Upcoming Events

Mar. 4- No school. Mar. 5- HS Scholar Bowl at West Nodaway, 4:30 pm. Spring sports parent meeting at HS, 5:30 pm.

Mar. 6- Sports Pictures. Mar. 7- Elementary Make-Up Concert 6 pm. Mar. 8- 3rd quarter ends

Mar. 10- Daylight Savings Time begins.

Mar. 11- FFA contest at Lathrop.

Mar. 12- HS Scholar Bowl at home, 4:30 pm. PTO meeting, 6 pm, board conference room at HS.

Mar. 13- StuCo Car Smash Fun. ACT testing at HS. 8th grade to visit Vo-Tech. Spring Academic Showcase at HS, 5-7 pm. Open house for new additions- HS at 5 pm, Elem at 6 pm.

Mar. 14- Student Council State Convention. 3rd quarter awards- Elem at 10 am, HS at 11 am. 12:45 pm early out. Parent-teacher conferences from 1-7:30 pm. HS Scholar bowl at Craig, 4:30 pm.

Mar. 15- No School. Baseball at North Harrison, 4:30 pm.

Mar. 16- Leo Club district Lions Club meeting. Mar. 17- St. Patrick's Day.

Mar. 18- FFA contest at home.

Mar. 19- HS Scholar Bowl at home & Baseball vs Plattsburg, 4:30 pm. **Mar. 21-**FFA contest at

Trenton, HS track meet at Worth County. 10th grade to tour Vo-Tech. Baseball vs Rock Port, 4:30 pm.

Mar. 27- BOE meeting, 6 pm, board conference room.



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"Preparing Productive Citizens that are College and Career Ready."

Team Effort to Improve APR

by Mr. Chris Turpin, Superintendent

Volume 20, Issue 3

March 2024

It is truly hard to believe that March has arrived. This time of the year allows us to reflect on many of our practices that we have in place as a district and begin making changes and revisions for next year. Principals are looking at making revisions to the various school handbooks concerning policy or changes that occur throughout the year. Staff members are gearing up for the start of state testing. State testing takes place in April, but staff members are working on curriculum and objectives that they feel are going to be tested. Our district's **Annual Performance** Report (APR) just came out from the state and is lower than I expected. It isn't where we want it to be as a district. We scored in the mid 70s with the hope of being in the 8os and eventually in the 90s.

The primary score on this report reflects how our students performed last year on the state assessment. There has to be a better way to measure our school's effectiveness than giving a state exam once a year. The majority of points are awarded based on the percentage

of kids scoring proficient or advanced on the test or students that show growth. As a district, we really try to focus our efforts on getting students to show individual growth on their own scores. Unfortunately, individual student growth within our own district doesn't qualify for points or meet how the state views student growth; which is unfortunate. Many districts around the state, including ours, believed moving kids from one level of proficiency to the next would constitute the district receiving growth points. Instead, the state views growth based on comparing our kids to other kids in their grade level who took that same test throughout the state. Within our district, teachers administer many formal and informal benchmark assessments throughout the year as a means to monitor individual growth, especially in communication arts and math. This method is a more accurate measurement of individual growth than looking at a single state assessment each

Unfortunately, I don't have the power to change how the state determines the effectiveness of our school but I do believe that

year.

there are things we can do to increase our scores. It is going to take all of us working together in order for this to happen. Systems have and are being put into place by staff to focus on our student's deficiencies and teaching practices to bring about more positive outcomes.

The score is definitely not a reflection of how hard our staff, teachers and students have worked this year or in the past few years.

Teachers are focusing on understanding and

teaching objectives and lessons aligned to the state standards. Our teachers within the district have been working hard on writing and revising curriculum the past few years. They are identifying Power Standards for their classes that all kids need to know prior to moving to the next grade level. This helps us get our lessons and teaching focused truly on what kids need to know.

Continued on page 6....
APR Scores

North Nodaway's Open House

Wednesday, March 13

Ribbon Cutting ceremonies will be held: MS/HS at 5 pm Elementary at 6 pm



Come and see the new additions North Nodaway MS/HS and North Nodaway Elementary.

We would like to thank the community for supporting our school.

Tales from Townsend

By Heather Townsend, Elementary Principal

It is almost spring!!! The weather is warming up, the sun is out and there is so much anticipation and excitement of summer break that is iust around the corner. Students, teachers, and staff have all made great strides this year and are ready to show off all their accomplishments with the upcoming state testing in April. This year is no different, in that each student has worked hard all year and has made tremendous progress. We are very proud of everything they have achieved thus far.

This year has brought about a lot of new changes. We have moved into the new addition with a safe and secure entrance into the building, we have been able to use our brand new library and a new preschool that is equipped to give our students the best start possible to their educational career. We have also been able to convert the old library into

a cafeteria which has been wonderful. Thank you to everyone that made this a success.

In the classroom, we are working hard on some new and exciting changes as well. We started using our new ELA textbooks, Wonders, this year and we have also started using our new science textbooks. We are all very excited about the purchase of a new reading program called Really Great Reading that we will begin using in full swing next year to help our students increase their reading skills. We have been focusing on our new Character Strong program that integrates social emotional learning and character traits while continuing to concentrate on the child as a whole. Mr. Eaton and our classroom teachers have done a great iob implementing this into the classroom. Our school has also focused a lot on the School Wide Positive Behavior Supports System to help with making the school environment more conducive to learning while decreasing behaviors through positive reinforcement. You may have heard your students talk about the "Mustang Bucks" and being able to use them at the Mustang Store. Students have been earning these "Bucks" by showing Respect, Responsibility, and Safety while at school. This is something you will see and hear a lot more about next year.

As I reflect on this school year and my first year as your elementary principal, I am constantly reminded of how awesome it is to be a part of this community. I began my career here over a decade ago and through the years I have learned what it means to be a MUSTANG! I am very proud of our students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members and I would personally like to thank all of you for making our school year a success! Let's finish this year strong and I look forward to many more great years to come.

GO MUSTANGS!

Students Spread Cheer



North Nodaway students visited various nursing homes in Maryville and sung carols to the residents. Students pictured included front: Avary Volner, Marin Alexander, Arianna Owens, Adyson Dailey, Cooper Chesnut; back: Laney Turner and Pyper Smith.

Students Receive Quarter Awards



Kindergarten students Riley Perkins, Malia Butler, Karsyn Marriott, Huxley Hansen and Embree Brown display their awards from second quarter.

Stop by the MS/ HS Office to buy your 2024 Yearbook!

Second Grade Presents Reader's Theatre



Mrs. Johnson's second grade class visited other classrooms at the elementary and read to them as a part of their Reader's Theatre project. Shown above are Attyson Stringer, Khloe Scroggie, Kymber Farnsworth and Mrs. Johnson.

Elementary Second Quarter Honor Roll Awards

A Honor Roll

Kindergarten-Embree

Brown, Malia Butler, Huxley Hansen, Allizay Laflin Third Grade- Ryder Everhart, Aiden Parman Fourth Grade- Lucus Hansen Fifth Grade- Caspian Halvin, Brentley Marriott, Arianna Owens, Kamden Reynolds, Kayden Snuffer, Avary Volner

A/B Honor Roll

Preschool- John Phipps, Matthew Wilmes Kindergarten- Tryson Allen, Jaclyn Frueh, Enzlea Lett, Karsyn Marriott, Shayleigh Morris, Bennett Roberts First Grade- Julian Bix, Madden Hansen, Diana Snuffer Second Grade- Lucas Brown, Landon Frueh, Lincoln Stringer, Kynlee

Titus

Third Grade- Camden Butler, Radien Clutter, Megan Davison, Whytlee Ebrecht, Rollie Martin, Skylar Pearson, Gunner Stricker, William Wilmes Fourth Grade-Marin Alexander, Brysha Allen, Cooper Chesnut, Clell Clements, Adyson Dailey, Jayneigh Lawson, Torrie Rader, Tobyn Steinman-Gladman, MyLee Stringer, Landon Turner Fifth Grade- Kyle Davison, Braxton Dougherty, Carter Forney, Zanderieh Hevelone, Aleesia Rader

Preschool Awards

Respect- Matthew Wilmes, Elliott Messner, Waylor Thompson

Kindergarten Awards

Respect-Riley Perkins, Tryson Allen, Embree Brown

First Grade Awards

Respect- Kloie Titus, Abygail Brittain Most Improved- Dayne Smyser

Second Grade Awards

Respect- Oakley Wermelskirchen, Bryslee Allen, Landon Frueh

Third Grade Awards

Respect- Bridgett Steinman, Ryder Everhart,

Gunner Stricker

Fourth Grade Awards

Respect- Brysha Allen, Adyson Dailey, Torrie Rader

Fifth Grade Awards

Respect- Avary Volner, Arianna Owens, Kamden Reynolds

Principal Awards

Torrie Rader, Landon Frueh

Golden Wastebasket Award

Second Grade

Golden Lunch Plate Award

Fourth Grade

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a Hopkins Food Pantry opening soon with support from Second Harvest in St. Joseph. This is in addition to the Second Harvest Food Dropoff that comes every other month to Hopkins. The Food Pantry will be located in the Hopkins Christian Church Parsonage at 102 S. 5th Street, Hopkins. Residents of Nodaway County will be able to use the food pantry. We will post more information on when it will open as the day approaches. Watch for the announcment in local newspapers and on the digital sign on Highway 148.

ALL AROUND THE ELEMENTARY



Miss Goff's first graders Dayne Smyser, Jase Pickering, Julian Bix, Abygail Brittain and Jayda Wermelskirchen show off their Chief's gear.





Mrs. Davison takes a ticket from Creed Drummond during the Polar Express Train event.

Pictured left: Mason Casner, Lauren Herndon and Saryn Brown greet elementary students and parents during Courtwarming festivities. Pictured right: Kindergartner Austun Law visits with Santa Claus during Polar Expess Night.





Fourth graders Jayneigh Lawson, Tilton Moyer and MyLee Stringer present their roller coaster project.

From the Principal's Desk

by Mr. Roger Johnson, MS/HS Principal

Spring is quickly approaching, and with that in mind, there are several important events coming up this month which are important to note. Our parent teacher conferences for the 3rd quarter will be March 14th from 1-7:30 pm. The 3rd quarter ends on March 8th. Our annual Spring Academic Showcase will be held on March 13th from 5-7 pm. Please make plans to attend this event in which our students' academic work will be highlighted. We also plan to kick off the evening with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new addition to our building that evening. In addition to numerous examples of student work, we will be hosting live performances, role play, and demonstrations by students. It will be a great opportunity to check out the new addition and see the great things our students do!

The past few weeks we have seen an increase in absences due to illness. It is extremely important for students and parents to help teachers monitor student performance during this difficult stretch. We have put a lot of effort into holding students accountable for the completion of their work and hope that parents are using the parent portal and gradewatch emails to help assist with this task. Students are being asked to stay and complete missing work during our extended learning opportunities after school. Our primary concern is always to meet our students'

educational needs.

We are blessed to have so many talented performers and musicians within our school. Those of you who were able to attend the courtwarming games or pep rallies were able to witness several of these performances by Band, Choir, Color Guard and Dance Teams. It was exciting to see the extra work put into the week by all the organization and leadership by the Student Council officers, which helped make for a great week of school spirit! The Student Council also sponsored a Valentine's Dance which was well attended. We have several students currently gearing up for HS Scholar Bowl competitions, FFA competitions. Prom, the School Play (April 6/7th) and spring sports in the upcoming weeks. FFA will be hosting our second annual FFA Contest event on March 18th in which it is anticipated that over 300 students from other schools will attend. Our middle school students will be attending EmpowerU that day and participating in a community service and problem solving module.

Our MAP and EOC testing will occur over six days during April 22-25 and April 30-May 2. Please remind your students to get adequate sleep and proper nutrition during these windows: our students know there were several incentives put in place for them to earn through this testing. We all want them to do their best and set goals for themselves for improvement upon their previous year's test.

Our primary goal is for students to graduate with the skills necessary to be successful in a career or in college. Additionally, it is exciting to see our students grow and develop leadership skills by becoming involved in some of the numerous activities we offer. This year our Seniors have been completing college and career readiness activities in a class designed to help them prepare for life after high school. They have completed a dual credit workplace readiness component and recently completed the ACT Workkeys assessment. They will receive Gold, Silver, or Bronze certificates regarding their performance on this workplace readiness test. They have also completed portfolios of their work and have been completing passion projects involving things they care deeply about. We have seen students work on dental hygiene with elementary students, landscaping the new addition, fundraising for the Roxy, establishing a clothes donation, and compiling school records for athletic teams, all-state teams, and individual athletes. They have used time in this class to work with the counselor on scholarships and applications to college or to the workforce. We are excited to see what their bright futures hold!

As always, feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support of our school and students!



Senior Night Recognition



Seniors Aydan Blackford, Ethan Fry, Brice Trimble, Saryn Brown, Angie Parker, Lauren Herndon and Sydney Whipple were recognized for their athletic involvment during their high school career for basketball, band and winter guard.

Field Trip to Nodawy County



Mr. McConkey and the 8th grade class attended the County Government Day held in Maryville. The students learned how our county government works and meet with local officials. Students pictured are Weston Alexander, Conner Reeves, Robbie Forney, Brendyn Harper, Pyper Smith, Trynzlee Ebrecht and Ava Stump.

MS/HS Second Quarter Honor Roll Awards

Middle School Honor Roll Awards

6th Grade

Principal's (Gold)
Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)Sophee Clapp, Zoey
Pearson
Silver Award (GPA 3.53.89)- Hudson Alexander, Samuel Jenkins,
Reed Martin, Cade
Miller, Ava Steinman,
Gannon Stricker, Chandra Wyllie
Bronze Award (GPA
3.2-3.49)- Lila Miller,
Dustie Rader

7th Grade

Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Eliza Clements, Luke Clements, Jackson Keho, Conner Pearson, Zoey Phillips Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Journi Farnsworth, Hayden Marriott

8th Grade

Principal's (Gold)
Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)Laney Turner
Silver Award (GPA 3.53.89)- Weston Alexander, Trynzlee Ebrecht,
Coa Moyer, Draven
Rader, Lena Richards,
Savannah Rucker, Pyper
Smith, Ava Stump
Bronze Award (GPA
3.23.49)- Brendyn
Harper

Perfect Attendance

Reed Martin, Cade Miller, Zoey Phillips, Draven Rader, Conner Reeves, Ava Steinman, Ava Stump, Laney Turner, Tristen Wray, Chandra Wyllie

Student of the **Quarter**

Draven Rader

Leadership

Gannon Stricker **Citizenship**Sophie Clapp

Achievement Lila Miller

High School Honor Roll Awards

oth Grade

Principal's (Gold)
Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)Lily Blane, Kila Miller
Silver Award (GPA
3.5-3.89)- May Hansen,
Ridge Harger, Aiden
James, Halie Young
Bronze Award (GPA
3.2-3.49)- Wyatt Emery, Keith Riedel

10th Grade

Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)-Addalea Barcus, Lacy Riley, Carlos Rohner, Casey Wray Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Sadee Clapp, Blaine Clements, Emily Keho, Gannon Volner, Jackie Wray, Trevin Wyllie Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Jordan DeLeon, Kaeden Nave, Landon Parman.

11th Grade

Draven Rowland

Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Owen Martin, Olivia Renfro Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Mason Casner, Nevaeh Halvin, Gabby Harper, Katelyn Parman, Lakota Rucker

12th Grade

Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)-Daryn Berg, Saryn Brown, Preston Hansen, Morgan Pope, Sydney Whipple, Angie Parker, Lauren Herndon Silver Award (GPA 3.53.89)- Aydan Blackford, Tayden Halvin, Andrea Jenkins, Madison Leach, Brice Trimble Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Ethan Fry

Perfect Attendance

Lily Blane, Blaine Clements, Ridge Harger, Gabby Harper, Owen Martin, Kila Miller, Lacy Riley, Sydney Whipple, Jackie Wray

Student of the Quarter

Angie Parker

Leadership

Olivia Renfro

Citizenship

Nevaeh Halvin

Achievement

Brice Trimble, Gabby Harper, Sadee Clapp, Ridge Harger

Achievements





Congratulations to Casey Wray and Andrea Jenkins (left photo) for being a state qualifier for Cross Country this past fall.

Aydan Blackford reached 1,000 career points (right photo) during a home basketball game against Union Star on February 6th.

Gold Honor Roll Awards



Gold honor award receipients included front: Carlos Rohner, Addalea Barcus, Kila Miller, Lily Blane, Lacy Riley, Casey Wray; back: Angie Parker, Lauren Herndon, Saryn Brown, Daryn Berg, Preston Hansen, Morgan Pope and Sydney Whipple.

We Need Your Help on APR Scores

Continued from page 1

We are also putting systems in place to ensure that our kids can read better in the elementary by instituting researched based practices such as LETRS. LETRS is a system of understanding how student's brains work at processing reading skills. It also allows our teachers to be more prescriptive in how to address reading deficiencies. Systems are now starting to be put into place that everyone in the elementary are doing for small group reading instruction by utilizing a program called Really Great Reading. This program focuses on the phonics and phonemic awareness portion of reading. We are also working on implementing a common spelling and handwriting program throughout the elementary. This consistency will produce results on future tests. the high school, teachers are working in teams to offer more intervention for students who are struggling. They too, are working on written expression as a building wide goal. Students are given writing prompts to write about. These are done by all students throughout the

There are things that I would like to ask parents to help with improving our district's APR score. One of the things we are scored on is our student's attendance rates. Teachers can't help students learn if they aren't present in school. Overall, our attendance rate is in the

90s but always could be better. Please encourage your students to complete their homework. We are trying to shift away from it being busy work to being meaningful and purposeful work for understanding. If your student doesn't understand a concept or an assignment, please encourage them to seek help. This year our district started Career Ladder for Teachers to earn extra income if they tutored or assisted students outside of their contract time who need the help. I know our staff is willing to do whatever is necessary to help our kids succeed. A simple thing that can help put kids in a positive mindset to test is by providing them with breakfast before testing and making sure they are getting a good nights sleep. Parents encouraging their students to try their personal best on all tests puts them in a positive mindset. As a district, I am encouraging our administration to think of things we can do to motivate the students to do their very best on each test. I know our teachers do a great job of preparing students to be successful on these tests, pursuing a career or post-secondary education. Your expectation and encouragement to do their best on these tests will raise our overall score as a district. If everyone, just gives a little more during this time, our scores will improve and our APR score will rise.

In order to do that, we need to keep raising our expectations to achieve a challenging and rigorous curriculum that will prepare them for those settings. To achieve our mission, our staff had to develop common values in order to reach our desired outcome. Our values are centered on developing C.O.R.E. The "C" stands for Character. We believe that character is developed through leadership, service, setting academic and personal goals, and building a positive culture that promotes a growth mindset with high expectations to be your best. The "O" in CORE stands for Opportunity. As a staff, we are committed to providing students with opportunities to be continuous learners and involve them in real world experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Responsibility is the "R" of our values. We believe that developing this value is essential to becoming a productive citizen. This is demonstrated by timely completion of work and tasks assigned to students. It is reflected in whether students are dependable classmates and attend school on a regular basis. The final value is our "E", effective communication. We hope that students are able to communicate effectively verbally and with their written expression. These two skills are so needed by students in order to effectively advocate needs and wants as a productive citizen. As a school, we are more committed to model this effective communication by providing more information in various ways of what is happening at school. In order to be

effective, we have to work together in partnership to increase student's achievement and meet these core values that we all share.

I will be sharing specific objectives and strategies with you in future newsletters but I want to give you a chance to understand these five big areas of focus for our district. The five focus areas of our CSIP are as follows.

- I. Improve student achievement through enhancing our district curriculum and instruction.
- II. Provide opportunities for our students to be college and career ready.
- III. Engage the district's community with supportive school culture and climate.
- IV. Develop and improve academic and facility resources.

V. Be fiscally responsible utilizing accountable governance practices as a district.

As a district we can meet our mission and vision if we continue to lay out a foundation and direction for all of us to work toward. I feel like we are definitely headed in the right direction to help us meet our goals as a district. North Nodaway School District is doing great things as a district with students but it's because of the great work being done by our parents, students, teachers, staff, and administration all pulling together. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to call me or stop by the office. I feel truly blessed to be a part of a great school with two great communities.

Seniors Complete FFA Project



FFA members Aydan Blackford and Brice Trimble completed a project for the Nodaway Cattlemen.

NN STUDENTS EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES



Members of the FFA attended the National Convention in Indianapolis. They were able to see several potential careers in agriculture during their time and hear the National FFA officers talk about service and leadership. Picture are: Addalea Barcus, Lacy Riley, Morgan Pope, Saryn Brown, Preston Hansen, Katelyn Parman, Amy Richardson, Sadee Clapp and Neveah Smith.



Middle School Student Council members Weston Alexander, Trynzlee Ebrecht, Coa Moyer and Laney Turner attended the Student Council's district meeting.



Front: Madison Leach, Sydney Whipple, Owen Martin, Aydan Blackford, Mason Casner, Ethan Fry, Kaeden Nave, Mr. Schoonover; back: Lakota Rucker, Roger Wolf, Gannon Volner, Brice Trimble, Jordan DeLeon, Trevin Wyllie, Daryn Berg, Mr. West and Landon Parman attended the Cyber Paloza conference at Northwest Missouri State University where they learned about cyber security.



Platte Valley Cheerleaders Neveah Smith, Lily Blane, Addalea Barcus, Lacy Riley, Coach McKenzie Black, Amy Richardson, Kila Miller, Mya Hansen and Halie Young attended the PV Cheer awards. Special recognition was given to Lacy Riley-All Star of the Season; Addalea Barcus- Pride of the Valley and Lily Blane- Rookie of the Season.



National Honor Society inducted Sydney Whipple into the chapter last fall. Pictured are Mrs. Bix, Morgan Pope, Lauren Herndon, Andrea Jenkins, Angie Parker, Sydney Whipple, Saryn Brown and Aydan Blackford.



The Leo Club held a service field trip day in Kansas City where they dropped off meal kits and pop tabs at the Ronald McDonald house and then built Build-A-Bears to donate to kids with cancer at Children's Mercy. Pictured are front: Savannah Rucker, Ava Stump, Wyatt Emery, Lily Blane, Halie Young, Madison Leach, Pyper Smith; back: Neveah Smith, Daryn Berg, Matt Sturgis, Coa Moyer, Sadee Clapp, Weston Alexander, Casey Wray, Kila Miller, Laney Turner and Ms. Pedersen.

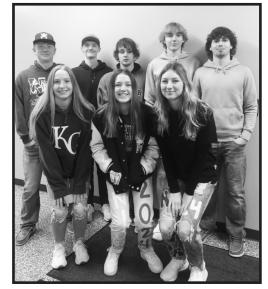
NN Mustang Courtwarming Festivities



Middle school students Conner Reeves, Lena Richards, Savannah Rucker, Laney Turner, Pyper Smith, Trynzlee Ebrecht, Coa Moyer and Ava Stump show off their PJs.



Queen Angie Parker.



Basketball athletes Angie Parker, Lauren Herndon, Saryn Brown, Aydan Blackford, Brice Trimble, Ethan Fry, Owen Martin and Mason Casner stop for a picture.



Freshmen Lily Blane and Mya Hansen display their courtwarming float at the Community Pep Rally.



Brice Trimble talks with elementary student Austun Law.



Community members cheer on the girls

and boys basketball teams during the

Sydney Whipple and Andrea Jenkins show off their style during Twin Day.



Elementary students enjoyed talking with the basketball players during Walk & Talk. Pictured are Bella Graham, Embree Brown, Madden Hansen, Owen Martin and Caspian Halvin.