



Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

May 2018

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Is it really here?? By all indications spring has finally arrived. The freshness and warmth of the new season has the birds singing, the flowers starting to bloom, and the kids' need for recess a top priority. It won't be long before we spend evenings around a campfire or in the bleachers cheering on our softball or baseball team. It's exciting looking ahead to the adventures of summer, but first we have a few more weeks of school. As we approach the end of the school year, I want to share a few of the many events that will be coming up.

•As of this writing, our last day of school will be May 21st. This will be a full day of school.

•During the afternoon of May 15th, elementary students will participate in the annual elementary Track and Field Day. (rain date is May 16th) Students will participate in various events ranging from tug-of-war to water tag. The bulk of the afternoon will be set aside for running events. To protect our track, students WILL need to bring tennis shoes to wear. After the events are over, walkers will be dismissed to go home and bus students will load at the high school. **We will not have a bus pick up at the elementary** I hope you have the opportunity to join us to cheer on your child. A letter will be coming home with more details at a later date.

•Several field trips are on the calendar in May. Please pay close attention to notes or emails from teachers for details.

•We're planning to offer a summer school program again in early June. A few details still need to be worked out, but the basic schedule will have us holding class from 9:30-11:30 from June 4th-15th. More details will be coming.

•A look ahead: Registration for next school year will be Tuesday, August 14th. Our first day of classes will be Monday, August 27th.

Thank you for your support this year. I look forward to working with you again during the next school year.

PLEASE JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH IN THE ELEMENTARY MEDIA CENTER TO CELEBRATE THE RETIREMENT OF SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS. THE RECEPTION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 4 PM. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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:
 Kenedie Berry-Mrs. Vansteenburgh
 Addison Frank-Ms. Peters
 Kinley Stambaugh-Mrs. Ubben
 Kaylene Peterson-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>>>>>>>>
 Levi Wood - Mr. Parks
 Kaden Sauve - Ms. Hagen
 Colby Eskildsen - Mr. Severson
 Jackson Foss - 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

Four years ago I wrote and spoke about how many American high schools' grading systems (including ours) were no longer compatible with current research on effective teaching and learning. Although we are making progress at N-K, there is more to do.

Many of these questionable grading practices include:

- The practice of giving extra credit.
 - It's a *behavior* strategy, not a *learning* strategy, meant to artificially increase the number of points a student earns, not to extend learning.
- The practice of combining academic understanding with citizenship and work habits.
 - Doing so destroys the validity of the assessments/assignments.
- The practice of averaging.
 - By definition, this means the combining of unlike elements. We led the way among schools in the area in eliminating averaging of two quarter grades and a semester test, and continue to work on how to best report and adjust to a student's performance over the semester.
- Homework policies that discourage the completion of late/missing work.
 - This happens when a student earns a zero for late/missing work, and life moves on. Why let them off with a zero, when their peers are working hard and completing all of a teacher's expectations?

Our current system of grading is much better than it once was, because we've improved its focus on learning (allowing re-dos, for example) and are more clear about what's expected of students (rubrics and the emphasis on "I can" statements).

You can learn more about our work at N-K [here](#) in this recent article in the Albert Lea Tribune, or from our Community Education Night on Monday, August 20 at 7:00 PM to learn more from us and from Dr. Doug Reeves. I hope to see you there.

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

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

SCHOOL BOARD LEADERS HONORED IN MAY**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION MONTH**
May 2018

Northwood-Kensett will join public education systems throughout the state to salute their local school board members and celebrate public education during Iowa's annual School Board Recognition Month in May.

The commemorative month is designed to recognize the contributions made by more than 2,000 local school board, community college and AEA board members, including the members of the Northwood-Kensett Board of Education, who are charged with governing public education under state law.

Iowa school board members are chosen by their communities through election to manage local schools. They oversee an annual budget of \$8.2 million, 595 students pk-12, 87 employees and two buildings.

These volunteer leaders also are responsible for formulating school system policy, approving curricula, maintaining school facilities and adhering to state and federal education law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance, including budgeting and taxation, require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

We don't always recognize the dedication and hard work of these public servants elected to represent us and the interest of our children. Invite them out for coffee. Ask how you might help support your local community schools. Write your school board members a thank you note. Let them know you appreciate what they do for your kids in the Northwood-Kensett School District.

Please join us by saying "thanks" to our school board members during School Board Member Recognition Month in May.

The men and women serving our district and their years of service are:

Larry Hovey President – 25 Years of Service
John Anderson Vice President – 14 Years of Service
Cindy Pangburn – 13 Years of Service
Roger Harris – 9 Years of Service
Susan Kliment – 9 Years of Service

Retirees to be Honored on May 9, 2018

I would like to thank the following employees, who will be retiring at the end of the school year, for their years of service to the Northwood-Kensett School District; Polly Schiltz, 42 years of service, Heidi Vansteenburgh, 33 years of service, Doreen Cordle, 19 years of service, Terri Sculley, 17 years of service, Tom Sculley, 17 years of service, Ted Bieth, 14 years of service. Please join us on May 9, 2018, for a reception in their honor in the Elementary Media Center. The reception is open to the public at 4:00 pm.

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.

**Nikkole Koenig: Model Teacher**

Years of Experience: 15 years

Where Taught: 2003 - 2005: 5-12 general music and vocal music at NK. 2005 - present K-12 general music and vocal music at NK.

Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools: My favorite parts about NK Schools are the small class sizes, opportunities for leadership, and relationships with other staff members.

My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program: Model Teacher

How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning: As part of the Teacher Leadership Program, I became a model teacher this year. I have noticed the Teacher Leadership Program impacting student learning through my own participation in a coaching cycle, identifying areas of strength and weakness in my student music literacy. I have also noticed the impact of having multiple staff (teachers plus coach and curriculum coordinator) available for reinforcement of strategies for some of our struggling readers in the lower elementary.

News from the Classroom

N-K SPAIN TRIP-SPRING 2020

Mrs. Sue Bestel

¡Olé! It's time to start planning our **N-K Spain Trip** for **Spring 2020**. Any interested **parents** and **Spanish class high school students** as well as **junior high school students who will be in Spanish classes at that time** should attend. This trip occurs only once EVERY 4 YEARS. Bring your fundraising ideas! See you there!

When: **Monday, May 14; 6:00 p.m.**

Where: **N-K High, Room 23**

Teacher: **Señora Bestul**

Company: **EF Educational Tours**

Senior Project Showcase

by Mrs. Deb Faugstad

English 12 students will display their senior projects in the Senior Project Showcase on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at Northwood-Kensett High School from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Senior Project requires each student to research a topic of choice, write a research paper about the topic, and complete and display a project related to the topic. The student's final project must take a minimum of 30 hours to complete.

This year's seniors are working on projects that include furniture design and building, quilting, automotive work, and baking --along with many others. Seniors will be available to discuss their projects and to answer questions during the Senior Project Showcase.

The public is invited to view the projects, which will be located in the front hallway, the student center (lunchroom) and parking lot of the high school building.

Winding Down!

By Tina Johnson

As the school year is winding down, I would like to take this opportunity to update parents of the ongoing effort to streamline the registration process online. We are striving to provide all documents online so that you can take care of registration online if you want to. The plan is to have the needed documents available to download by the end of July, as well as the electronic signature option. It will make the process simpler for you if you have the online JMC parent module set up and in place before hand. Please email or call either Clara at the high school or Tina at the elementary if you need help with this process.

Jr./Sr. High School Counselor's Corner

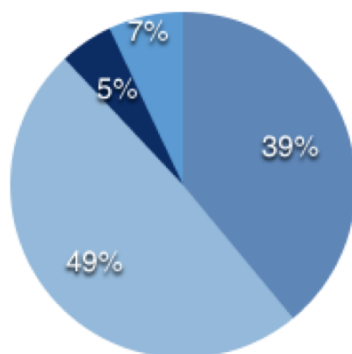
Viking Dispatch- May 2018

By: Amy Hansen

Graduation is three weeks away. In very few days, our twelfth grade students will leave our world and will join the world of adults. But— What does that mean? Where do they go? For the last couple of years, I've been compiling that data for our school profile. Here is the data from last year:

Class of 2017's Post Secondary Plans

- 4-Year College
- 2-Year College
- Technical School
- Work/Military/Other



As you can see, approximately half of our students will start their adult lives and post-secondary training at a community college, and I'm here to commend that decision. As Mr. Fritz recently discussed in the Dispatch— and as I've discussed in previous articles— college is very expensive these days— prohibitive in many cases. Living at home and attending community college is one great way to save on those expenses, since living in student housing is one of the high costs associated with a college education. Still, many students who are "choosing NIACC" will answer the "What are you doing after graduation?" question with, "I'm just going to NIACC." Just nothing! I'd like for our school and community to continue to grow pride in that decision, because it's usually the best decision for the students attending, and for a variety of reasons!

Perhaps I'm a bit biased— I attended Riverland Community College after I graduated high school— but I do think there's something to the idea of wading in from the shallow end and finding a "depth" that is comfortable rather than diving into the deep end and hoping to swim. This analogy fits with recent graduates and college education. Some students are ready to make the jump but many are not. Some students are in need of a break from school life, and that's okay too. News outlets have increasingly reported on America's need for skilled labor, skills which can be learned at community colleges and like institutions. At the same time, other students will build on skills from high school and will use community college as a stepping stone to reach a four-year college or university. Others are going to attend community college because they want to save money, and that's a reason that I will always support. Until the cost of post-secondary training becomes affordable for most people, smart planning will help our alumni keep costs low and enter their careers without as much debt.

That said, attending community college requires mindfulness and planning like anything else. Those who plan to transfer should work closely with advisors to make sure the courses they take transfer directly to their program. Although community colleges are smaller, many of the expectations for attendance and work loads are similar to a university. Students will still need to pursue their goals with persistence and hard work to achieve them. Next time you hear a student say, "I'm just going to community college," let them know that they should be proud of that decision, and take the "just" out of it!

Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

The end of the year is a busy time at the elementary!

The 3rd grade put on a wonderful Character Counts assembly about citizenship! They shared different ways to show citizenship in the community, at school, and at home!



In April, 6th graders had the opportunity to share their career projects with family, community members, teachers, and younger grades at the 6th grade showcase.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!



In 6th grade Guidance, we have been working on getting ready for Jr. High. This has included asking questions that were answered by 7th and 8th graders and learning how to open padlocks. Additionally, we will be traveling to the Jr. High/High School for 6th grade orientation on May 3rd. They will have an opportunity to ask more questions and they will tour the building.

Throughout the month of May, we are going to be focusing on college and career readiness in Guidance.



Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

Grades K-6 and 8th grade have been doing a variety of career exploration activities. Each child has unique ideas about what careers they want to have when they become adults. We have been able to briefly explore many of them in Guidance this month. 5th graders are looking at various colleges that they have heard of and sharing the information they learn with their classmates.

To continue the conversation of college and careers in the classroom, teachers shared where they attended college, as well as photos! The information was put together in a bulletin board display in the lunchroom. The students have loved learning about where their teachers went to college!



School Calendar

Dates to remember:

- 5/04/18 Kindergarten Orientation-8:25-1:00
- 5/09/18 Senior Walk (Elementary)
- 5/09/18 Retirement Reception-Elementary Media Center
- 5/10/18 Bike Safety (Elementary)
- 5/13/18 Graduation
- 5/15/18 5-8 Spring concert-Elem gym (Band and chorus)
- 5/15/18 Elementary Track & Field Day
- 5/16/18 Rain Date for Elem Track & Field Day
- 5/21/18 Last day of school for students

Dates to remember for next year

- 8/14/18 Registration for fall classes (12:00-8:00)
- 8/23/18 Opening conferences (12:00-7:45)
- 8/27/18 Start date for K-12th grade

News from our Dedicated Health Professional-Heather Rheingans, RN

May Newsletter

May is National Bike month and we are again fortunate to work in conjunction with the Worth County Sheriff's office to offer bicycle safety to our Elementary students. This will occur on May 10th, please encourage your student to ride their bike to school this day so they can participate in the obstacle course!

Now is a good time to refresh your child's bicycle safety knowledge. The KidsHealth website states that every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency department because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from head injuries. Taking a few minutes to discuss some simple rules of the road could be lifesaving.

- Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic lights just as cars do. Yield to pedestrians, stop at red lights, and be especially careful at intersections.
- Always ride in the same direction as cars do. Never ride against traffic.
- Older kids should try to use bike lanes or designated bike routes whenever you can — not the sidewalk! Kids less than 10 years should ride on the sidewalk.
- Never ride at dusk or in the dark, unless there is a light or reflectors on the bike.
- Always stop and check for traffic in both directions when leaving a driveway, an alley, or a curb.
- Watch traffic closely for turning cars or cars leaving driveways.
- Don't ride too close to parked cars — doors can open suddenly.
- Always walk a bike across busy intersections using the crosswalk and following traffic signals.
- When riding in a group, always ride single file on the street.
- When passing other bikers or people on the street, always pass to their left and call out "On your left!" so they'll watch for you.
- Never share the seat with a friend or ride on the handlebars — only one person should be on a bike at a time. It's easy to lose balance or suddenly swerve into traffic when riding with a passenger.
- Never wear headphones while biking — it's essential to hear everyone else on the road at all times.
- Never hitch a ride on a moving vehicle.

It should also be encouraged to never change directions or lanes without first looking behind you, and always use the correct hand signals. Use your left arm for all hand signals:

- **Left turn:** After checking behind you, hold your arm straight out to the left and ride forward slowly.
- **Stop:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, pointing your arm downward in an upside down "L" shape and come to a stop.

News from our Dedicated Health Professional-Heather Rheingans, RN

- **Right turn:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, holding your arm up in an "L" shape, and ride forward slowly. Or, hold your right arm straight out from your side.



Left turn



Stop

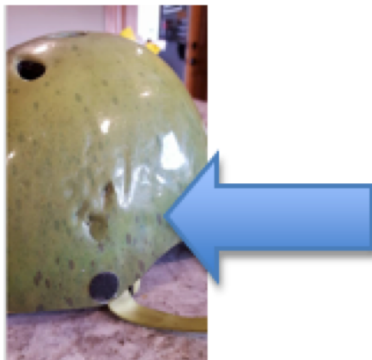


Right turn



Right turn alternative

Helmets should also be encouraged, as well as bright colored clothing so that they are easily seen. Below is a picture that my cousin recently posted on facebook of her son's bicycle helmet. They live in the country and he was riding his bike in their driveway when he fell over and landed on a rock. Lucky for him, he had a helmet on!



Food Pantry contents available

High School Food Pantry

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 Fresh and dehydrated (fresh available)

Tomato Sauce and DICED

Pancake syrup

Tangy BBQ Sauce

Assorted Spices

Fresh Pepperoni

Ground Meat, Summer Sausage

Snack Crackers

Whole Wheat Rotini Noodles

Some assorted Cereals

Brown Rice

Onions (6 March)

Pudding Snacks (6 March)

Club And Cheddar Snack Crackers

Beef Stew

Rasins snack Boxes

Egg Noodles

Fresh Turkey Sliced Lunch Meat

Whole Wheat Spaghetti

Peanut butter

Canned Spaghetti Os

Frozen Soup

Frozen Green bean casserole

Rice

Cereal

News from Talented and Gifted program

Invention Convention took place April 17th at the Willowbrook Mall. Invention Convention is a program that is put on by area teachers where students grades K-8 can display their inventions, collaborate with other inventors, and be judged by educators. This year the inventions that were presented by Northwood-Kensett students were the Re-Water, HayPack, and Solar Wind Turbine. Mallory Rheingans took first place in the 6th grade category with her Solar Wind Turbine. Jackson Foss, Morgan Wallin, Damaris Peterson, Madalynn Hanson, and Emily Hannemann took 2nd place for their HayPack and 3rd place with their invention of the Re-Water.

