



Wilcox-Hildreth Public School News & Views

<http://whfalcons.org>

NOVEMBER, 2023

FROM THE FALCON'S PERCH

- Justin Patterson, Superintendent

It is Thanksgiving time! Thanksgiving is a time when students (and many teachers!) are “thankful” to get a three-day break from school. Most of us will spend this holiday surrounded by family and friends and give thanks. As I think about things that I am thankful for, certain things rise to the top of the list such as my family. I am sure it is the same for many of you, but I am also thankful for the “family” we have in our school district and our communities. Within our communities the sense of family is strong, and just like a family, we have our ups and our downs and our successes and our struggles. As a family we come together for the best interests of our school district and our communities. I am thankful for you. Each of you helps make our school district strong. Each of you helps make our communities the best places to live in the state of Nebraska. Each of you helps look out for my children- just as others look out for your children. Thank you for being you and everything that you do to support others around you!

Happy Thanksgiving!



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

For the

WILCOX-HILDRETH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools is a PK-12 Class III district as ranked by the Nebraska Department of Education and is fully accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education. The School District encompasses 276 square miles in the South Central Nebraska counties of Kearney, Franklin, Phelps, and Harlan. Wilcox has a population of 336, and Hildreth has a population of 349. The district is a farming community and a destination point for hunters visiting Sacramento Game Preserve.

The current poverty rate is 40% compared to 41% statewide; attendance rate is 94% compared to the state average of 92%.

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools, accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education, completed its twenty-first academic year in the spring of 2023. PK-12 Enrollment at Wilcox-Hildreth Public School district has stayed steady with an enrollment of 233 for the 2022-2023 school year, and it is expected to continue to remain constant for the next several years. Enrollment has ranged from a high of 342 in 2002-2003 to a low of 207 during the 2013-2014 year. The Wilcox building hosts students in grades PK-2 and 7-12, and Hildreth building hosts the 3-6 grades. The district employs three full time administrators, two full time guidance counselors, twenty-eight certificated staff members, three secretaries, eight paras, five custodians, and five kitchen staff members. The low student-teacher ratio is conducive to promoting a strong learning environment. Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools offer a variety of required and elective academic classes. Academics coupled with extra-curricular activities lead to well-rounded educational opportunities. All levels and disciplines have incorporated character education and multiculturalism units into the curriculum. Since the fall of 2005, Wilcox-Hildreth has provided a laptop computer for each high school student in grades 9-12. Grades 7-8 are issued laptops during the school day. Elementary students have access to laptops and chromebooks during the school day. Student and staff computers are replaced every four years.

The 2019-2020 school year marked the first year of the district's improvement cycle. An external visitation was completed in the spring semester of 2019. The student performance goal is: "All students will improve language usage and writing skills across all curricular areas." The district uses the data from the continuous improvement process to create goals for student performance. Data is reviewed throughout each school year to ensure that students are striving toward district goals.

Facilities The building in Wilcox houses grades PK-2 and grades 7-12 while the Hildreth building hosts grades 3-6.

In the fall of 2019, the district started a multi-phase construction project. The first stage includes a new science lab, FCS lab, office areas, commons area, kitchen, competition gymnasium, and two locker rooms. Payments for the first phase construction project will be completed in 2026.

Date	Principal	Interest	Total P+I	Payment Total	Fiscal Year
12-15-23		\$34,098.75	\$34,098.75		
12-15-23	\$190,000.00	\$11,800.00	\$201,800.00		
				\$235,898.75	
6-15-24	\$700,000.00	\$34,098.75	\$734,098.75		
6-15-24		\$8,997.50	\$8,997.50		23-24
				\$743,096.25	\$978,995.00
12-15-24		\$23,073.75	\$23,073.75		
12-15-24	\$195,000.00	\$8,997.70	\$203,997.70		
				\$227,071.45	
6-15-25	\$720,000.00	\$23,073.75	\$743,073.75		
6-15-25		\$6,121.25	\$6,121.25		24-25
				\$749,195.00	\$976,266.45
12-15-25		\$11,733.75	\$11,733.75		
12-15-25	\$205,000.00	\$6,121.26	\$211,121.26		
				\$222,855.01	
6-15-26	\$745,000.00	\$11,733.75	\$756,733.75		
6-15-26		\$3,097.50	\$3,097.50		25-26
				\$759,831.25	\$982,686.26
12-15-26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
12-15-26	\$210,000.00	\$3,097.50	\$213,097.50		26-27
				\$213,097.50	\$213,097.50

Board of Education The school district is governed by a six member board. Each board member's term of office is four years, and they serve without compensation. Members of the Board of Education during the 2022-23 year included: President Kirk Nelson, Vice-President Kert Hanson, and members Alan Casper, John Donley, Ryan Knaus, and Teresa Carey.

ASSESSMENT DATA In accordance with state requirements, Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools utilizes several formats for assessing and reporting results for the Nebraska State Standards. NorthWest Evaluation Association or NWEA assessments for both Norm Referenced Assessments and the Nebraska State Accountability testing for grades 2-10. The ACT is administered according to the Nebraska state requirements and is used as the State Accountability test for students in grade 11. The most current public release of testing data can be found here:

<https://nep.education.ne.gov/snapshot.html#50-0001-000>

ACT Test

The ACT is a nationally normed test that is created to predict the likelihood of a student's success in his or her freshman year of college. Wilcox-Hildreth students have consistently scored well on the ACT, performing above the state average five out of the past six years.

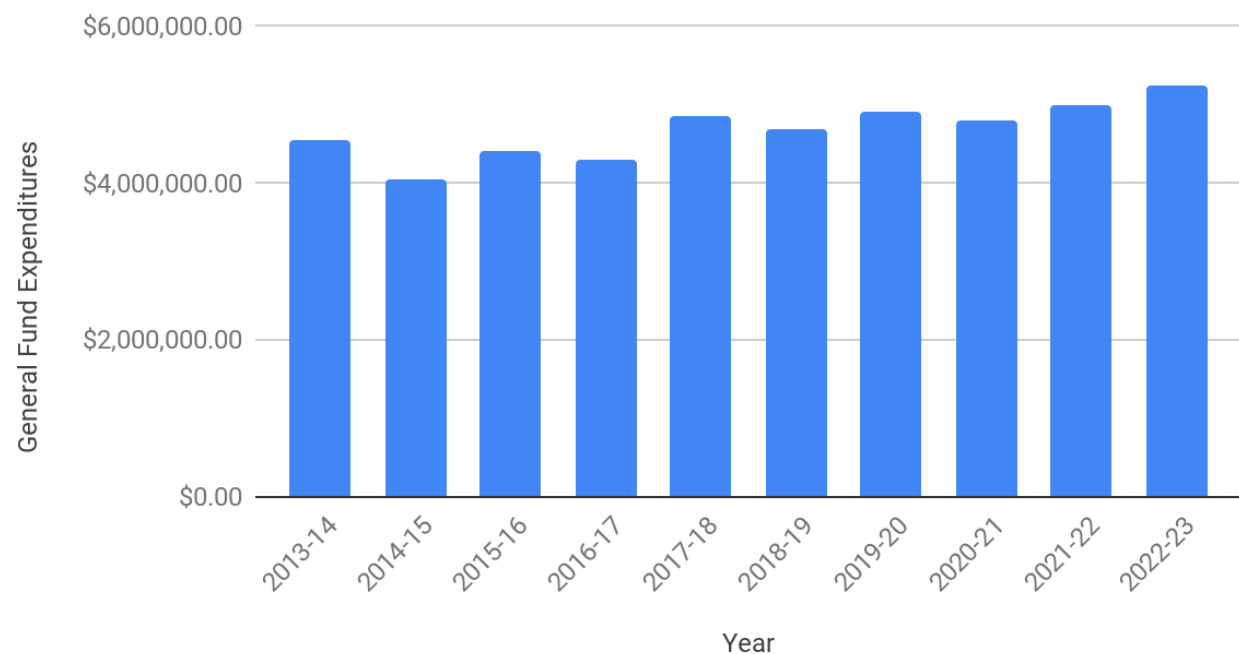
FINANCES:

Levy information

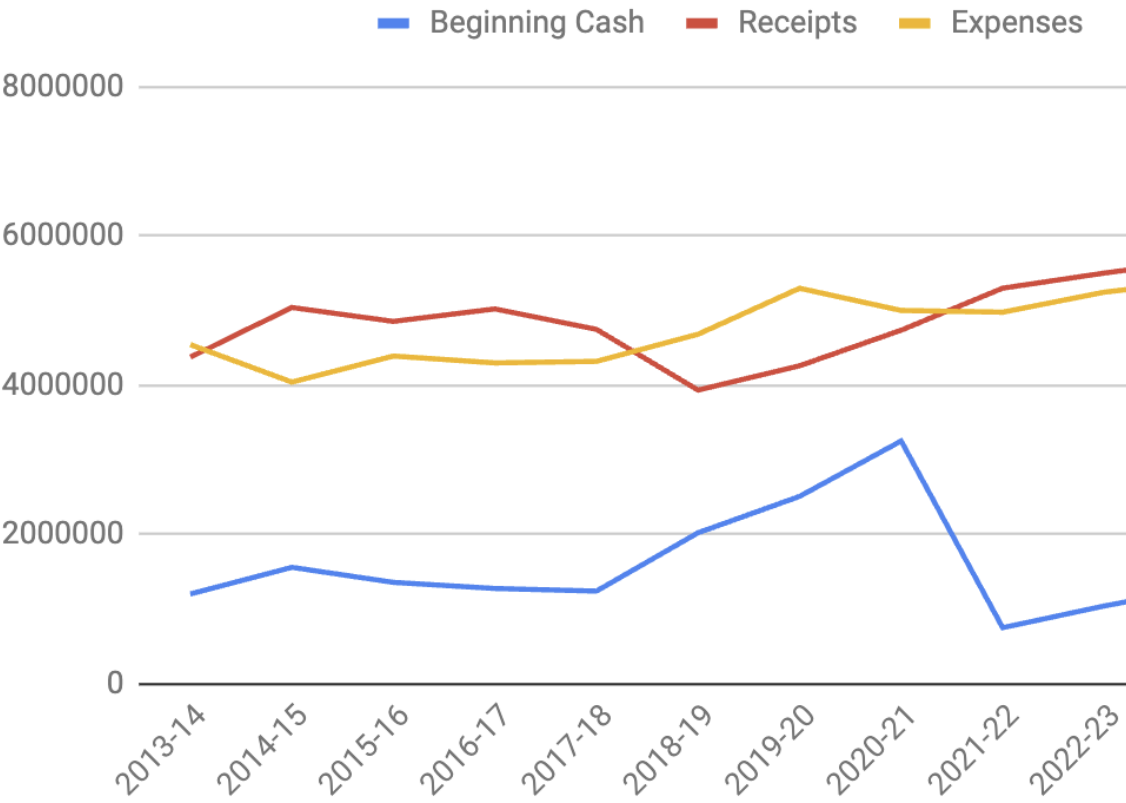
This Chart shows the district-wide levy for the past six years:

Fund	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
General	.66581	.6304	.572	.463	.458	.511	.565	.539
Building	.137706	.139	.139	.139	.097	.038	.02	.003
QCPUF	0	0	.01	0	0	0	0	0
Total	.8035	.770	.722	.602	.556	.549	.585	.542

General Fund Expenditures



Beginning Cash, Receipts and Expenses



Greetings Falcon Nation!

To begin, I wanted to update you on a few rule changes for JH/HS basketball this season. First, shooting 1 and 1 free throws after the seventh team foul of a half is eliminated. Players will shoot two foul shots beginning with the fifth common foul being called against the opponent each quarter. Team fouls will reset each quarter. Second, a player may leave the court without penalty unless they are the first to touch the ball after returning to the court or if they left the court to avoid a violation. Third, players may play up to 7 quarters of JV and Varsity basketball a night. Finally, Classes A and B are using a shot clock this year. Schools in Classes C-1, C-2, D-1, and D-2 may use a shot clock on a game by game or tournament by tournament basis if both schools agree, they notify the NSAA ahead of time, and get approval from them.

Now onto wrestling news. We have added a dual with Alma to the schedule. We will compete against them at home on January 26th at 6:00 p.m. There are a few rule changes also. State Tournament Seeding: At the conclusion of the district tournaments the top 4 wrestlers in each district will be placed in different ¼'s of the bracket with the 1st and 4th place wrestlers on one side and the 2nd and 3rd place wrestlers on the other side of the bracket. Wrestlers may only wrestle in one weight class per meet and may not wrestle in more than six matches a day excluding forfeits, but only 10 matches over a consecutive two day period. Wrestlers must have at least 30 minutes of rest time between matches. This is down from 45 minutes between matches. Facial hair is permissible. A wrestler's feet are considered points of support when in a near-fall situation. A forfeit shall eliminate a contestant from further competition in a tournament, except when the forfeit is deemed a medical forfeit because of an injury or illness which occurred during the tournament. The wrestlers shall shake hands and the referee shall declare the winner by raising the winning wrestler's hand or raise the color wristband of the winning wrestler on their (referee's) arm or have the winning wrestler raise their own arm.

We received a call from the NSAA following our playoff game against Garden County. They wanted us to know that the officials were very appreciative of our school. The officials mentioned the sportsmanship of our crowd, conduct of the players and coaches, the professionalism, and hospitality. Thank you for being such great representatives of our communities.

With that in mind, I am asking for your assistance on two things. Please help us continue the sportsmanship displayed during the Garden County football game during the winter athletic and activities seasons. Being inside magnifies the noise and sometimes people can get emotional. Also, our custodians could use your help following ballgames. If you could help them out by placing all trash in your area in the nearest trash can it would be greatly appreciated. Generally, the custodians on duty have been so since 7 o'clock in the morning meaning they are putting in a 12 to 15 hour shift on event days only to come back the next day and work another full shift. As I have told the students, you take us with you whether at home or on the road. We all represent Wilcox-Hildreth and the impression we give others reflects on everyone in our district. Thank you for all of the help you can give us.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of our fall extracurricular participants on their fall success. Cara Bunger, Grant Henery, and Micah Johnson on qualifying for the Class D State Cross Country Meet and representing us so well. At the time I am writing this, football is still in the playoffs and heading to Pawnee City. Congrats to Keya Knaus for qualifying to sing in the National FFA Choir. Congrats to all the other participants for the hard work and time you put in. It is a joy to watch you compete and represent Wilcox-Hildreth so well.

Go Falcons,
Shannon Lovin

Wilcox-Hildreth Public School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023 ~ 7:00 PM
Posting Locations:
Minden Courier Posting Date 11/9/2023
Franklin Chronicle Posting Date 11/8/2023
Conference Room - Wilcox
404 Sapp Street
Wilcox, NE 68982-0190

1. Call to Order. Roll Call

2. Announce location of posted Open Meetings Act

3. Consent Agenda

Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, John Donley: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.A. Approval of Agenda

3.B. Approval of minutes of Regular October 16, 2023 Board Meeting

3.C. Approval of Claims

3.D. Financial Report

4. Visitors and communication from the public

Members of the public in attendance Elise Lush, Luke Glenn, Jordan Volk, Mary Martin

5. Action Items

5.A. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to declare football participation at the 6-man or 8-man level for the NSAA

Coaches Luke Glenn and Jordan Volk reported player feedback to the Board.

Motion by Kert Hansen, seconded by John Donley, to to declare football participation at the 8-man level for the NSAA. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, John Donley: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6. Discussion Items

6.A. Discuss the 2022-2023 school audit

Superintendent Patterson reviewed the auditors' report with the Board of Education

6.B. Winter activity participation numbers

7. Administrator Report

7.A. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Patterson reported:

1. School Finances
2. Student athlete survey for 6-man or 8-man participation
3. Updates to the BOE about the negotiation process that started with the WHEA
4. School Audit Report

7.B. Principal Report

7.B. Principal Report

Principal Lovin reported:

- Teacher Evaluations
- Review end of fall sports
- One-Act and Music program honors and updates

Principal Muhlbach reported:

- Writing sample data
- External Visit Interviews

8. Next Board Meeting: Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilcox Conference Room

9. Adjourn

Motion by Alan Casper, seconded by Ryan Knaus, to To adjourn at 7:21 pm.. Motion Passed.

Teresa Carey: Yea, Alan Casper: Yea, John Donley: Yea, Kert Hansen: Yea, Ryan Knaus: Yea, Kirk Nelson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

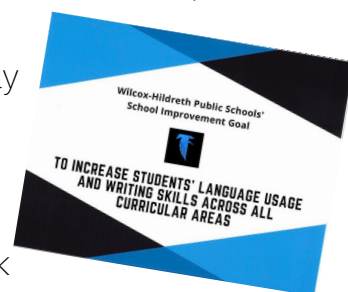


Moments with Muhlbach

Hello.

We are gearing up for the Winter testing window which will assess our students in grades K-11 in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. The 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students will also complete the Science MAP assessment in order to practice for the state assessment in the spring. Along with testing, students will participate in writing prompts across curricular areas as a part of our CIP (Continuous Improvement Process) data collection.

This is the 5th year of the Continuous Improvement Process (previously known as the School Improvement Process) which means it is time for an external team to come in and aid us in identifying things that are going well, and areas we can improve in. Year 1, we collected data and identified student writing as the area of concern we wanted to focus on. We then took a year to develop and organize a plan for increasing writing opportunities and data collection. For the last 3 years, we have spent time collecting data and working to improve student writing. This is finally the year we get to take a step back and see our efforts from start to finish. Below is a snapshot of our writing sample data that was shared in the most recent board meeting, and will also be shared with the external team when they come in April. The left side allows you to compare a specific class with themselves two years later. The right side allows you to identify a grade level and compare the amount of proficient writers then and now. No matter the table, the goal is that we are seeing more proficient writers now than we did two years ago when we started working on writing skills throughout all classes, which our tables are reflecting!



Number of Proficient Writers

Following a Graduating Class

	Fall 2021	Fall 2023
Kindergarten	0/17	0/16
1st Grade	0/15	0/15
2nd Grade	1/11	9/19
3rd Grade	0/20	10/14
4th Grade	7/11	7/12
5th Grade	5/15	13/19
6th Grade	6/22	4/10
7th Grade	7/14	7/16
8th Grade	7/19	11/20
9th Grade	19/22	6/14
10th Grade	12/15	16/18
11th Grade	11/13	20/21
12th Grade	6/8	13/14

Following a Grade Level

	Fall 2021	Fall 2023
Kindergarten	0/17	0/16
1st Grade	0/15	0/15
2nd Grade	1/11	9/19
3rd Grade	0/20	10/14
4th Grade	7/11	7/12
5th Grade	5/15	13/19
6th Grade	6/22	4/10
7th Grade	7/14	7/16
8th Grade	7/19	11/20
9th Grade	19/22	6/14
10th Grade	12/15	16/18
11th Grade	11/13	20/21
12th Grade	6/8	13/14

Mrs. Muhlbach

TODAY'S NEWS

ASVAB Results: Juniors

The Army will come to our school to go over the results of the juniors' ASVAB assessment. Each of the juniors will receive a copy of their results. The military likes students to score at least a 32 on the assessment. If a student is seriously considering joining the military, they are able to take the test again as a senior or can arrange a time to take the test in Kearney at the National Guard's office. The Army will also do a career assessment with the juniors that highlights careers based off of their interests. They will be coming in December.

Job Shadow Reminder...

Several of our juniors and seniors are taking advantage of job shadows. Juniors and seniors get one excused day or 2- 1/2 days to job shadow a career. They have to complete a packet with some research before hand. If your student is interested, I happy to help him/her find a location.



Scholarship Season!

Scholarship season is quickly approaching! The seniors in Senior Scholars have been working on updating their resumes, writing personal statements, and completing scholarship essays.

Each of the seniors also have an account on ScholarshipQuest. This site through Education Quest helps filter scholarships that are available to apply for. It is a great resource to continue to check throughout the year. I will also continue to update scholarships on my website that are sent to me. You can find these scholarships by going to the school's website and selecting staff and then clicking the link below my name.

The Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship is now available! This scholarship can be used toward a public two year school or university. To be eligible, you have to have an Student Aid Index of \$10,000 or less (this is found on your FAFSA) and have a 2.0 GPA. To apply, go to the following website: <https://buffettscholarships.org/>.



Save the date! NHS Induction

Current NHS applications have been given to juniors and seniors that qualify to be in National Honor Society. Their applications are due Nov. 30th at 4 pm. If your student is inducted, the ceremony will take place on January 11th at 7 pm in Wilcox. More details will be given to students that will be inducted.

Junior High Guidance Update

The junior high students have been working through the Find Your Grind curriculum. This curriculum focuses on students learning more about themselves to start planning what they would like their future to look like with career options. So far, we have covered lifestyles, talents, and skills. This curriculum is online and very interactive. Students have the option to look at different careers that fit their interests.

Here are some other reminders for seniors and their guardians...

- **Complete the FAFSA:** The sooner you can complete this form the better! This form is how the government figures out how much financial aid your student will get in terms of grants and loans. EducationQuest is a great resource. You can their Kearney site to schedule an appointment where they will help you file this for free! Here is there number: 308-234-6310. The FAFSA will open up in December due to changes with the forms. Even if you do not feel you will qualify for aid, many scholarships require families to at least apply for the FAFSA.
- **College Visits:** The best way to see if a campus is the right fit for your student is to go on a college visit. Seniors get to excused days to visit a campus of their choice. Juniors get one visit. I am happy to help set up a visit!

- Happy Thanksgiving!

I hope that each and everyone of you is able to take sometime to count your blessings and unplug to enjoy some time with family and friends over the break. Please let me know if there is any way I can continue to help support your student.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your kid's journey. They are why we show up each day. :)

Take Care,
Mrs. Mach

WILCOX-HILDRETH FFA

DONKEY BASKETBALL

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in Donkey Ball. It was an absolute blast!



CONTESTS

State Fair Participates: Westen Robinson, Alex Klatt-Terabelian, Spencer Jezbera, Kayla Rupe, Madison Bungler, & Makayla Johnson

Land Judging Participates: Cheyenne Lieb, Cody Schriener, Brooke Casper, Aubree Overhosler, Brett Wollen, Ethan Eiley, & Thomas Donley

Range Judging Participates: Madison Bungler, Spencer Jezbera, Alex Casper, Dillon Johnson, Zayden Wilsey, Hunter Davis, & Mitchell Beck

UPCOMING EVENTS

National FFA: Nov. 1 - 4
Fruit Sales: Due Nov. 15th
Fall CDE's: Nov. 29th

HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

The entire chapter had the privilege to attend the worlds largest working farm show



HARVEST MEALS

The FFA chapter and CPI partnered up to feed farmers during this busy season!



This reminder is to encourage everyone to practice good hygiene habits.

Wash your hands after using the restroom and if possible before eating. Hand Sanitizer is available in each classroom and in the Commons Area if washing with soap and water is not possible.

Remember to sneeze or cough into your shoulder or elbow and use hand sanitizer after blowing your nose.

Stay home if you are sick and please stay home 24 hours after you no longer have a fever.

Our Custodial Department is prepared to do our part to protect the Wilcox-Hildreth Falcons by keeping surfaces with frequent hand contact wiped down and disinfected along with our regular cleaning regiment. We all play a role in reducing the spread of colds and flu in our school; thanks for doing your part!

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Breakfast: Choco. Crescent A: Chicken Strips B: PB&J	2
3 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll A: Chicken Fried Steak B: PB&J	4 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll A: Chicken Fried Steak B: PB&J	5 Breakfast: Donuts A: mac & cheese B: PB&J	6 Breakfast: French Toast A: BBQ Rib Sandwich B: PB&J	7 Breakfast: Stuffed Hash. A: FKC Bowl B: PB&J	8 Breakfast: yogurt A: Meatball Sub B: PB&J	9
10 Breakfast: Granola Bars A: Salisbury steak B: PB&J	11 Breakfast: Granola Bars A: Salisbury steak B: PB&J	12 Break: Ham & Egg Sand A: Combo Sub Sandwich B: PB&J	13 Breakfast: Ham Bar A: Chicken Broc. Alfredo B: PB&J	14 Breakfast: Pancakes A: Chili B: PB&J	15 Breakfast: Monte Cristo A: Chicken Bacon Wrap B: PB&J	16
17 Breakfast: Muffins A: tater tot casserole B: PB&J	18 Breakfast: Muffins A: tater tot casserole B: PB&J	19 Breakfast: Power bites A: Pizza Pocket B: PB&J	20 Break: pop tart A: Ham B: PB&J	21 Breakfast: Waffles A: Crisptos B: PB&J	22 NO SCHOOL	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30
31		THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4 Breakfast: Yogurt & Granola A: chicken patty on bun B: PB&J	5 Breakfast: Bagel A: nacho day B: PB&J	6
7	8 Breakfast: Banana Bread A: Cheese Pizza Slice B: PB&J	9 Break: Banana Choco, Bar A: Hot Ham & Cheese B: PB&J	10 Break: Biscuits & Gravy A: cream chicken biscuits B: PB&J	11 Breakfast: Break. Bagel A: Meatball Bowl B: PB&J	12 Break: Sausage Egg Roll A: Mand. Orange Chicken B: PB&J	13
14	15 Breakfast: Break Burrito A: BBQ Chicken On Bun B: PB&J	16 Breakfast: Break on Stick A: Pig in a Blanket B: PB&J	17 Breakfast: Break. Pizza A: Chicken Noodle Soup B: PB&J	18 Breakfast: Break. Round A: Beef Enchilada B: PB&J	19 Break: Break Sandwich A: Bacon Chesseburger B: PB&J	20
21	22 Breakfast: Chicken Biscuit A: Fried Chicken Legs B: PB&J	23 Break: Choco. Crescent A: Taquitos B: PB&J	24 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll A: Salisbury steak B: PB&J	25 Breakfast: Donuts A: Hamburger B: PB&J	26 Breakfast: French Toast A: Hamburger Gravy/ Mash. B: PB&J	27
28	29 Breakfast: Stuffed Hash. A: Walking Taco B: PB&J	30 Breakfast: yogurt A: Italian Dunkers B: PB&J	31 Breakfast: Granola Bar A: Egg Roll & Fried Rice B: PB&J			
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