4201 South Union Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Phone: (515) 242-8409 Fax: (515) 953-0486

Dr. Bill Szakacs Principal Mrs. Emily Behrens, Dean



Mission: South Union exists to prepare students to be productive citizens through academics, arts, and wellness Vision: Dedicated to Success Everyday

Principal News

Dr. Bill Szakacs, Principal

Welcome Parents, Students and Community members to a new school year at SU!

I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead SU as it's new school principal.

SU has a long history of providing top-notch educational services for students and the community. I am excited about all the opportunities to help students and families improve their lives

SU's vision is: Dedicated to Success Everyday...and we mean it. We want our students, teachers, and parents to experience success everyday. I can assure you that we will give our best effort everyday so that your child(ren) receive a quality education and enjoy coming to school.

We want to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the school with your questions, concerns, volunteer interest, and /or support.

It is without question, we have a enormous responsibility educating 550 plus students everyday, and it's a challenge we embrace with your help.

Your help and support is critical to our success. As the year goes a long, I hope to meet many of you, so that we develop quality relationships and work in partnership to meet the needs of students who attend SU. Have a great month, and please call or visit the school. It's a great place to be!

Go Rails!

Traffic Control and exiting from the west-side parking lot:

Parents-

As you know, we do not have the best parking lot situation for dropping off or picking up children after school. The after-school pickup is an event in itself and we are doing our best to make sure it's safe as we move traffic along at dis-

missal time. We need your help: when you exit the parking lot, please turn to the RIGHT. This is VERY important as we move traf-

fic out of the parking lot. Thank you!

Important Dates

PTA Meeting	September 9 @ 6:30
Picture Day	TBD
Conferences	October 15 & 22
	2:00-8:00 p.m.
No School for Students	October 24
Thanksgiving Break	November 26-28

School Hours

- School Hours: 8:15am-3:00pm
- Main Doors Open: 8:00am
- Breakfast in the Classroom: 8:00am

Students are tardy if they arrive later than 8:15am.

Every Wednesday Early Dismissal at 1:30pm

News from the Nurse Susan McDonald, School Nurse

FROM our NURSE:

Hello!! It is great to be back at school and see so many familiar faces and meet the new students as well! Everyone looks eager and ready to learn!

To give your student a good start to their day, be sure they get a good night's sleep for at least 9 hours and then eat a nutritious breakfast. South Union is again offering a free Grab N' Go breakfast to every student. That will give them the energy they need to stay alert and engaged in learning.

Just a reminder that if your student needs to take ANY medication at school, that it needs to be in the original container. I'll also need a note from the doctor if it is not a prescription drug (prescription

drug's have the Dr's order on the label). I'll also need the pink sheet completed by the parent that gives me your permission to administer the medication at school. I have the pink sheets in my office.

Just to let parents know that there are several illnesses that may lead to vomiting and diarrhea. To reduce the possibility of illness affecting our students and their learning, please do the following:

Teach your children about and practice good hand washing

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing vomiting or diarrhea

Please no sharing of home made food at school

If your student needs to finish up his/ her immunizations, please make your doctor appointment now. These need to be completed in the first 60 days. If your kindergarten student hasn't had a lead screen drawn, you may want to get this done at the same time as the shots.

If your kindergarten student hasn't gotten a dental screening done yet, please do so right away. I have the dental screening certificates in my office if you need one to take to the dentist with you. If you need help find-

ing a dentist, please let me know.

Dean of Students/Specialists News

Mrs. Emily Behrens

Hello South Union Families! My name is Emily Behrens and I am the Dean of Students/Specialists at South Union. I bring many years of teaching experience in grades K-5 with me. I have taught in Urbandale, Waukee, and Perry. I received my BA in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa and M. Ed. In education from Iowa State University.

I am excited to be joining the South Un-

ion team and look forward to getting to know the students and families in the community. I value working as a team to ensure student development and growth. I hope this year brings academic growth as well as social and emotional growth. Let's have a great year. Go-

Rails!



Counselor's Corner Jen Roberts, Counselor

The Des Moines Public Schools Counseling Program ensures that all students develop personal/social, academic, and career competencies to participate constructively in a diverse and global world.



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Art News



Looking forward to a great year and developing so many artists at SU..



Music News

Concert dates are set!!!

Kindergarten – Thurs. Feb. 19 12:45 PM

1st Grade – Thurs. Feb. 19 2:00 PM

2nd Grade - Thurs. April 2 12:45 PM

3rd Grade – Thurs. April 2 2:00 PM

4th Grade – Thurs. May 7 12:45 PM

5th Grade – Thurs. May 7 2:00 PM

**All concerts are held in the South Union Gymnasium.

Music continued...

***4th & 5th Grade Chorus!!!!

Notes/Permission slips have been sent home. We meet on Mondays, 3:00-3:30. If your child is interested, please pick up a permission slip from Mrs. Peterson. Rehearsals begin on Monday, Sept. 8!!

PE News

I just wanted to write a quick reminder about wearing gym shoes to P.E. I know during the fall months the students like to wear flip flops, sandals and other casual shoes to school, but, for safety reasons it is important to bring a pair of gym shoes to change into on their P.E. days. If your child can't remember if they have P.E., send the gym shoes in their backpacks just in case. Students who are not wearing gym shoes have to sit out for the class.

Music News

Behavior Specialist Mr. James Puderbaugh

Dear Families,

My name is Mr. Puderbaugh and I am the Behavior Specialist at South Union Elementary school. I have been a teacher in the Des Moines Schools for 14 years and taught kindergarten at South Union from 2012-2014. I am very excited for our new year together and look forward to working with all of you. I also manage the lunch room this year. The children will be going to recess after lunch and

will not be stopping by their lockers. Cold lunch containers will be collected by the teacher as the children exit the building onto the playground. All containers need to have your child's name on them. All food or drink that is brought from home needs to be in a container with your child's name so it can be collected by the teacher, or thrown away at the end of your child's lunch period. Lunch is free for all students at South

Union this year. Thank you for the great start to the school year.

James Puderbaugh

Behavior Specialist

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District Mission Statement

"Des Moines Public Schools exist so graduates possess knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful in the next stage of their lives."

Persons with disabilities who need information about accessibility or who need sign or language interpreters, please contact the Director of Student and Family Services, (515) 242-7714

Go Rails!!

Additional Information

FOOD SERVICE

Breakfast Program:

Free to students who attend SU.

Lunch Program Prices:

Free to students who attend SU.

ATTENDANCE (Tardies & Absences)

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Students will be expected to attend classes regularly and to be on time. This year students are allowed 3 unexcused absences trimester.

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please refer to the Attendance Policy that was given out at registration or call the school office at 242-8409.

The Des Moines Independent Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing com-

plaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator



EQUITY STATEMENT