

NORTH LYON COUNTY NOVEMBER 2023 PATRON NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message

Dear USD 251 North Lyon County School Communities,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our junior high and high school students that participated in fall extracurricular activities. Students benefit from extracurricular participation in numerous ways including: learning teamwork, cooperation, building positive relationships, time management, persistence, physical fitness, leadership skills, and improved academic performance. According to a study by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), students who participate in extracurricular activities make higher grades. There is a great deal of literature that report the academic benefits associated with participating in extracurricular activities. Numerous studies draw the following conclusions:

- Participants have significantly higher GPA's
- Participants have significantly lower absenteeism
- Participants have higher graduation rates
- Participants have higher scores on standardized assessments
- Extra curricular sports decrease health problems

I would like to particularly congratulate the Northern Heights High School girls and boys cross country teams for their success throughout the season and at State Cross Country.

Our school district was recently contacted by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) congratulating USD 251 for exceptional work in the following areas:

Kansans Can Star Award – Graduation (Gold), 100% graduation rate

Kansans Can Star Award – Civic Engagement (Bronze)

Congratulations to all of our students, teachers, staff, and administration that contributed to making these awards possible!

Some additional good news for USD 251 are our most recent Kansas Assessment scores from the spring of 2023. The percentage of our district students performing at grade level or above in English Language Arts (ELA) increased by a combined 10.14 percent compared to the statewide increase of 1.29 percent and Math increased by 3.85 percent compared to the statewide increase of 1.14 percent. The five year average trend indicates that the percentage of USD 251 students performing at grade level or above have outperformed the Kansas average by 4.82% in ELA, 9.13% in Science, and 0.29% in Math. On the 2023 assessments, the following classes performed at or above the combined state median scores:

Grade 3 ELA: 2 points above the state median

Grade 6 ELA: 3 points above the state median

Grade 8 ELA: 10 points above the state median

Grade 6 Math: 3 points above the state median

Grade 8 Math: even with the state median

Grade 10 Math: 3 points above the state median

Grade 8 Science: 17 points above the state median

Grade 11 Science: 2 points above the state median

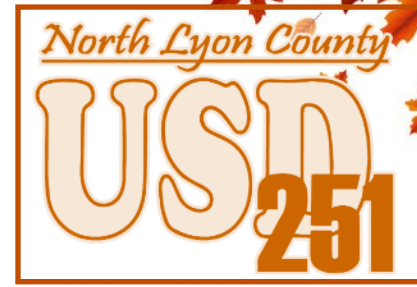
Congratulations to all USD 251 teachers, staff, and students for all of their efforts on the Kansas Assessments.

Thank you for your continued positive support for the USD 251 students and staff!

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

Source: The Value of Interscholastic Sports: Impact of Athletic Participation on GPA and Graduation Rates – Indiana State University NFHS and NIAAA Study



NLC/ELC Principal Recap

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patrons:

We are excited to announce that the last week of October, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week at ELC/NLC. Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign dedicated to promoting a drug-free lifestyle and raising awareness about the dangers of substance abuse. Mrs. Landgren planned a series of engaging activities and events for our students to participate in throughout the week.

Here's just some of the activities our students participated in during our Red Ribbon Week:

1. Monday was, Kick-Off Day - Wear bright, neon color clothes

2. Tuesday: Each grade level wear a certain color

PK - Purple 2nd - Green 5th - White

K - Blue 3rd - Orange 6th - Gray

1st - Yellow 4th - Black 7th - Teal

8th - Pink

3. Wednesday - Wear RED clothing



Throughout the week, Mrs. Landgren incorporated drug prevention education into their lessons. We encourage you to join us in promoting a drug-free lifestyle by discussing the importance of making healthy choices with your child. Together, we can empower our students to make positive decisions and lead fulfilling lives.

Educational Update:

We are excited to share with you the incredible learning journey our 5th-grade students have embarked upon - exploring and understanding the delicate balance of ecosystems. Through hands-on activities and engaging lessons, our students have been diving deep into the fascinating world of ecology.

Our students have been conducting research on various ecosystems, such as forests, deserts, oceans, and grasslands. They have been exploring the unique characteristics, plant and animal life, and environmental factors that contribute to the balance within each ecosystem. Encourage your child to share their findings and insights with you!

We are incredibly proud of our 5th-grade students' dedication and enthusiasm for learning about ecosystems. We encourage you to continue supporting their curiosity and engagement in this topic at home. Together, let's foster a sense of environmental responsibility and appreciation for the world around us.

Our junior high students have taken on the role of reading mentors, spreading the joy of reading to our kindergarteners. This unique opportunity allows our older students to inspire and connect with our younger learners through the magic of books.

Here's a glimpse of this wonderful reading program:

Reading Buddies:

Our 5th-8th grade students have been paired with kindergarteners to form reading buddy partnerships. They meet regularly to read together, share stories, and engage in meaningful conversations about the books they explore. This program fosters a sense of community and encourages positive relationships between students of different grade levels.

The reading sessions provide an opportunity for our junior high students to build connections with their reading buddies. They engage in conversations about the stories, ask questions, and share personal experiences related to the themes. This interaction promotes empathy, communication skills, and a sense of belonging.

We are incredibly proud of our 5th-8th students for their dedication and commitment to inspiring our kindergarteners through reading. This program not only enhances literacy skills but also nurtures a sense of community and empathy within our school.



Sports update:

We are excited to share some fantastic news and updates about our school's sports teams and athletes. Our students have been working hard both on and off the field, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

Here are some highlights from our recent sports events:

1. Football Team Victory!

Our school's football team had an incredible game on October 12th against Caire -Paraval. They displayed exceptional teamwork and determination, resulting in a well-deserved victory with a final score of 42-22. We ended the season with a 5-1 record Congratulations to all the players and coaches for their hard work and dedication!



2. Cross Country Success

Our Cross Country team participated in the FHJL league meet on October 12th. Our athletes showcased their endurance and perseverance, with several students achieving personal bests. We want to recognize Cooper Spade for finishing in 4th place. Sarah Beth Pringle, Trace Gasche, Shawn Thomas, and Oliver Schneickert finishing in the top 20 in their respective category. Well done, runners!

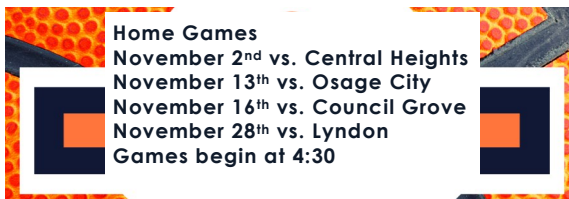
3. Volleyball Tournament

Our girls' volleyball team recently competed in the FHJL league tournament. They demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and skill throughout the tournament. We are proud of them.

4. Upcoming Basketball

We are thrilled to announce that basketball season has officially begun for the Wildcats. Our student-athletes have been eagerly preparing for the upcoming games, and we couldn't be more excited to see them in action.

Here are some important updates and information regarding the basketball season:



We would like to extend our gratitude to our dedicated coaches, volunteers, and parents who have been supporting our student-athletes throughout their sports journey. Your encouragement and involvement make a significant difference in their success.

Stay tuned for more updates on our school's sports events and achievements. We encourage you to attend games and cheer on our athletes. Your presence and support mean the world to them.

We will be hosting our first quarter Honor Roll Assembly for the 3rd through 8th grade student. This special event is an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of our students. We invite you to join us in honoring their hard work and dedication.

Here are the details for the upcoming Honor Roll Assembly:

Date: November 10th

Time: 3rd- 5th grade 2:30. 6th-8th grade 3:00

Location: NLC Gymnasium

During the assembly, we will acknowledge students who have achieved academic excellence by earning a place on the honor roll. These students have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their studies, consistently achieving high grades and displaying a strong work ethic.

We encourage you to attend the Honor Roll Assembly to show your support for our students and celebrate their achievements. Your presence and applause will mean a great deal to them and will reinforce the value we place on academic excellence.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Rob Hampton

ELC/NLC Principal/AD



Happenings at Heights

Crazy how fast time goes by! Seems like yesterday we were preparing for the start of school and activities, and it's almost the Holiday season now. Lots of things happening around NHHS, from ending the 1st quarter, parent teacher conferences, FFA national convention, ending of fall sports with some great performances, anticipating the fall theater production, Veterans Day Assembly, preparing for winter athletic season, Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner and many, many, more things to be excited for in the 2nd 9 weeks.

ACADEMICS/ACTIVITIES

The class of 2026 traveled to Hutchinson on October 25th to the regional college and career fair. This was a great experience for the students as they were exposed to over 350 possible college and career opportunities. It gave each student the ability to access these various careers or collegiate representatives, ask questions and will begin to develop their own pathway to their future.

Mr. Lang and several students traveled to Indianapolis for the FFA National Convention. This has been a yearly occurrence for our FFA students. A fantastic experience for our students to learn various agricultural ideas from delegates around the country and generate new networks for the future. FBLA, HOSA, and FCCLA continue to compete in area competitions and are preparing for the upcoming state competitions. FCA has begun meeting regularly and continues to be a positive influence in our school. They are looking to provide additional opportunities for students to become involved.



NHHS Scholars Bowl team hosted their Invitational Tournament on October 24th. There are 14 different teams competing. Although they were shorthanded, the NHHS Scholars Bowl team had a good showing in their first tournament of the season.

NHHS Theater students are working hard in preparation for their Fall production this year. This year's production will be presented on November 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Athletic News

Fall athletics wrapped up at the end of October this year. Although football did not have the season they had hoped for, there was much improvement over the course of the year especially dealing with a great deal of adversity with injuries. Volleyball concluded their season at the Burlingame Sub State losing out to eventual sub state runner up Doniphan West. A special thank you to all our senior volleyball and football athletes. Thanks for your dedication and commitment to your coaches, your team and your school. Also a thank you to coaches and parents for all the support and time put in for your teams and your student athletes.

Cross Country has had a great season. Both our Girls and Boys teams have qualified for the state cross country meet at Wamego on October 28th. The Boys team took 3rd overall with Cooper Hamlin and Rees Spade leading the way with 7th and 12th place finishes. Other team members include: Jacob Merrill, Max Olsen, Logan Schlimme, Henry Schneickert, and Braxton Young. The Girls team were Regional Champions with Ellei McCrory finishing as Regional Champion, Josie Tiffany was 3rd and Laura Cathcart 14th. Other team members include Reese Houck, Addi Hinrichs, Sam Redelfs, and Bethany DeDonder. Congratulations to all runners and Coach Callanan. Ellei McCrory is the 1A State Champion! Also Medaling was Senior Cooper Hamlin finishing in 20th.



As we prepare for the upcoming winter sports season, we want to remind all participants that if they have not completed their annual physical, they must be completed along with additional paperwork prior to the first day of practice on November 13th. If students participated in a fall athletic activity this process is complete.

November 1st – 4th
November 3rd
November 8th
November 10th
November 13th
November 15th
November 20th
November 22 – 26
November 28th
November 29th
December 1st

FFA @ Nationals in Indianapolis
Freshman Physical Science Student @ KC Rock & Mineral Show
NHHS Fall Sports Banquet
Veteran's Day Programs 2pm
Start of Winter Sports Practice
FFA Dairy Competition
FFA Interview Day
No School – Thanksgiving Break
Winter Sports Pictures
FFA Welding Competition
Senior Citizens Dinner 12pm
Basketball vs. Osage City

Senior Citizens

Dinner 2023

Your presence is requested at our
 Annual Senior Citizens' Dinner
 At Northern Heights
 High School on
 December 1, 2023
 At 12:00 p.m.
 If you are able to attend,
 Please call
 1-620-481-2087
 By
 November 17, 2023






NHHS HONOR FLIGHT
 WITH
 HARRY & LLOYD'S AMERICUS
 ★★ ★
 INAUGURAL

VETERANS DAY *Honor Flight* *Fundraiser*

A charity event to raise funds for our local North Lyon County veterans and Northern Heights student guardians in need of support for April Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Featuring buffet style meal and live auction!
 Free will donations also accepted!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2023
 2-6 PM




LIVE AUCTION TO BEGIN AT 4
 HARRY & LLOYD'S
 AMERICUS, KS

★★★

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE FOR AUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT

SHIRLEY VINCENT
 (SHIRLEYVINCENT11@YAHOO.COM)

SHAWN WILSON
 (WILSONS@USD251.ORG)

Please Note "Honor Flight" Upon Donation!
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Building Information

If you have any questions or need assistance with school related issues, they will be glad to help you. 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