



Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

March 2019

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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PO BOX 289

1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

(641) 324-1127 (Elementary)

(641) 324-2021 (Superintendent)

(641) 324-2142 (High School)

Administration

Michael R. Crozier, Superintendent

Brian Costello, Elementary Principal

Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

Larry Hovey

Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Plan for Make-up of Missed School Days as of March 1, 2019

We will not have early dismissals for Teacher Professional Development for the rest of the year (March 20, April 10 and 24, and May 8) These days will be full student contact days. We will add four days to the end of the school year: May 28, 29, 30 and 31. This will put us beyond the 1080 student hours required by Iowa Code. If we need more hours for additional time missed, we will add them in June.

Library Remodel Project, Local Contractors Win Bid

The School Board has approved the awarding of the construction contract to Kenison Construction to be the general contractor. The plumbing and HVAC subcontractor will be Larson Plumbing and Heating and the electrical subcontractor is Northwood Electric. We are pleased to be working with local contractors and look forward to the completion of a beautifully remodeled library.

New JMC Notification System

We have heard from a few of you that there are issues with the JMC notification system. When forced to delay or cancel school, some have reported getting the call but not hearing the message, getting only part of the message, or the call goes to voicemail but no message is recorded.

Communication with you is very important, so we want you to know that we will continue to evaluate how the system operates the rest of this school year. We have been in contact with JMC's programmers and they are trying some programming edits. We are also going to start sending texts out along with the phone calls. If you only want one or the other please contact Clara or Tina so changes can be made in JMC. If it does not improve, we will make the switch back to the One Call system we'd used in the past.

REMINDER: NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, MARCH 8th

Due to a scheduling conflict, the elementary track & field day will now be Tuesday, May 28th with the rain date being Wednesday, May 29th.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BRIAN COSTELLO, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

A new standardized assessment for Iowa students:

On March 18 through March 29, students in third through sixth grade will be taking a new standardized assessment called Iowa Statewide Assessment for Student Progress (ISASP). This replaces the “old” Iowa Assessments that we administered for several years.

As I request every year; please do these simple things to help us get an accurate picture of how your child is learning:

- Talk to your children about the test. Impress upon them the importance of doing their best.
- Make sure your children have a good night’s sleep. Proper rest is one of the biggest factors affecting a student’s performance.
- Make sure your children have a good breakfast. This will help students focus on the test.

I’ve included a brief description of the new assessment with my article, which can be found on page 3 of the newsletter. Other documents can be found at <iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com>. If you have questions about this new assessment, please contact me at 641-324-1127.

Thank you for your continued support,
Brian Costello

Kindergarten Orientation:

When: Friday, May 3rd, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM)

Orientation is for students to attend a partial day of kindergarten.

Please contact the office with any students that are not currently in our Pre K program here at Northwood Kensett, so we can get you the information you need for the upcoming year as well as get your child on the class list.

Elementary Office phone is 641-324-1127. Tina’s extension is #200. You may also email information to tjohnson@nkvikings.com

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION

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.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO(cont. from page 2)

**Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)****Overview of the Assessment**

- 1. The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) is aligned with the Iowa Core standards, providing a clear and accurate assessment of student learning outcomes.**
 - The new assessments are developed for the state of Iowa and align with the grade-specific Iowa Core standards.
 - The new assessments were developed in collaboration with Iowa educators.
 - The new assessments will be available online and in paper and pencil form.
 - Math and science tests will be available in Spanish.
 - The new assessments will be administered beginning in Spring 2019 in the following subjects and grade levels:
 - Math: Grades 3–11
 - English Language Arts, including reading and writing: Grades 3–11
 - Science: Grades 5, 8, and 10.
- 2. The new ISASP assessment is supported by responsive, Iowa-based experts and vendors.**
 - The assessment will be delivered and supported by Iowa-based Pearson, ensuring local support in the implementation process and rapid-response to any challenges.
 - Pearson will provide materials and support for district officials and conduct training programs for school administrators to manage the online test taking process. We are working closely with teachers and administrators to ensure a smooth rollout.
- 3. The move to online delivery and innovative technology-enhancements heralds a new era in Iowa. Feedback on learning outcomes is quicker and more accurate than ever before.**
 - Where previous tests relied heavily on multiple choice questions, the new English, math and science tests will evaluate students' skills using a mix of item types including technology-enhanced questions as well as open-ended essay questions.
 - By allowing students to manipulate material on the screen, the technology-enhanced questions provide greater insights into learning than previously used multiple choice questions.
 - Online testing broadens its accessibility to students with a wider array of learning needs.
 - Efficient, automated scoring of open-ended questions – validated by human quality control processes – will shorten the delivery of results.
- 4. The new assessments will provide parents with actionable information about their child's learning.**
 - The results will provide a detailed analysis of how students performed relevant to the proficiency definitions set on the Iowa Core standards.
 - Over time, parents will also be able to access year-over-year analysis of how their child performed from one year to the next.

Elementary Pillar of the Month Photos

Grades 3 & 4



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

Gavin Halbach - Mr. Einertson
 Brooklyn Orth - Ms. Seehusen
 Bailey Thorson - Mrs. Ubben
 Ivy Toresdahl - Mrs. Hill

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

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

Merrin Hanson - Mr. Parks
 Logan Manning- Mr. Severson
 Chloe Wright - Ms. Orvedal
 Ariana Heiken - Ms. Hagen

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

Spring is coming, I'm sure of it. It came last year, and the year before that...even though, in those same cold long winter months it sure seemed like it never would.

In a high school, spring means Prom, track/golf/trap seasons, and **tests**. From the ACT test, to the Iowa Assessments, to the Iowa Algebra Readiness Assessments, they come at us fast and furious through March and April.

If you are the parent of a 7th grader or a 9th grader this year, you can look forward to your student taking another test next year (although probably not in the spring) called the ASPIRE test. It's a pre-ACT test, and will help us identify learning gaps early on to help students stay on track for college readiness, while also preparing students for the content of the ACT. We are looking forward to using these test results to help in decisions like course selection and other post-high school planning decisions.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS, Mr. Michael Reindl

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
Canned Vegetables
Assorted Spices
Rotini Noodles
Raisins Snack Boxes
Egg Noodles
Spaghetti Noodles
Peanut Butter
Canned Spaghetti Sauce
Mac & Cheese
Canned Chicken
Frozen Catfish
Canned Tuna

Cheerios (Multi Grain, Honey nut)
Lucky Charms
Parkay Butter
Milk (whole and 2%)
Pork Roast
Pork Pizza Toppings
Chicken hindquarters
1/2 Hams
Oat Meal
Assorted Pork Cuts
Assorted Beef Cuts
Assorted Bread Items

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

News from the Classroom!

NK Math Club celebrated “e” day. e is a real irrational number; approximately valued at 2.718..... thus the reason for celebrating close to the date 2/7, February 7.

Shown here (left to right) are club members Thomas Block, Hayden Moore, and Nathan Hannemann selling “e” sugar cookies at the home basketball game last Friday. Funds from over 100 cookies that sold will go to calculator scholarships for senior math club members.



Character Counts Breakfast Jr. Sr. H.S.

Students are named by teachers as they portray the character trait that is spotlighted for the month. The February & March character spotlight will be “Caring”.

The Character Counts students of the month for February were: Briar Anderson, Kayde Weber, Abner Girouard, Riley Treslan, Jason Hanson, Pete Kelly, Cameron Campbell, Teagan Johnson, Andrew Breitsprecher, Julia Quisley, Madison Berry, Ella Leonard, Gideon Rollene, Skylar Koebrick, Molly Hunchis, Reina Trosper, Haddie Hanson, Drake Tiedemann, Hannah Kraft, Sarah McCormick, Jaela Parks, Morgan Wallin, David Block, Emily Hannemann. Congratulations to all of these fine students!

From the Pile off Mr. Hartman's Desk

Over the years you have heard me thank all the people that help out at our many activities here at Northwood-Kensett but there is a group of people that I have not mentioned. That is the different organizations that run our concession stand during our sporting events. I know that you are saying to yourself, "Why is he thanking them? They are there fundraising and making money for their group." That is true, they are there to raise money for different student activities but can you imagine going to a game and not having your walking taco, or bag of popcorn or your hotdog? A lot of parents come straight from work and purchase their supper from the concession on game nights and many of our players grab a snack before or after their games.

If you are one of those people that have run the concession stands, you know it's a lot of work but others may not know what you go through. They may not know that you must organize your helpers, order the food, pop, candy bars etc; make sure there is pop, water, Gatorade in the coolers the night before and then prep the food so it is ready to go on game nights. And it does not get any easier after the contest is over. You must then clean up the concession stands, restock the coolers and clean up the bleachers and the grounds. On top of that, you have an AD that is asking you for a water for the trainer or other helpers. Asking if there is any food left over that he can give to the officials. Or if you help with the track concessions that same AD is asking you to help feed the small army that it takes to run a track meet.

Not only do these people need to be thanked for helping out at athletic contests but the fact that they are there to raise money to help our students with post prom, or a Spanish trip, a trip to New York or our athletic teams. Thanks, you do a great job.

News from the Classroom

Shannon Jacobson, a resource instructor at NK Elementary, has a cousin who works as a nurse at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. She asked if Ms. Jacobsen could have a class makes birthday/cheerful cards for the cancer patients she works with. Mrs. Ubbens' 3rd grade class made over 126 cards for them!! Enjoy a few snapshots of students hard at work.



News from the Classroom

Happenings from the Secondary English/Language Arts Department

By Beth Butler, Deb Faugstad, Anne Flathman, Amy Hansen

English 12 students have begun their work on the annual senior project. Senior project is divided into two parts with students focusing on their career and college readiness skills during third quarter and on their senior projects during fourth quarter. Third quarter work includes setting a SMART goal and creating an action plan; writing a resume, a cover letter, a thank you letter; completing a job application; and preparing for and completing a mock job interview. This work is co-taught with Mrs. Amy Hansen. The senior project during fourth quarter requires each student to research a topic of choice, write a research paper about the topic, and complete and display a project related to the topic. The student's final project must take a minimum of 30 hours to complete. This year's projects include furniture design and building, automotive work, and baking. The projects will be displayed on Tuesday, May 14, at 6:00 PM in the high school student center.

The freshman students are wrapping up *Romeo and Juliet* with their final projects. There are many who will be creating a video performance of the play as well as other fun projects to demonstrate their understanding. Juniors will soon be reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* before seeing a stage performance at Iowa State University in the spring. English 9 and 11 students are anticipating a visit from representatives from Waldorf College. Students will be learning about college opportunities as well as participating in a fiction workshop.

English 10 students have read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections over the course of this school year. They will soon begin stretching their poetry-writing-skill muscles as they learn about and practice writing different types of poetry. Their work will culminate in a digital presentation of their poetry. Sophomores will also be participating in a simulation to learn and practice their public speaking skills.

Eighth grade students are reading the non-fiction young adult book, *The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden & the Trial of the Century* as a class. Students use evidence logs to collect evidence for the trial to use for a project when the book is finished, as well as practicing other essential skills. Students also continue to post their writing regularly on their blogs. It's exciting to see students' growth throughout the year through their writing.

Seventh graders are eagerly anticipating the study of Greek mythology and reading Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. In conjunction with their study and reading, they will complete creative writing assignments and digital projects.

Students in Reading continue to develop comprehension strategies. Most recently, students are working to sort passages of text based on common themes. The course uses a variety of fiction and nonfiction instructional passages to increase reading comprehension.

Counselor's Corner

Amy Hansen, 7-12 School Counselor

Although it doesn't seem so outside, the influx of spring & summer opportunities are starting to roll in to my counseling office. I thought I'd share a few of them here, with advanced apologies for their random audiences!

Seniors will have the opportunity to learn more about their WCDA scholarships on March 19th during ISASP testing when Mrs. Deb Hanson visits to share all the important details. During that time, students will also learn about local scholarships, which are due to the high school office no later than April 8th.

Juniors' required ICAN Financial Aid presentation is scheduled for March 19th @6:30PM in the student center.

The 11th grade will take the ASVAB on its make up date on Wednesday, March 6th at 8:30 AM. Staff Sergeant Matt Pentico will visit later during WIN for the interpretation of scores.

10th-12th grade students interested in the NICC John Deere TECH program are invited to attend their preview day on March 21st at 10:00 AM with a family member. You can RSVP here: <https://www.nicc.edu/visit/>

6th-8th grade girls can take advantage of the STEM summer camp that is being offered at NIACC with a grant through Verizon Wireless on July 8-19th. They will have an informative open house on March 7th for interested families to learn more. You can also visit our website to learn more [here](#).

Additionally, I receive information about scholarships several times a week. The **NIACC Foundation scholarship application** is due Friday and includes the free tuition NIACC Promise scholarship.

Additionally, we will have the work of updating 4 year plans and registering for Fall 2019 (!) NIACC concurrent enrollment classes when we return to school after spring break. I will continue to update you as new opportunities arise. You can check out my **NK Counseling One-Stop Shopping folder** or my **counseling website** to access the resources and opportunities that are available to our school community.

Counselors' Corner, Mrs. Ashley Williams

In March, the Character Counts trait we will be focusing on is Caring. This is one of my favorite traits to work on with the students. In Guidance, I let students brainstorm what they can do to show kindness and caring. They have come up with answers such as drawing pictures to cheer someone up, writing thank you cards to people who have helped them, and playing with students who need a friend. Throughout the month, we will practice showing kindness and caring to others.

With Iowa Assessments coming up soon, we are also talking about test taking strategies, such as reading the selection completely, finding key words, eliminating answers that you know are incorrect, and going back and checking your work. We will also talk about the importance of getting a good night's sleep the night before a test and eating breakfast the morning of.

Some students get anxious about tests, so we are also discussing relaxation strategies. These include closing your eyes and taking deep breaths, saying positive things to yourself, taking a short break by getting a drink, and talking about what makes you nervous with someone you trust.

We are in the middle of this year's community service project benefiting the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. We are doing a coin collection challenge. Our goal is \$1,500. We will have fun school-wide celebrations as we move towards reaching this goal! Due to the winter weather we have had, this community service project will run until March 29.

The 6th graders are completing their career projects that will be shown at the Showcase on April 25th from 2-3pm. A letter will be sent home including the details of the Showcase. The point of this project is to get students thinking about what careers are of interest to them now. They are researching information such as how much education is required, what a day-to-day tasks are involved with the career, and how much the average salary is. The students are enjoying doing research on a career that interests them. We hope you will join us when the students present their projects.



News from the classroom – Mrs. Willert, Math Club

NK physics students and math club members traveled to St. Ansgar for Iowa's 2019 Engineering Design Contest. The theme was to help a superhero save the planet. Ten teams participated.

While we did not place, our students fixed the glitches from the first run of their machine and made it work much smoother the second time. They were interviewed by the KIMT guy (twice) and should be on Channel 3 tonight (2/18/19) at 5:00 and/or 6:00 pm. Our Vikings were "heroes" and represented their school very well today! Big thank you to TruStile Doors for their sponsorship and to Chad Tiedemann for being one of the judges.



Left to right: Logan Mix, Reina Trosper, Josie Einertson, Laura Hopperstad, Emily Follmuth, Jeff Ferstein, Chad Tiedemann, Lori Willert, Marli Backhaus, Julia Quisley, Andrew Breitsprecher, Lindsey Davidson, Nathan Hannemann

The following physics / math club students are preparing for the upcoming "Engineering Machine Design Challenge" formerly known as the Rube Goldberg contest. This year's theme is to help a superhero save the planet. Teams will be scored on a team journal, team presentation, and operation of machine. The public is invited to attend and watch the area schools compete at St. Ansgar High School, Monday, February 18. Contest begins at 1:00 pm. Fourteen NK math club and physics students will be representing and supporting the "Viking Superhero!" The NK team is sponsored financially by TruStile Doors, and Chad Tiedemann will be one of the judges.

Left to right: Josie Einertson, Emily Follmuth, Julia Quisley, Laura Hopperstad.



Nurse's Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

The Healthy Hunger Free Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2010, requires each school district to have a Wellness Committee. The Wellness Committee is responsible for maintaining the Wellness Policy, as well as establishing Wellness Goals for the district. The current Wellness Committee is looking for new community members! If you are interested in becoming a part of the Wellness Committee please contact me for information. We typically meet 1-2 times a year and discuss various wellness related topics we would like to implement for our staff and students at NK. I can be reached at Northwood-Kensett Elementary Building by phone 641-324-1127 ext 227 or by email at hrheingans@nkvikings.com.

News from the Classroom, by Mrs. Elaine Hansen, Title Reading Instructor

Parents, do you remember the great times you had growing up watching Reading Rainbow? Reading Rainbow is a wonderful show that presents booktalks to viewers. Some of you may be asking, *What is a booktalk?* A booktalk is a way for a child or teacher to recommend a book that they really enjoy. Teachers use booktalks to get students excited and interested in books. Booktalks are a very informal and easy way to get students to check out books. Children can use creativity and/or technology to tell others about books. Booktalks are great for sharing with peers, teachers, and of course family members. Students read and develop self confidence by talking to others.

During Reading Week, NK Elementary shared their love of books with the help of our High School Video Production class. Some elementary students volunteered to conduct a booktalk to share with the whole school. A Video Production class compiled the booktalks into an iMovie for our Reading Assembly held on March 1. With this video, we're hoping to encourage and persuade others to pick up a book!

Ask a child about the books they are reading. We have compiled a list of questions to help get the conversation started:

- *) What is the title of the book?
- *) Who is the author?
- *) Why did you pick to read this book? What caught your eye about the book?
- *) What is the genre of the book?
- *) Who are the characters in the book?
- *) What is the plot of the book?
- *) Who would you recommend to read this book?

We would like to share some of the booktalks our elementary students have recently created. We are so proud of our students. Look for our 2019 Northwood-Kensett Booktalk iMovie production coming soon to our school's Facebook and web page.

