



# Sandwich Community School District 430

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## Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

As we start August it is clear what comes next, a new school year. We look forward to opening our doors for a new school year on Wednesday, Aug. 16 with a 1:10 PM dismissal. If you have not seen the new calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, please use the following link: [2023-2024 School Calendar](#).

Each building has some new staff that you will get to know at your child's school including teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and custodians. Also new: Please join our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/430Sandwich/>

I hope everyone had a chance to spend the summer relaxing, recharging, and getting ready for a new academic year at Sandwich Schools. Our teachers, administrators, support staff, and Board of Education have been working toward a common goal of providing the best education we can for our students.

Mr. Thomas Sodaro  
Superintendent, Sandwich School District 430

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## Fee Waivers and Free/Reduced Options

**Are you struggling to pay for fees, lunches, field trips, and/or extra fees?** Please be aware that there are opportunities to get help with school fees, field trips, lunches, and other fees.

We currently utilize the free and reduced waiver program through the USDA. If you qualify, this waiver may cover lunches, registration fees, sports fees, field trips, etc.

If you would like to know more about this program, what the qualifications are, or how to apply, please call Mrs. Kruswicki at 815-786-2187.

**Please remember, this program must be renewed every year.** Since we utilize the guidelines of the USDA program, we must use their forms. Please make sure to do this as soon as it is available.

For those who would like to apply for free/reduced lunch, please do so using the following link: [Online Application](#). Families who qualify for free/reduced lunch will have their registration fees waived or reduced.

Note: You can also learn more about this program through the [USDA Income Eligibility link](#).

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## Teacher Assignments and Student Schedules

Teacher assignments and student schedules will be visible on TeacherEase starting on Tuesday, August 8 at noon for students in grades 1-12. Please note that teacher assignments for PreK and kindergarten will be posted on Friday, August 11.

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## Other Important Information

Lunch and Breakfast Menus: [Lunch Menus](#) (These will be updated soon!)

School Supply Lists: [School Supply Lists](#)

Open House Dates:

Herman E. Dummer	Monday, Aug. 14 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sandwich High School	Freshmen Orientation -Tuesday, Aug. 15 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sandwich MS (GD. 6)	Monday, Aug. 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sandwich MS (GD. 7/8)	Tuesday, Aug. 22 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Woodbury	Tuesday, Aug. 22 @ 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Prairie View	Wednesday, Aug. 23 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Lynn G. Haskin	Thursday, Aug. 24 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Sandwich High School	Curriculum Night-Tuesday, Aug. 22 @ 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

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## Safety Updates

In 2018 the Sandwich School District entered an agreement with the Sandwich Police Department to provide School Resource Officer (**SRO**) services to the school district. This included an on-site officer present at our schools for most of the school day, the DARE program, supervision at larger events (i.e. football games, homecoming events, etc.), and safety education. Starting last year, it was necessary to assign our SROs to some daily patron activities, which resulted in a reduction of some of these services.

This 2022-2023 staffing model will continue into the 2023-2024 school year. The two officers assigned to be our School Resource Officers have just been recertified and will continue to be our main contact at the Police Department. They will respond to calls at the school and/or be present in the school whenever possible. They will continue to be our DARE presenters and help out at large after-school activities. We will continue to work together to increase their presence at the school.

**Cameras:** Starting over 10 years ago the district began installing cameras in large traffic areas including hallways, entrances, playgrounds, and parking lots. With better technology, the district has taken a large step forward in purchasing new cameras for these areas, while reutilizing the older cameras to lower traffic areas. At this point, over 80% of the new costs have come from grants.

With the new 45 cameras we purchased, we have a total of 121 cameras and 6 vape sensors deployed throughout the district. With our recent purchase, we used the organization "22Vets" to review our building blueprints and recommend camera placements. This organization is owned and run by US Military Veterans.

**Visitor Security:** Every school in the district will be rolling out a new security protocol and technology for guests and volunteers entering the buildings. This system will require identification from visitors (i.e. state ID, driver's license, etc.), and all visitors will be photographed. A quick background check will be performed by searching US sex offender databases (with the option to expand this to criminal databases.). This system will also link with our student database to provide an extra layer of protection for students with no contact orders.

2023-2024 Safety Goals: Each year the Board of Education adopts goals for the school year. This year, in addition to academic and financial goals, the board has adopted the following 4 safety goals:

- Review SRO expectations and contract with the city.
- Research and begin implementation of a new safety protocol.

- Work with a consultant to review current safety practices.
- Develop a plan to provide safer alternatives to building access.

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## Transportation

Routing our students into buses is a very big job each school year. Please note that we are in the process of finalizing this task with our limited transportation staffing. If you elected to receive transportation then you will receive a text message with your bussing information by the end of the day on Monday, August 14. If you have not received this text by then, please contact the transportation office.

Currently, there is a shortage of bus drivers across the United States and Sandwich is no different. We will be starting the year understaffed by two part-time drivers. At this time, we believe we can operate our service with a limited number of delays. We will do our best to hire more qualified drivers. If you are interested in a part-time job and would like to know how to become a bus driver, please call Transportation Director Sue Graham at 815-786-8325.

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## Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

This year the district is implementing a new expectation of professional collaboration through the use of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs.) Professional Learning Communities allow the teachers of like subjects or grade levels to work together to develop curriculum, share ideas, review student data, and make meaningful adjustments to the educational opportunities for our students. One of the key aspects of this philosophy is the need for teachers to work collaboratively together. In many cases, districts use early release or late start days to accommodate the time needed for this type of learning community.

There will be no change to our start and end times for our K-8 students. At the high school, we will alter start times on Wednesday mornings only. This means that 1st period will begin at 8:45 AM, but it does not need to affect your daily routine. Busing will be provided at the regular time and all students can come to the high school. Students that come to school at their scheduled bus time, will be expected to remain in the cafeteria area. They will have the opportunity to work on homework in one area and gather with friends in the other area. This will give them time to study and or socialize. IVVC classes will start at the regular time of 8:00 AM and Agriculture classes at Somonauk will start at the same time. I will reiterate one more time, this should not upset your daily routine, students can still get on the bus at their scheduled time. If students choose to not get on the bus at their scheduled time, it will be their responsibility to get to school by the start of 1st hour on Wednesday which will be 8:45 AM.

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## Sandwich Spirit Store

Sandwich online spirit store is open and it is a great way to get some new gear for the start of the school year. This site is open to our families year-round for ordering. If you are interested in purchasing Sandwich Spirit Wear, please visit 1st Place Spiritwear using the link below.

- [Sandwich Spirit Shop](#)

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## Learning Today, Shaping Tomorrow!