

# Spring Ridge Review

## Spring Ridge Elementary

Elkhorn Public Schools  
Elkhorn, Nebraska



August 2024

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2024-25  
School Theme:  
"Plant Seeds of  
Kindness"

## A Message from Mrs. Petersen

Welcome to a new school year! Our first day of school is August 13, 2024. A new school year is always exciting. Our focus will be on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. Academic emphasis on the core content areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies will remain a priority as well as providing a learning program that builds on each year to reach state standards. Instruction in the fine arts, foreign language, technology, guidance, and physical education complete our program providing each student with the opportunity to develop areas of interest and skill.

Our goal is to challenge our students intellectually, grow them socially, and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving. As we strive to promote healthy development in all aspects of each student's life, we also strive to develop a student body of good character; students who make good choices and decisions resulting in successful and healthy outcomes. We encourage students to demonstrate the best of themselves every moment of every day and to make positive contributions to the groups and organizations to which they belong. We strive to instill within our student body a sense of pride as well as collective pride and love of and for our school.

As we begin this year, please remember that this is your school, and we welcome your involvement. Family commitment is vital to our success. When the partnership between Spring Ridge Elementary and the families we serve is strong, achievement is also strengthened. Our children truly benefit! I look forward to working with you this academic school year!

Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation! If you have any questions, please call 402-637-0204 or email me at [lpetersen@epsne.org](mailto:lpetersen@epsne.org)

Looking forward to seeing you Thursday, August 8th at Open House!  
Laurinda Petersen, Spring Ridge Principal

## Back to School 101

Since we moved to an online registration system, we have found that there really is no need for our traditional Back to School 101 event. We ask that you go into Power School to update demographic information and contact preferences, sign forms, and pay for various items. The online registration system opens on Monday, July 29. You will receive an email on Friday, July 26th outlining how to go into Power School to complete these tasks.

Letters are in the process of being mailed to incoming kindergarten families, so you will be able to set up a parent access account. *If you already have a parent account for an older child(ren), you do not need to create an additional account. Simply add your younger student(s) to your current account by following these directions:* <https://bit.ly/2wDNJuT>.

If you have any questions or concerns or need assistance setting up your account, please contact the Spring Ridge Office at 402-637-0204.

Families who have completed the online registration process will be able to go into Power School on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM to find out who their child(ren)'s teacher will be for the 2024-25 school year.

## K-5 Open House

Open House will be held on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Families whose last name starts with A-M may attend Open House from 5:30-6:00 PM.

Families whose last name starts with N-Z may attend Open House from 6:00-6:30 PM.

There will be no Curriculum presentations during the evening of Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Instead, teachers will email curriculum information to parents by 2 PM on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 1st Day of School

On the first two days of school, teachers will be outside at 7:55 AM with signs (displaying their last name). The signs will help students find their teacher, so they can line up with their teacher and their classmates outside. Classes will head inside to start the day at 8:10 AM.

Kindergarten students will line up and will go in the farthest west door on the south side (front side) of the building. **On the first day of school, kindergarten students (and only kindergarten students) will line up outside the kindergarten door at 8:50 AM and will go inside at 9 AM. Kindergarten teachers will be outside at 8:50 AM with signs on the first day; on the 2nd day, they will be out at 7:55 AM for a regular start.**

1st/2nd/3rd grade students with classrooms inside the building will line up and will enter through the front doors.

2nd grade students in the cottages/portables will line up on the east playground blacktop and will enter directly into their classrooms from the playground.

4th/5th students with classrooms inside the building will line up and will enter in the doors on the east side of the building.

Walking Club will start for all K-5 students on Thursday, August 15. 5th grade helpers will assist kindergarten students.



### *School Basics.....*

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 13. The school day begins at 8:10 AM and the tardy bell rings at 8:15 AM. Dismissal is 3:06 PM. Please make every effort to arrive on time. Students who arrive on time are more likely to make the most of his/her day. Your help is appreciated.

If your child is not attending school or will be coming late due to illness, doctor appointments, or another type of appointment, please call the school office at 402-637-0204. Please minimize doctor appointments and vacations during school hours.

Students arriving to school late or leaving early must sign in/out of the front office. When students leave early, a parent must come to the office to sign his/her name out. Parents of students in the cottages must enter the building through the front doors and check in at the office.

## **Be a Partner in Your Child's Education**

Your child will have dozens of terrific instructors over the years, but you'll always be your child's most important teacher. To become a partner in your child's education:

- Volunteer in class or within the school.
- Attend open house and parent-teacher conferences.
- Read every handout and paper your child brings home.
- Make school a priority. Schedule appointments and vacations outside of school hours.
- Expect your child to succeed in school. Children try harder to meet parents' expectations.
- Respect homework. Sit with your child as he/she works. Show him/her that you take it seriously.
- Speak up. If there's a problem at school, talk to your child's teacher immediately. Work together on finding a solution.
- Show and tell your child often that you love him/her.
- Celebrate! Your child is learning more every day!

### *School Breakfast and Lunch*

Money may be deposited into your Sodexo lunch account on-line or at school. When students are nearly out of money in their lunch account, an email will be sent to the parent and a note will be sent home with the student. Parents are highly encouraged to always have a positive balance in their child(ren)'s lunch account. An email will be sent at the end of each month regardless of the balance. Breakfast runs from 7:35-7:55 AM. You are welcome to have lunch with your child any day. (The cost of an adult lunch was \$4.60 for 23-24; we are waiting to hear the price for 24-25.) Please make your lunch reservation with the school office before 9:00 AM on the day you are planning to join your child for lunch. You are welcome to bring a sack lunch but please do not bring lunches from outside vendors (McDonalds, Subway, etc.). Carbonated beverages are permitted only on special days designated by your child's teacher. Cost of school meals is:

Student Breakfast	\$1.80
Student Lunch	\$3.00
Adult Lunch	\$4.60 (23-24 cost; waiting on 24-25)
Milk	\$0.55

The **Spring Ridge Review** is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School, - Elkhorn Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. Article submissions are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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[www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org)



## New Faces

Please help me in welcoming our new staff! Jessica Silashki will join the kindergarten team, while Lauren Arbuckle joins the 1st grade team. Both Emily Tackwell and Paxton Norvell are hopping onto the 3rd grade team. Kayla Nunnenkamp and Jamie Ohlendorf complete the 5th grade team. New to the special education team are Hannah Leeper (speech path), Monica Pleiss (OT), and Cristi Bower (moving from TA to Teacher). Olivia Baker will join the Spring Ridge Family as a Teacher Assistant. Please do all that you can to give these new family members a very warm Spring Ridge welcome!

## 2024-25 PTO Meeting Schedule:

August 26, 6:30 PM  
October 7, 6:30 PM  
November 4, 6:30 PM  
December 2, 6:30 PM  
February 3, 6:30 PM  
March 3, 6:30 PM  
April 7, 6:30 PM  
May 5, 6:30 PM

The first day of school for the 2024-25 school year will be Tuesday, August 13.

## Walking Club: A Great Way To Start The Day!

Walking Club is a daily activity that begins at 7:55 a.m. Children arriving to school between 7:55 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. will participate in this supervised exercise. Supervision is not provided before 7:55 a.m. Please do not drop children off before 7:55 a.m. Teachers will bring students into the building at 8:10 a.m. Students arriving between 8:10-8:15 a.m. may go directly to their classrooms. Any student arriving after 8:15 a.m. will be marked tardy. **Walking Club begins Thursday, August 15.**

## Pick-up

**School dismisses each day at 3:06 PM. No supervision is provided after 3:15 PM. Please make sure your child(ren) are picked up on time.**

**Thank you!**



# Calendar of Events

## July/August

- July 30 & 31 - New Student Registration
- August 8 - Open House (A-M from 5:30-6:00; N-Z from 6:00-6:30)
- August 13 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- August 23 - Spring Ridge Family Fun Fest, 5-7 PM
- August 26 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM

## September

- September 2 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- September 6 - Spring Ridge Fun Run (Each class is assigned a time slot during the school day.)
- September 11 - School Picture Day
- September 18-25 - Book Fair
- September 24 & 25- Parent/Teacher Conferences; Early Dismissal 2:06 PM - Mid Quarters are given to parents at Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- September 26 - NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service
- September 27 - NO SCHOOL

### **Please Screen Your Child Each Day Before School**

We ask that parents screen their children at home for fever, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If these symptoms occur, please do not send your child to school. Instead, please call the office at 402-637-0204 to find out what steps you need to take next to ensure your child is safe to return to school.

We very much appreciate your help and support with this! Together, we will ensure school is a safe place for all students and staff!

## Student Entrances & Exits

**Kindergarten:** Students enter through the kindergarten door (far west door on south side of building) and exit the school through the kindergarten classroom doors on blacktop of K-1 playground.

**First Grade/Second Grade/Third Grade:** Students enter and exit the school through the front doors of the building.

**Cottage Second Grade:** Enter and exit their specific classroom in cottage.

**Fourth Grade/Fifth Grade:** Enter and exit the school through the staff entrance doors on the east side of the building.

Students in the cottages and fourth and fifth graders may use the sidewalk between the east staff parking lot and the school building or the sidewalk north of the staff parking lot when arriving or leaving school.

## Visitor Guidelines

School safety is a major concern to both parents and school personnel. Several procedures at Spring Ridge need to be followed by all visitors to our building:

- All visitors are required to sign in/out when arriving and leaving the building.
  - Visitors will be asked to wear a visitor's badge while at Spring Ridge.
  - All visitors must use the front entrance (including parents of students in the cottages). Please do not go directly to the classrooms without checking in at the office. If you have brought something that your child has forgotten, please drop it off at the office and we will be happy to take it to your child.
- Please help us minimize classroom interruptions.

### Kindergarten will start at 9 AM the first day.

1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will start at the regular time of 8:10 AM. The 9 AM start for kindergarten gives them the opportunity to arrive at school with a calmer and quieter atmosphere. We believe this will help our young 5 year old students experience a more positive transition into elementary school.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education has been a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum in Elkhorn Public Schools for many years. Outdoor Ed is a two-day field trip designed to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom by taking students to explore nature, science and physical activity at a camp located just outside the Metro area.

Prior to the 2012-13 school year, this field trip included an overnight stay at the camp cabins. Beginning the 2012-13 school year, students no longer stay overnight. Outdoor Ed will remain a two-day program and will continue to meet all of the intended learning objectives.

Several factors led to the District's decision to discontinue the overnight stay during Outdoor Ed:

- The increasing volume of medications students require during an overnight stay away from home has become a liability concern.
- Many schools have experienced difficulty recruiting staff members to provide overnight supervisions.
- In order to ensure student safety, all volunteers must complete a background check to accompany students to Outdoor Ed. Background checks take time to process and Outdoor Ed volunteers had to make the commitment several weeks in advance in order to ensure their background check would be completed on time.
- For some students, Outdoor Ed is their first experience away from home and it can be upsetting. The increasing requests for special accommodations at nighttime made the overnight stay difficult for supervising staff members.
- A review of the Outdoor Ed curriculum confirmed that all learning objectives could be accomplished with out an overnight stay.

Outdoor Education for our fifth graders is scheduled for October 2 & 3! The students will have an extended day on October 2 at the camp and on October 3rd the day will be normal school hours (8:00 AM – 3:00 PM). Transportation will be provided to and from camp.





## Make a difference with the Elkhorn Public Schools!

The Elkhorn Public School District is currently hiring teacher assistant/paraprofessionals for the 2024-2025 school year in our early education, elementary, and secondary settings. EPS is seeking caring and collaborative individuals with a desire to help students achieve.

Family friendly hours – follows the school day and calendar  
Competitive pay (\$17.35/\$17.85)  
Rewarding working environment

Apply at [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org) Employment: Support Staff Non-Certified: Teacher Assistant



# It's here!

What's new? Online menus!

- Browse daily menu items.
- View nutrition information.
- Plan for dietary & allergy restrictions.

Available in 50+ languages!

View menus at <https://elkhornweb.nutrislice.com/menu> or download the Nutrislice app.



## **MAKING DEPOSITS**

- **SETTING UP AN ONLINE ACCOUNT INSTRUCTIONS** - This will allow you to make deposits, view the account, set reminders and add an auto-deposit option if preferred.

\*EPS partners with **SchoolPay** for student lunch accounts. To add funds, go to [www.schoolpay.com](http://www.schoolpay.com) and log into to your user account.

- **MAIL CHECKS** payable to EPS, that include your student name and student ID Number to Sodexo, EPS Food Service, 1401 Veterans Drive, Elkhorn, NE 68022
- **SEND LUNCH MONEY WITH YOUR STUDENT TO SCHOOL**, include student name and student ID number preferably in an envelope for elementary students to give to their teacher.

We look forward to continuing to serve our students healthy and nutritious meals!

Elkhorn Food Service  
1401 Veterans Drive Elkhorn, NE 68022  
402-289-0443  
Lunch@epsne.org

## SchoolPay

To better serve our families, EPS has partnered with SchoolPay to implement a new online payment system. At this time, this system will be used for the following items:

1. Loading lunch balances
2. Paying activities fees and purchasing athletics passes
3. Purchasing Chromebook device coverage
4. Paying individual school-based fines
5. Paying Preschool Tuition

To utilize the system, parents will need to create a new user account by following the below instructions:

1. Go to [www.schoolpay.com](http://www.schoolpay.com)
2. Click the green "Create an Account" button
3. Enter the "Payer" Information
4. Choose "Elkhorn Public Schools", then choose your student's assigned school\* and enter his/her Student ID number and Last Name.  
*\*If you have multiple students, choose one student to enroll first and complete the School Name, Student ID, and Last Name for that student. Upon account creation, you will have the option to add additional students.*
5. You will receive an email to set your password. Click the Login link within the email, set a new password, then log in to make purchases or add additional students as needed.
  - a. To add additional students to your account, follow the instructions at this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0ireLb\\_ht8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0ireLb_ht8)

A Student ID number is required for account creation. If you do not know your student's ID number, ask your student what his/her lunch number is or it can be found by logging into your Parent PowerSchool account. If you are still unable to locate the Student ID number, please contact your school building after July 27th.

If you have any questions regarding your new account or the process for creating it, please contact School Pay Support at 888.886.9729 or [support@schoolpay.com](mailto:support@schoolpay.com)



## **2024-25 Cell Phones/Watches Expectations:**

In spring 2024, the EPS Board of Education approved updates to all student handbooks to align expectations for the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices across EPS schools at all levels and further protect instructional time by reducing the number of outside distractions. The updates were approved in alignment with the EPS Strategic Plan goal focusing on “the mental health and overall well-being of students and staff”, and the recently released U.S. Surgeon General advisory stating the negative impacts of social media on teens’ mental health.

The updated cell phone expectations, as shown below and reflected in all student handbooks, will be implemented for the 2024-25 school year for EPS buildings at all levels.

### **ELEMENTARY**

Elementary students will keep personal electronic devices (including cell phones, earbuds, smart watches, etc.) powered off and placed in backpacks during the school day. It is the recommendation of the school district that devices be left at home as the school is not responsible for the device if brought to school. If parents/guardians need to communicate with their child during the school day, they should contact the school office and a message will be shared with the student. Students who need electronic devices to monitor health conditions will continue to follow their individualized plans.

### **Handbook Verbiage (found on page 8 of [Elementary Student Handbook](#))**

*Cellular phones and devices, including cellular watches, are strongly discouraged at school to minimize distractions to the learning environment. The use of cellular devices is not permitted throughout the day. Students must keep the devices powered off in their backpacks or the office area, and they are to be used only after dismissal at the end of the day. If this procedure is not followed, the device will be kept in the office area and a parent/guardian may collect the device from the office.*

### **EPS Text Messages**

EPS utilizes text messages to efficiently share important information with parents, including weather-related school closings and bus route delays. To receive EPS text messages, please text “Yes” to 67587 to opt in.

### **EPS Mass Messaging System**

EPS and individual buildings use a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails, phone calls, and text messages to parents sharing district information, monthly updates about building happenings, and weather-related school closings. To ensure receipt of these updates, please verify that all contact information listed in your parent PowerSchool account, including phone numbers and email addresses, is up to date and correct.

Additionally, this system allows recipients to “unsubscribe” from its mailing list; however, by “unsubscribing” you are completely removing your email address and phone number from both District and building lists. If you choose to unsubscribe, you will not receive any communication from your child’s assigned school or the EPS District. If you accidentally unsubscribe or decide you would like to begin receiving emails again after unsubscribing, contact your building secretary to change your communication status.



# SPRING RIDGE ELEMENTARY

# 2024 2025

## MAY 2024

## PTO NEWS

### IMPORTANT DATES

- 08/08: OPEN HOUSE: A-M (5:30 - 6:00PM) N-Z (6:00 - 6:30PM)
- 08/11: POPSICLES ON THE PLAYGROUND (INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS) 2:00 - 4:00 PM
- 08/13: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 08/23: FUN RUN KICK-OFF PARTY FAMILY FUN FEST
- 08/26: PTO MEETING: FAMILY MEET AND GREET 6:00PM, MEETING 6:30PM

### WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the PTO, we are thrilled to welcome everyone back for another exciting school year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break.

We are looking forward to supporting our students and teachers in every way possible.

Volunteer positions are needed for many committees and events. Please help in supporting Spring Ridge in any way you can.

Welcome Back Eagles!

MAGGIE BROCKMANN  
PRESIDENT

HANNAH WIEGER  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

# PTO

# MEET & GREET

JOIN US AUGUST 26TH AT 6:00PM FOR A FAMILY MEET AND GREET FOLLOWED BY OUR FIRST PTO MEETING OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR AT 6:30!

CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED!



YOU ARE INVITED TO A PTO

# MEET & GREET

MEET NEW FAMILIES &  
PTO BOARD

26 Aug | 6 p.m.

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

SPRING RIDGE ELEMENTARY  
MEDIA ROOM

[WWW.SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM](http://WWW.SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM)



# popsicles

## ON THE PLAYGROUND



INCOMING SPRING RIDGE KINDERGARTNERS

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SUNDAY

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AUGUST 11

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SPRING RIDGE ELEMENTARY  
KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND

2:00 - 4:00 PM

MEET NEW FRIENDS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY  
OF SCHOOL!



# SPRING RIDGE

THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE



# 30% OFF SITEWIDE!

**FREE SHIPPING** ORDERS OVER \$75



or SCAN HERE TO ORDER

1ST PLACE Spiritwear

DATES: AUGUST 13TH - SEPTEMBER 17TH

ORDER AT: [1STPLACE.SALE/59681](https://1stplace.sale/59681)