
USD 251

NORTH LYON COUNTY

JANUARY 2023

PATRON NEWSLETTER



Dear North Lyon County School Families,

As many of you know the USD 251 North Lyon County Board of Education has initiated a school facilities study to begin this month. The final facilities report will be completed in April 2023. The purpose of the study is to provide USD 251 with up-to-date population trends, enrollment trends, and future enrollment estimates. In addition, the study will contain information pertaining to classroom utilization, student capacity of buildings, and strengths and weaknesses of buildings. Specifically, this study will provide the school district and our communities with relevant information to assist our school district in reaching good decisions about the school building repairs and updates as well as the education program we provide to students in the future. Most importantly, the information will guide future decision making to ensure that students are provided with the most effective and efficient education in the 21st century. This is a good common-sense practice for schools to engage in periodically in order to provide information needed for long range planning purposes. Dr. G. Kent Stewart of Manhattan, Kansas will conduct the study. Dr. Stewart is a retired professor of Education at Kansas State University with over 50 years of experience as a consultant to school boards and communities on school facility issues. He has conducted many similar studies in Kansas and other states.

Currently, the Board of Education is engaged in a process of selecting patrons to serve on the USD 251 North Lyon County Strategic Planning Committee. The goal is to appoint a group of patrons that will be a representative cross section of our entire school district's citizens. The board will be reaching out to each of our communities governing bodies to nominate one person each. Additionally, the board will appoint 9 additional committee members bringing the total Strategic Planning Committee to 13 members. The membership of the committee will be finalized by March 2023. We are anticipating that the study will be completed in April 2023. Upon completion, the study will be received by the board and immediately released to the public for review prior to the first Strategic Planning Committee meeting in the summer of 2023. The committee will be assigned with the following tasks:

- Review the school facilities study, which is currently scheduled to be completed from January through April 2023. The purpose of the study is to provide USD 251 with up-to-date population trends, enrollment trends for the past decade, and future enrollment estimates. Furthermore, the study will contain information pertaining to classroom utilization, student capacity of buildings and their strengths and weaknesses. Specifically, the facilities study provides the board and our patrons with information necessary to utilize our school facilities effectively and efficiently for teaching and learning in today's world. The information will also serve to assist in defining and prioritizing building repairs and updates that may be needed in the future.

- Engage in long-term strategic planning for 21st century schools by reviewing USD 251's four strategic directions adopted by the board in early 2022. Those areas are: 1) Improving student achievement, 2) recruiting, developing, and retaining quality staff, 3) Engaging and involving all district stakeholders, 4) Managing the school district's budget & resources effectively and engaging the community in researching potential solutions for school district facilities.

It is important to understand that this ad hoc committee could potentially meet over a long period of time if necessary. After the committee has studied all of the relevant information pertaining to the facilities study and the four strategic directions of the school district, the committee will be asked to provide feedback to the USD 251 Board of Education.

We are currently anticipating the following timeline:

January 2023: USD 251 Facility Study begins.

February/March 2023: USD 251 Board of Education appoints Strategic Planning Committee.

April 2023: Facility Study completed and made available to the USD 251 Board of Education and the general public.

May/June 2023: Strategic Planning Committee begins meeting on a regular on-going basis.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent



Celebrating this New Year, 2023, it is always a great time for looking back, but more importantly, looking forward to this coming year and all of the exciting opportunities and growth potential. It is a time to reflect on the changes we want, or need, to resolve to follow through on those changes. So, as we begin 2023, I want to assure everyone that the high expectations in academics set from the beginning of the year will continue as we begin this second semester.

As we begin the second semester, I am filled with both gratitude and pride for our staff members' dedication to our students this school year. Our students are in good hands at NLC/ELC! I also continue to be impressed with our students as they navigate another challenging school year; they are working hard each and every day at school. Finally, I would like to extend a thank you to our parents and community for their continued partnership.

You will be receiving your child's report cards very soon and what a great opportunity for our students to think about what they have learned and set goals for the second semester. There is always room for improvement, but let's also celebrate the growth and achievements that your child has made this year. If you have any questions regarding your child's report card, please feel to contact their teacher to discuss.

Thank you PTO!

The NLC staff would like to thank the NLC PTO for all their support so far this school year. Staff enjoyed a wonderful soup lunch in December courtesy of the PTO. We are grateful for the kindness and support we are given from the PTO and all of our families throughout the school year.

Water and Landforms project: 1st Grade

The purpose of this project is to get students thinking about the land they live on and the differences of the physical earth between places they have seen, i.e. mountains, ocean, the varying topography. It is important for the students to consider these places in their head and think visually about the many unique landforms and bodies of water. It will make understanding the differences between them easier if the students already have an image in their heads of what these different places look like.



Winter Concerts

Congratulations to Mr. Reist and his students for their outstanding performances at the winter concerts!



KC WOLF

During a special assembly, KC Wolf visited our campus and gave a very entertaining message. His message was centered around being kind, "it's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice." He included the ABC's to give action steps to success. A = Attitude, B = Behavior, and C = Character. The students all received an autographed picture of KC Wolf, and were thoroughly engaged in the message. The visit was organized by Ms. Fox and PTO was kind enough to cover the cost. **Thanks to Ms. Fox and PTO.**



UPCOMING NLC/ELC DATES

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| Jan. 5th | School Resumes. NLC BB @ Mission Valley |
| Jan. 9th | NLC-FHJL Varsity BB @ Central Heights |
| Jan. 12th | NLC-FHJL Varsity BB @ Central Heights |
| Jan. 14th | NLC-FHJL Varsity BB @ Central Heights |
| Jan. 16th | No School- Martin Luther King Day |
| Jan. 30th | Quiz Bowl @ Central Heights |

Donations needed:

We are accepting donation of small toys, books, crayons, and markers for Kindergarten through fifth grade students. These items will be used for our rewards program starting this spring.

HAPPENINGS AT HEIGHTS:

We are half way through 2022-23, and it has happened quickly. A quick thanks to staff, students and community for a great 1st semester. Whether academically, activities, or community-based service, our kids and staff have done an outstanding job. We continue to work to improve each and every day, and I cannot thank everyone involved enough for their efforts and commitment to Northern Heights High School and USD 251 – It's a GREAT PLACE TO BE! We have accomplished a lot but there is so much more for us to do. As we close out 2022 and prepare for 2023, we are excited for what we have done but are eager to start a new year and the new challenges it will bring. I hope students and staff enjoy the time off to recharge for what I know is going to be an incredible 2023!

STUCO / HOSA

The Northern Heights Student Council teamed up with the HOSA club (Future Health Professionals) for a combined canned food/hygiene product drive. The quick two-week event saw Northern Heights students donate nearly 300 cans and 200 various hygiene products. NHHS students then divided and boxed up the donations that are to be distributed to food pantries in the North Lyon County community. STUCO and HOSA both thank those that contributed and look forward to more events in the future!



FFA / FCCLA

During the Holiday Season, FFA and FCCLA sponsored a money drive for their Adopt a Family project. Several students and staff members agreed to participate with the idea that the money raised could cause them to dress as one of Santa's helpers on the last day of school before break. After raising more than \$300 and adopting 3 different children the "losers" of the contest are seen pictured below. Thanks to everyone for being a good sport and thanks to everyone who donated to make a memorable Christmas to those less fortunate.





Senior Citizens Dinner

National Honor Society hosted over 90 local area senior citizens and served an additional 30+ meals that were delivered for the annual Senior Citizens Dinner. Students and guests were entertained by NHHS choir and Mr. Reist during the event. Thanks to all who attended and to all students who were involved in making this community event special. If you are 65 and older and would like to be included next year, please call **(620) 481-2087** to be added to our invitation list. Thanks to Ms. Eckert and Senior Dylan Kozinski for organizing and putting it all together.



As we put a wrap on 2022 and think about the holidays, family, friends and the joy that the season brings, I can't help but think about all the things the staff and students do for those around them. Also, the incredible generosity of our community and school. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. Thanks!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and We will see you NEXT YEAR! **Mr. W**

Attendance in School Matters!

The mission of North Lyon County USD 251 is to *prepare all students for a successful future and to be productive members of society.*

The first step in that process is for your child to attend school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year.

Did you know...?

Of children with good attendance in Kindergarten and first grade, 64% were proficient readers by third grade, while only 17% of students with poor attendance were reading on grade level.

By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.

By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is considered chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month.

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your child's school.



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.



**USD 251 IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF BUS
DRIVERS!!!**

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

WILL TRAIN!

Part time from 2 ½ hours daily for a morning or evening route.

5 hours daily for both morning and evening routes.

Activity routes and trips are also available.

OFF ON NON-SCHOOL DAYS!

Confidential criminal history and drug testing are required. Must have acceptable driving record.

Contact the District Office for more information at 620-481-2085