



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

March, 2017

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

PSEO Courses Are Changing

Earlier this winter we received official notice from the State Department of Education that there will be a slight but significant change in the college courses many of our students take, called PSEO courses.

While we're still working through exactly how this change plays out (and NIACC is still working out details, as well) here's what I can tell you so far:

By and large, most aspects that we've become familiar with will remain the same. Same instructors, same online and on-site learning environments, same proficiency standards required to get into the courses. No longer, though, are these PSEO courses; instead, they fall into a category called "concurrent enrollment."

How is this different? There are two ways in which the state's shift from PSEO to concurrent enrollment affects students and families:

- Because the intent of concurrent enrollment courses is to provide courses, not otherwise available at the local high school, college courses like sociology, psychology, and composition may no longer be an option for N-K students because we already offer high school versions of those. We're developing a list of courses that students will be able to choose from.
- PSEO courses had been free for students and families. The cost of books was included in the fee the district paid to NIACC. That will now move to the student and his/her parents. Book prices vary widely from class to class, and is an increased cost that we want to make sure parents are ready for. If you are on free or reduced lunch, however, the rate reduction applies.

To sum up the changes, our students will still be able to take college classes for both high school and college credit, but the variety of college classes available to them will be smaller, and if the class requires a book then parents are responsible for buying that.

However, in no way will this diminish the quality of education our students receive, to that we are totally committed.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Iowa Assessments:

March 21 thru March 23, students in third through sixth grade will be taking Iowa Assessments formerly called Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

These tests provide the school and your family important information about your children's academic achievement. To ensure the authenticity of the scores in these assessments, I am asking you to take the following measures so that your children do their best.

- Talk to your children about the test. Revisit the personal achievement goals they set for themselves and were shared with you during our spring conferences. Impress upon them the importance of doing their best.
- Make sure your children have a good night's sleep. Proper rest is one of the biggest factors affecting a student's performance.
- Make sure your children have a good breakfast. This will help students focus on the test.

By taking these simple steps, you are doing your part in helping our students show us what they know and what they have learned this past year.

Please call me (324-1127) if you have any questions or would like further information. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Brian Costello

Elementary Principal

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

Public Meeting Regarding Facilities Set for March 21, 2017

The Northwood-Kensett Community School District invites all community members to a public meeting on March 21, 2017 in the secondary gymnasium at 7:00 PM. We would like to present information regarding the state of the district's facilities and improvements that need to be made. We are asking for your input because funding for these improvements will require passing a bond, which will affect your property tax rate.

We will present current facility planning, the costs of projects that the district currently needs to have done, the different bonding scenarios, and demonstrate how much per year it will cost the taxpayers.

We have also heard from some community members about the desire for a new gym, and would like to know what support there is in the community for this project. We will also have projections for the cost of a gym and figures on the tax impact for residents.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



(Left to right) Portlynn Stoneking, Payten Kruger, Iver Girouard, Bowen Behne



(Left to right) Demaris Peterson, Megan Ocel, Dalton Logeman, Peyton Shoger (not pictured)



Life in Kindergarten

It has been a busy 100 days in Kindergarten. We spent the 100th day of school celebrating being 100 days smarter by dressing up like we were 100 years old, making necklaces with 100 fruit loop prices, and decorating crowns with 100 dots! We also spent time writing 100 words along with sharing our collections of 100 items. Our day was filled with counting, writing and giggles!



Jr. & Sr. Students of Character

Kade Stambaugh, Hallie Varner, Clara Davidson, Collin Kilbourn, Tyra Sledge, Isaac Renteria, Jessica Trospen, Calli O'Neill, Payton Kollars, Emily Johnson, Mackenzie Costello, Isabella Hoch, David Block, Isabella Efflandt, Mary Irons, Kael Julseth, Madison Avelar, Paige Oleson, Lexus Robinson, Erika Heidman, Blake Hagen, Abner Girouard, Silas Girouard, MacKenzie Hakes.

COUNSELORS CORNER

By: Ashley Williams

In March, the Character Counts trait we will be focusing on is Caring. This is one of my favorite traits to work on with the students. Our kindergarten classes presented a wonderful assembly that showed how small acts of kindness can have a big effect on others. In Guidance, I let students brainstorm what they can do to show kindness and caring. They have come up with answers such as drawing pictures to cheer someone up, writing thank you cards to people who have helped them, and playing with students who need a friend.

With Iowa Assessments coming up soon, we are working on test taking strategies, such as reading the selection completely, finding key words, eliminating answers that you know are incorrect, and going back and checking your work. We also talked about the importance of getting a good night's sleep the night before a test and eating breakfast the morning of.

Some students get anxious about tests, so we are also discussing relaxation strategies. These include closing your eyes and taking deep breaths, saying positive things to yourself, taking a short break by getting a drink, and talking about what makes you nervous with someone you trust.

The 6th graders are completing their career projects that will be shown at the Showcase on April 6th. A letter will be sent home including the details of the Showcase. The point of this project is to get students thinking about what careers are of interest to them now. They are researching how much education is required, what day-to-day tasks are involved with the career, and how much the average salary is. The students are enjoying doing research on a career that interests them. We hope you will join us when the students present their projects!



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

COUNSELORS CORNER (CONTINUED)

March Viking Dispatch
by: Amy Hansen

Updates from the 7-12 Counseling Office:


Looking Ahead...

A big part of my job consists of looking ahead to what's next: Over Spring Break, the finishing touches will be put on our course offerings for the 2017-2018 school year. As Mr. Fritz wrote about, that includes changes to PSEO coursework from NIACC as well as new Science requirements to meet newly adopted learning standards. All students 9-11 will need to revise his or her 4-Year Plan to meet his/her post-secondary plans, career goals, and these new standards. I will send out guidance to students and will work with students individually on this in 4th quarter.

We are already working on 9th grade plans in 8th grade guidance. It will also soon be time for the Seniors to look more seriously at the end of their high school careers: We will look at WCDA and other local scholarships during the Iowa tests March 21-23rd. The end of high school for these students will be here before we know it. It's time to wrap up plans for their next steps.

Senior Project

12th grade students are now in their final week of Senior Portfolio work & the Senior Project. During 3rd quarter they have been working on career materials, such as cover letters and résumés. Several kind and philanthropic businesspeople from the community came to our school district to provide our students with a mock interview that will allow them to develop these critical skills that will be needed as they leave the school setting. Allow me to give them a sincere and public "Thank You!"



*Thank you for your time & expertise
in the 2017*

Senior Interview Process!

*Mrs. Beth Buehrer- ADA Enterprises
Mrs. Shana Butler- Worth Co. Public Health
Mr. Brian Campbell- N-K Schools
Mr. Brian Costello- N-K Schools
Mr. Michael Crozier- N-K Schools
Mr. Keith Fritz- N-K Schools
Mr. Scott Halbach- Lutheran Retirement Home
Mr. Dennis Johnson- Worth Co. Iowa State Extension
Ms. Brandy Kozłowski- Diamond Jo Casino Worth
Mrs. Kimberly Odgaard- Northwood Theatre/N-K Schools
Mr. Tyler Trenhaile- Worth Brewing Company*

Activities Director

By: Steve Hartman

The winter seasons are over and we have had a little taste of spring here and there. I would like to congratulate Coach Love, Coach Cotter, and Coach Reindl and their student athletes on their successful winter seasons. I know they may not have won as many games or matches as they would have liked, or gone as far in the tournaments as they were hoping for; But our student athletes competed at a high level, showed great sportsmanship and represented our school very well this winter. This is a tribute to our coaches, student athletes and their parents. I would also like to congratulate our fans on holding themselves to a high standard of sportsmanship this past winter season. Thanks everyone for your hard work this winter.

With spring right around the corner, it is time to start thinking about our upcoming track season. We are scheduled at this time to host five track meets this spring including the State Qualifying Meet.

It takes many volunteers to run a successful track meet, and even more when you're hosting a state qualifying meet. If you are interested in helping out at the track meets we will be hosting this spring, please contact me. I can be contacted either by email at shartman@nkvikings.com or on my cell phone (641) 390-0554. If you have helped out in the past at our track meets, first, thank you, and I will be contacting you soon. If you have not helped out before but would like to this year, please get ahold of me.

Below is a list of our home track meets and dates:

Monday April 10 - Viking Girls Relays

Monday April 24 - Viking Boys Relays

Tuesday April 25 - Viking JH Co-Ed Relays

Tuesday May 2 - Jack McMullen JH Co-Ed Relays

Thursday May 11 - State Qualifying Meet

Go Vikings

Elementary Special Education

By: Joleen Hansen

A few SIMPLE TRICKS to remember when talking to your child:

*Asking open ended questions creates a conversation.

1. Ask your child how their day went at school.
 - a. Ask them to tell you a least one great event that happened during the day.
 - b. Ask them what their worst part of the day was at school.

BE A ROLE MODEL and tell your child at least one great event and one not so great event that happened during your day. Children like to know what is going on in your life also.

2. If your child complains about what happened at school, make sure they have to add at least one positive to the situation.
 - a. I have heard you say two negative things, please tell me one positive thing that happened because of this situation, or tell you child something that you think may have been a positive.
 - b. Can you change this negative event into a positive event tomorrow?

BE A ROLE MODEL and tell you child about a problem you had and how you solved your problem. Remember, children do not need to hear names. They just need to hear the strategies you used to solve the problem.

* Remind your child that everyone comes to school with different emotional, physical, and behavioral problems. If there is a peer that continues to bother them, maybe it is best for you to sit down and talk about personal challenges. Having your child understand that some peers have more problems or issues than others will create a better understanding of how being a FRIEND can make others have a better day. It may help your child to be more understanding and caring to others at school. We all have bad days. Sometimes it takes a FRIEND to make that day better. Encourage your child to be a FRIEND. Just a kind word or a smile is all that others need to make their day better.