



Panther Weekly Bulletin

Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
French Toast Sticks Syrup Sausage Links	Scrambled Eggs Bacon Wheat Toast	Blueberry Pan- cakes Syrup Sausage Links	Panther Funnel Waffle Sausage Patty Syrup	Circle Donut Yogurt Parfait

Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Walking Taco Dor- itos Black Beans	Chicken Patty Bun Peas Hashbrown Casse- role	Spaghetti Meat Sauce Green Beans Breadstick	Chicken Parmesan Buttery Ranch Noodles Broccoli Breadstick	Pizza Beef Fies- tada Carrots Garlic Bread

Happening this week at PHS

Monday, December 1st– JH Girls Wrestling Invitational @ Plattsmouth 3:00 pm.
Bus leaves at 1:15 pm.

One Act Rehearsal 6:00– 8:00 pm.

Tuesday, December 2nd– Unified Bowling JV/Varsity District Tournament @ Arbor Lanes 10:00 am. Bus leaves at 8:45 am.

JH Boys Basketball @ Mead 5:00 pm. Bus leaves at 3:00 pm.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

One Act Rehearsal 6:00– 8:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 3rd– JH Girls Basketball Meeting in Mr. Furrow's room at 7:45 am for girls interested in playing this season.

One Act District Competition @ Centennial 1:30 pm. Bus/Trailer leaves at 7:30 am.

Thursday, December 4th– JH Boys Basketball @ Freeman 2:00 pm. Bus leaves at 12:45 pm.

Boys Varsity Wrestling Tournament @ PHS vs. multiple schools 3:00 pm.

Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Freeman. JV for Girls and Boys 4:30pm. Varsity Girls at 6:00 pm. Varsity Boys at 7:30 pm. Buses leave at 2:45 and 4:00 pm.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

Friday, December 5th– Quiz Bowl practice in PHS Library 7:30 am.

Girls Varsity Wrestling @ West Point Beemer 2:00 pm. Bus leaves at 10:15 am.

Girl/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Southern @ PHS. JV for Girls and Boys at 4:30 pm. Varsity Girls at 5:45 pm. Varsity Boys at 7:15 pm.

FCCLA Volunteers at Santa's Overflow on December 5th and 6th.

Saturday, December 6th– Christmas in the Parks, JH and HS Band/ Choir.

Girls/Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Conestoga Invite 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 5:45 am.

JH Girls Wrestling Invitational @ Nebraska City 10:00 am. Bus leaves at 8:30 am.

Sunday, December 7th– FCA Event 5:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 8th– JH Boys Basketball vs. Elmwood-Murdock @ PHS 4:00 pm.

JH Girls Wrestling ECNC Invitational @ Weeping Water 4:00 pm.

Winter Concert for grades 9th through 12th at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, December 9th– Girls Basketball JV/Varsity @ Johnson-Brock 4:30/ 5:45 pm.

Boys Basketball JV/Varsity @ Johnson-Brock 5:15/ 8:00pm

Boys Varsity Wrestling Triangular @ Freeman 5:00 pm.

Girls Varsity Wrestling Quad @ Freeman 5:00 pm.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 10th– FFA Ag Expo.

Technology/ Social Media/ AI Parent Meeting 6:00 pm.

Thursday, December 11th– JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

Winter Concert for grades 5th through 8th at 6:30 pm.

Friday, December 12th– Boys Varsity Wrestling Tournament @ Johnson County Central 10:00 am.

Girls Varsity Wrestling Invitational TBA (Away) 10:00 am.

Boys JV/Varsity vs Mead @ PHS 4:30/ 7:15 pm.

Girls JV/Varsity vs. Mead @ PHS 4:30/ 5:45 pm.

Saturday, December 13th– JH Boys Basketball Tournament @ PHS 8:00 am.

Winter Formal 8:00 pm.

GO PANTHERS!

Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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



Newsletter - Nov 25th, 2025

Arrival 7:50-8:20

Dismissal 3:20

Early Dismissal Days 1:00

Principal's Update

Elementary Music Concert - Thanks!

Thank you to all of our families for coming out to support our elementary music concert. Your encouragement means so much to our students and helps make these events truly special. A big thank you as well to Mrs. McCreight for all of her hard work and dedication in bringing this concert together. We appreciate the heart and energy she pours into creating such a memorable experience for our kids.

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.

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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.

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.



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- 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.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 26-28- No School- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 5- 5th/6th Grade Quiz Bowl at Bennet Elementary
- Dec 11- 5th-8th Grade Winter Concert
- Dec 19- Early Dismissal- 1:00

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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School Counseling PROGRAM

What's Happening in the Classroom?

This week, 5th grade began discussing resilience and perseverance. We used movement based strategies to help students understand these important concepts. Students took turns sitting in a chair while their partner had their hands about 5 inches above their shoulders. When they tried to stand up, they felt the light resistance of their partners hands and sat back down.

We discussed different external factors in our lives that give us resistance to "standing up" or continuing to try our best and how these things hold us back from reaching our full potential.

Focus for the School Year

- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect
- Emotional Regulation

Strategy/Skill to reinforce at home

Resilience

The ability to bounce back when faced with challenges or adversity.

November/December Affirmations Challenges

Reminder to be completing the affirmation challenge with your student(s) each day and initialing them. Please return these completed sheets to Mr. Lahmon by December 5th. If 80% of students do this, there will be a surprise whole school reward!

The December Affirmation Challenge went home with your students this week as well!

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School Counseling PROGRAM

Student Council Candy Cane Sales

Bennet Elementary Student Council will be facilitating their annual Candy Cane Sales the week of December 8th-12th. Proceeds will go toward purchasing gifts for local families in need for the holidays. If you would like to donate Candy Canes, you can drop them off at the office. More details are below:

During the week, all students K-5 will have an opportunity to purchase candy canes if they wish to in a structured manner.

Candy canes cost \$0.50 each and there will be a max of 2 to start. If we have leftovers, we may allow students to go through again.

More information will come with days that each grade will be able to buy candy canes so families don't send their kiddos with money every day. We will begin accepting Candy Cane donations next week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Bennet Elementary.



Austin Lahmon | School Counselor | lahmon.aus@districtor1.net

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Quarter 1

Specialist Team Newsletter

Library

Our students are really enjoying the updated library space! One of their favorite parts of class is spending the last ten minutes relaxing and reading in our new comfortable seating area. A big thank-you to everyone who helped make the Bennet Fun Run such a huge success — your support helps us continue to grow and update our collection. Mr. Smidt has started ordering new books!

In second grade, students spent the first quarter reviewing the parts of a book and learning about the white spine labels that help every book find its special place on the shelf. They also explored the difference between fiction and nonfiction. Coming up, students will learn what the letters E, FIC, and the numbers on book spines mean — and how they help us locate books quickly.

In third grade, students reviewed how to use a table of contents and practiced organizing stacks of nonfiction books in the correct order during class activities. Our current focus is on dictionary skills, including guide words, base words, and parts of speech.

– Mr. Smidt



Upcoming

Nov 24 – K – 4 Winter Concert

Dec 11 – 5th Grade Band & Bennet
Singers Winter Concert

Music

Greetings! In music, Kindergarten has been exploring steady beat; different ways to use their voice, and learning about how music is full of patterns and rhythms. The 1st and 2nd graders have been adding more complex rhythm patterns and making sure we use our good singing voices. Our 3rd and 4th grades have been learning about tempos, dynamics, and learning about and reviewing treble clef note names. Our 5th graders have reviewed dynamics, tempos, added more syncopated rhythms, and attended the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra concert on October 27th.

– Mrs. McCreight



1/2

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Quarter 1

Computer

 Bennet Computer Room Update! We've had a busy and exciting quarter in computer class! Each grade level has accomplished so much, and I'm thrilled to share their progress: Kindergarten has been hard at work learning how to use a computer mouse instead of a touchscreen. It was quite an adjustment, but they did it! 1st grade reviewed some familiar skills from last year and started exploring a few new websites. One favorite has been EPIC, an online library filled with great books to read and listen to. And of course, every grade continues to learn about computer safety. It's been a wonderful quarter of learning, exploring, and growing in our digital skills!

- Mrs. Hanger

Physical Education

The PE world has been very busy to start the school year. Each grade level started the year with their baseline fitness tests including a shuttle run and standing broad jump to name a couple. Our younger grade levels then moved onto our "tossing and catching" unit where we really focus on tracking the ball from our partner and making good tosses that can be caught. Our older grade levels started their first "sports" unit of volleyball with a heaving emphasis on passing. We are looking forward to the rest of the year and pushing ourselves to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be!

- Mr. Wemhoff



Art

Students began the year creating a colorful art display. This collaborative piece taught students the importance of resilience, effort, and working together.

Throughout first quarter, grades 4 and 5 continued building resilience and artistic skills in weaving and portrait drawing. Grade 4 learned about the art and history of weaving. Students designed looms full of color and pattern and challenged themselves in circle loom weaving. Grade 5 explored how heroes can be represented in art. Students have been working hard on portrait drawing and using value to create realism. Both projects encouraged students to use their creativity, take risks, and explore new art techniques.

- Mrs. Garriss



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SOUP *With Santa*

Join us for our Soup with Santa event! We'll be serving delicious chili, chicken noodle & cheeseburger soup, hot dogs, and cinnamon rolls for a free will donation that will benefit Palmyra Community Foundation & Palmyra Youth Group. Bring the kids to visit with Santa, make fun holiday crafts, and write letters to Santa to drop in his special mailbox! It's a festive afternoon full of food, fun, and Christmas cheer for the whole family!

DELICIOUS FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | PHOTO WITH SANTA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH
THE PALMYRA COMMUNITY CENTER
LUNCH - 11:00AM-1:00PM
SANTA - 11:30AM-12:30PM



Presented by The Palmyra Community Foundation

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CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

DECEMBER 6TH, 2025

3:00-6:00 PM

BENNET CITY PARK

FEATURING

❁ LIVE MUSIC ❁ HOT CHOCOLATE ❁ SMORES ❁ CRAFTS
❁ CHARACTER APPEARANCES ❁ GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST
❁ FOOD TRUCK ❁ SANTA & MRS. CLAUS ❁ GAMES ❁ SLEIGH RIDES



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Casey's

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Decorating Contest

DECEMBER 6TH, 2025 @ 3:00

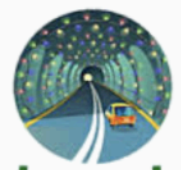
Get ready for a festive celebration of creativity and holiday spirit at our 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest during Christmas in the Park!

Divisions *Family *Youth *Adult

To Register Scan:



Prizes will be awarded for the top houses in each division. Prizes sponsored by



Nebraska
Christmas Lights Show, LLC

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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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Santa's Overflow

** Extravaganza **

For families in need, please come shop new
and used items for FREE!

12.06.2025 | 10 am - 2 pm

Ho Ho Ho

New Coats
New Toys
Canned Goods

Gently Used
clothes, coats,
shoes, toys!

Gently used
blankets, pots
and pans and more

Questions: Lillie at 402.440.2871
Bennet Legion Hall, 970 Monroe Street,
Bennet, Ne



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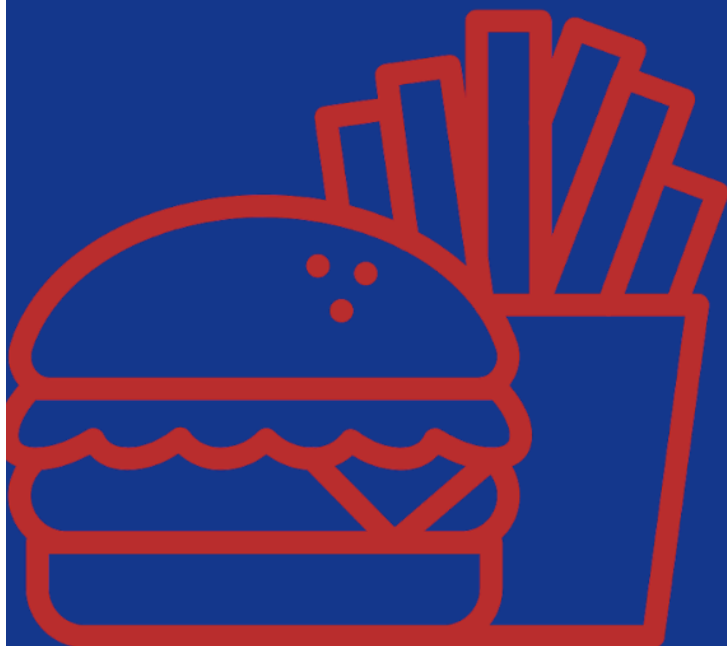
ostrander.mel@districtor1.net



DINE OUT NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AND 5PM-9PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

MAKE DINNER
PLANS EASY!



AND



**A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BE
DONATED BACK TO THE BENNET
BOOSTERS**

**BIG TEN TAVERN
625 MONROE STREET, BENNET, NE**

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Show Your Panther Pride!

GENERIC CAR DECALS

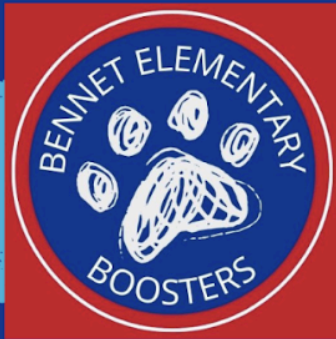
\$10

PERSONALIZED CAR DECALS

\$15

Scan the QR code to see more designs and to order!

SALES SUPPORT:



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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

Santa's OVERFLOW

We are excited to kick off a Toy, Clothing, and Essentials Drive for Santa's Overflow to benefit local students and families! Every donation helps, and to thank you for your generosity, we've created a fun Point System!

Collect points for every item you donate! The Top 5 Donors (those with the highest accumulated points) will receive a FREE DRINK from the FCCLA Drink Stand: Chapters & Chillers!

What to Donate & How to Earn Points
The more essential and new the item, the more points you earn!

New Coats and New Toys	5 points
Pots and Pans and "More" Essentials like unopened toiletries	4 points
Gently Used Blankets, Toys, Coats	3 points
Gently used Shoes and clothes	2 points
Canned Goods	1 point

"Gently Used" items must be clean, stain-free, and in good repair.

Canned Goods are counted per standard can or package (e.g., a bag of rice or box of pasta).

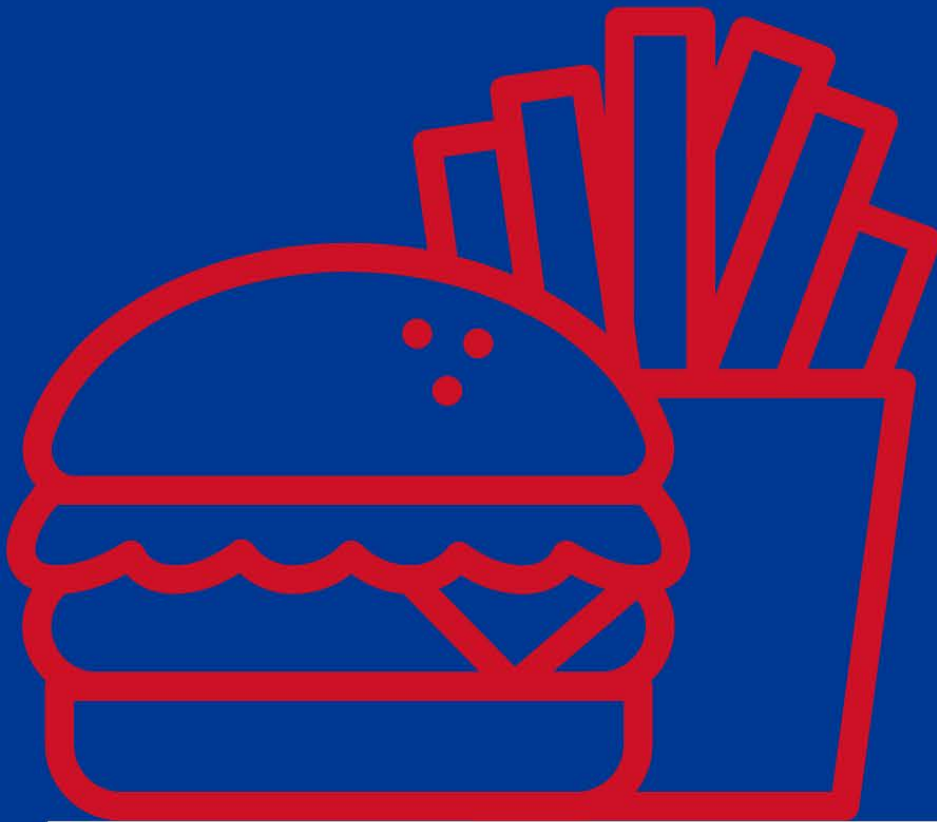
Drive Deadline: Dec. 5th



DINE OUT NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AND 5PM-9PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

MAKE DINNER
PLANS EASY!



AND



A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BE
DONATED BACK TO THE BENNET
BOOSTERS

BIG TEN TAVERN
625 MONROE STREET, BENNET, NE

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.