

# NORTH LYON COUNTY

## APRIL 2024

### PATRON NEWSLETTER



#### Superintendent's Message

Dear North Lyon County School Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of spring! As the end of the 2023-2024 school year is fast approaching, it is my privilege to share with you some important updates from USD 251.

#### Enrollment of Nonresident Students

Many of you are familiar with the new Open Enrollment law for Kansas schools that will go into effect for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Current out of district students that are attending USD 251 this school year will be allowed to return to our district for the 2024-2025 school year without applying. These students will be allowed to continue as students in our school district until they graduate. The only exceptions would be if a student failed to remain in good standing with regard to attendance, grades or behavior. The process for new out of district applicants for the 2024-2025 school year will be on a new application time line. On or before June 1, our district will publish the number of open seats available to out of district students in each grade level for each school building. These numbers will be on the USD 251 website. From June 1 through June 30, we will accept out of district student applications. If the number of applications for a grade level is greater than the number of available seats we will randomly select out of district students using a confidential lottery process. If the number of applications for a grade level is less than the number of available seats the out of district students will be accepted for enrollment and attendance in USD 251. Parents will be informed of their student's status by July 15. Our school district welcomes all nonresident students.

#### Strategic Planning Committee Work Continues

The USD 251 Strategic Planning Committee that was appointed by the Board of Education last spring recently completed their tenth meeting. In January the group met with Jamie Roberts from CareArc to learn more about child care centers both public and private in our area. In February they visited Mission Valley to tour their new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building. In March the group will continue to study the CTE programs at Northern Heights High School. The committee has been very thorough and diligent in its work that involves addressing the four strategic directions of USD 251: 1) Improving student achievement, 2) recruiting, developing, and retaining quality staff, 3) Engaging and involving all district stakeholders, 4) managing the school district's budget & resources effectively and engaging the community in researching potential solutions for school district facilities.

## **District Leadership Team (DLT) Adopts Draft Goals**

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, the USD 251 District Leadership Team representing both buildings have met to work on our district's accreditation and adopt two draft goals. The first goal is to improve our school district's postsecondary success rate by maintaining a high graduation rate, decrease chronic absenteeism and expand our local definition of postsecondary success to include military service, local gainful employment, and agriculture. These three factors are not included in the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) criteria for postsecondary success. The second goal is to improve state assessment scores in math by implementing standards-based curriculum alignment, teacher professional learning on high impact instruction, and identification of resources to support students and provide them with math interventions. The team will meet with their Outside Visitation Team (OVT) and a representative from KSDE on April 12. The OVT and KSDE will provide our school district with feedback pertaining to our school improvement efforts as we continue to put students first.

## **KSDE Accountability Report**

USD 251 recently received our most recent School Accountability Report from KSDE. Our district was awarded a Kansans Can Gold Star recognition for High School Graduation. Only 66 public and private high schools in Kansas received this honor, which is less than 20 percent of the schools in Kansas. This is the third consecutive year our school has had a 100 percent graduation rate. Congratulations to all of our students, staff, teachers, and administrators that contributed to this success. In addition, we received a Kansans Can Bronze Star recognition for Civic Engagement. Only 21 public and private schools in Kansas received this distinction, which is less than 6 percent of the schools in Kansas. Again, I'm very proud of everyone that made this happen on both campuses.

Thank you for your positive support of the great things happening in North Lyon County. I'm looking forward to seeing and visiting with many of you at our upcoming spring school events.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

# NLC/ELC Principal Recap

It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our outstanding students. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to academic excellence have propelled them to the esteemed status of the Honor Roll.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each student who has earned this prestigious recognition. Your accomplishments serve as a testament to your perseverance, intelligence, and passion for learning, qualities that we deeply admire and commend.

Achieving Honor Roll status is a significant milestone that reflects not only academic excellence, but also the embodiment of our core values as a community. It demonstrates your unwavering commitment to personal growth and academic success, traits that will undoubtedly serve you well in all your future endeavors.

As educators and mentors, we take immense pride in witnessing your achievements and the positive impact you continue to make within our school community. Your dedication to your studies sets a shining example for your peers and inspires us all to reach higher and strive for greatness.

To our Honor Roll students, we say: Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and your accomplishments are truly commendable. We applaud your achievements and encourage you to continue pursuing excellence in all aspects of your academic journey.

Once again, congratulations to our exceptional students on this well-deserved honor. Your achievements are a source of pride for us all, and we look forward to celebrating your continued success in the future.

## NLC 3rd Quarter Superintendent's Honor Roll

### 3rd Grade

Wade Fields  
Claire Lang  
Norah Schneickert  
Briella Stewart

### 4th Grade:

Isabella Bolinger  
Aimsley Bronson  
Wyatt Brown  
Sage Dye  
Sydney Johnson  
Aaliyah Rankin  
Grady Smart  
Hudson Wellman

### 5th Grade

Sophia Bynum  
Konnor Cersovsky  
Jessie Ciero  
Veda Crosby  
Carson Dye  
Meredith Lang  
Adalyn Moree  
Kenzie Nelson  
Kaitlyn Riedel  
Benjamin Schneickert

### 6th Grade

Sarah Beth Pringle

### 7th Grade

Ty Brown

### 8th Grade

Faith Hamlin  
Addisen Petersen

## NLC 3rd Quarter Principal's Honor Roll

### 3rd Grade

Aurelien Cazares  
Hunter Edmunds  
Adalynn Hammann  
Ryker Hinrichs  
Auri Johnson  
Rueger Miller  
Emilia Sanders  
Jackson Warnick

### 4th Grade:

Kimberly Ayala  
Aiden Barker-Natelli  
Hayden Coop  
Jaxon Heri-Rhodes  
Charlize Huffman  
Zailey Petersen  
Elaina Wells  
Charley Wilson

### 5th Grade

Christopher Dreasher  
Cohen Heiman  
Owen Morgan  
Annabelle Nuessen  
Hunter Petersen  
Colter Short  
Lensey Weber  
Coy Wilson

### 6th Grade

Elianna Brecheisen  
Emerson Doudna  
Madalee Fields  
Andrea Harbaugh  
Koston Heiman  
Maddie Kuhn  
Garin Landgren  
Bryce McCullough  
Brooklyn Rankin  
Camden Way

### 7th Grade

Andrea DeDonder  
Owen DeDonder  
Oliver Schneickert  
Keeley Smart

### 8th Grade

Lily Collier  
Abigale Disney  
Aiden McDonald  
Avery Patton  
Henry Sheeley  
Harlie Short

## NLC 3rd Quarter Counselor's Honor Roll

### 3rd Grade

Zeb Harbaugh  
Levi Jones  
Joselyn Stephenson

### 4th Grade:

Kaiden Dreasher  
Riley Pate  
Addison Reece  
Mavis Stacy

### 5th Grade

Lana Bolinger  
Kyle Dean  
Hayden Florence  
Elizabeth Loomis  
Coltyn Mitchell

### 6th Grade

Ryder Carroll  
Emma Floyd  
Joseph Hudson  
Eliana Mahoney

### 7th Grade

Zane Anderson  
Brad Countryman  
Axel Dieker  
Bentley Garza  
Justin Korte  
Kassey McKee  
Seth Myers  
Aidan Reece  
Tucker Smith

### 8th Grade

Mari J Anstey  
Maddie Arb  
Kaylyn Bish  
Tryton Cullor  
Benjamin Glenn  
Johanna Hall  
Grayson Hanlin  
Isabella Mahoney  
Aubrey Morgan  
Braxtyn Pierce  
Sydney Stormont  
Shawn Thomas  
Zach Warnick  
Addison Weber  
Jack Wells



# KINDERGARTEN Round-Up

We're excited to extend a warm welcome to all our incoming kindergarteners and their families who joined us for our annual Kindergarten Roundup last month.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet our newest students and their parents, and it marked the beginning of an exciting journey together. While the parents took care of necessary paperwork and got acquainted with our school, our enthusiastic kindergarten teacher, Ms. Harrison, led the students through a fun exercise, setting the tone for the engaging learning experiences that lie ahead.



We're thrilled to have such a vibrant and supportive community, and we're looking forward to the upcoming school year with great anticipation. If you have any questions or need further assistance as you prepare for the start of kindergarten, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to help in any way we can.

Once again, welcome to our school family, and thank you for choosing NLC. Together, we'll make this a fantastic year of growth and discovery for your child.

Warm regards,

Rob Hampton  
NLC Principal



**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**

# Happenings at Heights

Spring has sprung at Heights. Spring activities and sports are moving along and we continue to be amazed at how fast the year is going by, soon we will be having Prom, Awards Nights, and Graduation. Our seniors are getting anxious as time draws to a close on their high school careers. Although most of them will state, "I can't wait to get out of here", however, most of them are pretty nervous about the next step in their journey. There are several important dates that are coming up for seniors that we will spotlight.

## NHHS Senior Items:

- April 19th:** Senior Interview Day: Each senior will go through a mock interview with various interviewers to give them real world experience in a professional interview. This will be conducted at the Kansas Works Building in Emporia. Transportation will be provided from NHHS to the interview site and back.
- April 27th:** NHHS Junior / Senior Prom: A reminder, out of district date forms must be turned into the NHHS office prior to April 19th
- Local Scholarships:** Many of the deadlines for local scholarships are fast approaching. Make sure all paperwork is completed. Our local community is so gracious in giving to our graduating seniors, and we are so thankful for their support.
- Senior Spotlight Videos:** Something we put together this year for each senior are the senior spotlight videos posted on our website and Facebook page. These are quick videos that introduce each senior and their plans for the future. All seniors should have their videos posted by mid April.
- Graduation community service / civic engagement points:** All seniors must obtain 40 civic engagement / community service points for graduation. All paperwork must be filed and approved by May 9th.
- Senior Awards night will be held on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. at NHHS gym**
- Baccalaureate services are tentatively scheduled for May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the NHHS gym**
- Graduation is May 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the NHHS gymnasium.**

## NHHS Powerlifters Perform Well at State

Several NHHS students traveled to Conway Springs on March 24th to compete in the State Powerlifting meet. Several students medaled and set personal bests in lifts. Listed below are the results:

All seven lifters placed in the top 10.  
4 of seven places in top six and earned medals (12 medals total). Jaitlyn Johnson is the 181 weight class STATE CHAMPION!!!!  
Leo DeDonder Weight class: 132 lbs  
Bench: (scratched)  
Squat: 320 pounds 2nd place(medal)  
Clean: 3rd place 195 pounds(medal)  
Overall: 9th place 515 pounds

Preston Patton Weight class: 156 lbs  
Bench: 12th place 180 pounds  
Squat: 11th place 285 pounds  
Clean: 10th place 185  
Overall: 10th place 650 pounds

Addisyn Hinrichs Weight class: 105 lbs  
Bench: 8th place 70 pounds  
Squat: 4th place 155 pounds  
Clean: 3rd place 105 pounds(medal)  
Overall: 4th 330 pounds(medal)

Bethany Dedonder Weight class: 123lbs  
Bench: 3rd place 105 pounds(medal)  
Squat: 4th place 205 pounds  
Clean: 2nd place 130 pounds(medal)  
Overall: 2nd place 440 pounds(medal)

Hayden Saunders Weight class: 132lbs  
Bench: 7th place 90 pounds  
Squat: 7th place 160 pounds  
Clean: 7th place 110 pounds  
Overall: 5th place 360(medal)

Sydney Brotz Weight class: 132lbs  
Bench: 12th place 75 pounds  
Squat: 8th place 160 pounds  
Clean: 6th place 110 pounds  
Overall: 8th place 345

### STATE CHAMPION

Jaitlyn Johnson Weight class: 181 lbs  
Bench: 1st place 135 pounds(medal)  
Squat: 2nd place 235 pounds(medal)  
Clean: 1st place 135 pounds(medal)  
Overall: 1st place 505 rounds(medal)





## FFA In the News

Northern Heights FFA members have been busy this Spring semester with district and invitational competitions. On February 7 the Meats and Agronomy CDE teams traveled to Paola for the district competition. The Meats A team of Cheyenne Paige, Sadie Bathurst, Austin Woodrow, Braxton Young, Kelton Bish, and Leo DeDonder finished the competition in 3rd place. Cheyenne Paige brought home 9th high individual in the contest. The Agronomy B team of Jacob Merrill, Hayden Saunders, Cooper Woodrow, Cameron Hagemann, and Cole Gerleman won the competition. Individually Jacob Merrill led the way with a first place finish, Hayden Saunders was 2nd, Cooper Woodrow 4th, Cameron Hagemann 9th, and Cole Gerleman 10th.

On February 28 the Floriculture, Vet Science, and Ag Mechanics Teams participated in the East Central District FFA competition at Prairie View High School. The Floriculture B team of Elizabeth Alarcon, Reese Houck, Meagan Allen, Harper Crook, Laynie Wilson and Maylea Hamlin finished 5th with Elizabeth placing 5th individually and Reese Houck coming in 10th. TJ Dean and Rees Spade competed in the Ag Mechanics competition while Mariah Anstey, Hayden Saunders and Courtney Jones competed in Vet Science. Neither team had a complete team so they did not place in the top 10, but Mariah Anstey did earn a 7th place finish in the Vet Science CDE.

On March 4, 4 FFA members submitted their State Degree Applications at the District Selection Day. All 4 applicants qualified for the award. Bethany DeDonder, Lilly Parks, Austin Woodrow, and Braxton Young will be the first individuals to be awarded the State FFA Degree in the history of the North Lyon County FFA program. These individuals will be awarded their degree at the State FFA Convention in Manhattan, KS at the end of May.

March 22 several teams traveled to Fort Scott Community College to compete in their Aggie Day Competition. Northern Heights had teams in Entomology, Floriculture, Vet Science, Food Science, and Livestock. Several of our teams placed in the top 15 of competitions that included teams from Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The highlight of the competition was Kelton Bish, who placed 2nd in the Entomology CDE.

We have a busy April ahead of us with several more district, invitational, and state competitions. Good luck to all of our members as they prepare to represent Northern Heights during the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.



## National Honor Society Sponsors 3 on 3 Basketball and Blood Drive

NHHS National Honor Society Chapter sponsored a 3 on 3 basketball tournament on March 25th. Several teams from the surrounding area participated in the tournament. This included several current NHHS students as well as alumni and individuals from the surrounding area. NHHS sponsors this tournament as their yearly fundraiser. It was a great turnout and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves.

On March 19th, NHS members sponsored their 2nd yearly blood drive at NHHS. This has been a yearly occurrence to help encourage high school students to donate the gift of life and become a lifetime donor. This drive over 20+ units of blood were collected.

Although a little short of the goal the NHS chapter was looking for, it was still a benefit for Red Cross Blood Services and our community. Thanks to all who donated and helped make this drive a success.



## Groups prepare for Spring Contests / State Competitions

Several of our clubs and organizations are preparing or currently competing in State competitions, as the spring calendar is in full force. FFA, HOSA, FCCLA and FBLA are all gearing up for competitions. FFA will be competing over the next several weeks in multiple CDE's (Career Development Events) focusing on various agricultural areas leading up to the State Convention in late May in Manhattan. HOSA has their State Convention in late March and FCCLA as well. We have so many of our students engaged and competing in these fantastic opportunities. As results come back we will keep you updated.

## Upcoming NHHS Events:

- April 1st Softball vs. South Lyon Co @ Burlingame  
April 2nd JV Softball @ Osage City  
April 3rd FFA District Banquet  
April 4th Baseball vs. West Franklin  
April 7 – 9 FCCLA State Convention  
April 8th Baseball @ South Lyon Co.  
April 9th National Honor Society Induction Dinner and Ceremony  
April 10th USD 251 Board of Education Meeting  
April 11th Baseball @ Osage City  
April 12th FFA Aggie Days  
FCCLA Banquet  
Softball @ Lebo  
April 17th FFA Livestock Judging  
April 18th Baseball @ Mission Valley  
Softball vs. Crest @ Burlingame  
April 19th Senior Interview Day 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. @ Kansas Works Building  
Softball @ MdCV  
April 20th Regional Forensics Tournament  
April 24th HOSA Job Fair  
April 25th Baseball vs. Council Grove  
April 26th Softball @ Horton  
April 27th KSHSAA State Music Festival  
PROM – 7 p.m. Promenade : 8 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Dance  
After Prom 11:30 – ?  
April 28–30 FFA State CDE competitions  
April 30th Softball vs. Lyndon @ Burlingame

## NLC upcoming activities

- April 9th Preschool Roundup 6:00 pm  
April 10th NLC Track @ ESU 9:30 am  
USD 251 Board of Education meeting  
April 16th NLC Track @ Lyndon 2:00 pm  
April 19th NLC Track @ Osage City 10:00 am  
April 26th NLC PTO Carnival 5:30–7:00pm  
May 3rd Muffins w/ Mom @ 7:30am  
PK–5th Play day



# 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**

