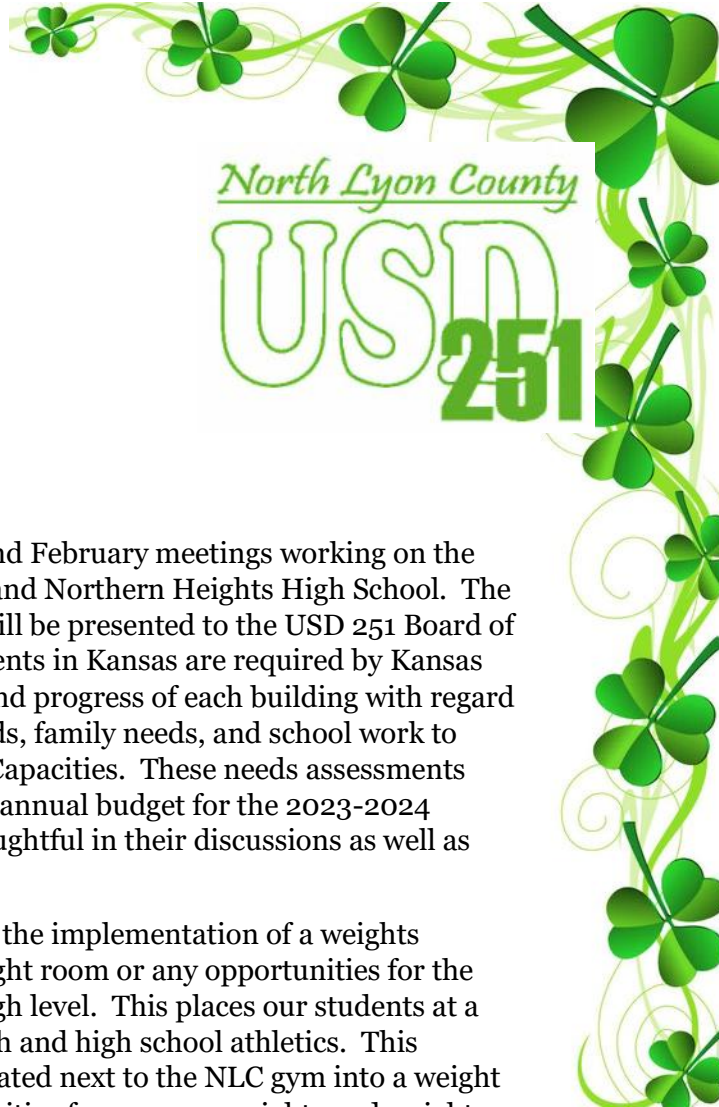


NORTH LYON COUNTY MARCH 2023 PATRON NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Message

Dear North Lyon County School Community,

The USD 251 Site Council has devoted time at their January and February meetings working on the building needs assessments for both NLC Elementary School and Northern Heights High School. The Needs Assessment drafts and site council recommendations will be presented to the USD 251 Board of Education at a future board meeting. Building needs assessments in Kansas are required by Kansas statute and include important questions to monitor the data and progress of each building with regard to curriculum, staffing, facility needs, student needs, staff needs, family needs, and school work to achieve the State Board of Education Outcomes/Educational Capacities. These needs assessments will be utilized by the Board of Education when approving the annual budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The Site Council has been very thorough and thoughtful in their discussions as well as providing the school with valuable advice.

Recently the USD 251 Board of Education has been discussing the implementation of a weights program at the NLC Junior High. Currently there is not a weight room or any opportunities for the junior high students to engage in weightlifting at the junior high level. This places our students at a significant disadvantage as they begin competing in junior high and high school athletics. This spring, we will begin converting the metal storage building located next to the NLC gym into a weight room where junior high students will have the added opportunities for summer weights and weights classes beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

In February, our school district submitted our Kansas Pre-school Pilot (KPP) grant application. When we opened the Early Learning Center in August 2022, our district utilized this \$107,280 competitive grant to assist in the start-up of the four-year-old preschool program. The bulk of this grant money was utilized to purchase the furniture, curriculum, lockers, and other learning materials. In addition, it provided some reimbursement for teacher aide salaries, and a portion of the transportation and maintenance costs. We have applied for the same amount of grant money again, although we may not receive the entire amount for the second year. In addition to the grant funding, the program generated about \$103,000 in additional funding from KSDE based on the total number of qualifying students and weightings. In the future, the program should continue to receive the additional state funding to make it self-sustaining. Furthermore, our district is very appreciate of the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Trust grant that provided a significant amount of the funding to remodel the building for the Early Learning Center. This program is already providing great promise in student learning achievement and kindergarten readiness for USD 251.

The USD 251 District Leadership Team (DLT) is continuing to meet on an on-going basis to select our two school district goals for the next five years from 2022 until 2027. The goal selection is a part of the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) school accreditation process. All USD 251 teachers participated in a needs assessment process by analyzing all school district data in October 2022. The DLT has utilized the needs assessment results and additional data narrowing down the number of possible goals to improve student achievement and success. The goal setting process will be completed by the March 29th Outside Visitation Team visit to work with our DLT in supporting our five-year accreditation efforts.

The facilities study commissioned by the USD 251 Board of Education began in January, and it is currently on track to be completed in April. This study will provide our district and our communities with valuable information to assist with long term strategic planning.

I continually have opportunities to visit with patrons about the advantages of living in our family-friendly communities located in USD 251. Our school district's desire to serve our families and maintain the traditional values of our communities is a great advantage for our school district and communities. In the past year our school district has partnered with Admire to repair the baseball field lights and Americus to assist in acquisition of baseball scoreboards. In the near future, our district will be partnering with Allen to assist with softball field restroom/concession stand improvements. In the future, our district will continue to work with our communities, businesses, and churches to find additional ways to partner together. Also, I would like to thank the several parents and patrons that have recently told me that they are praying for our students and staff.

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent




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



You are invited to ATTEND

NLC Early Learning Center
Preschool Round-Up

Monday, April 10th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

At NLC Early Learning Center
558 Broadway, Americus

Children who will be *4* years old on or before August 31, 2023 are invited to attend Preschool Round-Up.

NLC Early Learning Center
620-481-2049
District Office 620-481-2085

If you have any questions feel **FREE to CALL**

You are invited to **ATTEND**
NLC ELEMENTARY
KINDERGARTEN
Round-Up

Tuesday, March 28th 6:30 p.m.

At NLC Elementary School,
804 Sixth Street, Americus





NLC/ELC Principal's Recap



On February 15th we held our second quarter awards assembly. Several of our students received an Honor Roll certificate for outstanding academic success. Congratulations to all these students for their hard work.



Along with the academic awards, we had two recipients of our Middle School Wildcat Award. This award is given to students that go above and beyond to exhibit the characteristics of maturity and genuine kindness. Teachers nominate students that they feel meet these guidelines. The recipients are:

Addie Brown

Hayden Saunders



Junior High Wrestling

Although we only have one wrestler, Cole Gerleman has represented our school very well. At the Southeast of Saline Meet, Cole placed 1st, going 3-0. On February 20th, Cole had 2 wins and one loss capturing 1st place



New Employee Spotlight



Hello, I am Danae Reyer and I am a first-year teacher. I am from Cottonwood Falls, Kansas and I graduated from Chase County Jr.-Sr. High School in May of 2019. I recently just graduated from Emporia State University in December of 2022. Some words to describe myself are, organized, spunky, funny, energetic, and very caring. In my free time I like to clean and organize things, as well as go on walks with my dog, Tuck. I also enjoy spending time with friends and family on the weekends.

NLC had an outstanding showing at this years' County Wide Spelling Bee. Participating in this years' spelling bee are:

Owen DeDonder
Jack Wells
Josie Tiffany
Shane Burris
Meredith Lang
Sophia Bynum
Cooper Fields
Sage Dye



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st – Track Practice begins
March 2nd – Wrestling @ Douglass
March 3rd – Wrestling @ Chase County
March 6th – Quiz Bowl League Meet @ Chase County
March 8th – End of Third Quarter
March 9th – Teacher/Parent Conference
March 10th – No School
March 13th – 17 – Spring Break
March 22nd – Class and Spring Sports Pictures
March 28th – Kindergarten Round-up
March 28th – Track @ Emporia High School

How much screen time is too much?

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, side effects of too much screen time include:

- Sleeping problems
- Poor self-image
- Reading fewer books
- Spending less time
- Lower grades
- Struggling to maintain a moderate weight
- Mood or attention disorders

The more time children spend on social media, gaming, and TV, the less connected they feel to others. There is a direct link between screens and behavior. The exciting nature of screen time can trigger the release of dopamine, a feel-good neurotransmitter that makes us associate screen with pleasure and therefore something we want to spend more time with. All screen content is intended to capture your attention, some products like video games appeal to that dopamine rush. A paper published in the Journal Pediatrics, found that children who use screen time more than recommended were more likely to act impulsively and make poorer decisions.

Tips to reduce daily screen time:

- Restrict access to devices especially before bedtime
- Use family meals and car rides as no screen zones
- Set an example and reduce your own screen time
- Spend time playing board games or puzzles



With state assessments starting March 20, here is information for our students.

Kansas Summative Assessment Program for 2022-2023

Students across Kansas will be tested in the following subjects between March 20th to April 28th:

- English Language Arts (ELA) - Grades 3-8 and 10
- Mathematics - Grades 3-8 and 10
- Science - Grades 5, 8, and 11
- History, Government, and Social Studies (HGSS) - Grades 4, 7, and either 10, 11, or 12 (Done in class)

What will the test look like this year?

Students in each grade level will complete two separate computer-based sessions for each of the ELA, Math, and Science assessments. Students will provide answers to multiple choice and technology enhanced questions. The HGSS assessment is a classroom-based assessment that students in applicable grade levels will complete with their Social Sciences / Social Studies teachers during the year.

What can I do to help my child(ren) maximize their effort on the Kansas Summative Assessments?

There are a number of ways to help your child maximize performance on the Kansas Summative Assessments. Families can help their children most by knowing when these assessments will take place using the schedule provided by the school. Additionally, starting the day with a nourishing breakfast and ensuring they get plenty of rest the night before definitely helps. If your child is not feeling well during their scheduled assessment day, we will have an opportunity to provide a make-up date and time.

Anticipated Results

Students and families should be able to review their results prior to the end of the school year. Schools will let families know when this information is available. In addition to Kansas Summative Assessment results, 8th and 10th grade students will see an ACT predictive measure added to their child's assessment report. This measure predicts a likely range of ACT scores based on how the student performed on the Kansas Summative Assessment.

Where can I see how specific schools have performed in recent years?

Public access to previous assessment performance can be found on the following website:
<https://ksreportcard.ksde.org/>



Preregistration for 2023-2024 USD 251 Kindergarten is open! Children who are 5 years old by August 31, 2023 may attend kindergarten. *Please preregister your future Kindergarten* – the information will help district staff to be able to provide important information for families and will help in the planning process. Please use this link to access the kindergarten pre-registration:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kinder2023>

Happenings at Heights

Northern Heights High School Students Awarded Prestigious National Honor Society Scholarship



Allen, Kansas – The National Honor Society (NHS) announced that Taylor Pringle, a high school senior at Northern Heights High School and member of NHS, has been selected as an NHS Scholarship semifinalist.

Since 1946, more than \$21 million in scholarships have been awarded to outstanding NHS senior members to support college access and student success. The scholarship program is supported by the parent organization of NHS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

In the 100+ years since NHS was founded in 1921, members have been making a difference in their schools and communities, and the NHS Scholarship is NASSP's way of recognizing the most exceptional of these student leaders. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. According to Northern Heights' NHS Sponsor Sandra Eckert, "Taylor has been an awesome example of the pillars of the National Honor Society. Her leadership within her school and community, and dedication to scholastic achievement helps her promote positive character and is a role model we are proud to have represent

Northern Heights High School and USD 251."

During her four years of high school, she has accumulated more than 600 hours of community service related to the many community and school organizations with which she belongs. This fall, Taylor plans to attend Kansas State University to study Microbiology.

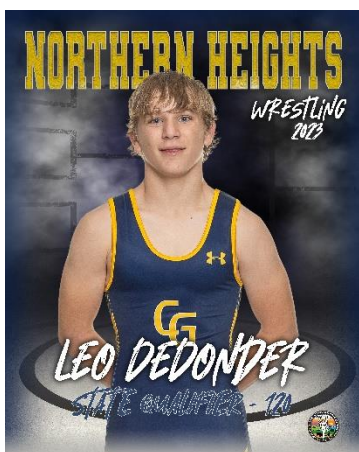
Northern Heights Student receives RUDD Foundation Scholarship.

Kailyn Schlimme, senior at Northern Heights High School was awarded the Rudd Foundation Scholarship during an assembly at NHHS on February 23rd. Representatives from the Rudd Foundation presented Kailyn with a scholarship check representing a fully paid 4-year collegiate scholarship. Kailyn is 1 of 30 students across the state of Kansas to receive the Rudd Scholarship. Kailyn interviewed in Wichita as a semi-finalist and was selected from a pool of 100 semifinalists. The Rudd Foundation provides scholarships to individuals planning on attending Wichita State, Fort Hays State or Emporia State University. Kailyn plans on attending Emporia State University next fall majoring in secondary education with a concentration in physics and chemistry. Kailyn is an outstanding student and person. Kailyn is heavily involved in all aspects of our schools, and we couldn't be prouder of her accomplishment. Kailyn is involved in volleyball, basketball, and softball. She is also an active member as vice president of our National Honor Society chapter, FCCLA, and FBLA, where she is student council representative. Congratulations to Kailyn on this amazing accomplishment. Kailyn is now the 2nd Northern Heights High School senior to receive the Rudd Foundation Scholarship.



DeDonder achieves NHHS first

Freshman wrestler Leo DeDonder became the first NHHS wrestler to qualify for state. Finishing 4th at the Regional wrestling tournament in Marion on February 18, Leo qualified for the KSHSAA 3-2-1A state wrestling tournament to be held at Hays on February 24-25. Although hampered by injury at the beginning of the season, Leo was able to move through the 120 lb. weight class bracket to earn a 4th place finish and qualify. A thank you to Council Grove School, coaching staff, and administration for offering NHHS the ability to enter into a cooperative agreement for wrestling over the past several years. Other members of the NHHS wrestling team include: Senior Grady Tiffany, Senior Macie Wells and fellow freshman Kamden Robinson. Congratulations to all of our wrestlers and congratulations to Leo for creating a path for others to follow.



Interview Day

Senior Exit interview day has been set for April 19th. We are still looking for individuals who would like to help with the interview process. Our hope is to have enough interviewers in different fields to cover a majority of job interests for our seniors. If you are interested, please contact Dave Watkins at NHHS or email at watkinsd@usd251.org. We believe this will be an invaluable experience for our seniors as they prepare for the next step in life's journey.

National Honor Society Upcoming Events

The Northern Heights chapter of the National Honor Society has two big events coming up in March that we want to make the community aware of. First, we will again be hosting a blood drive Tuesday, March 22 at the High School. There is currently a shortage of blood available nationwide, so many are forced to delay treatments and procedures. We encourage all who can, to donate. We had several first-time donors at our fall drive, and hopefully, we can get more blood donations this time as well. High school students, remember, you can earn graduation points for donating. Check with your Seminar teacher or Mrs. Eckert for more information. Anyone interested in signing up can do so online at redcrossblood.org and choosing the Northern Heights High School location, or by contacting Senior member Kolden Ryberg at rybergk@usd251.org. Kolden is again leading this event as a scholarship opportunity. Let's help him reach his goal and help our community replenish this much needed supply.



The second National Honor Society event coming up in March is a 3 on 3 Basketball tournament fundraiser on Sunday, March 27 beginning at 1 pm. This will be a co-ed event; participating teams are to have male and female members. The cost is \$15 for teams that sign up by March 20, and \$20 for teams registering after that. Registration will close on March 30. There will be concessions available, and the group hopes to also have "Pop for Shots" challenges between games. This will be our biggest fundraiser this year, and we hope we are able to establish it as an annual event. Junior member Kolden Ryberg is organizing this event. Please contact him at rybergk@usd251.org to register a team and to find out more about the event. Please register early to get the discount and to help with organizing the brackets. The public is welcome to come and watch.



PRESCHOOL



NLC Early Learning Center (Preschool) Preregistration

NLC Early Learning Center is a *full day, tuition free 4-year-old preschool*. Children must be 4 years old by August 31, 2023 to enroll in preschool. The NLC Early Learning Center follows the same academic calendar and schedule as NLC Elementary School.

At this time, preregistration for 2023-2024 NLC Early Learning Center is open! *We would appreciate all families who are interested in preschool next year to submit their preregistration now.* Submitting the pre-registration will assist staff with planning and assure that we have your contact information so we may relay important news to you. Please use this link to access the preschool pre-registration:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLCPRE>

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