

Upcoming Events

Nov. 6- JH Basketball vs St. Gregory, 5:30 pm
Nov. 10- No School. JH Basketball vs Rock Port
Nov. 11- Veterans Day. Veteran's Day Assembly, 9 am at Wren Peve Gymnasium

Nov. 13- JH Basketball vs Nodaway Valley, 5:30 pm

Nov. 17-20- JH Platte Valley Basketball Tournament

Nov. 19- Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm in Board Conference Room

Nov. 21- Community Thanksgiving Meal, 11am-1:30 pm in the MS/HS Commons. HS Basketball Jamboree, 4 pm at St. Joseph Christian School

Nov. 24- JH Basketball vs Union Star, 5:30 pm.

Nov. 25- Early Dismissal, 12:45 pm. HS Basketball vs North Harrison, 6 pm

Nov. 26-28- Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1-5- PVI Basketball Tournament

Dec. 2- JH Basketball at Platte Valley (Jefferson C-123), 5:30 pm

Dec. 6, 8, 11- JH 275 Conference Tournament at South Holt

Dec. 8- HS Basketball at Worth County, 6 pm

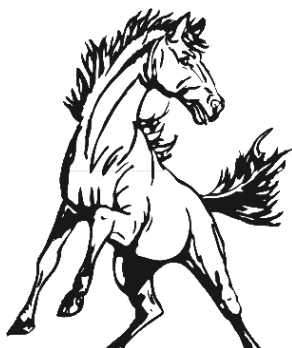
Dec. 9- MS/HS Winter Academic Showcase, 5:30-7 pm. MS/HS Music Concert, 7 pm

Dec. 10- Elementary Art Show, 5:30 pm at the MS/HS. Elementary Music Concert, 6 pm at the MS/HS.

Dec. 11- HS Basketball vs OSHS, 6 pm

Dec. 15- No School, HS Basketball at North Andrew, 6 pm

Dec. 16- HS Basketball at NEN, 6 pm



Mustang Metro

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Understanding the Missouri Funding Task Force and What it Means for North Nodaway

by Mr. Chris Turpin,
Superintendent

Missouri's public school funding system is undergoing close examination through the work of the Missouri School Funding Modernization Task Force, which is now at the halfway point of its meetings. Several workgroups have been formed to study key areas such as Local Effort, Performance Incentives, Student Counts, and Funding Targets. Each group will meet six times before presenting recommendations that could significantly affect how schools across Missouri are funded. While no final decisions have been made yet, the discussions this fall will lay the foundation for potential changes that could reshape funding for rural districts like North Nodaway.

One area under review is Missouri's hold harmless provision. North Nodaway is classified as a hold harmless school district, meaning our state funding is

still based on what we received in 2005, the last time the formula was written. At that time, funding was set under a different economic landscape and with lower operating costs. Today, the district's operating budget for the 2024-25 school year is \$3,879,289.71, with \$1,493,512.31—about 38%—coming from the state. Despite rising costs and salary mandates, that portion has remained largely

unchanged. Currently, about 38% of all Missouri districts are classified as hold harmless. Two groups assisting the Task Force have proposed phasing out hold harmless funding, which would result in North Nodaway losing approximately \$318,000 per year.

There are also ongoing discussions surrounding Joint House Resolutions 5, 6, 7, and 8, which propose changes to local property taxes. After

running local figures, these changes could result in an additional \$399,000 loss for North Nodaway. Combined with the potential loss of hold harmless funding, the district could face an overall reduction of roughly \$717,000 each year—a substantial impact on the operating budget. To put this in perspective, the district

*...Continued on page 6
Missouri Ranks 50th in the State*

NHS Inducts New Members



North Nodaway's National Honor Society inducted (front row) Kila Miller, Ridge Harger, Mya Hansen and Lily Blane into their organization. Other members (back row) includes Lacy Riley, Casey Wray, Blaine Clements, Sadee Clapp, Gannon Volner and Addalea Barcus. Not pictured: Mrs. Emily Bix, NHS Sponsor.

Tales from Townsend

By Heather Townsend,
Elementary Principal

It's hard to believe the first quarter of the school year is already behind us! The start of the year has been full of learning, growth, and community building. Our students have settled into routines, made new friends, and shown tremendous effort in both academics and character development. We have been working hard on kindness. Kindness in how we treat each other and how we talk to each other. Teachers have been working diligently to create engaging lessons that build foundational skills in reading, writing, and math while also encouraging curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. We've seen great enthusiasm during classroom proj-

ects, small group work, and school-wide activities that promote a love for learning. We have a building wide goal focused on math fact fluency and handwriting and any extra practice at home would be a huge help. Our building has also received the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant. This grant awarded our building with an annual \$45,000 for the next four years as well as providing our educators support in deepening their knowledge of and continuing to develop their knowledge of evidence-based reading instruction through a tailored approach that includes the high quality instruction we are focused on here at North Nodaway. As we move into the second quarter, we encourage families to continue supporting their children

by establishing consistent homework routines, reading together at home, and staying in touch with teachers. Your partnership plays a vital role in your child's success. We are also proud of the positive school culture that continues to grow each day. Students are learning the importance of respect, responsibility, and safety—values that guide how we learn and work together. Please join us in celebrating your child's successes, both big and small! Thank you for your ongoing support and for entrusting us with your children each day. Together, we are building a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success. We love seeing them every day!

Go Mustangs!!

Grandparent's Day



Barb Frueh enjoy lunches with her grandchildren Landon and Jaclyn Frueh during the elementary's Grandparent's Day luncheon on September 5th.

MUSTANG ALERTS

Mustang Alerts are sent as a text message to your mobile phone no matter what provider you have.

The information that will be sent out includes: school closings, early dismissals, school event reminders, and emergency information.

To sign up visit our website at www.nnr6.org and click on the Mustang Alert link.

The Three P's What It Means to Really Be Here

By Cameron Morrison,
K-12 Counselor

What does it mean to be a Mustang? In my eyes, it really comes down to three things. Being Present, Positive, and Proud. I believe having the ability to encompass all three of those traits helps us create a healthy climate and culture here at North Nodaway. One of my many goals for this year was to create a more positive atmosphere in the district, and my next step is reaching out to you all. Our community is the backbone of our district. If you were not here there

would not be any children to teach. There wouldn't be a community, as our school is a driving force and is what keeps Hopkins and Pickering alive and thriving. I know we are a small community so it falls on every single one of us to keep pushing forward. So when I talk about creating a school climate and culture, what does that really mean? It goes back to the three P's. Present, Positive & Proud.

Present—existing, occurring now, and or in a particular place. In other words, showing up. It is truly the first step in helping our students

succeed. It is not just on us teachers, but parents, grandparents, and even community members who may not have any students in our district anymore. I've heard people say "I've done my time." Yes, you may have and we are so thankful that you were supportive of our district then, but our school district is still here. You are still here. Students are still here. We need the continued support from everyone. (Whether that is attending a Friday night football game, a cold snowy basketball game, our Academic Showcase, a music concert, or even

a knowledge filled schol-
arbowl match) we still need to show up for our kids. This reminds me of a quote by Emily Dickinson, "Forever is composed of nows." Being present, in the moment, cheering a student on before they take a test, as they throw that first pitch, or as they are rounding the last turn to finish the final lap on the track. A student may never tell you that they heard you, might not even acknowledge that you were even there, but they know and they care. Be Present.

Positive—constructive, optimistic, or confident. How many of you have

heard something along the lines of "At North Nodaway? No way!" Is it often a positive view? More than likely no, but we, as teachers, staff and administrators want that phrase to have a positive outlook. We want students and families to think that North Nodaway can be one of the best places to send your students in Nodaway County or even northwest Missouri. As we enter the 2nd quarter there are so many positive things that we have been doing to

...Continued on page 7
Positive and Proud

Elementary First Quarter Honor Roll Awards

A Honor Roll

Preschool- Paetyn Brittain
First Grade- Brynn Miller,
Corbin Titus, Matthew
Wilmes, Lillian Young
Second Grade- Malia But-
ler, Jaclyn Frueh, Huxley
Hansen, Allizay Laflin,
Riley Perkins
Third Grade- Julian Bix,
Tleyla Duran, Kloie Titus
Fourth Grade- Landon
Frueh, Ryder Perkins,
Oakley Wermelskirchen

A/B Honor Roll

Kindergarten- Brandy
Smith, Jypsee Gilliland,
Vaideh Hansen, Ryker
Colebank
First Grade- Crosby Bix,
Sophia Boner
Second Grade- Embree
Brown, Austun Law, En-
zlea Lett, Karsyn Marriott,
Bennett Roberts
Third Grade- Aby Brittain,
Emma Dougherty, Mad-
den Hansen, Khloie Titus,

Diana Snuffer, Jayda
Wermelskirchen, Jase
Pickering
Fourth Grade- Lucas
Brown, Mae Hunter, Atty
Stringer, Lincoln Stringer,
Kynlee Titus, Ryder Titus
Fifth Grade- Camden But-
ler, Oliver Miller, Aiden
Parman, Skylar Pearson,
William Wilmes

**Character Strong
Awards: Respect**

Preschool- Donna Miller
Kindergarten- Creed
Drummond
First Grade- Kash Titus
Second Grade- Embree
Brown
Third Grade- Cashton
Weingrad
Fourth Grade- Lincoln
Stringer
Fifth Grade- Skylar Pear-
son

**Character Strong
Awards: Gratitude**

Preschool- Remington
Perkins
Kindergarten- Vladimeir
Rader
First Grade- Emilyynn
Allen
Second Grade- Riley
Perkins
Third Grade- Julian Bix
Fourth Grade- Ryder Titus
Fifth Grade- Oliver Miller

**Character Strong
Awards:
Responsibility**

Preschool- Jazzlyn Titus
Kindergarten- Vaideh
Hansen
First Grade- Sophia Boner
Second Grade- Huxley
Hansen
Third Grade- Kloie Titus
Fourth Grade- Landon
Frueh
Fifth Grade- Camden
Butler

**Respectful, Respon-
sible, Safe Awards**

Preschool- Paetyn Brittain
Kindergarten- Ryker
Colebank
First Grade- Brynn Miller
Second Grade- Allizay
Laflin
Third Grade- Jayda Wer-
melskirchen
Fourth Grade- Oakley
Wermelskirchen
Fifth Grade- William
Wilmes

Principal Award

Paetynn Brittain

AR Award

Most Improved

Second Grade- Riley
Perkins
Third Grade- Emma
Dougherty
Fourth Grade- Kymber
Farnsworth
Fifth Grade- Aiden Par-
man

Art Award

Kindergarten- Brandy

Smith
First Grade- Matthew
Wilmes
Third Grade- Kloie Titus
Fourth Grade- Lucas
Brown
Fifth Grade- Rollie Martin

**Golden Wastebasket
Award**

Fourth Grade Class

**Golden Lunch Tray
Award**

Second Grade Class



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NORTH NODWAY CHEER CLINIC



Eliza Clements, middle, poses with Bridgett Steinman and Embree Brown.



Malia Butler, Zoey Phillips and Ryder Everhart stop for a picture during the cheer clinic on October 17th.



Lily Blane, middle, smiles and shows excitement with Jaclyn Frueh and Madden Hansen.

First Quarter Wrap Up

by Mr. Cody Jenkins, MS/
HS Principal

It's hard to believe the first quarter is already behind us! North Nodaway recently celebrated our First Quarter Awards, recognizing students in both middle school and high school for Honor Roll, Student of the Quarter, Citizenship, and Leadership. We also took time to acknowledge outstanding MAP and EOC test performances from last spring.

This year, we have implemented several academic support systems to help our students continue growing. One key program is WIN (What I Need), which provides targeted assistance based on individual student needs. In addition, all students in grades 6–8 receive

extra time during the school day to work on skills and concepts they have not yet mastered.

Our teachers are working diligently through the RTI (Response to Intervention) process to provide personalized instruction in both Math and ELA. These interventions are guided by student data from NWEA benchmark assessments, which our district began using last year. The NWEA assessments give valuable insight into how students are progressing and serve as strong indicators of future success on the MAP and EOC tests in the spring.

We encourage parents to continue supporting their students at home by emphasizing the importance of these assessments—not just for the district, but for

each student's academic growth and confidence.

As we move into Second Quarter, our Mustang Family has a busy and exciting schedule ahead! We look forward to celebrating student achievements at our Winter Academic Showcase, enjoying festive performances at the Christmas Music Concerts, and honoring our community through our Veterans Day Assembly and Thanksgiving meal for the entire district.

Winter sports are also gearing up, and we invite everyone to come out, show their support, and cheer on our Mustang athletes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Go Mustangs!

NN Students of the Month



Brysha Allen, middle school, and Juliet Rollnik, high school, were the September students of the month. Congratulations!

YEARBOOKS

\$50

Stop by the
MS/HS Office
to buy your
2026 Yearbook!

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Persons desiring to file as candidates for the office of director in the North Nodaway County R-VI School district shall present a written notice of intent, on a form approved by the Board of Education, certifying the candidate's qualifications under the provisions of state statutes, requesting that his or her name be listed on the ballot. Persons interested may file at the Superintendent's office located at 705 E. Barnard, Hopkins, Missouri.

For the April 7, 2026 annual school election, a candidate may file on and after Tuesday, December 9, 2025, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except December 30, 2025 when office hours will be 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please note that the central office will be closed December 22-29, 2025 for winter recess, and days the district is closed for inclement weather. Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order they file for elections.

There are three (3) positions available with three-year terms.

StuCo Attends Convention



The North Nodaway middle school and high school student council attended the organization's district convention for the northwest area. Pictured are front: Sophee Clapp, Avary Volner, Zoey Pearson, Ava Steinman; back: Mr. Reid Hart, Lacy Riley, Casey Wray, Sadee Clapp and Ms. Bethney Pedersen.

MS/HS First Quarter Honor Roll Awards

Middle School Honor Roll Awards

6th Grade
Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)- Marin Alexander, Lucus Hansen, Isabella Graham
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Brysha Allen, Cooper Chesnut, McClellan Clements, Adyson Dailey, Taylor David, Zaylynn Luke, Lucien Rader, Torrie Rader, Clayton Titus, Landon Turner
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Jayneigh Lawson, Corey Reeves

7th Grade
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Jacobie Edington, Arianna Owens, Kamden Reynolds, Kayden Snuffer, Avary Volner
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Braxton Dougherty, Brentlee Hager

8th Grade
Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)- Sophee Clapp, Zoey Pearson
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Samuel Jenkins, Reed Martin, Cade Miller, Dustie Rader, Ava Steinman, Gannon Stricker, Chandra Wyllie
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Hudson Alexander, Lila Miller, Tristen Wray

Perfect Attendance
Cooper Chesnut, McClellan Clements, Taylor David, Torrie Rader, Brentley Marriott, Kayden Snuffer, Israel Torres, Scarlett Brown, Samuel Jenkins, Reed Martin, Ava Steinman, Tristen Wray

Student of the Quarter
Tristen Wray

Leadership
Sophee Clapp

Mustang
Isabella Graham

Achievement
Adyson Dailey

High School Honor Roll Awards

9th Grade
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Eliza Clements, Luke Clements, Jaycie Edington, Jackson Keho, Hayden Marriott, Conner Pearson, Zoey Phillips, Marek Stevens, Damien Westcott

10th Grade
Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)- Juliet Rollnik, Laney Turner
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Trynzlee Ebrecht, Kaeah Edington, Taccooa Moyer, Draven Rader, Lena Richards, Savannah Rucker, Pyper Smith
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-

3.49)- Weston Alexander

11th Grade
Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)- Lily Blane, Mya Hansen, Ridge Harger, Kila Miller
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Wyatt Emery, Harley Howard, Ty Moyer, Keith Riedel, Nevaeh Rowland, Breanna Westcott
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-3.49)- Monica Castillo

12th Grade
Principal's (Gold) Award (GPA 3.9-4.0)- Addalea Barcus, Stetsyn Brown, Sadee Clapp, Blaine Clements, Aryianna Jimenez, Kaeden Nave, Lacy Riley, Draven Rowland, Gannon Volner, Casey Wray
Silver Award (GPA 3.5-3.89)- Jordan DeLeon, Emily Keho, Landon Parman, Jackie Wray, Trevin Wyllie
Bronze Award (GPA 3.2-

3.49)- Laythen Ebrecht

Perfect Attendance
Luke Clements, Hayden Marriott, Marek Stevens, Damien Westcott, Draven Rader, Savannah Rucker, Laney Turner, Wyatt Emery, Ridge Harger, Jordan DeLeon

Student of the Quarter
Addalea Barcus

Leadership
Aryianna Jimenez

Mustang
Marek Stevens

Achievement
Jackson Keho, Draven Rader, Ridge Harger, Sadee Clapp



NN STUDENTS ATTEND CAREER FAIRS



Attending the Build My Future event included front: Ashly Kinney, Journi Farnsworth, Eliza Clements, Zoey Phillips, Conner Pearson, Owen Coleman, Kaeden Nave; back: Jaycie Edington, Damien Westcott, Luke Clements, Marek Stevens, Jackson Keho, Hayden Marriott, Laythen Ebrecht and Stetsyn Brown.



The senior class attended Northwest Missouri State University's New College Fair. Pictured are front: Jackie Wray, Aryianna Jimenez, Casey Wray, Emily Keho, Addalea Barcus, Stetsyn Brown, Blaine Clements, Jordan DeLeon, Draven Rowland; back: Sadee Clapp, Lacy Riley, Kaeden Nave, Laythen Ebrecht and Gannon Volner.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 19- Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm in Board Conference Room

Dec. 21- Winter Break Starts

Dec. 25- Christmas Day

Jan. 1- New Year's Day

Jan. 5- School Resumes. Early Dismissal 12:45 pm

Jan. 6- HS Basketball at Rock Port, 6 pm

Jan. 8- JH Scholar Bowl at West Nodaway, 4:30 pm, PV Football MS/HS Awards, 6:30 pm

Jan. 9- HS Basketball vs DeKalb, 6 pm

Jan. 10- PV JV Basketball Round Robin

Jan. 12-17- Stanberry Basketball Tournament

Jan. 15- JH Scholar Bowl, 4:30 pm

Jan. 19- No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 20- HS Basketball vs Nodaway Valley, 6 pm

Jan. 21- Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm in Board Conference Room

Jan. 22- JH Scholar Bowl, 4:30 pm at South Holt

Jan. 23- HS Basketball at Platte Valley (Jefferson C-123), 6 pm

Jan. 26-31- Gilman City Basketball Tournament

Jan. 29- JH Scholar Bowl, 4:30 pm at Stewartsville

Jan. 30- 100th Day of School

Feb. 3- HS Basketball at East Atchison, 6 pm

Feb. 6- HS Basketball vs Mound City, 6 pm (Court warming)

Feb. 9- No School

Feb. 10- HS Basketball vs. Union Star, 6 pm

Missouri Ranks 50th in the State

Continued from page 1

currently receives about \$650,000 annually in local wind turbine tax revenue. Proposed reductions could largely eliminate this revenue, while mandated costs continue to rise.

Missouri ranks 50th in the nation for state support of public education, meaning the state provides the lowest per-student funding in the country. At the same time, Missouri ranks 5th nationally for local community support through property taxes and other local contributions. For districts like North Nodaway, this combination creates significant reliance on local revenue to maintain quality education, and any reduction in either state or local support could have substantial consequences.

The state continues to expand the MOScholars program, which now directs tens of millions of state dollars to private and religious schools. The program was originally funded through private donations that earned donors 100% tax credits. The 2024-25 state budget included a \$50 million general revenue appropriation to MOScholars, more than doubling the number of scholarships available. During the 2024-25 school year, the program awarded \$15.2

million in scholarships, and in August 2025 alone, the State Treasurer's Office processed invoices totaling \$15.6 million for 2,329 scholarships—98% of which went to religiously affiliated schools.

Approximately 80% of the \$50 million in general revenue approved for MOScholars was directed to schools in Kansas City and St. Louis. These are state funds collected from all Missouri communities, including rural areas like ours, and most of the funding currently flows to urban districts. While families may choose private schools for a variety of reasons, this means that public school funding in rural areas must operate within the remaining available resources.

One example of new mandated costs is the state requirement that all school districts pay starting teachers a minimum salary of \$40,000 per year. At North Nodaway, our base salary had been approximately \$33,000 prior to this change. Including salary and benefits, a starting teacher now costs approximately \$55,245 per year, and a paraprofessional costs around \$32,234. Without additional revenue, maintaining these salary levels may require reductions elsewhere. If hold harmless fund-

ing is removed or local property tax revenues are limited, districts may need to reduce staff, delay facility improvements, or cut programs and extracurricular activities.

It's also important to note that the Task Force has been instructed to operate using current 2025 funding levels, with no additional state funds available for distribution. In other words, any changes to the formula would redistribute existing funds rather than increase total funding. At the same time, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been asked to submit a budget with a 30% reduction, underscoring the challenges districts will face with limited resources.

There's also a common misconception that if schools consolidate, local taxpayers stop paying school taxes. That is not the case. If a school district closes, taxpayers continue to pay the levy of the district where their students are reassigned. Additionally, closures can affect property values for homes, businesses, and farmland, impacting the local economy.

The Task Force is exploring potential formula changes that could further shift funding away from rural

districts. One proposal would move away from using attendance percentage—which benefits small rural schools—to a membership-based formula, which would favor larger urban districts. Other proposals include additional funding weights for English Language Learners, special needs students, and student test scores. While these may reflect important considerations, such changes could redistribute limited resources, potentially affecting rural schools with declining enrollments. At North Nodaway, we believe that standardized test scores should not be the primary factor in determining funding, as they represent only a brief snapshot of student achievement.

As the work of the Missouri Funding Task Force continues, North Nodaway will monitor developments and provide information to our patrons. The future of public education in Missouri depends on a balanced approach that supports both equity and opportunity. We encourage our community to stay informed and engage with available resources to understand potential impacts. As a district we have built up our fund balances the past few years for a rainy day and it appears that it may be

Positive and Proud

Continued from page 2

encourage learning and positive thinking and decision making. Starting off with our response to intervention (RTI), which is getting students who may need more help in the classroom the help they need. Secondly our behavioral systems are starting to fall into place as a district. Just a couple weeks ago we participated in Red Ribbon Week that encourages our students to make healthy choices and stay drug and alcohol free. When we use our positivity our students start to feel more respected, responsible and resilient. But it is also not just a part of the classroom. It's on the court, the bleachers, out in the parking lot and at the concession stands. What we say truly matters. It may not seem hurtful to you, but words can truly do some emotional damage. When we create positive atmospheres, our quality of life improves. It creates change, and our students greatly benefit from it. Be Positive.

Proud—feeling deep satisfaction as a result of achievements, qualities, or possessions. When I say I am proud to be a Mustang, I mean it. I would not be here as the school counselor if I didn't feel proud of our school and community. Proud and positive typically go hand

in hand. It is not so easy to be proud if you're not being positive. Everything that our school has accomplished, from the new office additions, bus barn, basketball goals, new textbooks and programs helps us become or stay proud of North Nodaway. Taking pride in our jobs whether that is sitting in a classroom learning or teaching, teaching children at home or at community events is an important part of life and it helps us all become productive citizens. What does it mean to be proud of North Nodaway? I've asked a couple students and teachers and here is what was said: Ms. Jackson, "means being part of a close knit community where we all support each other and care about the students." Mrs. Martin, "The students and staff working together to create a good and encouraging learning experience for all." Mr. Schoonever, "celebrate the growth and achievements of your peers". Ridge Clements, "representing our school in a good way and showing school spirit everyday.", Ava Steinman, "recognizing our strength as a small school and strong community". As you can see, the feeling of being proud comes in many forms; but it all relates to one thing—our people. We all need to take pride in everyone; your neighbors, school,

family, friends. Take a moment and think of the people you are proud of. What qualities does that person hold? Take those and embody them within yourself. Be Proud.

Part of our mission here is creating productive citizens. I think this is the responsibility of us all to have students become productive citizens and reach their future career goals. Being present keeps us in the moment and lets everyone shine their brightest. Having positive thoughts, words and vibes keeps our present moments productive. Taking pride in our school and community keeps our spirit alive. Being a Mustang is not just a saying, it's a lifestyle. Let's all stay present, positive and proud. As a life long member of this community, I challenge you all to strive to be a Mustang!

NN Elementary
201 E. 6th, Pickering
660-927-3322

NN MS/HS
705 E. Barnard, Hopkins
660-778-3315

NN Central Office
705 E. Barnard, Hopkins
660-778-3411

Securing Our Future:

Understanding Hold Harmless Funding at North Nodaway R-VI

by Mr. Chris Turpin, Superintendent

At North Nodaway R-VI, we are considered a "hold harmless" district under Missouri's school funding system. This means our district is guaranteed not to lose state funding even when changes are made to the state's funding formula. When Missouri updated the formula in 2005, some districts would have received less funding, so the hold harmless provision ensured those districts continued to receive aid based on their historical funding levels. While originally intended as a temporary safety net, the provision became permanent, which means North Nodaway receives funding based on our 2004–2005 or 2005–2006 levels, regardless of changes in enrollment or other factors.

Hold harmless funding provides stability, but it does not account for inflation. Over nearly two decades, state aid has essentially remained flat while costs for staff, utilities, and supplies have risen. To meet the gap between state fund-

ing and operating costs, the district increasingly relies on local property taxes. While this has allowed us to maintain programs and staffing, it also limits flexibility for new initiatives or facility improvements.

Recently, our assessed property value doubled due to the addition of wind turbines, bringing in an extra \$650,000 in revenue. This boost has allowed us to strengthen reserves and complete important facility projects. However, potential changes to state funding could affect hold harmless districts, which would impact the financial stability we have built.

Understanding hold harmless funding helps our community see both its benefits and its limitations. It has provided a reliable foundation for our district, and local support continues to play an important role in sustaining quality education for all students. At North Nodaway R-VI, we remain focused on preparing students for success while responsibly managing our resources for the future.

Community Thanksgiving Meal

Fri., Nov. 21st from 11am-1:30pm, MS/HS Commons, to register please call 660-778-3315



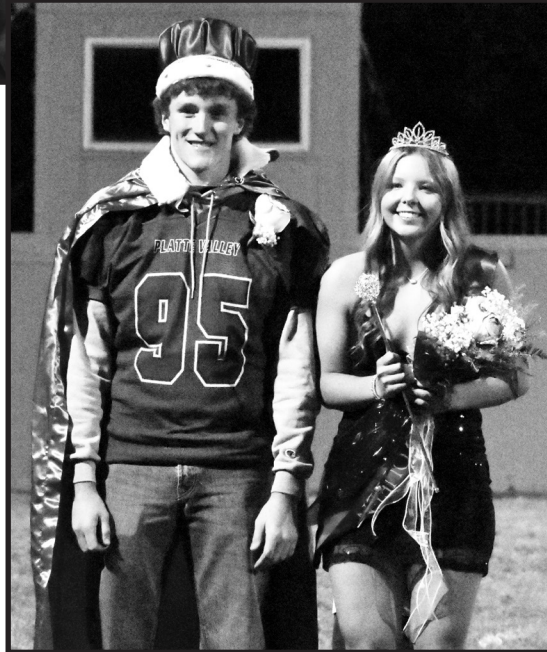
NN Mustangs Homecoming Festivities



The senior class poses with their homecoming float. Pictured are front: Aryianna Jimenez, Casey Wray, Lacy Riley, Emily Keho, Addalea Barcus, Jackie Wray, Sadee Clapp, Jordan DeLeon, Draven Rowland; back: Landon Parman, Stetsyn Brown, Laythen Ebrecht, Kaeden Nave, Blaine Clements and Gannon Volner.



Draven Rader shows off his crazy hair during homecoming week.



Homecoming King Blaine Clements and Queen Addalea Barcus.

The sixth grade class proudly displays their jerseys. Pictured are front: Zaylynn Luke, McClellan Clements; back: MyLee Stringer, Isabella Graham, Taylor David, Jayneigh Lawson, Adyson Dailey, Marin Alexander, Landon Turner, Lucien Rader and Clayton Titus.



Reed Martin writes his name with chalk.



Lacy Riley sits next to her name she spray painted onto the street, a long standing North Nodaway Homecoming tradition.



JH Volleyball team members Zoey Pearson, Chandra Wyllie, Avary Volner, Arianna Owens, Adyson Daily, back: Isabella Graham and Zaylynn Luke ride on their float through the parade.



The Kindergarten class shows their school spirit. Pictured are front: Vladimeir Rader, Creed Drummond, Jazzlyn Titus, Brandy Smith, Margaret Miller, Vaideh Hansen, Jypsee Gilliland, back: Cherokee Mursu, Mrs. Kasey Drummond, Liam Santana and Mrs. Mallory Kirby.