



Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

December 2017

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

In This Issue:

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier	1
From the Desk of Mr. Costello	2-3
From the Desk of Mr. Fritz	4
News from AD Steve Hartman	5
Meet the staff	6
News from the classroom	7
K-12 Counselor Corner	8-9
Band & Music Happenings	10
Nurse's Corner/Classroom	11
News from the Classroom	12

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Brian Costello, Elementary Principal
Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

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Susan Kliment
Cindy Pangburn
Roger Harris
John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

It is that time of year again when we start lobbying our state legislators regarding issues that are important to public schools. I would like to thank Jane Bloomingdale and Waylon Brown for coming to our November School Board Meeting and discussing education issues with the Northwood-Kensett Board of Education. If you have a chance, please stress the importance of the two issues listed below to our legislators.

State Penny Sales Tax (SAVE)

The state penny sales tax for school infrastructure and technology has been a game changer for school districts. The legislature will once again look at extending the state penny, and they should do so. By extending the state penny it will provide school districts with a dedicated funding source to improve facilities and technology to provide students with the education needed in today's economy. In our district, we have been able to replace a bus every two years, support our one to one technology program, and upgrade our facilities. These are just a few examples of what we have been able to do with the SAVE money. I would urge you to convince the legislature to quickly act on extending the state penny for school districts. As you can see, this has been a win-win for schools and the State of Iowa.

Supplemental State (Formerly Allowable Growth)

Supplemental State Aid (SSA) is the rate that is used to increase the per pupil funding amounts which generates school aid funding for all districts. Districts plan around the SSA rate, set by the legislature, to determine what programs are offered, staff capacity and compensation and planning for future district needs. Over the last several years the vast majority of school districts have received less state aid than what they needed to run their schools. School boards have had to make difficult decisions on where to make budget reductions. It is imperative that districts learn the amount of new money as soon as possible so they can properly budget to provide the best education for the students in their respective districts.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Every year I'm amazed at how quickly the school year moves along. December 22nd marks the end of the first semester. Let me take a few minutes of your time to recap some of the great things we have accomplished in these few "short" months.

- We've successfully navigated the move to a better reporting system for you. I hope you find our new report cards more informative. My hope is that we provided you with details about the strengths and areas to continue to work for your student(s).
- Implemented the new statewide assessment system, FAST. This screening assessment will be administered three times per year and is the foundation to determine early reading skill development. It also provides great normative data to compare our kids and our school to the AEA and state.
- We restructured our Character Counts delivery process. Now every grade level is responsible for one Pillar and they "present" this Pillar to the student body.
- Based on student data, we hired a third first grade teacher. So far early data from the FAST assessment show fewer students scored below benchmark compared to the end of kindergarten. We'll know more after our winter testing in January.
- We are implementing a new Literacy program. This is a huge undertaking, but one that we are committed to. The instructional strategies and skills align much better to the Iowa Core than our previous program and is much more engaging for our students. We are extremely pleased with this program and we expect excellent results.

I'm extremely proud of our staff, as you should be, with their ongoing effort to provide the highest quality education for our students. The second half of the school year starts when we return on January 3. By May, a lot more items will be added to the list! I also want to encourage you to attend one of several events taking place within our school this month. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

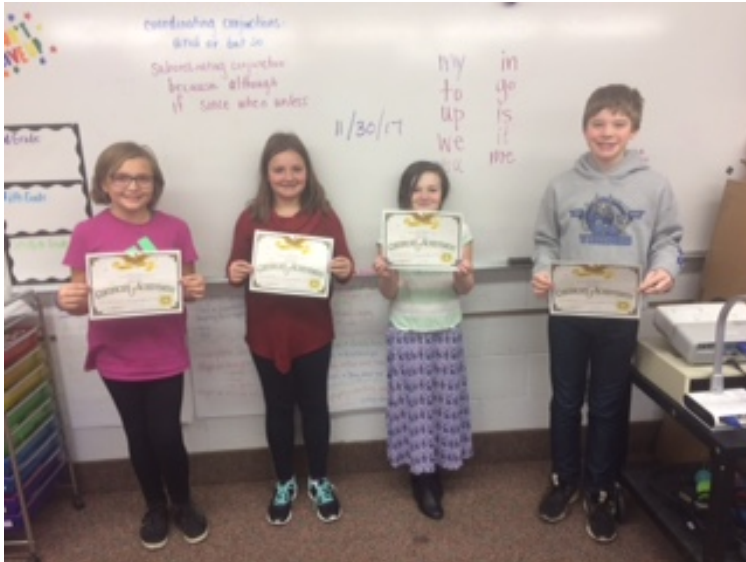
- K-1st grade winter concert-- December 7 starting at 6:00 pm
- 2nd-4th grade winter concert-- December 7 starting at 7:00 pm
- During the week of December 18 the 5th-6th chorus will travel to the Lutheran Retirement Home for a performance and then carol around town after.
- Jr./Sr. High concert-- December 10 starting at 2:00 pm

That's all for now. Thanks for your continued support.
Brian 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 Keith Fritz Secondary Principal, [1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1200+First+Avenue+North,+Northwood,+IA+50459), Phone [641-324-2021](tel:641-324-2021) x101, kfritz@nkvikings.com 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. For issues with Section 504 Contact Brian Costello Elementary Principal, 504 Coordinator, [1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1200+First+Avenue+North,+Northwood,+IA+50459), Phone [641-324-2021](tel:641-324-2021) x201, bcostello@nkvikings.com

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Elementary Pillar of the Month Photos



Fifth and sixth grade October Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teachers for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the left:

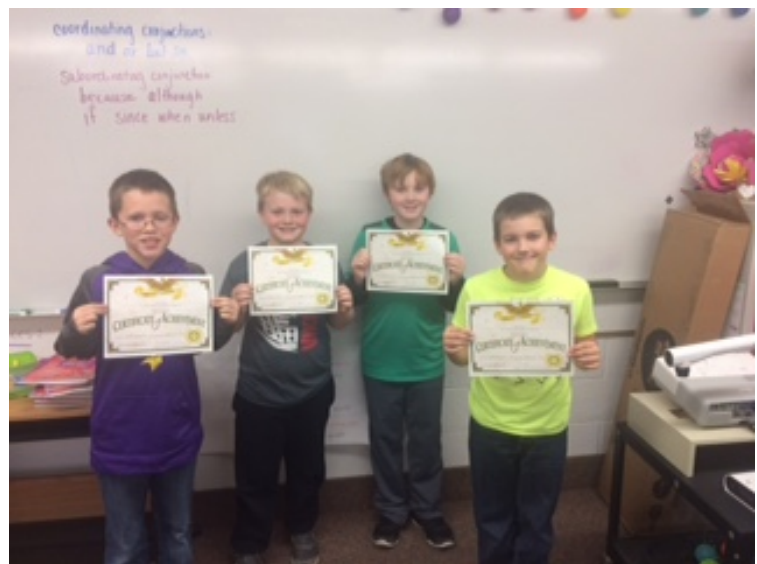
Left to Right:
MacKensy Tomlinson-Mr. Parks
Alexis Rops-Ms. Orvedal
Addison Mayberry-Mr. Severson
Damon Reyerson-Ms. Hagen

If you see these students out and about, please take a moment to congratulate them for a job well done.

Third and fourth grade September Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teacher for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the right:

Left to Right:
Carson Tufte-Mrs. Ubben
Aiden Moretz-Ms. Peters
Kaeden Mali -Mrs. Vansteenburg
Brody Pace-Mrs. Hill

If you see these students out and about, please take a moment to congratulate them for a job well done.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

This month I'd like to focus on the opportunities our students have at the secondary level to engage in and be recognized for community service. As many of you parents know, seniors graduating with 100 hours of documented community service over their years of school have the honor of wearing a silver cord during their commencement ceremony on graduation day in May.

From the blood drive our FCCLA students run each year, to the Christmas decorating our NHS students enjoy, to the big Community Connection Day all of our students and staff participate in each May, we stress the lifelong benefits of helping others.

Service hours aren't just limited to those affiliated with their school groups, however. As strong as Worth County 4-H is, time that the kids spend in soup kitchens, packaging toys for Christmas donations, walking dogs for the Humane Society, and caroling with their club at the nursing home are all Silver Cord-worthy activities that are worth documenting.

Does your child greet or usher at church regularly, or raise funds for Easter Seals by participating in the annual Pony Express ride in the spring? Those are examples of activities that count, just like a church mission trip to Oklahoma (as some of our students enjoyed when they went as a group from First Lutheran).

As a matter of fact, if your child manages for an athletic team of ours—maybe they keep stats or film from the sidelines—15 hours per season are available toward that 100 total hours needed to wear the cord.

We want to be sure we're "putting our money where our mouth is" when it comes to stressing the importance of serving others, and its role in positive character development. That's why we started the Silver Cord Program a few years ago, and while we are glad to see some of our students taking advantage of it and submitting their hours, there are many others who are helping out and about in north Iowa and could also be recognized.

I encourage you to check out the details of the program at our website <https://tinyurl.com/ya7avuxf> and help your child be recognized at graduation for the good work they have done helping others.

From the Pile on Athletic Director Steve Hartman’s Desk!

From the Pile Off Mr. Hartman’s Desk

This year once again, the Top of Iowa is having its conference wide Coaches vs Cancer night on the last Friday of January. This year that night falls on January 26th and we are hosting Newman Catholic that night. Like previous years, the cheerleaders will have their soup supper and pass the bucket through the crowd to raise money to fight cancer.

We will be selling tee shirts to raise money for cancer research. The money we raise will go to the Worth County Relay for Life. All the schools in the conference will be selling the same tee shirt with the hope that all the crowd, players and coaches will be wearing them on January 26th. It would be great to see as many Vikings as possible wearing these tee shirts and showing our support for the fight against cancer. We have led the conference in tee shirt sales the last two years, let’s see if we can make it a three-peat!

I have included a picture of what the tee shirts will look like and order forms will be in offices at the high school and elementary starting December 1st. The deadline for placing orders is Friday December 15 and please make the checks out to Northwood-Kensett High School.



Go Vikings

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.

Monte DeArmoun, Model Teacher



Years of Experience: 24 years

Where/What I've Taught:

- Aurelia Community School District - 8th grade and 10th grade American History, 6th grade Social Studies, 6th grade exploratory (Keyboarding, Iowa History, Drama).
- Northwood-Kensett - 8th grade American History, Big History Project, American Government, Psychology, Sociology, Current Events, Social Problems, Economics, 7th grade Social Studies, World Studies.

Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools: My favorite part about Northwood-Kensett Schools is when students hit that "aha" moment and realize that the different items we have worked on create a huge event.

My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program: My role in the Teacher Leadership Program is Model Teacher.

How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning: Going through a coaching cycle and seeing students willing to ask for help from other adults in the classroom.

News from the Classroom

Greetings from Mr. Brendan Ehke, Business Education

Beginning this fall, our school has added an additional graduation requirement in the form of a Personal Finance course. The first class that will need to meet this requirement is this year's juniors (Class of 2019). This one-semester course will help satisfy new standards in the social studies area, while also covering a variety of important topics and skills that have been identified as a need through past conversations at our district advisory meetings.

The curriculum used for the class, which is titled "Take Charge Today" and developed by the University of Arizona, begins by having students get a better understanding of their personal values while stressing the importance of decision making and setting financial goals. From there, students learn about the in's and out's of depository institutions such as banks and credit unions, as well as different taxes paid to each level of government.

Another important topic discussed is how to analyze expenses in order to create a personal spending plan or budget. A reinforcement to this budgeting topic is worked on in the form of an online simulation where the class competes against students from around the nation for scholarships sponsored by H and R block. In this challenge, they are required to pay bills, manage paychecks, and handle life-like financial emergencies that could be encountered by a person at any given time. Through the first semester, our students performed well above the national average.

The final half of the course takes a deeper look at topics such as credit management, saving and investing, fraud protection, insurance, and smart consumer spending. So far, students have showed an eagerness to master the materials covered in class, and apply them to their lives both now and in the future as they look to further their education or get started in the work force.

By making this class a requirement, I feel that we are giving our students at Northwood-Kensett a very important financial literacy foundation which they will be able to carry forward and use in every decision they make, both big and small, as they enter the next chapter in their lives.

Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

In Guidance throughout November, we have discussed and completed activities surrounding the Respect pillar of character. Our kindergarten classes put on an assembly explaining what Responsibility means, and how we can show it every day. We drew names from each class of the students who did an excellent job



showing their character during the previous month. These students got to pick a friend to sit at the Character Counts table at lunch!



As we move into December, we will continue to talk about Responsibility and Respect. We will talk about and complete activities that focus on being responsible for our actions and words, following school rules, and completing homework and turning it in on time. Some of the upper elementary guidance classes have been working hard on getting organized by cleaning out lockers, trappers, and desks. We will also continue to discuss ways we can be caring to one another.

As we look towards second semester, small groups will begin forming covering topics such as study skills, organizational skills, and test taking skills to help all students be successful! If you feel like your student would benefit from taking part in a particular group, or if you have a suggestion for a group topic, please let me know.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by email at awilliams@nkvikings.com or by phone at 641-324-1127 ext. 216!

Jr./Sr. High School Counselor's Corner

By: Amy Hansen

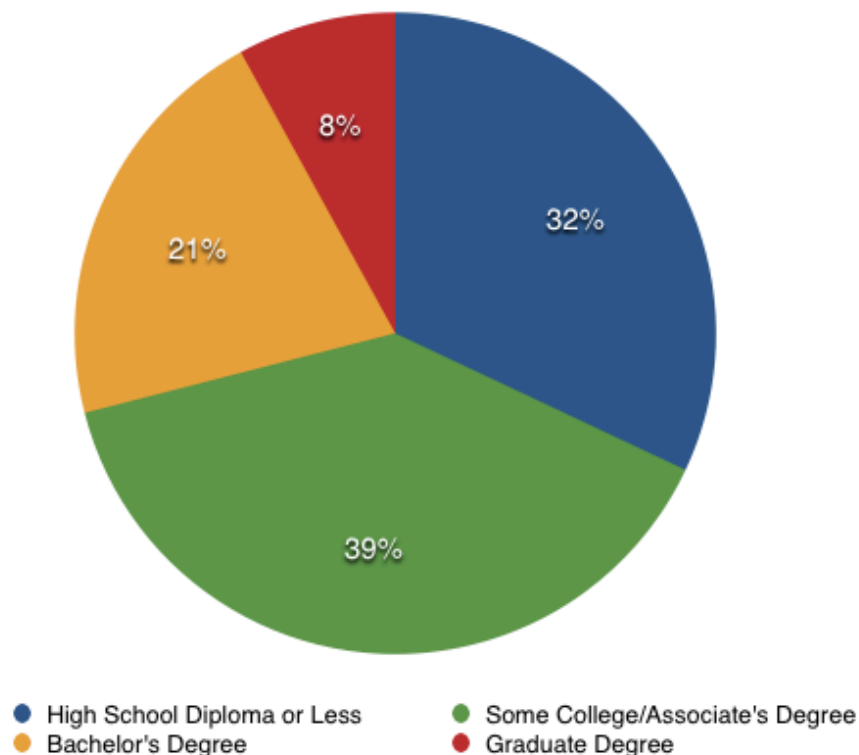
In November, I was fortunate enough to attend three separate educational opportunities that discussed our Governor's new initiative, Future Ready Iowa, and what that means for the good people of Iowa, Iowa's public schools, and for our present & future workforce.

One of the main takeaways I had from these events is the kind of post-secondary education that is needed for our students to be successful in our Iowa economic environments. Below, you can see that, based on the study that much of the Future Ready Iowa initiative is based on, only 29% of Iowans will need a Bachelor's degree or higher level of education for the job they will fill. The study's projections contrast starkly against the post-secondary plans of our graduates over the past couple of years.

We have to start thinking of technical certificates and Associate's degrees that offer good-paying jobs to our young people with the same pride and excitement as we do Bachelor's degrees. Statistics show that although more education generally means better money, education level alone is not a good predictor for future earnings. Many people with technical training out-earn their peers with 4- or 5-year degrees. Work ethic, ability level, and job availability are all factors that must be taken into consideration when looking at job compensation.

Over half of our Senior class plan to pursue a Bachelor's degree or higher after graduation. The reality is that our job market doesn't have as many jobs as there are students who pursue them. By considering associate's programs and technical training for programs like Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, and Health Care more seriously, our students will find themselves with a job that is a "right fit" for their abilities and for our state's needs.

Education Level Required for Jobs in Iowa by 2025



According to the Georgetown University Center on Education, 68% of all jobs in Iowa will require some post-secondary training by 2025, although only 29% of jobs will require a Bachelor's or graduate degree.

News from our fabulous Music Department



It has been a busy first semester for the N-K Bands, and an even busier past few weeks! Several students have had the opportunity to perform in various honor bands, audition for All-State, as well as continue work on a variety of skills and literature in class and lessons so far this year.

-Mr. Barnes

ALL-STATE AUDITIONS

On Saturday, October 21st, the N-K High School Band had three students participate in the Iowa High School Music Association's All-State Band auditions. The students prepared a solo excerpt, two etudes, all 12 major scales, and a chromatic scale for their auditions.

Congratulations to the following students on their hard work and auditions: Austin Efflandt (trumpet), Evelyn Ocel (flute), and Reina Trosper (flute).



HONOR BANDS

Congrats to the following students who have participated in recent honor bands:

NCIBA JH Honor Band in Algona, November 11th

- Marli Backhuas, clarinet
- Madison Berry, clarinet
- Dalton Logeman, trumpet

Top of Iowa Honor Band at NIACC, November 13th

- Paige DeArmoun, flute
- Sarah Yezek, flute
- Emily Follmuth, clarinet
- Peyton Pangburn, alto saxophone
- Grace Skellenger, tenor saxophone
- Austin Efflandt, trumpet
- Lindsey Davidson, horn
- Bella Efflandt, horn
- Nathan Hannemann, percussion

NCIBA HS Honor Band at NIACC (Jan. 6th, 2018)

- Austin Efflandt, trumpet
- Reina Trosper, flute



Upcoming Holiday Concerts:

Elementary Programs:

- Thursday, December 7th
- K-1 @ 6:00 pm
- 2-4 @ 7:00 pm

7-12 Band & Vocal Concert:

- Sunday, December 10th
- 2:00 pm

All concerts are free admission and will be held in the Elementary gymnasium. Holiday baked goods will also be sold at each concert, with proceeds going toward future Music Department trips.

ALL STATE



NCIBA JH Honor Band



Top of Iowa Conference Honor Band

Nurse's Corner & Classroom News

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Nurse's Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

Did you know that our district has a Wellness Committee? The Healthy Hunger Free Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2010, requires each school district to have a Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee is responsible for maintaining the Wellness Policy, as well as establishing Wellness Goals for the district. The current Wellness Committee is looking for new community members! If you are interested in becoming a part of the Wellness Committee please contact me for information. We typically meet 1-2 times a year and discuss various wellness related topics we would like to implement for our staff and students at NK. Our next meeting will be sometime in January.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

From Mr. Michael Reindl, Alternative Program Advisor

As the holiday season is upon us, please be reminded our alternative program students are again providing the community with a food pantry this school year. This pantry is available to anyone in our school district. We have a wide variety of produce including eggs, and would appreciate if you bring your own containers. We also offer an assortment of canned goods including both fruits and vegetables. Our students would love to help you out with pick-up of items. You can call ahead 641-324-2142 ext. 104 and the students will have a box put together for you to pick up, or you can stop by Mike Reindl's classroom (room 3 at the high school) between 3:30 and 4:00pm. You can also call to arrange an appointment, if the above time doesn't work for you. Happy holidays!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 6	Early Out (1:20-1:30)
December 7	K-1 concert-6 pm (See page 10 for details)
December 7	2-4 concert-7pm (See page 10 for details)
December 10	7-12 Band Concert- 2 pm. (See page 10 for details)
December 22	Early Out (1:20-1:30)
December 22	End of Quarter 2 (Semester 1)
December 23-Jan 2	Winter Break-No School

Classroom News-Mrs. Colette Ubben, Grade 3

Student Role Models are current undergraduate STEM students at Iowa State University employed by The Program for Women in Science and Engineering. These role models visit classrooms across Iowa to provide hands-on STEM activities for girls and boys in the school setting. Role models encourage an interest in STEM fields and share their college and STEM experiences. Three engineering students came to 3rd grade science. They did a water filtering experiment which allowed students to compare the filtering of water in soil and sand. After the experiment, the girls answered questions and talked to the class about their majors. They will be returning in April to do another experiment with the 3rd grade science class.

