



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

April, 2014

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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PO BOX 289

1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

Phone:

(641) 324-1127 (Elementary)

(641) 324-2021 (Superintendent)

(641) 324-2142 (High School)

Administration

Michael R. Crozier, Superintendent

Brian Costello, Elementary Principal

Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

Larry Hovey

Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

In my article this month I want to inform you of a new law that was passed during the 2013 general session. I'll give you some of the general pieces of the law, but I encourage you to read more about it by searching Iowa Code 279.68 or using the Iowa Department of Education website as a reference to find more information. The law is meant to provide guidance for effective instruction and assessment practices in schools to support ALL students to become proficient readers by the end of third grade. All requirements go into effect immediately and are expected to be implemented no later than August 1, 2014 unless otherwise indicated.

- Provision of universal screening in reading for students in kindergarten through third grade
- Progress monitoring for students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading
- Provision of intensive instruction – including 90 minutes daily of scientific, research-based reading instruction - for students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading
- Notice to parents that a student exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, including strategies the parents can use at home to help the child succeed
- Notice to parents of such a student's subsequent progress
- Provision of an evidence-based summer reading program for students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading (Effective May 1, 2017)
- Retention of any student who is not proficient in reading by the end of the third grade, did not attend the summer reading program, and does not qualify for a good cause exemption from the retention requirement (Effective May 1, 2017)

To meet these requirements, Northwood-Kensett Elementary will modify our current assessment instrument in these grades. The new assessment will track student progress and interventions that teachers use. The results of the assessment and interventions will follow a student from school to school and from grade to grade. This will allow us to better monitor effective instructional strategies and the impact of these strategies on the student.

Over the next few months, our staff will become familiar with the intricacies of this new law and the assessment pieces that are tied to it. We are committed to our students and doing what is best for them. We have new learning in front of us and we are excited about the possible outcomes.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

It isn't a surprise to any of us adults that young people are being asked to start thinking about life after high school at an earlier age than we were, is it? I sure didn't do any career planning in 8th grade back in 1984. I was probably too busy enjoying my newest Men at Work record or learning how to roll my jeans.

But now, things are different. Our counselors start conversations with our students in upper elementary about planning for the future and setting goals, and they really start digging into post-high school thinking in 8th grade.

The state of Iowa requires that all students have a four-year plan on file, refresh it at least annually, and that parents approve of this plan. Here at N-K we began this work well before the state made it a requirement, and our students certainly benefit from this pre-planning.

As a small school, we face a challenge--how do we offer the education each of our students need, when their needs can be so different? We have met this challenge head on, and offer a full and varied curriculum. From vocational coursework in FCS, Ag, Business, or Industrial Tech to the fine arts to multiple levels of course offerings in the core areas, Northwood-Kensett provides an education I'd stack up against a bigger school any day.

And in those areas where our older students need even more courses than we can provide on site, our instructional technology provides instant access to numerous college courses. Or, students can spend half their day at NIACC earning a degree in the automotive industry along with a high school diploma, for example.

With all of these opportunities available throughout high school, you can see why careful planning starting in 8th grade becomes important. And because our goals change as we get older, we re-visit those plans at least once a year with students. I remember when I was once a biology major in college, before changing my goal to instead become an English teacher. I'm sure you've experienced similar changes in your adult life.

During registration season at N-K, which occurs right now, start a conversation with your student about the courses they plan on pursuing, and ask them, "Why?" Learn more about their goals, help shape and guide them through your influence as an important adult in their life. These are important decisions.

Next month, we'll talk about another important planning piece for life after high school--how to pay for higher education.

Go Vikings

It is the policy of the Northwood-Kensett Community School District not to illegally 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 complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the Superintendent of Schools, 1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459, Phone 641-324-2021, who has been designated as the district's Equity Coordinator and to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and Iowa Code Section 280.3.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Spring brings another new beginning for all of us. The fact that we all got through such a tough winter is a great accomplishment. The snow will be gone soon and the rains will wash away the dirt and grime to a fresh new season. With only nine weeks of school left I encourage you to talk with your children about the importance of finishing the school year strong. The last day of school as of today will be June 2 for students. Keep your fingers crossed that we do not miss any more days.

On March 17th the school board approved a lease agreement for new laptops for students and teachers. Fourth through twelfth graders will be getting 11" MacBook Air computers, K-3 graders will get MacBook Air portable labs per grade level. The teachers receive the 13" MacBook Air. These computers have aluminum cases and no moving hard drive parts. This will make them more durable and the battery life rating is much better. It is exciting to be able to put this kind of technology in the hands of all our students. The money for this lease does not come out of the general fund. This lease is paid for out of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy funds. We continue to give our students and teachers a leg up by providing the best technology.

Next year we will be counting school hours instead of days. In the past, schools were required to be in attendance for 180 days (these days included parent teacher conferences). Next year the state has allowed the option of counting hours or days. The requirement for hours in a year is 1080. This is based off of a six-hour day. With our six and a half hour day we bank thirty minutes per day, thus being a good reason to go with an hours calendar. Our calendar that was approved by the board for next year consists of 178 students contact days (including the parent teacher conferences). This is a total of 1136 hours. All late starts and early outs will come off of this total number of hours.

Another difference you will see in the calendar for the 2014-2015 school year is that the Wednesday early dismissals for professional development will begin at 1:15 at the elementary and 1:30 at the secondary. The administration felt the need for more professional development time to implement trainings. If you would like to more information on the calendar guidance you can go to this link:

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2013-11-04InstructionalHoursVsDaysGuidance.pdf>

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



(Left to right) Kail Wynia, David Emond, Peyton Shoger, Addyson Bachtle



(Left to right) Laney Ryks, Kennedy Eskildsen, Jesslyn Sims, Te`Juan Whitelow



FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER CONT.

Northwood-Kensett
2014-2015 Calendar

Calendar Legend

Start	
In-service no School	
HOLIDAYS	
Early Out inservice	
Vacation No school	
End of Quarter	
Parent Teacher Conf.	

Summary of Calendar:

Days in classroom:	
First Semester	88
Second Semester	90
TOTAL CALENDAR DAYS	178

Summary of Calendar:

Hours in classroom:	
First Semester.....	561
Second Semester.....	575.5
Total Instruction	1136.5

First Semester..... 88 days

Second Semester90 days

Days with students 178

Professional Development...7

Total Staff Days..... 185

Holidays..... 5

190 days

Professional Development/

Work Days for Staff-

August 12,13,15 = 3

Jan. 19 =1

Feb. 16 =1

April 20 =1

May22 =1

7

Jan. 19, and Feb 16 Maybe used as make up days for students if need. This will be up to the administration.

School Day – 8:25 am – 3:15 pm Elementary

School Day – 8:30 am – 3:28 pm Secondary

20 minutes for lunch

Full day - 6.5 hours

HOLIDAYS:

Labor Day (9/1)
Thanksgiving Day (11/27)
Christmas Day (12/25)
New Year's Day (1/1)
Memorial Day (5/24)

Total		August						Student	
H	D	M	T	W	T	F	H	D	
		4	5	6	7	8		0	
		11	12	13	14	15	7.0	1	
		18	19	20	21	22	32.5	5	
		25	26	27	28	29	30.5	5	
70.0	11	September						70.0	11
		1	2	3	4	5	26.0	4	
		8	9	10	11	12	30.5	5	
		15	16	17	18	19	32.5	5	
		22	23	24	25	26	32.5	5	
		29	30				13.0	2	
204.5	32	October						134.5	21
				1	2	3	19.5	3	
		6	7	8	9	10	30.5	5	
		13	14	15	16	17	32.5	5	
		20	21	22	23	24	32.5	5	
		27	28	29	30	31	33.0	5	
352.5	55	November						148.0	23
		3	4	5	6	7	32.5	5	
		10	11	12	13	14	30.5	5	
		17	18	19	20	21	32.5	5	
		24	25	26	27	28	18.5	3	
466.5	73	December						114.0	18
		1	2	3	4	5	32.5	5	
		8	9	10	11	12	30.5	5	
		15	16	17	18	19	31.5	5	
		22	23	24	25	26	0.0	0	
		29	30	31			0.0	0	
561.0	88	January						94.5	15
					1	2	0.0	0	
		5	6	7	8	9	32.5	5	
		12	13	14	15	16	30.5	5	
		19	20	21	22	23	26.0	4	
		26	27	28	29	30	32.5	5	
682.5	107	February						121.5	19
		2	3	4	5	6	32.5	5	
		9	10	11	12	13	30.5	5	
		16	17	18	19	20	26.0	4	
		23	24	25	26	27	32.5	5	
804.0	126	March						121.5	19
		2	3	4	5	6	33.0	5	
		9	10	11	12	13	0.0	0	
		16	17	18	19	20	32.5	5	
		23	24	25	26	27	30.5	5	
		30	31				13.0	2	
913.0	143	April						109.0	17
				1	2	3	13.0	2	
		6	7	8	9	10	32.5	4	
		13	14	15	16	17	30.5	5	
		20	21	22	23	24	26.0	5	
		27	28	29	30		26.0	4	
1041.0	163	May						128.0	20
						1	6.5	1	
		4	5	6	7	8	32.5	5	
		11	12	13	14	15	30.5	5	
		18	19	20	21	22	26.0	4	
		25	26	27	28	29		0	
1136.5	178							95.5	15

1080 Hour Calendar

Date	Events
Aug. 4	Registration (11:00 - 7:00)
Aug. 12- 13	PK-12 Inservice
Aug. 14	Opening Conferences (12:00 - 7:00)
Aug. 15	PK-12 Inservice
Aug. 18	K-12 Start date
Aug. 25	Pre-K Start date
Aug. 27	1:15 Early Out PLC
Sept. 1	Labor Day (No School)
Sept. 10	1:15 Early Out PLC
Oct. 8	1:15 Early Out PLC
Oct. 17	End of 1 st Quarter (45 days)
Oct. 27, 30	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 31	No School Comp Day
Nov. 12	1:15 Early Out PLC
Nov. 26	2:15 Early Out
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
Dec. 10	1:15 Early Out PLC
Dec. 19	2:15 Early Out
	End of 2 nd Quarter (43 days)
	End of 1 st Semester (88 Days)
Dec 22-31	Winter Break (No School)
Jan. 1-2	Winter Break (No School)
Jan. 5	Begin 3 rd Quarter
Jan. 14	1:15 Early Out PLC
Jan. 19	No School Professional Development
	Snow Make up if needed
Feb. 11	1:15 Early Out PLC
Feb. 16	No School Professional Development
	Snow Make up if needed
Mar. 3,5	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mar. 6	End of 3 rd Quarter (43 days)
Mar. 6	No School Comp Day
Mar. 9-13	Spring Break No School
Mar. 25	1:15 Early Out PLC
Apr. 3	No School Good Friday
Apr. 5	Easter
Apr. 15	1:15 Early Out PLC
Apr. 20	No School Professional Development
May. 13	1:15 Early Out PLC
May. 17	Graduation
May. 21	End of 4 th Quarter (47 days)
	End of 2 nd Semester (90 days)
May. 22	Professional Development
May. 25	Memorial Day (No School)

The Year in the Life of a Sixth Grader

As we head back to school, we have students not only busy getting into the routine of classes and friends, they are also busy with football and cheerleading which they like to talk the most about. The year started with the new edition of our Environment unit in Science, Ancient History in Social Studies, Every Day Math, and stories to increase our comprehension and interests.

As the Fall continues, October brings our first field trip to Hormel Nature Center in Austin, MN. We had a chance to get involved with nature as we hiked and gathered data about water quality.

In Winter our Egyptian unit concluded with our pyramids and papers about pharaohs, mummies, and daily life. The rest of the student body enjoyed looking at our pyramids in the library. We were also lucky enough to squeeze in great weather for our second field trip to Hormel Nature Center for a day of survival skills (fire building), snow shoeing, and cross country skiing...Fun was had by all!!!

March brings the Invent IA projects. We had many really great inventions along with very good presentations selling the idea why we should get that invention. We still await the results to find out who will be sent onto the next level. Dr. Seuss's books inspired students to be creative as they decorated the doors of the elementary. We ended the month with Steban's Theatre performing a play.

As Spring springs into action, we are busy with careers for the Project Fair on May 29. The public is welcome to come and share our projects. Also with spring comes the conjunction with 4-H leaders to the planting of our garden at the fairgrounds. We are lucky enough to have master gardeners in the area who help us learn about vegetables and flowers. Please come to the fair and check it out.

Note From Mrs. Nagle, Curriculum Director and Talented and Gifted

Academic Teams go on to State Competitions

The State Geography Bee will be held at the University of Northern Iowa campus on April 4, 2014. Eighth grader Jamie Steinman will be representing N-K as one of the top 100 Geography students in the state of Iowa.

N-K sixth grade students Mackenzie Davis, Peyton Pangburn and Emily Thorson will compete at the Global Issues Future Problem Solving State bowl on April 11, 2014 at the Iowa State University campus. For the first time in many years N-K placed first in the Junior Division Packet Writing for AEA 267 held in Clear Lake.

Chloe Luther will be in Ames on the same weekend receiving her state trophy for Junior Future Problem Solving Scenario Writing.

----- 2014 Clear Lake Math Bee

N-K was represented by Lindsey Davidson, Kennedy Eskildsen, Peyton Pangburn and Emily Thorson.

The AEA 267 Spelling Bee was held on 3/26/14.

The Junior High School students representing N-K were Quentin Seger, Aaron Stoneking and Sarah Yezek.

JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Madison Eilertson, Jamie Steinman, Taylor Jorgensen, Bethany Gentz, Allura Johnson, Alex Shoger, Josh Einertson, Marcus Brandt, Danton Lloyd, Logan Mix, Erika Heideman, Kailey Eskildsen, John Bachtle, Chase Boyden, Kayla Branstad, Hannah Hunchis, Brett Tyler, Angel Masee, Paige DeArmoun, Tegan Cotter, Gavin Paulsen, Blake Bass, Madison Avelar, Kelsey Katcher, Madison Hanson, Tanna Quisley and Sarah Yezek

COUNSELORS CORNER BY RUSS KNUDSON AND AMY RENWICK

By Russ Knudson

Here we go again! The senior countdown has begun. Soon there will be a new graduated class and everyone will move on up. The seniors met for their final workdays last month. There is that air of excitement and anticipation every time this day comes in the school year. One senior came up to me after the second session and informed me that she was really getting nervous because it had just hit her, that the next chapter of her life was about to begin and the last one was coming to an end. You may see the seniors in a panic from now until the middle of May. They will be very very busy finishing their high school work and preparing for the future. Teresa Nicholson, director of Winn-Worth Betco (Winnebago-Worth Counties Betterment Council) and Jennifer Andrade, Business Marketing Specialist for Iowa WORKS delivered a short presentation on work-place skill building for the seniors during their workdays. There will be follow-up opportunities for the seniors in the next few weeks.

Juniors met with Mr. Knudson this month to review their ASVAB (military entrance exam) scores. This assessment measures aptitudes and skills never or very seldom evaluated in the school setting. The importance of this test is that a student who scores average in the academic setting may excel in certain areas of the ASVAB. The message taken from this experience is that a school does not measure all areas of achievement and ability. Mechanical, and electrical aptitude is just a few of those areas. A student may think that they are not very intelligent falsely because they have never been assessed in the areas they are most intelligent.

The school has now almost completed the hiring of new staff for next year and scheduling and pre-registration are just around the corner. Students in grades 7-11 will be able to select and reserve their space in the classes that they wish to enroll for the 2014-2015 school year. Each student must complete a state requirement called Guideways before they can register. This process includes updating a four-year plan. Students are well on their way in this process and will be ready for the next year very soon.

Elementary students are working on a school-wide anti-bullying campaign spear-headed by Junior Viking Way members. The Junior Viking Way members are also presenting two skits for the student population battling prejudice and discrimination.

Grade 6 students will be presenting their projects at the end of May during the annual project fair. This includes multiple school projects and their final products from a career unit.

Now that the snow is leaving, and a new fresh season is on the horizon, let's get out there and make our community fresh and new again also.



Go to www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us for
the most up-to-date
happenings at Northwood-Kensett
Community Schools.

COUNSELORS CORNER (CONTINUED)

FROM THE PILE OFF MR. HARMAN'S DESK

By: Amy Renwick

A Word on Perseverance

I'm not sure that most people would say that perseverance and responsibility are closely related. However, I would argue that perseverance and responsibility are two key qualities needed to succeed academically and otherwise in middle and high school.



No matter if it is a middle school student who wants to make the A-B honor roll, or a high school student who wants to get college credit by taking a PSEO college class online, to a student who wants to hold a regional or state office in a state-wide organization, students must be responsible for the commitments they make. If they are out of school because of sickness or other learning opportunities for a few days, students have to take responsibility for making up the work that was missed.

When students are out of school--for any reason--they often fall behind, because it's hard to keep up with a double workload of both make-up and current work. That's where perseverance comes in! Students must "buckle down" and make a plan to accomplish the work that they have to do. There are many resources available to help students get caught up on work, but part of perseverance is taking advantage of those tools. At N-K, we have an after school program that allows students to work in a quiet environment with academic assistance available if necessary. Teachers encourage students to make an appointment with them to look over make up work and answer questions. Students can re-evaluate their time management and sacrifice other "free" time to devote to getting back on track. As a counselor, I love to help make a roadmap for success with students! I just need to know that student needs my assistance.

If you (or your student) need help in managing the workload of school, please give me a call at (641) 324-2142 or email me at arenwick@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us. Academic success for all Northwood-Kensett students is just one of my missions.

This month's Character Counts pillar is Respect. When we travel this spring to other schools for track meets and golf meets, please treat their facilities and workers with RESPECT. Unlike football or basketball, where the game officials are paid, that person running the shot put or high jump is a volunteer. They are there out of the goodness of their heart and to help young people. Their pay will be a lukewarm hotdog and a bag of chips. Please keep this in mind when you feel there has been a mistake made by one of the meet officials. It is my hope, that our student athletes and fans will thank those volunteers when they are done competing in that event. It takes many people to run a track meet and by treating them with respect it will help that school get workers to help out at their next meet.

RESPECT

Treat people in ways that causes them to respect you, even if they may not like you! Teach your athletes to respect themselves and respect others, and to show consideration for other's feelings.

The Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

- **DO:** Respect other people's dignity, privacy, and freedom. Value and honor all people, regardless of what they can do for or to you. Respect other people's property and treat it better than you do your own. Help others make good choices and respect the choice they make. Educate players so they learn to be respectful.
- **DON'T:** Use or manipulate other people for your own benefit. Abuse, demean, mistreat, humiliate, or ridicule others. Become involved in put-downs or name-calling. Use embarrassing criticism to get results.

FROM THE PILE OFF MR. HARTMAN'S DESK CONT.

Tolerance and Acceptance: Help athletes learn to be tolerant and accepting of others even when their views and background are different from yours.

- **DO:** Judge others on their character and abilities. Be tolerant and accepting of those who are different than you. Listen to others and try to understand their point of view. Treat everyone as an individual.
- **DON'T:** Judge others on their race, religion, gender, or socio- economic class. Make statements out of prejudice. Allow players to be intolerant or unaccepting of others.

Nonviolence: Help athletes find peaceful solutions to concerns rather than creating more conflict.

- **DO:** Try to resolve all disagreements peacefully. Respond to all insults without violence. Deal with anger peacefully. Learn more about conflict resolution and peer mediation. Teach players to deal with conflict in nonviolent ways. Think before you act.
- **DON'T:** Use threats of physical force to get your way. Use violence to settle disputes. "Get in the face" of officials hoping you will get an advantage.

Courtesy: Impress upon your athletes the importance of being polite and considerate of others.

- **DO:** Model good manners. Be courteous, polite, and civil to everyone.
- **DON'T:** Be rude. Insult, embarrass, or ridicule others.

Remember, in athletics, as in life, CHARACTER COUNTS!

Excerpts taken from CHARACTER COUNTS!, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.

We have 3 home track meets this spring; they are on April 14, April 28 and April 29. If you would like to volunteer to help at any of these meets, please contact me by my email shartman@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us or you could call or text my cell phone at 641-390-0554. It takes many people to run a quality track meet and I want to make ours the best in North Iowa but I need your help to make this happen.

ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Greetings from the Gym by Mr. Kessel, or as I am known by some students in lower elementary as Mr. GYM Kessel!! It has been a pleasure once again to work with your children this year as there is never a dull moment. The N-K elementary students have enjoyed a variety of physical activities this winter from tumbling and team handball, to floor hockey, basketball skills and shootout competitions. Now that spring is here we are working on building up the student's cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength/endurance and will assess their level of fitness in grades 2-6. Hopefully it will dry off soon and we will be able to get outside during class and work on throwing, catching, fielding, and batting skills.

Over the years several people have asked for ideas to get their kids active outside of school. I greatly appreciate the questions. Here is a link from the American Heart Association for Tips To Get Your Kids Active: https://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/HealthierKids/ActivitiesforKids/Hey-Kids-Try-these-Tips-to-Get-Active_UCM_312476_Article.jsp

I want to recommend another excellent website for Parents, Kids, and Teens that has a wealth of information ranging from Growth & Development and Nutrition & Fitness, to a Kids Health Dictionary and How The Body Works. That website is <http://kidshealth.org/>

With warmer weather approaching I would like to remind students and parents about one of our expectations for PE class, which is being safe. Being safe includes wearing tennis/athletic shoes. For your child's safety I cannot allow them to wear flip-flops, crocs, or high-heeled dress shoes for PE class. If needed, I have a closet full of various sized tennis shoes for students to choose from and antiseptic spray. If they are not able to find a pair or are not allowed to use them, I provide an alternate activity for them to do. If someone has a shoe other than those listed above, the student and I decide if what they are wearing will work for that day.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this and allowing me to be a part of your child's life. If you have any questions about the websites, activities we do, etc. do not hesitate to contact me by email at mkessel@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us.

2014 SPEECH ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2014 Northwood-Kensett speech team has had a busy and successful season once again!

Speech season began when the team traveled to Forest City High School on Saturday, January 25 for District Large Group Speech Contest. Two teams performed in the category of Group Improvisation. Senior improv team consisting of Rosita Cansino, Jayde Hapgood, and Jasmyn Schmidt earned a "I" rating and advanced to state. Newcomers to the speech team this year sophomores Tayah Lande and Angel Massee, and freshman Mary Irons also performed as a group in the improv category and earned a "II" rating. The other two N-K teams at contest participated in the category of Ensemble Acting. Seniors Rosita Cansino and Jayde Hapgood performed "Stop Rain" by Pat Gabridge and earned a "I" rating and advanced to state. Also earning a "I" who advanced to state were seniors Taryn VanRyswyk and Kayla Branstad who performed "Ditzies" by Deborah Karczewski.

State Large Group Speech Contest took place on Saturday, February 8 at Waterloo West High School. The group improvisation team of Jasmyn Schmidt, Rosita Cansino, and Jayde Hapgood received two "II" and one "I" scores for an overall "II" rating. Seniors Rosita Cansino and Jayde Hapgood performed in Ensemble Acting and received three "I" scores for an overall "I" rating. Also earning straight "I" ratings in Ensemble Acting was the senior duo of Kayla Branstad and Taryn VanRyswyk. Branstad and VanRyswyk received an All-State nomination for their performance, the highest honor a speech competitor can earn. Large Group Speech All-State Festival took place on Saturday, February 22 in Ames.

District Individual Speech Contest took place on Saturday, March 1 at Riceville High School. Earning a "II" rating for performances include: freshman Chelsea Boyden performing "The Frog Prince Continued" by Jon Scieszka in the category of Storytelling, Chelsea Boyden performing "When a Man Loves a Woman" in the category of Acting, freshman Mary Irons performing "Charles" by Shirley Jackson in the category of Prose, sophomore Mackenzie Dorsey performed "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer in the category of Poetry, senior Gage Tenold performing "There is No Immunity" in the category of Prose, and senior Kayla Branstad performing "Fear" in the category of Literary Program. Earning a "I" rating for performances include: senior John Bachtel performing "Death by Scrabble" by Charlie Fish in the category of Prose,

senior Hannah Hunchis performing "Agate" by Joy Morgan Dey and Nikki Johnson in the category of Poetry, senior Rosita Cansino performing "Skippyjon Jones in the Dog House" by Judy Schachner in the category of Storytelling, senior Jasmyn Schmidt performing "Depression" in the category of Literary Program, and senior Jayde Hapgood performing "Love You Forever" by Robert Munsch in the category of Storytelling. Students who earned a "I" advanced to the State Individual Speech Contest.



State Individual Speech Contest was held on Saturday, March 15 at Starmont High School. In the category of Prose, John Bachtle earned three straight "II" ratings for an overall "II" rating, and in the category of Literary Program, Jasmyn Schmidt earned straight "II" ratings for an overall "II" rating. Earning three straight "I" ratings for an overall "I" rating were Jayde Hapgood and Rosita Cansino, both in the category of Storytelling.

Great job, speech competitors! Congratulations on your outstanding performances!



SECONDARY MATH NEWS

2014-15 will be a “transition year” as math course offerings change at NK. The following 7th - 12th grade “plans” offer courses that will be taught by either Mr. Okerlund or Mrs. Willert.

Last fall, five high school girls attended the Iowa State Career Conference in Ames called “Taking the Road Less Traveled.” We’ve had two special mathematical days that were recognized and celebrated: 11-12-13, and “Pi Day, 3.14”.

	PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C
Grade 7	Transition A	Transition A1	Transition A1
Grade 8	Algebra	Transition A2	Transition A2
Grade 9	Geometry	Algebra	Algebra Concepts
Grade 10	Algebra II	Geometry	Algebra
Grade 11	Advanced Math	Algebra II or Business Math	Geometry or Business Math
Grade 12	College Math	Advanced Math	Algebra II or Business Math

Math Club hosted an Academic Pep Rally just before spring break with a rap song video about pi and how it’s used in everyday math, and recognition of clubs and their academic achievements. A new record was set with Mary Irons reciting 98 digits of pi, a silent pie auction was held to raise funds for calculator scholarships along with the selling of raffle tickets for a chance to “throw a pie” at a teacher, and this year’s Rube Goldberg team led by Brandon Brockman demonstrated their 20+ step machine that had the task of “Zipping a Zipper” that was entered in the contest at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

SECONDARY MATH NEWS CONT.

Mary Irons



Connor Harris placing pie on Mr. Ehlke, Kayla Branstad gasps

An Algebra II field trip to Grain Millers, Inc. in St. Ansgar was taken in January to learn how math is used in various jobs there. A STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field trip to Cedar Falls is planned in April to visit John Deere manufacturing, UNI wind and solar, and a gaming software company.