



Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

March 2018

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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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, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Iowa Assessments:

March 20 thru March 22, students in third through sixth grade will be taking Iowa Assessments. 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!

Kindergarten Round-up:

(Orientation for students: Friday, May 4th, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM)

Orientation is for students to attend a partial day of kindergarten. Stay posted for date and time of Kindergarten round-up for 2018-19 students planning on starting Kindergarten this fall. Please contact the office with any students that are not currently in our Pre K program here at NK, so we can get you the information you need for the upcoming year as well as get your child on the class list. Elementary Office phone is 641-324-1127. Tina's extension is #200.

SPRING PHOTOS
March 29th, 8:30 am
Elementary Library

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Safety and Security

In light of the recent school shooting in Florida, I would like to review the security procedures we have in place and are working on at Northwood-Kensett. Over the past three years, we have been implementing the I Love You Guys Program. This program was recommended by the Worth County Sheriff's Department. You can learn more about the program at <http://iloveuguys.org/>. This past fall, we performed a mock lockout drill and we are planning a mock active shooter drill in the spring. You will be notified via One Call, or through the JMC message center, via phone call regarding the date, time and particulars of the drill. Both of our buildings use the buzzer system to enter the building from the beginning of the school day until the school day is over.

Recently the administration sent out an email to all parents and students about safety and the seriousness of proper behavior regarding the current state of affairs. I want to let you know that we have great students here at Northwood-Kensett and their safety is of high concern. Please talk with your children about these issues and let them know that we will be performing an active shooter drill this spring.

Change over from One Call System to JMC Message Center

This spring we will be trying out a new notification system that is interactive with our JMC student information system. We will run both systems in the spring to make sure everyone is getting the information we are pushing out. The new system should cut down on data entry for our secretaries and streamline the data collection process. Please be patient with this changeover. With all the snow days and late starts, I am sure you are tired of hearing my voice. Please hang in there, we only have a month (or so) of possible inclement weather left.

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](#), Phone [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](#), Phone [641-324-2021](#) x201, bcostello@nkvikings.com

Elementary Pillar of the Month Photos



Current third and fourth grade Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teacher for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the left:

<<<<<<<<Pictured left to right:
 Joclyn Shackleton-Mrs. Vansteenburgh
 Ethan Franck-Mrs. Ubben
 Brooklyn Orth-Mrs. Hill
 Sophie Rye-Ms. Peters

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

Current fifth and sixth grade Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teachers for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the right:

Pictured left to right>>>>>>>
 Payten Kruger-Mr. Severson
 Trent Tiedemann-Mr. Parks
 Ben Yezek(not pictured)-Ms. Hagen
 Mallory Rheingans-Ms. Orvedal

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

A Time for Choosing

Visiting with a parent the other day, he was stressing about his high achieving child--who is out for many activities and does very well in school--was having a tough time with her four year academic plan. How was she going to squeeze in all the math and science courses she needs, plus an ag course each year so she could be in FFA, plus band? It wasn't going to happen, she's convinced--she's going to have to give up band.

"No!" I shouted in my head. "Stay with band!"

Yes, we do have a reputation for kids taking many science and math classes. Our ACT scores show us scoring above state average in math three out of the last five years, and we've graduated our fair share of students who have pursued careers in health care, engineering, and other related fields.

But we also offer a wide variety of other course options for kids at the high school level, from online high school courses for kids who struggle **and** for kids who excel and need more challenge, to college courses either at NIACC (like automotive and welding) or online like public speaking and medical terminology, to classes taught by our own teachers like construction, farm management, entrepreneurship, and child development.

Our sons and daughters can get a diverse, quality education at little ol' N-K if they embrace the opportunities we offer.

Having a strong core upon graduation is important (math, science, English, and social studies) but in an American high school education, healthy doses of 'encore' courses is important, as well. You've heard our bands perform--they sound amazing! Being a part of a group like band or choir, actively improving on a skill that others don't have, being part of a team, producing a product that people enjoy...most of this does not happen in traditional classrooms. Taking courses like those that allow students to compete in FFA, or learn to cook, or shingle their roof, or paint with acrylics can be the kind of active learning and hands-on application of skills that brighten the day at school.

So as your son or daughter is thinking about which courses to take next year, encourage them to stay with band, and choir, and art, and the other courses that allow them to flex the other half of their brain. Have him or her talk with our TAG teacher Mrs. Smalley, our CTE teachers Mrs. Kortan, Mr. Ehlke, Mr. Cotter, and Mr. Hartman, our choir director Mrs. Koenig, and our band director Mr. Barnes. And certainly they'll all be talking with our counselor Mrs. Hansen. This is a time for choosing, and while no student has time enough in a day to take every course they want, isn't that a good challenge for a student to have?

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

I would like to take this time to recognize and thank the N-K Booster Club. The officers in the Booster Club this year are as follows: President - Andy Julseth, Vice President - Ron Hengesteg, Treasurer - Amber Julseth and the Secretary is Stephanie Hengesteg. There are many other members of the Booster Club that step up and help with the many activities and fundraisers that they do throughout the year.

The Booster Club helps out Northwood-Kensett athletics in many ways, some of which are listed below and this does not include the many hours that they donate helping out our student athletes.

This past year, the Booster Club has helped N-K Athletics purchase a pitch count scoreboard, a football blocking sled, a software scoring system for the wrestling team as well as jump ropes. They have helped cover the costs of team camps and have provided food and help at the sports banquets. They also provide \$500 to each sport for wish list items.

For their big project this year, the the Booster Club will be buying 55 padded folding chairs and a storage rack. These chairs will be put out at volleyball games and wrestling meets instead of the old multi-colored chairs that we have been using in the past. The chairs will have our logo on the back and will be a great new look at our athletic contests.

N-K Boosters, I know you put in a lot of time and effort and it is greatly appreciated by the athletes, coaches, athletic director and administration here at Northwood-Kensett.

Thank You!

Go Vikings

FOOD PANTRY NEWS, Mr. Michael Reindl, Alternative Program Advisor

Items available at the high school food pantry. The food pantry receives a new truck of food on the first Tuesday of each month. Any one can pick up food items any time during school hours. Please check in at the high school office, or stop by door 18 on the south side of the high school, between 3:30 and 4:00 pm. is the best time to pick up items.

Current Food Supplies

- Thin Wheat Crackers
- Assorted canned fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Nutri-Grain Bars
- Potatoes-dehydrated
- Potatoes-fresh (available 6 March)
- Tomato Sauce
- Diced Tomatoes
- Pancake syrup
- Tangy BBQ Sauce
- Assorted Spices
- Fresh Pepperoni
- Ground Meat

- Snack Crackers
- Whole Wheat Rotini Noodles
- Some assorted Cereals
- Brown Rice
- Fresh Apples (6 March)
- Onions (6 March)
- Pudding Snacks (6 March)
- Club And Cheddar Snack Crackers
- Beef Stew
- Raisin snack boxes
- Egg Noodles
- Fresh Turkey
- Sliced Lunch Meat
- Summer Sausage

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.



Dave Capitani, Mentor Teacher

Years of Experience: 35 years

Where/What I've Taught: Northwood Kensett junior high and high school social studies

Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools: One of my favorite things about Northwood-Kensett schools is that the teachers continuously demonstrate their commitment to their students and to the teaching profession. The staff and students are also very supportive of one another. We also have great students who make our jobs more enjoyable.

My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program: My role in the teacher leadership program is mentor teacher. In this role, I work with teachers who are in their first or second year of teaching and support them in any way I can.

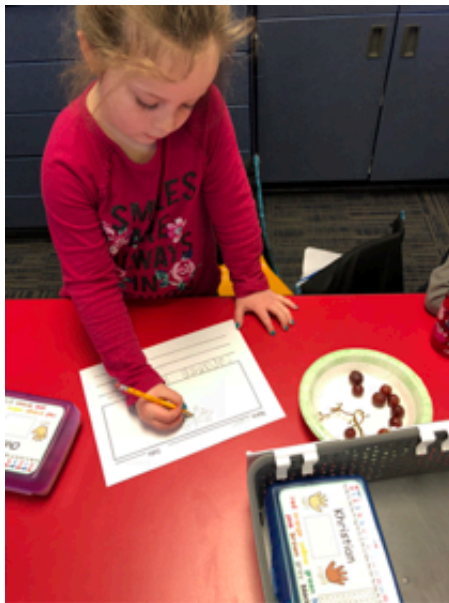
How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning: The teacher leadership program has helped teachers by providing opportunities to collaborate about student achievement. It has also provided opportunities for beginning teachers to acclimate to the teaching profession. It has also been an opportunity for me to learn from the beginning teachers.

News from the Classroom

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS HARD AT WORK

Ms. Nichol Hebel & Mrs. Alyssa Hanna

This month, in kindergarten, we have been exploring non fiction books and writing. Our students have been exploring how non fiction writing teaches the reader something new about a given topic. Our students writing task for this week was to create a two page non fiction book about different foods we brought to class. During the first day our students examined grapes and recorded their observations on page one of their non fiction book. Next students moved on to examining raisins and writing the second page of their books.



Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. 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. 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. Throughout the month, we will practice showing kindness and caring to others.

With Iowa Assessments coming up soon, we are also talking about 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 will also talk about the importance of getting a good night's sleep the night before a test and eating a good breakfast in the morning.

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 from 2-3pm. 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 a 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.

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

Spring break is around the corner! We are currently wrapping up Life Skills portfolio work with Seniors in English 12 this week, and parent/teacher conferences are next week.

I will be visiting 8th grade guidance students' families during conferences to follow up on students' 4-Year plans for graduation and college preparation. All parents have the right to approve and modify students' course schedules, and parent/teacher conferences are one opportunity for us to connect and talk about those plans. Students have already received revised paper copies that they were instructed to take home and discuss with parents. Unfortunately, I haven't received many back to date!

All other 9-11th grade students will be asked at the beginning of next week to revise their 4-year plans for next year, as well. Parents can and should discuss these plans with their students. Once I have all new course schedules input into JMC for next year, I will send an email out to all parents to review these new schedules. Parents can contact me if they have questions or concerns about a student's plan any time.

As we move into 4th quarter, it'll be a race towards the end. With new changes to WIN time, I expect to spend more time with students working on Character Counts and high school life skills portfolio work. I am looking forward to more face time with every student! I will also meet with Seniors about local scholarships and other pertinent graduation information when we get back from Spring Break, and Juniors have college planning & financial aid presentations from ICAN coming up March 20th, as well. As it is every year, there will be a big race to the end of the year as we prepare for the next school year. I plan to keep students and families alike informed via email as the rest of the year unfolds. I look forward to collaborating with you soon!

News from our Dedicated Health Professional-Heather Rheingans, RN

Exciting things are happening in the health and wellness areas of our district this month! Mr. Welch has created a Wellness tab on the district's web-site. Currently there are some really good options for packing a healthy lunch for your child as recommended by a local Hy-Vee dietician. We also plan to add the district's wellness policy as well as many other wellness related information under this tab in the future.

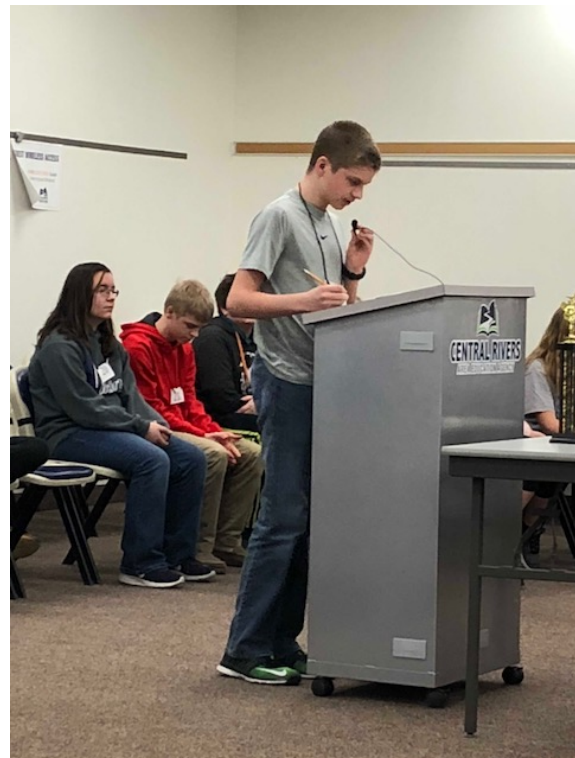
We also have recently added hand sanitizing stations in 3 areas of the Elementary school. There is one located in the lunchroom, one near the teacher's lounge, and one by the gym. These are a nice addition to our building and help promote hand-hygiene when soap and water may not be available. Teachers have been encouraged to discuss with their students about the importance of washing their hands with soap and water before eating and after bathroom use but I think these stations can help prevent the spread of illness at other times; such as after sneezing or coughing. Both buildings have stayed under the 10% absenteeism and I think it's because we have taken precautionary measures to slow down the spread of germs. This is also in part to all of you! Thank you for instilling healthy germ fighting tactics like covering coughs and sneezes as well as keeping your kids home when they are ill!

Lastly, we will again be offering FREE sports physicals to all students in grades 6-12 starting in April. Each Wednesday in April Dr. Sawyer Schulz from Northwood Chiropractic will be providing sports physicals in the High School gym. Look for more information to come by email with specific details and paperwork needed if you wish your student athlete to participate in this great opportunity.

Classroom News-from Mrs. Smalley, TAG Instructor

Spelling Bee

Northwood-Kensett Junior High held their Spelling Bee on February 14th. The bee was open to any 7th or 8th grader who signed up to participate. The participants were Hayden Moore, Logan Mayberry, Sidney Quam, TeAnna Ausborn, Emma Logeman, Anthoni Martin, Kyle Nichols, Alexis Hakes, Jason Hanson, Josiah Kliment, Andrew Breitsprecher, Taylor Rodemeyer, Ian Husske, Tyler Wunderlich, Brandon Bass, Dalton Logeman, Josh Stevens, and Maddie Berry. This year's winner was Hayden Moore (pictured to the right) spelling the word zealous. The second place finisher was Emma Logeman, and third place went to Josiah Kliment. Photo supplied by Mrs. Smalley.



Classroom News-from Mrs. Smalley, TAG Instructor

The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live, in-person contests against and alongside their peers. Created in 1983, it is the longest-running MATHCOUNTS program and is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

The Competition Series has 4 levels of competition—school, chapter, state and national. Each level of competition is comprised of 4 rounds—Sprint, Target, Team and Countdown Round. Altogether the rounds are designed to take about 3 hours to complete.

Sprint Round: focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have 40 minutes to complete 30 math problems without a calculator.

Target Round: focuses on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. Students receive 4 pairs of problems and have 6 minutes to complete each pair, assuming the use of a calculator.

Team Round: focuses on problem-solving and collaboration. Students have 20 minutes to complete 10 math problems, assuming the use of a calculator. *Only the 4 students on a school's team can take this round officially.*

Countdown Round: focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have a maximum of 45 seconds per problem without a calculator. *This round is optional at the school, chapter and state level.*



Hayden Moore took first place at the chapter level as an individual, and will continue on to the state competition at DMACC on March 22nd. Congratulations, Hayden!

NKHS Math Club Coach, Mrs. Lori Willert

The NKHS Math Club held a fall single-elimination chess tournament with several students competing. Club member Nathan Hannemann was in charge, and hosted with librarian Nicole Venechuk's assistance. High school results: John Johnson 2nd, Samuel Kliment 1st place
Middle school results: Aiden Kollars 1st place, Andrew Breitsprecher 2nd
Nathan is currently hosting a winter chess tournament!



2017-18 Student Yearbook
Ms. Anne Flathman, Yearbook Advisor

Dear NK students and families,
The deadline to purchase this year's yearbook is March 8th. The cost is \$45 per book and the payment can be made to Clara in the secondary office. The yearbooks will be delivered in the fall. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at aflathman@nkvikings.com.