

Panther Families,

Welcome to November! I hope everyone had a very safe and Happy Halloween!

It is time again for another community update! Listed below are several items of interest that I wanted to share with all of you!

Palmyra Junior / Senior High School “New Look” Entrances:

- The window coverings for the front north entrance and the west activities entrance have been completed. These graphics help strengthen our school branding and provide additional safety and security in terms of visibility into the building for our students, staff, and the community.
- Listed below are pictures of the north and west entrances.

West Activities Entrance:



North Main Entrance:



Thanksgiving Food Drive Information:

- The District OR-1 Thanksgiving Food Drive will begin NEXT WEEK!
 - *More details are listed in the image below.*
- This event is a great way for our students to get involved in serving the basic needs of our local communities, while at the same working together to meet a district goal.
- The goal (developed by our students) of reaching **5,000** points could result in a **1:00 p.m. early dismissal from school for all students on Tuesday, November 26th.**
- As a change this year, points will be calculated according to items of need for the food pantry instead of just total gross weight. This system helps the food pantry better meet the specific needs of its recipients.
- The Food Drive is a very worthy cause and I am confident our students can collectively reach this district goal.
- Special thanks to our National Honor Society students for organizing this event!

District OR-1 Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 4th-November 8th

Organized by Palmyra High School National Honor Society

Thanksgiving meal donations will go to the Bennet-Palmyra Backpack Program to ensure that no family is without a Thanksgiving meal.

Donations of high-need items will go to the Western Otoe County Food Pantry for distribution within our community.

Points System

Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Items:

- 1 can of corn = 2 points
- 1 can of green beans = 2 points
- 1 can of cranberry sauce = 3 points
- 1 can of gravy = 4 points
- 1 box of stuffing = 4 points

Collection Points:

Palmyra High School

Bennet Elementary

High-Need Items

- 1 Bar of Soap = 2 points
- 1 multi-pack or canister of Hot Chocolate = 4 points
- 1 Large Bottle of Juice = 5 points
- 1 box of crackers = 6 points
- 1 box of breakfast cereal = 7 points
- 1 Bottle of Body Wash = 9 points
- 1 container of Coffee = 10 points
- 1 12 count package of Toilet Paper = 15 points
- 1 Bottle of Laundry Detergent = 18 points
- Monetary Donations: 1 Dollar = 1 point

District OR-1 Goal:

5000 points

District OR-1 Prize:

1:00 Dismissal

November 26th

District Activities Announcement:

- At the **Monday, October 14th** regular Board of Education meeting the board approved a recommendation to add Boys Baseball as a school-sponsored sport beginning with the **2025-2026** school year. That means that we are planning to have baseball starting in the spring of 2026!
- The board also approved a recommendation to add Girls Softball (if student participation numbers are at satisfactory levels) beginning with the **2027-2028** school year. That means that we are planning to have softball starting in the fall of 2027!
- Special thanks to all of our District Activities Committee members for their hard work and patience as we worked through this process.
- We are currently in the process of developing a baseball schedule with NSAA schools and interviewing potential coaching candidates.
- More information about these activities will be distributed throughout the rest of the school year.

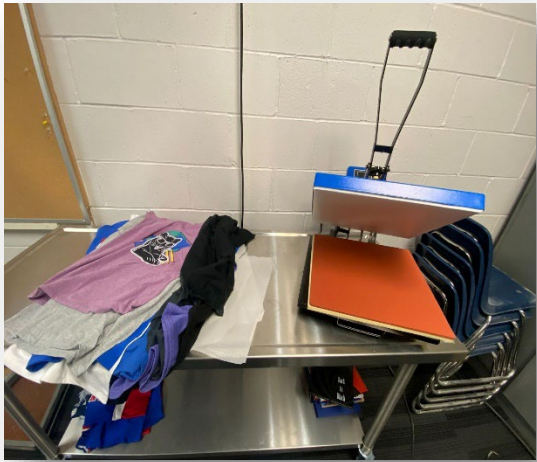
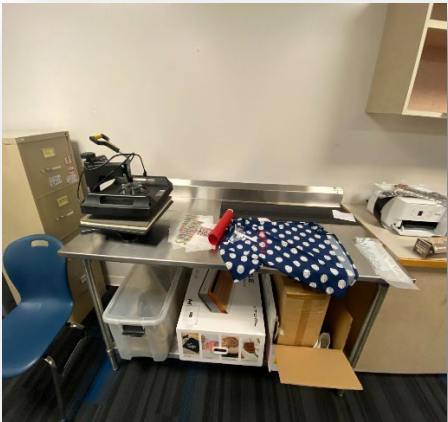
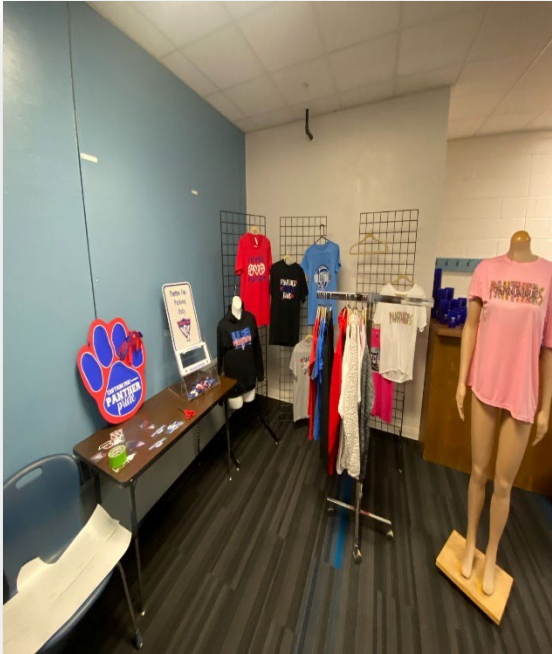
Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th

- In addition to the state and national political races, we also have a local Board of Education election on **Tuesday, November 5th**.
- Mrs. Jaimi Calfee, Mr. Tim Cheney, and Mr. Brandon Desh are all current members up for the Board of Education reelection.
- Mr. Jim Tate and Mrs. Vicky Hillman are also on the ballot seeking election to the Board of Education.
- Good luck to all of these candidates and we wish them the best next week!
- Remember to vote!

Panther School Store:

- I am excited to announce that we will soon be opening a “Panther Store” at the high school.
- This project, initiated by our students, will be a student-run operation that will create, market, and sell Panther-related school items to help support school spirit and enrich student programs.
- This project is a great opportunity for our students to build career skills such as product design and development, facility planning, resource management, customer service, entrepreneurship, marketing, and sales,
- We have also collaborated with area businesses to make this vision a reality.
 - Special thanks to Riverstone Bank for their generous donation to help support this project.
- Please look for an announcement coming soon with more details about the store opening.
- Listed below are some pictures of areas in the store.

Panther School Store:



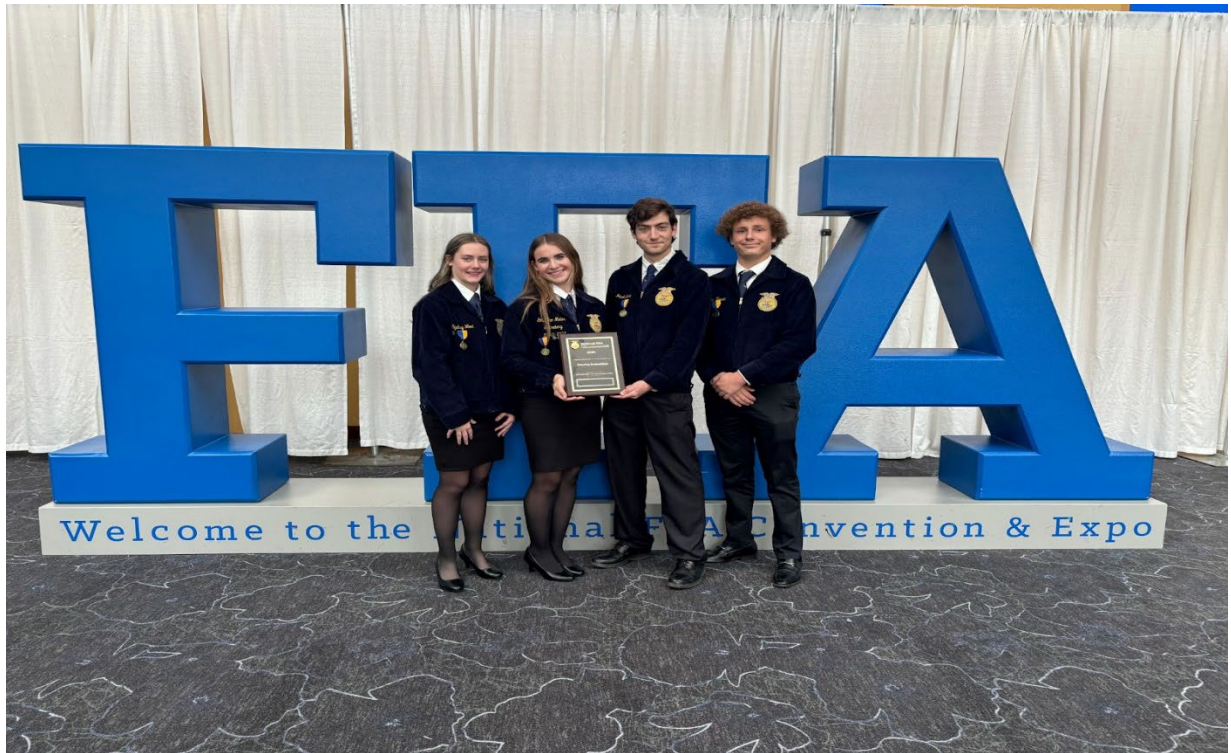
Activities Kudos:

- Congratulations to all of our fall activities coaches and participants! Great job to all of them for representing our school strongly and respectfully!
- Special congratulations go out to our high school band as they were named **NSBA Class 1 A State Champions** on Saturday.
 - A picture of their accomplishment is listed below. What a tremendous honor! We celebrated this accomplishment with a “Walk of Champions” ceremony here at the high school on **Tuesday, October 29th**.



Special congratulations also go out to our Cross Country athletes for their strong performance at the State Cross Country Meet in Kearney. Great job!

- Additionally, special congratulations also go out to our FFA participants as they brought home many gold medals and various awards from the National FFA convention. We celebrated this accomplishment with a “Walk of Champions” ceremony here at the high school on **Tuesday, October 29th**.



- What a great season for all of our students and our activities!
- We look forward to a great winter season!!

Health Services:

- As we continue to evolve the diverse range of services that we provide to students and families, one of the areas that often gets overlooked is our health services area. Providing excellent health services is a critical component of making school the best experience possible for all students.
- Not only do we have caring and compassionate health services staff who work cooperatively with our teachers to provide student medical information and classroom support, but we also continue to problem-solve ways to help our students gain independence and learn to successfully navigate the process of academic and social learning and healthy growth.
- Listed below are just a few examples of things we have added for students related to health services.
- Pictures of these items are listed below the descriptions.
 - **Lost Tooth Board at Bennet:**
 - Listed below is a picture of our "Look Whooo Lost a Tooth" 🦊 board!
 - When students lose a tooth, they can go to the office to get a sticker to add to the board.
 - We're hoping to make losing a tooth more fun, especially for those kids who might find it scary.
 - **Basic Self-Care Supplies:**
 - Oftentimes, students may need a basic self-care item for a variety of reasons.
 - We have a small supply of toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, extra sets of clothes, etc. for students who may need these items at different times.
 - **Basic Self-Care Stations:**

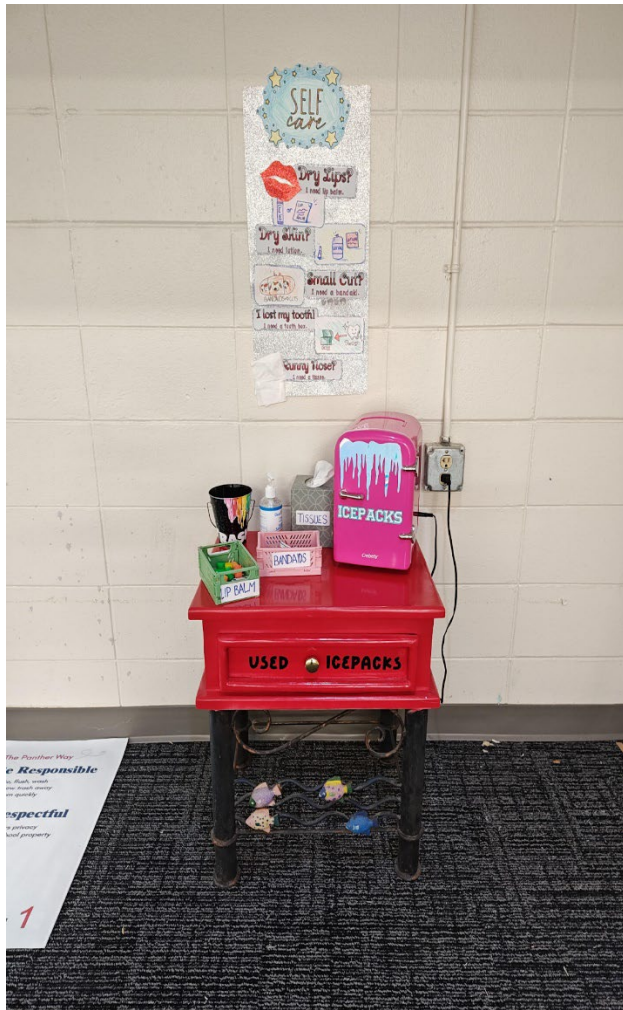
- Bennet Elementary has implemented new self-care stations to increase student access to basic care items they may need throughout the day.
- These two stations are located in easily accessible areas for the students (the lunchroom and near the gym and playground) to reduce the amount of time away from class and recess for simple things students can do for themselves. For example, when students may need a simple band-aid, ice pack, lip balm, or hand sanitizer, they can access these items on their own without having an adult do it for them.
- These stations help students gain independence and confidence, build resiliency, and enhance problem-solving skills
- **Health Services Office at PHS:**
 - Through the expansion of the high school, we were blessed to be able to provide a larger health services office for our students and staff.
 - This area, complete with its own bathroom, provides additional space and secure storage for medications, necessary equipment, and supplies to help serve student needs at the high school.

This is a picture of the “lost tooth” board at Bennet. A picture of basic self-care supplies for students.



A picture of basic self-care medical stations.

A picture of the new health office at PHS.



Veterans Day Assembly Information:

- District OR-1 staff and students would like to invite our area Veterans to a special breakfast on **Monday, November 11th, 2024 at Palmyra High School West Gym at 8:15 AM.**
 - Please enter through the West doors.
- We would also like to invite our community patrons to attend our district **Veterans Day Program beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 11th at PHS.**
- For more information, please visit the District OR1 webpage/Facebook page for information regarding live streaming at www.districtor1.org.

“Value Up” Presentation Information

- Another one of our district priorities this year is the continued enhancement of the effectiveness of our social-emotional programs.
- In alignment with this priority, we have scheduled a guest speaker on **Monday, November 4th** to come and speak to parents and community members about support in this area.
- **The presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m.** at Palmyra High School in the main commons on **Monday, November 4th.** Please consider attending the event.
- The guest speaker on **November 4th** is Mike Donahue: More information about his “Value Up” presentation and other items of interest is listed in the link below:

- <https://value-up.org/>
- To help increase attendance at the community event, we will be serving a *light dinner and childcare will also be available during the presentation.*
- *Listed below is a flyer explaining more about the event. This event is also posted on our social media channels. Please RSVP on the QR code shown below if you plan to attend*
- **Hope to see you on Monday, November 4th at Palmyra!**

VALUE UP

You're invited to an evening event where Mike Donahue will share key principles from his book, *Talking to Brick Walls*. This presentation explores effective strategies for overcoming communication barriers and fostering understanding among individuals of all ages. By addressing the challenges and pressures young people face today, Mike will provide valuable insights that can help promote a positive and supportive culture within schools and communities alike.

Palmyra High School Commons
November 4, 2024
6pm-7pm

Pizza and childcare will be provided.
Please RSVP here:




Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, November 4th: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. "Value Up" Community Event**
- **Tuesday, November 5th: Election Day**
- **Monday, November 11th: 8:15 a.m. Veterans Day Assembly at PHS**
- **Monday, November 11th: 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting**
- **Tuesday, November 19th: No School / Staff Development Day**
- **Wednesday, November 27th: No School**
- **Thursday, November 28th: Thanksgiving**
- **Friday, November 29th: No School**
- **Friday, December 20th: End First Semester: 1:00 p.m. Dismissal**
- **Monday, December 23rd: Friday, January 3rd, 2025: Winter Break**
- **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025: Students Return to School**
- **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025: Second Semester Begins**
- **Monday, January 20th, 2025: Martin Luther King Day: No school**

Board of Education Information: .

- Highlights from the last board meeting which took place on **Monday, October 14th, 2024** are now on our school website at the link listed below:
 - <https://www.districtor1.org/>

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings:

Month and Date	Type of Meeting	Time	Location
Monday, November 11th, 2024	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Palmyra High School in the media center.
Monday, December 9th, 2024	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Palmyra High School in the media center.
Monday, January 13th, 2025	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Palmyra High School in the media center.
Monday, February 10th, 2025	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Palmyra High School in the media center.

Have a great weekend!

Go Panthers!

Mike