



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

May 2017

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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John Anderson

Newsletter designed by:
Tina Johnson, Elementary Secretary

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

I thought I would take a minute to illustrate for you one of the strengths we take pride in here at Northwood-Kensett, and those are the connections that we have been able to establish and maintain with the many area agencies and businesses. These partnerships are one of the key elements of any success we have with our students.

From NIVC services who provide support for our students with the most special needs, to the Vocational Rehabilitation personnel we partner with on a weekly basis to provide workplace readiness, interview skills support, and other services to our students, the list is long.

Of course we all know about the Extension Service and the strength of Worth County 4-H programs, driven by Dennis Johnson, Mindy Tenold, and Mary Clagett. We have also been privileged to bring counseling services into our buildings every other week from Turning Leaf Counseling in Mason City. And of course there's the Worth County Conservation Board and everything Dan Block does for our teachers and our students.

The sheriff's office is a good partner in assistance with our emergency preparations, and local leaders never hesitate to say 'yes' when asked to provide input as members of committees or to help with interviewing seniors in mock job interviews as part of their graduation requirements.

Local healthcare providers help us out at school all the time, such as the vaccinations provided by Worth County Public Health. It seems anywhere we turn, there's support for the work we do with young people and their families. We are truly blessed in the communities of Northwood and Kensett.

May 26th: Final day of school for students.
Dismissal 1:15 at the Elementary; 1:30 at the Jr
Sr High School. Please have a safe and
enjoyable summer vacation!

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Let's back up a bit

In my article last month I talked about our shift to a standards-based reporting practice. I may have jumped ahead of myself without first sharing some details about the Iowa Core.

Education and legislative leaders lead the movement to adopt the Iowa Core in 2008. The intent was to align a set of consistent expectations for learning in schools across the state. Prior to 2008, local districts made decisions about instructional standards, making consistency across the state impossible. The discrepancies from district to district became more and more apparent as families became more mobile and as students entered post-secondary education or the workforce. The Iowa Core accomplishes two main issues that impacted Iowa's education system:

The Iowa Core describe what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through 12th grade in math, science, reading/language arts and social studies. The Iowa Core sets consistent standards and appropriate academic expectations for all students regardless of where they live, and reflect the real-world knowledge and skills students need to graduate from high school prepared for college or to enter the workforce.

After the adoption, legislative leaders set a timeline for full implementation of the Iowa Core. Grades 9-12 were to have them implemented by the 2012-1013 school year and K-8 grade by 2014-2015.

By aligning our report cards to the Iowa Core we accomplish several things:

- It ensures consistency from classroom to classroom.
- It provides more accurate representation of student progress in meeting grade level standards.
- It provides much greater detail to parents about how their child is performing in school.

I understand our shift to a more meaningful report card by next fall is ambitious on our part, but ultimately it's the best move for our kids. I'll continue to keep you updated on our progress. In the meantime, stop in or call if you have questions.

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 the Superintendent of Schools, 1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459, Phone 641-324-2021, 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.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER

JR. SR STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



Pictured above left to right: Zachary Heiken, Sophia Butler, Colby Eskildsen, Addison Mayberry

April's character trait is citizenship. The following students were selected to be the students of character this month.

**Kennedy Eskildsen
Brylee Hoeppe
Nathan Wilder
Emma Davidson
Josh Fick
Olivia Treslan
Allissa Carman
Jenna Weitzel
Mackenzie Costello
Harli Reich
Maddie Eilertson
Andrew Breitspcher
Matthew Parcher
Brylee Hoeppe
Austin Efflandt
Alexis Hakes
Laney Ryks
Rachel Hill
Taylor Kramer
Thomas Block
Dusti Bratrud
Carly Hengesteg
Michael Waller
Shallon Batton
Taylor Kramer**



Pictured above left to right: McKenna McDermott, Trace Low, Olivia Felten, Hannah Kraft

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

SCHOOL BOARD LEADERS HONORED IN MAY

May is School Board Recognition Month and an opportunity for local schools and communities to honor Iowa's nearly 1,900 locally elected school board members for their dedication to children and schools.

Providing our community's children with a sound education is the most important investment we can make. We're proud of our elected leaders in this community and want to thank them for their service. School Board Recognition Month is the time to say thank you and recognize their continuing commitment to our school.

Northwood-Kensett's school board members develop policies and make decisions that impact the entire community. They are responsible for an annual budget of \$8.2 million, 595 students pk-12, 87 employees and two buildings.

School board members make critical decisions and oversee billions in educational expenditures. They donate countless hours of personal time in service to Iowa students.

This month we will present certificates to the board of education during the regular board meeting. We will also recognize their service on the video board at the track meets.

The men and women serving our district and their years of service are:

Larry Hovey, President – 24 Years of Service
John Anderson, Vice President – 13 Years of Service
Cindy Pangburn – 12 Years of Service
Roger Harris – 8 Years of Service
Susan Kliment – 8 Years of Service

Service Awards

Every year we honor employees for their years of service recognizing those for service in increments of five years. I would like to recognize the following employees.

5 years

Debra Athey
Kristin Boyden
Brenden Ehlke
Heather Rheingans
Amy Rollene

10 years

Ryan Welch
Lori Willert

20 years

Robin Fredericks

25 years

Martin Cotter
Gregory Parks
Ryan Severson

35 years

Debora Faugstad
Daryl Love

40 years

Polly Schiltz

Elementary PE Track and Field Day May 17th

It's been another action-packed year for your kids in elementary physical education! We are gearing up for our 3rd Annual Elementary PE Track & Field Day on May 17th. This will begin shortly after 12:30 at the high school grass area east of the football field with running events to follow at approximately 1:45. The running events will take place on the track. Parent's will receive an informational letter in the coming days. I am usually able to get enough high school students to help run the field event activities but if anyone wants to do one or be on standby in case a helper is absent email me at mkessel@nkvikings.com. The field activities include: Tug o' War, Shoe Scramble relay, Fowling, Human ring toss, Gunny sack/three-legged races, Frisbee target throw, and wet sponge tag.

This school year for our cardiovascular fitness assessment I tried something different. Instead of a set distance for the students to complete, they saw how far they could jog over a set period of time. Second and third graders jogged for 8 minutes, 4th grade for 10 minutes, and 5th and 6th grade for 12 minutes or a mile. If they reached a mile before the 12 minute time period they could choose to be finished or keep going to see how far they could go. From my observation and from the results of the assessment I found this to be more beneficial for the majority of the students than a set distance. I stressed the importance of maintaining a steady jogging pace for the entire time and plan to use this type of assessment again next year.

One more item-We are looking for table tennis tables to add to our curriculum at the high school. I currently have two tables but would like to add 3 or 4 more. If anyone has one taking up space and would like to donate it to the school the students and myself would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,
Mr. Kessel

From the Pile off of Mr. Steve Hartman's Desk

As this school year draws to a close, I would like to thank all the people that have volunteered at our sporting events this year. When I visit with some of the other area athletic directors and they tell me about the problems they experience finding people to help at their events, it makes me very happy and proud to be the AD here at Northwood-Kensett!

When I first took this job 6 years ago, I knew that I would need volunteers to help out at our events but I never imagined that it would take so many. From line judges and chain crews, clock operators, scorekeepers, announcers, and FAT's timers, video board operators, to the 46 adults and 25 students it takes to run a State Qualifying track meet, I am happy to say when I ask someone to help out, the majority of the time they say yes.

Now with that in mind, some of our volunteers are getting a little long in the tooth and have put in more than their time helping out. Others will have their last child graduating high school this year and will turn their free time into other activities. If you have a child in school or just feel that you want a way to help out and remain involved in athletics, please contact me at my email (shartman@nkvikings.com). Our student athletes here at Northwood-Kensett will appreciate it and you will be carrying on a great tradition of volunteerism here at N-K. Go Vikings!

Classroom Happenings: Grade 2

Minnesota Zoo

By Carrie Wagner and Jacob Urbatsch

Second grade students will be taking the annual field trip to the Minnesota Zoo in May. Students are able to view animals up close and make observations of their physical characteristics, food the animals have been eating, movements the animals make, and learn about animals' different habitats. Animals in the zoo are organized by their living environment as opposed to their species. Exhibits in the zoo are arranged in six themed areas. These include: The Medtronic Minnesota Trail, featuring animals native to Minnesota, the Northern Trail, featuring animals of the north, the Tropics Trail, an indoor walking trail featuring animals from the tropics, Discovery Bay, an activity area themed around marine wildlife, Russia's Grizzly Coast, an exhibit featuring animals from Russia's Far East and the Kamchatka Peninsula, and the Wells Fargo Family Farm, themed around farm animals. The Minnesota Zoo also does a great job educating us about endangered animals and how we as good citizens can make changes that will help save animals in the wild.

We are excited about our trip! This will be the first visit to the Minnesota Zoo for 80% of the second grade students.

Curriculum News

Teacher Leadership Update

By Kimberly Odegaard & Beth Butler

During the month of April, Jake Urbatsch hosted two separate learning labs. Each lab provided four colleagues the opportunity to observe Jake teaching a reading comprehension and vocabulary lesson using one of the components from the new literacy our K-6 teachers will be implementing beginning next fall. Those participating in the learning then spent time together debriefing about the observation. Teachers shared what each could take-away from the observation and implement in his or her own classroom.

Director Wise from the Iowa Department of Education will be visiting Northwood Kensett on May 5th. During his visit, Director Wise will have the opportunity to observe a learning lab in Monte DeArmoun's classroom in which Monte will be modeling the use of collaborative technology tool Today's Meet.

The end of the year will be a time for the Teacher Leadership Committee to reflect on our first year. Throughout the year we learned a lot about what is needed to make Teacher Leadership Program here at Northwood-Kensett successful. We are looking forward to using what we learned throughout this year to make the Teacher Leadership even better and more successful in year 2.

Senior Showcase

Senior Project Showcase

By Deb Faugstad

English 12 students will display their senior projects in the Senior Project Showcase on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at Northwood-Kensett High School from 6 to 7 p.m. The Senior Project 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 seniors are working on projects that include furniture design and building, quilting, automotive work, and baking -- along with many others. Seniors will be available to discuss their projects and to answer questions during the Senior Project Showcase. The public is invited to view the projects, which will be located in the front hallway, the student center (lunchroom) and parking lot of the high school building.



A New Tradition Begins!

A Little Something Special!

By Principals' Brian Costello and Keith Fritz

We would like to share a project that we have been working on! Have you ever seen schools where the graduating class of seniors dons their caps and gowns and walks the halls of their elementary school, waving, smiling, and high fiving the little ones as the entire student community celebrates graduation?

We are going to start that tradition here at N-K, and this years Seniors are the inaugural class to do that! This will be taking place on May 10th. Seniors will meet in the cafeteria at 8:15 where caps and gowns will be handed out. They will don their graduation attire then board the bus to the elementary. There, they will walk single file (led by your officers, but in no particular order after that) from Mr. Crozier's end of the building (by the lunch room) through the halls of the elementary and finally exit the building down by the kindergarten and pre-school rooms.

We'll hop back on the bus, and return to the high school to finish off their last day of classes. The whole journey shouldn't last more than 30 minutes (back by 9:00-ish)

Doing this extends the graduation celebration down to the younger Vikings, and allows them to see their role models at the culmination of their time at N-K. And you will feel wonderful doing this, as well. It's voluntary, but I can't imagine missing out on this opportunity!

News from the Band Director, Mr. Jared Barnes

Spring Solo Festivals

Spring is solo season in the Band Department! Students in grades 6-12 began preparing solos after winter break to be ready for their respective solo festivals in recent weeks.

On Thursday, March 30th, 50 Northwood-Kensett Band students in grades 6-8 performed solos for the Middle School Solo Festival at the N-K Elementary school. Guest clinicians were present to offer the students constructive verbal and written comments about their playing to help them as they continue their musical studies.

A week later, six Northwood-Kensett High School Band students participated in the Iowa High School Music Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival in Greene. Similar to the Elementary festival, the High School festival also includes guest clinicians who present the students with verbal and written comments about their performance. The clinicians also rate each performance with a divisional rating.

All of the students represented Northwood-Kensett well, with the following students earning Division II, "Excellent," ratings for their solos: Chelsea Boyden (flute), Tegan Cotter (trumpet), Austin Efflandt (trumpet), Grace Skellenger (alto saxophone), Sarah Yezek (flute). Peyton Pangburn received a Division I, "Superior" ratings for her alto saxophone solo.

Congratulations to ALL of these students on their hard work!

Upcoming Concerts:

Tuesday, May 9th - High School
High School Fine Arts Awards Concert
Featuring the High School Band and Choir
7:00 PM in the HIGH SCHOOL gymnasium

Tuesday, May 16th - Grades 5-8
5-8 Spring Concert
Featuring the 5th and 6th Grade Music classes, 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band, Junior High Chorus, and Junior High Band.
7:00 PM in the ELEMENTARY gymnasium.

All concerts are free of charge and open to the public. Please join us for some wonderful music!



River City Honor Band Honor Band

On Saturday, April 22nd, six Northwood-Kensett Elementary students participated in the River City 5th and 6th Grade Honor Band at Lincoln Intermediate School in Mason City. Students participating in the event pictured in photo above left to right : Madison Berry (6th grade, clarinet), Emily Hannemann (5th grade, percussion), Lindsey Moore (5th grade, trombone), Damaris Peterson (5th Grade, flute), Christopher Madsen (5th grade, trumpet) Dalton Logeman (6th grade, trumpet).

The event featured two 90-member bands: a 5th grade band, and a 6th grade band. Guest conductors for the bands included Bard Mackey, a recently retired Cedar Falls band director from Waverly, and Elizabeth Driskell, Band Director at McKinnley Middle School in Cedar Rapids. After a full day of rehearsals, the two bands presented a finale concert in the Lincoln Intermediate gymnasium.

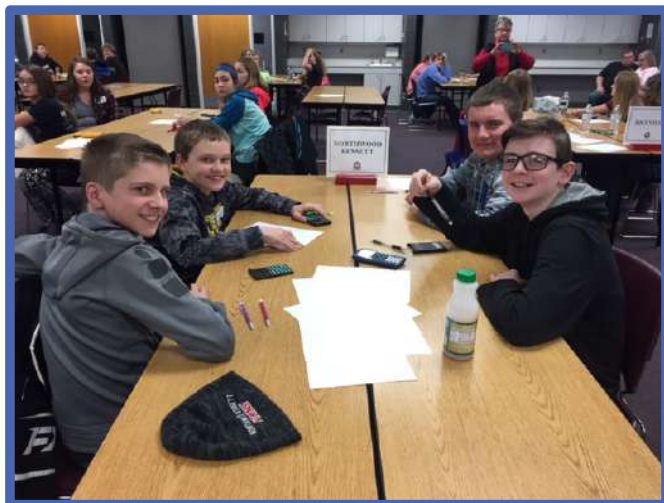
Competition: TAG instructor Mrs. Jordan Smalley

MATHCOUNTS is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that increases enthusiasm for and enhances achievement in middle school mathematics throughout the United States. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student competitors, Mathletes, are attracted to MATHCOUNTS because it provides them with an exciting and challenging forum for math achievement and rewards them for their accomplishments.

Participating schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in one of more than 500 written and oral competitions held nationwide and in U.S. schools overseas during February. Winners progress to the State Competition.

The team that competed at NIACC on February 4th at the regional MATHCOUNTS competition, and received third place, were Austin Foss, Nathan Hannemann, Logan Mayberry, and Hayden Moore. Two individuals also competing were Marli Backhaus and Sidney Quam.

Nathan Hannemann (4th place) and Hayden Moore (3rd place) received 3rd and 4th place individuals at the NIACC competition. They participated at the State MATHCOUNTS competition on Friday, March 31st.



Competition: TAG instructor Mrs. Jordan Smalley



Battle of the Books is a collaborative reading competition for strong readers at the upper elementary level. It is designed to enhance student commitment, team building, reading comprehension, and study skills in a fun, informative manner. Teams of up to six students read from a pre-selected list of 36 books. Competition includes written and oral responses.

Books included on the reading lists have been carefully selected and are chosen for their high interest level, challenging vocabulary, multiple reading levels and appropriate content. The books are purposefully selected to expose students to a variety of genres, quality authors, diverse cultures, and historical eras.

The students who attended this competition (pictured to the left) were Taylor Rodemeyer, Teagan Johnson, Michael Janssen, Dalton Logeman, and Ian Husske.

Six Northwood-Kensett students attended the North Iowa Regional Math Bee at AEA 267 in Clear Lake.

The students took a tests that mirror the Iowa Core Math Domains at 6th Grade. The topics were: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability, Ratio and Proportional Relationships. The Northwood-Kensett team took 3rd place and will continue on to the state level, along with Grady Buenzow and Dalton Logeman placing as individuals.

The students who participated are pictured to the right: (Front row): Michael Janssen, Dalton Logeman, Grady Buenzow, (Back Row) Nicholas Hanson, Jadyn Beland, and Kennedy Christianson.



Elementary Counselor Corner by Mrs. Ashley Williams

The end of the year is a busy time at the elementary!

In April, 6th graders had the opportunity to share their career projects with family and community members at the 6th Grade showcase. They also had the opportunity to share their projects with teachers and younger grades during Guidance class.



In 6th grade Guidance, we have been working on getting ready for Jr. High. This has included asking questions that were answered by 7th and 8th graders and learning how to open padlocks. Additionally, we will be traveling to the Jr. High/High School for 6th grade orientation on May 4th. They will have an opportunity to ask more questions and they will tour the building.

Throughout the month of May, we are going to focus on college and career readiness in Guidance. Kindergarten students will be learning about community helpers. 1st and 2nd grade have been working with “Paws in Jobland” an interactive computer program that allows the students to learn about a variety of jobs. Each child has unique ideas about what careers they want to have when they become adults. We have been able to briefly explore many of them in Guidance this month. 5th graders are looking at various colleges that they have heard of and sharing the information they learn with their classmates.

At the elementary, we participated in voluntary fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House. Students brought in items such as colored pencils, coloring books, paper, snacks, cleaning supplies, and stuffed animals. Next week, we will be able to deliver nearly 10 boxes of supplies to the Rochester Ronald McDonald House!

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

We are at the stage of the school year cycle where it's time to close this school year and look ahead to the coming fall. With so many things going on, it's sometimes hard to juggle so many different things at once!

On May 4th, 6th grade students will visit the high school for a tour and Q&A session to be introduced to the idea of school life at the Junior- Senior High school. We have such great student leadership in 7th & 8th grade who are going to help us out with that! Several Juniors have also volunteered to talk about the behavior that is expected at the Junior High/ High School level.

Drafts of students' 4-Year plans have also been completed, and now I'm meeting with students to work out the kinks. Please check your child(ren)'s schedules *after May 10th* on JMC using the 2017-2018 school year to double check and make sure they are in accordance with your family's plan for your students' education.

I will soon be looking for Juniors & Seniors who would like to participate in Viking Crew next year to be peer-to-peer mentors for incoming 7th grade students. The program has been positive for everyone, and we'd like to extend it to all 7th grade students again next year.

I'm going to ask all Seniors to participate in an exit interviews with me, to record their post-secondary plan and to review college/career readiness effectiveness. This data helps me to revise my program to be the best I can make it.

It's an exciting and busy time because we're looking ahead. Don't be shy if there's a academic/ social/career/college question that you'd like to address before the end of the school year. I'd be glad to help any way I can.





A BIG Thank-You to all who give their Box Tops to the Northwood- Kensett School. The Box Tops are used for items that are needed in the classrooms such as white board markers, books, pencils, crayons, paper, printer ink, math games, flash cards, iPad apps - anything that will make the students at N-K successful in school. This wouldn't be made possible if it weren't for the Box Tops donations. Again, thank you and keep the Box Tops coming!!

On a side note, those collecting Campbells soup labels, that program is coming to an end. Thank you for all of your support through-out the years.

Nurses Corner by Heather Rheingans, RN

May is National Bike month and we are again fortunate to work in conjunction with the Worth County Sheriff's office to offer bicycle safety to our Elementary students. This will occur on May 9th, please encourage your student to ride their bike to school this day so they can participate in the obstacle course. A rain date is set for May 16th. Officer Paulson also has had several bikes and safety gear donated for this day and all students will be entered into a drawing for cool prizes! May 10 is National Ride Your Bike to School...let's see how many bikes we can fill the bike rack with!

Now is a good time to refresh your child's bicycle safety knowledge. The Kids Health website states that every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency department because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from head injuries. Taking a few minutes to discuss some simple rules of the road could be lifesaving.

Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic lights just as cars do. Yield to pedestrians, stop at red lights, and be especially careful at intersections.

- Always ride in the same direction as cars do. Never ride against traffic.
- Older kids should try to use bike lanes or designated bike routes whenever you can— not the sidewalk! Kids less than 10 years should ride on the sidewalk.
- Never ride at dusk or in the dark, unless there is a light or reflectors on the bike.
- Always stop and check for traffic in both directions when leaving a driveway, an alley, or a curb.
- Watch traffic closely for turning cars or cars leaving driveways.
- Don't ride too close to parked cars — doors can open suddenly.
- Always walk a bike across busy intersections using the crosswalk and following traffic signals.
- When riding in a group, always ride single file on the street.
- When passing other bikers or people on the street, always pass to their left and call out "On your left!" so they'll watch for you.
- Never share the seat with a friend or ride on the handlebars — only one person should be on a bike at a time. It's easy to lose balance or suddenly swerve into traffic when riding with a passenger.
- Never wear headphones while biking — it's essential to hear everyone else on the road at all times.
- Never hitch a ride on a moving vehicle.

It should also be encouraged to never change directions or lanes without first looking behind you, and always use the correct hand signals. Use your left arm for all hand signals:

- Left turn: After checking behind you, hold your arm straight out to the left and ride forward slowly.
- Stop: After checking behind you, bend your elbow, pointing your arm downward in an upside down "L" shape and come to a stop.
- Right turn: After checking behind you, bend your elbow, holding your arm up in an "L" shape, and ride forward slowly. Or, hold your right arm straight out from your side.



Helmets should also be encouraged, as well as bright colored clothing so that they are easily seen. On the right is a picture that my cousin recently posted on facebook of her son's bicycle helmet. They live in the country and he was riding his bike in their driveway when he fell over and landed on a rock. Lucky for him, he had a helmet on!

