



Minne Lusa Elementary
2728 Ida Street
Omaha, NE 68112

Panthers In The News

Ms. Kim J. Jones
Principal, Minne Lusa Elementary

September, 2018

Principal Notes from Ms. Jones

Ms. Jones



Hello Parents/Guardians:

Mark Your Calendar

9/3/18 No School-Labor Day

9/5/18 MAP testing begins (1-5)

9/10/18 3rd grade to the Rose Theater 9:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

9/11/18 1st grade to Rose Theater 10-11 a.m.

9/13/18 Pre-K and Head Start only-No school

9/14/18 No School for students

9/17/18 No School for students

9/18-9/28/18 Charles Drew Health Van at Minne Lusa

9/19/18 School Store

9/20/18 Popeyes Family Night at Popeyes *proceeds go to Minne Lusa

9/24/18 Progress reports come home (3rd-5th grade only)

9/27/18 Open House 6-8 p.m.

10/5/18 Pastries for Parents 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Minne Lusa! We are excited to welcome 380 Panther students into the doors of Minne Lusa this year! Our school year kicked off to a great start at our Safe Walk to School Night with great family and community attendance! A few of our many school partnerships were represented with Boys Town, SpreeTails, Parent University (Learning Community), and our local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in attendance. We are fortunate to form a new Adopt-A-School Partnership with SpreeTails who provided every student with a backpack loaded with supplies! SpreeTails joins our other Adopt-A-School partners: Lozier, Student Transportation of America, Minne Lusa House, Parent University, Well-Managed Schools (Boys Town), and the Minne Lusa Homes Association.

We are also excited to welcome the following new staff members to Minne Lusa: Mr. Bonin (Vocal Music), Mr. Curtis (PE), Miss Andrew (Head Start), Mrs. Arkfeld (1st grade), Mrs. Jura (1st grade), Mrs. Hinman (2nd grade), Ms. Adams (3rd grade), Mrs. Thomas (3rd grade), Mr. Mancuso (5th grade), Miss Kaser (5th grade), Ms. Harrison (ELL), Mrs. Hatton (Nutrition Services), Mr. Gill and Mr. Moreno (Custodians), and our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Vobejda.

MAP testing for our 1st through 5th graders will begin Wednesday, 9/5/18 and run through the end of September. We have some great field trips coming up for many of our grade levels as we incorporate learning experiences outside of the school environment. Our intramural soccer students began practice this week!

Please mark your calendar to attend our Open House on Thursday, 9/27/18 from 6-8 p.m. I look forward to working with your child this year and continuing our focus on high expectations for staff and students, and creating an engaging learning environment in every classroom at Minne Lusa! *Our MTSS-B focus is: Being Respectful, Being Accountable for our Actions, and Being Safe each and every day!*

Please refer to the dates to the left (no school on 9/3, 9/14, and 9/17/18). No school for Pre-K and Head Start on 9/13/18, as well.

Facebook: For upcoming events and pictures of school activities please check our Facebook page! It is updated regularly and shows the great things that are happening at Minne Lusa!

Please feel free to call or stop by at any time! We encourage family participation and volunteering in our classrooms and school!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kim Jones, Principal Kimberly.jones@ops.org

Success Mentors: Minne Lusa has been selected to participate in Success Mentors Program. In this program, certain students have been matched with a staff member at Minne Lusa Elementary, who will meet with him/her at school. The mentor will act as a role model, source of encouragement and be another caring adult in your student's life. **Most importantly, this mentor will help support student's positive school attendance habits.** The activities and interactions between your child and their mentor will be closely monitored by school staff. We feel that these caring adult mentors will make an excellent contribution to the quality of education in our school. Please call or visit Mr. Vobejda should you have any questions and/ or comments.



Box Tops for Education: Help Minne Lusa raise additional funds for school assemblies, field trips, and supplies! Remember to save your box tops and turn in to the office. Thank you!

School Safety: Students will be practicing Minne Lusa's safety drills for Lock Downs and Lock Outs. Lock Down drills are when students are in their classroom with the door locked and practice hiding in an area away from windows and doors with no one admitted. A Lock Out drill is when doors are locked throughout the building and no one is allowed in the building. This would be put in place, for example, if OPD reported to us that there is an unsafe situation occurring in the neighborhood that requires students to be inside. During a Lock Out Drill school learning continues as usual. In addition, staff have been instructed to ask all visitors to our building for their visitor pass/badge. Families can assist us in this endeavor by consistently reporting to the office to sign in and receive a badge prior to visiting classrooms.

Phone calls during the day: Our office staff has been directed not to put calls through to teachers and/or students during the day in the effort to keep learning and teaching 100% on task. For each interruption that comes into a classroom it causes students to miss 5-10 minutes of learning, which includes time for teachers to get the class back on task. This is a district-wide practice that we are working hard to follow! If a parent needs to get ahold of a teacher and/or student Miss Brenda or Miss Jennifer in the office will happily take a message and make sure it is delivered to the teacher or student as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!

Arrival Time: As the weather gets cooler please remember that students should not arrive at Minne Lusa before 8:30 a.m. Doors open for Grab n Go at 8:30 a.m. School begins at 8:50 a.m. Please remember to have your children dress for cold weather as we will be going outside as often as possible, weather permitting.

Dismissal/Pick-Up Time: Please remember that school dismisses at 4:05 p.m. every day. It is important that all daycare vans and parents arrive on time to pick up the students. Staff is off duty at 4:25 p.m. daily and there is no one available to care for students after this time who are not picked up. The secretary will first try to contact the parent, then emergency contacts, and lastly police will be called if the child is not picked up by 4:35 p.m. This is the practice that is set by the district.

2018-2019 Annual Health Screenings: School health screenings are mandatory for all Nebraska school children from early childhood through 4th grade. The Minne Lusa Health Office staff will be conducting these Annual Health Screening throughout the school year. Screening includes height, weight (BMI), vision and hearing. You will receive a Health Screening Report Card when the screenings are complete.

“Strive For 95 “

The Omaha Public Schools is putting a major emphasis on the importance of school attendance. The district slogan this year is “strive for 95” which means the goal is for all students to attend school 95% of the school days throughout the 2018-2019 year. In order to accomplish this goal, students can miss no more than 9 days during the entire school year. It’s not only crucial that students attend school each day, but also arrive on time and stay until the end of the day. Missed instructional minutes due to tardies or leaving school early accumulate and eventually lead to days absent.

Facts about School Attendance

Many of our youngest students miss 10% of the school year-about 18 days a year or two days a month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists more than a year.

Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Starting in the early grades, the number of students missing 10 percent of school can reach remarkably high levels. Early absences can rob students of the time they need to develop literacy skills.

Tips:

- * Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
- * Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- * Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

Scheduling Appointments and Vacations

Remember that there are about 180 school days out of 365 total days in the year. Families are encouraged to take vacations during the ten weeks of summer vacation, two weeks near the holidays, or over the week break in the spring.

Schedule appointments after school hours or on the weekend. If you need to schedule an appointment during school hours, consult the school calendar to choose a day when students have the day off.

*****NEW THIS YEAR***: For all medical absences (Doctor, Dentist, etc.) students must have a doctor’s note for the absence to be counted as excused.**

If you have any attendance concerns or questions please contact Mr. Vobejda.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131