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Periodic Newsletter for Sesser-Valier Community Unit School District No. 196
Issue 2, January, 2013



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SV teacher earns National Board Certification.

In mid-November, SV First Grade Teacher Natalie Page earned her National Board Certification (NBC). Page, who started the required coursework and training more than two years earlier, completed the final written assessment in June, 2012. She received official notice of her achievement on November 17, 2012, and is the first SV teacher to earn NBC.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards oversees the NBC program, now in its 25th year. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential that complements, but does not replace, a state teacher license, and is subject to renewal every 10 years. Participation in the NBCT program is completely voluntary. To date, over 100,000 teachers across the United States have earned NBC.

Page was quick to give credit to her family, students, and colleagues for her extraordinary achievement. "The support of my family & colleagues was critical to my NBCT success," Page said, "and, I have been able to teach some of the most amazing students. They inspire me to do better. Achieving NBC is one of the hardest things I've ever done, but, how could I always ask my students to do their best if I don't do the same?"

Page is a 1992 graduate of Sesser-Valier High School and a 1996 graduate of Southern Illinois University. Congratulations to Natalie Page for this outstanding achievement!

NBC HIGHLIGHTS

"While going through the NBC process, candidates must critically evaluate how they teach," Page said. "I realized through this process I had several areas of improvement, and it gave me the opportunity to do that." NBC is based on five "Core Propositions," research-based principles of accomplished teaching intended to equip students with the skills to succeed in the 21st century global community. NBPTS Standards help define and measure teaching excellence.

LOOKING FORWARD

"I want SV schools to be the best they can possibly be. We have strong teachers & support personnel who want our students to learn & grow in ways that they couldn't imagine," Page said. "NBC is one piece of the puzzle, but there are hundreds more skills that must be in place to complete the school picture. I'm happy to be a part of one of the best school systems around."

Student residency & enrollment.

Useful tips for parents enrolling students in SV196

District secretaries and building principals frequently answer questions regarding student enrollment and residency. Over time, the general rules that guide the answers to these questions have become increasingly complex, and, in most cases, student residency & enrollment questions/answers are fact-specific.

In general, only students who are residents of the district may attend a district school without a tuition charge. Unless otherwise provided by law, a student's residence is the same as the person who has legal custody of the student.

Anyone seeking to enroll a student:

1. Must present a certified or registered birth certificate for the student;
2. Must present proof of residency within the district by providing one (1) Category I document and two (2) Category II documents (examples listed below).

Category I (One document required)

- ◆ Most recent property tax bill and proof of payment (canceled check or IRS Form 1098)
- ◆ Homeowner mortgage papers
- ◆ Signed and dated lease and proof of last month's payment (canceled check or renter's receipt)
- ◆ Letter from trailer park manager and proof of last month's payment (canceled check or receipt)
- ◆ Letter of residence from landlord in lieu of lease

Category II (Two documents showing proper address required)

- ◆ Driver's license
- ◆ Vehicle registration
- ◆ Voter registration
- ◆ Most recent cable television and/or credit card bill
- ◆ Current public aid card
- ◆ Current homeowners/renters insurance policy and premium payment receipt
- ◆ Most recent gas, electric, and/or water bill
- ◆ Current library card
- ◆ Mail received at new residence

Anyone (most often parents) with a custody order seeking to enroll a student must present a court order, agreement, judgment, or decree that awards or gives custody of the student to any person (including divorce decrees awarding custody to one or both parents).

School district secretaries and building principals work diligently with persons seeking to enroll children: 1) to ensure that students are enrolled in the proper district and 2) to avoid parental liability for non-resident tuition charges from the date the student began attending a district school as a non-resident.

Questions regarding student residency and enrollment should be addressed to the appropriate building principal's office (Elementary/Junior High School @ Ext. 118 or High School @ Ext. 100).



Student health requirements for enrollment.

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must present proof that the student received a health examination and immunizations against preventable communicable diseases (as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health) within one year prior to entering kindergarten, sixth, & ninth grades, or before enrolling in any Illinois school. Failure to comply with health requirements on or before the first day of school will result in a student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District.

New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations.

Eye Examination

Parents/guardians of students who are entering kindergarten or an Illinois school for the first time (regardless of age) must present proof before October 15th of a school year that the student received an eye examination within one year prior to school entry.

Dental Examination

All children in kindergarten, second, and sixth grades must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist before May 15th of a school year.

Questions regarding student health requirements should be addressed to your child's building principal or the school nurse.



District Procedure 101.

With winter bearing down on Southern Illinois, parents may have questions about how school is cancelled. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding weather-related school closures:

Q: How is a weather-related school closure decision made?

A: District superintendents in Franklin County work together to collaboratively decide if/when schools should be closed for the day due to inclement weather. A committee of county superintendents, including SV196 Superintendent Jason Henry, converse by phone to consider closure decisions.

Q: When are weather-related school closure decisions made?

A: In most cases, closure decisions are made as early as possible to assist parents who may need to make childcare arrangements. When possible, closure decisions are made prior to late-night local newscasts. When this is not possible, closure decisions are made prior to 6 AM newscasts. Weather-related closures are usually based on *actual* weather conditions and *not on predicted* weather conditions.

Q: What factors are considered in a weather-related school closure decision?

A: Four main questions are considered in a weather-related school closure: 1) Are bus routes, including main and secondary roads, clear for safe bus travel? 2) Are weather

conditions safe for students to wait at bus stops? 3) Are main and secondary roads safe for parents to transport their child(ren) to school? 4) Are school grounds, including parking lots & sidewalks, in good condition for students & adults to safely enter/exit the school facility?

Q: Will school be dismissed early in the event of bad weather?

A: Once school is in session for a day, it is very unlikely that school will be dismissed early due to inclement weather. In most cases, the risks of dismissing school early far outweigh the inconvenience of slow or difficult travel, late arrival at home, or arranging alternate childcare. Student safety is the main consideration when considering weather-related school closures.

FOCUS

District Mission

The Sesser-Valier Community School District's mission is to provide a superior educational environment so that every child is educated and graduates with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to achieve significant career, educational, civic and personal goals which will generate confident, productive, and responsible citizens.

FUTURE TOPIC

Student Fee Payment

In the next issue of *red.devil.details*, a Question/Answer section will address the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the payment of student fees. These FAQs are sometimes the most common student issues that we encounter and may require some advance preparation for parents. The next edition of the district newsletter will address this issue in detail.

How Can I Know?

Q: How does the school notify parents in the event of a weather-related school closure?

Parents can find out about weather-related school closures by:

1. Listening to local radio stations & watching local television stations when inclement weather occurs;
2. Calling the school's automated phone system and selecting Option 6 when prompted; or
3. Following the district superintendent's Twitter (www.twitter.com) feed, @supersv196, for periodic district updates, including weather-related school closure announcements.



Upcoming Events

Presidents' Day Holiday

District schools will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013, to observe Presidents' Day. Student attendance will resume on Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

ISAT Testing

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for students in grades 3-8 will be administered from March 4-15, 2013.

Spring Break

District schools will be closed from Monday, March 25th, through Monday, April 1st, for the annual spring break. Student attendance will resume on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

PSAE Testing

The Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) for students in grade 11 will be administered on April 23-24, 2013.

Help Us Help You!

We want your feedback! If you like reading about school district activities, education topics, or special features of students' activities, please let us know. Your suggestions and constructive feedback are necessary to help us keep you informed about the issues that matter the most. Please call (618) 625-5105, Ext. 105 (Superintendent's Office) or e-mail jdhenry@sv196.org with your feedback.

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