

# NORTH LYON COUNTY DECEMBER 2023 PATRON NEWSLETTER



## Superintendent's Message

Dear North Lyon County Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our school district's new policy pertaining to the enrollment of nonresident students. On November 7th, the USD 251 Board of Education held a public hearing to discuss and hear input on the new policy required of all Kansas school districts passed by the Kansas legislature. In the regular meeting following the hearing the board voted 7-0 to approve the new policy.

As you know, our school district's past practice has been to screen nonresident student applicants and accept them if they met our criteria regarding attendance, behavior, and grades. The new law requires all Kansas public schools to take the following steps:

- By January 1, 2024, adopt nonresident student policy (JBCC).
- Annually, by May 1st, determine and publish student capacity.
- Annually, by June 1st, inform current nonresident students if they are no longer in good standing to return for the next school year.
- Annually, by June 1st, allow nonresident students to apply prior to June 30th.
- Annually, between July 1st and July 15th, conduct a random nonresident student lottery to fill open student slots if the number of applications exceeds capacity.

Nonresident students currently enrolled and attending USD 251 during the current 2023-2024 school year will not be required to reapply or participate in the random lottery process in order to return for the 2024-2025 school year. However, nonresident students will still be expected to remain in good standing to continue their enrollment, as they always have done.

In order to protect our school district, the new board policy contains the following criteria: A student meeting one or more of the following criteria shall automatically be deemed not in good standing and may be denied continued enrollment.

- The nonresident student failed to remain in good standing with regard to attendance. Excessive absenteeism is defined as ten (10) or more absences (excused or unexcused) in a specific class in a semester.
- A nonresident student failed to remain in good standing with regard to semester grades.
- The nonresident student or the student's parent or person acting as a parent provided false or fraudulent information in the application process.
- The nonresident student is not a resident of Kansas.
- The nonresident student is currently under a period of suspension or expulsion from any Kansas school district, and such suspension or expulsion will not expire until after the next school year has begun.
- The nonresident student has two or more out of school suspensions in the current school year.
- The nonresident student has been given a long-term suspension or expulsion by the district in the current school year.

It is important to understand that the new law requiring all Kansas public schools to adopt this policy is one of many examples in recent years of the Kansas Legislature taking local control away from school districts.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone in North Lyon County a Merry Christmas! During this time of year, I'm reminded that Christmas is much more than gifts and decorations. It is also a time to be thankful for our communities' that support our students who continually striving for excellence, and our talented teachers and staff who give their best each and every day. These are blessings we all share in our great North Lyon County communities.

Respectfully,

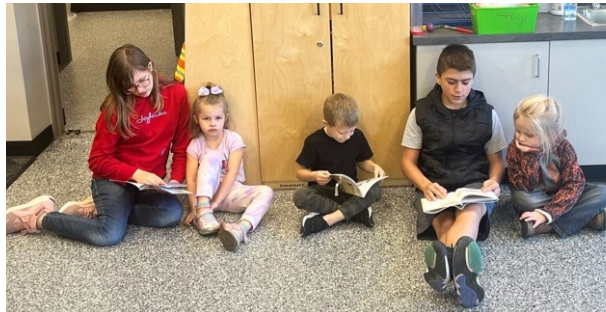
Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

# NLC/ELC Principal Recap

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patrons:

With the holiday season upon us, our faculty, staff and students across the board are putting in their best efforts to make it a resounding success. The collective spirit of the student body has been palpable, as individuals have embraced challenges and overcome obstacles with tenacity.

Extracurricular activities also witnessed an upsurge in enthusiasm, with students participating in sports, and artistic endeavors. Whether it was perfecting a musical performance, honing athletic skills on the field, or organizing impactful community service projects, students demonstrated an unwavering commitment to not just meet, but exceed their own expectations.



The student council has been buzzing with energy lately, taking charge of organizing a spectacular middle school dance that was a highlight of the semester. From the moment the idea was proposed, the members dove headfirst into the planning process, determined to make it an unforgettable night for their fellow students.

Meetings were held regularly, with discussions ranging from theme selection to decor ideas that would transform the school gym into a magical dance floor. Committees were formed, each tasked with a specific aspect of the event—whether it was coordinating the music playlist, designing eye-catching posters, or ensuring there would be plenty of snacks to keep everyone fueled for the dance floor.





The student council didn't stop there. In the spirit of giving back to the community, they seamlessly transitioned from dance preparations to helping serve at the Thanksgiving luncheon. Recognizing the importance of fostering a sense of gratitude and unity, the council members worked tirelessly to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the parents and their peers.



In the end, the dual efforts of organizing a middle school dance and serving at the Thanksgiving luncheon showcased not only the dedication and leadership skills of the student council but also their commitment to creating a positive and inclusive school environment. Their active involvement in these events has left a lasting impact, fostering a sense of community, and camaraderie that will resonate throughout the school year.



Thank you for your continued support!  
Sincerely,  
Rob Hampton  
ELC/NLC Principal/AD





# Happenings at Heights



The holiday season is upon us, and things just keep moving along at NHHS. There are times I think our kids are busier than Santa's Elves! With winter athletics season starting, various club activities and programs, and the hustle and bustle to get everything done before the end of the semester in December. There are a lot of things happening within our school. We encourage parents to continue to stay involved with their students through activities and school work during this busy time.

## ACADEMIC

Although we partially implemented finals last spring, this fall we will be implementing semester finals in full. Each student in each class will be taking a semester final or semester culminating activity. This is vital to assess learning and mastery of content material occurring through the 1st semester. We also offer the ability for students to be exempt from finals based on academic performance, attendance, and timeliness throughout the semester. Each student that meets the exemption criteria are still required to take the final; however, their grade on the final can only benefit them on their final semester grade.

### Criteria for exemption:

Semester grade of A with less than 5 absences and less than 5 tardies. If a student reaches these levels, they are exempt from the finals for that particular class. The absences and tardy limits are comprehensive for each student and not for each class, meaning total absences from school and total tardies. If a student reaches these levels, they take the final, but their score on the final can only improve their grade for the semester.

Finals week will occur on December 18, 19, and 20th. Each student is expected to take a final in each class. Students who do not complete a final will be considered incomplete for the 1st semester grade in the class and will have to complete their final prior to finalizing semester grade.

## Activities

NHHS Cross Country celebrates their trip to state with a great showing:

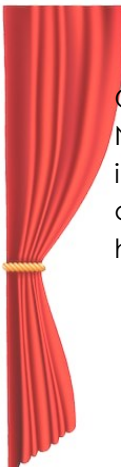
On October 28th, NHHS girls' and boys' teams traveled to Wamego for State Cross Country. Both boy's and girl's teams competed well. The boys' team finished 8th and the girl's 7th.

Ellei McCrory completed a fantastic freshman season with a STATE CHAMPIONSHIP! Ellei finished, like so many of her other races, well ahead of the field. She becomes the first individual cross country champion in NHHS history. Cooper Hamlin finished 20th, medaling, and becoming an All-State Runner for 2023. Congratulations to Ellei, Cooper, all our Cross Country competitors, and Coach Callanan for a great year.

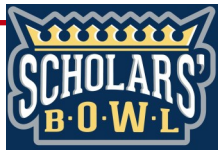


## THEATER

On November 11th, theater students presented the Emperor's New Coat. A lot of work went into preparing for the play and it was a great performance. A special thanks to all the students, staff, and Ms. Jamison for all their hard work.







The 2023-2024 Scholars Bowl season is well underway. Our year began by hosting 14 schools for our home tournament on Tuesday, October 24. It was a great success. We received many compliments on our hospitality meal, so thank you to the Booster Club and all who provided items for our meal. It was delicious and is definitely something that helps bring teams back to our meet. There are 12 students out for Scholars Bowl this year, and it is again a young group. With sharing members with other NHHS clubs and organizations, we have not had our full-strength team compete together yet for a varsity meet. Most of the tournaments were included in the school calendar, but we have been able to add more tournaments this year, so individuals will get to compete in more tournaments this year. This includes a couple more JV tournaments so our younger team members will get more experience. We are updating these meets on the district website as they are added. The team that competed at the West Franklin tournament on October 30 placed second. We have had several great tournaments where we missed making finals by one question. Many of the rounds have ended in ties and the teams have been very competitive. We look forward to the rest of the season as we continue to compete in December and January. The League meet will be at Central Heights High School on Thursday, January 25, and Regionals will be Thursday, February 1.



### FBLA Hosts Veterans Day Assembly

Friday, November 10th, Northern Heights FBLA proudly put on the annual Veterans Day Program to celebrate the valor and courage of veterans in our community. Fifteen local veterans attended the program. FBLA students treated the Veteran's to a reception afterwards for fellowship between veterans and our NHHS FBLA students. It's a great time for our students to talk and understand the sacrifices made by our veterans for our freedoms. Thanks to all who attended and worked to make this day happen.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 30 Wrestling @ El Dorado
- Dec. 1 Basketball vs. Osage City
- Dec. 1 Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner
- Dec. 2 Wrestling @ El Dorado Tournament
- Dec. 5 Basketball @ Wabaunsee Tournament
- Dec. 6 NHHS/NLC Winter Concert
- Dec. 7 Basketball @ Wabaunsee Tournament
- Dec. 8 Basketball @ Wabaunsee Tournament
- Dec. 8 Wrestling @ Ellis

- Dec. 12 Basketball @ West Franklin
- Dec. 13 Board of Education Meeting
- Dec. 15 Basketball vs. Council Grove
- Dec. 15 Wrestling (JV) @ Council Grove
- Dec. 16 Wrestling @ Chase County
- Dec. 18 – 20 NHHS Semester Finals
- Dec. 19 Basketball @ Chase County
- Dec. 20 End of 2nd quarter Last Day of Class for 1st semester

# 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**

