

# NORTHWOOD-KENSETT CSD



**Brian Costello-Principal**

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

**Keith Fritz-Principal**

MS HS School  
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Northwood, IA  
Ph. (641)324-2142

**Michael Crozier**

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

*Newsletter designed by: Tina Johnson, Elementary Secretary*

**April 2025**

## 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.

**FROM THE DESK OF MR. BRIAN COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

**April Early Childhood Updates:**

**Preschool Registration:**

On April 16 we will hold our preschool registration for the 2025-2026 school year. The hours will be 10:00-6:00. Any children three years old by September 15 are eligible for our three year old program. Registration will take place in the preschool room. Please enter at the exterior preschool door on the north side of the building. If you have questions, please call the office at 324-1127.

**Kindergarten Orientation:**

This letter is a reminder that our incoming kindergarteners are invited to spend part of the day with us on Friday, May 2nd from 8:30-1:00. The classroom teachers and preschool teachers will team up to acquaint them with the classrooms and kindergarten routine. Plan on your children eating lunch with us. Remember, transportation will not be provided.

## **FROM THE DESK OF MR. MICHAEL CROZIER, SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Northwood-Kensett Community,

As we turn the page to April, it's hard to believe how quickly the school year progresses. Our students and staff have worked incredibly hard, and the momentum we've built over the past few months is truly inspiring. As we look ahead, I'd like to share with you many exciting events and opportunities on the horizon.

### **Spring Activities and Events**

April brings a wealth of extracurricular activities that showcase our students' talent, hard work, and dedication. From spring sports to musical performances and art shows, it's a vibrant time to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students outside the classroom. We encourage you to attend and support these events. They are not only a testament to the skills and interests of our students but also an excellent way for our community to come together. We will host the Co-ed State Qualifying Track meet on May 15, 2025. We always need volunteers for this large event. If you are interested in helping out, call Monte DeAmourn (641)324-2021 x 107 or Trever Hunt (641)324-2021 x 128.

### **Looking Ahead to Graduation**

Though we still have a few months to go, we are already starting to look ahead to graduation. This is always an exciting time, filled with anticipation and pride. Our seniors have shown incredible resilience and determination throughout their time here at Northwood-Kensett Community Schools, and we are so proud of everything they have accomplished. Graduation is a time to celebrate their achievements and reflect on how far they've come. It is scheduled for May 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

### **Last Day of School for the 2024-2025 School Year**

The board has decided not to make up the 3 days we have missed because of the weather. The last day of school will be May 28, 2025, with a 12:20 dismissal at the elementary school and a 12:30 dismissal at the middle school/high school. This is all pending any more days missed until the end of the school year.

### **Thank You**

Finally, I express my deep appreciation for all the families, teachers, staff, and community members who work tirelessly to make Northwood Kensett Community Schools an excellent place for our students to learn and grow. Your support makes a world of difference, and together, we are shaping a bright future for our children.

As always, please feel free to ask any questions or express your concerns. I look forward to all the wonderful things we'll accomplish together this spring.

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEITH FRITZ. MS/HS PRINCIPAL

We're proud to have been selected as a site for the state qualifying track meet in Class 1A on May 15th. **N-K Schools will dismiss district-wide that day at 2:30 so all of our students can get home safely and/or participate in the event.** We will have hundreds of competitors and spectators here that afternoon.



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**2025 State Track and Field Qualifying Meet Sites**  
**Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 PM Start**

**Class 4A**

Council Bluffs, Abraham Lincoln  
Iowa City, West  
Mason City  
Marshalltown  
North Scott, Eldridge  
Waukee, Northwest

**Class 3A**

Assumption, Davenport  
Decorah  
Glenwood  
Mount Vernon  
Mount Pleasant  
Nevada  
Sioux Center  
Winterset

**Class 2A**

Clarinda  
Crestwood, Cresco  
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura  
Grundy Center  
Monticello  
Ogden  
PCM  
Sheldon

**Class 1A**

Edgewood-Colesburg  
Griswold  
Lisbon  
Lynnville-Sully  
Madrid  
North Union  
Northwood-Kensett  
WACO  
Wayne  
Woodbine

## FROM THE ACTIVITY DIRECTORS (MR. DEARMOUN AND MR. HUNT)

### HELP WANTED

If you are interested in helping at our home track and field meets this spring, [please fill out this form](#).

### JH Winter Sports Seasons

This past winter, a survey was sent out to families asking about input regarding the JH winter sports seasons. Specifically, thoughts and comments in regards to whether the seasons should stay split, be switched to full, or maybe a hybrid of both. A survey was also sent to the current JH and HS winter sport coaches for their input as well. The results of the surveys were taken to the school board and a good discussion was held in regards to the pros and cons of all types. The board is still gathering information and looking into this item for the future. However, the survey did find there is some miscommunication on some info that we wanted to clear up.

1. Whether the JH sports season stays split as it is now, goes to a “full” season, or a hybrid of both, the number of contests remains the same. Per state rules, JH basketball can only play a max of 12 games, and JH wrestling can attend a max of 9 meets, regardless of how long the season lasts. Currently, our JH boys basketball team plays 11 games, JH girls basketball plays 12, and JH wrestling attends 8 meets.
2. We are working on getting JH girls winter sports as truly split (girls wrestling before break, basketball remaining after). However, it is not as easy as just saying “we will attend JH girls’ wrestling meets before winter break.” The reason? Because there aren’t 9 girls’ wrestling meets that take place before winter break in our area. As of this writing, we have only found 2 JH girls’ wrestling meets that take place before winter break, that aren’t more than 1.5 hours away. This is a work in progress, and we hope more are started or we are able to find more that take place before winter break.
3. Schedules and officials are set a year in advance. Next winter's sports schedules were set by mid-January. If a change does take place in the future, it would take a year before being implemented. That said, due to 3 schools on the west side of our conference leaving for a new conference after the 25/26 school year, changes can (and most likely will) happen to all sports schedules for the 26/27 year.

The school board, and both of us, welcome input from families as we continue to discuss this item, and to answer any questions that anyone has regarding this topic.

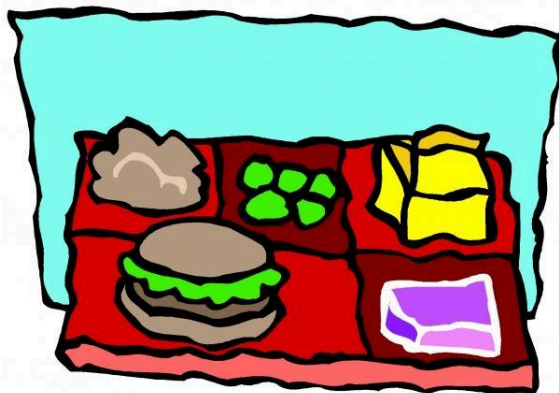
### **Northwood-Kensett Offers Free Summer Lunch Meals**

The Northwood-Kensett Community School District will once again be participating in the Summer Food Service Program. This continues to be an opportunity for the district to provide a variety of meals during the summer for young people, who perhaps rely on their school the rest of the year for their best source of healthy food.

The district will provide free lunches to any child ages 1-18. There are no family income requirements, and those participating do not have to live in the district to receive lunch. Children enrolled in daycare, or participating in youth and community activities and groups are welcome. Adults may also participate in the program for a minimal cost of \$4.85 per person.

Lunch meals will be served at the N-K elementary cafeteria, Monday through Friday, beginning June 2 and ending July 18. Serving time is 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. Those taking part in the meal should enter the elementary cafeteria through the entrance of elementary bus drop-off door #3.

For all questions about the program and participation, please contact Nutrition Director Amy Hennigar 641-324-2142 ext 137



## GREETINGS FROM THE ELA DEPARTMENT, MRS. ALLISON CLARK

We are working away on building important skills in reading and writing, and we want to share a few of the highlights from our classrooms:

- 6th graders have been reading about Malala Yousafzai, and we have had some pretty powerful conversations about the importance of standing up for yourself and the courage it takes to fight for what is right. By learning about her life and accomplishments, the 6th graders have gained a deeper understanding of global issues, resilience, and the importance of education.
- Our Malala novel was one piece of the unit, “Never Give Up”, where the 6th graders also explored several short stories (along with the novel) that encouraged them to reflect on what it means to not give up. Through a variety of memoirs, poems, biographies, and autobiographies, they discovered the inspiring journeys of remarkable individuals who triumphed over significant obstacles through sheer determination and resilience.
- 7th grade students are exploring the dystopian world of Panem as they near the end of reading *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This exciting novel provides the opportunity for excellent student discussions about a world with complex, thought-provoking ideas. In writing class, students are working on developing structured essays that will be utilized throughout high school as they continue to read and consider essential questions in relation to what they read. This “Response to Literature” framework teaches students to use evidence and to justify their answers.
- Language Arts 8 has been writing argumentatively, and they are feeling well prepared for high school writing! Students chose from a wide variety of topics including school uniforms, GPA requirements for athletic involvement, banning plastic bags, and more. In Reading 8, students are just beginning literature circles which provides the students the opportunity to choose a book and work with a small group. Students will focus on annotating and preparing for group discussions as well as reviewing elements of plot structure.

- Freshmen are beginning their study of non-fiction in which they will read *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*. It is a compelling personal narrative that describes Frederick's self-taught literacy, escape from slavery, and mission as an abolitionist.
- Sophomores are beginning the novel *Fahrenheit 451*. It is a dystopian novel about a future where ideas, reading, and "stopping to smell the roses" are not only frowned upon but illegal. Guy Montag, the main character, has his entire perception of reality challenged. Ray Bradbury's writing includes excellent examples of imagery and metaphor.
- Juniors enjoyed reading *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, a book about the author's life in South Africa during Apartheid. Noah is also a comedian, so the book was full of comic relief. They are beginning a graphic novel, *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, which features the story of families time in the Japanese-American Internment Camps.
- Seniors are beginning the novel *1984*. It is a dystopian novel that portrays a future police state in England. The world is run by globalists and the very facts of history are changed, daily, to support the "party" and its agenda. Students are comparing and contrasting our reality to that predicted by George Orwell in 1948 when he wrote the novel.

As we think ahead to summer, we encourage students to engage in independent reading! Talk to your child about what reading options they have at home. The public library is always a great choice too! They offer a variety of novels that will engage your young adult reader. If you prefer a technology-based option, the Libby app connects your child to digital reading material. It's a great way to read on the go! You can use your public library card to access materials digitally.

Remember, reading, writing, and speaking are cross-curricular skills that are key in academic success. The better your child is at reading, writing, and verbal communication the more confident and successful they will be. Reading is also a great pastime though, especially as an alternative to screen time.

# READING WEEK DRESS UP DAYS

**MONDAY - APRIL 7TH**



Snuggle up for Reading  
Pajama Day

**TUESDAY - APRIL 8TH**

Reading jogs the mind!  
Wear your work out gear!



**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 9TH**

Reading makes us bright!  
Wear bright colors and sunglasses.



**THURSDAY - APRIL 10TH**

Team up and read!  
Wear your favorite team attire.



**FRIDAY - APRIL 11TH**

Hats off to Reading!  
Wear a hat.





# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Ms. Bowman

April 2025

## Guidance Classes

Our main focus in March was conflict resolution. Students shared examples of conflict and brainstormed different ways to resolve them. We examined how characters handled conflict in stories, followed by students rewriting those stories to demonstrate the characters handling it a better way. Students learned about the power of using "I" statements during instances of conflict with others, followed by writing their own based on past experiences. During the month of April, we will focus on personal safety.

## Tips for Home

Practice using "I" statements as a family and agree to use them in the future whenever you have conflict.

- 1) "I feel/felt... (name the negative emotion)
- 2) when you... (state what happened)
- 3) because... (explain why it upset you)
- 4) I want/need..." (state your expectations going forward)

## Students of the Month

Jaxon Howland	Maveryk Rollene
Landon McElfish	Andrew Ballantyne
Roslynn Mincks	Dinah Ludington
Makinley Hagen	Jaxon Noah
Tinley Lund	Ruby Hanson
Jaxon Tufte	Baylor Abrams

## Important Dates

Tues 4/2: 3-Year-Old  
Preschool Parents' Night

Wed 4/9: 2-Hour Early Dismissal

Wed 4/16: Preschool Registration  
for NEW Students

Friday 4/18: No School

Wed 4/23: 2-Hour Early Dismissal

## Let's Chat!

Email: [kbowman@nkvikings.com](mailto:kbowman@nkvikings.com)

Phone: 641-324-1127 ext. 216

# N-K Elementary Character Counts Students of the Month

March 2025



Jaxon Howland



Maveryk Rollene



Landon McElfish



Andrew Ballantyne



Roslynn Mincks



Dinah Ludington



Makinley Hagen



Jaxon Noah



Tinley Lund



Ruby Hanson



Jaxon Tufte



Baylor Abrams

N-K Character Counts 6-12 Students of the Month - March 2025



Ava Woltzen



Soraya Moran



Emma Stephens



Madison Espinosa



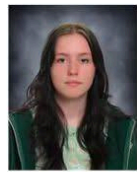
Brooke Runde



Jaxon Duvall



Natalie Shoars



Trinity Vandiver



Aspen Beland



Maya Johnson



Kinley Stambaugh



Kaylee Franck



Hadley Buenzow



Atticus Ludington



Kale Bode



Mia Helgeson



Kendall Krull



Sara Wubben



Skyler Williamson



Jaxon Reyersson



Weston Willand



Chloe Woods



Haven Thompson



Ryker Amundson



Dean Perry



Jace Delle



Logan Trenhaile



Mason Bork



## Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Amy Hansen, Middle/High School Counselor

As usual, there is a ton going on in the counseling department... Here are a few of those things:

I am working as a part of the SEL team here at the MS/HS to create new SEL materials to post and use in our school building. Here's the latest draft of one of the posters we've been working on:



Got feedback? I welcome your input. Email me: [ahansen@nkvikings.com](mailto:ahansen@nkvikings.com)

We're also pleased to host Accuplacer testing for N-K students here at our building next week. As usual, you can learn more from my frequent emails, posts on our website, and on my counseling page.

### Accuplacer Testing: Tuesday, April 8, at 8:30 AM in the VAC community room



Are you planning to attend NIACC or another area community college after graduation? Chances are that you will need to take the Accuplacer Test before you can attend, so consider signing up for testing right here at our school building! The Accuplacer is a placement test that determines which course level matches your level of understanding of Math & Language Arts, kind of like the ACT or SAT. If you do not take it at N-K, you will likely have to take it on your college campus.

**\*\*\*You will also need this or an ACT/SAT score if you plan to take Comp. I or a college math course next year.**

Thanks to our NIACC CCTC  
Mrs. Katie Walk for hosting  
these testing sessions!



And, we're very pleased to highlight our Class of 2025 Seniors again this year with the Senior Spotlight. We will highlight one Senior on Facebook each day of April and May. These slides are also featured on our lunchroom TV and you can catch them [anytime on our website](#). We hope you join in the graduation celebration!!

## **Nurse's Corner, Mrs. Kaitlyn Anderson, RN**

### **Elementary Parents:**

Spring is right around the corner but that doesn't mean we are out of the woods yet. I still see cooler weather in the forecast which means students will still need to wear their coats, hats, and gloves. I have multiple students a day still coming in and asking if they can borrow gloves, hats, coats, etc. Please remind your child to bring all of their warm clothing to school until warmer temps are here to stay!

### **Immunizations:**

Parents, it is not too soon to start thinking about the 2025-2026 school year! Students going into kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade have required immunizations DUE before the new school year. Please work on getting these done over the summer or ASAP! If your doctor in Minnesota, there is a good chance that I will not have their records, so you can either email me a copy or drop it off in the front office so I can get it put into the Iowa Immunization Registry.

### **Middle School/High School Parents:**

We will again be hosting a Sports Physical Clinic at the High School for all students FREE of charge. A sports physical is required for all athletic participants and is valid for 1 year and one month after the issue date. We will be holding the clinic on 2 different days to accommodate schedules.

Below is the assigned date and time for your child. We have split them up by grade level. Please review these and have your student come at the correct time and date assigned to them/their grade.

#### **Current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders:**

**Location: VAC Community Room**

**When: Wednesday, April 2nd at 3:30 pm.**

#### **Current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders (12<sup>th</sup> if playing summer sport):**

**Location: VAC Community Room**

**When: Wednesday, April 16th at 3:30pm.**

If this assigned day doesn't work, please let Nurse Kaitlyn know and we will get them in on a different day. Coaches have agreed to be cooperative in letting their athletes participate.

Students will be seen on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. Last time 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; this is found on the school's website under "Nurse", along with the physical form. We ask that you help your child fill out the health and family history section on the physical form. Copies of the treatment consent and blank physical forms can also be found in the MS HS office. Have your child bring the consent and physical forms with them on the day of their clinic. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

**Kaitlyn Anderson, RN**

**Northwood-Kensett CSD Nurse**

**kanderson@nkvikings.com**

**641-324-1127 ext. 22**