



# Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

September 2017

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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## FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

### Would You Rather...?

As a parent, when you receive your child's grade report, would you rather...

- see a single letter grade indicating how they're doing in class,
- OR
- see in fairly clear detail in which areas they're currently strong, challenged, and improving?

As a parent, would you rather...?

- know which classes your child is taking this term,?
- OR
- have a clear understanding of exactly what they're learning in those classes?

Trick questions, I know—the answer is always going to be the second one, right? We all want to know more about the details of our children's performance at school.

The problem is we've also been too quick to rely on the letter grade system for those details. Honestly, though, what specifically do we learn when we see the letter "C" after the name of the class "Science" on the report card (Science—C)?

My child didn't earn an A, or B, or even a C+ because of late work, poor work ethic, one bad test, a lack of understanding of one important concept, her difficulty with reading...? Do we see which concepts she understood very well, and which ones weren't as strong?

Don't you want to know those things? Don't teachers, and students, want to know those things?

We all do. And we can do better for our students and parents.

That is why at the elementary level those educators are using a standards-based report card now, and it is why at the secondary building we are learning more about that method of reporting student achievement this year. We will also implement a standards-based reporting system in a few short years.

This image illustrates what I'm talking about:

*Kristine Nannini  
YoungTeacherLove*

**What will my grade book look like with Standards Based Grading?**

Instead of an overall grade for a subject area, the subject area is further broken down into specific topics that were covered in that subject area.  
- Robert Marzano

For example, instead of just receiving an "A" in math for the marking period, the student receives a 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 for each standard that was covered during that marking period. *See Below*

Mathematics	Kristine Nannini
Operations and Algebraic Expressions	
Standard 1: Use parenthesis, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols.	3
Standard 2: Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them.	2
Standard 3: Generate two numerical patterns using two given rules. Identify apparent relationships between corresponding terms. Form ordered pairs consisting of corresponding terms from the two patterns, and graph the ordered pairs on a coordinate plane.	3

Research suggests that students should strive for level 3's, meaning proficient or "meets grade level expectations." A level 4 student is an advanced student, or a student meeting grade level standards with a high level of excellence.

As always, contact me with your questions and concerns. I'll be communicating more about this work as we continue the transition to standards-based grading.

**FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO****Welcome to a new school year!**

Welcome to the start of the 2017-1018 school year. It's great having our kids back filling the classrooms with eager learning and halls with laughter. A special welcome is extended to the new students and families in our communities. You will be very pleased with the educational opportunities that Northwood-Kensett provides.

Each school year we experience changes. As we start the new school year I wanted to touch on a few of those changes to help the year run smoothly.

- Lunch times have changed a little. K-2 will start eating at 11:15, 3-4 will eat at 11:50, and the 5-6 will eat at 12:15. If you are planning to join us for lunch, please call the office by 9:00 so we have an accurate lunch count.

- In my articles last year I wrote extensively about our movement away from traditional report cards to a standards-based approach. You'll start seeing the results of this switch when you log in to JMC and check your student's academic progress. We're excited about this switch and believe it will give us (and you) a better picture of how our children are doing.

- We have two places around our building for morning drop off—one is in front of the building by the elementary office doors. This area does become a little congested in the mornings, please be patient. Pull as far as you can up the driveway loop and drop your kids off. Try not to sit too long as others are waiting to drop off their children. The second place you can drop your kids off is on the north side of the building by the playground entrance. If students are eating breakfast, the door by the kitchen is unlocked. Please do not use the bus drop off zone on the south side of the building.

- Lastly, I wanted to remind parents that the dismissal time for bus students is at 3:20. The bus loading zone is by the elementary office, so don't park in the driveway between 3:00-3:30. Students that are not riding the school bus are dismissed at 3:25.

Thanks!  
Mr. Costello

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 Pile on Athletic Director Steve Hartman's Desk!

We are in our second week of school and our athletes and coaches are off and running. The high school volleyball team split two games last week, winning at Riceville and losing a highly contested game vs North Butler. Our varsity football team lost a heartbreaker in overtime in their home opener against West Bend-Mallard and will travel to GTRA this Friday to try to even up their record. The newly formed cross country team will open their season with meets at Newman and Charles City. And both our JH volleyball and football teams started practicing last week to prepare for their seasons.

The number of students in our extra curricular activities is strong again this year. We have 37 boys out for high school football, 32 young ladies out for high school volleyball, and 5 high school students and 1 junior high student out for cross country. We have 23 junior high football players and 16 junior high volleyball athletes. After compiling the numbers, that means that a little over 48% of our students are involved in a fall athletic activity. Statistics show that those students involved in activities get better grades and are less likely to get in trouble when they are involved in an extracurricular activity. I want to thank those parents that help support their children in all these activities because without you, it would be much harder for our student-athletes to succeed.

As we go out this fall to watch our sports teams, let's please cheer our student-athletes and coaches on in a positive manner and make our student-athletes as proud of us as fans, as we are proud of them as players.

# Go Vikings

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Now starting my fifth year at Northwood-Kensett, I would like to use this newsletter to tell you why I am so pleased to be part of this district. Our Teacher Leadership Compensation Program is one to be proud of. I took every chance I could to tell everyone about how successful this program was in its first year. We are a district that is progressive and on the cutting edge of education. We must continue the good fight for all of our students. I believe that the real strength of the Northwood-Kensett Schools lies in the collective talents of an exceptionally well-trained and dedicated staff.

Our big accomplishment over the summer was installing air-conditioning in the rest of the elementary building.

- ❖ Other projects that were completed include:
- ❖ New Controls for the HVAC system in the elementary
- ❖ Carpet in 14 rooms in the elementary
- ❖ New handicapped door openers
- ❖ Elementary Blacktop sealed
- ❖ LED lights in the secondary parking lots
- ❖ Sidewalk extended at the athletic complex

### **Bond Referendum Vote on September 12, 2017**

#### **Scope of the Project**

The Northwood-Kensett Community School District is proposing a \$5,900,000.00 General Obligation Bond to replace the secondary building heating and ventilation system, add air conditioning, and rebuild the Industrial Technology and Agriculture building. The current heating and ventilation system is 55 years old and operates at approximately 45% efficiency. The Industrial Tech and Agricultural Building is 45 years old and was built as a temporary building in 1972 — to last for ten years as a short-term solution.

Replacement of the heating system would consist of changing the system from steam to hot water. The new boilers would be considerably smaller and run as high as 90% efficient. We will also be upgrading the ventilation system for inside to outside air exchange and moving air from one area in the building to another on demand.

Replacement of the Industrial Tech/Agriculture Building will attach this building to the existing main building. This will allow for a secure building as students will no longer be going outside to take Industrial Tech and Agriculture classes. After the new construction, we will be able to lock all exterior doors to the building, creating a safe and secure building for our students.

***The school board has determined these projects are needs for the district to improve safety and create cost efficiencies.***

**Remember to go to the polls on September 12, 2017. Polls open at noon and close at 8:00 PM.**

Have a great school year.

## Meet the staff!

### **Teacher Leadership Program Update** **By Kimberly Odegaard & Beth Butler**

After a successful first year of the Teacher Leadership Program at Northwood-Kensett, we're excited to continue supporting students and teachers. The Teacher Leadership Program consists of a Director of Curriculum & Innovation, an Instructional Coach, Mentor Teachers, and Model Teachers. Over the course of the next few months, we will introduce these teacher leaders and share their experiences thus far.



#### **Kimberly Odegaard, Director of Curriculum & Innovation**

**Years of Experience:** 14 years

**Where/What I've Taught:** Rockford, IA (7 years): 7-8 Math/Science  
Northwood-Kensett (7 years): 5-8 Math/Science

**Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools:** The best part about the Northwood-Kensett Schools is the sense of community and support. The teachers, administrators, support staff, and students at N-K are more than willing to do whatever they can to help each other. The residents and businesses in our district also do a lot to support our schools and add to the strong sense of community and support.

**My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program:** My role as the Director of Curriculum and innovation gives me the opportunity to collaborate with every teacher in ways that benefit student learning. I provide support to teachers in their Professional Learning Communities as well as in the implementation of the Iowa Core. I work with the teacher leaders and Instructional Coach to coordinate all professional development designed to improve instructional strategies, observation experiences teacher collaboration, and data-based decision making. I also work closely with mentor teachers to develop a mentoring program to provide support to our first and second year teachers.

**How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning:** Many things have changed in education over the course of my 14 years in the profession. Some of these changes have been better than others but in my opinion none have had a more positive impact on student learning than the Teacher Leadership Program. This program has given teachers the opportunity to collaborate in a wide variety of ways and positively impact student learning at N-K.

## Meet the Staff!



**Beth Butler, Instructional Coach**

**Years of Experience:** 11 years

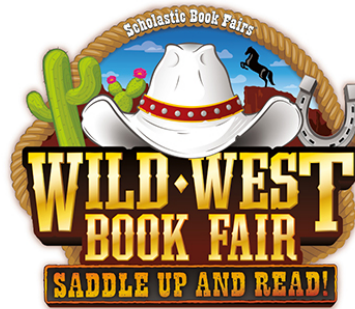
**Where/What I've Taught:** Pella, IA (4 years) - HS Language Arts  
Northwood-Kensett (7 years) - HS Language Arts

**Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett:** The community of support is the best part about N-K. Whether it's support from students, parents, fellow teachers, administrators, or the larger community, I have always felt supported and encouraged in my work at Northwood-Kensett. I see this same support offered to our students, staff, and community on a daily basis.

**My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program:** As the Instructional Coach, I work with teachers PreK-12 in all content areas to set goals for student learning and reflect on best practice. I spend a majority of my time in the classroom with teachers and students. Research has shown that teacher collaboration is among the top factors impacting student achievement, and that's what I'm here to do: collaborate with teachers for the benefit of student learning.

**How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning:** Since implementation of the program last year, I have worked with 14 different teachers individually to set student learning goals through coaching cycles. These coaching cycles have yielded great results, both in evidence of student learning and teacher learning. Data indicates students are meeting the rigorous goals and learning targets set by teachers, and teachers are being more reflective on what works, what doesn't work, and how to best support all learners. Teachers feel more supported to try new, innovative strategies to better meet the needs of our students.

## Elementary Scholastic Book Fair /Open House



Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- **Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.**

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair dates: Wednesday, September 20-Friday, September 22

Shopping hours: 8:00-8:25 am before school and 3:15 to 4:00 pm afterschool Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday only morning before school 8-8:25

Special activities: Open House September 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm to 7pm

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair). Our Online Fair is available from September 18th to October 7<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.



## News from the Central Rivers Area Education Agency:



## CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

August 31, 2017

Dear Mike:

Subject: Gains in student achievement and benchmark attainment

The purpose of this letter is to congratulate the board, administration and staff members of your district on your recent gains in student achievement in literacy. As you probably know, your district has been using a suite of assessment progress monitoring tools designed to help educators screen, monitor progress, and analyze reading skills of students from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. The data from these tests indicate that, through the hard work of the educators in your district, achievement levels are on the rise in kindergarten through third grade.

<p><b>State Spring 2017 Percentage Met Benchmark and Gains:</b> 70% and 2.9%</p>	<p><b>Northwood-Kensett Spring 2017 Percentage Met Benchmark and Gains:</b> 77.7% and 4.5%</p>
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Because we all know that literacy is a gatekeeping skill in life, the efforts your district is making to ensure that students read at the highest level are to be commended. We at Central Rivers Area Education Agency, are proud to partner with you on your continued path to success!

Please share with your Board of Directors and consider reading this letter publicly at an upcoming board meeting so that this good news can be shared.

Sincerely,

*Sam Miller*

Sam Miller  
Chief Administrator  
Central Rivers Area Education Agency  
1521 Technology Parkway  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613



## Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

Hello!

I work full-time at the elementary school, and I work with all students who attend our 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 or individually. I work with small groups of students on topics like organization, homework completion, social skills, 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.

Similar to last year, N-K will have a counselor from Turning Leaf Counseling available to meet with students at our school. If you feel as though this is something you would like your student to participate in, please contact me for the information form.

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. This year, I also began teaching 7th and 8th Grade Guidance. In class, we are discussing bullying and what can be done to stop it at our school.

We have begun to form our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Junior Viking Way groups. These are student leadership groups. Students are nominated by their peers for being good examples of showing their character traits.

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 [awilliams@nkvikings.com](mailto:awilliams@nkvikings.com)!

## Jr./Sr. High School Counselor's Corner by Mrs. Amy Hansen

A constant buzzing of students busying themselves with their new courses fills our school walls this week, and it's exhilarating to hear after our summer break! The counseling office is no exception: schedule alterations have been made, Seniors are beginning their college applications, and many programs will be underway in the next couple weeks.

NIACC courses began August 28th. We have gotten through the first few days, and things are running smoothly now. Students always need to get accustomed to the autonomy and responsibility level required for NIACC coursework. Thankfully, our students are great at rising to the challenge!

The Viking Way will have their first meeting on September 13th in anticipation of the first Character Counts activity in October. I'm always looking for students in grades 7-12 who want to be leaders in continuing to improve the relationships amongst students and staff in our building.

The Viking Crew leaders will meet on September 5th to learn more about their 7th grade peer mentoring groups and the events that have been planned for the leaders and their crews throughout the year. This is part of our continued effort to assist 7th grade students in transitioning to a new building and new life as a secondary student.

Senior Portfolio requirements will be sent to students soon. As you may have already heard, Northwood-Kensett students will no longer use I Have a Plan Iowa for online career development. Instead, we will use My Academic Plan, powered by ISU. This program is simpler and will be supplemented by some other tools, as well. I've already met with several organized and attentive Juniors and Seniors who are planning their college visit days and submitting job shadow requests. The students who make these plans early will be sure to get their first choices.

If you have questions about these items or anything else from the counseling office, don't hesitate to call or email me! [ahansen@nkvikings.com](mailto:ahansen@nkvikings.com) 324.2142 ex:117



Summer School Success! Photos provided by Mrs. Ubben



## News from the Elementary Office, by Tina Johnson



A BIG Thank-You to all who give their Box Tops to the Northwood- Kensett School. The Box Tops are used for items that are needed in the classrooms such as white board markers, books, pencils, crayons, paper, printer ink, math games, flash cards, iPad apps - anything that will make the students at N-K successful in school. This wouldn't be made possible if it weren't for the Box Tops donations. Again, thank you and keep the Box Tops coming!!

**LABELS FOR EDUCATION:** On a side note, those collecting Campbells soup labels, that program has ended. Thank you for all of your support through out the years.

### **BUS SERVICE**

Going forward, we will be offering bus service, shuttling students from the high school to the elementary in the mornings. This will normally be Bus # 8, driven by Darrin Kliment. Please have your students at the high school by 8 AM in the designated area (picnic table near the main entrance). The times will vary a little bit depending on the route that morning. In the afternoons, your child may ride bus # 3 from the elementary to the high school.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and found items have been rolling in. Please remember, if you place your child's name inside the article of clothing, somewhere, it will be much easier to locate the owner. The massive amounts of clothing lost each year are huge! Just a reminder to parents, we do not house a clothing lost and found area any longer due in part to the spread of head lice.

**OPEN HOUSE:** Elementary Open House is scheduled again for Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00- 7:00 pm. The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled to be open that evening as well. Please see page 7 of this newsletter for details on other times available to parents and students to visit the book fair.

Please remember to go vote next week! See page 4 for details on the bond referendum.

## Nurses Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

### Welcome Back

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 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. In addition to this, a state law was passed just last year requiring all 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to have at least one dose of the meningitis immunization series. State law is very clear that there will NOT be a grace period to get this completed. Fortunately most were able to get this requirement completed prior to starting this school year.

Another requirement for students entering Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades requires an eye exam. This may be done no earlier than 1 year before and no later than 6 months after school starts and can be completed by an eye doctor or at a doctor's office. I will be doing screenings for these grades in the near future so if you would like to have your child participate in this, please return the consent for evaluation when your child brings it home.

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. 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.