

A PLEDGE TO PROVIDE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

- *SANBORN CENTRAL OFFERS FREE, ALL-DAY EARLY ED.*

Located in Forestburg, with an enrollment of 200 students, the Sanborn Central School District made a commitment seven years ago to provide free, all-day preschool to its youngsters and district residents.

To attend preschool in Sanborn Central, students must be 4-years-old by September 1 of the current school year and have completed a preschool screening, which includes a verification of immunization records and vision and hearing tests.

Kim Severeid is the preschool teacher for the 16 students enrolled in the class and is joined by a full-time paraprofessional, who assists in the classroom.

Preschool students have a regular day, just like their peers in the grades above them, with breakfast, lunch, two recesses and class time, in which they study letters, phonics, math, science and social studies and have stations and story time.

Severeid refers to the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines and the kindergarten Common Core standards when developing lessons. The district attempts to adopt preschool material from the same textbook company as the elementary grades.

The preschool students utilize technology, as well, with a Smart Board located in their classroom and access to IPADS and desk-top PC's.

"The academic structure is greatly appreciated and valued (by parents)," Sanborn Central Superintendent Linda Whitney said. "The district often receives requests from parents not living in the



district boundaries to have their child attend preschool at Sanborn Central."

Throughout the week, preschool students participate in music, library activities, guidance and physical education and perform twice a year in the district's music concerts.

Preschool students occasionally group with kindergarten students for integrated activities and the 5th grade students act as reading buddies and assist in the computer lab.

Parents of the preschool students are invited to parent-teacher conferences twice a year where they receive a copy of the Sanborn Central Preschool Skills Checklist which, identifies their child's assessment information regarding specific skills in the areas of social studies/science, personal information, social skills, math, gross and fine motor skills and language arts.

With the closest formal preschool located almost 30 miles away, the opportunity available for students is greatly appreciated, said Whitney.

"Parents find it convenient to send their 4 year old to the same school as their older sibling," Whitney said. "The Sanborn Central preschool fills an academic void for the district's parents."

