



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

January 2019

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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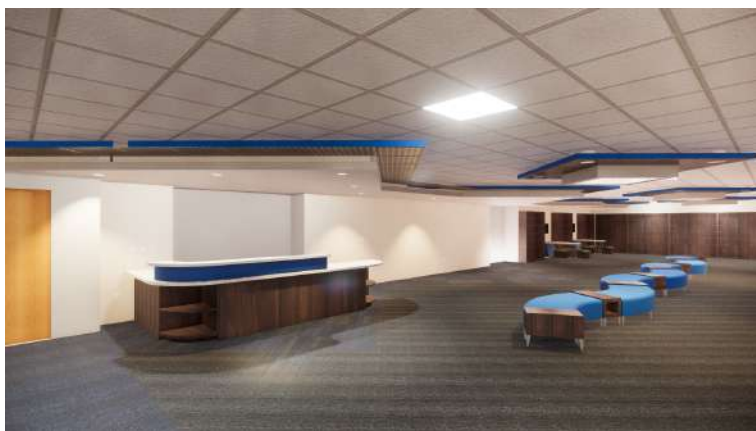
FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

School Board Approves Master Facility Plan:

At the December regular meeting the school board approved a Master Facility Plan for the district. This plan can be found on the school's website. The plan details the factors that went into developing the plan, progress that has been made over the past fifteen years and the accomplishments the board would like to see in the future. This plan is subject to revision depending on finances and the changing needs of the district.

Progress on Secondary Library Remodel:

We will be letting out bids for the library remodel project on January 14, 2019. The board will have a public hearing regarding the project on February 14, 2019 at its regular meeting. Below are two renderings of the project.



Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the staff at Northwood-Kensett Elementary, I want to wish you a happy and healthy 2019. It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the school year. So far the weather has been pretty favorable, but in case of inclement weather that impacts the school day or events, you'll receive a call from our system informing you of the details. You can also tune into the local television or radio stations for updates.

As we enter the second half of the school year, I want to touch on a couple significant assessments that will be coming up. The winter testing window for the FAST Assessment will start January 7. We give the math and reading assessment to students in kindergarten through grade 6. Parents received information about their students' scores from the fall testing during our Parent-Teacher Conferences. I'd encourage families to pay particular attention to the results after each testing season to see the progress your child is making. The other assessment, Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), formerly known as the Iowa Assessments or ITBS/ITED, will be administered starting the end of March. I'll share more information about this new assessment in the coming months.

We have a busy couple months ahead. Our staff continues to work hard to ensure our children receive high quality education. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Wishing you a wonderful 2019.

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 2019-2020 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 is March 1, 2019. The deadline for students entering kindergarten is September 1, 2019. 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

Elementary Pillar of the Month Photos



Grades 3 & 4

December third and fourth grade Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teacher for exhibiting quality character traits.

Marli Gunderson - Mr. Einertson
 Kaylene Peterson - Ms. Seehusen
 Annamarie Block - Mrs. Ubben
 Lane Knudson - Mrs. Hill

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

December fifth and sixth grade Pillar of the Month students chosen by their teachers for exhibiting quality character traits.

Jocelyn Shackleton - Mr. Severson
 Lauren Petznick - Mr. Parks
 Carter Anderson - Ms. Hagen
 Alexis Kalvig - Ms. Orvedal

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



Grades 5 & 6

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

With a state boys basketball title, a state title-winning trap shooting team, and now a state championship for cheerleading, athletics at Northwood-Kensett earn a lot of dedicated fans. Thanks to all of you for supporting our student-athletes and coaches by coming to our games, and sticking with us through the winning seasons as well as those seasons when we may be doing more learning than winning!

The arts opportunities at N-K are robust, too. Our junior high choir boasts more than forty 7th and 8th grade singers, and our high school choir sits currently at thirty three singers, which is roughly 20% of our student population! In the week before winter break, the high school choir spent time giving back to our community by caroling out and about town, and singing for the residents of the Lutheran Retirement Home.

Exciting things are happening for our bands, as well. Mr. Barnes has submitted an “intent to audition” form for the band to perform as the Class 1A High School Honor Band at the Iowa Bandmasters Association Convention in May. Each year, the Iowa Bandmasters Association selects one high school band from each class (1A through 4A). Selected bands present a 40-50 minute concert at the conference to serve as an outstanding example of a fine curricular ensemble for their school size/grade level. With twenty nine junior high band members and thirty five high school instrumentalists, we are doing well for a school our size. The combined choir/band trip to New York City occurs over this year's spring break in March.

And every winter we take some of our bravest students to speech contests hosted by the Iowa High School Speech Association. As of this writing, student participation numbers are fluid, but their first Large Group competition occurs Saturday, January 19. New speech coach Anne Flathman has been working with competitors on selecting good pieces to perform and running them through rehearsals so they're as ready as possible by that date. Keep track of upcoming contests on our website at www.nkvikings.com and on Facebook.

News from the Classroom! By Mr. Ryan Severson and Mr. Greg Parks

Manna Collections for 2018

It's hard to believe the 1st semester has already ended. The fifth graders have had a great first half and are looking forward to the 2nd semester. We have accomplished a lot already this year and hope to continue moving forward.

Below are some of the highlights from our 1st semester. Dan Block spent some time doing hands-on activities with the 5th graders this year. In science we started the year off by learning about the sun, moon, and planets. We spent some time learning about the different constellations and at the end of the unit he brought the star-lab to school. The star-lab is a large dome in which the night sky is projected onto its ceiling and walls. It was really neat viewing all of the constellations we learned about in class. Dan also visited the 5th grade social studies classes and made arrowheads with the students. The students also visited the Renaissance Festival in Albert Lea early this fall. The kids had a great time doing this!

Our most recent project has been the annual Christmas food drive for MANNA. The entire school is involved in this project because homerooms compete to see which class can collect the most items. As a Character Counts school, this activity is just one of the many ways we demonstrate the 6 pillars of character. The 5th graders collect, count, and sort all of the donations. At the end of the collect period, Mr Parks's 5th grade class collected the most items and delivered all of the items to MANNA. This year we collected 405 items, GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



From the Pile off Mr. Hartman's Desk



Top Of Iowa Coaches vs Cancer 2019

Welcome to the Top of Iowa Coaches vs Cancer 2019 Online Store. Items will be sorted per school and available for pick up on game day.

Due to the short turn around, no late orders will be accepted.

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Go online to <https://topiacvsc19.itemorder.com>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Monday January 7th, 2019 (11:59pm CST)**

Port & Company Adult Short Sleeve Tee



\$12.00

Port & Company Adult Long Sleeve Tee



\$15.00

Port & Company Youth Short Sleeve Tee



\$12.00

Port & Company Youth Long Sleeve T-Shirt



\$15.00

powered by ORDERMYGEAR

Questions?
Al Koehler
(800) 728-7423
nmonson@deckersports.biz
<http://www.deckersports.biz/>

There is still time to show your support!! The Top of Iowa Conference is wrapping up 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 23rd 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.

Attached is the online order form. All orders must be placed by Monday, Jan. 7th, 2019 by 11:59 pm CST.

Thank you for your support.
Steve Hartman, N-K Athletic Director

Exciting news from the Music Department: By Mrs. Nikkole Koenig

This past summer I attended a class at UNI called The RockShop Modern Band Workshop. As part of the class, I learned more about playing and teaching guitar, ukelele, bass guitar, drumset, and keyboards. The class materials were provided by LittleKidsRock.org which is a non-profit organization that trains teachers and provides resources to get more kids involved with performing music.

At the end of the class, a drawing was held for 'store credits' from the Little Kids Rock instrument supply. I was a winner, and therefore was able to order 6 electric keyboards, 10 ukeleles, 3 acoustic guitars, and 1 bass guitar with amp for our music department.

All of the instruments have arrived and the students are excited to learn more about playing them.



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.

Current Food Supplies

Assorted canned fruit

Canned Vegetables

Assorted Spices

Whole Wheat Rotini Noodles

Raisins snack boxes

Egg Noodles

Spaghetti noodles

Peanut butter

Canned Spaghetti Sauce

Mac & Cheese

Canned Chicken

Frozen Alaskan Pollock

Pork Pizza Toppings

Pork loin Chops

Almond Bark

Milk

Parkay Butter

Chocolate Chips

Orange Juice

Hellman's Mayo

Cheerios (Multi Grain, Honey nut)

Canned Tuna

With the holiday season just around the corner I anticipate having hams and turkeys coming in the next few months. Everyone is welcome!!!!

Math Club news by Mrs. Lori Willert



Fall chess tournament winners hosted by NK Math Club in the library.

High School:
Nathan Cordle came in first over Samuel Kliment

Middle School:
Haydan Pectorious won over Kenny Conlin

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, we watched "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 2019'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.

Seniors had the opportunity to attend a scholarship mini-session earlier this year, and I have provided reference materials to them 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

Throughout December, we have focused on the Responsibility and Caring pillars of character. Our 3rd grade classes lead our monthly assembly focusing on how we can show responsibility. This assembly included watching a homemade presentation, singing and dancing.

Classroom guidance lessons have been focused around positive mindsets, communication, and responsibility. The 5th/6th grade Jr. Viking Way also met to decide which projects they would like to work on this year. They have some great ideas for our elementary school!

As we look towards second semester, small groups and classroom lessons will begin covering topics such as study skills, organizational skills, and test taking skills to help all students be successful! If you feel like your student would benefit from taking part in a particular group, or if you have a suggestion for a group topic, please let me know.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by email at awilliams@nkvikings.com or by phone at 641-324-1127 ext. 216!

3rd Grade Character Counts Assembly on Responsibility



Character Counts December Drawing Winners

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



Math Club members held a Christmas Party Tuesday morning, after treats, there was math bingo, and hang man played. After the holiday break, they'll be working on the Rube Goldberg machine, and also have a "e day" cookie fundraiser coming up at the February 8 home basketball game!

Left to right: Ryder Lestrud, Reina Trosper, Nathan Hannemann, Alexis Halbach, Hayden Moore, Mackenzie Davis, Thomas Block, Lindsey Davidson, Marli Backhaus, Julia Quisley, Josie Einertson

Nurse's Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

I feel it's safe to say that we have had a successful 1st part of the school year in terms of health and wellness, as there have been very few absences due to illness. However, with 1st semester closing down and winter just beginning, I wanted to take this time to remind you about the school's policy in regards to keeping your child home due to illness.

****WHEN TO KEEP A 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.

**This information can all be found in the Elementary Student Parent Handbook posted on the school website home page under the Elementary School link.

News from the Classroom- By Mr. Monte DeArmoun

The Social Studies Department at the Junior/Senior High School, like other departments, has been making the switch to Standards Based Grading this school year. In the 8th Grade course and upper High School courses, this means more essay-type questions and less multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions. The new State Standards for Social Studies (https://iowacore.gov/sites/default/files/k-12_socialstudies_508.pdf) are supposed to go into effect in the Fall of 2020, but the N-K 7-12 Social Studies teachers felt that with the switch to SBG that now would be a good time to start introducing the new standards.

Some highlights from the Fall Semester include the American Government and Economics courses taking part in the “Know Your Constitution” contest run by the Young Lawyers Division of the Iowa State Bar Association (<https://www.iowabar.org/page/KnowConstitution>). American Government students Josh Fick and Conner Harris helped WOI-TV in Des Moines on Election Night. They sat in the Worth County Auditor’s office and reported the county election results to the television station.

The 8th Grade students are participating in a Pen Pal program with English-learning students from Majuro, Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands are northeast of Australia, just north of the Equator. The teacher of the Marshall Island students is Sonya Medlang, a 2013 graduate of Northwood-Kensett. Economic students used their creative genes to come up with business ideas to pitch to a small group of staff members as part of their “Minnow Pond” activity. You can think of the show *Shark Tank*, but very scaled down.

Spring Semester of 2019 will see Mr. DeArmoun travel to Seattle again to help improve the course called *The Big History Project*. He is a national Teacher Leader for the course. Mr. Capitani’s American History students will travel to the Isaak Walton League site, north of Kensett, with Worth County Conservationist Dan Block to experience shooting World War I and II era guns. The 7th Graders will be holding their annual Culture Day presentations in May.

Mr. Capitani and Mr. DeArmoun are both members of the district’s Teacher Leadership program. Mr. Capitani is a Mentor Teacher and Mr. DeArmoun is a Model Teacher.