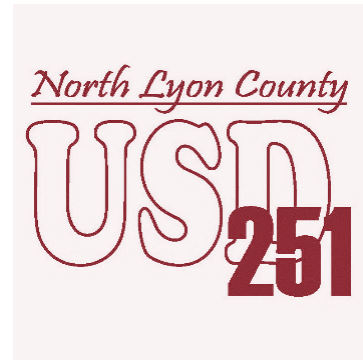

USD 251
NORTH LYON COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2023
PATRON NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Message

**By Robert W. Blair,
Superintendent**

Dear North Lyon County USD 251 School Community,

The Kansas State Department of Education recently released Accountability Reports for all Kansas school districts. Some of the highlights of our district's report are the following:

- Four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate – 100%
- Attendance Rate – 92.6%
- Kansans Can Star Award – Academically Prepared for Postsecondary
- Kansans Can Star Award – Civic Engagement
- Kansans Can Star Award – High School Graduation
- Kansans Can Star Award – Postsecondary Success
- Academically Prepared for Postsecondary Success in Science – 4 points above the state average
- Academically Prepared for Postsecondary Success in English Language Arts – 4 points above the state average
- Five-Year Effective Average – 2 to 4 points above the predicted Effectiveness Rate (graduation rate multiplied by the calculated success rate)
- ACT Performance – 20.1, above the state average of 19.8

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the USD 251 Board of Education members and the USD 251 Site Council members. These two groups of community members volunteer their time and work extremely hard to make sure students have the resources they need to learn. Many of the members of both groups grew up in our communities and want to give back to the communities and make sure that district resources are used wisely to maximize student success. I have truly enjoyed working with both of these groups over the past three years. Please take time in the near future to thank the board members and site council members for their commitment to our students

In January, the USD 251 Site Council began working on Building Needs Assessments for each of our two campuses. They will continue to work on these documents in February, March, and April. The Needs Assessments will be utilized by the USD 251 Board of Education in school budget planning this spring and summer. This process entails reviewing student needs, state board of education outcomes, curriculum needs, educational capacities, staff needs, facility needs, family needs, school data, and other data.

Our school district is continuing to implement the ongoing 5-Year Capital Outlay Plan that has been budgeted over the past several years. This ongoing maintenance of our current facilities and vehicles is important to maintain our current capital outlay assets and prevent a capital outlay backlog. The following progress has been made on the 2022-2023 Capital Outlay projects:

- NHHS South Gym bleacher replacement – completed
- NHHS South Gym scoreboard replacement – completed
- NHHS roof replacement – completed
- PK-12 technology replacement – completed
- Bus replacement (1 bus) – completed
- NLC cafeteria/kitchen floor replacement – completed
- Building interior/exterior maintenance (NLC, NHHS) – completed
- Early Learning Center remodeling construction – completed

The bus replacement (1 bus) and SUV replacement (2 SUV's) for the 2023-2024 Capital Outlay Plan were ordered last summer, one year in advance in order to have them shipped in the summer of 2023. I will provide you with an update on all of the 2023-2024 projects in the near future.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

NLC Principal's Recap

NLC/ELC teachers and staff reported back on January 3rd for in-service, training varied by grade assignments to make the in-service more relevant for our staff. The PK-5th grade teachers attended a session on "Best Practices." This session included 10 structured literacy components: phonological awareness, sound symbol association, syllable instruction, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading fluency, vocabulary, semantics, and comprehension. This session also covered the 6 structured literacy principles: cumulative, systematic, explicit, simultaneous multisensory, automaticity, and diagnostic/responsive. The 6th-8th grade teacher's session was focused on vocabulary instruction. Mr. Blair and Ms. Joann McRell presented: How To Teach and Integrate Vocabulary Across The Different Disciplines.

With first semester coming to a close, the teachers wasted no time getting things rolling. Here is just a glimpse of what classes are doing:

Kindergarten - continuing to work on sound symbol association

1st grade - adding 3 single digit numbers and animal research

2nd grade - vowel digraphs/diphthongs

3rd grade - division

4th grade - vocabulary logs

5th grade - Novel studies

6th grade - Pre-algebra equations

7th grade - wave links

8th grade - Lincoln and division of the states



Student Rewards Store

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new reward system with the opening of our Rewards Store.

The NLC Rewards Store is open for the K-5th students. Our students have the opportunity to earn "Wildcat Bucks" for staying engaged in class and following classroom procedures. The K-3rd graders visited the store on Friday, January 20th and the 3rd-5th came on the 27th. The students left with smiles on their faces.

* They are also learning to save their money for what they want to buy. The smaller items may be tempting, but they know that if they want to earn that Lego set they need to earn more Wildcat Bucks.



NLC/ELC Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 2nd - FHJL Band Festival @ Ottawa
- Feb. 6th - NLC Quiz Bowl @ Lyndon/ NLC Wrestling @ Southeast of Saline
- Feb. 8th - School Counselors' day
- Feb. 13th - NLC Quiz Bowl meet @ NLC
- Feb. 15th - NLC Spring Pictures
- Feb. 16th - NLC Wrestling @ Herington
- Feb. 20th - NLC Wrestling @ Marion
- Feb. 21st - NLC Wrestling @ Council Grove
- Feb. 24th - Donuts with Dads
- Feb. 27th - NLC Quiz Bowl @ West Franklin

Rob Hampton
NLC Principal/Athletic Director

Happenings at Heights

As we continue to press on into 2nd semester, there are a lot of things happening. Winter activity season continues to move along through mid-season tournament and into the stretch run of regular season before sub-state playoffs. Pre-enrollment for juniors, sophomores, freshman and incoming class of 2027 has begun. We will be hosting our school wide ACT for all juniors interested. This is the "free" ACT sponsored by the state.

Incentive Program Introduced:

In January, NHHS introduced a school wide incentive program for all students. Through collaborative efforts of our staff and NHSS Student Council, an incentive program called "Cat Credits" was developed for weekly achievements as well as 9 weeks and semester. Incentives were created for achievements in academics, attendance, and behavior. Individuals that qualify weekly get an opportunity for some free "relaxation" time. Students can play a variety of games or just relax and take some time off from school work. Each week starts a new recording so students are eligible for the incentive even if they didn't qualify the week before. Also, at the end of the 9 weeks, student will receive a special incentive reward if they achieved 6 "Cat Credits." An additional reward at the end of the semester will be available for those students who achieved 12 or more Cat Credits for the semester. There is also a built-in incentive for students who maintained a high % academically in each of their classes. This reward is the exemption from semester final or semester culminating activity. Those students who are exempt will not have to be in attendance for that particular class period of finals. All of these incentives are built to encourage responsibility of students for their attendance, behavior and academics. So far, it has worked very well.



Senior Exit Interviews:

NHHS staff are working to develop senior exit interview day. This is an opportunity for each senior to prepare and go through a professional interview. We are looking for adult volunteers to serve as interviewers on this day. Our hope is to create panel interviews in a variety of professional fields that will match or at least have similarities to careers our seniors are interested in pursuing. This interview process would occur at NHHS during the day. We are looking at dates in April but are open to other possibilities depending on availability of interviewers. Fields we would like to cover include: various agricultural fields (farming/ranching), ag business, ag management, health care fields, manufacturing / welding, business (banking, finance and advertising), education, sport management, and others. This is a great opportunity for our students to gain the experience of a professional interview. If you are interested in helping us with this, please contact Dave Watkins or Jessica Woodrow at NHHS.



NHHS Counselor Update

The second semester has gotten off to a busy start. I have meet with every senior to discuss and help finalize their plans after high school. This has been so rewarding to see how they are progressing and tackling the transition to the next stage. I can't say enough about the

support I have had utilizing their Advisory teachers in helping them. I can definitely see the impact the IPS process had over the last several years as well.

February and the remainder of the third quarter will be extremely busy. I plan on meeting with each junior through freshman individually to discuss their course plans for next year. I also enjoy this time visiting with students and hearing what classes they are interested in exploring. Many juniors will be taking the ACT on Tuesday, February 28th. If you have a junior testing, please encourage them to spend as much time as possible studying for these tests. For many students, this is the first time taking them, and they should try and get the most from this opportunity.

As always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything I can assist you or your student with. Phone: 620-481-2067 Email: woodrowj@usd251.org

Jessica Woodrow



Spring 2023 is already busy, and it looks like it is not going to slow down anytime soon for FCCLA. Bethany DeDonder, who acts as the FCCLA State Board of Directors Secretary recently attended the spring meeting and had some great input for the program at the state level. It is great to see Northern Heights Students helping to implement change and policy in such a major way.

FFA recently hosted the FCCLA/FFA lock-in. Kids had pizza and a lot of fun with FFA State Sentinel Mackenzie Anderson leading them in team-building events, and various other activities. A lot of events are coming up soon for FCCLA, so be looking for some updates in the next newsletter!

February 1st - District STAR events

February 4th - Winter Ball

February 13-17 FCCLA week

February 20th - CTE Day on the Hill - FCCLA members Preston Patton, Bethany DeDonder, Taylor Pringle, and Piper Hall will be presenting to legislators at the Capitol to advocate for FCCLA



Upcoming Events:

- Winter Queen of Courts and Winter Ball February 3rd and 4th
- Regional Wrestling February 17 and 18
- State Wrestling February 22/23 (Girls) 24/25 (Boys)
- Spring Sports can begin practice February 27
- School wide ACT February 28
- Boys and Girls Sub State Basketball February 27 - March 4
- End of 3rd Nine Weeks March 8
- Parent Teacher Conferences March 9
- Spring Break March 13 - 17

Preschool and Kindergarten News

The **NLC Early Learning Center** (Preschool) offers full day preschool for children who are 4-years-old. Quality early childhood learning experiences as well as transportation, breakfast, lunch and a snack are provided.

Please be watching for the **NLC Early Learning Center (Preschool) Preregistration!!** A link will be posted on the USD 251 North Lyon County Facebook page as well as the USD 251 website - www.usd251.org. All children who will be 4-years-old by August 31, 2023 will be considered for preschool.

Additionally, a **Preregistration** link for **Kindergarten** will soon be posted, also on the USD 251 North Lyon County Facebook page as well as the USD 251 website - www.usd251.org. All children who will be 5-years-old by August 31, 2023 are eligible to attend Kindergarten.



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

BUILDING INFORMATION

If you have any questions or need assistance with school related issues, they will be glad to help you. The administrator's names and school phone numbers are as follows:

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent of Schools: (620)481-2085

Dave Watkins, Northern Heights High School Principal: (620)481-2087

Robert Hampton, NLC /ELC Principal: (620)481-2086

