

Timber Tracks

Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

December, 2020

NEWSLETTER

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail or by email and would like to be taken on the mailing list, please contact Jackie at 402.266.5911.

Winter Break

School will dismiss at 2:20 PM on Tuesday, December 22nd for winter break and will resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Winter Concert

Due to COVID-19 and other factors, the K-6 and 7-12 Winter Concerts will be conducted virtually. The plan is to record the concerts and share them via the school's webstream page, which can be found online at striv.tv/channel/exeter-milligan. More information will be shared as we get closer to the concert dates.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we will not be having Pep Club this year for basketball. We hope to resume this new venture for the 2021-2022 season so hang on to your shirts. Go Timberwolves!!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & OUR FAMILY LABELS FOR EDUCATION

The school is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Our Family Labels for Education. Box Tops and Labels can be left at either the Exeter office or the Milligan School office. Thanks for your support of these programs.

Cold Weather Information

Please be sure your child comes to school dressed for the cold temperatures. Students should come to school with winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots when it begins to snow. This is very important especially for the elementary students because if the weather permits they will have recess outside. Also make sure your child's items are labeled with their name so they don't get lost.

School Closing Info...

All notification of weather related late starts or school closing will be announced only at these media sites. Please tune in these stations to receive information updates:

- Television Station KLKN in Lincoln -- Channel 8
- Television Station KOLN-KGIN in Lincoln -- Channel 10/11

Announcements are also made through the ADT alert system that is sponsored by Generations Bank in Exeter.

Attendance Policy

Notice! The district has an attendance policy which is aimed at reducing critically-high absenteeism. Under normal conditions, the policy limits absences to 10 days per semester, with exceptions for special circumstances. The details of the policy are outlined in the student handbook which each student and parent received in August.

Students/Parents

When your absences reach over 10 for any period you will need to make up the absences before you will be allowed to participate in any co-curricular activities, which includes practices.

Student Absences

We are again asking that you notify the school by **8:30 AM** if your child will be absent or late from school. If you know in advance that your child will be absent, please send a note with your child prior to the absence. This is the most effective way for the school to monitor your child's attendance. If you do not know in advance or if your child is not in school by 8:45 AM we will make an effort to contact you as to the whereabouts of your child. When your child is absent if we do not speak to you personally or if you do not send a note your child will be considered UNEXCUSED.

Notice to Parents – Childfind

This notice is to inform the patrons of the Exeter-Milligan District 01 that: Public Law 94-142 and State Rule 51 and 54 mandate that free appropriate public education is available to each handicapped child, years 0-21, who reside in a local school district. Handicapped children are defined as: Physically Handicapped, Visually Handicapped, Acoustically Handicapped, Speech Handicapped, Orthopedically Handicapped, Educable Mentally Handicapped, Behaviorally Impaired, Specific Learning Disabled, Mentally Retarded, Multi-Handicapped, Home and Hospital Bound. (By reason, thereof, require special education and related services.) If you feel that your child may qualify under any of the above categories please contact Paul Sheffield Superintendent, Exeter-Milligan Public School District #01, Exeter, NE. 402-266-5911.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Name: Paul D. Sheffield

Title: Superintendent

Address: 318 S River Ave, Exeter, NE 68351

Telephone: (402) 266-5911

E-mail: paul.sheffield@emwolves.net

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcop01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053– Nondiscrimination.

Seniors/Senior Parents

We need the following for the yearbook as well as for the senior video. (This is separate from the banners so even if you have your banner info in we still need all of these items for the yearbook and video.) Please have these into Miss Severson before Christmas break. The sooner we have them the sooner we can get things done and with the pandemic, we want to get as much done as soon as we can.---Thank you, Miss Severson and the yearbook staff.

1. Senior picture sent in digital format. This needs to be a close up photo that is orientated vertically. (like the photo of Anna below)



2. A parent note and baby photo to congratulate your graduate. (Please keep it under 100 words so that we can fit all of them on the pages assigned)
3. 5-7 baby/childhood photos for the senior video.
4. Group photos from the students' childhood are also greatly appreciated.

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Braden Capek! He was selected to participate in Concordia University's Musical Arts Day. Due to Covid-19 the event has been postponed for now. They hope to have it in the spring.

The **K-6 Holiday Concert** will be recorded during classes in December and streamed online. Due to covid mitigation recommendations by the NFHS commissioned study at Colorado State, the students have sang very little this year. Instead they have explored different areas of music. Therefore, the classes will perform in ways other than singing at this concert. The K-2 students will perform two songs with scarves, the 3-4 students will perform with plastic plates, and the 5-6 students will perform with ribbon wands. All of these performances will be with music from the *Nutcracker Suite*. They have listened to the music, determined the form, and in the older classes, they have chosen the movements to correspond with the form. Each class will also perform separately on instruments. The kindergarten will accompany a story, the first and second grade will perform a play along, and the 3-6 grade students will play boomwhackers. In most cases, each student is playing a "solo" on their instrument, we have very little doubling. Each music class has focused on reading music notation and students have improved immensely in their ability to read rhythms (K-2) and pitches (3-6.)

The **7-12 Holiday Concert** will also be recorded during class in December and streamed. The 7-12 choir students performances will include limited singing and playing the ukulele. The 7-12 band students will perform two pieces as a large group. We hope to have some small group performances to record as well. The students have been adjusting to the new normal of setting up in the gym for band each day, wearing masks, and using bell covers. Singing and playing is limited to 30 minutes in a space and that has limited our preparation time. The students have worked hard and explored new concepts this year.

Homecoming 2020 will be one we will never forget. In spite of the craziness of the world we were able to celebrate our week with fun and laughter and school spirit.

The theme for the week was Homecoming 2020: Head-to-Head with each of the dress up days centering around that theme. Monday was Neon vs Neutral; Tuesday was Country vs Country Club; Wednesday was Athlete vs Mathlete; Thursday was Middle-aged Dads vs Soccer Moms and Friday was School Spirit vs the Huskies.

The Pep Rally was held in scenic downtown Exeter. Masks were worn, but they didn't dampen the spirit. Jaiden Papik MCed the event and kept the entertainment flowing. The band entertained with their percussion instruments and kept everybody excited for the day.

Following the Bobcats' victory the Homecoming Royalty was announced. Freshmen – Savana Krupicka and Trenton Vossler; Sophomores – Olivea Swanson and Daysan Staskal; Juniors – Briana Capek and Casey Underwood; Seniors – Cammie Harrison and Clint Oldehoeft, Georgia Meyer and Brock Steuben, and Queen Jaiden Papik and King Jackson Beethe.

The Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped make Homecoming 2020 memorable.





Exeter-Milligan Winter Activities Plan

As the winter activities season quickly approaches, we have made some updates to our winter activities plan. The complete plan can be found on the school website at www.emwolves.org. As we did in the fall, we will share each schools' activities plans so parents/fans are aware of the winter activity attendance expectations. The current directed health measure restricts attendance at activities to immediate family members only living within the same household. Many schools will have restrictions on the number who may attend, so please pay attention to each schools' plan. We will do our best to share this information.

Below are some of the highlights of Exeter-Milligan's plan:

- Masks are REQUIRED for all spectators
- Varsity home games only - JV games will be played on a different day
- Attendance for JV and Varsity contests will be restricted as follows
 - immediate family members only with a maximum of 4 - family members are those who are in the household of the children/teens who are participating in those indoor activities.
 - Only immediate family members of girl athletes will be allowed to view the girls game. The gym will be cleared and the boy athlete family members will be allowed into the gym. Please plan accordingly.
 - A pass list will be utilized. If a person is NOT on the pass list, they will not be admitted.
- Attendance for Junior High basketball games is restricted to **PARENTS only**.
- Admission is **FREE** for all spectators
- No Concessions



December 2020

Our theme, or focus, this year has been tEaM>me! I'm not sure I have referred to this short, but very important, phrase near enough since the school year started in August. If you know me then you probably know I have coached for several years. Making the decision to leave the coaching arena was a difficult one. The feeling and gratification you get knowing you are a part of a group of individuals who are always striving to be the best they can be for the good of the team is beyond what I can put into words on this paper. Since giving up coaching two years ago, I can count on one hand the number of volleyball games I have missed. I sincerely apologize to those who have sat around me and listened to me bark instructions to the girls from the stands. At times I would catch myself and do my best to leave the coaching to the coaches, but the sense of being part of the team runs deep. Even though I am no longer coaching, I want so badly for those girls to be successful because the tEaM will always be greater than me!

I moved to Milligan in 1992 and I have been here ever since. I have been the principal, first elementary and now K-12, since 2011. It's the same feelings I have about coaching that has kept me right here in the same place for 28 years....the feeling and gratification I get knowing I am a part of a group of individuals who are always striving to be the best they can be for the good of the team! Now when I refer to "team," I'm referring to a group of 42 teachers and staff members who mimic the same principles our coaches and athletic teams have displayed...the tEaM is greater than me!

Now more than ever we need both communities to take on that same "tEaM is greater than me" mindset. We need to focus on doing those things necessary to keep our school doors open and our kids in the buildings. We have had 35 students who have had to quarantine. All but two were due to being exposed by an adult in the household who tested positive. I understand that no matter how careful you are things happen. I get that there are some things that are just out of our control. However, we can avoid the three Cs:

Crowded places, Close contact, and Confined spaces. Please do your part to keep our doors open and to keep our kids in school! Please adhere to this thought.....the tEaM is greater than me.

AVOID THE THREE Cs

Crowded Places

Avoid gathering in groups where you can't maintain 6-foot distance from others.

Close Contact

Wear a mask or maintain 6-feet distance when you're with people you don't live with.

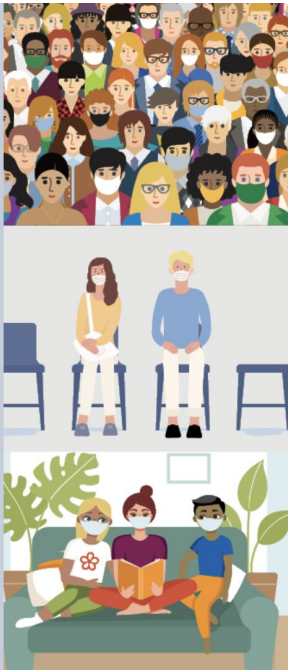
Confined Spaces

Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

For more information, visit:
www.dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus

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NALHD
Nebraska Association
Local Health Directors



Mrs. Kroll
tEaM>me

View From the Front Office

Exactly eight months ago we dismissed school due to COVID-19. It appears that the situation is even worse now compared to then. It is evident the precautions intended to slow the spread of the virus have not been utilized to their fullest extent. Politics aside, the science underscores the importance of practicing these preventive measures. Please do your best to help mitigate the spread and slow this train down. As adults, we need to model for our youth what it means to do what is best for others.

As we move into the holiday season, this is the time we give thanks. With all that is happening it is hard to think about what we are thankful for, but actually now is the best time to share our thanks. I had the opportunity to partake in the FCS Foods class Thanksgiving dinner (which was delicious.) A tradition during this meal is each participant must share one item for which they are thankful. An overwhelming theme was the students were thankful they were still in school and had the opportunity to participate in an activity such as this. When it was my turn, I shared I was thankful for my oldest son's safe return from his navy deployment and I am also thankful for my extended EM Wolves family. The students helped me put it all in perspective - be thankful for the little things in life we take for granted.

These last eight months have been very stressful for everyone. To say it has been overwhelming is an understatement. There have been days when I swear I am dreaming and I will soon wake up and all will be back to normal. As school leaders we have so many factors to take into consideration. I realize no matter what decision is made, someone will be upset. But we make the decisions based on what is best for our students. Hence another reason to be thankful for my extended E-M family. The teachers and staff have been

nothing but supportive to each other. They have truly demonstrated their resolve and that TEAM > ME.

The students have also done a great job adjusting to the new norm. There are times when we need to remind each other to get that mask over the nose and to social distance; but, overall, the students get it. Adhering to the preventive measures helps keep them in school and participate in all the school related activities. Hats off to our students for helping lead the way and also showing that TEAM > ME.

Most of all, I am thankful for my immediate family. No matter what happens, my wife is always there for me - whether I am giddy with excitement because I had an AWESOME day at school or I am Mr. Grumpy and need to put my positive pants on (she tells me that often.) Without her guidance and support, my days and nights just wouldn't be the same. Thank you Karla for being there for me each and every day!

There you have it - my thankful list for 2020. Before we know it, Christmas will be here and we will soon be saying, "Man, I sure hope 2021 is better than this past year." Make sure to take some time this holiday season to reconnect with someone from the past, go out of your way to help someone in need, or tell those who are the closest to you how much you appreciate them. These last eight months have demonstrated we can't take these relationships for granted. Make an effort to be the positive light for others - remember TEAM > ME.

Thought for the month:

There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark.

Helen Keller (Light in My Darkness)

Exeter-Milligan Breakfast Menu – December 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	Breakfast: Choice of Entrée or Cereal with Yogurt Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice and Milk served daily	1 Triple Berry Yogurt Parfait and Blueberry Mini Loaf	2 Bacon, Egg, and Cheese Biscuit Sandwich	3 Breakfast Casserole	4 Belgian Waffle Sticks & Omelet	
	7 Berry Smoothie & Bagel with Topping Choices	8 Biscuits & Gravy	9 Pillsbury Mini Pancakes & Sausage Links	10 Cinnamon Roll and Omelet	11 “Uncrustables” Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich & Go-Gurt Stick	
	14 Pancake Power Sandwich	15 Caramel Apple Yogurt Parfait and Cinnamon Toast Crunch Soft Bar	16 French Toast and Little Smokies	17 Pancake Sausage Wrap on a Stick	18 Bacon-Grilled Cheese Sandwich	
	21 Sausage, Egg, & Cheese Croissant	22 Homemade Breakfast Pizza	23 Winter Break Begins	24	25	

Exeter-Milligan Lunch Menu – December 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	7-12 Grade have the choice of main entrée or turkey sandwich	1 Turkey, Ham, Cheese Deli Sandwich, Sun Chips, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie	2 Quesadilla, Potato, Vegetable, Fruit	3 *French Dip Sandwich, Tri-Tator, Cheesy Vegetable, Fruit	4 Rotini, *Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad, Fruit, Bread Sticks	
	7 Mac & Cheese, Mini Corn Dogs, Vegetable, Fruit	8 Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Fruit	9 *Chili Soup, Cinnamon Roll, Carrots & Celery, Fruit	10 Pepperoni Bosco Sticks, Vegetable, Fruit, M&M Bar	11 Homemade *Hamburger Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Fruit, Pudding Dessert	
	14 Fiestada, Vegetable, Fruit, Bar	15 *Sloppy Joes, Potato, Vegetable, Fruit	16 Homemade *Beefy Burrito, Lettuce & Cheese, Topping Choices, Spanish Rice, Fruit, Cookie	17 Christmas Dinner Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Stuffing, Vegetable, Fruit, Dinner Roll, Ice Cream Bar	18 Chicken Strips, Potato, Vegetable, Fruit, Southern Style Biscuit	
	21 Pizza Sticks, *Meat Sauce, Vegetable, Fruit, Christmas Poke Cake	22 Hot Dog, Nacho Chips & Cheese, Vegetable, Fruit	23 Winter Break Begins	*Provided by the Purple Ribbon Meat Program	Milk served with all meals	

Exeter-Milligan School Calendar – December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Basketball Game Times will be announced ASAP on the school website & the Friday Note</i>	Look for calendar changes on the school website www.emwolves.net	1 JH BB (H) vs. BDS 12:45/2:00	2	3 Coding Club BB @ Deshler	4 BB (H) vs. Osceola	5 JH BB Tourney @ Dorchester
6 EMF FFA Chapter Meeting in Friend 5:30pm	7 JH GBB @ Friend 3pm Makerspace-Exeter FCCLA Meeting 6:15pm	8 BB @ East Butler (Brainard) Makerspace-Milligan	9 JH BB (H) vs. Dorchester 12:45/2:00 Board of Ed Meeting in Milligan 7pm	10 Coding Club GBB @ Dorchester	11 BB (H) vs. Heartland 6:00pm	12 JV BB @ Giltner
13	14	15	16 JH BB @ Meridian 12:45/2:00pm	17 BB @ NE Lutheran Coding Club Grades 7-11 Map Testing	18 BB @ High Plains Girls @ Clarks V-6:00 followed by JV Boys @ Polk JV-6:00 followed by V	19 JV BB @ Meridian
20	21	22 Last Day of 1 st Semester 2:20 Dismissal BB @ Friend	23 No School NSAA Moratorium	24 No School NSAA Moratorium	25 No School NSAA Moratorium	26 No School NSAA Moratorium
27 NSAA Moratorium	28 No School	29 No School BB @ Silver Lake	30 No School BB @ Sliver Lake	31 No School		