

Lu Verne Community School District

PO Box 69
Lu Verne, Iowa 50560

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
CORWITH, WESLEY AND LU VERNE
Telephone: 515-882-3357, Fax: 515-882-3417

Jon Hueser, Supt./Principal
Janie Eischen, Curriculum Director

Registration at the Lu Verne (CWL) Elementary

July is here and soon school will be back in session. At our board meeting on June 16, 2022, the CWL School Board voted to waive all registration fees for the 2022-2023 school year (please thank them when you see them). We have also started exploring how we can make the school lunch free for all of our students but we need your help. A free and reduced lunch application is being mailed to all families that were enrolled at the end of the school year or who have indicated they will be attending this fall. Please fill out the form and mail it back to the school in the self addressed stamped envelope that will be enclosed with the application. If you do not need to fill out the form a letter will be mailed to you. **Please help us by filling out the free and reduced applications for your child and if you have questions on it you can call Ally in the office at 515-882-3357 (between 8:00-3:00 - closed on Friday). If you are new to the district please call and we can get the information sent out to you.**

All other registration can be completed online. Just go to our school website at www.luverne.k12.ia.us and under "Current News" you will find the form. **Please take time to fill out the form and then make sure to submit it. We need to know you are coming so we can establish our 2022/2023 Bus Routes and times and need to have the most accurate Parent/Guardian information. Bus Routes will be finalized once this step has been completed by everyone.** Once they are finalized your driver will contact you and provide you with your pickup and drop off times. Any additional paperwork the school may need can be brought to the Parent Teacher Conferences which will be held on August 23, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. We once again will be using the "My Conference Time" sign up. Please go to our school website and under the Parent Resource Tab you will find PT Conference Registration. It is there you will find a time to sign up. If you have any questions or need help in signing up, please call the school office at 515-882-3357. The Conference site will open on August 1, 2022. We are unsure at this time if Preschool will be holding conferences. If you have a Preschooler we will be in touch with you.

School Supplies

This year once again the Lu Verne (CWL) Elementary will be supplying most of the school supplies your child may need. There are still a few things that we will be asking parents/guardians to provide. Below is a list of those supplies. If you can not afford to purchase these supplies, please contact the school office at 515-882-3357 so we can provide resources so your child will have all the supplies they need on the first day of school.

Preschool (Mrs. Robinson)

- Backpack (No Toddler Size)
- Headphones

Kindergarten (This year any student in Kindergarten will be attending in Algona

First Grade (Mrs. Schmidt)

- 3 boxes of Kleenex
- PE Shoes to Keep at School
- Backpack

Second Grade (Mrs. Curry)

- 2 Boxes Quart Size Ziploc Sandwich Baggies
- 1 Package Baby Wipes
- 1 Clorox Sanitizing/Disinfectant Wipes
- 3 Boxes of Kleenex
- PE Shoes
- Backpack

Third and Fourth Grade (Mrs. Olson)

- 3 Boxes of Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes
- Headphones
- Book Bag
- Pair of Gym Shoes to Leave at School

Fifth Grade (Ms. Gent)

- PE Shoes (no clothes as the students will not be changing for PE)
- Headphones with a straight connector plug
- Book Bag
- 6 Boxes of Kleenex
- Old Shirt (for use when we are painting things)
- Reusable Water Bottle

** Students may keep deodorant in their locked for use after PE**

The first day of school for the 2022/2023 school year for grades 1-5 will be on August 24, 2022. The school day starts at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:35 p.m. The first day for Preschool will be on August 29, 2022. Three year old preschool meets on Tuesday and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. and Four year old preschool meets on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:30 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Upcoming Reorganization Vote

The voters of the Algona CSD and Lu Verne CSD will have the opportunity to vote on whether the district should reorganize (or merge) starting on July 1, 2023. The vote will take place on September 13, 2022 in a special election held in both our school districts. I thought I would take some time to just remind people of the path we took to get to this point.

Lu Verne CSD and Algona CSD started sharing students during the 2015/2016 school year. At that time we did not apply for any special state aid figuring we would wait until we got closer to the potential time when we might have to reorganize. Three years ago we decided it was time to look at moving towards reorganizing as one district.

The state had incentives (for three years) for each district to move towards that goal (it was called Joint Employment). After this year we will have received roughly \$2.4 million in extra spending authority (through positive district financial management both districts are in very good financial shape - so money right now isn't the main

issue). These funds are based solely on us working towards reorganization (after reorganization we then have three more years of financial incentives from the state). The last part of this process is to allow the communities to vote on reorganization (and that will take place on September 13, 2022).

We already share the following: Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Director of Transportation, Level I investigator, Teacher Leadership Program, music instructor, instructional coach, calendar, bus route, grades 6-12 (and added Kindergarten this year), professional development opportunities, Title IX program, administrative meetings, and the coordination of our various programs. This has allowed both districts to expand opportunities for not only our students but also our staff.

I would like to talk about the challenges schools are facing in Iowa. Today I looked at Teach Iowa (a site schools post job openings) and just looked at how many elementary teacher positions are still posted. There are still over 650 posted jobs in the state of Iowa for next year in elementary education (which starts in less than a month). This has made it very difficult to compete for elementary candidates (not only for Lu Verne but also the bigger districts like Algona). We have had to be very creative in our schedules and sharing opportunities with neighboring school districts to meet our educational needs. If you look at the national news there is a teacher shortage throughout the nation, not just Iowa.

Schools are not only struggling to find teachers but also support staff. Right now we have a large number of our support staff who are at retirement age or nearing retirement age. It is very difficult to replace experienced people in our support staff areas (like bus drivers, janitors, business staff, secretaries, aids, lunch staff, etc). We are very fortunate our staff is dedicated to our district and students to stay on for this year, but they will not stay forever (you might have had them when you were in school). In fact a year ago we had a bus driver retire and couldn't fill that position (thankfully Algona agreed to help us pick up those students).

Finally we are still seeing a decrease in students in rural Iowa (our two districts only have a student population that is 9 more total students than we did with a combined 4 school districts 10 years ago). Most towns are struggling to have adequate child care which takes a lot of students from our roster (they go to daycare where the parents work) and we have a lack of jobs in rural communities. This means our population in our school is dropping just like the populations in rural communities are dropping. This is something that is out of our control but it is affecting a lot of small rural districts in Iowa (including Lu Verne). To be a school we need students, and this year alone we felt we didn't have enough students to offer a Kindergarten class (plus we are down two teachers). Thankfully Algona offered to take those students who would have been in our Kindergarten class for the 2022-2023 school year.

Whether you agree with the reorganization or not, we are encouraging everyone to please get out and vote on September 13, 2022. If we have learned one thing from past elections is that every vote counts and on September 13 you will have the opportunity to let your voice be heard. Next month I will talk in more detail about the three items you are voting on during that special election (reorganization, SAVE revenue purpose statement and voter approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy).

If you have any questions please email me at jhueser@cwl-csd.org or call 515-882-3357 or you can view our reorganization website (which even has a FAQ section) by going to <https://www.luverne.k12.ia.us/Content2/reorg>

Thank you,
Jon Hueser
Supt/Principal

It is the policy of the Lu Verne Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of age (for employment), race, creed, national origin, color, marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, religion, gender/sex, socio-economic status (for programs), gender identity or physical/mental disability in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Janie Eischen, Director of Teaching and Learning, 405 Hanna Ave, Lu Verne, IA 50560, 515-882-3357, jeischen@algona.k12.ia.us