



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

April 2018

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

Phone:

(641) 324-1127 (Elementary)

(641) 324-2021 (Superintendent)

(641) 324-2142 (High School)

Administration

Michael R. Crozier, Superintendent

Brian Costello, Elementary Principal

Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

Larry Hovey

Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

"You can't do today's job with yesterday's methods and still be in business today."

-George W. Bush

Recently, we held our biannual District Advisory Committee meeting. This committee is comprised of parents, business people, district staff and students. The primary purpose of this committee is to get feedback on initiatives we have in place or are moving to in the district. But, they also help us set district goals (sometimes lofty ones) and push us to think outside the box.

During our recent meeting, the elementary teachers and I talked about our new reporting process with Standards Based Grading. Although things are going well, we do have some kinks to work out. One of the first things we will be working on a grade level document that we can provide parents showing the progression of expectations for each standard throughout the school year. This will help us stay focused on teaching and learning AND it will provide our parents with good information as students travel through the school year. The second item we will work through is the practice of homework at the elementary level. There is a lot of research on this topic that points to the fact that there is little to no academic gain when teachers assign homework to elementary students. Based on these results, we need to adjust our current practice to better-fit best educational practice. We'll keep you updated as this plan develops.

Preschool Registration!!!

On April 11 from 10:30-11:45 am and 1:30-7:00 pm we will hold our preschool registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Any children that are three years old by September 15 are eligible for our three-year old program. This event is for NEW students only. Registration will take place in the preschool room. If you have questions, please call the office at 324-1127.

Kindergarten Orientation!!!

Kindergarten orientation will take place on Friday, May 4th for students who are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 18-19 school year. School day will run from 8:25 am – 1:00 pm on that day. We invite students to spend a half day with us that day. Lunch will cost \$2.50 and can be dropped off that morning or brought to the preschool teachers prior to that day. Registration will take place in the hallway near the Preschool/Kindergarten classrooms. IF you have any questions, please call the school at 641-324-1127.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER**Summer Improvement Projects:**

The big summer project as you all know will be the replacement of the HVAC system and the Industrial Tech/Agriculture addition at the secondary building. These two projects will commence in full force the day after the students are done with the second semester. There has been some work started and they will continue to do work in areas that are not occupied by students. We will make sure that the learning environment is not disturbed. Over spring break some of the ceilings were taken out where new ductwork will be running. This will give the workers a head start at the end of the school year.

The Industrial Tech/Agriculture addition will begin after the end of the school year. The demolition of the old building is scheduled for May 14, 2018. The area surrounding the school will be full of construction this summer. I am sure this will cause some inconveniences for people. Please remember that progress comes with difficulties and we will benefit in the long run.

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. Please contact your secretary if you have changes in phone numbers, or emails to be made in JMC.

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:

Cody Wunderlich-Ms. Peters

Olivia Gentz-Mrs. Ubben

Logan Manning-Mrs.Vansteenbure

Landen Nelson-Mrs. Hill

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>>>>>>>

Kylie Robinson-Ms. Orvedal

Megan Ocel-Ms. Hagen

Kyle Buehrer-Mr. Severson

Soraya Moran- Mr. Parks

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

Costs are rising these days on everything, it seems. Climbing egg prices are one thing, but my concerns are less about the increasing costs of goods we purchase, but more about the services we enjoy so abundantly here in America.

Health care costs and health insurance premiums are clearly out of control, with no real improvement in sight. But have you taken a close look at the cost of a post-high school education?

From 1984 to 2015, the cost of goods has risen 127%.

However, from 1984 to 2015 the cost of a college education has risen 376%. Costs rose at a rate three times our ability to pay for them!

To pay the high bill, your son or daughter applies for scholarships and grants, many of which are worth thousands of dollars. But it all seems like a vicious cycle, doesn't it? Chasing ever increasing prices with more scholarships and loans.

Three strategies can provide real savings and help keep costs reasonable without our young people racking up huge debt by their mid-twenties.

1. Take concurrent enrollment courses or vocational training in high school--this school year alone, N-K students taking NIACC courses either in Mason City (just a few) or online (the majority) earned a total of 392 college credits, for a total tuition savings of \$68,110! Some of those courses are taught right here in the building by our own instructors, and we're adding more next year.
2. College-bound students should take lots of challenging math, science, and other core courses in high school--a student doesn't even have to get an A in these courses for it to make a big difference. I'd rather see a student take a hard course and earn a C than an easy course and earn an A. Why? Taking tough courses is the best way to boost their ACT score, and higher scores = more college aid.
3. Think long and hard about whether going to a four year college is the right step for your future. Undecided? Get a full time job right out of high school and earn a living while making that decision. Going to be a teacher or pursue some other career that doesn't pay a ton of money starting out but *requires* a four year degree? Skip the \$45,000+ a year tuition at a private school as a freshman, or even a public university where tuition/room/board can cost more than a graduate can pay back quickly. Instead, start off at a community college. Not a great student and don't really see a value in a four year or two year degree? You can get a job in a heartbeat at any of our local and regional industries, earn a respectable wage, advance in the company, and provide a good life for you and your family without any college debt at all--just show up every day, work hard, and get better at what you do.

The American Dream doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg, and the road to achieving that dream can start as early as their sophomore year of high school. Keep it in mind as you talk with your child about the classes they're signing up for next year, and beyond. And remember that we are here to help.

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

I know it is hard to believe with all this snow on the ground but summer is just around the corner. And with summer coming there will be many changes around the high school. As many of you already know, we are building a new VoAg and Industrial Tech building. The demolition of the old building will begin on May 14th and this will affect the parking for our home softball and baseball games. There will be a few parking spots that will remain in the back parking lot but we will need to reserve most of those spots for the visiting team and our umpires. It is my hope that if you are able bodied, you would park in the student lot or teacher lot and save the remaining spots in the back parking lot for the handicapped and the elderly so they can enjoy our games.

The construction project will also affect where our parents will be dropping off their student athletes for summer weight lifting and SAQ. This summer, please drop your child off in front of the building at the south doors. These are the same doors that the students enter the building during the school year.

I know that this is different than what we are used to but I am sure with your cooperation we will be able to get through it.

Go Vikings

Physical Education Happenings at NK Elementary by Mr. Michael Kessel

Pictured to the right is a photo from last year's elementary PE track & field day which is right around the corner. This year we are planning on Tuesday, May 15th with a rain date of May 16th. This is a fun day for all of the kids in both the field events and running events. I have kept some of the same field events from year to year that are a favorite of the students and try to add in a few new ones. This event is held at the high school track and grass area to the east of the track. Field events in the grass area begin around 12:30 and running events begin around 1:45-2:00 on the track. If anyone is interested in helping out with this do not hesitate to contact me. My email is mkessel@nkvikings.com.



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.

**Jake Urbatsch: Model Teacher****Years of Experience:** 12 years**Where Taught:** Central Springs Elementary (6 years) and Northwood Kensett Elementary (6 years)

Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools: My favorite part about Northwood-Kensett Schools is having the opportunity to work with a staff that really care about students and is able to work together in ways that impact student achievement in a positive way. It's also great to see the sense of pride and great support from the community for N-K schools.

My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program: I currently serve as a model teacher in the TLC program at N-K. In this role I've really enjoyed the opportunity to learn new ways to improve my teaching by observing and collaborating with other teachers in our district.

How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning: This year, several teachers have hosted Learning Labs in their classrooms. During a Learning Lab a small group of teachers observe a lesson in another teacher's classroom and is then given time to discuss the student learning that happened during the lesson. Learning Labs have provided chances to learn best practices and effective teaching strategies from each other and has served as a way to enhance student learning and achievement at our school.

News from the Classroom

NK Art program grades K-6

Elementary Art Instructor, Ted Bieth

The NK K-6 art program is divided into two semesters. The fall semester our K-3rd graders have art. The spring semester is art time for grades 4-6th. Craftsmanship is stressed at all levels. Believing that neatness and showing pride in your work is an important part of the creative process. All students are taught that while subjects like math may have only one correct answer, in art each student is encouraged to find their own answer to the assignment. Thus in a class of 25 no ones art will look alike. Also they learn that some rules just don't apply to art. For example a pumpkin does not have to be orange. It is perfectly fine to make the pumpkin blue and red.

The fall semester students are kept busy working on assignments dealing with events like Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In the spring semester grades 4-6th are encouraged to use their computers for research when working on projects. These assignments range from pop art, sharpie art, and scratch art. Our student lap tops add another plus to the class. While working on their projects students are allowed to listen to music if they have head phones or ear buds. Research has shown that listening to music while doing art helps the creative process and allows for added relaxation.

Spring is a busy time for Art at NK

Jr. Sr. High Art Instructor, Bruce Tuthill,

The last few months of the school year are extremely busy in 7-12th grade art because of all the art contests and shows. The two most important art shows/are the MacNider Art Museum show and The Top of Iowa Conference Art Show.

We have three students, Kennedy Christianson, Teagan Johnson, and Skylar Koebrick, participating in MacNider Art Museum's "Middle Point Artists" middle school art show. The museum selected the student art work that is part of the show. The art show runs from Friday, February, 23rd to Saturday, April 14th. There will be a reception Saturday, March 31st at 1:00 pm and a recognition ceremony at 1:30pm.

Left to Right, 7th Graders,
Kennedy Christianson,
Teagan Johnson, and
Skylar Koebrick



I am currently busy gathering art work for the upcoming Top of Iowa Conference Art Show. The art show will be held at Waldorf University with student art work displayed at the university library. Each school is limited to entering 10 two-dimensional art works and 10 three-dimensional art works. The art will be judged by three professional artists. The show will be the second week of May and on Friday of that week the student artists come together to view the show, receive their awards, meet the judges and pick up their art. Details are still being worked out for the show.

Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

In March, the 5th grade students put on an assembly about the character trait of Caring. This assembly was a wonderful way to show how student at NK Elementary can be caring to each other, to teachers, and to people they meet.

The Junior Viking Way groups are currently working on a project to spread kindness and caring to each student at the elementary!

In Guidance grades K-6, and 8, we have been talking about careers and what jobs the students want to do. The 6th grade students have been working on their career projects for the project fair. These projects include researching the career of their choice and putting the information into a keynote presentation. These presentations allow the students to explore the careers of their choice and to see what is required in order to pursue that job. These presentations will be on display at the 6th Grade Showcase on Thursday, April 6th from 2-3pm.



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

Recently, I spoke to a couple alumni who visited our building, and they marveled at all the changes and upgrades that we have experienced in the last handful of years. And it's true— when you are living those changes step-by-step, like we have, it's easy to lose sight of our evolution as a school and community. That said, there will be even more changes coming next school year!

I'm excited about the changes coming to our school building this fall: As we continue to do our best to serve every student to the best of our ability and pair that with some new staff additions, we will have some new, exciting course offerings for high school students next year.

For starters, Mr. Ehlke will be able to teach spring semester of his Entrepreneurship class for NIACC college credit this year. As a district, we are interested in expanding the amount of course offerings that are available in our building, and this is a good start! Students who'd like to take the class for college credit should plan for both semesters of Entrepreneurship as they update their 4-Year Plans in the coming weeks.

Secondly, we are renaming our art courses available to Art I, II, & III. This will reduce confusion when assessing student transcripts. Additionally, because we have a new, full time art teacher, we will also add a fourth year of art- Art IV. Students who have a passion for visual art will enjoy being able to continue that love throughout their high school careers. The new art teacher will also teach Yearbook.



Lastly, we are also planning to offer a wider variety of physical education options— stay tuned on more information as we reach the end of the year! It also bears mentioning that the new addition to our school building will also emphasize the options already offered by our industrial tech. and agriculture departments. We are frequently changing here at school— and we are better for it!

News from our Dedicated Health Professional-Heather Rheingans, RN

We will again be hosting a Sports Physical Clinic at the High School for all student's **FREE** of charge. A sports' physical is required for all athletic participates and is valid for 1 year and one month after the issue date. We will be holding the clinic on 4 different days to accommodate schedules and to make sure we have time to get all those participating ample time.

We would like to have current 6th & 7th graders get their physical completed April 4th, current 8th & 9th graders April 11th, 10th & 11th graders April 18th, and April 25th for any students how were not able to attend other dates . If this assigned day doesn't work please let Mr. Hartman or myself know and we can try to get them on a different day. The clinics will start after school; **coaches have agreed to be cooperative in letting their athlete's participate.**

The clinics will start about 15 minutes after school is dismissed, including early out dismissal times. If your student is concerned with missing practice, please have them attend the 11th or 25th session times. Students will be seen on a 1st come 1st serve basis. Last year the wait in line averaged about 30 minutes if students didn't arrive right on time, please remind them to not get discouraged and to not leave if the line is long! It might help to let them know that this service is FREE and benefits both them and you☺ They don't have to go at an inopportune time and you save money; maybe the wait time could be spent doing homework!

A consent to treat form is required to be filled out in order for your student athlete to participate. The required paperwork is available for pick up in the high school and elementary office. We ask that you help your child fill out the health and family history section on the physical form as well. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Hartman or myself with any questions.

Math Counts celebrates Pi Day



Math Counts celebrates Pi Day

- NK Math Club hosted a “Pi Day” celebration during the week of March 19-23.
- New record of reciting pi was set by Sydney Welch with 134 digits.
- 35 pies were made and sold for a total of \$640.42 which will go toward calculator scholarships.
- Math club members led the student body in an Academic Pep Rally at the end of the day Friday.
- The 3rd place Rube Goldberg machine was shown.
- Ross DeArmoun won the raffle to pie Mr. Ehlke, and Josh Stevens got to pie Mr. Ferstein.



Classroom News-1st Grade, Mrs. Leilani Emerson

First grade has been studying Caldecott books. These are books that have won an award for the best illustrations. Each first grade student chose a Caldecott book and made a diorama representing the illustrations from the book. Here are some examples of the dioramas our students and their families created.



Physical Education Happenings at NK Elementary-by Mr. Michael Kessel

Greetings from the elementary PE department. We've had another year of non stop action and learning! In February we held our annual Viking Knockout basketball contest. Each year in our basketball unit after we introduce/practice/refine the skills of dribbling shooting and passing and have an assessment over those areas and play modified games we hold a contest for grades 4-6 that involves the skills of dribbling and shooting. It is a double elimination competition and is narrowed down to a boy and girl winner of each section. Once those winners are determined we have an assembly and invite parents and grandparents to come and watch the final competition. Pictured above are this years winners. Each class winner receives a medal and the overall boy and girl winner also receives a trophy.

I believe that it is a good life lesson for upper elementary age kids to learn to deal with the ups and downs of winning and losing and I'd like to talk about this years winners. It was a great competition with all competitors giving their very best. I've always liked the philosophy of coach John Wooden on if a person gives their absolute best then they walk off of the court winners no matter what the score is. Chloe Costello, a 6th grader was this years winner for the girls. She qualified as a 4th grader and competed very well that year. Last year she did not make the final competition but was able to deal in a positive way of not making the finals. Chloe puts in a lot of extra time to improve her basketball skills and it has really shown this year. A perfect example of someone who did not hang her head and give up but instead worked to keep improving her skills. Logan Nelson, a 5th grader was this years boys winner. Last year Logan was the first person knocked out of the contest on day 1 round 1. He took the loss hard. Logan and I talked and discussed that a person can give up or keep working to improve. He told me that the next year that he was going to work hard and win the whole thing. I told him that was exactly what I wanted to hear. Well, guess what? He did it! I've never seen a student so happy to win. I was proud of all of the kids and was especially happy for Chloe and Logan who exemplify what it takes to win.



Celebrating Dr. Seuss! (Article and photos provided by Mrs. Smalley)

On March 27th, the elementary school had the amazing opportunity to watch the touring production of *Androcles and the Lion*. This production was put on by the Stebens Children's Theatre. *Androcles and the Lion* is one of the most popular children's plays ever written, this award-winning "Outstanding" play has been produced in twenty different countries. A group of Commedia players; the stingy Pantalone, the bragging Captain, the romantic Lovers, the trickster Androcles, plus an endearing Lion – make Aesop's fable a wild, colorful theatrical experience, chock filled with music and comedy.

