

# NORTH LYON COUNTY

## SEPTEMBER 2023

# PATRON NEWSLETTER



### Superintendent's Message

Dear USD 251 North Lyon County School Community,

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start. It's great to see all of the students back in the classrooms learning again. Thank you for choosing North Lyon County Schools!

This month, I have included a summary of the USD 251 school budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Please, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the school budget or any other topics you may have questions about.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

### USD 251 Budget Basics 2023-2024

**Budget Estimates:** The school budget is built on ESTIMATES in July based on the previous school year student count, the current school year student weighting estimates, assessed valuations, projected revenues, and projected expenses.

**Student Full Time Equivalence (FTE):** This is the number of students enrolled in our school district on a full time basis on September 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous school year. The student FTE is used in calculating our general fund budget amount.

The budget formula uses the highest student FTE from either of the previous two years. The budget formula also includes additional estimates for "weighted enrollments", for low enrollment, Career Technical Education, At Risk (free lunch), Transportation, and Special Education. Our final operating budget amount will not be determined until the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) audit and final legal max calculations in June 2024.

**Estimated Assessed Valuation:** The County Appraiser determines an appraised value for all property in the North Lyon County School District. Our district's assessed valuation for the General Fund Budget is \$98,694,424; the assessed valuation for LOB and Capital Outlay is \$104,741,603.

**General Fund:** This is the main large operating budget that can also transfer money to other funds. Our estimated maximum General Fund Budget is \$3,753,939. This amount is determined by the BASE State Aid amount of \$5,088 and the student weighting factors determined by the Kansas Legislature. Our FTE is 333, including 9 preschool FTE, multiplied by the BASE student aid amount of \$5,088 = \$1,694,304. The following weighting factor estimates are then calculated:

→Low Enrollment (enrollment below 1,622)	\$801,363
→Career Technical Education	\$46,640
→At Risk (students qualifying for free lunch)	\$280,735
→High Density At Risk (over 35% free lunch)	\$1,061
→Transportation (students 2.5 miles or more)	\$257,635
→Special Education	\$649,800
Total Estimated Revenue from weightings	\$2,037,235

By adding the BASE Aid, \$1,694,304 + the weightings revenue, \$2,037,235 + Virtual State Aid, \$22,400 = \$3,753,939 - Estimated General Fund Legal Max Budget. General Fund expenses are for: Instruction, Student Instructional Support, Administration, Operations & Maintenance, Student Activities, and transfers to other funds. The General Fund revenue is generated by the 20.0 mills required by Kansas Statute.

**Supplemental General Fund (Local Option Budget – LOB):** This is a supplemental or additional budget to the General Fund. The maximum LOB authority for our school district is 33% of the LOB Base General Fund of \$3,774,001. By multiplying \$3,774,001 by .33% = \$1,245,420 - Estimated LOB Legal Max Budget. LOB expenses are for a portion of the instructional salaries, insurance, utilities, fuel, transportation expenses, transfers to Driver Training, and At Risk.

**Capital Outlay Fund:** This fund allows school districts to levy taxes for equipment, property, or facility needs. Currently, our school district pays our maintenance salaries out of this fund. The capital outlay mill levy of 8.0 mills will generate an estimated \$837,933 for 2023-2024.

**Mill Levy:** The Assessed Valuation and the required local tax dollars combine to calculate mill rates for the county to process school taxes. Our total mill rate estimated for taxes is 39.132 (General Fund – 20 mills, LOB Fund – 11.132 mills, Capital Outlay Fund – 8 mills), which is 0.667, or 2/3 mill above the previous year's tax rate and 0.33, or 1/3 mill above the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). The RNR means budgeting the exact same amount of property tax revenue in dollars for the current school year as for the previous school year using the current year's total assessed valuation.



# NLC/ELC Principal Recap

We hope this message finds you well and filled with anticipation for the upcoming school year. It brings us immense joy to share that our recent Open House was a resounding success, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who attended. Your presence truly set a positive tone for the exciting journey we're about to embark upon together.

As we stand at the threshold of a new academic year, we are thrilled to announce that our sports teams have hit the ground running with a remarkable start. The enthusiasm and dedication exhibited by our student athletes are a testament to the collaborative spirit and the pursuit of excellence that our school community embodies.

The synergy between a successful Open House and the commendable start of our sports teams fills us with pride and optimism. It's a reminder of the wonderful sense of unity that defines our North Lyon County Schools. Our commitment to fostering an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and athletically is at the core of everything we do.

We invite you to join us in celebrating these promising beginnings and to continue engaging in the many upcoming events and activities that await. Your support is invaluable, and we're excited to build upon our shared goals in the months ahead.

Stay tuned for more updates on curriculum enhancements, extracurricular opportunities, and initiatives designed to empower our students to reach their full potential.

Thank you once again for being an essential part of the North Lyon County community. Together, we will make this school year a truly memorable and enriching experience for our students.

Here's to a year of growth, learning, and success!

Warm regards,

Rob Hampton

Principal

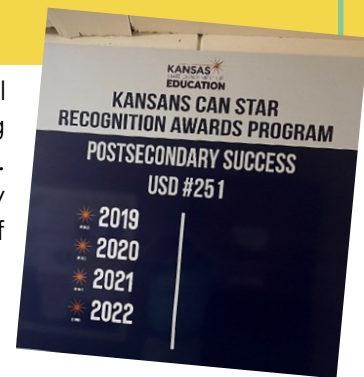
hamptonr@usd251.org



# Happenings at Heights

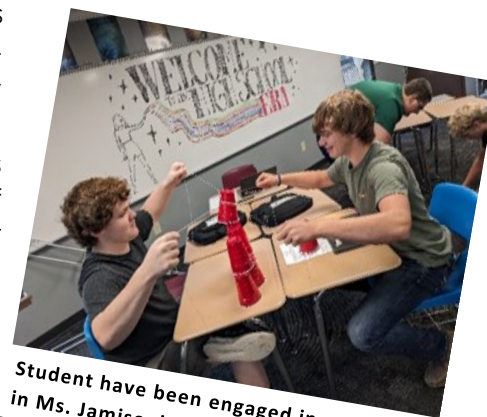


We are off and running for the 2023-24 school year. We are excited about what the year will bring for our students as they progress through the year. Improvements in the building with new paint, new flooring, and signage, have brightened the halls of NHHS.

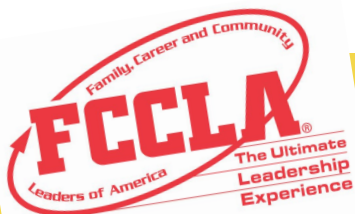


Even though it doesn't currently feel like fall is around the corner, as we have dealt with alterations in practice and game schedules to adjust to the Kansas heat. Kids are working hard to make themselves and our teams better for the fall seasons. We had a few new additions to our staff this year: Mr. Holmes (Advanced Math) and Ms. Becker (USD 251 Special Education Coordinator). Other changes have included some new changes to handbook policies, including a new late work policy and new KSDE graduation requirements (including IPS – Individual Plans of Study requirements). Like any new year, students and staff are adjusting and working hard to meet new expectations and accountability requirements.

Although it doesn't feel like fall and the start of school, students and staff are working hard to get back into the school swing. Staff continues to engage and raise the expectations of students to meet the changing demands of college and career readiness for the next generation



Student have been engaged in activities in Ms. Jamison's sophomore ELA class.



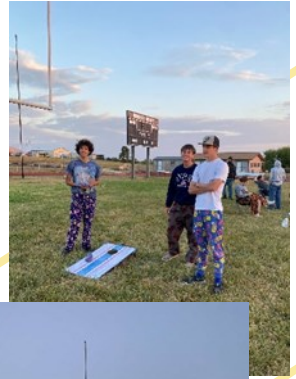
After a very busy summer, NHHS FCCLA Officers got together this weekend at their annual Take Aim Conference in Manhattan to plan out their year and get excited to roll out the upcoming school year! The officers all got to present their STAR events from Nationals in Denver this summer to both student groups and other FCCLA Advisors. Upon completion of their Advisor Presentation, Mrs. DeDonder was inundated with compliments and questions from other advisors. The NHHS students truly stand out among the rest.

Other activities included community service activities, sessions about improving public speaking skills, and how to pursue careers related to FACS. NHHS FCCLA is looking forward to having the Ultimate Journey during the 2023 - 2024 school year!



# SENIOR SUNRISE

Members of the class of 2024 participated in what is becoming an annual tradition at NHHS, Senior Sunrise. NHHS Seniors gathered at the football field to watch the sunrise and start the last of their first days of high school. There was a good turnout and the kids are excited to begin and complete their senior year.



## NHHS Honor Flight

Once again, NHHS has an opportunity to participate in the Honor Flight program! We will be sending five student guardians and five local veterans to Washington, D.C., on April 21-22, 2024. We will have veterans' applications posted on school social media, as well as available in person at the school and at various events. We would like to have all applications in by Halloween. Our big fundraising event will be hosted by Harry & Lloyds Americus on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11! We are currently in the process of accepting items to be auctioned off, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Honor Flight expenses. This trip is at NO COST to veterans and their guardians. If you would like to donate items or money, please contact Shawn Wilson at [wilsons@usd251.org](mailto:wilsons@usd251.org) or Mrs. Shirley Vincent at [shirleyvincent@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyvincent@yahoo.com)

# September

## NHHS Events

9/5:  
VB @ Mission Valley

9/5-9/15:  
MAP testing

9/19:  
VB @ Osage city

9/20:  
FFA Green Hand Conference @ Prairie View

9/8:  
FB vs. Wabaunsee

9/9: VB@ Lyndon  
CC@ Wamego

9/22:  
FB vs Jayhawk-Linn

9/12:  
>School Pictures.

>VB vs. Council grove

9/23: VB @ Olpe

9/26: VB vs Lyndon

9/14:  
CC Invitational @The Orchard

9/27:  
FFA Land Judge

9/28:  
FB @ Olpe

9/15:  
FB @ Council Grove

9/29:  
CC @ Rim Rock

# **Building Information**

If you have any questions or need assistance with school related issues, feel free to contact us. The administrator's names and school phone numbers are as follows:

**Robert W. Blair, Superintendent of Schools: (620)481-2085**

**Dave Watkins, Northern Heights High School Principal: (620)481-2087**

**Robert Hampton, NLC /ELC Principal: (620)481-2086**

