

## *For Immediate Release*

**Contact:**

**Steve McDermott, Superintendent**

**Newton Community School District**

**July 26, 2010, Newton, IA** – With school still four weeks away, most students are wrapped up in enjoying their abbreviated summer. However, an enormous amount of planning and preparation for the upcoming school year has occurred since the last school bell rang on June 9<sup>th</sup>. With registration starting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, final preparations for the elementary realignment, bussing, educational programs and future plans for Emerson Hough are still in the works. As we all look forward, the administration wants to remind the community of some of the exciting things that will be happening this upcoming school year.

### **ELEMENTARY REALIGNMENT**

All elementary students will be grouped for instruction tailored to their individual learning needs in Math and Reading. Additionally, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will receive departmentalized instruction in Science and Social Studies. In other words, students will learn Science and Social Studies concepts with teachers specializing in these two subject areas.

More than ever before possible, teachers at each grade level will work together on effective instruction and student learning. Strong combinations of teachers have been assembled into teams at every elementary grade level. This collaboration will enhance our students' education.

### **BUSSING**

Children will have safe routes to and from school. Students being transported by bus will travel safely to and from regular bus stops, elementary school buildings, or their homes on rural bus routes.

School schedules will have staggered times to allow flexibility for families. Families will have options to choose from regarding how their children get to and from school.

Elementary school bus stops and approved cross-walks will be supervised. At least four cross-walks will be directed by adult crossing guards. These cross-walks include the three utilized in the past, S 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, the intersection of Highway 14 and N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. W, and E 19<sup>th</sup> Street N at Berg Elementary. One additional cross-walk is being planned for the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and E 23<sup>rd</sup> Street near Aurora Heights Elementary.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Educational programs have been maintained in the face of budget cuts. A broad range of educational programs making the most positive and long-lasting impacts on the lives of students will be offered.

Our local young learners will be pushed and supported to ultimately reach their individual potentials. They will be nurtured and prepared to contribute to society and to lead the world.

## **EMERSON HOUGH**

In the face of budget cuts, the School Board elected to repurpose one of the five elementary schools. In the spirit of keeping this school a vital part of the community, the administration and board have been reviewing future uses for Emerson Hough this summer.

State funding allowed the Newton School District to bring an enhanced pre-school program to the district. Now our 4-year-olds will get their first exposure to public education in this great facility. We are excited to serve up to 90 4-yr. old pre-school students in the north wing of Emerson Hough this fall.

To date, the School Board has approved the continuing relationship with the Drake Head Start program. These youngest students will also be utilizing space in the north wing of the building.

In accordance with Iowa Code, the district is entertaining a multi-year contract with the AEA. We are enthusiastic in having this group of professionals bring services to our staff and students right in our own facilities. Currently the AEA is looking at occupying the LMC and potentially the Multi-Purpose room. The administration is still finalizing the contract, but this relationship will not only bring income to the district but will enhance services for all our students and staff.

Additionally, several members of our administration staff, including Jim Gilbert and Wendy Parker will have offices at Emerson Hough, bringing a continued presence and guidance to the facility.

Additional uses for Emerson Hough are still being discussed at the board table. We value community input on this continued discussion.

## **REGISTRATION**

Elementary registration will take place Monday and Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Berg Middle School students will register August 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. High School Students are slated for registration on August 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. This includes Basics and Beyond students. Specific information on times and locations can be found at [www.newton.k12.ia.us](http://www.newton.k12.ia.us).

The transportation department is currently accepting paid transportation applications through Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Transportation Department for additional information at 641.792.4493.