



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

January 2021

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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PO BOX 289

1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

(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

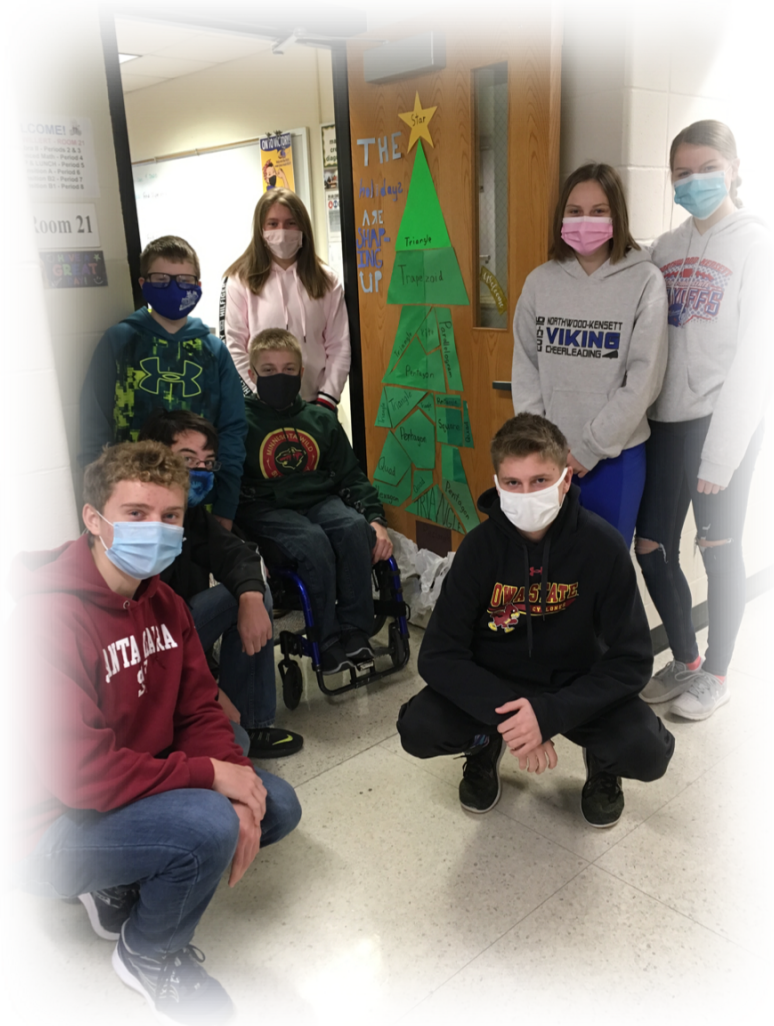
Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

MATH CLUB NEWS, MRS. LORI WILLERT



Math Club members are participating in the NK school door decorating contest!

left to right at Mrs. Willert's door: Nathan Hannemann, Thomas Block, Weston & Wyatt Willand, Emma Davidson, Madalynn Hanson, Chloe Costello, Hayden Moore
Others that participated but not in photo: Andrew Breitsprecher, Jadyn Beland, Kenny Conlin

The Christmas tree is made up of labeled polygon shapes and the message says, "The holidays are shaping up!"

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BRIAN COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

2020.....What a Ride!

When I was younger I was a roller coaster enthusiast. I loved everything about them. The anticipation while waiting in line, the excitement as I scrambled into the seat, the slow climbs, the drops, rolls, upside-down turns and finally, the smooth stretch back to the loading house.

Why do I bring this up? In a lot of ways 2020 matches my description of a roller coaster ride; with a few more drops, rolls and upside-down turns. Who would have thought the slow climb to March would have lead to the big drop of suspending school through May? August through December brought a few more climbs and drops including having our 4th grade learn from home for a couple weeks.

Just as my enthusiasm for roller coasters has gone on the wayside so will the wild ride of 2020. The second half of the school year will certainly include a few more twists and turns, maybe even a few climbs and drops. Along the way, we'll continue to need your help and support so we can make the smooth stretch to the finish.

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION**OPEN ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

Districts are required to notify patrons of open enrollment application deadlines and the possibility of transportation assistance. For the 2021-2022 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 is March 1, 2021. The deadline for students entering kindergarten is September 1, 2021. 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.

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 7th St. N., 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. Keith Fritz, Jr. Sr. H.S. Principal

We just passed the shortest day of the calendar year, winter solstice, December 21. With fans limited to two (or one household) per athlete, home crowds are pretty slim at our games. We had no fans at our annual Viking Invitational high school wrestling meet. Some schools are backing out of pre-holiday sporting events in an effort to give their kids a break from close contact with others before the holidays.

Yet, at N-K we are still in session and holding classes, still playing basketball, wrestling, cheering, and performing in our fine arts groups. Yes, we have to wear masks and are always wiping down desks, door handles, and pencil sharpeners with disinfectant. But I'm very proud of my staff for their persistence and work ethic, I'm proud of our parents who are sticking with us and all of our additional restrictions and limitations, and I'm proud of our students who endure all kinds of disruptions to how they'd prefer school to be.

Rather than focusing on the negatives during this pandemic, the positives are really quite encouraging.

- On this date last year, before the coronavirus was even known, our average daily attendance rate was 95%. This year, it's 97%.
- The attendance rate for our at-home learners is equally strong.
- It was not until the end of December that we reached more than 6 students infected at one time.
- Our standards-based grading system allowed for a smooth transition to at-home learning for those students choosing that option, and also facilitates a seamless transition back into the regular classroom for them.
- At the 7-12 building, we had 53 at-home learners 1st semester. For 2nd semester, we're excited to welcome 11 of those students back to the building for in-person learning. Even more elementary students are returning to their building 2nd semester.

The vaccine brings with it a healthy dose of optimism and hope that all of the restrictions and limitations we've been enduring will diminish, and the good things that came from the pandemic will remain. 2020 is over and in the past, and I for one am grateful for the lessons it taught me regarding what we do well in education here at N-K, especially when the going gets tough.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier**Construction Projects to Begin in the Spring:**

We are ready to send out the bids for the Viking Activity Center and the new transportation facility. If the bids come in on budget we will begin these projects in the spring. The Viking Activity Center has a completion date of February 2022 and the transportation facility should be done by October of 2021. Here is a video of the Viking Activity Center

<https://youtu.be/jfPYQXShDiA>. It is not too late to donate to this project, contact Bradley Christianson if you are interested in doing so at bradleyc99@yahoo.com. We will begin selling memberships around November of 2021. These memberships will be affordable for families and individuals.

We are working in conjunction with the City of Northwood to build a street north of the school that would run east/west to lead to the new transportation facility. The transportation facility will allow us to keep all our busses and vehicles inside where they will be secured.

COVID-19 Update:

While we have had cases in our school I feel that the district has handled this pandemic very well. As an entire district, we have not missed a day of school due to the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to take preventive measures to keep our students as safe as we can. Please remember if your student is feeling ill please keep them at home and contact your physician. Our goal is to keep our students in the buildings.

News from the Classroom! By Ms. Mackensie Sauerbrei

Spanish Classes: Learning Christmas Traditions of other Countries

During the last two weeks leading up to Christmas break, all levels of Spanish classes learned about different cultures and traditions of Christmas in Spanish-speaking countries! Spanish 3 and 4 focused on learning about the famous Christmas lottery in Spain. This tradition focuses on giving and generosity during the Christmas season. Spanish 2 learned about an interesting tradition that takes place in the region of Catalán in Spain, which is similar to that of Santa Claus. Seventh graders and Spanish 1 learned about the Posadas parties of Mexico that take place leading up to Christmas Day starting on December 9th.

We also participated in and voted for a favorite Spanish Christmas song from our Música Navidena music bracket. During this time, we listen to two songs each day and vote until we have a winner. This year's winner was the Spanish acapella version of the Little Drummer Boy with 54 votes. The runner up was an underdog to start, the Spanish version of Silent Night, which received only 19 votes.

All of these fun cultural activities and lessons led us to our own Posadas Party on the early dismissal Tuesday before break! Students brought holiday treats or favorite dishes, like pizza rolls, to share with the class while we danced and played games!



From the Pile off Mr. Reindl's Desk



Gildan Youth/Adult Ultra Dryblend T-Shirt
(50/50 Tee)
\$15.00



Gildan Youth/Adult Ultra Cotton Long
Sleeve Tee
\$18.00



Gildan Crew Sweatshirt
\$20.00



Gildan Youth/Adult Hooded Sweatshirt
\$25.00



Graphics on
back of shirt

ORDER DEADLINE JANUARY 5TH!!

Again this year, the Top of Iowa Conference will have its conference-wide Coaches vs. Cancer tee shirt cancer research fundraiser. The money we raise will go to the Worth County Relay for Life. All the schools in the conference will be selling the same tee shirt with the hope that all the crowd, players and coaches will be wearing them on the last Friday of January. This year that night falls on January 29th with our basketball games when we host Newman. It would be great to see as many Vikings as possible wearing these tee shirts and showing our support for the fight against cancer.

Order deadline is January 5th. Don't put it off, place your [Coaches vs Cancer Order](#) today.

Thank you for your support.
Jordan Reindl, N-K Athletic Director

Counselors' Corner, Mrs. Amy Hansen

By now, most of our Northwood-Kensett community has a deep understanding of the value of a dollar. We know that it doesn't grow on trees, and we can understand how hard it is to earn money. In my experience, I've learned that only a handful of our students have that level of understanding in their Senior year and as they graduate.

During Personal Finance class, students watch "Broke, Busted, & Disgusted," an Iowa-based college loan documentary that reminded us college costs are at an all-time high and are projected to rise further during the Class of 2021's time in college. For these reasons, I thought I would use this article to further encourage parents to assist in cultivating financial literacy and responsible money use throughout a student's school career.

Experts say that parents should require their children to be responsible for some (not all) of his/her expenses during school. For instance, Rosalind Wiseman, an expert in tweens & teens and their behaviors, recommends that parents insist that monetary gifts given to their children be put into savings. Savings can be used for the child to purchase something important, but she also encourages that the child pay for expenses such as replacing a broken phone or a lost piece of athletic gear. By holding children financially responsible for mistakes they make, students learn about the value of a dollar as well as accepting responsibility and consequences for the mistakes they make.

We're just getting into the main part of scholarship season, and every year I have students who are hesitant or even resistant to filling out scholarships. I understand that they can be a lot of work, but they generally pay out at a rate much greater than the time invested. Oftentimes, counselors hear that an organization had scholarships to give, but no one applied for them. Students who appreciate how much college will cost and how much effort and time it will take to pay student loans back should understand that it is in their best interest to research scholarships at each level (local, state, national, college-based, etc.) and apply to those for which they qualify. This is especially true in uncertain times like these. We won't know how much financial assistance the WCDA scholarship will be able to provide all our students until very close to graduation.

It is my hope that students will take advantage of the NIACC Promise and Last Dollar Scholar programs that can benefit so many Northwood-Kensett graduates. I also encourage students and families alike to devote time and thought to researching the most cost effective ways of obtaining the degrees and certificates of the student's choice. Would a two- or a four-year program be more beneficial for obtaining a job in the person's chosen career? Will a private college be able to offer enough financial aid to make it the most cost effective option?

Additionally, some colleges offer a scholarship for students who attain a specific ACT score, like a 27 or 28. If a student has a 25 on their ACT already, doing the preparation needed to earn a 28 is both feasible and will pay dividends in the long run.

Seniors had the opportunity to attend a scholarship session earlier this year, and I have provided reference materials to them and their families, as well. However, financial literacy and financial responsibility is not created overnight, and we all must work together to help our students make responsible decisions— both in financing their college education and as they become citizens of our community.

Counselors' Corner, Mrs. Ashley Williams

Northwood-Kensett Elementary

<u>Your School Counselor</u>	<u>Your School Social Worker</u>
<p>About Mrs. Williams</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Bachelor's and Master's degrees from University of Northern Iowa</p> <p><u>Experience:</u> This is my 7th year as a School Counselor at Northwood-Kensett!</p> <p><u>Hobbies:</u> Playing with my dogs, Buddy and Odie, drag racing, reading, traveling and scrapbooking</p>	<p>About Mrs. Abels</p> <p><u>Education:</u> BA degree in Social Work from UNI, Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) in the State of Iowa.</p> <p><u>Experience:</u> This is my 2nd year as a School Social Worker at N-K, shared with Central Springs, St. Ansgar and Lake Mills. I have also worked in Polk County's Community, Family & Youth Services Department and in Ames High School.</p> <p><u>Hobbies:</u> Spending time with my family and friends, bike riding and going on walks, traveling and going to concerts</p>
<p><u>What does your School Counselor do?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Guidance grades K-8 • Individual Counseling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -family dynamics, social skills, anxiety, self-confidence • Small Groups and Skill Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -building relationships, homework completion and test taking, organization • Character Counts and Student Leadership Groups • Food Pantry 	<p><u>What does your School Social Worker do?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Counseling—anxiety, depression, self-esteem, social skills, family dynamics. (Focuses on improving the overall social and emotional well-being and ability to be successful in the academic environment) • Community Resource Liaison; as deemed appropriate and necessary. • Assists students K-12 in 4 school districts
<p><u>Contact info:</u> email: awilliams@nkvikings.com phone: 641-324-1127 ext. 216</p>	<p><u>Contact Info:</u> email: aabels@centralsprings.net phone: 641-324-1127 ext. 307</p>

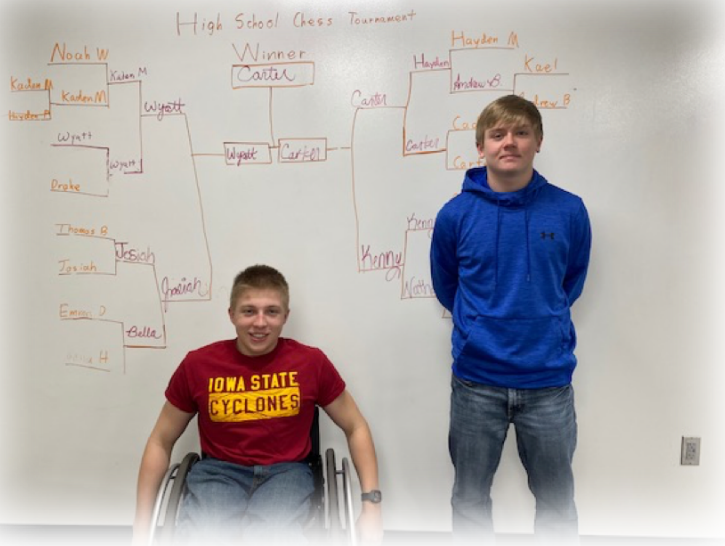
Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Abels work together to help support all students at Northwood-Kensett Elementary! Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help your student be successful.

News from the classroom - Math Club by Mrs. Lori Willert



Math club Christmas party:
Left to right: Kenny Conlin,
Weston Willand, Emma
Davidson, Thomas Block,
Nathan Hannemann,
Andrew Breitsprecher,
Madalynn Hanson, Chloe
Costello, Wyatt Willand
Not pictured: Jadynd Beland

The results of the NK
Math Club's fall chess
tournament:
Middle Schoolers had 8
participants->>>>>>
2nd place:
Alex Tiedemann
1st place:
Trent Tiedemann



<<<<<<<<<<<<<<
High School had 17
participants:
2nd place:
Wyatt Willand
1st place:
Carter Severson
Big THANK YOU to
Tiffany Tiedemann for
helping the math club
host this tournament in
the library!

Nurse's Corner by Kaitlyn Bruns, RN

With COVID-19 cases all across our county, it is important that we are staying healthy. Things that we can do to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Wear your mask!
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Social distancing.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Cough in your sleeve.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables!
- Get plenty of sleep!
- **AND** screening for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Face coverings

All children are required to wear a face covering. Face coverings help limit the spread of droplets to other individuals.

Social Distancing of at least 6 feet helps limit the contact and spread of bacteria/germs. By social distancing at least 6 feet, we are helping to limit exposures to COVID-19.

Proper Hygiene is important in the prevention of the spread of an illness. We should be supporting healthy hygiene behaviours in our children by providing soap, paper towels, tissues, and hand sanitizer.

Cleaning and disinfecting

Door handles, hand railings, counter tops, and tables are surfaces that get touched many times a day by many people. It is important that we are sanitizing these surfaces after each use, or as much as possible.

If your child is reporting any of the following signs and symptoms, please keep them home and get them checked by a doctor! We can all do our part in preventing the spread of this illness!

Symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever or chills
Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fatigue
Muscle or body aches
Headache
New loss of taste or smell
Sore throat
Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school nurse!
Nurse Kaitlyn