

KINDLE'S KORNER

Dr. Wayne Kindle, Superintendent

Yankton School District

Yankton School District Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be 5 on or before September 1, 2026, and you missed our in-person registration and Open House at Trailhead Learning Center, no worries. You are welcome to use our online registration.

To register online, go to <https://www.ysd.k12.sd.us/o/ysd/page/school-registration> and click the registration link for New Family Enrollment (never been enrolled in YSD) or Login to Parent Portal (has been enrolled in YSD) and start the enrollment process for the upcoming year. After your application is processed, you will receive an email to set up a screening appointment for your child.

Please call the Trailhead Learning Center at 605-260-5400 with any questions or for more details about registration.

Public Education

- **There's no single education system in the United States.**
While we often refer to the "U.S. education system" as a whole, it's really 50 different systems, governed at the state level. Each state sets its own standards, curriculum guidelines, graduation requirements, and teacher certification processes. Even neighboring school districts can vary widely, creating uneven student experiences nationwide.
- **Schools provide much more than just education.**
Over 30 million students receive free or reduced-price school meals daily through federal programs. In many areas, schools also serve as hubs for healthcare, mental health services, social work, and even Wi-Fi access. When schools close, entire support systems for children and families can collapse.
- **The U.S. has one of the most diverse student populations in the world.**
Students in American public schools speak over 400 different languages. In many urban districts, more than 100 languages are spoken.
- **Teachers wear more hats than ever before.**
Educators today aren't just teaching math or reading, they are managing tech platforms, supporting students' emotional wellbeing, translating across language barriers, and adapting to ever-changing education technology.

- **Schools are being asked to solve complex societal issues.**
From school safety to mental health crises to economic inequality, schools are increasingly tasked with solving problems that originate far outside the classroom.
- **Standardized testing still drives the system, despite criticism.**
Even though research shows standardized tests often fail to capture true learning or student growth, they remain as a form of school accountability.
- **What keeps schools running are people who care.**
Despite all the systemic challenges, U.S. schools continue to function because of the tireless dedication of teachers, school staff, administrators, school boards, parents and local communities. Every day, millions of people show up to make sure students are safe, supported, and ready to learn!

YSD Alumni Association

During the 150th Anniversary of the Yankton School District, the Alumni Association was excited to announce a transformational \$500,000 gift from Dave and De Knudson to establish the Dave and De Knudson Scholarship. Even more impactful, this is a matching challenge gift—the Kundsons have challenged us to match their contribution by raising funds from alumni and community members.

The Challenge: Dave and De Knudson are challenging everyone who has been impacted by YSD and anyone who loves YSD to join them in giving back by matching their \$500,000 donation!

Why Giving Matters: Public dollars aren't always enough to support the dreams and education of every student. Your gift ensures:

- Students can afford college or career training.
- Teachers can innovate and inspire.
- Every generation has access to opportunity no matter the budget or economy.

You Choose How Your Gift Is Used:

- Endowment Gift: Invested permanently. Only a percentage of the earnings is used, creating a lasting impact.
- Current-use Gift: Fully available now to fund programs, scholarships, or projects, making an immediate difference for students today.

Focus Areas:

- General Fund: Used to address the greatest needs and highest-impact areas.
- Scholarships: Supporting YHS seniors as they pursue post-graduation plans.
- Specific Area: Provide support to specific education or extracurricular activities – match, fine arts, CTE, FFA, football, volleyball, etc.
- Classroom Grants: Encouraging innovative teaching with resources for creating learning experiences.
- Student Support: Assisting students in need with resources, supplies, and opportunities to succeed, such as the Angel Fund for School Nutrition.

- Staff Appreciation: Recognizing and celebrating the dedication of our staff.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn how you can give and join in this matching gift challenge today!

Contact Frani Kieffer
Director YSD Alumni Association
(605) 760-2019
Frani.Kieffer@k12.sd.us

School Board Meetings

Yankton School District Board Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Monday of the month beginning at 5:00 pm. Yankton School Board Meetings are held at the Yankton School District Administration Building in the School Board Meeting Room.

School board meetings are live-streamed, as well as recorded and re-aired on public access channels on our local cable television. The meetings are also archived on the YSD Website <https://www.ysd.k12.sd.us/o/ysd/page/video-archive>

The public is always welcome to attend.

Superintendent Presentations

You are welcome to contact me regarding a presentation or personal visit. Additionally, if there is a specific topic you would like for me to address in a future Kindle's Korner, please call me at 665-3998 or email me at wayne.kindle@k12.sd.us

I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or come to your facility/meeting place.

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