

Seward Middle School

2024-2025

2401 Karol Kay Blvd.
Seward, NE 68434
(402) 643-2986

Kirk J. Gottschalk
Principal

Bradley Schlegel
Counselor

NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information (policy 5017) pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. **A parent or eligible student has to notify the building principal in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information two weeks from the first day of school or two weeks from enrollment date.** The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions of this section.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS/INFORMATION

Seward Middle School provides a program that is designed to serve the needs of the middle school student. Our primary goal is to meet the educational needs of our students while recognizing the unique social and emotional development at this stage of early adolescence. SMS provides a gradual transition from the more sheltered world of elementary school to the broad choices of high school.

HOMEWORK POLICY

- Teachers are responsible for numerous students during the day. Each child and parent has different needs and expectations. Because of this we encourage parents to assume the initiative in keeping track of their own child's progress.
- Seward Middle School has established a homework policy. The general formula for homework assigned is 10 minutes per grade level a day. Therefore 5th grade students should have no more than 50 minutes of homework a day, while 8th graders will have no more than 80 minutes. The exception to this rule is projects that are assigned in advance and take longer than one night to complete. Please help your son or daughter complete assignments by providing regular study periods at home and asking to see assignments.
- Homework is started in classrooms and assigned at the end of class. This allows the teacher to monitor and interview students for comprehension and understanding. Students should know how to complete the assigned work before they leave the classroom.
- Homework will have a value. Generally, homework should be about 15% of the student's total grade but grade level teams and individual teachers may adjust that value accordingly. If an assignment is given, it will be given credit.
- Students have been given a daily planner. They are expected to list their assignments in this planner. Parents should ask to see the planner frequently. If your child is failing to complete the planner, speak with a teacher or the counselor.
- If you feel your child is falling behind, ask your child's teachers for progress reports and/or individual plans.
- Student progress may be monitored through PowerSchool-our student information management system. Contact Craig Williams or your child's counselor for more information.

ACADEMIC DETENTIONS

Academic detentions are designed to help student's complete important missing work that will assist their educational development. Students who fail to complete assignments, fail to hand in papers, have incompletes, hand in late assignments or need special attention will need to stay after school with an assigned teacher. Detention times will run from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Staff members will make sure the student has contacted a parent/guardian to make appropriate after school arrangements.

PROGRESS REPORTS

To communicate performance in your child's classes, progress reports are given each quarter to students who are not meeting expectations or who are encountering some trouble. These reports will be a phone call or an email from one of your child's teachers. Letters home or personal conferences might also be used. Parents are encouraged to contact the teachers any time there is a question or concern regarding student progress.

REPORT CARDS

Grades will be based on the assessment of student performance in classes, which may include participation, daily work, presentations, projects and tests.

A+	100	A	94-99	A-	93
B+	92	B	87-91	B-	86
C+	85	C	79-84	C-	78
D+	77	D	71-76	D-	70
F	0-69				

RESOURCE PROGRAM (Board Policy 6010)

Special services are available to the handicapped students of this district as provided by State Law LB403. The guidelines for the resource program are available in all administrative offices or directly from Shannon Hall-Schmeckpeper, Director of Special Services (643-4499).

RETENTION

Students who do not perform to their capabilities may be retained. The following retention rules will be utilized: The issue of retention at Seward Middle School is primarily an issue of accountability. Teachers will inform parents and students of chronic missing/incomplete work and poor quiz or test scores. Parent conferences will be held and the teachers may assign academic detentions. If a student does not improve and fails several classes, he/she may be retained at the current grade level or students may be promoted to the next grade level but could repeat a class or classes the next school year. Regular attendance in school is necessary to be successful and could be a determining factor in retention or repeating a class or classes. Retention of identified students in Special Education program will be determined by the Individual Educational Plan.

SCHEDULE

Schedules will be sent home with the students the first week of school.

SCHOOL CLOSING

If there is a late start, school will start 2 hours late and buses will run 2 hours late. School closing or late start information will be announced using our District Alert System.

STUDENT DATA AND INFORMATION FOR NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Information for the Nebraska Student and Staff records system is collected by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for the purpose of doing state and federal reporting. This data includes information from NSCAS, NWEA, AQuest, state aid and special education. Student data are protected by state and federal laws and must be maintained in a confidential matter at all times. Parents may review the kinds of data that are collected about our students and the methods that the Nebraska Department of Education uses to manage this data at the Department of Education website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/>

TESTING PROGRAM

The counselor is in charge of the testing program at the Middle School. Certain students will be given individual ability tests upon referral for appropriate placement in various school programs. Such tests are only given with prior parent approval.

The following types of tests will be given to students during the school year: NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) and the state mandated assessments (5th-8th grade).

T.O.P. (Think Only Positive) TIME

A homeroom/advisement program involves students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. This program provides a home base for students during their Middle School years. Through homeroom advisement, students will be offered instruction that will provide opportunities to acquire skills in managing themselves, interacting with others and in making decisions thoughtfully and intelligently.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (Board Policy 5001)

Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of students and parents. There is no substitute for regular attendance and many classroom experiences cannot be made up.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL:

- You are asked to call the school before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence.
- The school may attempt to reach the parent/guardian if a phone call has not been received.
- If a phone call is not possible and/or if the school is not successful in reaching the parent/guardian, a note is needed the day the student returns to school.
- If a note or phone call is not received, the student will be required to make up the school time missed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES are those that are family or school initiated:

- Illness, appointments, family emergencies, field trips, etc...

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES are those for which:

- There is no prior permission from a parent/guardian, teacher or an administrator to miss school.
- No note from the parent, doctor, etc. is received upon return.
- Credit may not be given for missed work or tests.
- The student may be assigned detention time.

PREARRANGED ABSENCES are those that have been prearranged by a parent/guardian at least two days in advance, either by phone or by sending a written note to school with the student. These generally occur due to planned trips and medical or dental appointments.

ABSENCES DURING THE DAY

Students leaving during the school day are required to sign out in the office. Students arriving late are required to sign in at the office. Late arriving students must have a note or the parent/guardian must call the school to inform us of the reason for the late arrival.

MAKE UP WORK

Students who are absent for any reason will be required to make up work missed in each class. Students will be given one day for each day absent. A day's absence does not excuse a student from responsibility for all work missed on the day of their return.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make-up work from his or her teachers immediately upon return to school. Failure to obtain make up work is no excuse for not doing work missed. Only by special permission of the principal can make up work extend past the grading period.

Homework Policy for Suspended Students - Students suspended from school will be given an opportunity to make up all missed work and will be given full credit according to the following criteria:

1. It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher for missed assignments.
2. Students will be given one day for each day suspended from school to return completed assignments and take make up tests.
3. Daily work, if made up, will be considered in the grading process. Tests may be made up with credit after the suspension if completed in the time allowed in statement #2.

To the extent possible, students placed in in-school suspension will work on class assignments while in the in-school suspension room. Any work not completed will be governed by the policy on make up work for suspended students.

TRUANCY

The School District of Seward complies with Nebraska law when dealing with trancies. A copy of School Board Policy and State Statue 79-209 is on file at the District Office.

TARDIES

Students are expected to be on time to all classes. If tardiness becomes a pattern (4 per quarter), students will be subject to lunch and after school detentions or suspensions.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Students may not leave the school grounds during the school day without permission of parents or guardians and the school office. If a student leaves the campus for any reason, the student must sign out in the office. Once students are on school grounds in the morning, they must remain on school grounds. This includes bus students and students being dropped off by parents.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION OR PRACTICE

Students must attend school all day in order to take part in practice or a contest with the following exceptions:

1. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office for a doctor, dental, or orthodontist appointment.
2. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office in order to attend a funeral.
3. The student has missed school because of a class activity and/or field trip.

HALL PASSES

Students must have a hall pass when they are away from their assigned class area. They are expected to take care of all personal needs during break times and to take all necessary books and supplies to class.

STUDENT GUESTS

Student guests are only allowed with prior notice and permission from the office and the teachers involved with the student and guest.

STUDY TRIPS

While on study trips, students are expected to exhibit a high standard of cooperation and behavior. School rules apply to any activity that is sponsored by the school or district. Permission forms must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian prior to student participation in any off campus event. Study trips are a privilege and not a right. Students will not be allowed to participate if behavior issues impede on the learning value of the trip.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION (Board Policy 5002)

ENROLLMENT OF NEW STUDENTS

All new enrolling students are required by state law to provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

All new enrolling students are also required to have up to date immunization records. Students whose immunizations are not current will not be allowed to enroll.

PHYSICALS

All 7th grade students and students from out of state, must have a physical prior to entering the 7th grade. However, a parent may choose to sign a waiver on the requirement of having a physical. A student participating in sports cannot waive a physical.

PARENTAL CUSTODY INFORMATION

It is the responsibility of the parent with whom a student resides to keep the office informed about parent custody of the child and about any visitation restrictions of the non-custodial parent. The school will make every effort to ensure that such visitation restrictions are carried out. However, the school cannot accept responsibility once the student leaves school premises. School reports of student progress will be given to both parents when requested.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Every Seward Middle School student should become a responsible, self-disciplined individual. Our staff has high expectations for every student, both academically and behaviorally. Seward Middle School teaches and expects the Eight Keys of Excellence to be visible and practiced in school. The Eight Keys of Excellence is a set of principles which we incorporate into our students life to develop character in order to provide the framework for a supportive, trusting environment. These principles include:

Integrity – Conduct yourself with authenticity, sincerity and wholeness. Your values and behavior are aligned.

Failure Leads to Success – Understand that failures simply provide you with the information you need to succeed. There are no failures, only outcomes and feedback. Everything can be useful if you know how to find the gift.

Speak with Good Purpose – Speak in a positive sense, and be responsible for honest and direct communication. Avoid gossip and harmful communication.

This Is It – Focus your attention on the present moment, and make the most of it. Give each task your best effort.

Commitment – Follow through on your promises and obligations; live your vision. Do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Ownership – Take responsibility and be accountable for your actions.

Flexibility – Be open to change or a new approach when it helps you get the outcome you desire.

Balance – Keep your mind, body and spirit in alignment. Spend time developing and maintaining these three areas.

The purpose of the school-wide behavior expectations is to provide a safe, positive and orderly environment conducive to academic, social and character development for our students. To accomplish this goal, Seward Middle School students are expected to:

- Know and follow all school/teacher expectations and rules.
- Show respect for themselves, others and all property.
- Be responsible for their behavior.
- Put forth their best effort.
- Bring all needed materials to class each day.
- Be in the classroom on time and ready to learn.
- Use class time wisely, be on task and listen attentively.
- Use appropriate language.
- Solve conflicts and problems in a constructive manner.
- Refrain from displaying any signs of affection.

The school has established a set of expectations and standards for behavior. It is expected that each student will learn these expectations and abide by them. If a student lacks the ability to follow these standards of conduct, appropriate corrective measures will be taken. A student who exhibits behavior problems is entitled to all the help that can be provided by teachers, counselors, administrators and outside agencies to enable him/her to function productively in the classroom.

Seward Middle School will use many types of consequences for behavior concerns. Some of these include, but are not limited to, the following: conferences, detentions, service to school, restriction of school privileges, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and expulsions.

PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION

This agreement provides academic/disciplinary expectations and guidelines that help to prevent arbitrary decisions. This agreement does not attempt to cover all possible circumstances or appropriate solutions. The Seward Administration reserves the right to apply professional discretion in dealing with students and families concerning academics or disciplinary situations. Extenuating circumstances and the willingness of a student and family to reach an acceptable resolution to a problem will be considered.

APPEARANCE

Students often think it is very important to wear the latest styles to “fit in,” but school is also a work place. So...Seward Middle School has a dress code. This code has been established to:

- Minimize disruptions to the educational environment.
- Ensure student safety.
- Encourage students to wear clothing that fully allows participation in learning activities.

With that in mind, please remember the following rules:

- Coats and hats are not to be worn in the school building. Bandanas and other headgear (boys and girls) are not to be worn in the building. During cold weather, sweatshirts and sweaters are encouraged.
- Pants should fit securely at the waist (no sagging) and should not drag on the floor. Belts must be of an appropriate length and not hang down.
- Shorts need to be as long as the student’s fingers when the student’s arms are at the student’s side.
- No pajamas or pajama type clothing.
- Shirts and tops should cover the midriff. Halter-tops are not acceptable.
- Spaghetti strap tops are not allowed. Lasagna size strap tops are preferred.
- Clothing items with inappropriate statements or expressions will not be allowed. This includes any clothing item that is disruptive to the learning environment. Examples – any drug or alcohol messages, sexual messages, put-downs or any other items that is contrary to the development of good character.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Avoid high platform type shoes for safety reasons.
- Backpacks/bags will need to be kept in your locker and not taken from class to class.
- Wallet or watch chains are not permitted.
- Students should keep jewelry to a minimum.
- Writing on hands, arms, face and clothing is not allowed.

DISCIPLINE (Board Policy 5035)

Seward Middle School's discipline measures are designed to help students become more responsible learners and community members. It is the responsibility of students, parents and staff to develop a sense of social responsibility that creates a safe community and enriched learning environment.

- Student behavior that threatens the health and safety of students or staff, results in property loss or damage, or disrupts the educational process is not allowed and will result in disciplinary action.
- Seward Middle School has a zero tolerance policy for violence.
- Consequences for misbehavior will be age-appropriate and without bias.
- Disciplinary files are confidential.

Possession of cell phones in schools is discouraged. If it is necessary for a student to have a cell phone in school, the following rules apply:

- The cell phone will be turned off during the school day.
- The cell phone is out of sight during the school day (preferably in a book bag).
- The only time the cell phone can be used is outside of the school day and the student must be outside the school buildings.
- Students are responsible for their own phone at all times, even if it is taken from someone to whom they have loaned it.
- By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable and necessary.

If any of these rules are violated, the cell phone will be taken from the student by a school employee and turned in to the principal's office. A parent must pick the phone up at the school office.

First offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal's office. A second offense by the student is insubordination.

Second offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal's office. Depending on the circumstances, the principal will determine whether the student receives an in-school or out-of-school suspension for insubordination.

Continued offenses: Additional disciplinary action may be taken to the consequences mentioned above.

Possession of any of the following items in the classroom may result in these being confiscated and held in the office for parents to pick up:

- Portable video games, trading cards, etc...

Possession of any of the following items in the school will result in these being confiscated and held in the office for parents to pick up:

- Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, hover board, etc...

Possession and or use of these items will result in consequences ranging from detention/clean-up duty to suspension:

- Water balloons, paint balls, water gun, etc.

Possession, use of or distribution of these items will result in consequences ranging from detentions to suspension/expulsion:

- Lighters, knives (including pocket knives, or other sharp items), matches, firecrackers, fireworks

Possession, use of or distribution of any of the following items may lead to expulsion:

- Explosives/explosive devices
- Knives, blades, guns of any type
- Hit lists or lists of violent actions
- Please note that any other items used as weapons and/or that appear to be dangerous items (metal pipes, chains, toy weapons, and pencils) can also result in severe consequences.

Students who bring, use, possess, sell, share, or distribute any of the items listed below face detention, suspension and/or possible expulsion:

- Cigarette, E-Cigarette, or other tobacco products as well as vaping products and devices.
- Alcohol
- Prescription medication (must be kept in office)
- Illegal drugs, substances used to simulate drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Over the counter medications except for personal use in office with parent approval.

Engaging in any of the following activities will result in consequences ranging from a verbal warning, detention, suspension to expulsion:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Arson, burning or igniting any object | • Misconduct on the bus |
| • Inappropriate physical contact | • Gang activity |
| • Extortion | • Vandalism |
| • Defiance | • Misuse of technology |
| • Fighting | • Verbal abuse |
| • Intimidation | • Gambling |
| • Harassment of any type including racial or sexual | • Theft |
| • Unauthorized sales of food and other items | • Inappropriate language |
| • Aggressiveness | • Unsafe action |
| • Lewdness | • Threats |

BULLYING (Board Policy 5054)

Students who engage in bullying or harassing behavior are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Bullying behavior is defined as an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse. Students are encouraged to report bullying behavior to any adult in the building.

Bullying behavior is usually first given to our Bully Response Team (BRT) which is a group of middle school students under the supervision of a middle school teacher, Jon Marroquin. They assess the situation reported, investigate then intervene using the guidance of Mr. Marroquin. The more serious situations and ongoing behaviors are given to the school counselor or the building principal.

We also promote the Safe2Help program which is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week hotline where students can anonymously report school safety issues.

TEACHING EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

The faculty and staff of Seward Middle School will retrain students in the necessary expected behaviors to be successful. Retraining sessions are called "practice." The goal is to correct the behavior and not punish the student.

Students may be assigned practice sessions by the office or any member of the staff. Practices are for those students with undesirable patterns of attendance, tardiness or conduct as well as other disciplinary problems. Practice sessions will be on the students' valued time (the lunch period, before or after school) and take only the necessary amount of time to correct the behavior.

In the event that a student is suspended out-of-school, the student will report to the principal's office when they return to school to discuss ways in preventing those inappropriate behaviors from reoccurring. Some retraining and practice may take place. In certain situations parents may be required to attend this meeting.

ATHLETICS/CLUBS GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Listed below is a summary of the eligibility requirements for Seward Middle School.

If a student in grade 7 or 8 reaches age 15 prior to August 1, the student shall be ineligible for interschool competition in grades 7 or 8. The student may participate on a high school team.

All athletes must have a physical sheet signed by their doctor before they can actively participate in athletic practice. All athletes will be given a copy of the middle school athletic training rules. If after reading them you do not understand them, please contact Mr. Miller or your coach.

Students must attend school all day in order to take part in practice or a contest with the following exceptions:

1. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office to miss for a doctor, dental, or orthodontist appointment.
2. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office in order to attend a funeral.
3. The student has missed school because of a class activity and/or field trip.

Any student found guilty by school authorities or law enforcement agencies of drinking or possessing any form of alcoholic beverages, using or possessing tobacco or illegal forms of drugs while participating in an athletic program (during an athletic year - start of fall practice through end of school term) shall be subject to suspension under current School Board Policy.

STUDENT SUPPORT**4R ROOM**

The 4R's in the title represent Rights, Responsibilities, Respect, and Redirection. A student may be referred to the 4R room for academic or behavior reasons. The goal of the 4R room is to create a learning experience from poor choices, as we feel this is essential to learning and an inevitable part of living. It is our philosophy to teach students not to hide mistakes, to make excuses, or blame others.

In the 4R room, students are taught various steps to problem solving. They are responsible for identifying the problem, as well as, possible solutions to solving it. Students examine advantages and disadvantages of each solution and choose one they feel would best solve the problem. Students are expected to follow through with their chosen solution, and finally, create ways of monitoring their success.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS/SPORTS

Students involved in after school programs are expected to abide by school expectations. After school activities are an extension of the school day. Sponsors and coaches will have expectations for each activity and these will be shared with the students and parents. Students are expected to maintain academics during their participation in after school activities. If low grades become a problem, the sponsor, student, parents or the principal will meet to set up expectations and a plan for the student to be successful in both areas.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION FEES (Board Policy 5045)

All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student to all home activities during the school year. The exception would be the musical, conference, district or state tournaments that are hosted by the Seward Public Schools. The cost of this pass to participants is \$20.00.

Students will be charged a \$20.00 flat fee for all activities/athletics. As an example: \$20.00 for the activity pass; \$20.00 for football/volleyball, basketball/wrestling, and track for a total of \$40.00 for the year. If the student also participates in band, choir, or the musical there would not be an additional charge. No student will be denied access to an activity because of the fees, but it is the family's responsibility to contact the teacher, sponsor or office regarding any special circumstances.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is an organization through which the students may express their opinions and plan activities for the students. The council tries to promote leadership, cooperation, responsibility, respect, caring, fairness, citizenship and trustworthiness among its members.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Student Planners are provided to assist students and parents in preparation for classes each day. Please check and/or review these nightly with your student.

COUNSELING

The Seward Middle School counselor is available to help you with your child's academic, personal and social concerns. The counselor is also available for educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information and study help.

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is an extension of all middle school classrooms. The library/media center closely parallels the curriculum and greatly expands the classroom resources available to students. The M.C. houses several thousand print resources that are supplemented with an extensive video collection, electronic resources, and online databases to which the M.C. subscribes. In the course of the school year, students will often be assigned classroom research projects that are M.C. based. Students are always encouraged to use the M.C. for recreational reading materials.

The special rules regarding circulation of print materials and access to electronic resources will be explained to each grade level during their M.C. orientation early in the school year. Fines are charged for overdue materials at an established rate and must be paid before report cards are issued and/or credit is given.

FINES AND FEES

Some activities, classes or events may require a fee. No student will be denied access to an activity because of the fees, but it is the family's responsibility to contact the teacher or office regarding any special circumstances.

At the end of each year or when your student leaves Seward Middle School, all books and materials must be returned in good condition, or a fine will be assessed. Fines must be paid before grades or an official transcript will become available.

FOOD SERVICE/CAFETERIA

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well balanced lunch and breakfast is offered at a reasonable price. Those students wishing to participate in the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program must turn in their application to the district office.

2024-2025 Food Service Prices: • Lunch: \$3.50 • Breakfast \$2.25

Lunch/breakfast guidelines are as follows:

1. Lunch money can be deposited before school in the cafeteria or in the office. If your lunch balance falls below the price of two full priced lunches, parents may be contacted. If the balance is below zero and money is not deposited in the child's account after one day, students will be served an alternative meal. However, students are reminded daily when they come through the lunch line if their balance is below \$5.
2. Students that exhibit unacceptable behavior in the lunchroom such as throwing food, etc. will not be allowed to eat in the cafeteria. These students will be assigned to eat their lunches in an area separate from the other students.
3. A breakfast program is available to all middle school students. The serving time is from 7:40 to 7:55. There is time for bus students to eat breakfast. Students may only purchase a full breakfast. Other types of food are not permissible in the cafeteria during the morning serving time.
4. Food may not leave the cafeteria at any time.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact the USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To Request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: US Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

The middle school health program is administered by the school nurse, Michele Cooksey, who is responsible for ensuring the school provides for the individual health needs of all students. School health services are intended to support, not substitute for, health care that should be provided by the parents. Communications between parent and school regarding a student's health is very important and beneficial. Please notify the school nurse or office of any health related problems or concerns of which the school should be aware.

If a student is sick or hurt and can't make it through the day, permission from the teacher must be obtained to go to the nurse's office. The student must have a pass to go to the nurse's office and cannot go during passing periods. A student must consult with the nurse

before he/she leaves to go home because of illness or injury and the nurse has contacted and obtained parent/guardian permission. The student must sign out in the school office.

A sick child should be kept at home to protect other children. If a child has a fever, the child should remain at home for at least twenty-four hours after the fever breaks.

Among the health services provided for students by the Seward School District are screening tests for vision, dental, and hearing. Hearing tests are given to students in kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grades, and to new students and those who have had previous hearing losses. Vision screening (distance) is done each year in all elementary grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grade. Vision (near) is done in grades first and third grade. Dental screenings are completed each year kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade except for those students who have evidence of having been seen by a dentist within the preceding six (6) months. Weight/height status along with a body mass index percentile is done in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade.

These screenings are for the purpose of detecting major dental, vision, and hearing problems, which are apparent and are not intended to substitute for a thorough doctor examination.

Parents/guardians are notified if the screenings indicate the potential for any type of problem. School personnel do not diagnose health problems. If health problems are detected, parents/guardians are then encouraged to consult their family medical specialist, but the schools cannot assume the cost of the medical specialist's.

MEDICATION - The school nurse is responsible for coordinating student medication. The following regulations apply to all students who must take prescription or non-prescription medications during school hours.

1. Prior to administration of any medication, parents must sign a written consent and have it filed with the school nurse. Consent forms may be obtained in the nurse's office or school office.
2. In case of prescribed medication, given for more than two weeks (long term prescriptions), the parent's consent and a doctor's written orders must be filed with the school nurse.
3. Medication must be sent to the office in the original container and the medication card must be signed. Both over the counter and prescription medications are treated the same way. Pharmacists will provide two labeled containers, one for home and one for school.
4. The school district will not purchase, prescribe or provide any form of internal medicine to a student.
5. No more than one week's supply of a medication should be brought to school.
6. The student may bring the medicine to school. No prescription medication will be sent home at any time with the student. Parents may pick it up at the nurse's office or school office. Medication that has not been picked up at the end of the school year will be destroyed.
7. Notify the school nurse if you need to carry an inhaler due to asthma.
8. Written directions must accompany emergency medications, such as a bee sting kit, from your doctor.

IMMUNIZATION - All children must be immunized by the first day they enroll in school except as follows:

1. A statement which is signed by the physician, stating that in the physician's opinion, the immunization required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household; or
2. An affidavit signed by the student or, if he/she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or a member, or that immunization conflicts with the personal religious belief of the student. A notary public must sign this affidavit.

INSURANCE - The school board affords students the opportunity to participate in-group accident insurance at the start of each school year with Mutual of Omaha. One of the following is a requisite to registration in classes having a potential of personal injury or participation in athletics:

1. Participation in the student accident insurance program.
2. The family maintains a statement signed by parent certifying insurance covering personal injury of the student.
3. A statement signed by the parent acknowledging receipt of information concerning student accident insurance and declining participation.
4. The filing of claims is the responsibility of the students and their parents.
5. Students will be responsible for providing their own band instrument insurance.

LICE (Pediculosis) - Children may be examined periodically by the school nurse to determine if lice are present. If the examination indicates the presence of lice or nits, the child will be sent home immediately or as soon as safe and proper conveyance can be found. In the event that arrangements cannot be made for the child to go home, the child will be isolated from the other students. Parents will be required to bring the child to the nurse or nurse aide at the time of reentry. The child must be nit-free before readmission will be granted.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office where the owner can claim them. A lost and found table will be kept in the cafeteria and will periodically be cleaned out with articles being donated to a local charity. Students and parents are encouraged to check this table for lost items.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students must participate in physical education. In view of this, it is strongly urged that each student visit his/her family doctor for a complete physical examination before entering school. If any limitation is to be placed on participation in physical education, a written statement should be presented which clearly sets forth the limitation and is signed by the family doctor. The statement will be made a part of the student's record. Appropriate athletic shorts, t-shirts and gym shoes are required for students in grades 6-8. Students in 5th grade will need to have proper shoes but will not dress out for class. All middle school students (grades 5-8) will need a separate pair of shoes to be used only for PE when classes are held in the gymnasium. They can be inexpensive or even a used pair as long as they are used ONLY for physical education classes in the gymnasium.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (YAP)

The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) operates in the Middle School. The purpose of YAP is threefold: 1) to identify students with high-risk behaviors, 2) to connect students and families with sources of assistance, 3) to support students in the school environment. If you have questions, please contact the middle school office or Mr. Schlegel.

SCHOOL SECURITY

The Seward School District uses electronic surveillance equipment to monitor the premises for the purposes of: employee and student safety and security; prevention and detection of crime; and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

STUDENT LOCKERS

Lockers are assigned to students. Students are encouraged to leave all valuable items at home. The school is not responsible for missing items. A student may bring a lock from home but must provide the office with the combination or key. Lockers and locks are also provided for PE and athletics. The lockers and locks are school property. Damage to a locker will result in a fine and/or suspension. School officials reserve the right to search lockers.

BLUEJAY ALERTS

To receive important information about Seward Public Schools sent as a text message or voice message directly to cell, home or office phones, wireless PDA or pagers, sign up for Blue Jay Alerts. It's an automated calling system used to contact parents for things such as emergency information, school closings, early dismissals and school event reminders. Please contact Craig Williams, District Technology Coordinator at 643-2988 or craig.williams@sewardschools.org.

TELEPHONE AND PHONE MESSAGES

- Students will not be excused from class to accept phone calls, but messages concerning family emergencies will be given to students promptly.
- Students will only be allowed to use the phone for emergency situations or if they need to make arrangements to stay after school.
- Cellular phones and other communication devices are not to be used during school hours. Faculty and staff will confiscate these items and the parents will need to pick these up from the office.
- After school arrangements (going to a friend's house) should be made in advance of school hours.

TRANSPORTATION AND ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

- Students should not arrive at school before 7:45 a.m. unless they are eating breakfast. Students are to wait in assigned areas. Transportation is provided between school and home only via school district established bus routes. If students wish to go to any other destination, they will need to provide their own transportation. Any exceptions to this policy will require advance written parental notice and school approval.
- School expectations and guidelines are to be followed on all buses. A student may be suspended from riding any buses because of inappropriate behavior.
- Scooters, roller blades and skateboards are not to be ridden on school grounds. These items will be confiscated if they are being ridden during school hours. Bikes may be ridden to school and parked in the bike racks. The school is not responsible for these items during the school day.
- **Students walking to and from school are required to use the crosswalks where provided.**
- All students are required to remain on school grounds once they arrive. Students leaving school grounds without permission will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Insist that your child obey traffic signals. Parents who pick up or drop off children before and after school can come to the east or west entrance (preferably the east entrance) and are asked to obey signs for everyone's safety. Buses load and unload children on the west side of the building.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER (HAL) PROGRAM

Educational enrichment is provided for all students throughout the school year by way of special classroom activities and school-wide events. Additional services are provided for identified students in grades 5-8 and consist of further skill development in the areas of written and oral communication, critical thinking, research, etc. Questions about identification or program offerings should be addressed to the HAL coordinator, Shannon Hall-Schmeckpeper.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies. Unless otherwise authorized by board policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. For example, students making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron are permitted, but students are still subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies. An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

GRIEVANCE

Grievance procedure for students and employees of the School District of Seward is in compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Section 504 or Title VI. It is the policy of the School District of Seward Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Nebraska Equal Education Opportunity Act.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or has been excluded from participation in any district education program or activity on the basis of sex, race or handicap in violation of this policy may grieve such matters using the adopted grievance procedures of this district. Definition of Terms:

1. Grievant - An individual student, parent or employee.
2. Grievance - The grievant feels that there has been discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or handicap.
3. Days - Shall refer to Monday through Friday, excepting legal holidays.
4. Time Limits.
 - a. No grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of grievance.
 - b. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time limit specified, unless there is a mutually agreed upon extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required.
 - c. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

Procedures

Level One: A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

Level Two: In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it, and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days after the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

Level Three: In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will respond in writing to the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter.

Level Four: In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the Seward Board of Education which will convene a grievance committee for the purpose of examining evidence of discrimination in the case submitted. The grievance committee will consider all relevant evidence presented in connection with the grievance and may request individuals to testify before the committee. Within twenty (20) days after receipt of the written grievance the grievance committee shall determine what action, if any, should be taken to resolve the grievance. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the grievant.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Section 504 or Title VI may be directed to Scott Axt, Seward High School, Kirk J. Gottschalk, Seward Middle School, or Jessica Dominy, Seward Elementary.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Josh Fields, in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

Middle School 1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative Policies and Procedures

Seward Public Schools is proud to offer our 8th grade students Chromebook devices for use at school and home. The 1 to 1 Chromebook program, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all grade 8 students, has been designed to enhance delivery and assist with individualized instruction.

For parents and students, the following information is provided to help everyone understand the expectations and the responsibility of care and use related to receiving a Chromebook. Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. Please reference Board Policy 5037 for further guidance.

- Students will receive instruction on the proper use and care of a Chromebook.
- Students will be able to take the Chromebook home during the school year once the student and parent have signed the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form, and the Student Handbook Receipt.
- Students are expected to treat the Chromebook as a valuable piece of equipment.
- Students must take all precautions to prevent theft; for example, do not leave the Chromebook unattended or in a car.
- Students must take precautions to prevent damage to the Chromebook; for example, do not leave the Chromebook where there is danger of coming into contact with moisture or excessive heat/cold temperatures.
- Students are to use the Chromebook to access only socially and educationally appropriate materials and websites.
- Students who wish to use the Chromebook to purchase goods and services from the Internet have full responsibility for any financial obligations incurred from doing so.
- Students are to use the Chromebook in accordance with all Seward Public Schools technology policies including all stipulations found on the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form.
- Chromebook are property of Seward Public Schools and must be returned at the end of the school year, upon withdrawal from Seward Public Schools, and/or at the request of the administration. Willful failure to return the Chromebook in accordance with the stated conditions will result in criminal prosecution.

- Since the Chromebooks are property of the school district, officials of the school have the right to review all material stored on or accessed by any Chromebook and/or student. School officials may revoke a student's Chromebook privileges for any misuse or violation of policies.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations 2024-2025

<p>Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider</p>	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, *Hib not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age. *Pneumococcal not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age</p>
<p>Students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students</p>	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age. 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
<p>Additionally, for 7th Grade Only</p>	<p>1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)</p>

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471- 6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
Updated 1/2014