

NORTHWOOD-KENSETT CSD



Brian Costello-Principal

Elementary School
1200 1st Ave. N.
Northwood, IA
Ph.(641)324-1127

Keith Fritz-Principal

MS/HS
704 7th St. N.
Northwood, IA
Ph. (641)324-2142

Michael Crozier-Supt.

Superintendent Office
1496 480th St.
Northwood, IA
Ph.(641)324-2021

Newsletter designed by: Tina Johnson, Elementary Secretary

NOVEMBER 2024

School Board Members

Bradley Christianson - President * Cindy Pangburn - Vice President
Susan Kliment * Shana Brunsvold * Jamie Nelson

District Vision Statement: Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

Upcoming dates to remember

November 8th-No School Teacher Inservice

November 20th- 1:20/1:30 Early out

November 26th- 1:20/1:30 Early out

November 27th- No School Comp day

Nov 27-29 - Thanksgiving Holiday-(No School)

December 11th - 1:20/1:30 Early Out PLC

December 20th - 1:20/1:30 Early Out

December 21-January 3- Winter Break (No School)

January 8th - 1:20/1:30 Early Out PLC

January 14th- End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester

January 22nd - 1:20/1:30 Early Out PLC

FROM THE DESK OF MR. MICHAEL CROZIER, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Northwood-Kensett Community,

As we enter November, we reflect on the meaningful accomplishments of our students and staff so far this year. November is a time for gratitude, connection, and giving back to our community, and we're excited about the events and opportunities this month brings.

Honoring Our Veterans

We invite you to join us on November 11th at 8:30 am in the MS/HS Gymnasium for our annual Veterans Day Ceremony. This is an important event where students and staff unite to recognize and honor the sacrifices made by veterans in our community. We hope to see many of you there to pay tribute to those who have served.

Superintendent's Retirement Announcement

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I would like to share a personal announcement. After a fulfilling career in education and several memorable years with Northwood-Kensett Community Schools, I have decided to retire at the end of this school year. This decision was difficult, as I am deeply grateful for the relationships and experiences I have shared with the students, staff, and families here.

Working at Northwood-Kensett has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Our students' dedication continually inspires me, our staff's commitment, and the unwavering support of our families and community. While I look forward to this next chapter, I will be here throughout the school year to ensure a smooth transition and continue our district's mission.

Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving Break will be from November 27-29. We hope this break gives everyone time to recharge, spend time with family, and reflect on what we are grateful for.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Michael R. Crozier
Superintendent, Northwood-Kensett Community Schools

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BRIAN COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Where did the past three months go? It's hard to believe the first quarter has come and gone and we're entering the Holiday season. You may not want to hear this, but as I write this article, there are 54 days until Christmas. 2025 is literally right around the corner! But, let's not get ahead of ourselves. We just finished Parent/Teacher Conferences and I hope you found the information that was shared with you helpful in understanding how your child(ren) is (are) progressing. One of the items that was shared was the results of the FAST assessment, which is our universal screener in kindergarten through 8th grade. It provides a glimpse of their achievement in reading and math. It also serves as the assessment we use to meet the Early Literacy Law, which requires personalized reading plans for students in K-6 not reading at grade level. If your child does have a reading plan, you also know that will provide the following supports:

Progress Monitoring:

All students who are performing below benchmark are required to receive weekly progress monitoring. This allows schools to monitor the improvement students are making toward end-of-year goals (i.e., spring benchmark) given the intervention they receive.

Intensive Interventions:

If a student performs below benchmark on two consecutive screenings they receive intervention(s) to remediate their reading difficulties. The intervention(s) is required to continue until the student meets grade level expectations.

If you have questions, I encourage you to visit with your child's teacher.

Finally, I'm sure you've noticed the temperatures starting to drop a little. The reality is the cold weather will hit us soon. With the lower temperatures and snow in the not-too-distant future, it's important to make sure your child is dressed for the weather. Our kids will go outside when the air temperature is above 0° and the wind chill is above -10°. To protect children from these temperatures, they should have a heavy coat, waterproof mittens (or gloves), and some type of protection to cover their heads. Once we have measurable snow, kids need snow pants and boots.

We have a limited supply of winter clothes kids can use, but do not rely on these items on a daily basis. If you need assistance to purchase any of these items, please contact Nurse Kaitlyn.

Thanks for your continued support,

Brian Costello

A Message About Snow Days, from the Administrative Team

This school year, our school board allocated up to 30 hours of distance learning for students, which would occur on some of our weather cancellation days.

Generally, the first snow day of the month will NOT be a distance learning day. That will be a traditional snow day, with no special academic expectations on our students other than any typical homework they may have been assigned anyway.

After that, additional snow days in a month will be distance learning days. The weather announcement will indicate whether a snow day is also a distance learning day. Again, we have a maximum of 30 hours that we can use this way.

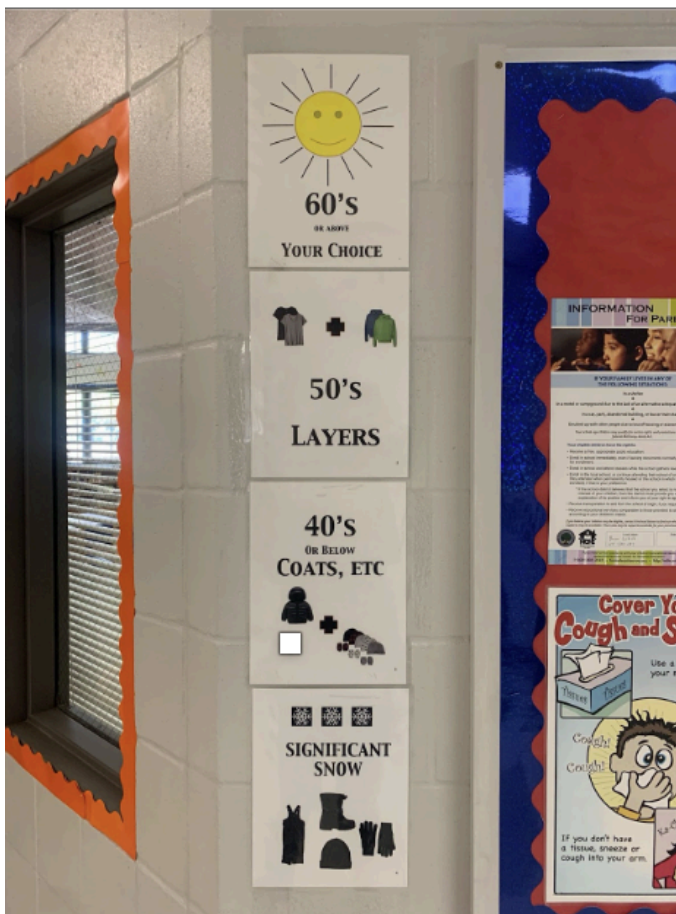
Prior to a distance learning day, teachers will provide learning packets. Students are expected to complete those assignments that day just as they would for their in-person classes.

On those distance learning days, teachers will be available via email for parents between 8:00 AM and 3:50 PM, should parents or students have questions or need assistance.

Attendance will be taken by using the completed assignments--if the student submits their completed assignment when they return from a distance learning day, they're marked 'present'. If not, students will have three school days to complete the assignment. If not completed by the end of that third day, the student will be marked 'absent unexcused' and earn no credit for the assignment.

Wow, it's already November! Colder temperatures are upon us, and as much as I hate to admit, it will only continue to drop until next spring. Now is a good time to dig out your student's winter wear and check to make sure that coats, snow pants, and boots still fit and are in working order.

When accumulating snowfall starts, snow pants and boots are not only a necessity but also a requirement for recess at the Elementary. If students do not have these items they are expected to stand by a wall or play on the blacktop, if there has been an area cleared off. This is to protect their legs and feet from getting wet which results in an increased risk for frost-bite. I do have a limited supply of boots and snow pants to lend out if a student forgets or a tear occurs. Unfortunately I do not have enough to supply all students.



Ears and fingers are the most susceptible areas to get frostbite so a warm hat, ear warmer, or ear muffs and waterproof gloves are also extremely important.

If you are experiencing financial hardships and are having difficulty funding these items please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the school counselors to discuss options for you.

Around the school we have posters hanging all over, just like the ones here. We try our best to remind students that they need to wear their coats outside during recess. Every once in a while, we all forget, but it is important, especially during these colder days to remember our winter coats. Parents, please remind your kiddos to wear their winter coats and warmer clothes to school!

Kaitlyn Anderson, RN
NKCS School Nurse
Ph. (641)324-1127 ext 227
kbruns@nkvikings.com

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEITH FRITZ, MS/HS (SECONDARY) PRINCIPAL

I've fielded a few questions from parents lately about academic eligibility for athletics, because their son or daughter isn't doing well in a class or two and they're wondering how an F may affect their child's time on the court or on the field.

The state's academic eligibility policy reads:

"If at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant is a contestant for 20 consecutive calendar days unless the student has already served a period of ineligibility for 20 consecutive calendar days in another school-sponsored activity."

Essentially, if a student ends the semester with an F, they're benched for 20 calendar days in their current or next activity, even if that next activity is a year away.

Fortunately, Fs are uncommon so this doesn't happen very often. But when it does, it's embarrassing for the student and it's hard on the team.

No one should earn a failing grade with as much support as we have available to students who are truly struggling. If you know that your child is nearing this threshold and you're concerned, contact us and we're happy to help.

From the Activity Directors (Mr. DeArmoun & Mr. Hunt)



Home dates include: Dec 6, Dec 19, Jan 10, Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 25, Jan 30, Jan 31, Feb 4, and Feb 6

Throughout the year, coaching positions open up at the Junior High and High School level. Are you ready to step up and join the coaching staff at N-K? If you do not yet have a coaching authorization please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NIACCCoachAuth> to start the process. We were not able to fill one paid football position this past fall and currently are having issues with finding wrestling coaches.

Just like with coaches, officials are also in demand. The NIOA (North Iowa Officials Association) is in need of people to officiate all sports. If you have ever thought about getting into sports officiating at any level or sport, now is the time! If you are interested in becoming a sports official no matter the sport, please contact Ken Robbins NIOA Coordinator of Officials (kenrobbins2390@gmail.com), Scott Whitehill NIOA Assignor (coachwhitey@yahoo.com) or Craig Snider NIOA Assignor (craigdsnider@gmail.com). You can also visit the NIOA website for more information: <https://northiowaofficialsassociation.weebly.com/>

And a reminder that home winter high school athletic contests will require digital tickets. Check our Bound or Facebook page leading up to an event for the link to purchase.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you, adult stakeholders of the Northwood-Kensett community, that **life is full of challenges**. Though, I fear that a growing number of our students have lost sight of the distinction between "challenging" or "mildly irritating" and "a real emergency." In my day-to-day interactions with students, I bear witness to children who are often agitated, annoyed, angry, or even unable to cope when they do not get their way or are inconvenienced in other small ways. These things will continue to be a part of existing in the world for as long as you or I live. As the Rolling Stones said best, "You can't always get what you want."

I am concerned about the students who perceive an emergency when very "normal" things happen. Things like...

- ... receiving less than an "A" on an assessment.
- ... not being on the winning team in a school or gym challenge.
- ... being partnered in a group with someone they don't normally work with.
- ... not being allowed to eat during class.
- ... being given an assessed task that they aren't interested in completing.

At the same time, I also see & commend the students who recognize that day-to-day life requires many compromises and that the real world gives each person obstacles to overcome on a daily basis. These students rise to these challenges and emerge successful, resilient, and with the life skills we strive to help instill in every student. These students can move on from a denied request without it ruining their day, week, or year.

At school, we continue to be empathetic to the fact that teenagers live in the present day and most life events seem serious and "big." However, we also know that it's in the best interest of every student and person to acknowledge that life challenges are a part of growing up, that life challenges are not likely to disappear from any person's life. The crucial idea, then, is to help students understand that, rather than determine that each challenge is an emergency that warrants causing a scene, students need to learn to determine what constitutes a real emergency and which situations require them to accept the challenge and do their best to meet or overcome it. When determining what is an emergency and what is a life challenge, adults can be thought partners with the teens in their lives, helping students by asking questions like:

- ... Do you understand why the adult/coach made the decision he/she did?
- ... Did you understand the assignment and feedback you received? How did it correspond to the grade you were given?
- ... Did this situation potentially jeopardize your safety?
- ... Was the directive given unreasonable?
- ... Are you likely to have to interact with people you didn't choose for yourself in other parts of your life?

As adults in students' lives, we can help them to learn from these events and determine what is an emergency, and what they are capable of handling themselves with their own skills. It will help them for years to come.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Ms. Bowman

November 2024

Guidance Classes

This month, our main focus in guidance was bullying prevention. Students learned just how much words matter and that hurtful ones can sometimes stay with us the rest of our lives. We must remember that every single person is going through some kind of struggle. One kind act can often make all the difference!

Tips for Home

Discuss the importance of "See something, say something". Remind children to *always* tell a trusted adult if they see someone being mistreated. Be a positive role model by showing what respect and kindness look like. Be especially conscious of how you talk to/about others when children are around.

Congratulations to our Students of the Month!

Piper Lichman
Bria Moretz
Lindy Grahn
Adelaide Aronofsky
Kinslie Shoars
Collyns Schulz
Tristan Strand
Marjorie Alvarez-Martinez
Caleb Heiken
Olivia Grahn
Irelynn Bork
Ali Thomas

Important Dates

11/4: Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/8: No School (In-Service)
11/20: Early Dismissal (In-Service)
11/27-11/29: Thanksgiving Break

Let's Talk!

Phone: 641-324-1127 ext. 216

Email: kbowman@nkvikings.com



Contact Us:
Ph: 641-424-2391
Fax: 641-424-0783
www.prairieridge.net



THERAPY SERVICES

Pam Sahota is a licensed Mental Health Counselor for the state of Iowa, National Certified Counselor, Anger Management Specialist, and EMDR Trained. She is currently a candidate for her ED.D in Traumatology.

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

Dr. Rashmi Williams specializes in child and adolescent psychiatric care and has a particular interest in treating those in underserved communities. Her clinical interests include treatment and support for autism spectrum disorder, LGBTQIA+ health, PTSD/trauma, anxiety and depression.

SERVICE NAVIGATION

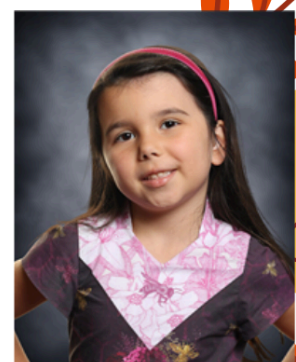
Service Navigation is an added bonus as this individual will stay connected to you and your child throughout the process to ensure seamless care. They can also assist by connecting you, your family, and school staff to resources within the community.

Prairie Ridge is now offering telehealth therapy and psychiatric services for your child while they are in school! We understand the difficulties that come with trying to balance work and school attendance while trying to access mental health services for your child. Let us bring you some convenience and peace of mind that your child's mental health is being cared for by professional and well trained staff.

Virtual Adolescent Care Team

**Therapy & Psychiatry
services without
missing school.**

**N-K ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
OCTOBER 2024**



November 1, 2024

Dear Viking Families:

I am excited to announce a new resource that will soon be available in the counseling office at N-K Elementary! Chloe, my 8-year-old Golden Retriever, will begin accompanying me to school later this month to provide therapy services!

Research has shown having a therapy dog available in a school significantly benefits students. Aside from the obvious positive aspects of interacting with a well-behaved dog, there is a wealth of additional information in support of them being used for therapy. Please visit the following link if you would like to learn more about these services:



<https://www.therapydogs.com/how-do-therapy-dogs-help-in-the-classroom/>

Chloe received her Canine Good Citizen certification from the American Kennel Club and will soon receive her therapy certification from the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We will follow their health and safety protocols. Chloe will be in good company as Bernice, Mrs. Hansen's amazing therapy dog in the secondary building, holds the same two certifications. Both involve numerous observations and tests administered by a trainer in the areas of obedience and temperament.

Chloe spent the past several years surrounded by infants and toddlers every day as I operated a licensed in-home daycare prior to becoming a school counselor. She could usually be found curled up next to a child snuggling. If a child was upset, she always went over and sat by them. I look forward to seeing her continue to provide comfort, support, and companionship to children.

If you do *not* want your child to have direct contact with Chloe, you may request an opt-out form. Having an opt-out form on file means that I will not lead her directly to your child for one-on-one interaction. Your child may still occasionally be in the same common areas as Chloe, such as hallways or classrooms. If a child with an opt-out form on file expresses interest in interacting, I will contact his or her parent/guardian whose approval will need to be obtained beforehand.

In the coming weeks, students will be educated about the guidelines for interacting with Chloe in a respectful manner, as well as what her ultimate purpose will be in our building. If you have any additional questions or would like to meet Chloe, please reach out and I will be happy to set something up. Thank you in advance for your support of our students!

Sincerely,

Kelly Bowman

K-5 Guidance | District CPI Instructor

324-1127 ext. 216

kbowman@nkvikings.com

RECENT **Art Room** Creations with *Mrs. Abbas*

KINDERGARTEN



FIRST GRADE



2nd GRADE



3rd GRADE



4th GRADE



5th GRADE



8th GRADE



DRAWING

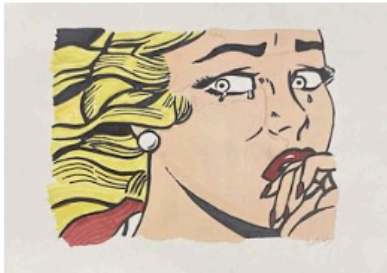
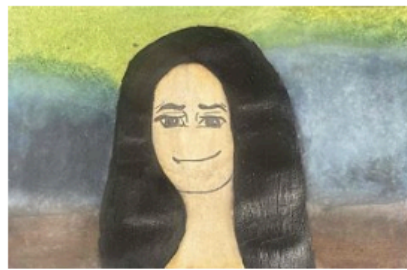




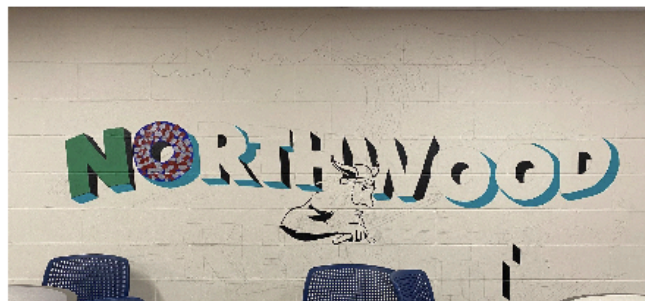
CERAMICS



PAINTING



SENIOR PORTFOLIO



Choosing a Just Right Book

Mrs. Wagner

Choosing a “just right” book is a phrase that teachers use to encourage students to choose a book that will help them grow in their reading skills.

If a book is too easy, the student won’t need any help and can finish quickly. The words in the book are all easy to read. You might notice that your child will get bored easily.

In “just right” books, the student can understand what’s going on in the book, and knows most of the words but might need a little help. When a book is “just right”, it makes you want to keep reading, the student feels confident reading them, and they can make connections and retell the story.

If the book is too hard, then the words are difficult for the student to read and they need a lot of help to decode the words and understand the story. Usually, their comprehension is impacted. They might have to keep rereading and find that their mind wanders when they’re reading. They won’t be able to explain or talk about the story.

Second grade students are using the **5 Finger Rule** to find a “just right” book. Students choose a book and open it to any page. Each time a student comes to a word they don’t know they put one finger up.

0-1 Words: Too easy.

2-3 Words: Just right!

4 Words: Give it a try!

5 Words: Too hard.

