

PALMYRA



PANTHERS

School District OR-1

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Secondary Principal: David Bottrell
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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
February, 2016

*****ECRWSS*****

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*Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet
the challenges of the future.*

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

2014

Compare the Foundation For Knowledge with other charities you may be considering

111% Yes that is what YOUR CONTRIBUTION is worth!!
That is right your contribution of \$100 was worth \$111 to your community, after all expenses.

Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

\$509,000 – Contributions - you have contributed to The Foundation For Knowledge.

\$151,000 – Income - The Foundation For Knowledge has earned investing your contributions.

\$156,000 – Scholarships – 158 students from your community have been assisted with their post-secondary educations.

\$70,000 – Staff Development – helping to make District OR-1 one of the highest ranked and best trained teaching Staff's in the state of Nebraska.

Graduation Rate – District OR-1 has achieved one of the highest graduation rates in the State.

Post-secondary Education – the vast majority of District OR-1's students go on for further education that will help them for the rest of their lives.

\$11,000 – School Support – Assisting school programs, and support for students representing District OR-1.

\$325,000 – Invested Market Value – For endowed commitments.

With your help The Foundation For Knowledge's investment account ensures that your contributions will be available for the future of your community.

With your support we will continue our work for the future of your community

Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1 - P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418

Enclosed is my/our individual gift corporate gift _____

(corporate contact person)

of \$ _____ to the Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

-OR-

I/We pledge \$ _____. Enclosed is my/our payment of \$ _____.

Balance paid by _____, 20 ____.

To validate your pledge, your signature is required _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If an alumni of Palmyra/Bennet School, please list year _____

Please make checks payable to - Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

Thank you for your investment in the future.



PANTHER NEWS

February, 2016

District OR-1 Public Schools
425 F Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
<http://www.districtor1.org>

"Tell everyone you know: 'My happiness depends on me, so you're off the hook.' And then demonstrate it. Be happy, no matter what." -Abraham-Hicks
High-Way 3: Full Responsibility



Serving the Communities of
Bennet, Palmyra, and Douglas.

Special points of interest:

- Notes from the Superintendent
- Pink Panthers Reach Milestone
- Teammates News
- Kindergarten Roundup

Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

February entered like a lion reminding all of us that weather in Nebraska can be unpredictable and surprising. The recent snow also serves to remind us that we need to maintain an accurate database of contact information available to the school so that each parent is able to receive information regarding school closures, schedule changes, late starts. One new contact feature we are using with our information system has the ability to send an email as well as a phone message. We also communicate via twitter, and those feeds are automatically uploaded to the district app as well. In short, it's a good time to add our twitter feed and district app as ways to ensure we connect during weather events.



Each spring also brings a new round of NeSA testing for District OR-1 students. As we prepare at school there are also testing tips that parents and students can put into practice at home that will be of assistance on test day:

1. Meet and or communicate with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and Teacher's working together benefits students.
2. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and offer assistance with homework on a regular basis to foster good study habits and to ensure that homework is being completed.
3. Make sure that your child is well rested on school days—especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

Many teachers report that children who do not test well have not had enough sleep on a regular basis.

Superintendent: Rob Hanger
Palmyra Principal: David Bottrell
Bennet Principal: Linde Walter—
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

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The Pink Panthers once again hosted the "Pink Week" to raise money for the National Breast Cancer



Foundation this last fall. The annual event was once again held at both the football game against HTRS and the volleyball game against Yutan. Throughout the nights the teams and the Palmyra Relay for Life raised money through bake sales, concessions, T-shirt sales and a silent auction. This year's activities raised \$1,200 to send to the NBCF. Pink Panther fans have now raised \$11,200 over the last six years for donation. A Big thank you to all the volunteers, donators, fans, and the Relay for Life team for helping make the event another big success!



4. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind and a student that is ready to learn.

5. Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new vocabulary words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list.

6. Know and understand the NeSA test. You can review information at the following web site:

http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Math.htm

Building project

I would like to thank our Board of Education members for their diligence and time devoted to the current building project. The Board is currently working with the Clark Enersen Partners to move toward completion of design and construction documents in March for the Bennet building and April for the Palmyra building. The Bennet project had a head start due to the fact that the site survey had been completed last spring. Bennet also has a slight advantage in that construction may begin earlier without a significant disruption to ongoing coursework in the elementary building. As of now both projects are on schedule.

Legislation:

I recently had an opportunity to attend a legislative update sponsored by the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB). Proposed legislation that may impact public schools includes specific revisions to agriculture land valuations and proposed changes that would limit the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund used by school districts in Nebraska. District OR-1 does not currently levy for this fund; however, many other districts have used it for the removal of environmental hazards, the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers in school district buildings, the repayment of a qualified zone academy bond issued for a qualified capital purpose, and to improve specific areas of their buildings that impact air quality. According to NASB, LBs 958 and 959 would serve to tighten current spending limits on all local governments, tighten current levy limits on all local governments by removing exceptions that do not require voter approval, control growth within the school funding formula, and limit the statewide aggregate increase in the class of agricultural property to 3% per year by adjusting the value of agricultural and horticultural land. In order to achieve these goals, the legislature may need to increase state aid to schools. In



doing so, the trend of rural districts being eliminated from state equalization based on the current formula will be reversed as fewer than 90 out of 245 Nebraska school districts are equalized. Simply, additional funding to make up the difference could be required. The state may seek these funds in the form of income tax, sales tax, or a shifting of funds from another revenue source. While the current session is short, it will provide interesting discussion based on the bills that have been introduced and prioritized.

On the Federal level ESSA was passed in 2015 and has reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) originally passed in 1965.

1. It creates the opportunity for each state to reevaluate its' position regarding standardized testing and how much student assessment is necessary to measure proficiency and growth while providing shorter and perhaps fewer assessments.

2. ESSA will remove the federal mandate on teacher evaluation linked to test scores, as created in the waivers previously applied for by each state. Nebraska will be allowed to use federal funds to continue these programs if they wish to do so, or the state can completely revamp these policies as they will no longer be a condition necessary to receive federal funds.

Nebraska School Board Recognition Week:
Governor Ricketts declared January 31 to February 6, 2016 as School Board Recognition Week in Nebraska. Thanks to the many volunteers who make up the Board of Education for Nebraska's Public Schools and ESUs. At District OR-1 School Board members continue to make decisions on a "Kids First" basis and their service is greatly appreciated.

Nebraska School Board Recognition Week:

I would like to pass on the following information from the CDC:

"CDC advice to fight the Flu"

Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.



Tips to Avoid the Spread of the flu:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)

- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand rub](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child.”

March 2nd is Read Across America day. Bennet Elementary will be celebrating all week long. Read Across America is a reading program that asks every child in every community to celebrate the love of reading. District OR-1’s Education Association is sponsoring activities and supplying birthday cake for Dr. Seuss’s birthday in celebration of this event. Teachers at the elementary will be planning classroom/school-wide activities, along with contacting people from the community to read in their classrooms. For more information about Read Across America, visit www.nea.org/readacross.



For more information check out the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for taking care of students on every level. On behalf of all of us at District OR-1, I want to wish you the best for blessed and happy 2016.



Panthers In Training

Throughout winter sports season the Palmyra Lady Panthers Basketball Team has been devoting Saturday mornings to work with Bennet Elementary students in third through sixth grades. This year, twenty-four elementary students have signed up to participate and attend sessions. During these Saturday morning sessions girls focus on learning proper fundamentals, practicing those skills to make them a better basketball player, and learning the rules of the game.

Elementary participants received a “Panther In Training” T-shirt and have been

invited to attend all home games with reserved seating behind the bench. This has been a great experience for both the elementary students and the high school athletes. It has brought excitement to our program and connected our high school athletes with young members of the district. We look forward to making this a Lady Panther program tradition!



Above-left: Carly Poskochil instructs youngsters on proper shooting form. Above: Sarahi Barajas and Briley Luff take girls through a ball handling progression.

Saturday, February 27th at Palmyra Senior Center

***5-8 p.m. *7th Annual Palmyra Fire & Rescue Chili Supper**

****All Invited **Proceeds to purchase new equipment**

February is National Kindness Month

February 14th-20th is National Kindness Week and February 17th is National Kindness Day District OR1, along with our other **United Against Violence Schools**, are helping to spread the kindness message. We want to celebrate National Kindness month, week and day by creating a culture of kindness in our district and our nation.

At Bennet Elementary we are celebrating National Kindness month with two great weeks.

***February 15th -19th National Kindness Week!** We have some fun activities planned for our students:

Monday and Tuesday: "Kick off Kindness"

*We will start our Kindness journal. Every day the teacher will read some examples of being kind to others. (There are some ideas for you to share with your family at home on the back of this letter.) Kids will journal every day about acts of kindness they show to others.

*There will also be kindness stories and quotes each day read in the Daily Bulletin.

*Each class will make a "Compliment Collage" to hang in our lunch room and in the halls.

Wednesday 17th is National Kindness day!! Students and staff wear their Kindness shirt, United Against Violence shirt or any District OR 1 shirt you have.

Thursday: "Ride the kindness wave!" School Beach Day...Wear your summer/beach clothes (no swimsuits) to school. We will have a luau at lunch.

Friday: We will close our kindness week and kick off our "Bennet Caring Project" with a school pep rally. Information about the caring project will come home with students that day. The Bennet Caring Project is a way for us to make a difference as a whole school. We show kindness to those that need help and support.

We know that showing kindness is more than just one week or one day. Kindness is something we need to work on every day! Please encourage your kids to do something kind outside of school for others. Also, let them know we all have bad days....some days being kind can be hard work. It is especially hard when someone has hurt your feelings. Remember to check out the OR1 website for pictures after our Kindness week and Bennet Caring Project!

For more information go to <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>....Jen Hanger

KDG Round Up

Bennet Elementary is registering students for Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. Kindergarten Roundup will be held on Friday, April 8th from 9:00-11:00 AM. Parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting held at Bennet Elementary on Monday, April 4th at 6:30 PM.

If you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall, please call Bennet Elementary at 782.3535.

Little Panther Preschool

Little Panther Preschool is currently taking registrations for children who are interested in preschool. Please call the Bennet Elementary office to place your child's name on the list.

Box Tops

Bennet Elementary is collecting Box Tops! If you have Box Tops at home, bring them in and turn them into the office. Our school can earn cash for the Box Tops turned in. We are then able to use the cash with-in our school to buy the items we need. Every Box Top helps!

Little Panthers Preschool Accepting Requests for 2016-17 School Year

Little Panthers Preschool in Bennet is currently in the process of accepting enrollment requests for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Our classroom space is limited and we have been contacted by a number of prospective students and parents already. If you are interested in having your 3- 4 year old added the list of potential students for the 2016– 2017 school year, please contact Mrs. Draeger at Little Panthers Preschool, phone number 402-782-3035.

Our enrollment procedure used to determine the preschool class list each spring is based on the following list of criteria in order of priority:

1. Students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), living in our school district will have first priority for acceptance. The State of Nebraska set up the preschool program to help those children with the highest needs.
2. Those students living in our school district who will turn four by July 31st, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.
3. Those students living in our school district who will turn three by July 31st, oldest to youngest by birth month/day/year.

We do wish we could enroll every child, being filled to capacity with a waiting list tells us there is certainly a need within the district for the youngest members of our student population. A quality early childhood program, following Rule 11 guidelines keeps the teacher/student ratio low and matches enrollment to the capacity of the facility. These requirements are a limiting factor in our enrollment numbers and have to be taken into account.

Miscellaneous Information

- Our program meets Monday – Thursday each week. There are two sessions each day: session one meets from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. and session two meets from 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. Selection for morning or afternoons session is based on a number of factors and we cannot guarantee which session your child will attend.
- Price for a full month of Preschool is \$125. Short months are pro-rated by the week. Payment is expected by the first of each month. Meals and snacks are included as part of this fee.
- Students must be potty trained. No Pull-Ups are allowed.
- We offer limited transportation for students getting picked up or dropped off between the morning and afternoon sessions at designated childcare facilities in Bennet and at the High School in Palmyra. Parents are expected to provide all other transportation.
- Please contact Brittany Draeger at the preschool (402-782-3035), draeger.bri@districtor1.net, or Linde Walter, at the Elementary (402-782-3535), walter.lin@districtor1.net, immediately, if you would like to have your child placed on our list of prospective preschool students for the 2016-17 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact our preschool or elementary school at the phone numbers listed above.



Going for the Gold

Summer Enrichment 2016



Basic Information

*The Summer Enrichment Program will run from **June 6th – June 23rd**. It will be in session from **9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday through Thursday**. We will be learning about the Summer Olympics that will be taking place in Rio De Janeiro. We will be exploring the different events and the culture of Rio as they enhance their reading, writing, and math skills.

*Summer Enrichment is open to **ALL** students entering **Kindergarten through 6th Grade**.

*Sessions will be split depending on the number of students enrolled.

*Cost: **\$50.00**

Checks made payable to **District OR2**

*If your child is on an IEP or free and reduced lunch please contact the office for sliding fee information.

*There will be a shuttle bus picking students up from designated locations in Bennet, Douglas, and Palmyra, to transport students to and from summer enrichment.

*Registration and payment is due **April 15th, 2016**.

*No late registration will be excepted

Bennet Elementary Summer Enrichment Registration Form

Please complete a form for each student and return to the school on or before **April 15th**!

*Additional forms can be printed from the district website or can be picked up in the elementary office.

Student's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Grade Level next year (2016-2017) _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please mark how your child will be getting to school.

____ Parent Transport

____ Shuttle bus from _____

____ Walking or Riding a bike

Payment Information:

____ I have submitted the \$50.00 payment in the form of cash or check. (Check made out to District OR2)

____ I have contacted the school about the sliding fee or have a student on an IEP.

The signature represents permission for my child to participate in fieldtrip(s).

*Parents will be notified of all field trips.

Parent signature _____

Date _____



Extra Mile Walk

Bennet BackPack Program Fundraiser



The Extra Mile Walk, Bennet BackPack Program's fundraiser, is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, 2016.

This event will begin at 1:30 at the Bennet Park. The

Bennet BackPack Program has been providing a backpack of food for qualifying families each week during the school year for nine years. Staff and students, churches, community organizations and individuals have been faithfully donating to this program. The donations help to purchase the food for the backpacks from the Food Bank of Lincoln, fresh fruit from District OR1 lunch program and reimburse Decker's Food Cener for milk vouchers.

Please be ready to respond when Bennet Elementary students come by asking for your donations. Kick-off for the Extra Mile Walk will be Friday, April 8. Staff and students will collect money through April 17th. We will gather at the park to walk the "extra mile" and celebrate the Bennet BackPack Program and feeding hungry children!

Donations should be made out to the Palmyra Presbyterian Church with a notation in the memo to the Bennet BackPack Program. The Food Bank of Lincoln no longer collects and manages the money for the rural backpack programs. The Palmyra Presbyterian Church graciously agreed to collect the money and pay the bills for the program. If no one stops by and asks for your donation you can mail it to Palmyra Presbyterian Church, 1297 G Rd, Palmyra, NE 68418. Thank you for supporting the Bennet BackPack Program!

What do you get when you have ten marshmallows, ten pretzels, ten Fruit Loops, ten Goldfish crackers, ten Cocoa Puffs, ten pieces of popcorn, ten Cheez-It crackers, ten cheerios, ten raisins and ten M&M's? One hundred pieces of food makes a delicious snack!



First graders marked the 100th day of school Thursday, January 21st by making this awesome snack. This was a great extension for their math topic too. Students had been working on counting by 10's to 120 that week in math class. They explored larger numbers using a 120 chart and a place value chart. This 100th day snack was a fun way to practice counting by 10's. Try it, you might like it!



Ag in the Classroom

According to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize over 45 million acres, or about 92% of the state's total land area. During 2013, Nebraska had almost 50,000 farms and ranches with the average operation consisting of about 900 acres (www.nda.nebraska.gov). In addition, one of four jobs in Nebraska is related to agriculture. Simply put, in the Cornhusker State, agriculture is vital.

Because agriculture is such an important part of our lives, we wanted our 4th graders to learn more about it. This year, we are participating in the program Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom through Farm Bureau. This program is designed to help students understand the importance of agriculture and create an awareness of how agriculture impacts our daily lives. Through this program, the students are learning about harvesting crops (mostly corn and soybeans) as well as the basics of beef and dairy cattle and swine through online lessons via Skype with the Ag Coordinator of the program.

An additional part of this program includes an Ag Pen Pal. Our 4th graders were paired with the Lundeen family from Minden, NE. The goal is for the students to write letters back and forth with the family, learning about daily life on the farm and all of the ins-and-outs of harvesting and planting. In the first part of November we wrote our first letter.

To assist the students in writing their first letter, we thought it would be fun and educational to actually visit a farm right around our area. On November 9th, we took a field trip to the Schroder farm, just north of Palmyra. Kevin & Denise Schroder raise corn, soybeans and wheat and also have cattle and hogs. On our trip, the students were able to get their hands dirty during many different hands-on activities. First, they observed all the different steps of harvesting and processing corn, from the field to the grain bin and making it into feed. Each 4th grader had a chance to shuck an ear of corn by hand to show them just how much work it really is and how much time it saves farmers if they use a combine instead. After they shucked the corn and shelled the kernels, the students got to see what ground up corn looked like. Farmer Kevin also gave them the task of picking apart the soybean pods and counting how many beans each pod held.

Next, the students had the opportunity to view the equipment needed during harvest and take an up-close tour of these giant machines! Two lucky students, Korban & Karter Nider, were chosen to go for a ride in the combine as Farmer Kevin finished harvesting a small patch of corn. Once the patch was picked, they boys helped unload the combine into a grain cart. The students watching were amazed at the how fast the corn was rushing out of the auger! Mr. Schroder then explained the process of what happens to the corn once he loads it onto the semi.





In addition to seeing the crops, the students were also able to see the livestock Mr. Schroder had on his farm. The students ventured over to a carrier loaded with a few hogs. It was enlightening for them to hear Farmer Kevin explain how his swine operation is run. Students also got a glimpse of the inside of one of the hog sheds. Many of the students had never seen pigs up close so the comments they made about the smell were quite entertaining! A couple of weaned calves were the next sight to see on the list. Mr. Schroder explained the process of weaning calves and why cows are a vital part of his farm.



The final and favorite activity on the farm was jumping on the hay bales. Farmer Kevin explained how the bales were made and showed them the machinery required to create bales of that magnitude. The students had a blast climbing on top of them and jumping from one to the next. Many of them couldn't believe how tall they were! They also had the great pleasure of experiencing the dust that is associated with wheat harvest!

As you can see, the students learned a lot of new information about agriculture through the hands on learning during the activities. They had a wonderful time and had many insightful questions for Farmer

Kevin to answer! Stay tuned for more adventures from our Ag in the Classroom experiences!

Preschoolers Experiment with Water:

Will it Sink or Float?

During this experiment, preschool students used science skills of prediction and observation as well as math skills of counting and graphing. Each preschool student brought one item from home for the water experiment. In small groups, the student predicted if each object would sink or float. The students recorded the results on a graph. Students were surprised to discover that not all large items sink and not all small items float.

Left: Kenli Peterson and Grant Wheatley
Right: Ella Hammon and Taryn Moyer





Palmyra FFA Successful in the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Program

Palmyra FFA attended the 4th Annual Innovative Youth Corn Challenge Banquet, January 22 at the East Campus Union of the University of Nebraska. Garret Talcott, Ryan Hoover and Morgan Storant received 1st place Innovative Corn Challenge project and 2nd place for the overall Innovative Corn Challenge project with \$750.00 in cash awards. The Challenge is sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board and the University of Nebraska Extension Service. It gives youth the opportunity to test and apply experimental ag research to corn plots on their farms and write a scientific report of the results.

Last spring the group plotted approximately six acres of test plots on the Talcott Farm using three as check plots and three as test plots. The study they chose was the application of corn sweetener to the test plots during the growing season and measure if there was an increase in stalk strength and yield. The adverse weather of 37 inches of rain and high wind storms made it impossible to measure stalk strength but there was a small increase of yield. Thanks to Norris Talcott the Adult mentor, the Nebraska Corn Board and Brandy VanDeWalle, UNL Extension agent from Fillmore County for helping with and conducting the Challenge.



Tad Pole to Frog to Caterpillar to Butterfly, First Grade Learns About Life Cycles

Students in first grade have spent the last couple weeks learning about life cycles. They took a closer look at the life cycles of frogs and caterpillars. Our reading stories correlated well with characters in *Frog and Toad*

In the Garden and *I'm a Caterpillar*, which was a wonderful tie in with our science curriculum. Students were given the opportunity to learn through reading about these animals and their life cycles, becoming poets and developing Cinquain poems about

frogs, and doing some hands on learning as they created their own life cycle models of a caterpillar. We finished off our life cycle discussion with a fun treat, making delicious, edible butterflies.



District OR 1 Listens to an Expert on Bullying

Brooks Gibbs, best-selling author, speaker and social-skills educator, spoke to a District OR 1 school assembly comprised of grades 5-12 on Wednesday morning, November 4th at the Palmyra High School gymnasium. Students were treated to an entertaining and energizing talk instructing them to be strong and resilient in the face of adversity. When confronted by bullying behavior, students were shown how to be empowered and creative in their response. Mr. Gibbs spoke and sang about the power that every person has to solve his or her own problems and choose his or her own way. Citing recent psychological and behavioral research, as well as centuries old wisdom, Brooks encourages students to navigate life using the “Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” “You don’t have to be religious to see the wisdom in that statement,” said Gibbs, “In fact, it has been around for centuries in one form or another in every culture.”

In the last decade, Brooks Gibbs has presented to more than one thousand school assemblies, spoken to over a million students, and been featured as an expert in publications like The Huffington Post, New York Times, and FOX news. His book, entitled *LOVE is greater than HATE*, made a TOP 10 list on Amazon.com. “The Top 10 Books to Help Teens.” More information about Brooks Gibbs and his message can be found at www.goldenruleschool.com.

Funding to bring Mr. Gibbs to all four Otoe County high schools was provided by Partners for Otoe County United Against Violence and Substance Abuse Prevention grants.



Mr. Tim Tewes, President of NELNET comes to speak to PHS

“How many of you have downloaded and read the Parent-Student Handbook from your school district website?” None of the hands went in the air; there was a stunned awkward silence. So began the talk on student leadership Mr. Tim Tewes, President of Nelnet, shared with the junior and senior students of Palmyra High School. The emphasis of his talk was that while there may be a number of rules, several pages of them in the handbook, that pertain to what a student should *not* do, there are a number of things students *can* do to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. That would require individual leadership of a personal kind.

Mr. Tewes shared much from his personal life and business experience. Nelnet is a financial services company managing about 5 million student loan accounts. It serves more than 1,000 institutions of high learning and has nearly 3,000 employees with offices in the United State, Canada and Australia. He encouraged students to focus on the positive. Student leaders are to have fun (who doesn’t want to be around someone who is having fun?); join things (activities, clubs, athletics); lead by practicing good behavior, making wise choices and influencing others to do the same; help someone who asks for it; serve someone who needs it; stand up for someone who cannot stand

up for themselves; read widely (readers are leaders) and follow (you don’t have to in charge, you can let others lead!).

Leaders do seven things well. They do it for the team, striving to work well with others. They leave their egos at the door. They influence by example rather than tell others what to do. They give 100% or more and strive every day to do just a little bit better. They think before they launch into action, taking time to plan then execute the plan. They help others. And, finally, they let others lead, allowing others to grow.

He concluded with an action plan for personal growth. Talk to someone ten years older than you; they will have been out of high school for ten years and will have a unique perspective. Do a good thing for someone for no reason at all, not expecting anything in return. Talk to someone twenty years older than you; they will be established in a career and offer another point of view. Thank someone, gratitude grows you. Talk to someone thirty years older than you; they will be close to your parent’s age, maybe even friends of your parents. Tell someone how awesome they are. Talk to someone 40 years older than you, perhaps your school counselor. Join something, be a part of something bigger than yourself.

Pictured from left to right are: Mr. Tim Tewes, president of Nelnet; Miguel Barajas, senior at PHS and a TeamMates mentee; Mr. Wil Tewes, father of Tim and TeamMates mentor to Miguel.

Mr. Tewes was invited to Palmyra by the school chapter of the TeamMates Mentoring Program. Miguel Barajas organized the presentation and introduced the speaker as part of a personal leadership project he worked on with his mentor, Wil Tewes. TeamMates provides mentoring opportunities for school aged youth in grades 3-12 through the school year. Students are nominated by staff, teachers, parents and themselves. Successful mentees are those who work with their mentor to form goals and achieve results. Miguel has grown tremendously and is looking to attend Peru State College in the fall and enter the Criminal Justice program. As a college going TeamMate senior he will be eligible to receive several TeamMates scholarships.



Palmyra High School National Honors Society at Southlake Village

On Sunday afternoon, January 10, several members of the Palmyra High School chapter of the National Honor Society took a trip to Southlake Village, a local rehabilitation and care center. It is a village themed campus, representing several of the streets and landmarks of Lincoln. The center is located at 9401 Andermatt Drive, on the extreme southeast edge of Lincoln, just off of Highway 2. Coordinating the tour and service opportunity was FrankieJo Dowding, the Vice-President of the NHS and a senior at PHS. Ms. Dowding works part-time as the receptionist at the skilled nursing facility.

While on the campus FrankieJo lead her NHS fellow members through the various stations, introducing them to the staff and employees. They also took the time to visit with some of the residents. One noteworthy encounter was with a man who had just moved in from Las Vegas where he had been a magician. He regaled the students with stories and card tricks. In addition to outside service opportunities, the NHS of Palmyra hosts tutoring for both schools on Tuesday's and Thursday's in the PHS Library.

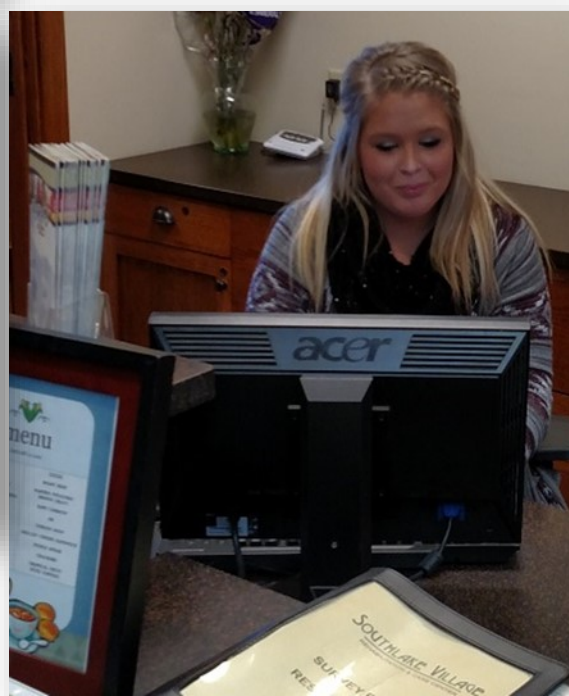
National Honor Society is a nationwide student organization in the United States and consists of

many chapters in high schools. Selection is based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, character. The national Honor Society requires some sort of service to the community, school, or other organizations. The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Left: One of the new residents of Southlake Village is attempting to demonstrate a card trick for the PHS students.



Above: Present for the service event were, from left to right: Sarma Rutmanis, Olivia Wensel, FrankieJo Dowding, Jacob Koelzer, Houston Hornby, Carly Poskochil and Olivia Versaw. Right: Frankie Jo Dowding leads NHS members through stations.



Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas

TEAMMATES[®]

MENTORING PROGRAM

Together We Transform Lives

TeamMates Mentoring Program's mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring. The Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates Mentoring Program is doing that very thing with its eighteen mentor-mentee matches. The program also has three students are waiting to be matched and six adults have just completed their training to become mentors. The eighteen students who are currently matched meet weekly with their mentor throughout the school year. It is a time to play games, eat lunch, visit and get to know one another. The mentor and the mentee both benefit from this positive relationship.

January was mentor appreciation month and the Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas Mentoring Program recognized their mentor-mentee matches at the half-time of the boys basketball game Friday, January 22nd. Thirteen of the mentors and mentees were on hand. The group also ran the concessions stand that night and offered a silent auction to raise money for their scholarship fund and program activities.

Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas Mentoring Program has a couple of activities coming up in the next few months. Their annual burger and bowling outing is planned for Sunday, February 21st. In April they will celebrate the growth of their program and recognize graduating senior Miguel Barajas at their banquet Sunday, April 10th at Palmyra High School. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a catered meal followed by a speaker. Tickets for the event will go on sale March 1st.



If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee contact Mr. Chaffee at chaffee.mic@districtor1.net, 402-780-5327, ext. 315. If you want to donate to the program for the scholarship fund or program activities you can mail your donation to Palmyra-Bennet-Douglas TeamMates Mentoring Program, P.O. 130, Palmyra, NE 68410



A Pinch of Speech

Throughout the year, we have done several fun articulation craftivities. Each activity targets specific speech sounds based on students' IEP goals. For Valentine's day, students made crabs with their articulation target words on the legs. Prior to starting each craftivity, we engage students in a gross motor activity to "collect" pieces of the craft. As they collect each piece, they think of a word with their target sound, and the word is written for future practice. During following speech sessions, the students perform fine motor tasks to assemble the craftivity, while practicing their target words. Students enjoy these activities because it provides an alternative and fun way to practice their speech sounds, in contrast to the typical drill and practice. When the craftivity is complete, students get to take their finished product home to practice target words with their family. Enjoy the pictures of our most recent "Pinch of Love" craftivity. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Moore

Learning More About Digital Arts

By Matt Smidt, K-12 Media Specialist

Last year, PHS began a Junior High Exploratory block during 4th and 5th periods. So what exactly does Mr. Smidt teach with his group of students 5th period? This year, we are focusing on Digital Arts. There are eight main areas of focus. The course starts with a basic introduction of digital arts. Then we move into digital photography and image editing, where students learn about perspective, the Rule of Thirds, and software they can use to edit their photos when using their iPads-Photoshop Express is one example. Next is audio and learning the differences in analog and digital, along with editing audio. Following audio, we look at video, 2D and 3D animation, and Digital SFX (Special Effects). Students learn about web basics and web design, they create their own website and learn a basic introduction to coding. We finish the course with a brief history of gaming and looking at Virtual Reality and how it helps people with injuries or recovering from PTSD, and what the future may hold for digital arts. We also talk about Fair Use, copyright, Creative Commons, Cyberbullying, and the right students have as creators of digital art. With the current trimester group, all assignments have been uploaded to e-Backpack for students to complete assignments in class on their iPads.



Mr. Gabriel's 8th period building construction and maintenance class constructed a solid walnut bench. The bench was built by Louis Pavey and Alex Broening. The class started this project about two weeks into the school year. They started by selecting the best pieces of wood that were provided to them. The most grueling part was next which involved sanding each individual piece until they were nice and smooth and had eliminated most of the saw blade marks left by the mill. They then would design exactly how the bench should look. It took us about two and a half months to sand every piece.

The construction of the bench would now commence beginning with the cutting and planning of the legs ,so they could sit properly on the floor. They then fastened the seat up onto the legs. Next was the challenge of creating a back that would not be over cumbersome for the screws that would be driven into the legs of the bench. The crew worked diligently in assembling the parts and picks of the bench together with the braces in the legs to make the bench more stable or the crafting of the plugs to make the screw holes seemingly disappear they worked hard and with outstanding progress until winter break.

After winter break the bench was slowly reaching its final stages. It now had only needed a final sanding, finish and a wax. We started the new year of by taking our time sanding every inch to get rid of any blemishes created while we worked on assembling the bench. We then left the finish application up to Mr. Gabriel so we would not create such a mess in his shop. The finish then had to sit a couple of days to cure all the way. We then were able to put on the wax. We applied the wax in a matter of moments and had it ready to be shipped out of the shop and up the the senior hallway in no time and finally after five months of hard work and devotion the bench was finally complete and in its resting place.



Mr. Davenport 2nd Semester

The start of second semester has brought new concepts and experiences to the high school science students. The students in Anatomy and Physiology have been learning about the special senses of the human body. The students were able to apply their knowledge of the eye by dissecting a sheep eye. Along with the special sense of sight, the students were also introduced to the special senses of taste, hearing, and smell. To test the different receptors in the mouth, the students were blind folded and had a taste and smelling contest. By applying the knowledge of the different taste and smelling receptors humans have, they were able to identify over 90 percent of foods and drinks. Currently, the class is being introduced to the structure and function of the heart.



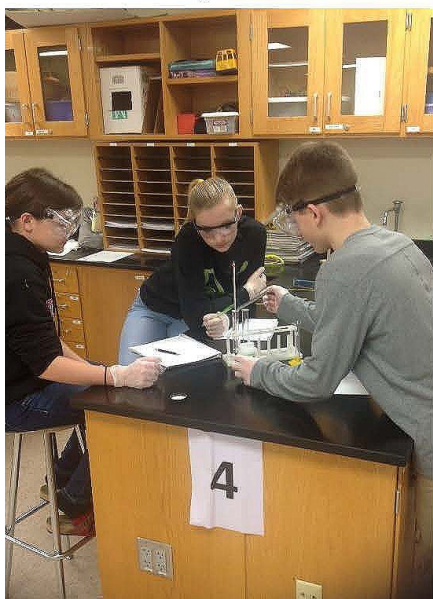
Physics mobile project

In the upper level Physics class, the class has been applying old knowledge and concepts to concepts that they see in everyday life. The students have been activities that range from making balloons travel according to Isaac Newton's 3rd Law of Motion to building mobile projects. Working our way into February, the students have been learning about momentum and impulse of objects. The class has been looking at collisions of objects and finding the final velocity of the objects. Our next area will be talking about energy and the different forms it



A Physics mobile project

This semester in Chemistry, the two classes have been working with how elements bond to other elements. They have worked with ionic bonds and are currently working with covalent bonds.



The students have made reactions where they combine magnesium with oxygen by placing it in fire. They have also worked with endothermic and exothermic reactions, and the different characteristics that associated with each kind of reaction. In the future, the class will work with balancing equations, molecular mass, and hot air balloons.

Science 9 students are near finishing the Chemistry aspect of physical science. In second semester the students have also developed an understanding of covalent and ionic bonds, balancing equations, and the different kind of chemical reactions that can occur. In the future, the class will be looking at the half-lives of radioactive isotopes, energy, and stellar evolution.

Briley Luff, Jenna Wilen, and Koby Dillon perform a science experiment.

FFA BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a blood drive on March 8 from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Please call 402-780-5327

to reserve your spot to save a life.



“Et tu, Brute?”

By Cassidy Buescher

Betrayal, the individual versus the greater good, the power of speech, fate versus free will, the connection between love and violence, and the power or true love...these are just a few of the themes that the 9th and 10th graders are exploring this quarter through the words and poetry of William Shakespeare.

The 9th grade English class is investigating the power of love with Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*. Through discussion of dramatic devices such as monologues, soliloquies, and asides, foil characters and tragic heroes with tragic flaws, dramatic irony, and literary devices such as metaphor, simile, and personification, the students explore the world of drama in a new way. Romeo and Juliet ask their audi-

ences to consider the ways in which good and evil, love and hatred, “grace and rude-will,” exist together in our human nature. Romeo's tragic flaw, his impulsive nature, reminds us to make our decisions, “wisely and slow,” for “they stumble that run fast.” The wise and practical friar tells the lovers that they must get a handle on their passion for one another, for “These violent delights have violent ends... like fire and powder which as they kiss consume.” Instead he suggests they “love moderately. Long love doth so.” With romance, action, family drama, loyalty among friends, death, and comic relief, this play has something for everyone, and the students are finding the excitement exhilarating.

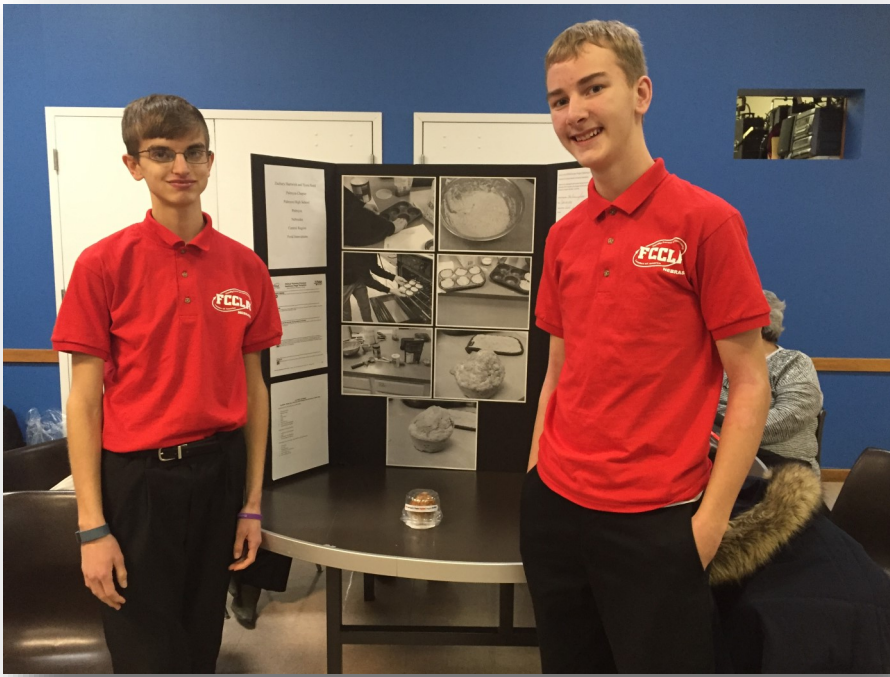
The 10th grade is in a whole different world, exploring ancient Rome in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. After defeating his rivals, Caesar prepares to take complete power of Rome. Little does he know, a group of conspirators is planning his demise in order to prevent him from turning the Roman Republic into a Roman Empire. In shock that even his friend Brutus would betray him, Caesar is stabbed 23 times on the floor of the senate, unknowingly starting a war that threatens to tear Rome in two. The students are furthering their knowledge of Shakespeare's language, and seeing another side of his plays with this political drama featuring murder, betrayal, war, and loyalty.

Scientists and psychologists have conducted studies in which they find elevated levels of brain activity in students while reading Shakespeare. His manipulation of the English language leads us to think deeply about the meaning of his words, which have clearly made an influential impact on even our modern language.

It is estimated that Shakespeare added around 1500 new words to the English language. Whenever we use our mind's eye, to find method in someone's madness, as they eat us out of house and home, because we thought they had a heart of gold and a spotless reputation but we were actually living in a fool's paradise; whenever we decide that discretion is the better part of valour or detect something in the wind; whenever we remark that brevity is the soul of wit, that love is blind or caution someone that all that glistens is not gold or advise someone to be neither a lender nor a borrower; from the salad days of youth, through the pomp and circumstance of marriage to the sea change of retirement, until we exclaim what the dickens!, accept the unkindest cut of all, and shuffle off this mortal coil, we are speaking Shakespeare's language.

--Ross Farrelly, "Why Study Shakespeare," Sydney's Child, 2003

Shakespeare does more than make us examine our language. He also makes us explore themes and characters that require us to search the depths of our souls to answer. His stories give our students a means through which to gain life lessons and a deeper understanding of human nature. His characters, though centuries old, are universal, and the students connect to them in the most enlightening ways. It may be difficult for the students, especially at first, but the benefits outweigh the challenges in the end. So even if the students see reading Shakespeare as madness, “Though this be madness, yet there is method in't.” — William Shakespeare, Hamlet



FCCLA: On Friday, January 22, Zachary Hartwick and Tyson Reed represented Palmyra High School at District 1 Family, Career, Community, Leaders of America (FCCLA) in Students Taking Action for Recognition (S.T.A.R.). S.T.A.R. has over 40 different categories for competition for students to select from in the junior and senior high level.

Zach and Tyson selected Food Innovation. In this competition they were to produce a nutritious breakfast item that would appeal to their age group using old world grains. They used a product Kind Healthy Grains with buckwheat, millet, amaranth, and quinoa in the mix to create a health muffin. With more thought, they decided to use applesauce in place of oil and flax seed for the egg in the recipe. They wanted to use almond butter for a glaze on the muffin

which created some problems. That was remedied by thinning with applesauce. After three tries they had a muffin that was liked by most. They competed at Peru State College in the Junior High level receiving a Silver Award for their Nutritious Old World Grain Blueberry Muffin with Almond Butter Glaze.

Industrial Arts:

Thank you to the community members for the generosity in donating to the Industrial Technology and Ag departments and allowing our students to be creative with their welding skills and artistic abilities. Many of the students in the welding classes took the opportunity to weld on horse shoes donated by Dan Lionberger and family and also railroad spikes donated by Matt Vaughn and family. I would like to personally thank these two families for supporting the programs along with thanking the students in showing such great interest in the fabrication of the articles that you see in the pictures, good job by all.



30th Annual Class 'C' All-State Band

Saturday, March 29th, 2016

Kearney High School, Kearney, Nebraska

Each year, the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association recognizes the most gifted high school band members from across the state by selecting the Class All-State Bands. This year, Palmyra Jr. and Sr. High School had 25 out of the 29 students who auditioned, named to the Class C All-State Bands. In the HS, four students were awarded first chair placements and 12 of the 14 students were placed in the top ensemble. Our Jr. High had 5 first chair placements.

The class C directors decided last year to add a JUNIOR HIGH band - as it's the 30th year of Class C All-State! Students who wish to be considered for the group must prepare scales and music to be recorded and sent to judges. The judges listened to 444 recordings from 38 Class C Schools and chose the best of each instrument. Between the four ensembles 289 students were accepted. They will get to rehearse with top-level collegiate conductors and perform a final concert at the Kearney High Auditorium. The bands and their conductors are as followed: **Junior High Band** - conducted by: Jim Schulz, **Symphonic Band** - conducted by: Dr. Michelle Bluford, Wind **Ensemble** - conducted by: Dr. Jay Gilbert, **Jazz Band** - conducted by: Patrick Sieben

Congratulations on all of your hard work. Those selected will gather together in Kearney in late March for a full day of making music together. The date is Saturday, March 19th, 2016 - I hope you are able to attend.

Jr. High Band Members

Sarah Davis-Kovarik Flute – 7th Chair
 Trinity Bohaty Clarinet – 1st Chair
 Zoe Rose Bass Clarinet – 2nd Chair
 Faith Pracht..... Tenor Saxophone – 1st Chair
 Henry Iwan Bari Saxophone – 1st Chair
 Austin David..... Trumpet – 1st Chair
 Michael Bogart Trombone – 3rd Chair
 Kaleb Kempkes Trombone – 4th Chair
 Jacob Pracht..... Baritone – 2nd Chair
 Gwen Leuschen Mallet Percussion – 1st Chair
 Michael Rempel..... Timpani – 2nd Chair

HS Symphonic Band Members

Abbie Frazee..... Flute – 7th Chair
 Logan Wendt Mallet Percussion – 2nd Chair

HS Wind Ensemble Members

Madysen Cox.....Flute – 1st Chair
 Anya Bogen.....Flute – 4th Chair
 Mariam Alhachami.....Flute – 6th Chair
 Makayla RoederClarinet – 12th Chair
 Sarahi Barajas.....Alto Saxophone – 2nd Chair
 Carly PoskochilTenor Saxophone – 1st Chair
 Lyndsey Sheil1st Trumpet – 4th Chair
 Grace LeuschenFrench Horn – 1st Chair
 Jacob FurtwanglerBaritone – 2nd Chair
 Jake Myers.....Baritone – 4th Chair
 Grace BrileyTimpani – 1st Chair
 Zach HartwickBatter Percussion – 3rd Chair

High School Class C Participants



Jr. High School Class C Participants



Save the Date!



Friday, June 3rd is the 6th Annual
PHS Golf Scramble.

More details to come in the following weeks via school newsletter, school website, and/or Twitter.

In the meantime, we are always looking for players and/or sponsors, so please consider if you'd like to be a part of this great event. Last year we had over 125 players and many great sponsors. We appreciate your support which allows us to bring together alumni, friends, and family of PHS for a day of golf and fun.

This tournament partners with the District OR1 Foundation for Knowledge, and together, they provide an annual scholarship to one or more graduating seniors from PHS with funds raised from the tournament.

If you have any questions, or are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Tyler Maas @ maas.tyl@districtor1.net

“Be Our Guest” at the Palmyra production of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*

March 31st & April 1st at 7:00 pm

April 3rd at 3:00 pm.

Admission \$3.00 at the door.

Homeade pie and drinks will be available for purchase before the show and during intermission.



District OR1 Driver Education Class

District OR1 is offering a Driver Education Class at Palmyra High School this Summer. The Classroom portion starts Tuesday, May 31st and concludes Monday, June 6th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Driving portion will start Tuesday, June 7th and continue until each student has met the required 5 hours of practical driving and passed a Final Driving Exam. Driving dates and times will be scheduled during the Classroom portion. Students will pair up for a 4 day, 3 hour period with each student driving 1.5 hours. Students must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2016 to take this class. Enrollment begins now with a 20 student limit. Pick up an application from Mr. Wergin or High School Principal Secretary Jane Powell

DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017

August 2016

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2016

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October 2016

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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November 2016

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December 2016

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2016

- 8-Aug Football Practice begins.
- 10-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 11-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 12-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 15-Aug First Day of School
- 15-Aug Start of Fall Practice

September 2016

- 5-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
- 20-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.

October 2016

- 17-Oct Start 2nd Quarter
- 20-Oct 1:30 Dismissal Fall Break
- 21-Oct NO SCHOOL Fall Break

November 2016

- 14-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 25-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2016

- 22-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 22-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 23-Dec Winter Vacation December 22-January 1
- 23-27 Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2017

- 2,3 Jan Winter Vacation
- 4-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 16-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher Inservice No School

February 2017

- 6-Feb Teacher In-Service No School
- 7-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 10-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 27-Feb Start of Spring Practice

March 2017

- 3-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 9-Mar End of Third Quarter 1:30 Dismissal
- 10-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 13-Mar Start 4th Quarter

April 2017

- 13-Apr Everyone Dismissed at 1:30pm for Easter Break
- 14-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 17-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

May 2017

- 13-May Graduation
- 17-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis. **179 student days**
- 18-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S. **185 total days for teachers**
- 19-May Teacher Work Day

Note: Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10.

January 2017

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2017

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26	27	28				

March 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2017

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2017

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

No School Bennet Elementary
Teacher days
Vacation Days
Parent Teacher conf.
Early Dismissal