



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

February 2018

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

In This Issue:

From the Desk of Mr. Costello	1
From the Desk of Mr. Crozier	2
Pillar of the Month Photo's	3
From the Desk of Mr. Fritz	4-5
Athletic Director, Hartman	6
Meet the Staff Series	7
Highlights from the Classroom	8
Counselor Corner	9-10
Nurse's Corner/Classroom	11
Classroom Happenings	12
New Bus; Drivers Ed; Yearbooks	13

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Earlier this month I received a letter in the mail from a lady currently living in Maine. In the letter she described that each Christmas she makes a monetary donation to an organization or cause that has either touched her life or the life of someone she loves. This Christmas she made her annual donation to our school in honor of her stepmother. She wrote that her stepmother had grown up many years ago in the Bolan area and graduated from Kensett High School. Her stepmother doesn't live around here now, but she often talked about her experiences in rural Iowa. Extended family members still live in our area and she occasionally made it back for family gatherings, but because of poor health she wasn't able to make it back the past couple years.

What a wonderful tribute! I couldn't help but feel pride in knowing the impact our area had on this lady's stepmother—and ultimately her. I could just imagine her stepmother providing guidance to her children as they were growing up; all the while sharing stories of her rural Iowa childhood and ultimately, our school.

In my return letter, I thanked her for thinking of us and for her generosity. I let her know that the money would go to supporting our Character Counts program. Those six simple traits of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship carry with them huge implications if students don't use them or live by them. I'm hopeful she's pleased with how her donation is being used. It's obvious those were the same traits her stepmother demonstrated and instilled in her children.

That's all for now. Thanks for your continued support.
Brian Costello

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Meeting with Senator Brown and Representative Bloomingdale

On January 30, 2018 I had the pleasure of going to the state capitol and meeting our two legislators. Again, this year it was a very productive day. Both Jane and Waylon were eager to hear from the superintendents of their districts. Below is a list of items that we are advocating for this year.

- Adequate and on time Supplemental State Aid
- Extension of the SAVE Tax
- Equity in transportation funding

If you run into Jane or Waylon thank them for the job they do. Continue to let them know how you feel about education funding and legislative bills that affect education. They are willing to listen.

Worth County Development Funds Allotted for 2018

The Worth County Development Authority (WCDA) has notified the district that we will be receiving a total of \$484,244.01.

Worth County Development Authority				
Northwood-Kensett Total	\$ 484,244.01			
0.29	0.24	0.19	0.14	
Physical Plant Operations	Staff Development, Equipment,	Organization	Teacher Budget	
Maintenance	Technology, Text Books, Library Books	Fundraising		
Expansion, Green Energy	Support Staff & Instructional Support			
\$ 163,291.59	\$ 135,137.86	\$ 106,984.14	\$ 78,830.42	

It is important that everyone understand that these categories are pre-determined as shown above. The Board of Education will approve these allocations at the February meeting and then they go to the WCDA Board for approval. The WCDA plans to distribute moneys to the district on July 1, 2017.

The Board of Education, Administration, and Staff are greatly appreciative of the WCDA for their commitment and dedication.

Have a great February!

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

Elementary Pillar of the Month Photos



Third and fourth grade September Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teacher for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the left:

<Pictured left to right:

Linca Scarlett III-Ms. Peters

Olivia Willsher-Mrs. Hill

Alyssa Moeller-Mrs. Ubben

Iver Girouard-Mrs. Vansteenbure

If you see these students out and about, please take a moment to congratulate them for a job well done.

Fifth and sixth grade October Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teachers for exhibiting quality character traits are pictured to the right:

Pictured left to right>

Aden Bice-Mr. Severson

Ariana Heiken-Mr. Parks

Hannah Kraft-Ms. Hagen

Marisa Halbach-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 (Pg 1 of 2)

I hope by now you've heard about our plans to refine our grading practices from the traditional points-based approach which averages accumulated scores over time, to a standards-based approach, which focuses less on the number of points a student earns and more on how well they've demonstrated mastery of the standards.

This approach causes all of us to focus more on *what I'm learning* versus *how many points I have*.

With traditional grading, the student's grade report looks something like this:

Quiz 1	22/25	
WS #2	9/10	
WS #3	8/10	
Test	44/50	
Total	83/95	87% B

While this is what we are used to seeing on a grade report, it actually tells us almost nothing about what the student is learning, and how well he/she is learning it. It's just a collection of points and letters.

But with standards-based grading, the student's grade report looks something like this:

	• Use historical evidence to evaluate the state of regional economies throughout early American history.	• Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions influence culture.	• Explain how global interconnections influenced early American history.	• Analyze connections among early American historical events and developments in broader historical contexts.
Assessment 1	1.5	3.0	4.0	N/A
Assessment 2	3.0	3.5	4.0	2.5
Assessment 3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0
Assessment 4		3.5	4.0	3.5
Total	2.67	3.38	3.88	3

So much more informative about where this student is strong, weak, and how much he/she has grown and performed over time!

Continued on page 5

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ (Pg 2 of 2)

And it lines up the 'scores' for assessments of learning (tests, projects, demonstrations) with the 4.0 grading scale colleges expect to see, instead of the 100% scale of traditional grading, which we then have to convert to a 4.0 grade.

In a nutshell, that's what our teachers are learning about this school year, and some teachers are using this in their grading already. Our goal is to fully implement standards-based grading in the junior high this fall, but we may need more time to be sure we have it right.

Other related changes are occurring with how we grade, as well:

- **Retakes** of assessments are encouraged, because why stop a student from showing that they can do better?
- **Homework** is still being assigned, but less and less of it is being scored for points, because homework is practice for the test, not the test itself. Do we keep track of points at basketball practice as we're preparing for the game, or at the game itself?
- We're working at **separating behaviors from the academic grade**. Awarding points for attendance or participation, zeroes for cheating, and other non-academic influences shouldn't be included in the academic grade. Negative behaviors are dealt with in other ways. My "B+" in science should be strictly based on how well I do science, not in how often I'm on task or late to class. We will still evaluate those important skills like work ethic, punctuality, participation, etcetera but they'll be evaluated separately from the academic grade.

We're proud of the hard work and achievement of our students. Last year alone, N-K Jr/Sr HS had a 100% graduation rate, earned a 'commendable' rating on the state's School Report Card, and exceeded the state average ACT score in math for the third time in five years. With a stronger emphasis on learning course content, we are confident our students will achieve even more.

FFA NEWS

The FFA chapter held a January meeting on the 8th to discuss the chapter operations for the spring of this year. A group of members will be judging hogs at the Spring barrow show on Feb 2nd. National FFA week is February 17th-24th. Members 19th that will be sponsored will be put together. Later be attending the Sub District the conduct of meetings contest. MacKenzie Davis, Meghan Petznik, Cade Hengesteg, Austin Foss. lot of after school time to practice. for spring planting of the FFA farm students will compete in a Welding Lea. The annual Iowa FFA Leadership and 24th. **News from Marty Cotter, FFA Advisor**



will have a meeting that week on the by Farm Bureau and Ag fair plans that week on Feb 22nd, 7 members will contest in Nashua and competing in Members are Maddy Shoger, Madelyn Berge, Emily Thorson, These members have dedicated a Members are also currently planning and the Falk farm. On April 6th some contest at Riverland College in Albert Conference is taking place April 23rd

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

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with the Superintendents and Athletic Directors from the Top of Iowa Conference and the North Central Conference to hear Mr. Alan Beste, (the head of the boys Iowa Athletic Association), talk about high school athletics in the state of Iowa.

There were two topics that Mr. Beste discussed that I would like to share with you. The first of which is the declining number of officials in the state of Iowa. If you have been to any games recently, you have noticed that there are not very many officials in the age range of 20 to 35 and you have seen that there are many officials over the age of 50. The Iowa Athletic Association contacts officials that have stopped working games and asked them why they are getting out. The number one reason officials leave the game is coaches yelling at them. The number two reason is adult fans yelling at them. We as coaches and fans need to do a better job of letting the officials work the game and giving young officials the benefit of the doubt. How would you feel if you had a job where every time you do something, half the people around you yelled at you and told you that you were wrong? If the number of officials continues to decline, soon we will be playing games on days when the officials are available to work them instead of the traditional Tuesdays and Fridays that we are accustomed to.

The second subject that he talked about that I would like to share you is the concern over youth sports and the declining number of participants in high school sports. It is his belief and I would agree with him, that we put too much emphasis on winning at the youth level and not enough on fundamentals and having fun. Studies have shown that nearly 70% of kids involved in youth sports are done playing sports before they finish high school. The reason they stop playing, they are burned out and it is no longer fun for them. My belief when I was coaching youth sports was to keep the kids wanting more. I know they wanted to practice more and wanted to play in more tournaments but I wanted them to stay hungry and still enjoy the sport when they were in high school.

If you are one of those parents and coaches that are working with our youth sports teams, first I want to thank you. I know how much time and effort you put in and most of the time it is a thankless job with many headaches. The second thing is, keep them hungry, have fun with them and enjoy the time you have coaching your own children; it goes fast.

Go Vikings

FOOD PANTRY NEWS, Mr. Michael Reindl, Alternative Program Advisor

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

Assorted canned fruit

Nutri-grain bars

Tomato sauce and diced tomatoes

Tangy BBQ sauce

Fresh pepperoni, ground meat, summer sausage, bologna, canned tuna

Frozen precooked scrambled eggs

Some assorted cereals

Pita chips

Canned vegetables

Potatoes, fresh and dehydrated

Pancake syrup

Assorted spices

Whole wheat rotini noodles

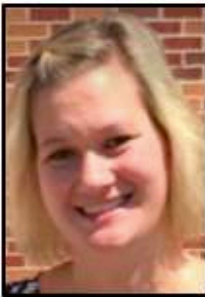
Brown rice

Meet the staff!

Teacher Leadership Program Update

By Kimberly Odegard & 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.



Alyssa Hanna, Mentor Teacher

Years of Experience: 8 years

Where/What I've Taught:

Central Springs-Manly: K-4 special education

Northwood-Kensett: preschool, kindergarten

Favorite Part about Northwood-Kensett Schools: My favorite part of Northwood-Kensett schools is the amazing support received from not only within the school but from the community as well. It is great to work in a district surrounded by such great parents, businesses, and community members. These people help enrich the learning of all our students.

My Role in the Teacher Leadership Program: My role in the teacher leadership program is serving as a mentor teacher. In this role I work with the teachers who are currently in their first or second year of teaching. I have been lucky to support amazing teachers who have been hired into the Northwood-Kensett school district.

How I've Noticed the Teacher Leadership Program Impacting Student Learning: The Teacher Leadership Program has helped bring our teachers together to become even stronger teachers by giving them the chance to share ideas and strategies that increase learning throughout the district. The program opens up opportunities for teachers to be able to observe one another to see what they can incorporate into their own classrooms to positively impact student learning. Along with collaboration, the teacher leadership program also give teachers coming into the teaching profession the support they need to positively impact students.

News from the Classroom

THE YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A SIXTH GRADER BY MS. ORVEDAL

As we headed back to school we have students not only busy getting into the routine of classes and friends, they were busy with football and cheerleading which they liked to talk the most about. The year started with Motion, Force, and Models unit in science, Ancient History in Social Studies, Everyday math, and using our new reading/writing series to learn strategies to become better readers and writers.

As the Fall continued, October brought our first field trip to Hormel Nature Center in Austin, MN. We had a chance to get involved with nature as we hiked and gathered data about about water quality.

In the winter, our Egyptian unit concluded with our pyramids and papers about pharaohs. The rest of the student body enjoyed looking at our pyramids in the library. We will be heading to Hormel Nature Center for our second field for a day of survival skills (fire building), and cross country skiing or bird habitats if we can get the weather to cooperate. Dr. Seuss's birthday will be coming soon and our school usually celebrates with Steben's Theatre performing a play for the elementary student body and staff.

With spring comes 4-H leaders and master gardeners helping us to plant our garden at the fairgrounds. We are lucky enough to have master gardeners in the area who help us learn and supply us with vegetables and flowers. Please come to the Worth County Fair and check it out our projects.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-CELEBRATING DR. SEUSS'S 114TH BIRTHDAY MARCH 2ND

Students look forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday every year here at NK. We have lots of fun activities planned, including readers from members of the community that share their favorite children's books with the students, treats geared around the celebration as well as a visit from Steben's Children's Theatre performing a fun play each year for the elementary student body.

If you would like to volunteer to read in a classroom, please contact Mrs. Doreen Cordle, Title reading program coordinator at dcordle@nkvikings.com to schedule a time to read. Those dates are set for March 1st and 2nd this year. We look forward to hearing from you!

Aiming for a Stellar Trap Season!

The trap shooting season will be starting in March. This program is open to all high school students and you do not need to have any prior experience with the shooting sports. There may be a junior high team that is not part of the school program depending on the number of students that are interested. The meeting with parents and students will be on February 5 at 7:30 PM in the commons area of the high school. This meeting is to get all the paperwork filled out for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (our governing body). An updated schedule will be available at the parent/student meeting.

Our mandatory safety meeting will be held on March 1 in the library immediately after school. The first practice is scheduled for Monday, March 19 in Austin at the Cedar Valley Conservation Club.

Anyone with questions can reach me by email at: dean.mueller45@gmail.com or call my cell at: 641-390-0701.

Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

At the end of January, our fourth grade students put on a great Fairness assembly. Following the assembly, we had our monthly Character Counts drawing. Each day, teachers choose one student in their classroom who has done an excellent job showing their character traits. Those names are put into a monthly drawing. The students who had their name drawn received a certificate and were able to choose a friend to sit with them at the Character Counts table in the lunch room. In Guidance, we will continue to talk about fairness and how we can show this trait at our school each day.



In Guidance, we have also been learning about conflict resolution. We are discussing how important communication is when you are in a conflict with someone, and how it is helpful to listen to the other person's point of view. We also discussed how to come up with solutions to resolve a conflict.

6th Grade is beginning to work on career exploration. We will start this project by the students brainstorming what jobs they find most interesting right now. We will take an interest inventory which asks students what things they liked to do and provides them with a list of careers that match their interests. Moving forward, we will begin looking at more career opportunities, and students will be able to do research about the career they find most interesting. The career projects will be on display at the 6th Grade Showcase on April 6.

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 2018-2019 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 is March 1, 2018. The deadline for students entering kindergarten is 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.

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

I get more emails and letters about scholarship opportunities for NK students in January than any other time of year. It seems that January-April is "scholarship season" for Seniors who wish to apply.

Students received my "Scholarship Timeline" and a Google Doc with scholarship information from me early on in the school year. I update the document as I receive new information. If the application uses a paper copy that I have on file in my office, that information is included as well. These documents are my best resources for students who wish to apply for scholarships. The most conscientious of our students work on these applications in order of most recent due date, and often on a snow day!

Mrs. Faugstad and I are presently assisting students in drafting their scholarship essays for our local scholarship application. Students will complete the local scholarship application and the WCDA application during standardized testing time during March. Although some students get antsy to turn in their WCDA applications, don't worry! We will make sure that is taken care of in plenty of time.



My best guidance that I can give to parents and students who wish to maximize scholarship dollars is to do the things on this checklist:

- Fill out the FAFSA to ensure that you will be eligible for all scholarships
- Complete our local scholarship application and the WCDA scholarship application
- Complete your chosen institution's foundation scholarship application before the due date.
- Check my scholarship page for other local, state, and regional scholarships that you may be eligible for, and apply for those scholarships.
- Do a scholarship search on a website like SchoolSoup, FastWeb, or scholarships.com to see what other scholarships may apply to you.

Remember, the more nets that a student casts out, the more fish they are likely to catch. Scholarships are given to a wide variety of students for a wide variety of reasons. I will continue to assist students in the scholarship application process, and I would be happy to provide these resources to anyone who requests them: ahansen@nkvikings.com

News from our Dedicated Health Professional-Heather Rheingans, RN

Influenza activity continues to be high in Iowa as well as nationally. Last week alone there were 40 schools within the state of Iowa that had to report greater than 10% absenteeism due to illness; and a majority of the symptoms reported were respiratory.

The flu virus is spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Some people with the flu will not have a fever. People with the flu may be able to infect others by shedding virus from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed virus for longer, and may be still contagious past 5 to 7 days of flu illness, especially if they still have symptoms.

If your child is experiencing a *combination* of these symptoms please keep them at home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. Fevers must be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. Consult your doctor early if you suspect influenza as anti-virals may be prescribed to shorten the length of illness. Even previously healthy children can get very sick from the flu. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids.

I want to take this time to also remind you of the school's policy on when to keep your child at home. Although we strongly encourage daily attendance at school, we also believe that students should not attend school when they are ill. When your child exhibits the following signs, we request that he/she not be in school:

- 1) Generalized flu symptoms, low grade fever, achiness, and chills.
- 2) Diarrhea and vomiting. (If your child has these symptoms in the evening, it is wise to give him/her the next day to completely recover). Sometimes returning to school too soon only prolongs the illness.
- 3) Respiratory symptoms, frequent deep cough, green nasal drainage, fever, chest discomfort.
- 4) Rashes/Skin Lesions. Any lesion that is warm, streaking or has drainage that cannot be contained (scabies, impetigo and chicken pox). Ringworm that is not able to be covered.
- 5) Two or more of the following: Abdominal pain/diarrhea, fever of 101 or greater, swollen lymph nodes, white patches on the tonsils, redness to soft palate, scalp ringworm.

Parents are requested to contact the school as soon as possible when a student will be absent due to illness. It's also helpful to leave a brief summary of symptoms so that I may track per grade or class to determine if we need to increase our disinfection practices or provide extra health education to a group of students. Parents are also request to contact the school as soon as possible when a diagnosis of a communicable disease has been made (whooping cough, influenza, etc).

Any student that is out of school for an illness that includes a fever must be fever free without the use of acetaminophen or ibuprofen for 24 hours. If your child has been ill during the school day, we request that he or she not attend or participate in any school sponsored event that evening.

By following the school policy you not only help your child recover quicker, but also help us by preventing the spread of illness.

Classroom News-from Mrs. Smalley, TAG Instructor

Wyatt Willand, an eighth grade student at Northwood-Kensett, won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 25th, and a chance at a \$50,000 college scholarship. The school bee, at which students answered questions on geography, was the first round in the 30th annual National Geographic Bee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories are participating in the 2018 National Geographic Bee. The school champions, including Wyatt, will take a qualifying test; up to 100 of the top scorers on that test in each state will then be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 6, 2018.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the National Geographic Bee. The National Geographic Society developed the National Geographic Bee in 1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. Over three decades, 1,583 state champions have traveled to D.C. to participate in the finals and more than \$1.5 million in college scholarship money has been awarded to winners of the competition by the National Geographic Society.



Congratulations to Wyatt Willand (center), Madison Berry (right) who came in second, and Hayden Pestorous (left) who was the third place finisher.

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POPS

50 YEARS OF POPS

We are celebrating 50 years of POPS at Northwood Kensett this year on March 2nd. This event was dreamed up by the choir director and band director at that time, Lowell Gangstad and George Feurhelm.

Band and choir will be performing a variety of songs that were featured in past POPS concerts. The jazz band will also make a reappearance. HS Choir will sing a medley called 60's With a Twist as well as another medley called 4 Chords which features a variety of songs from the 70s-80s-90s-today.

Transportation Director, Daryl Love

Clean Air Technology at Work at N-K

Northwood-Kensett took delivery last fall of the latest addition to its bus fleet – a new propane-powered 77-passenger Blue Bird school bus. The bus was funded in part by the generosity of a Clean Air Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It was put in use to be the primary activity trip bus. While it was put in service in time for only the last varsity football road trip, it has been on the road plenty of times since, hauling students for basketball games of all levels, speech and music events, and field trips. The most notable differences to passengers are the quietness of the ride and

is even in the coldest weather. The propane-powered bus doesn't get of its diesel with the propane is still effective starts easily weather be plugged in quickly to and emissions. come at service will look clean, of a car filter huge truck buses, and



how warm the bus coldest weather. powered bus quite the mileage counterparts, but cheaper cost of a more cost alternative. It in the coldest without having to and heats up very minimize idle time Another plus will time. The used oil the filter is the size instead of the filters on diesel only 7-8 quarts of

oil will be used in replacement instead of 40 quarts required for the diesels.

Northwood-Kensett Schools is proud to partner with the Iowa DNR to promote cleaner air and lower emissions for the future of our students.

DRIVERS ED SIGN-UP

N-K jr/sr high students:
are you interested in
taking drivers ed this
spring. Stop in the high
school office and sign up.

Deadline Feb. 23rd.



2017-18 Student Yearbook Ms. Anne Flathman, Yearbook Advisor

Dear NK students and families,
The deadline to purchase this year's yearbook is March 8th. The cost is \$45 per book and the payment can be made to Clara in the secondary office. The yearbooks will be delivered in the fall. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at aflathman@nkvikings.com.