



September, 2014

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Many of you are aware of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which requires schools to assess students annually and to meet student achievement goals. If a school does not meet those assessment and achievement goals (termed “adequate yearly progress” or AYP) for two consecutive years, then it is placed on a “Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA)” list and subjected to federal sanctions. Northwood-Kensett Elementary, along with all the public elementary schools in the state assess students using the Iowa Assessments—formerly known as the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

I am writing to inform you that Northwood-Kensett Elementary has been placed on the “School in Need of Assistance” (SINA) under these guidelines because a portion of our elementary students did not reach proficiency goals or make adequate progress on the reading assessment.

As the Iowa Assessments testing become more high stakes, it is important for the school to partner closely with the family to ensure results give a true picture of a student's academic progress. Listed below are a few suggestions that you can do to help ensure testing results are reliable.

- Communicate regularly with your child's teachers about overall goals for the year and your child's progress toward those goals.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly. Attendance is important at every grade level.
- When your child must be absent, please talk with the teacher to coordinate make-up work and assignments.
- Help your child with his or her homework. If you are unable to help, contact the school to discuss assignments with the classroom teacher.
- Follow a regular schedule for bedtime. Children are growing at a rapid rate and their bodies need extended periods of rest.
- Make sure your child receives a good breakfast. This will help student to better focus in the classroom.

As parents, you can be assured your students continue to receive a high quality education at Northwood-Kensett. The Iowa Assessment results are one useful measurement for us, but we also have many other indicators to demonstrate that our students are indeed high achievers. You'll note from our District Calendar, which serves as our school report card, that each class has a number of success stories. As partners in your children's education, let's continue to add to these successes.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Welcome back to the start of the 2014-2015 school year at Northwood-Kensett. I want to thank you for a terrific first year as being your Superintendent. I've enjoyed having the opportunity to learn so many things about this wonderful community in which we all live. The Board of Education has been very busy over the past year setting goals for the future. Some of these goals are listed at the end of this article. I believe that as a community, we can work together on achieving these goals. I want to hear from stakeholders, and value all input on district decisions.

This year early dismissals for teacher professional development will start at 1:15 p.m. (elementary) and 1:30 p.m. (secondary). By going to an hourly school calendar for the year, we are able to increase the teacher in-service time. Please make note of these time changes.

This summer I had the opportunity to give the class of 1969 a tour of our high school. It was both interesting and enjoyable to be a part of this as many memories were shared and comments made about the many changes that have taken place over the years.

Over the past year we have made many improvements to our facilities. Below is a list of upgrades to take notice of as we start the new school year.

- Repaired concrete of entryways and sidewalks
- New telephone system
- New sound systems in both gyms
- Remodel of athletic facility concession stand
- New baseball and softball bleachers
- Upgraded heating and cooling in the weight room and wrestling room
- New fluorescent lights in both gyms and elementary lunchroom
- New scoreboards in the high school gym and baseball and softball field
- Installed irrigation system on the football practice field and baseball and softball field
- Ceiling upgrades in two elementary classrooms
- New MacBook Air computers for all students and teachers



Class of 1969

Northwood-Kensett Long Term Goals

1/7/2014

1. We will increase the percentage of students at Northwood-Kensett who are performing at the proficient level each year, in reading, mathematics, and science. We will use data, information and best practice to guide this work. We will demonstrate that students are showing increased learning in all subject areas.
2. Create and sustain a working atmosphere where innovative thinking and risk taking is encouraged and innovation is an expectation of employees.
3. Promote a culture that focuses on student achievement, district initiatives and accomplishments: which are communicated between the staff, administration, board and stakeholders.
4. Sustain a healthy financial status while providing a quality education and providing top quality facilities and access to technology.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

ACT Scores at N-K Highest in Five Years

Every year, the ACT organization shares the results of our students' tests with us, compared to state averages. These tests are designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework. This year, as the chart below shows, I'm proud to announce that our students' scores were not only the highest they'd been in the last five years, but exceeded the state average in every category.

	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
Grad Year	NK	State	NK	State	NK	State	NK	State	NK	State
2014	21.6	21.5	22.4	21.4	23.5	22.5	23.5	22.2	23	22
2013	19.9	21.5	20.6	21.6	20.8	22.5	21.1	22.2	20.8	22.1
2012	18.7	21.6	20.6	21.7	21.1	22.5	20.7	22.2	20.4	22.1
2011	19.8	21.7	21.5	21.9	22.2	22.6	22.7	22.4	21.6	22.3

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

Deb Woythal, Iowa Future Problem Solving, spent an afternoon with NK Junior High School Future Problem Solvers reviewing topics, scenario writing and packet writing tips.

Mrs. Woythal is now in Turkey as an international evaluator for FPSI.

The FPS topics for this year include the practice problem on the impacts of social media. NK will be hosting the Practice Bowl on 11/22/14 using the second problem on processed foods. NK students will travel to Forest City for the area Qualifying Bowl in January.

The goal of the NK FPS teams is to reach the state competition in April and the international competition in June. These competitions will be held at Iowa State University in Ames.

Problem #1 The Impact of Social Media

Problem #2 Processed Foods

Qualifying Problem: Propaganda

Affiliate Bowl: Enhancing Human Potential



FROM THE PILE OFF MR. HARTMAN'S DESK

With the start of school, many people think that summer is over but the recent heat makes me believe that summer has now just arrived.

This summer brought many changes to our athletic facilities. Let's start with the changes that took place on our outdoor facilities. The baseball and softball complexes have new bleachers, and are currently having irrigation systems installed on them. The baseball diamond is getting a major facelift with the infield being graded and leveled and will be seeded after the irrigation system is completed. Later this fall, new scoreboards will be installed on both the baseball and softball diamonds. The football/marching band practice field also had underground irrigation installed.

Our outdoor concession stand has a new look with the roof being extended, new tin installed on the roof and sidewalls and new partition walls being built in front of the men's and women's restrooms. With the improvements on our baseball and softball facilities, the remodeling of the concession stand and the track and football project completed a couple years ago, I believe we have some of the better outdoor facilities in the North Iowa area.

Improvements made to our indoor facilities include new fluorescent lights in the high school and elementary gym as well as new sound systems installed in both gymnasiums. These new lights and sound systems will be great additions to both our athletic and fine arts programs. The wrestling room and weight room had new heating and cooling systems installed in them this summer. Many athletes will enjoy the new heating and cooling systems both in the summer and in the winter because our old heating system was long past due for replacement.

I would like to thank the Board of Education, the WCDA, the Administration here at Northwood-Kensett and the many contractors that work on our projects this summer. Because of your time and effort, our athletes will enjoy these new facilities for

Go Vikings

NURSE'S CORNER, BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

It's that time of year again that I am forced to inflict pain on some of your children. I am currently reviewing all of our student's immunization records and compiling a list of those children that are not current on their shots. You will receive a letter from me if your child is one of those students describing what vaccination they need to become current. The state of Iowa requires that vaccines be current to attend public school, with the exception of religious or medical reasons. In these cases a notarized document needs to be provided for religious exemption and likewise a doctor's note is required for medical exemption. If there is no medical or religious exemption and your child's immunizations are not current, I must issue a provisional certificate of immunization explaining to you which vaccines they still need. You then have 60 days to either complete the vaccine or start the vaccine series. If this has not been completed by the end of the 60 days, your child will not be allowed in school until the required vaccines have been administered.

While I'm on the subject of immunizations, a new law was passed in 2012 requiring that all students entering 7th grade need a dtap booster. Again, if this is not completed a provisional certificate of immunization has to be issued and the 60 days will be given to meet this requirement.

Also on a quick note, I want to remind all Kindergarten and 9th grade parents that your child is required to have a dental screening. For our kindergarten students the dental screening can be done as early as age 3 and can be performed by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, registered nurse, or physician's assistant. Screenings must occur before December of their Kindergarten year to be considered valid. I do offer dental screenings to the Kindergarten students in the fall. A consent form for this screening will be sent home with your child a few days before. Unfortunately I am not able to provide dental screenings to the 9th grade student, however, I am currently working with some local dentists and dental hygienists to come and provide a free clinic to 9th grade students who are having troubles meeting this requirement. I will send out a parental consent notifying you when this clinic will take place. This screening can be done no sooner than 1 year before their 9th grade year, and has to be completed by December to be valid. If dental care is a financial concern for you, please contact me so that I may help you get in contact with an agency to help.

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

On behalf of the Northwood-Kensett Booster Club, I would like to say THANK YOU to all the parents and student athletes that worked your shift at the concession stand during this summer's softball and baseball season. Your time was very much appreciated. Thanks also to those individuals that helped take money at the gate this year, your support for NK Athletics is as always AWESOME!!! ☺

This concession, during the summer, is a big money raiser for the Booster's, which in turn, goes back to the student athletes of Northwood-Kensett.

Thanks again,

Kim Hennigar
N-K Booster Club President

Just a reminder,

The Booster Club will again be 'hosting' the winter concession stand during home basketball games. A schedule will again be sent to you to let you know of your time to work.

This is time that is short lived and only benefits our student athletes.

Thanks for your cooperation in advance. We appreciate it.

Go Vikings

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

JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Casey Dahlby, Abbey Buchanan-Meyers, Paige Oleson, Kaitlyn Schaefer, Jocelyn Klunder, Sarah Yezek, Caleb Kliment, Maddie Avelar, Erika Heideman, Elexis Carrison, Elijah Coombs, Tyra Sledge, Warren Cooper, Morgan Johnson, Gavin Varner, Brandon Severson, Laura Hopperstad, Misty Miranda, Nick Lombard, Sarah Pederson, Shelby Low, Angel Martin, Tom Yezek, A.J. Branstad, Jordan Wright and Julia Quisley.

INFORMATION FROM THE ELEMENTARY LUNCHROOM

During the summer, we took a course at the Iowa State Campus on what guidelines we have to follow to make sure the meals served at the school are in compliance with the guidelines of the State of Iowa.

The lunches served at the elementary building are a little different than the lunches served at the high school. As of right now, the elementary is served all items listed on the menu whereas at the high school, the student must choose three of the menu items. In serving each student the full menu at the elementary, we hope to serve each student quickly to make sure they have enough time to eat a little of each item and chat before being dismissed in the 25-minutes allowed for their lunchtime. Each day at the elementary each student is offered the following:

2 oz of meat, 2 oz of grain, 6 oz of veggies (mix and match), 4 oz of fruit, and 8 oz of milk. The average daily calorie count is around 600 for the elementary.

Now that you are up-to-date on some of the facts, here is something to think about.

How many people in the elementary building see each student every day?

The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

Thanks again for sharing your children with us.

Peter, Tami and Penny

COUNSELORS CORNER BY AMY RENWICK AND ASHLEY SHAW

By: Amy Renwick

A Plug for Job Shadow Opportunities

In the spring of my junior year of high school, I had the opportunity to visit Mercy Clinics to job shadow for a sonographer (ultrasound) technician and a radiography (x-ray) technician. This experience turned out to be one of the most useful checkpoints in my career exploration roadmap.

As you know, I'm a school counselor, not a hospital technician. It was on that job shadow that I realized that those jobs were not well suited to my personality type, and I realized I was looking for more human interaction than what those jobs provided. After the job shadow, I chose to dig deeper into the enjoyment I took in writing and began college with a course load heavy in English classes, which developed into my becoming an English teacher.

Too many times students choose a major based on what they *think* they are interested in without doing enough research as to what the job actually entails. Exploring the jobs a student can get with a specific college major is an important part of the college transition/college admission/choosing a major process. Another worthwhile opportunity is to schedule a job shadow to experience a career path firsthand before committing to it. A few of my classmates in the teaching program went through 3.5 years of classes before discovering they didn't want to work with teenagers, because they had never been in a high school classroom as anything but a student. A little more time spent at the beginning of a student's college education can save some headaches down the road.

I will do my very best to find quality job shadows for any student in 10th grade or above. Please contact me if you, as a family, decide that's something you'd like to pursue.

By: Ashley Shaw

Hello!

My name is Ashley Shaw, and I am the elementary school counselor here at Northwood-Kensett this year! Since I have arrived, I have met many staff, students, and parents who have made me feel welcome. I'm very excited to get started with the school-counseling curriculum this year.

I will be working full-time at the elementary school this year, and I will be working with all students who attend the school. I will be visiting each classroom on a regular basis, and I may also have the opportunity to work with your children in small groups and individually. I work with small groups of students on topics like organization and friendship. Small groups may contain students who are in the group to learn a new skill, and some students may be asked to be in a group to help model a skill they already practice. Individually, I may work with students on these same topics or others like building self-esteem or family changes. All small groups and individual sessions will be arranged with the teachers so that the students are not missing out on crucial information in the classroom.

In August, I have introduced myself to all students and have discussed with them what a school counselor does through a fun lesson called, "Meeting Mrs. Potato Head." September's character pillar is Respect. Each grade level will be learning new skills on how to become more respectful. This month's lessons for the younger grades will focus on respect, manners, and listening. The older grades will focus on being a good friend, respecting differences, and in all grades we will also begin to discuss bullying and what we can do to make all students feel welcome and comfortable at Northwood-Kensett Elementary.

I look forward to working with your students this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 641-324-1127 ext. 216 or email me at ashaw@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us!

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

Work Experience Program

For many years, Northwood-Kensett Jr./Sr. High School has offered a successful Work Experience program as an elective credit for students in 11th and 12th grade receiving Special Education services. The program links the school to the Northwood community by providing students the opportunity to work directly with business people in Northwood learning first hand what it is like to do a particular job.

The process for enrolling in the program typically begins in the spring of the students' sophomore year as they are pre-registering for classes to be taken their junior year of school. Students visit with their parents and their Special Education teacher to learn about the details of the Work Experience program. If students are interested in participating in the program, they are referred to the AEA 267 Work Experience Coordinator who meets with the students to discuss their future career plans. Following this discussion, a list of businesses in Northwood matching the students' interests is drawn up. From that list, a decision is made about what business would best fit each student's schedule and interest areas. The job of the Work Experience Coordinator is to line up work sites for the students in Northwood.

Currently, there are four students participating in the program. Two of them are placed at Northwood-Kensett Elementary; one is placed at Mike's Automotive; and one is placed at the Northwood Anchor. The students have reported mostly positive comments about the program. One of the students reported that although he doesn't get to be with his friends, he enjoys meeting new people, and he is learning and doing things he didn't know a lot about before. He stated that he changed spark plugs and changed oil on his mom's car after learning this at Mike's Automotive. Another student reported that she enjoyed the real life working experience and learning new techniques. Other students mentioned that they enjoyed working with the teachers and helping the students, learning new things, and following a routine.

The benefits of this program are life changing for the students. Some of the past students in the program gained employment from the business following their work experiences. Relationships with the employers have guided the students in their working and education plans, and many of the students have received job references for future careers. The Work Experience program at Northwood-Kensett Jr./Sr. High School provides a win/win opportunity for both the students and the businesses in Northwood.



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.

NEWS FROM THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Northwood-Kensett High School will be presenting Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

The show is based on the series of Junie B. Jones books written by Barbara Park. It is about Junie B. Jones, a first grader, and her troubles with tattletale classmate May. The story is set around the time of the Holiday Sing-Along and Secret Santa gift exchange at Junie B's school. It is a comedy suitable for all audiences.

The show will be held on Saturday, November 8 at 7pm and Sunday, November 9 at 2pm in the N-K Elementary Auditorium.



Back row: (L-R) Jenna Schmidt, Brett Bachtle, Samantha Butler, Kailey Eskildsen, Coltn Benson, Chelsea Boyden

Front Row: (L-R) Elijah Coombs, Emily Christianson, Tegan Cotter, Calli Christiansen, Hattie Davidson

Cast member not pictured, Katie Schiltz

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

Cast List

Junie B.....Jenna Schmidt
 May.....Tegan Cotter
 Mr(s). Scary.....Kailey Eskildsen
 Herb.....Brett Bachtle
 Grampa Miller.....Elijah Coombs
 Lucille.....Hattie Davidson
 Elf Ellen.....Samantha Butler
 Jose.....Coltn Benson
 Mr(s). Toot.....Chelsea Boyden
 Sheldon.....Elijah Coombs
 Philip Johnny Bob, a stuffed elephant...Emily Christianson
 A Classmate & Understudy to Junie B.....Katie Schiltz
 A Classmate & Understudy to May.....Calli Christiansen
 Cast photographer.....Tanna Quisley

Other jobs TBA include:

Prompters/backstage crew (2)
 Lights (2)
 Sound (2)

Thanks to all who auditioned!

N-K Booster Club

Kim & Gary Hennigar Susan Nelson Ryan Parker

DeAnn Read Tim Thofson Clif & Tonya Davis Theresa Cooper

Jeff & Angie Creger Justin & Angie Senne Brad Christianson

Mark Severson Robyn & Gordon Wilder

Fall 2014

Dear Supporter of N-K Athletics,

As we begin another school year, this is once again your opportunity to demonstrate your support of our Northwood-Kensett student athletes by making a membership donation to the N-K Athletic Booster Club. In past years, your membership contributions and support of the numerous Booster Club tournaments and fundraisers have provided the financial support needed by our athletic programs.

Whether you have contributed to the membership drive in the past or if this is your first time, we would like to thank you.

The booster club fundraiser and membership donations are used for the following:

- *Coaches' wish list items for their teams
- *Plaques and awards for the sports banquets
- *Punt Pass and Kick
- *Homecoming activities
- * Football, volleyball, wrestling, cheerleading and basketball state events
- *Charter buses for State activities
- *Congratulations meals for our players
- *Provide meals for traveling players as they feed our players when at far away games
- *The last couple of years toward the materials/equipment/upkeep of the track
- *This last summer helping with outside upkeep with the baseball/softball infields/outfields, practice field for football and the outside of concession stand
- *And much more

Once again, we want to thank you for your consideration in being a part of this years membership drive.

Sincerely,

N-K Booster Club Board

BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We offer several support levels. Saying yes to one of these levels is saying yes to help our athletes participate and grow. Booster Club members will receive recognition on this year's Football, Volleyball, Wrestling and Basketball programs. To be included on the first home game's program, please submit your donation. Please mail the bottom portion with your membership donation to: Susan Nelson, 4255 Lilac Avenue, Northwood, Iowa 50459

_____ Gold (\$500 +)

_____ Silver (\$250 - \$499)

_____ Blue (\$100 - \$249)

_____ Red (\$50 - \$99)

_____ White \$25 - \$49)

_____ Other \$ _____

Thank You!

NAME TO BE ON PROGRAM: _____

