

In Touch

AUGUST 2026



Maintenance Alerts

Sign up for Maintenance Alerts

Would you like to receive advance notice of when Venture Communications plans to do network maintenance work? Click on the green Maintenance Alerts button on the top of venturecomm.net and submit the form provided. We'll email you Maintenance Alerts notifications so you can plan for potential downtime.

Office Closure:

Monday, September 7th
for Labor Day

Venture Communications

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Phone: 605-852-2224 – 24/7 Support

Office Hours: M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST

Email: venture@venturecomm.net

Text to Chat: 605-852-2428 (Available during Office Hours)

Website: www.venturecomm.net

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BLAME THE DOG. *Not Your Internet.*

PAY ATTENTION, STUDENTS. WE'RE TALKING TO YOU.

Now that you're back in school, you might find yourself needing an excuse for why you didn't turn your homework in on time. You could say your dog ate it (if the assignment was on paper). Or for digital work, you could claim file corruption, laptop failure, or a submission glitch.

However, there's one excuse your teachers aren't going to buy — internet outage — because Venture Communication's fiber internet provides reliability.

Our advice? Just keep up with your homework!

Parents:

**CALL 605-852-2224 OR EMAIL
VENTURE@VENTURECOMM.NET
TO LEARN ABOUT FIBER INTERNET.**





Honoring a Career of Commitment

After 25 years of dedicated service, Katy Heinecke is beginning a new chapter. We are grateful for the commitment, care, and professionalism she has shared with our customers, coworkers, and communities throughout her career at Venture Communications.

We extend our sincere thanks to Katy for her many years of service and wish her every happiness in retirement.

It's Time to Prepare for Learning Success

As our community prepares for a new school year, we wish all students, teachers, and families the best of luck. May it be a year of positive growth and successful learning for all! This quote from Alexander Graham Bell, who patented the first practical telephone, caught our attention and seemed appropriate to share: "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."

What Parents Need to Know About AI and Schoolwork

As AI (Artificial Intelligence) becomes increasingly integrated into education, parents should view these tools as a double-edged sword—powerful for personalized tutoring and brainstorming, but risky for critical thinking and academic integrity.

If you have a child in school, here are several important AI issues for you to consider:

- **AI should assist, not replace, thought.** The primary goal of schoolwork is learning, which requires "the struggle" of thinking. AI should be used to help students, for example, understand a complex topic or brainstorm ideas, not to write essays or solve math problems completely. We don't want students to delegate their learning responsibilities to AI.
- **There's a risk of "skill atrophy."** Relying too heavily on AI can cause students to lose confidence in their own problem-solving abilities and creativity. If AI does the work, the student doesn't gain the skill, which hampers long-term progress.
- **AI information can be incorrect.** AI models often provide incorrect information (hallucinations) or biased answers, which can hinder learning. Students must be taught to verify AI-generated answers by using critical thinking and checking additional sources.
- **Know the school's AI policy.** Schools are developing varying policies on AI usage. Some encourage it as a tool, while others prohibit it entirely for certain assignments. Parents and students should know what is considered cheating at their school.
- **Address data privacy concerns.** Many AI platforms collect data. Children should never share personal information, such as names and addresses, with AI tools.

As a parent, you can guide your child through the benefits and risks of AI use by fostering open conversations at home. Ask them to show you examples of how they've used AI when studying or working on assignments. Emphasize that AI is meant to help them learn, rather than do the schoolwork for them. This is key, since once children develop a habit of turning to AI for answers, that reliance can be difficult to reverse down the road.



You're Invited!

Members of

Venture Communications Cooperative:

You're
invited
to the

69th ANNUAL MEETING



Wednesday, September 9th
at the Hyde County Memorial Auditorium.



Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.



Participate in the
Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m.



Play Bingo for a Chance to
Win a **\$350 Grand Prize!**



Please cut out your name and address on
the back of the Annual Meeting booklet and
BRING IT WITH YOU to the annual meeting.
It will serve as your registration for
the meeting, voting, and door prizes.



Venture Welcomes New Employee

Venture Communications is pleased to welcome Tara Brooks to our team. Tara joined Venture as a Customer Experience Representative in July and is based in our office in Sisseton. As a member of the Venture team, Tara will help support our commitment to delivering reliable broadband services and outstanding customer care to the communities we serve. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team and look forward to the positive impact she will make for our customers and our company.

Did You Know It's Family Fun Month?

Here's a fun fact: August is Family Fun Month, timed to coincide with the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. How can you celebrate? Camp out in the backyard. Attend an outdoor concert. Go on a family bike ride. Or pick a day during August for each family member and celebrate by letting them do what they love most.

Help for Those Who Are Hearing or Speech Impaired

The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution (TED) Program for South Dakota allows those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and/or speech disabled to communicate effectively on the telephone by obtaining special equipment at little or no cost. To be eligible for the equipment you must be a resident of South Dakota, have difficulty communicating on the telephone because of a hearing or speech disability, and already have telephone service in your home.

The TED Program stocks phones that offer speakerphone with volume adjustments, volume amplifier, and large visual display. They also provide oversized and lighted dial buttons, hearing aid compatible phones, visual ringer alert or adjustable loud ringer, sound frequency clarifying adjustment and tone adjustment.

To apply, visit www.relaysd.com. Under the TED program at the top is a section called TED Program Overview. There you can apply for a free or reduced phone. If you have questions or need help, call 711 or customer service assistance at 1-877-866-8950 (TTY/Voice).



Top Activities That Demand Fiber Internet

Fiber internet is always an excellent choice. However, it truly shines for users who regularly engage in the following online activities:

4K and 8K Video Streaming – High-resolution streaming requires significant bandwidth. Fiber internet's high speeds ensure there's no buffering, even when streaming on multiple devices simultaneously. Additionally, its reliability guarantees uninterrupted viewing, making it ideal for movie nights or binge-watching sessions.

Competitive Online Gaming – Competitive online gaming demands low latency and fast upload and download speeds to ensure smooth gameplay. Fiber internet's minimal latency provides real-time responsiveness, which is crucial for the multiplayer gaming experience. Moreover, large game downloads and updates are completed more quickly.

Remote Work and Video Conferencing – Remote work, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, typically involves the use of video conferencing and collaborative tools like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet. Fiber internet's symmetrical upload and download speeds ensure high-quality video calls without lags or interruptions. (By contrast, inferior internet can lead to conference call distortions and delays, presentation snafus, and being seen as unprofessional.)

Cloud Computing and Backups – Many people use cloud-based applications and storage every day. You need the speed of fiber internet to efficiently upload large files to platforms like Google Drive, Microsoft 365, and Dropbox.

Smart Homes and IoT Devices – As we add more smart gadgets to our homes, all these connected devices — from security cameras and thermostats to voice assistants and smart appliances — put more demand on our internet service. Fiber's capacity to handle multiple devices simultaneously ensures your smart home ecosystem runs smoothly, while its reliability prevents interruptions. That keeps your automated routines and real-time monitoring systems functioning as intended.

Telehealth Consultations – One of the biggest innovations in the healthcare industry over the past 10 years is the massive expansion of telehealth. It helps healthcare providers assess patient needs much faster, and without the patient needing to leave their home. The reliable performance of fiber internet enables clear, distortion-free medical assessments.

Visit www.venturecomm.net to learn more about our fiber internet availability, speeds, and pricing.