

Greetings! The start of a new school year is just around the corner and the Sleepy Eye Elementary School staff eagerly await another year of learning and fun!

My name is Ben Westphal. I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Sleepy Eye Elementary School Principal. I have previously worked at River Bend Education District in New Ulm, MN across behavior intervention, teaching, and program coordinator roles. I am excited to join a school community that values each child's potential to learn, grow, and succeed. I am committed to ensuring that Sleepy Eye Elementary provides engaging and individualized educational experiences and that each child and family feels welcome and supported.

Sleepy Eye Schools uses ONLINE REGISTRATION now, so the back-to-school packet is smaller. The forms included in this mailing are very important. Please take the time to review each page thoroughly. Please note that some forms are required to be returned to the school by the first day of school or the Open House due to not being available online. Other information sheets will be available at the Elementary Open House on August 12th, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm (e.g., season passes, United Way forms, etc.)

All new and returning K-6 students should enroll ONLINE by August 18th, 2025. Please visit our school website at: <https://www.sleepyeyeschools.com/registration/> to complete the enrollment process. This is required for your child to begin the school year at Sleepy Eye Elementary School.

Important Dates to Remember

- K-6 Open House: Tuesday, August 12th from 4:00-7:00 pm
- Elementary School Pictures (K-6): Taken during Open House on Aug 12th from 4:00-7:00 pm
- Pre-School- 3 year olds, 4 year olds, & ECFE: Pictures taken on Wed, September 3rd
- Kindergarten- Parent Meetings & Student Assessments: Mon, Aug 18th & Tues, Aug 19th
 - A time was pre-arranged for you and should be enclosed with this letter
- The first day of school for students in grades 1-6 will be Monday, August 18th, 2025
- Kindergarten classes will begin on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 (All day, every day)
- Early Childhood Special Education, Discovery Time, & VPK Pre-School begin on Mon, Aug 25th
- Regular school hours for elementary students is from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm each day
- **Breakfast will be served from 7:35 – 7:55 am for all elementary students and is FREE**
 - We have enclosed an Application for Educational Benefits form in this mailing. **It is critical that we have every family complete this form, even if you think or know that you will not qualify for benefits.** By completing this application form, you are helping generate government funds for our school, which helps the school remain operational.
- **For school closings, please listen to the following radio stations for updates:**
 - KNUJ-AM 860, WCCO-AM 830, KKCK 99.7, KLGR 97.7, SAM 107.3, KTOE-AM 1420, KEYC-TV CHANNEL 12, KARE-TV CHANNEL 11, WCCO-TV CHANNEL 4, KSTP- TV CHANNEL 5
 - Also check the school's website at: <https://www.sleepyeyeschools.com>
 - We will use our Infinite Campus notification system and School Dojo to alert families of school closures when they occur

Updated immunizations are mandated by State Law for all K-12 students to enter school. New Kindergarten students, as well as students new to the district, must submit a copy of the child's birth certificate, as mandated by State Law, along with a copy of their immunization records. If you are open enrolled (i.e., do not live in the Sleepy Eye School District), you must complete an open enrollment form. The start date for your child could be delayed if this form is not completed and returned by the first day of school.

Please feel free to visit the school or call me in the Elementary School Office (507-794-7903, ext. 1409) if you have any questions or concerns. The office hours are from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm each day. I strongly believe that good communication between school and the home promotes student success, so please maintain this throughout the school year. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the students, families, and community better, and I am excited for a new school year to begin!

Best regards,



Ben Westphal, Elementary School Principal