



# Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

September 2018

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

## In This Issue:

From the Desk of Mr. Fritz	1
From the Desk of Mr. Costello	2
Athletic Director Steve Hartman	3
From the Desk of Mr. Crozier	4
District Notices to the Public	4-5
Meet the staff	7
Book Fair/Open House	8
Counselor Corner	9-10
Upcoming events	11
Elementary Office News	12
Nurse's Corner	13

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John Anderson

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

Turn on the television news or listen to a news broadcast on the radio and you're bound to hear the same kinds of events being reported: scandals rock the government/church/corporation, celebrities or well-known public figures die from a terrible illnesses, natural disasters ruin homes and livelihoods, and violent crimes appear commonplace.

I'm here to tell you, things are not as bad as they appear when viewed through our screens and radios. Actually, if we look at the facts, life on Planet Earth has never been safer, cleaner, and more well-funded than it is today.

### Did you know?

- More people than ever own a personal computer
- More people than ever have access to sound money
- Global coal consumption is trending downward, thus easing CO2 emissions
- Chlorofluorocarbon consumption has reached an all-time low
- Grain yields for U.S. agriculture have never been higher
- Internet access in schools has substantially increased
- Access to improved sanitation facilities has sky-rocketed
- Global labor productivity has shot up over the last six decades
- The percent of people living in extreme poverty has never been lower
- Youth literacy has reached an all-time high
- The price of common food items has declined
- Globally, the number of women in the labor force has never been higher
- More children than ever are being vaccinated
- There are fewer undernourished people than ever before
- The amount of work-related injuries has never been lower
- Cancer rates are declining
- Youth unemployment in America is at its lowest in 52 years

These are reasons to celebrate and appreciate living in times such as now. This is the message I shared with our teachers when they returned from summer break, and with the students on their first day back to school. Overwhelmingly positive indicators are evident here at Northwood-Kensett, as well.

### Did you know?

- The percentage of N-K graduates attending 2 year institutions who took remedial math and English courses has dropped from 50% and 42% respectively in 2009 to 28% and 17%
- N-K's graduation rate has climbed from 95%, to 97%, to 99%, to 100% in the last six years
- N-K is a US News & World Report bronze medal high school

We have every reason to be positive and optimistic about the achievements of our junior and senior high school students. Indicators across the board are strong--true, some aren't perfect, and we're always seeking to improve. But I'm proud to call myself a Viking and to be part of a system that produces such good results.

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

**Welcome to a new school year!**

Welcome to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Our students may try to convince us otherwise, but they are excited to be back in school. I want to extend a special welcome to our new students and families in our communities. You will be very pleased with the educational opportunities that Northwood-Kensett provides.

Recently, we had the opportunity to bring Dr. Douglas Reeves to our district. Dr. Reeves is the author of more than 30 books and more than 80 articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness. He's a nationally known speaker supporting the work for implementing academic standards and curriculum. Over the past year, Dr. Reeves has worked with our staff for two full days, and he also held a community forum in which he delivered an informal program around a number of educational topics, but focusing on two of the hot topics in education: Homework and Grading.

With the changes we've made in grading and homework, these topics were of particular interest. Dr. Reeves applauded our move to identify priority standards and develop/ rollout a Standards-Based grading approach. He also talked about the impact (or lack of impact) homework has on elementary children. Essentially, for homework to be effective he said it must meet what he calls The Gold Standard. This consists of:

1. Coaching and Feedback during the work.
2. Assigning work that is tailored to each learner, also called differentiation.
3. Providing work that is slightly out of the student's comfort zone. If homework does not meet these three standards, then there is no specific research that supports homework having a positive impact on student achievement. He said—"Stop assigning it."

Over the past couple of years, the elementary staff has been looking at and reading about the impact homework has on young students. The results are not favorable, which is the reason the elementary has moved away from assigning the traditional homework. If you want your child to have practice in the evening, our suggestion is having your child read 15-20 minutes each night.

One other notable change includes:

- Lunch times have changed. K-2 will start eating at 11:00, 3-4 will eat at 11:35, and the 5-6 will eat at 12:10. If you are planning to join us for lunch, please call the office by 9:00 so we have an accurate lunch count.
- Lastly, I wanted to remind parents that the dismissal time for bus students is at 3:20. The bus loading zone is by the elementary office, so don't park in the driveway between 3:00-3:30. Students that are not riding the school bus are dismissed at 3:25.

Together we can make this a great year for students!

**LATE BREAKING NEWS**

The Governor announced good news: Iowa has made progress on early literacy screening assessments for the third year in a row. The share of kindergarten through third-grade students who met or surpassed benchmarks used to measure statewide progress increased from 69.7 percent to 70.5 percent from fall 2017 to spring 2018 – and has increased nearly 7 percentage points since 2015. Below is where Northwood Kensett CSD falls in improvement.

District	District/Nonpublic School Name	School Year	Benchmark Year	Fall Met Benchmark	Fall Tested	Fall % Met Benchmark	Spring Met Benchmark	Spring Tested	Spring % Met Benchmark	Fall to Spring % Change
4788	Northwood-Kensett CSD	2017-18	2015-16	118	150	78.7%	133	152	87.5%	8.8%

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

**NEW BEGINNINGS!**

As the new school year begins, we have some new faces in the athletic department. We have two new coaches heading up our high school volleyball program. Ellen Gallagher is our new head coach and PE teacher and she is assisted by Morgan Howie who is also our new art teacher. We also have new junior high coaches, Heather Rheingans and Nichol Hebel. Both have been in the district but this will be their first year coaching the 7th and 8th graders. Our girls track program will also have a new coaching staff with Troy Einertson, one of our new 4th grade teachers will be our head coach and Ellen Gallagher being his assistant. Troy is also helping with the cross country program this fall.

One other big change around Northwood-Kensett schools has been the new Industrial Tech and Vo Ag building, it is quite the change from the old building. Along with the new building, we have a new back parking lot and new entries in to the school. From the new parking lot you can enter the building from the south doors located by where the old loading dock was or the the west doors that are north of the new shops. It seems after hosting our first two volleyball game, our home crowd is not taking advantage of the new parking area and access to the gym. Save some steps and keep the ticket takers busy at the back door.

# Go Vikings

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, 704 7<sup>th</sup> St. N., Northwood, IA 50459, Phone 641-324-2021 x101, [kfritz@nkvikings.com](mailto: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](mailto:bcostello@nkvikings.com)

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

I would like to update everyone on the building and renovation project. Although the project is not completed we were able to start school on time with minimal interruptions to the school day. There was only one classroom that was not available on day one for the new school year (the chorus room) and it should be ready by September 5, 2018.

The HVAC project, while not completed is close to being ready for startup. The air exchange units are operational. The startup of the cooling units should be coming soon. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of September, fifteen days earlier than the project called for.

The Industrial Arts and Ag addition is progressing. We were able to use the classrooms on the first day of school. The shop areas are scheduled to be completed by September 15, 2018. This is a very nice facility that will provide our students with a quality learning atmosphere and a much safer environment for learning. We all look forward to the day that all of the contractors are gone and we no longer have to share space with them.

We will be planning an open house in early October. Keep an eye on the Northwood Anchor for more information on a date and time.

## Annual District Notices Pages 5-7

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER** Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action shall be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, Office of the Superintendent, Northwood-Kensett Community School District, 1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459. Inquiries may also be directed, in writing, to the Iowa Civil Rights Department of Education, Kansas City, MO. Such inquiry or complaint to the state or federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

**ABUSE** It is the policy of the Northwood-Kensett Community School District that school employees not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, towards students. Any school employee who commits such acts is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge. The Northwood-Kensett Community School District has appointed as Level I Investigator, Mr. Brian Costello, elementary principal, and Mr. Keith Fritz, secondary principal.

### **DIRECTORY OF STUDENT INFORMATION**

The following information may be released to the public in regard to any individual students of the school district as necessity or desirability arises. Any student over the age of eighteen, parent, or guardian not wanting this information released to the public must make an objection in writing, within fifteen days of enrollment, to the principal or other person in charge of the school the student is attending. It is desirable to renew this objection at the beginning of each school year.

THE STUDENT'S NAME, ADDRESS, GRADE LEVEL, ENROLLMENT STATUS, PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT OF MEMBERS OF ATHLETIC TEAMS, DATES OF ATTENDANCE, DEGREES AND AWARDS RECEIVED, PHOTOGRAPH AND OTHER LIKENESS, AND OTHER SIMILAR INFORMATION.

## District notices

### **SECTION 504, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

Section 504/ADA prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. In order to fulfill obligations under Section 504/ADA, the Northwood-Kensett Community School District has the responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability should knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system.

The Northwood-Kensett Community School District has the responsibilities under Section 504/ADA, which include the obligations to identify, evaluate, and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504/ADA, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to education records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to: 1) inspect and review his/her child's educational records; 2) make copies of these records; 3) receive a list of the individuals having access to those records; 4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; 6) a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are any questions, please contact Brian Costello, Elementary Principal and Section 504 Coordinator.

### **PUBLIC RECORDS**

The Code of Iowa, Chapter 22 gives each individual the right to examine and copy public records of the school district. The Northwood-Kensett Community School District has delegated two officials with the responsibility of implementing requirements of this Chapter. These two individuals are the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager. Requests to examine or copy public records (except records of enrolled students) should be made to one of these two designated officials. Such requests shall be honored within a reasonable period of time as outlined in the law and a reasonable fee may be charged for the copying of public records. Those public records which deal with personnel are covered under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and shall not be available for examination or copying. Principals or other employees are instructed to refer requests for public records to the Office of the Business Manager.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION** Districts are now required to notify patrons of open enrollment application deadlines and the possibility of transportation assistance. For the 2018-2019 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 was March 1, 2018. The deadline for students entering kindergarten was September 1, 2018. Parents/guardians of open enrollment students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend. This notification is also posted on our website for your review.

## High School Food Pantry items 2018

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, which is the best time to pick up items.

### **Current Food Supplies**

Assorted canned Fruit  
Canned Vegetables  
Nutri-Grain Bars  
Potatoes Fresh (sweet potatoes)  
Pancake syrup  
Tangy BBQ Sauce  
Assorted Spices  
Ground Meat  
Snack Crackers  
Whole Wheat Rotini Noodles  
Rice  
Rasins snack Boxes  
Egg Noodles  
Fresh Turkey Sliced Lunch Meat  
Spaghetti  
Peanut butter  
Canned Spaghetti Sauce  
Frozen Soup  
Frozen Green bean casserole  
Fresh cucumbers  
Fresh apples  
Fresh Eggs  
Milk 1%



## Meet the Staff

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

The Teacher Leadership Program at Northwood-Kensett is entering its third year and 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. Last school year, we will introduce these teacher leaders and shared their experiences thus far. We still have a couple more teacher leaders to introduce.

**Colette Ubben: Model Teacher**

**Years of Experience:** 17 years

**Where/What I've Taught:** 16 years in elementary education, this is my third year teaching third grade

**Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools:** My favorite part about NK schools are the students and the great staff I work with.

**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:** By providing teachers an opportunity to collaborate through visiting other teachers classrooms, coaching cycles, learning labs, and many other opportunities teachers have the time and resources to bounce ideas off each other, provide feedback, and collaborate regarding a variety of topics focused on student achievement.

## Scholastic Book Fair Roundup during Open house



Dear Parents and Families:

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

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

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

Book Fair dates: September 18-September 21

Shopping hours: before school: September 19, 20, and 21<sup>st</sup>:

afterschool: September 18th, 19th, and 20th

Special activities: September 20<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm during Elem. Open House

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at [scholastic.com/fair](http://scholastic.com/fair). Our Online Fair is available from September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup>].

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



 SCHOLASTIC



## Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

### **WELCOME BACK**

It has been so much fun to see the students and hear about how they spent their summer vacations!

Throughout the year I will have classroom Guidance on a regular basis. September's character pillar is Respect. Each grade level will be learning new skills on how to become more respectful. This month's lessons for the younger grades will focus on respect, manners, and listening. The older grades will focus on being a good friend, respecting differences, and in all grades we will also begin to discuss bullying and what we can do to make all students feel welcome and comfortable at Northwood-Kensett Elementary.

This year, the 5th grade students will get to watch the movie, *Wonder*, in class. Last year, the 5th and 6th grades were able to watch the movie, and within class discussions it was clear that the message of the movie had an impact on the way they thought about interactions with their peers and treating each other with respect.

I will also continue teaching 7th and 8th grade Guidance. In class, the 7th graders are discussing bullying and what can be done to stop it at our school. We are also discussing advocacy and standing up for yourself and others.

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

I may also have the opportunity to work with your children in small groups or individually. I work with small groups of students on topics like organization, homework completion, social skills, and friendship. Small groups may contain students who are in the group to learn a new skill, and some students may be asked to be in a group to help model a skill they already practice. Individually, I may work with students on these same topics or others such as building self-esteem or family changes. All small groups and individual sessions will be arranged with the teachers so that the students are not missing out on crucial information in the classroom.

I look forward to working with your students this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 641-324-1127 ext. 216 or email me at [awilliams@nkvikings.com](mailto:awilliams@nkvikings.com)!

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

After a longer-than-usual summer break, it's been great to see the faces of our NK students back in school this week! In the counseling office, the first week of school is for fine-tuning things and making sure everyone is off on the right foot. With most of that work behind me at this point, I'm struck by how many times I heard, "I should..." in reference to things a student felt they had to do because of peer pressure or a false belief in the rules. I wanted to take this time to remind our NK families that they have a fair amount of choice and flexibility in what their students' school day looks like.

Sure, the state mandates that students take English Language Arts every year of school, and they also require some physical education as well as some other courses. But there are still many decisions that students make "because they should," when they only "should" if it is right for their own individual personal, academic, and career development path.

For example, concurrent enrollment classes through NIACC are popular here at NK, and many students save money and achieve high scores in the classes they select. However, they aren't for everybody. Online classes require students to regularly log on and budget time to complete the course, something that isn't a good fit for every person. If a concurrent class is too stressful, that's fine! NK has a lot of great course offerings for all our students.

It's important to remember that each person's high school and post-graduation plans should be made in the interest of that individual with the guidance of parents and other trusted advisors, and not based on misinformation or pressure from those on the sidelines.



Upcoming events: Fall photos @ HS; Open House at Elementary.

# REMINDER

RECORDATORIO

## PICTURE DAY IS

EL DÍA DE LA FOTO ES

Thursday, September 13, 2018  
Jueves, 13 de septiembre, 2018

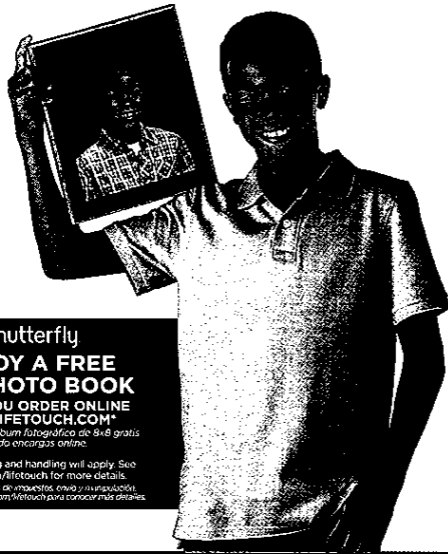
Order online before Picture Day  
with your Picture Day ID at

### mylifetouch.com

Encarga online antes del Día de la Foto con tu ID del Día de la Foto  
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Northwood Kensett Jr Sr High School

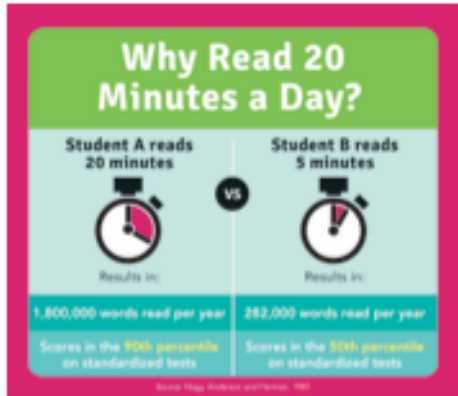
Picture Day ID: BN608246Q0



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Northwood Kensett Elementary will be holding an open house for parents, grandparents and friends of students to come visit the school on September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7 PM. During the open house, the Elementary Media Center will be hosting a Scholastic Book fair for the public. Please come and join us for a visit.



## News from the Elementary Office, by Tina Johnson



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

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

**LOST AND FOUND**

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

## Nurse's Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

### Welcome Back

It's that time of year again that I am forced to inflict pain on some of your children. I am currently reviewing all of our student's immunization records and compiling a list of those children that are not current on their shots. You will receive a letter from me if your child is one of those students describing what vaccination they need to become current. The state of Iowa requires that vaccines be current to attend public school, with the exception of religious or medical reasons. In these cases a notarized document needs to be provided for religious exemption and likewise a doctor's note is required for medical exemption. If there is no medical or religious exemption and your child's immunizations are not current, I must issue a provisional certificate of immunization explaining to you which vaccines they still need. You then have 60 days to either complete the vaccine or start the vaccine series. If this has not been completed by the end of the 60 days, your child will not be allowed in school until the required vaccines have been administered.

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

Also on a quick note, I want to remind all Kindergarten and 9th grade parents that your child is required to have a dental screening. For our kindergarten students the dental screening can be done as early as age 3 and can be performed by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, registered nurse, or physician's assistant. Screenings must occur before December of their Kindergarten year to be considered valid. I do offer dental screenings to the Kindergarten students in the fall.

A consent form for this screening will be sent home with your child a few days before. Unfortunately, I am not able to provide dental screenings to the 9th grade, however this year I am working with a local dental hygienist to offer a free screening at the school. This screening can be done no sooner than 1 year before their 9th grade year and has to be completed by December to be valid. If dental care is a financial concern for you, please contact me so that I may help you get in contact with an agency to help.