



October, 2014

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

As many of you reading this article know, this year at the secondary building we started an intervention to help struggling students that we call WIN Time. This is a 25-minute block of time built into the school day during which all students are in study centers and all of their teachers are available to help them with their schoolwork.

A number of students who typically do pretty well in classes have told me that they appreciate this time because it allows them to get a leg up on getting their schoolwork done, especially if they are involved in sports or other afterschool activities. For the students who had more difficulty in classes and in earning good grades, we realized it wasn't enough to advise them to come in before or after school to see their teachers. For whatever reason, those struggling students simply wouldn't come in for help when they needed it.

So, for those young people who are earning grades at the D or F level, we schedule them into small study centers with teachers in whose classes they are having the most difficulty.

I'm very pleased to announce that the results have been excellent. For example, typically when we reach midterm (which was just last week) I see nine to twelve students for ineligibility purposes due to low grades. This midterm was different, however, because this time I only had three students on that list. And by the next day, two of those three students had cleared up their academic troubles!

Far fewer students earning D's or F's at any given time, far fewer students facing academic ineligibility, and the students themselves expressing appreciation for this new resource: we can't ask for better results than that.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

We have made it through the hot days without missing any school. This is good considering we are now on an hour's calendar. Speaking of weather please be sure that all of your phone numbers in our information management system are up to date. We will again this year use the One Call system to notify you of late starts, early outs and cancellations due to weather.

This year we have been reviewing and updating our entire Crisis Manual. This has been a combined effort between the Worth County Sheriffs Department, The Northwood Fire Department and the Worth County Emergency Management System. You may have read about some of the training we have done to date in the Northwood Anchor. We drilled lock out, lock down, fire and shelter drills with the teachers and staff during the in-service days before school started. We have done one fire drill in conjunction with the Northwood Fire Department. We will notify you when we run drills in conjunction with outside agencies via the One Call system so you are not alarmed that these agencies are at the school. The feedback we have received has been great. All our efforts are a work in progress as we continue to improve our safety procedures, hoping that we never have to use them.

We want your input and help in all aspect of the school districts business. On September 25th, the District Advisory Committee met to gather input from the district's patrons. This committee provides a valuable function for our school district. We need your input and advice to continue to make our school better. The members of the District Advisory Committee are listed in the table below.

Every five years school districts must go through a site visit with the Iowa Department of Education. We are due for that visit next year. Prior to that visit, the district must do a Needs Assessment Survey. I am looking for parents and community members to help develop the survey. We will want to have this complete so we can have patrons take it during parent teacher conferences. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in an hour meeting to give your input on the survey development.

2014 – 2015 District Advisory Committee				
Students	N-K Staff	Community	Clergy	School Board
Peyton Pangburn	Mike Crozier	Dennis Johnson	Tom Martin	Larry Hovey
Cole Estes	Keith Fritz	Janelle Johnson	Judy Converse	Susan Kliment
Coltn Benson	Brian Costello	Mindy Tenold		
Katie Schiltz	Deb Nagle	Mike Dierenfeld		
Carson Wright	Nikkole Koenig	Shayne Hoch		AEA
Alayna Oleson	Amy Renwick	Sue Waller		Marcia Tweeten
Kaitlyn Varner	Kim Odegard	Luis Garcia		
Samantha Butler	Deb Faugstad	Julie Hannemann		
Misty Miranda	Greg Parks	Jake Hanson		
Dawson VanRyswyk	Monte DeArmoun	Deanna Madsen		
Miranda Stambaugh	Brendan Ehlke	Kris Woltzen		
Tegan Cotter	Polly Schiltz	Ron Davidson		
MacKenzie Costello		Michelle Davidson		
Callie Christiansen				
Madison Avelar				
Dusti Bratrud				
Taylor Jorgenson				

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

In my article last month I explained that Northwood-Kensett Elementary was placed on the School In Need of Assistance list for the 2014-2015 school year. Our eligibility for this list stems from our inadequate performance on the Iowa Assessments for the past two years. In this month's article I want to explain some of the changes that we have taken to get a better picture of our student's academic performance.

This past June, a large contingent of our elementary staff was trained in a professional development model called Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Within a PLC structure, staff align the taught curriculum to the Iowa Core, which is the basis of the Iowa Assessments. Along the way in each unit, grade level teams develop common assessments that are used to gauge the progression of learning of each student. Proficiency levels are agreed upon by grade level teams and the results of the assessments help teachers determine who needs assistance and who is ready to extend their learning. Starting in the second quarter, the elementary school will have a built in Intervention and Enrichment time for staff to specifically work on skills with students that need extra assistance or are ready for learning extensions.

This is a real fundamental shift in our educational philosophy because we become focused on what students learn rather than what we have taught. Our goal is to intervene early and often so that we ensure students are learning the skills that are needed as they move through the school year. I'll keep you posted on our progress in ensuring learning for all.

As part of the PLC structure, we are still required to administer District level assessments. The assessments listed below will be a significant tool for us as we gauge our work. One of the new assessments that will target our early readers is called the FAST Assessment. The Fast Assessment is a State level assessment that will be given to all of our K-3rd grade students. It targets levels of early reading skills and provides us with information about weak areas in reading skills of students. Results of this assessment will be shared with you at our October conferences.

We are also gearing up for our first round of MAP Assessments. Northwood-Kensett has been using this assessment for a number of years. This is a web-based assessment that we administer to students in grades 2-6. This assessment is used to determine the level of knowledge and skills of our students in the areas of Math, Reading, and Science. The results of these assessments will also be shared with you at the October conferences.

As you can see, our staff continues to be committed to making changes that will have a positive impact on students. As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to stop in or call.

The logo features the words "Go Vikings" in a stylized, black, cursive script. The text is enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

Go to www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us for
the most up-to-date
happenings at Northwood-Kensett
Community Schools.

BOOK FAIR NEWS



We want to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who took the time to stop and purchase items from our fall Book Fair. Together we earned \$1,742.34, which will go towards library books from Scholastic. This was a 5% increase from last fall.

Our students can't wait to start reading the new books. With your help, we will be able to add books to our shelves. Expanding our elementary library with new books from our Scholastic Book Fair gives our students more opportunity to choose books that will motivate them to read. And, like most acquired skills, the more children practice reading, the better they'll get at it.

A special thank-you to our volunteers, Teresa Stehn, Cheryl Nitcher, Katy Jaspers, Sarah Everett and Kris Woltzen for donating their time to help us, as well as our school staff. It is greatly appreciated.

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



(left to right) Jadyn Beland, Teagan Johnson, Madalynn Hanson, Damaris Peterson



(Left to right) Thomas Block, Brittany Broderick, Sidney Quam, Madelyn Berge



COUNSELORS CORNER BY AMY RENWICK AND ASHLEY SHAW

By: Amy Renwick

After I wrote about my reservations about Psychology majors in last week's counseling newsletter, I gave some thought to the importance of research when it comes to choosing a college major.

I've been visiting Juniors & Seniors to learn what they are planning for life after N-K. While some students have carefully considered realistic plans for their adult lives, others seem to be struggling with finding a career cluster that is both attainable and interesting. It has been my experience that the students who do not plan realistically as students are the same folks who struggle mightily out in the "real world" in coming to grips with their reality.

For example, some students cited "History" as their major of choice when I asked what majors were being considered. As Portland State's Page, "What Can I do with a Degree in History" (<http://www.pdx.edu/careers/what-can-i-do-degree-history>) explains, you can do many things with a degree in History, but very few of them relate to the topic of History at all. You can become a Historian, college professor, or high school teacher of history, and that's where history-related jobs more or less screech to a stop. The students who were considering History were interested in the subject, but were not interested in teaching and were further unaware of the limitations for history-related careers.

While student interest is a great place to start when planning college careers & choosing a profession, other factors need to be considered, as well. Job growth and areas of need, student aptitude, and many other factors are often overlooked these days in the pursuit of "doing what you love." While that is an important factor in choosing your life's work, it is not the only factor, nor would I consider it the greatest factor. Our main goal at N-K is to "create healthy, ethical, educated & productive citizens." Productive citizens have jobs that allow them to be self-supporting, so students need to put their aptitudes and job growth and availability at the top of the priority list when considering potential career & college paths. Student interest can be the driving force as long as there are careers that can be found within that interest area.

By: Ashley Shaw

September has come and gone so quickly! In Guidance classes throughout September, we have discussed and completed activities surrounding the Trustworthiness and Respect pillars of character. As we move into October, we will continue discussing Respect, and also introduce Responsibility. As we progress into the school year, we will begin covering topics such as study skills, organizational skills, and test taking skills to help all students be successful!

Jr. Viking Way groups were formed in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. The students involved in these groups were nominated by their peers for being good examples of trustworthy students. This year, the elementary school students have been allowed to participate in some of the homecoming dress up days. Students have also been invited to wear blue on Monday, October 6 in support of the World Day of Bullying Prevention. The Jr. Viking Way groups helped to spread the word by making posters and sharing the information with their peers.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by email at ashaw@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us or by phone at 641-324-1127 ext. 216!

JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Jade Stubbe, Mckenzee Eastwood, Jordan Wright, Ethan Thofson, Danton Lloyd, Nathan Cordle, Carson Wright, Abner Girouard, Samantha Johnson, Hattie Davidson, Kennedy Eskildsen, Conner Harris, Casey Dahlby, Brody Branstad, Morgan Johnson, Samantha Butler, Tyler Jones, Lindsey Davidson, Allura Johnson, Angel Martin, Annette Cansino, Trevor Luther and Coltn Benson.

FROM THE PILE OFF MR. HARTMAN'S DESK

After recently talking to a fan that attended one of our sporting events, I was a little disappointed after he brought up the conduct of some of our fans in the stands. This individual was telling me how he had overheard some of our parents openly criticizing some of our players. To those people that we're criticizing the players, I would like to ask you a question. Do you think that player wanted to make a mistake and be embarrassed in front of everyone? I believe the answer is NO! I am sure that none of our student athletes here at Northwood-Kensett want to make mistakes, want to hurt the team, want to let their teammates down. I am sure that if you were an athlete in high school, you made mistakes as well. Imagine how your parents would have felt sitting in the stands and listening to people openly criticize your play. I hope in the future, when you attend our sporting events, you cheer on our athletes and understand that mistakes will be made. Hopefully athletes will learn from their mistakes and not repeat them.

The Iowa High School Athletic Association has their officials fill out a sportsmanship rating form after every varsity game. The scale ranges from 1 to 4, with 1 being Excellent and 4 being Unacceptable. Unfortunately our spectator rating is above the state average in 3 of the 4 major sports. Our coaches' ratings are slightly above the state average as well, but the good news is our athletes' ratings are well below the state average. Let's all take a lesson from our Student Athletes and start showing better sportsmanship at our games.

Below you will find our Sportsmanship ratings for the 2013–2014 school year.

2013-2014 Football

	N-K	Class 8 Average	State Average
Average Coach's Rating	1.47	1.43	1.41
Average Athlete's Rating	1.17	1.31	1.32
Average Spectator's Rating	1.81	1.44	1.37

2013-2014 Basketball

	N-K	Class 1A Average	State Average
Average Coach's Rating	1.36	1.33	1.34
Average Athlete's Rating	1.20	1.27	1.29
Average Spectator's Rating	1.66	1.50	1.48

2013-2014 Wrestling

	N-K	Class 1A Average	State Average
Average Coach's Rating	1.06	1.17	1.18
Average Athlete's Rating	1.03	1.14	1.14
Average Spectator's Rating	1.03	1.15	1.15

2013-2014 Baseball

	N-K	Class 1A Average	State Average
Average Coach's Rating	1.28	1.18	1.19
Average Athlete's Rating	1.00	1.16	1.16
Average Spectator's Rating	1.31	1.23	1.26

Doing and Seeing, a Common Thread in the N-K Science Department

By Delores Knudson and Oren Rabinovich

The fall season in the N-K science department provides learning opportunities for the students both in and out of the classroom.

Junior high students have been practicing the skill of observation as they explore an area of the Ramsey Nature Center with their new to N-K science instructor, Oren Rabinovich. Back in the classroom the FOSS curriculum employs the science skills of observation, testing and data gathering to investigate new science concepts.

Sophomores have been expanding their scientific skills of observation, collection and preservation of local plants found on the restored tall grass prairie in the Ramsey Nature Center and the N-K arboretum. Students have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the complex ecosystem of a prairie and soon realized the prairie is much more than just “a sea of grass.”

With the partnership the science department enjoys with the Worth County Conservation Board and its Naturalist, Dan Block, the Ecology class has been surveying local streams and waterways. A recent visit to the Elk Creek Marsh area pools and dams exposed students to DNR efforts for waterfowl habitat maintenance; allowed students to carry out water quality testing for phosphates, nitrates, oxygen and pH levels; and netted and surveyed the fish species in the area.

Anatomy students have also been observing microscopic structures of human tissues as a jumping off point to further investigations of the structure and function of human body systems.

Chemistry, Physics and Science 9 classes round out the department’s offerings. Lab activities and observations in these classes’ help students develop an understanding of the concepts and interactions of matter, energy and change, while using their math skills to take, record and manipulate their data.

For the science students at N-K the scientific body of knowledge continues to grow as does their use of 21st century skills in technology, organization, time management and cooperation which they will soon be able to apply in their real world endeavors.

Students and teachers look forward to another year of learning, doing and observing in the N-K science department.

NURSE’S CORNER, BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

It’s hard to believe that we are already into our second month of school! I have reviewed all of the kindergarten-12th grade immunization records and sent out letters to those parents of students requiring updates. I want to remind those of you who did receive a letter from me that you have 60 days to either produce records and/or get your child the indicated shots. Also, records need to have a date and where the shots were given in order to be accepted. Records can be turned in to either office.

I will be providing dental and vision screenings to several age groups throughout the month of October. Please watch for email and note communication from me as to when these will be provided. As of right now I will be offering dental screenings to the Kindergarten students in early October; dental screenings will be offered to 9th grade students when I can get volunteers lined up. Vision screenings will also be provided to all of kindergarten, 4th, and 9th grade students in October. Vision screenings can be provided to other aged students upon request.

NOTE FROM MRS. NAGLE, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR AND TALENTED AND GIFTED

Northwood-Kensett Fall Quiz Bowl 2014

Thirty-three teams from ten area schools competed at the 2014 Fall Quiz Bowl.

Mary Stoneking and Katie Schiltz served as the student managers. Garner-Hayfield-Ventura placed first in the middle school division. Belmond-Klemme placed first and Northwood-Kensett placed third in the senior division.



Information for School-Aged Youth



If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, you have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

You have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. You must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Continue in the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. The school district's local liaison for homeless education must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding your choice of school if it goes against your wishes.
- Receive transportation to the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if you request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) for help in enrolling in a new school or arranging to continue in your former school. (Or, someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.)
- Tell your teachers anything that you think they need to know to help you in school.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Local Area Contacts:

State Coordinator:

If you need further assistance, call the
National Center for Homeless Education
at the toll-free Helpline number:

1-800-308-2145

