

THE CARDINAL'S CHIRP



ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL
PO BOX 170
ALMA, NE 68920



VOL XL, ISSUE NO. 4

December, 2020

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DAVIS

It's a great feeling to almost have the first semester completed. At the start of the school year there were a lot of unknowns with COVID-19 lurking over our heads. Luckily, we have not had any major outbreaks at school and/or any extracurricular activities at this time. I believe both are very important to our students and parents and I pray every day that we get through the school year without any major interruptions. The best and safest place for students to be is in a structured environment. We have made some minor adjustments to our COVID-19 protocols and our following all of the DHM's in place at the current time. If you are attending an extracurricular activity, please review the winter activity protocols that are posted on the school's social media sites.

The end of the first semester is a couple of weeks away and will end on December 17th and 18th with semester tests for 7-12 students who don't qualify for the High School Bonus Days. School will be dismissed at 2:00 on both those days and Friday, December 18th will mark the end of the first semester. School will resume on Tuesday, January 6th.

During Christmas break, the Nebraska School Activities Association has a "Five Day Practice/Competition Moratorium" for all high school activities. This moratorium runs from Wednesday, December 23 through Sunday, December 27. During this time, student athletes are not allowed to use the school for any reason. Alma Public Schools follows this moratorium for all students. During this time the school will be closed to practices, competition, and weight lifting by all elementary and secondary student and/or groups.

Merry Christmas to everyone and I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday break!

School Closing

As a reminder, during winter weather, if the school is in session or has a late start, parents may decide to keep their children at home because of personal circumstances and/or concerns about road conditions. If this were to happen please call the school and/or bus driver to let us know of your decision.

If the school is closed or has a late start, an announcement will be made through the school message system. You can also listen to the radio for an announcement on: KRVN – 880 AM or 93.1 FM, KQKY – 105.9 FM, KICX, KUVR – 1380 AM. Television announcements will be made on KHGI, Channel 13, KGIN, Channel 10-11, or KHAS, Channel 5. The information will also be posted on the school's Facebook and Twitter pages as well as being displayed on the school electronic sign.

If a late opening is announced, please continue to monitor the phone and/or media, as conditions may worsen warranting a closing of school. If the school is in session and close early, we will make an announcement through the school message system and the above media outlets as well as the school's social network pages.

If you have any specific questions that you would like answered in regards to the school, please contact me at the school. You can call me at 308-928-2131 or send your question by email to jon.davis@almacardinals.org.

Cardinal Speech 2020/21

The Alma Speech Team will soon be gearing up for a new season with many changes. The team will have a meeting in the coming weeks to begin the search for the perfect scripts to take to this year's competitions.

Due to COVID-19, there will be some changes that speech participants and spectators will need to take into account. The NSAA has released new guidelines for winter sports and activities. These guidelines can be found on their website. Coaches and judges will be wearing masks. Speakers will be permitted, but not required to wear a mask while at the event.

Some of the biggest changes in terms of competition are yet to be announced. This could include events switching to a digital format as well as splitting events between locations to help lower the number of persons in the building.

Coaches will not be allowed to view the performance, which will make practice and judge feedback even more important. I am confident that the students will bend and excel as normal during the season.

With the changes and the inability to have spectators at meets, we will be exploring our options as to a way to share performances with the public. Please stay tuned to the APS website and Facebook page for any updates.

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Courtney Stottler



Important Dates

2 PM dismissals - Secondary semester tests

Thursday, December 17th

Friday, December 18th

No school -Christmas break

Monday, December 21st- Tuesday, January 5th

5 Day practice/competition moratorium

Wednesday, December 23rd-Sunday, December 27th



Notes from Mrs. Lukas

Don't Break the Bank!!

The holidays are quickly approaching and it doesn't mean that budgeting have to go out the window. This is a great time to talk to your children about staying within a budget as they want to give gifts to their family and friends. Here are some things to consider when helping your child buy gifts for those they love.

1. Have your children work a little more to buy gifts. Give your children extra chores or have them ask neighbors if there are any chores to do to make a little extra money. They will feel a sense of accomplishment when they finish their jobs and are able to buy something for someone else because of it.
2. Have them write out a list of people they want to buy for and the amount allotted for each of them. They can see how much money they need to earn or they may see that they need to cut back on the amount they can spend.
3. Have your children create handmade gifts. They can spend less and it can still be a very meaningful gift. We can teach our children that it doesn't have to be an expensive gift for it to be meaningful.
4. Remind them that we can give of our time during the Christmas season. Make time to help someone in need or to do something special for someone else.

I hope you have a blessed Christmas season and enjoy this time with your family making beautiful memories.

History with Mr. Mahalek

This year has been going fast but I appreciate my students and the professionalism of the staff and administration. This year I have been enjoying a new textbook for my economics students that gives me the ability to use the textbook online. This makes it nice for my students because it has great resources from interactive graphs and online videos to help reinforce the material that they are learning. I will be enjoying the use of this new textbook for years to come while I educate the students in basic economic skills. Thank you to the Board of Education for purchasing the textbook it is greatly appreciated.

FOOTBALL BRENDAN JOHNSEN

2020 Football Recap

The 2020 football season is in the books. The season was not quite what we had hoped for when it comes to the record. The varsity team finished with a record at 1-7. The kids never gave up throughout the entire season, while facing some adversity. We faced a lot of injuries, while playing a very tough schedule. Our opponents had a combined record of 41-25, with five of the eight teams making a playoff appearance and three playoff games won by those teams. We also had a school record broke this year. Ayden Molzahn broke the school record for rushing yards in a game in the last game of the year against Perkins County. The previous record was at 238 yards and was held by Jackson McKenzie. The new record for Ayden is now at 303 yards. We lose two seniors, who we will definitely miss, but we have a good group of young guys. The JV squad had a 5-1 record and the Junior High team had a record of 6-0. The future for Alma Cardinal Football is very bright and I am very excited to get back to work for next season. Until next year, Go Cardinals!

Mrs. Pfeil's Math Room

Christmas time is my favorite time of the year.... One of my favorite things to do is play a Christmas game with your students and send them off to have a couple of weeks of down time, so they are ready to go in January. Please continue to encourage your students to work hard and put in their best effort. If they are struggling, encourage them to keep working at it and come in for help. Those students who continue to work through the struggles will have a much better understanding and hang on to the information for the future.

Your seventh graders have been diving into Algebra and are starting to solve equations. Throughout the rest of the year we will be learning processes to aid us in future math classes not just looking for answers.

The Algebra I students have been working on writing and graphing linear equations. We will continue on with inequalities and eventually by the end of the year we will start on quadratic equations.

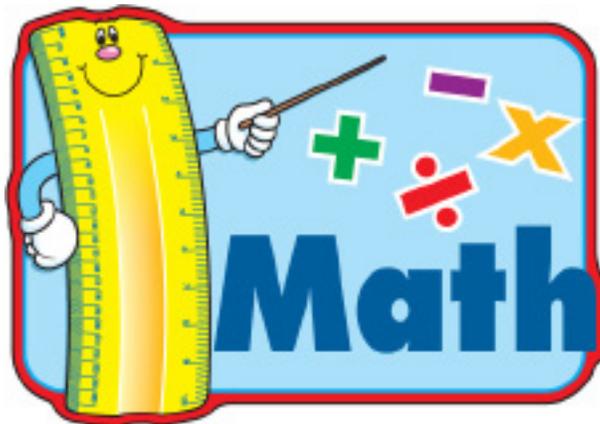
In Algebra II, your students have been reviewing linear and quadratic equations and inequalities. We have hit a few new techniques to solve each of these problems, and will continue to cover more ways to solve familiar problems, and new polynomial equations that we have not encountered yet.

Your Advanced Math students have reviewed many concepts that we covered in Algebra II and learned new techniques to solve problems and polynomial equations as well. We have covered topics that will aid in

College Algebra and especially in Calculus. Soon we will start our unit on Trigonometric Functions which will help in higher level math and physics classes that deal with periodic functions.

The Calculus students have reviewed many Algebra and Pre-Calculus skills. They have learned how to evaluate limits and derivatives and will continue to use derivatives to solve real life problems including slope, rate of change, optimization problems and curve sketching. During the second semester we will cover Integrals and use them to find areas, surface areas and volumes.

Once again, thank you for all of your encouragement for your students. A persons' attitude affects what they can or can not learn and achieve. The most important thing for your students is a positive attitude and an open mind. What a perfect time of year to remember to have a positive attitude!!! I leave you with a quote from a very wise jolly old elf who once said, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!!"



What's Happening in Mrs. Lowe's 3rd Grade

Thankful! Grateful! Blessed! I don't think that these words have meant more to me than during this school year. I am extremely thankful that we are in school, I am grateful that we have been able to do it safely, and I am blessed to have these kids in my classroom. These kids are truly what makes my job so special.

What a busy year we are having! We started the year with a brand new Wonders reading series. This series has us engaging our brains through various writing activities and wonderful new stories. We are exploring many different genres and finding the differences between them.

Math has us working diligently through our addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts using XtraMath. This program is self-paced and once the students complete one of the levels their certificate goes on the wall of fame. This daily practice has really helped with facts and the students continue to improve. We have also been working with perimeter and area along with many different fun math concepts.

We are just getting ready to make our teaching presentations for the different regions of the United States for Social Studies. This is a group project where the students do the research for the most important things in their regions and then they are the teachers and get to teach the rest of the class about their region. This is always a fun project and the students love becoming the teachers for their friends.

One of our many blessings this year is that we got to add books to our classroom library through a donation from Joe and Renee Schnuerle. The students made lists of their favorite books and we got at least one book from each list. We opened the boxes here at school and it definitely was an early Christmas present for us. The excitement for new books was contagious. Thank you again, Joe and Renee.

We are having so much fun learning and working together and we hope that this writing finds you all happy and healthy as we go into the holiday season. Many blessings to all of you.

Library News

Happy Holidays from the Library Staff

This year has brought some changes to the APS Library.

Mrs. Heather Crawford is our new aide this year. She does a great job!

Mrs. Crawford has a gift for decorating and the library has never looked better.

Another change we've had to get used to is quarantining books. ALA guidelines recommend that books are quarantined for 4 days after they are returned to the library.

The students have been very patient waiting for popular books to go back into circulation.

New books are always being added to the collection. We take suggestions from students and teachers on books that might interest young readers. With almost 12,000 books in the collection, there is something for everyone.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

Mrs. Schluntz and Mrs. Crawford