

NORTH LYON COUNTY PATRON NEWSLETTER



Edition

Superintendent's Message



Dear North Lyon County School Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on school safety and security. First of all, USD 251 is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff. During the 2020-2021 school year, our school district formed a district-wide school safety & security team comprised of administrators and staff from the district office, NLC Elementary, NHHS, and the Lyon County Sheriff's Department. This group meets monthly to address school safety and security measures on both campuses. Furthermore, during the 2020-2021 school year, the safety & security team worked closely with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and all local law enforcement agencies to update the USD 251 Crisis Plan. In the spring of 2021, the USD 251 Board of Education adopted this new comprehensive plan that served to enhance school safety and security. The safety & security team is also engaged in planning for nine annual drills mandated by Kansas law since 2019. The state statute requires all Kansas schools to train students and staff with four fire drills, two tornado drills, and three crisis drills. It is imperative that all North Lyon County students and staff participate in these drills as required by state law.

The following safety measures have been implemented by our school district in recent years:

- Both campuses have a locked single point of entry for students and visitors to enter the buildings.
- All visitors must sign in and wear a visitor badge while in buildings.
- Security cameras have been upgraded and added to monitor the building interior, building exterior, and surrounding areas.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, all campuses have integrated an internal communication system with the ability to initiate a security action immediately. This system is linked directly to the Lyon County Emergency Communications Center in Emporia.

I realize that this topic can cause a great deal of stress for many; however, it is crucial that our students and staff are trained to protect themselves and each other. Unfortunately, we are living in a society in which we always need to be aware of our surroundings and be prepared for outside threats with options.

USD 251 utilizes The Run, Hide, Fight intruder response plan where staff and students are trained to assess the situation and respond accordingly. This action is utilized when there is an active threat inside a building. The number one goal is to get everyone out of the building in a safe location - Run. If there is an active threat in a particular area, the hide option is utilized while securing and barricading the area - Hide. As a last resort - Fight. It is important to understand that Run, Hide, Fight provides options.

The Run, Hide, Fight protocol is recommended by KSDE, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

I would also like to share some great news our school district recently received. On February 20th, KSDE notified our district that the Kansas State Board of Education had approved our Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) grant application for the third consecutive year. This is a competitive grant that only 78 Kansas school districts will receive. Our four year-old preschool program will receive \$78,000 in grant funding for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This award will cover the entire gap between our state revenue for the program and our budgeted expenses. During the 2022-2023 school year, our district received our first KPP grant award of \$107,000 and during the 2023-2024 school year, the KPP award we received was \$89,000. The three-year award total is about \$274,000.

I hope to see many of you at our school programs and athletic events this spring. Thank you for your continued positive support of North Lyon County students!

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

Attention!! Calendar change for the next school year.



**Enrollment for all
USD 251 Students for the
2024-25 School Year will be
held**



JUNE 3rd and 4th at NLC Elementary and NHHS.



NLC/ELC Principal Recap

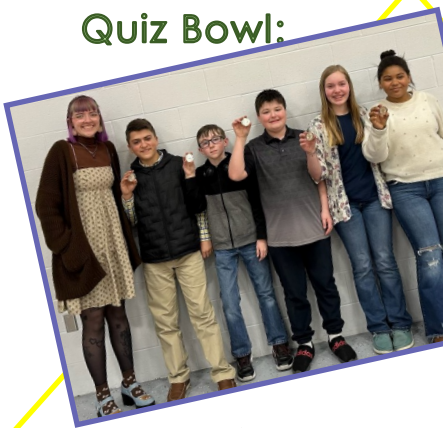
Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patrons:

As we reflect on the past two months, it's clear that our school community has been bustling with activity and energy. From academic achievements to extracurricular successes, our students have been shining brightly in various endeavors. Today, we're thrilled to share some photo highlights capturing these memorable moments:

1st semester academic awards:



Quiz Bowl:



Junior High Winter Dance:



Donuts with Dads:



Civic Engagement:



Wrestling:



These images not only reflect the diverse talents and passions of our students but also serve as a testament to the vibrant spirit of our school community. We're incredibly proud of each and every one of our students for their dedication, hard work, and achievements.

As we continue to navigate the academic year, let's carry forward this momentum and enthusiasm, supporting each other in our pursuit of excellence.

Thank you to all who contributed to these memorable moments, and here's to many more successes in the future!

As we approach the end of the third quarter, it's that time of the year again - state testing season. These assessments are not just milestones in your child's academic journey; they are crucial opportunities for us to gauge their progress and ensure they receive the support they need to succeed.

State testing can be demanding, requiring every ounce of concentration from our students. Therefore, it's essential for us, as a community, to rally behind them and provide the support they need to excel. One crucial aspect of this support is ensuring that our students get the rest they need.

Quality sleep is integral to cognitive function and academic performance. Research consistently shows that well-rested students perform better on tests. Therefore, I urge you to prioritize your child's sleep in the days leading up to and during the testing window. Establishing a consistent bedtime routine and minimizing screen time before bed can greatly contribute to better sleep quality.

Additionally, please encourage your child to maintain a healthy lifestyle leading up to the tests. A balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate hydration can all contribute to improved cognitive function and overall well-being.

Together, let's equip our students with the tools they need to succeed on these tests and beyond. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

Testing Window: March -18th -April 19th.

Yours in Education,

Rob Hampton





HAPPENINGS AT HEIGHTS



There has been a lot going on at Heights since the last newsletter. Definitely some ups and downs with the start of a new semester with cancellations, reschedules etc. The second semester has been a little herky-jerky with all this, however, we keep on going. Like always, our kids continue to amaze me and our staff at how well they compete in our club activities and our Career Technical Education course competitions; Career Development Events. Since January we have had some outstanding performances.

BAND / CHOIR

Bethany DeDonder participated in the KSHSAA state piano festival. Bethany received a 1 rating! Congratulations Bethany, Mr. Reist and Ms. Johnson.

Our band and choir will be competing in regional group competitions later this spring as well as some of the individuals competing in solo and ensemble events. Good Luck to all!



NHHS helped host the recent FCCLA STAR event competitions in Emporia, where participants competed with the chance to qualify for State Events. These NHHS students met qualifying standards and will compete at State in April.

- Preston Patton, Leo DeDonder, Cooper Hamlin - GOLD - Chapter in service with Handlebars of Hope
- Abbie Sull - Career Investigation - Real Estate Internship
- Addi Brown - Job Interview - Medical Field
- Harlan Badger, Bri Pierce - GOLD - Chapter in Review
- Addi Hinrichs - Focus on Children - Benefits of Sign Language (ASL) usage in communication in children

Congratulations, job well done and good luck at the state competition!

FBLA

NHHS FBLA students competed in on-line tests as well as project presentation at the regional FBLA contest with a chance to qualify for state. The following is a list of qualifiers, scores and events for each of our qualifying NHHS students.



Seniors:

- Bethany DeDonder
 - 1st Job Interview
 - 5th Agribusiness
- Sadie Bathurst
 - 2nd Agribusiness
 - 2nd Human Resources Management
- Cooper Hamlin
 - 2nd Supply Chain Management
- Preston Patton
 - 2nd Public Policy & Advocacy
 - 2nd Business Law
- Austin Woodrow
 - 10th Job Interview
- Lilly Parks
 - 10th Agribusiness
- Addison Landgren
 - 5th Business Communication
 - 8th Securities & Investments

Junior:

- Addi Hinrichs
 - 4th Health Care Administration

Sophomores:

- TJ Dean
 - 5th Supply Chain Management
 - 3rd Intro to Business Concepts
- Harlan Badger
 - 10th Advertising
 - 8th Economics
- Tagen Hoffer
 - 9th Personal Finance
- Leo DeDonder
 - 8th Agribusiness
- Laura Cathcart
 - 8th Organizational Leadership

Freshmen:

- Ellei McCrory
 - 8th Advertising
 - 6th Organizational Leadership
- Reese Houck
 - 5th Intro to Business Concepts
- Addi Brown
 - 9th Intro to Financial Math

Congratulations to all our qualifiers and good luck at State!

WRESTLING

NHHS had 3 members from wrestling qualify for the state tournament this year. Although none made the podium for medals they each wrestled very well and represented NHHS well. Cole Gerleman 113 lbs. went 1 and 2, Logan Schlimme at 150 lbs. went 1 and 2 and Leo DeDonder 126 lbs. went 2 and 2 and just missed making the podium. It is a very promising group of young athletes for the future of NHHS wrestling.



NEW ITEMS AT HEIGHTS

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

This year we are trying to spotlight our seniors through social media spots. **"A Walk with Watkins"** will appear on our social media platforms. These are simple interviews with each of our seniors to get to know them and what their plans are beyond NHHS. Hopefully they can have a little fun with it as we cover each individual throughout the spring. Look for Senior Spotlight: Walk with Watkins on our social media pages.



STUDENT AND TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Last year we began student of the month for second semester at NHHS. We are continuing the tradition this semester but have also added Teacher of the Month. Each month staff and students are able to nominate individuals who they believe go beyond to help make NHHS a great place to be. These nominations are randomly drawn for the winner each month. Individuals can be nominated multiple times throughout the semester. Below are pictures of January's nominees and winners.



This month's student and teacher nominees: Student of the Month: Nathan Hansen, nominees Jaitlyn Johnson and Samantha Redelfs (not pictured). Teacher of the Month: Jessica Madinger, Nominees: Mr. Blair, Ms. Dedonder, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Callanan.

Special thanks to NHHS Booster Club for helping sponsor the Student and Teacher of the Month program.



You are INVITED!

**NLC Early Learning Center
Pre-School Round-UP**
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
At NLC Early Learning Center
558 Broadway, Americus

Out of district families are welcome!

If you have any questions feel **FREE TO CALL!**

Children who will be "4" years old on or before August 31, 2024 are invited to attend Preschool Roundup.

NLC Early Learning Center **620-481-2049**
District Office **620-481-2085**

You are invited to ATTEND KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Tuesday, March 26th - 6:30 p.m.

At NLC Elementary School, 804 Sixth Street, Americus

Children who will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2024 are invited to attend Kindergarten Round-Up.

Out of District families are welcome!

If you have an questions feel free to call the school or the District Office.
NLC Elementary **620-481-2086** | District Office **620-481-2085**

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

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