

NORTH LYON COUNTY PATRON NEWSLETTER

# THE USD 251 COMMUNICATOR

September 2018

## Superintendents Corner

It has been a great start to the school year. With nearly 350 students, we are off and running to the best school year ever! Our motto this year is “Don’t look back, we aren’t going that direction.” We are focusing on making this the best year ever for every one of our students, and making plans to move this district forward!

We have put together a capital outlay improvement plan that maps out facility maintenance and improvements, on a perpetual 5-year plan. Knowing what needs to be fixed, maintained or improved, and how it will be paid for, is imperative to the continuous upkeep of our facilities. With the age of our buildings, this maintenance will be a high priority during the course of this year.

The Board took part in an afternoon long retreat in late July, where they were able to discuss many items, as well as begin planning on a strategic plan that will help guide us over the next couple of years while I am here. One of the items on our list is to use the Reading school building for an educational purpose. Although we will not use it as a traditional elementary school because of the costs involved, we do plan to utilize it as a possible pre-school, to supplement not replace, the current North Lyon Early Childhood Center in Allen. We plan to reach out to parents to see if there is a need for an additional full day 3 and 4 year old pre-school in the Reading building. We may also use part of it as a special purpose school, in conjunction with the Flint Hills Special Education Coop. Both of these can be done with few district dollars, by using state grants from the Kansas State Department of Education, and the Mobilizing Literacy grant, along with partnerships with the Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative. I am confident we will see students in that building again at the beginning of the 2019 school year!

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Over the next few months we will be doing surveys and polling of the public, to see what you want us to do and will support, to update and improve our facilities over the next few years. We want your input and I am looking forward to hearing what you think. We will be sending out more information on this polling/survey process in the next month or so. While we wait on results of these surveys and polls, we will be moving forward with maintenance items to get our existing spaces repaired and updated.

It is going to be a great year for USD 251. Go Wildcats!!

Mike Mathes

## Mobilizing Literacy Grant – Kindergarten Readiness

### Preschool Tuition Assistance and Kindergarten Jumpstart

*Did you know that:*

- 90% of a child's brain architecture is built before the age of 5
- The achievement gap at kindergarten between those who start with lower skills and those who start with higher skills may narrow over time, but will not disappear.
- Students who participate in high quality early learning programs consistently outperform their peers who do not.
- A Kansas study demonstrated that children who entered kindergarten with strong school readiness skills were more likely to maintain this success at least into third grade.
- Student success in kindergarten and in later years depends largely upon experiences during the first five years of life.

*Each of these facts are testimony of the importance for Kindergarten Readiness.*

USD 251 is once again a recipient of the Mobilizing Grant. The Mobilizing Literacy Grant is made possible through the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testamentary Trust and focuses on children from birth through age 8 living in Coffey, Lyon and Osage Counties. USD 251 is focusing on the school readiness pillar with Mobilizing Literacy.

*Kindergarten readiness* is one of the five outcome areas to measure progress that has been established by the Kansas State Department of Education. Although USD 251 does not currently offer a preschool program, we can support families by offering Preschool Tuition Assistance and Kindergarten Jumpstart.

**Kindergarten Jumpstart** takes place one week before school starts, and kindergartners attend each day for ½ day. During Kindergarten Jumpstart, the focus is on building relationships and setting and reinforcing academic and nonacademic expectations and routines, without the distraction of other students in the building. The school environment is a very big world for a 5 year old! Students also receive a book from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. At the spring Kindergarten Roundup, students receive a Transition To School Backpack full of early learning materials and a 3 month guide of activities to prepare children for Kindergarten.

The **Preschool Tuition Assistance** Program provides tuition assistance for families who reside within USD 251. The preschool child must be at least 3 years old and attend a qualifying preschool regularly. Each of the children participating in the tuition assistance program receive a Ready for Preschool Backpack which contain manipulatives and a 3 month calendar filled with developmentally appropriate activities children complete with their parents. USD 251 families have been extremely grateful for the Preschool Tuition Assistance Program.

If you have a child attending preschool, please contact Becky Mayes at 620-443-5116 or [mayesb@usd251.org](mailto:mayesb@usd251.org) to discuss preschool options and Preschool Tuition Assistance.



# NLC Principal's Perspective



The 18-19 school year is here! I am writing this a few days ahead of our 1st day of school and I am excited to soon have our halls filled with students! NLC Elementary (K-8) teachers and staff have already spent many days preparing for students to return! 28 Kindergartners had the opportunity with NLC Elementary K Jumpstart where incoming K students get a jump on school by coming in for 4 days the week before school to get to know their teacher, their classroom, learn routines, and start their path towards literacy. We are also excited this year to begin "Mini-families". Each student at NLC Elementary will be in a small school family with 5-6 other students of varying age levels along with an adult staff. The goal is for these family to get to know and support one another through planned activities and daily check in's. NLC Elementary will have 35 Mini-families. I encourage you to follow us on Facebook by searching for "USD 251 North Lyon County". NLC Elementary will be posting many photos and videos of our Mini-Families, service projects, and project-based learning activities throughout the school year. We know this will be a great school year and we hope you follow us on our journey!

NLC is proud to welcome new staff members Auriel Fox and Elizabeth Dunlap to our school.



My name is Auriel Fox. I am so lucky to get to start teaching Physical Education at NLC. I look forward to getting to know our wonderful community more. Here is a little bit about me. I taught elementary Physical Education at Fort Riley last year. I have three amazing children. My family and I enjoy sporting events and participating in them as well. Lastly, I am from the Lyon County area. During Physical Education at NLC we are going to focus on learning by doing and getting ourselves active now and life long. I can't wait to start the 2018-2019 school year!

My name is Elizabeth Dunlap. I'm so excited to be teaching music at NLC. I am from Wichita, Kansas and I graduated from Kansas State University where I played in the Marching Band. In my free time I enjoy making music, doing crafts, and playing with my cat.

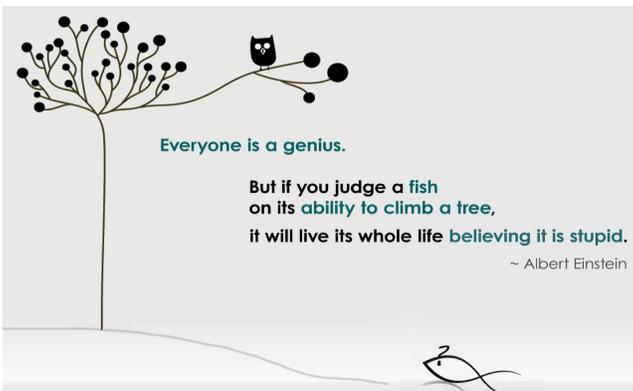


## KINDERGARTEN HAPPENINGS

The new Kindergartners of North Lyon County attended jumpstart Monday August 13th-Thursday 16th. Each day had a literacy lesson and we finished our morning rotating through different alphabet centers. The jumpstart program allows students to be the first ones in the building to explore and find our way around. We learned the routines and procedures of a normal school day including lunchtime and recess. The last day of the week, we were taught about bus safety and took a ride on the big yellow bus to the park. We cooled off with popsicles and enjoyed playing with the other Kindergarten class while making new friends. We are excited to learn, play and grow this year!



## Everyone is a Genius...



My favorite quote comes from Albert Einstein; the man who is often thought of as one of the smartest people to have lived. He had an unconventional approach to life and academics, but it worked well for him. This year the North Lyon County School District is encouraging students and teachers alike to experience learning in a whole new way. Things are going to get messy in our quest to ensure that all of our students reach their full potential.

Thank you for all that you do as parents and guardians to make sure your children attend school regularly and do their best. I am looking forward to a great year with some of my favorite people: your students! -Mrs. Robinson



# Northern Heights High School

## PRINCIPAL'S PEN

“If Everyone is Moving Forward Together, then Success Takes Care of Itself”  
Peggy Fort

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Northern Heights High School. We are off and running with many academic clubs and activities for the year. We have several new teachers and classified staff this year.

1. Mrs. Misty DeDonder will be teaching Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). She will also be the FCCLA sponsor (Family, Career and Community Leader of America) sponsor.
2. Mrs. Lesley Draper will be the new business teacher.
3. Mrs. Virginia Barger will be our new At-Risk Aide.
4. Mrs. Dana Cain will be the new Learning Resource para.
5. Mrs. Angie Becker will be a part-time Learning Resource teacher at Northern Heights and Americus.
6. Mr. Gary Griffith will be our new daytime custodian.

Welcome to all teachers and classified staff.

Parents - Every weekend I will send out an email to communicate the week's activities and information you may not receive through other forms of communication. Please feel free to email me any questions you may have for the week's events. If you do not receive an email from me weekly, please contact me with your correct email. My email is [fortp@usd251.org](mailto:fortp@usd251.org).

The teachers have been working with Mrs. Jessica Woodrow to create a sense of community and pride in our school and daily activities. Our students have a half hour a day for “Advisory Wildcat Pride Time”. During this time each teacher will have a group of students who will create a Wildcat Community of Pride.

Monday - College and Career Development

Tuesday - Academic Support/test prep/ACT prep/Scholarship apps.

Wednesday - Academic Support/test prep/ACT prep/Scholarship apps.

Thursday - Club/Social meetings and Civic skills/projects

Friday - Social and Emotional Skills and Civic skills/projects

We also begin our day every morning with all students and teachers meeting in the gym together. A student leads the student body in the Pledge of Allegiance, announcements, and recognition of birthdays. The teachers and myself then give special announcements, recognition to students, and short clips of motivational videos. This is a great time for us to come together as a Wildcat Community.

Enjoy the last days of summer and welcome back to a great year!  
Peggy Fort

## Senior Presentations

This semester English IV students will be completing three unit research projects which will culminate in presentations to share their research with the school and community. In addition to reinforcing important English curriculum skills, these projects allow students to develop and refine their skills involving evaluating and organizing information, time management, collaboration, communication, creativity, and initiative. We are always looking for community members willing to come be an audience for our presentations. No particular experience is required, just a willingness to listen and provide constructive feedback. Our presentations are scheduled for the following dates: Friday, September 28, Friday, November 9, and Thursday, December 20. If you would be willing to donate some time to come be part of our audience on any of those dates, please contact Sarah Malcolm at [malcolms@usd251.org](mailto:malcolms@usd251.org) or 620-528-3521.



## Sharks Find a Way, Goldfish Find an Excuse

National Honor Society members helped to welcome the NHHS Class of 2022 on Wednesday, August 22 for freshman orientation. NHS sponsor, Mrs. Malcolm, is using the book *The Shark and the Goldfish* by Jon Gordon as a teaching tool this year. NHS members jumped right in and posed as sharks to decorate Mrs. Malcolm's door. Since this picture was taken, many more students have committed to being sharks, so be sure and check out all of the great pictures on her door the next time you visit Northern Heights!

## NHHS Wildcat Volleyball

The Northern Heights Volleyball team took third place in the Burlingame volleyball tournament. They won four out of their five matches. They beat Council Grove, Lyndon and Burlingame in pool play. They lost to Olpe and beat Lyndon for the third place win in bracket play.

Congratulations Lady Wildcats!



## NORTHERN HEIGHTS WILDCATS FOOTBALL



#	Name	Position	Grade	Height	Weight
2	Weston Orender	Rec/Db	11	5'11"	150
3	Isiaiah Smith	Rec/Db	10	5'2"	145
5	Tyler Floyd	TE/LB	10	6'	210
7	Marcus Waters	QB/LB	12	5'6"	135
10	Wayde Burton	Rec/Db	9	5'6"	120
13	Aaron Ross	Rec/Db	9	5'7"	120
20	Colton Tiffany	Rec/Db	10	5'7"	120
22	Cameron Heiman	Rec/Db	11	5'6"	150
24	Zeke Ball	TE/LB	10	5'10"	150
25	Hunter Plankinton	Rec/Db	10	5'7"	125
28	Colby Galloway	Rec/Db	9	5'3"	120
29	Tee Preisner	Rec/Db	10	6'1"	230
30	Braden Heins	Rec/Db	9	6'0"	140
50	Landon Delgado	OI/DI	10	5'6"	130
54	Noah Caines	OI/DI	11		
55	Skyler Arb	OI/DI	10	6'3"	180
56	Hank Phillips	OI/DI	9	5'7"	160
57	Coy Horton	OI/DI	9	5'7"	150
58	Michael Lindburg	OI/DI	10	5'8"	195
62	Chandler Myers	OI/DI	12	5'9"	210
64	Gavin Piper	OI/DI	9	5'9"	170
66	Axl Lucas	Rec/Db	12	5'9"	150
68	Moses Guerrero	OI/DI	12	5'10"	230
72	Gabriel Brammell	OI/DI	9	6'1"	325
75	Hunter Humphreys	OI/DI	11	6'1"	210
76	Jarrett Morris	OI/DI	12	6'	285
77	Logan Centlivre	OI/DI	9	5'4"	175
95	Tim Krugler	K	11	5'9"	130

Co-Head Coaches: Greg French, Darwin Sweetman  
 Assistant Coach: Brett Barnett  
 Manager: Chrissy Lewers  
 Athletic Director: Lea Hamlin  
 Principal: Peggy Fort  
 Superintendent: Mike Mathes  
 School Colors: Black, White  
 Mascot: Wildcat

WILDCAT SCHEDULE		
Date	Location	Start
8/31/18	@ Osage	7:00
9/7/18	@ West Franklin	7:00
9/14/18	Mission Valley	7:00
9/21/18	@ Yates Center	7:00
9/28/18	@ Lyndon	7:00
10/5/18	Centralia	7:00
10/12/18	@ Valley Heights	7:00

## Northern Heights Cross Country



Friday, Aug 24, the Northern Heights Cross Country team had their annual “Ultimate Practice” to celebrate the first two weeks of the season. This year, Coach Michael Lanzrath provided water balloons for Water Balloon Dodgeball and popsicles for a cool, sweet treat! The winning team even got to douse Coach with a tub of water at the end of it all. A great day to kick off the rest of a GREAT season! #NHCC



## Reading Pre-School Need

We are considering starting a second pre-school for at risk or special needs children next year at Reading. This would be in addition to the pre-school/daycare center in Allen. If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 years old next school year and could benefit from a formal full day pre-school program in the current Reading building, **please contact the district office**. We do not plan to provide transportation, so getting a student to and from Reading would be your responsibility. If there are enough children needing this service we will begin planning for next year.

This service would be provided free to students who meet the criteria listed below. All others would require a small fee yet to be determined.

### 4 Year Old At Risk Qualifications:

1. Living in Poverty (qualifies for free lunch)
2. Single parent household
3. Teen Parent
4. Either parent lacking a high school diploma or GED
5. Limited English Proficiency
6. Lower than expected cognitive, physical, social/emotional, or behavioral development
7. Child qualifying for migrant status
8. Recommended by DCF

Again, contact the district office if you are interested in your child attending pre-school at Reading next school year.

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER