

Kindle's Korner

by

Dr. Wayne Kindle, Superintendent Yankton School District

District 18 Legislative Cracker Barrels

Yankton County citizens will have the opportunity to hear from and submit questions to their District 18 legislators at the Legislative Cracker Barrels sponsored by Yankton Thrive.

The tentative dates/time for the 2026 Cracker Barrels will be:

Saturday, January 31 at 10:00 am – CMTEA Facility

Saturday, February 21 at 10:00 am – CMTEA Facility

Saturday, March 7 at 10:00 am – CMTEA Facility

Cracker Barrels will be during the South Dakota State Legislative session. Local Legislators will be available to answer questions.

For more information, please contact Yankton Thrive at (605) 665-3636 or visit their website at: www.yanktonsd.com

Dave and De Knudson Gift

The Yankton School District Alumni Association is proud to announce a transformational gift that will impact students for generations. Dave and De Knudson have made a \$500,000 donation to establish a permanently endowed scholarship and have designated the contribution as a matching gift for the community.

Dave Knudson, Yankton High School Class of 1968, shared the motivation behind the gift, "I had excellent teachers and a wonderful education. That education has helped me throughout my life, and as part of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Yankton school system, I am pleased to announce that my wife and I are giving the Yankton School District Alumni Association a matching gift of \$500,000."

This gift from Dave and De Knudson is monumental in putting the Yankton School District Alumni Association in a position to move forward with a plan to seek other donors. Most importantly it will benefit Yankton High School students for many years into the future. We are simply blessed to have this gift.

Gifts from Alumni speak volumes, as to the quality of education a person received in the Yankton School District. These gifts come from the heart and demonstrate an appreciation the donors want others to experience.

The Knudson's generosity will certainly inspire others who have been considering a gift and we welcome them to reach out to us. This also recognizes the appreciation Alumni have for the Yankton School District affirming this is very special place!

The Yankton School District Alumni Association's goal is to create a global community of alumni and friends who support the development of educational opportunities in the Yankton School District. To learn more about the Yankton School District Alumni Association or to reach out to Frani Kieffer, please visit bit.ly/YSDAlumni, email Frani.Kieffer@k12.sd.us, or call (605) 760-2019.

Early Release & School Buses Returning to School

If inclement weather conditions are in the "forecast" including potentially dangerous visibility/road conditions, which impact the safety of our children, the YSD will consider an Early Release.

Weather conditions can change very quickly with little regard to the "forecast". I trust our bus drivers and their judgement regarding visibility/road conditions. They may choose to return to town at any time during their bus route with children to ensure their safety.

The decision may also be made to return all buses to town or not send any buses out if the weather and travel conditions change quicker than the "forecast" predicted. If either of these situations would happen, we will communicate with parents.

If your child rides the bus, please make sure you have a plan in place for a family member or close friend to pick your child up from school if our buses are restricted from travel. We will work with you to keep the children safe at school until they are able to be picked up.

We appreciate your understanding and working together for the safety of our children. I will always do my best to keep our children safe.

Parents of any student who wish to pick their child up early on an inclement weather day or who choose not to have their child attend school with inclement weather pending/road conditions are welcome to do so.

2-Hour Late Start

We may use a 2-Hour Late Start when weather and road conditions interfere with a normal starting time. Weather conditions and road conditions can change very quickly. Utilizing a 2-Hour Late Start provides us additional time along with some day light to further analyze the situation. A decision may also include the closure of school for the day.

The extra time also provides more of a window for the County, City and State to have sanding trucks, plows, etc. taking care of roads in more areas. This also allows the school district some additional time to work on the many parking lots, sidewalks, etc. for our students, parents and staff.

A 2-Hour Late Start is much easier to adjust pick-up times in town or out of town by simply adding 2 hours onto our normal bus pick-up times.

Note: Please remember the conditions in the rural areas may be much worse than in town, which can impact decision making for a **2-Hour Late Start**, an **Early Release** and a **School Bus Returning to School**.

There is also the decision to start school on time and/or not to have an early release. We all know living in South Dakota there will be some weather and road conditions, which require drivers to slow down, be cautious and know it may take a little longer to get to and from our destination safely.

Superintendent Presentations

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me to lead the Yankton School District. You are welcome contact to me at any time to visit. I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization.

I would be happy to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

If there is a specific topic you would like for me to address in the future, please call me at 665-3998 or email me at wayne.kindle@k12.sd.us

Henry Ford stated, **“Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success**