over the past few years has made budgeting difficult. There is no more important resource in a school district than its teachers and staff. Staff salaries and benefits are the district's single largest expense. The primary purpose of last spring's operating referendum was to ensure that we can compensate our staff at a level that recognizes their value and keeps the district competitive in the very tight job market. All employees earned a raise last year, with certain groups seeing larger percent increases such as support staff.

If you are curious or passionate about any of the strategic goals and want more information, please let me know. I would like to hear what you think and where you think the districts should go.

Please reach out with any questions, ideas or thoughts and Go Cardinals!

- John Groh, SDSV Superintendent

Student artwork from the front cover:
eye-Madalyn (5th grade), landscape-Ada (4th grade), lady-Reese (10th grade), cake-harper (3rd grade), horse-Brent (10th grade), northern lights-Abby (12th grade), barn-Harper (7th grade), mountains-Gianna (7th grade), random eyes-Hannah (12th grade)