



Panther Weekly Bulletin

Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Pancakes Syrup Bacon	Cheese Omelet Wheat Toast	Egg Patty Sausage Patty Cheese English Muffin Potato Triangle	Baked French Toast Sausage Links	Circle Donut Yogurt Parfait

Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Chicken Fajita Peppers & Onions Green Beans Lime Cilantro Rice	Chili Fritos Peas Cinnamon Roll	Crispitos Cheese Sauce Refried Beans	Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Broccoli Dinner Roll	Fish Sticks Baby Ranch Po- tatoes Carrots

Happening this week at PHS

Monday, January 12th- FFA CDE Practice, 7:30 am.

Doane Honor Choir @ Doane College.

Quiz Bowl Radio Challenge 8:30 am.

Girls Varsity Mudecas Basketball Tournament vs Falls City SH @ Beatrice Auditorium 3:30 pm. Bus leaves at 1:45 pm.

Tuesday, January 13th- Boys Varsity Mudecas Basketball Tournament vs. Johnson Brock @ Beatrice Auditorium 5:00 pm. Bus leaves at 2:45 pm.

Wednesday, January 14th- FFA CDE Practice, 7:30 am.

FCCLA Meeting 7:45 am.

Thursday, January 15th- Youth Frontiers Retreat for 7th grade students, 8:15 am– 3:00 pm.

Boys/Girls Mudecas Basketball Tournament TBA

Informational meeting for JH Boys interested in wrestling, 3:25 pm in Mr. Reed's room.

Girls Varsity Wrestling vs. Waverly and Plattsmouth @ PHS West Gym 5:00 pm.

Friday, January 16th- High School Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library 7:30 am.

Girls Mudecas Basketball Tournament TBA.

Boys Varsity Invitational @ Weeping Water 2:00 pm. Bus leaves at 11:00 am.

Saturday, January 17th- Boys Mudecas Basketball Tournament TBA

Speech Meet @ Raymond Central 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

Sunday, January 18th- Driver's Education Class, 8:30 am, PHS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 19th– No School, Martin Luther King Day.

Driver's Education Class 8:30 am, PHS.

Tuesday, January 20th– Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Conestoga,
Girls JV 4:30 pm, Boys JV 4:30 pm, Girls Varsity 6:00 pm, Boys Varsity 7:15
pm.

Wednesday, January 21st– Technology/ Social Media/ AI Parent Meet-
ing 6:00 pm.

Thursday, January 22nd– JH Girls Basketball @ Elmwood Murdock 4:00
pm.

Friday, January 23rd– High School Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library
7:30 am.

Girls Varsity Wrestling @ Battle Creek 9:00 am.

Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Louisville 10:00 am.

Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Yutan @ PHS. Girls JV 4:30 pm, Boys JV
4:30 pm, Girls Varsity 5:45 pm, Boys Varsity 7:15 pm.

Saturday, January 24th– Girls Varsity Wrestling @ Weeping Water 9:30
am.

GO PANTHERS!

Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

(402) 782-3535 50 Dogwood St, Bennet, NE 68317 ostrander.mel@districtor1.net



Newsletter - Jan 9th, 2026

Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

Principal's Update

Strategic Planning Parent Survey

We're beginning the work of shaping the next five years of District OR-1, and your voice matters. We invite you to take a few minutes to complete our strategic planning survey and share your thoughts, priorities, and hopes for our district. Your input will help guide the decisions we make together for our students, staff, and community.

Please complete the survey by Friday, January 16th

[District OR-1 Parent/Guardian and Community Patron Strategic Planning Survey: January 2025](#)

Car Lane Dismissal Process

To keep our dismissal line safe, smooth, and efficient, please follow the expectations below:

- Continue pulling all the way forward until you reach the front cone or the staff member directing traffic.
- If there is a gap in the car line, please keep moving up. This helps us load more students at the same time and prevents the line from backing up onto the street.
- Only stop directly in front of where your child is waiting **if there is no gap in the lane**. Otherwise, continue pulling forward and your child will walk up to meet you.
- Students will be directed to walk forward to your vehicle, which allows us to load multiple cars simultaneously.
- Once your child is safely in the vehicle, please signal and exit the lane carefully.

Thank you for helping us keep dismissal running safely and efficiently for all families.

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Panther Ball Club Registration

Registration for Panther Ball Club opens January 5th and runs through January 23rd. Late registration is available January 24th–26th for a \$25 late fee. Sign up online at: <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/pantherball>

Don't miss out on the fun, get your spot early and help your child join the action this season!

Special Education Parent Survey

The Nebraska Department of Education is inviting parents of students who are age 3-21 and currently receiving special education services to take part in a parent survey for District OR-1. This survey is confidential and will be used to facilitate improving services for students with disabilities. This survey link is open until April 27, 2026. If you have questions please contact Linde Walter at walter.lin@districtor1.net. Thank you for your time.

[Parent Survey Link District OR1](#)

Winter Weather Clothing

As we transition from fall to winter weather, please help your child come to school prepared for the day's temperatures. Students go outside for recess as long as the weather allows, so be sure they have appropriate jackets, hats, and gloves when needed. Guidance for jackets and recess wear as well as indoor recess can be found below. We strongly recommend labeling your child's jackets and coats with their name. This helps ensure that their items are returned to them instead of sitting unclaimed in the lost and found. Our lost and found is located by the entryway. Please take a moment to visit the lost and found if your child is missing any items.

Dismissal Changes

Coordinating the dismissal plans for 350 students each day is extremely challenging and time consuming for the office staff. If you have a change request, we ask that these are communicated to the office by 2:00 each day. Ideally, the transportation plan is consistent day to day. We understand that some days a change is needed. However, receiving these requests within an hour of dismissal is a challenge for ensuring timely communication to staff to ensure these students get to where they need to go. Please assist in helping make this process smooth and effective.

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Bus Changes

Due to limited bus drivers and seating, we are unable to support students riding to a friend's house. Students can be bused home according to their regular route, and we are unable to provide transportation to other locations. We will continue to have daily shuttles from the elementary school and high school. Thank you for understanding.

Arrival Procedures

Students in the Rec Program may be dropped off starting at 7:00. All other students should arrive no earlier than 7:50 unless they are riding the bus or attending the Rec Program. The front doors will open at 7:50, and staff will begin monitoring the drop-off line at that time. Students dropped off before 7:50 will be unsupervised and the doors will be locked. Breakfast will be served from 7:50 to 8:20 daily. During arrival, students will gather in the Bennet Commons until 8:20 and then be escorted to classrooms. The school day starts at 8:20, and the tardy bell rings at 8:25.

If you are dropping a student off to ride the morning bus shuttles to PHS and have elementary students with them, we cannot provide supervision for students prior to 7:30. Please have students wait in the car until this time as the buses do not arrive until 7:30.

Parent Drop Off and Pickup Procedures

A few reminders that I would like to share to help everyone get in and out quickly:

- Please have students enter and exit your vehicle on the passenger side of your vehicle. The drop off lane is extremely effective and the safety of your student is our top priority. By doing this, we can ensure that students are not in zones of traffic and are not in harm's way.
- If you are using the parent drop/pick up lanes, please stay in your vehicles. If you would like to park and walk up, please utilize the parking spaces in the interior of the parent pickup/dropoff lane.
- In the afternoon **only**, Kindergarten parents may utilize the bus drop off lane for pickup for Kindergarten students and older siblings. Grades 1-5 will continue to use the primary pickup/dropoff lane. Teachers have now been assigned zones to help aid in the location of your students to help you get in and out quickly.

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Upcoming Events

- Jan 13- Bennet Boosters Meeting- 7:00
- Jan 19- No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 30- Panther Luau (Information to Follow)
- Feb 11- 1:00 Dismissal- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb 11- Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb 12- No School- PT Conferences/ Teacher PD
- Feb 13-16- No School

PowerSchool

Please check PowerSchool to view grades, missing assignments, and lunch balances. If you need to set up your account, please call Melissa in the office.

District Calendar

[25-26 District Calendar](#)

Transportation

If you have any questions regarding busing, please contact Cathy Fick at 402-540-2879.

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● Panther Paw Winners ●



SAFE
RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE

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Quarter 2

Specialist Team Newsletter

Music

Our K-2 & 3-4th grade music students had wonderful winter concerts! It was so nice to hear their awesome singing voices showing off for you! Their excitement was felt throughout the land!

Our 5th grade Band and Bennet Singers gave their concert on December 11th to a full gym. It was wonderful to hear how they have developed musically throughout the years. The Bennet singers are now singing in 2 part harmony, and showed good balance between both parts with all voices being heard. The band students are also learning how their individual parts fit into an ensemble and are becoming successful at it! Both Mr. Furrow and myself can't wait to see how our Bennet musicians continue their music skills in the future!

We wrapped up the semester with all-school holiday games and a sing along in the gym. It was an absolute blast to hear the kids belting out Jingle Bells; Rudolph and We Wish You a Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas everyone!

- Mrs. McCreight



Upcoming

April 21 - 5th Grade Band & Bennet Singers Spring Concert

Library

Fourth grade students completed a research project on a country of their choice. Using both a book about their country and reliable internet sources, students researched specific required topics and typed several paragraphs to share what they learned. Each project also included a few pictures to support their information.

Fifth grade students wrote a five-paragraph research paper on a famous person of their choice and learned how to properly cite websites. To accompany their writing, they created a slideshow presentation. One project requirement was a multimedia slide that included an embedded video featuring their chosen person.

- Mr. Smidt

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Quarter 2



Computer

 Bennet Computer Room Update! We've had a busy and exciting semester in computer class! Each grade level has accomplished so much, and I'm thrilled to share their progress with you.

Second grade learned all about the different parts of a computer and how each one works together. They've also fished a big research project called "Night Hunters", which was very exciting! We are now focusing on finding important parts of information within a website that may help us with research.

Third grade focused on typing this semester, mastering the home row, top row and will finish the rest of the keyboard in January. Their skills have really taken off! 3rd grade also worked on learning how to use an online dictionary.

- Mrs. Hanger



Art

This quarter students used the creative process and a variety of materials to create both 2D and 3D works of art. Second and third grade explored various elements and principles of art and how artists use them in different ways.

Second grade focused on the element of value and how it can be used to create the illusion of space, form, and realism. Students were able to demonstrate what they learned by creating holiday themed works of art. Third grade was introduced to the artist Charles McGee and his love for pattern, contrast, and nature. Students were inspired to create abstract relief sculptures with contrasting colors and patterns.

I am proud of the efforts all students have continued to put into their artwork and the amazing work they have accomplished this quarter!

- Mrs. Garriss

Physical Education

The PE world finished up the volleyball unit and moved right into basketball! We have been hard at work with the fundamentals of dribbling and passing. We also are very fortunate that we recently have borrowed the High School PE programs "Dashr" laser timing system. All of our students were able to run "Flying 10s" just like the high schoolers, and have their time recorded. We are hopeful that we can do this a couple of times a year to watch the student's speed progress!

- Mr. Wernhoff

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School Counseling PROGRAM

Welcome Back!

I am so excited we are back from break and we get to spend time with all of our amazing students again!

Just like the beginning of the school year, it is typical to see challenges when transitioning back into school from long breaks. If transition concerns continue into the next couple of weeks, we can connect and find ways to support. Below, you will find some reminder strategies to help with difficult transitions. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the second semester!

Focus for the School Year

- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect
- Emotional Regulation

Strategy/Skill to reinforce at home

Kindness

As we transition back to school, please take time to remind your student(s) about the importance of kindness and inclusion.

Strategies for Helping with School Transitions

- 1) Create a fun drop off routine (Secret handshake or verbal routines)
- 2) Read relatable books (The Kissing Hand, Invisible String, and many other wonderful options! You can borrow a copy from the school counselor if needed)
- 3) Show your excitement for school
- 4) Validate your student's feelings (Let them know it is okay to feel their feelings and provide strategies to help them through it. Deep breathing, counting to 10, positive affirmations, etc.)

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Western Otoe County Food Pantry

Located at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

955 C Street, Palmyra, Nebraska

Enter at the dedicated north entrance

*Neighbors Serving Neighbors:
Many Hands Lighten the Load*

- Confidential help when you need it
- Select your own items
- Private visits by appointment only
- No Paperwork

Supported locally by the Bennet Community Church,
Palmyra community churches (Catholic, Lutheran,
Presbyterian), and Douglas Catholic church.

For more information or an appointment contact:

All seasons:

Brooke Hay	402/992-0130
Diana Poskochil	402/580-1234
Molly Hall	402/560-2229
Melissa Carpenter	402/817-3958

Times other than winter:

Sheila Lienau	402/499-3865
Charlie Lienau	402/429-8918

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Weather Protocols



**NO RECESS WHEN IT
"FEELS LIKE" 15 OR BELOW,
OR ANY PRECIPITATION**



**60 OR BELOW: NEED LONG
SLEEVES OR JACKET**



**50 OR BELOW: NEED
JACKET OR COAT**



**40 OR BELOW: NEED COAT,
HAT & GLOVES**





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Standard Response Protocol

Bennet Elementary's adoption of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) provides a standardized approach to managing various events, both threatening and non-threatening, that may happen in or around our school.

These protocols provide actions for the following situations:

- Hold (stay in classrooms due to a non-threatening event)
- Secure (danger is outside the school)
- Lockdown (danger is inside the school)
- Evacuate (leave the school building, often referred to as fire drill)
- Shelter (tornado or severe weather)

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

TEACHERS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Do business as usual
Take attendance



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard

Tornado
Hazmat
Earthquake
Tsunami

Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold
Get to high ground

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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<http://iloveuguyz.org>

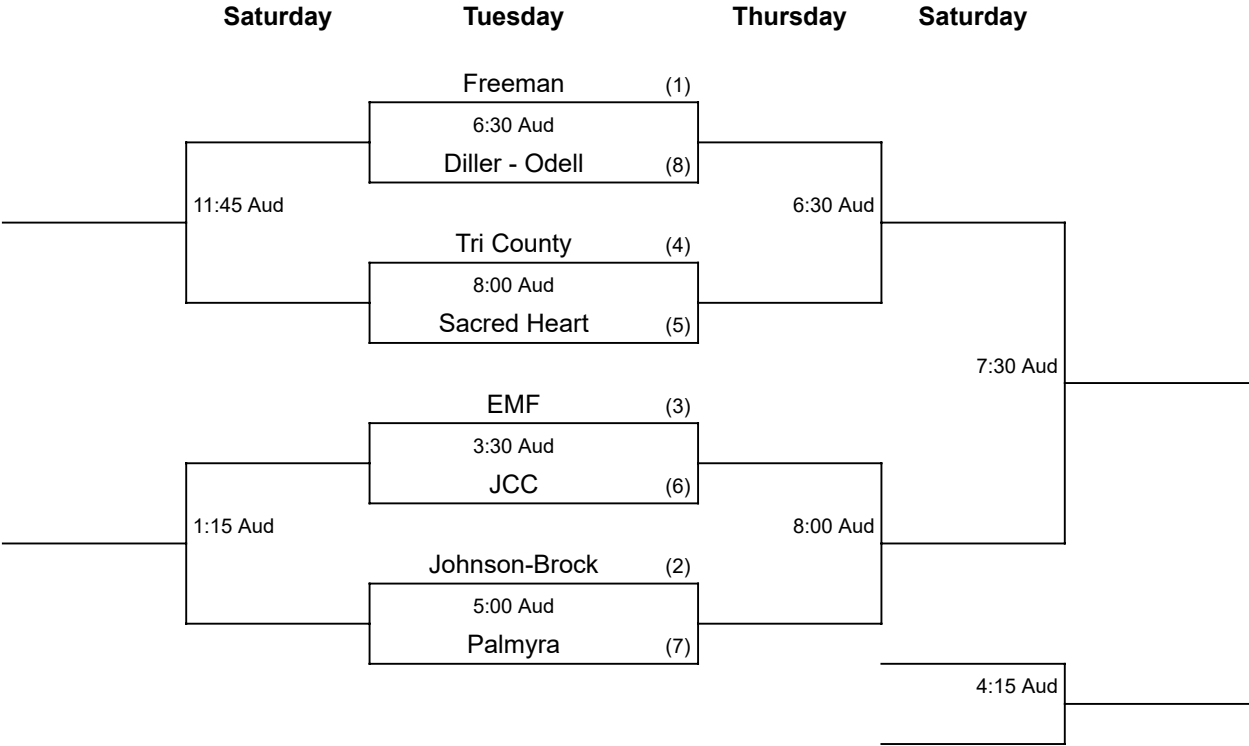


2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament

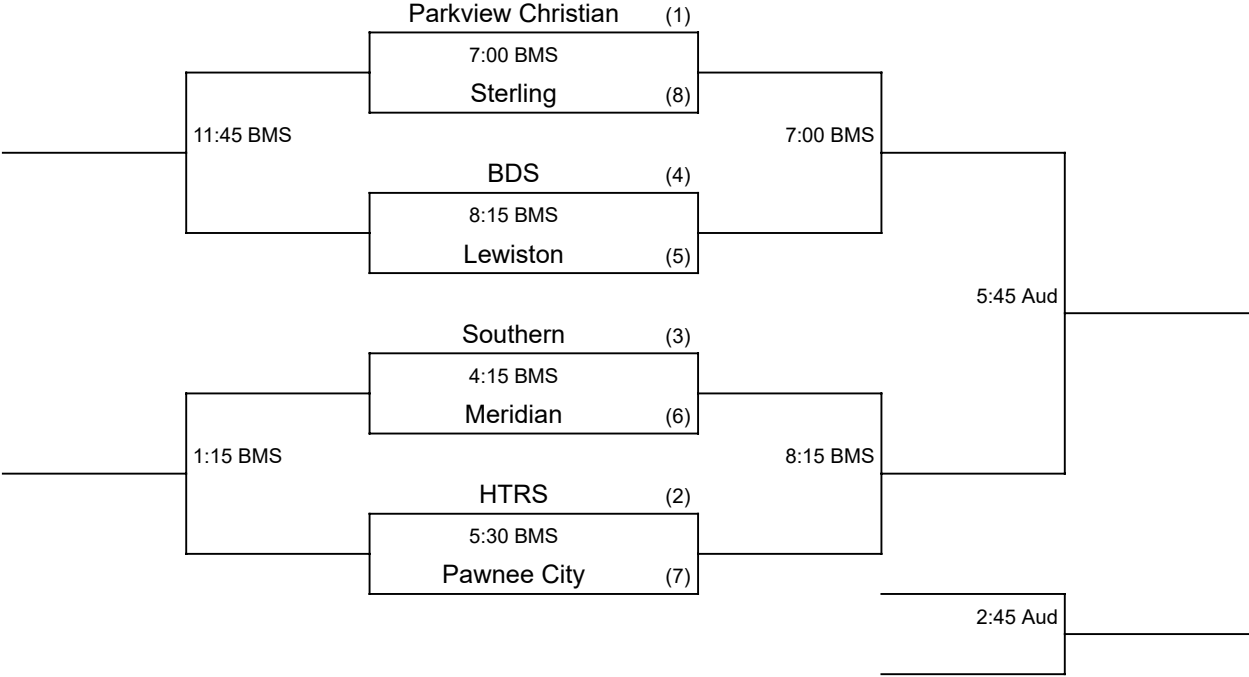
January 13 ,15 and 17, 2026

Boys

A Division



B Division

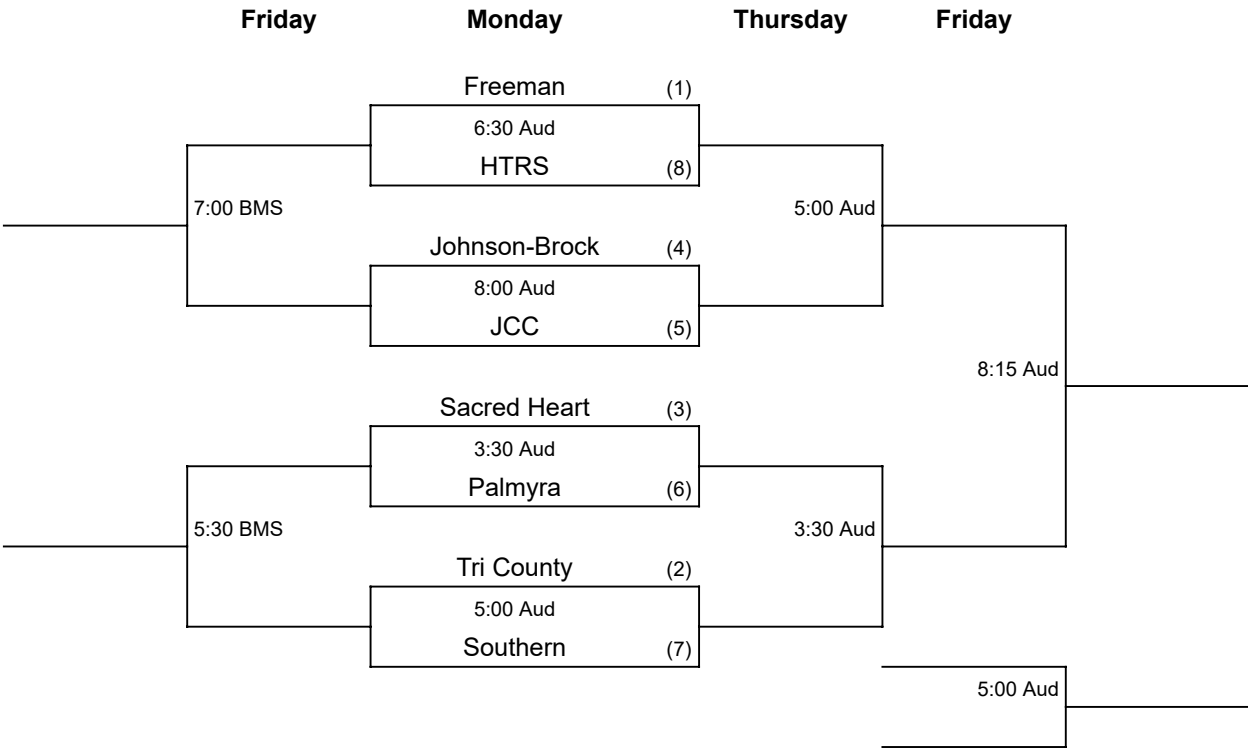


2026 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament

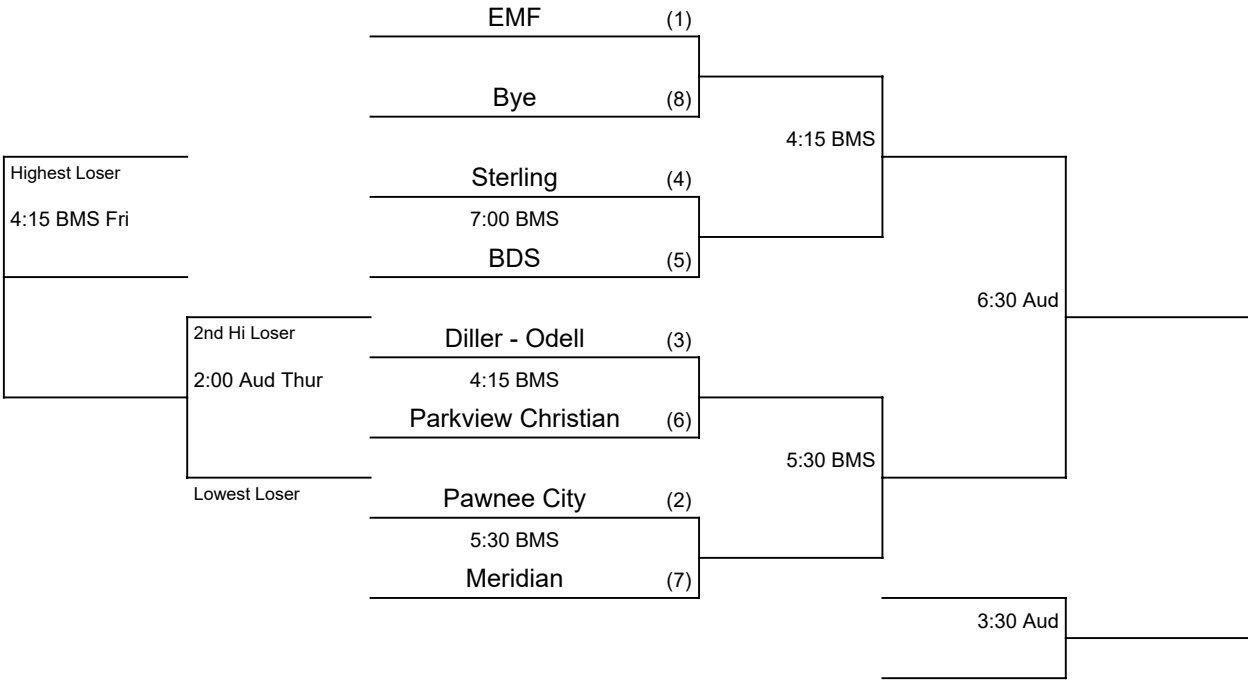
January 12 ,15 and 16, 2026

Girls

A Division



B Division



Bennet-Palmyra

LEGION BASEBALL

REGISTRATION

Important Registration Information


- Both the player and a parent/guardian must attend
- Registration forms must be filled out, signed, and notarized on site
- To complete notarization, please bring:
 - A copy of the player's birth certificate
 - Proof of insurance


Fees

- Player Registration Fee: \$125
- Baseball Pants: \$25
- New Players Only:
 - Home & Away Jersey Set: \$65


Registration Dates & Locations - Please attend ONE

Sunday, January 18

 4:00 PM

 PHS East Commons

Sunday, January 25

 4:00 PM

 Bennet Legion Hall

Questions? Email: bennetpalmyralegionbaseball@gmail.com

PATHFINDER TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICE

Teen Driver Education

PROVISIONAL OPERATOR'S PERMIT PROGRAM (POP)

20 hours hybrid course work:
10 hours online course work
10 hours in the classroom

**5 hours behind the wheel training
with an instructor**

WHEN:

**JANUARY 18TH &
19TH, 2026
8:30 AM-1:30 PM**

WHERE:

**PALMYRA HIGH
SCHOOL**

TUITION

\$425

GO TO:

pathfindertss.org

REGISTER

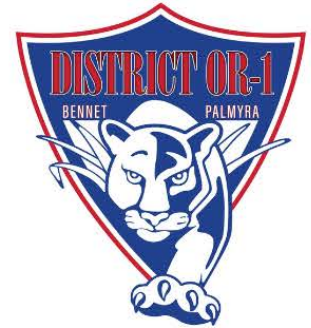
FOR:

Palmyra

Contact:

**Liz Cunningham
402-719-5481 or at
[pathfindertss@gmail
.com](mailto:pathfindertss@gmail.com)**

THE MATTRESS FUNDRAISER



**EVERY PURCHASE
BENEFITS THE
PALMYRA BAND**



 **SUN., MARCH 8**
 **10AM - 4PM**
 **PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL
EAST COMMONS - ENTER
THROUGH NORTH DOORS**

- ✓ All sizes available, including custom
- ✓ 25+ mattresses on display, all comfort levels
- ✓ Brand New with 1 to 20 year warranties
- ✓ Delivery and Shipping Available
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- ✓ **Financing Available**

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Adjustable
Bases



Sheet
Sets



Protectors



Luxury
Pillows

Scan For:



Facebook Event
Details!

**FREE THRESHOLD
DELIVERY WITH PURCHASE
OF ANY MATTRESS**
(SET UP DELIVERY AVAILABLE AT
ADDITIONAL COST)

You've been personally referred by: _____

Walsworth 2025-26 Yearbook Purchase Agreement

Purchase yours today
and get a piece of
history!

\$40



\$50

Prices will go up on
February 16th.

Remember the school year by purchasing a 2025-26 yearbook for \$40. Prices will go up February 16th to \$50, so grab one now. Use the purchase agreement below or go online @ <https://yearbookforever.com/>

Last Name

First Name

of Yearbooks

Total (check or cash)

****All orders must be pre-paid .***

Return to the office with payment if using this document.

Address (if an out-going senior and not picking up yearbook)

City

Zip Code

E-mail to contact you when yearbook arrives.

YOU CAN'T
buy happiness
BUT YOU CAN BUY A
YEARBOOK
and that's kind of the
same thing.