

NORTH LYON COUNTY APRIL 2023 PATRON NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Message

Dear North Lyon County School Community,

On March 23rd, Ashley Grippando spoke to the Northern Heights High School students in the morning and the NLC Junior High students in the afternoon about making good choices and avoiding illegal drug use. Ashley honestly shared her personal experiences with drug use; including the dangers and long-term consequences that come with addiction. Throughout the presentations she warned students about the dangers of substance abuse all of the way from vaping and alcohol to marijuana and hard drugs. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), current research indicates a significant increase in overdose deaths among teenagers. This increase is attributed to fentanyl, a potent synthetic drug, contaminating the supply of counterfeit pills made to resemble prescription medications. Ashley warned the students about the danger of fentanyl. She emphasized to students that "one bad choice" can lead them down a path that could very likely result in them ruining their lives and futures.

As Ashley's former high school principal and basketball coach in Wathena, Kansas, I remember her as a straight-A student, member of student council, and excellent athlete. Shortly after graduating from high school Ashley began to make bad choices that resulted in numerous negative consequences in her life. Ashley described her inspiring personal story of seven years of addiction and her resulting recovery since getting clean in 2016. Her hard work and dedication in completing a nursing degree and now working in a drug and alcohol rehab clinic followed this. After a chance meeting with Ashley in 2017, I invited her to speak to the students at the high school where I was superintendent. This was her very first student assembly. I'm very thankful that Ashley and her husband Sean agreed to drive two hours to speak with our students.



Unfortunately drug abuse remains a persistent problem in every community in our country. According to the NIDA, nationwide 12% of 8th graders, 20.5% of 10th graders and 27.3% of 12th graders have reported vaping nicotine in the past year, 8.3% of eighth graders, 19.5% of 10th graders and 30.7% of 12th graders reported cannabis use in the past year, and 4.9% of 8th graders, 5.7% of 10th graders and 8.0% of 12th graders reported using other illicit drugs in the past year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of adults with a substance use disorder started using substances during their teen and young adult years. Furthermore, our youth with substance abuse disorders experience higher rates of physical illnesses, mental illnesses, and diminished overall health. Many studies have indicated that drug abuse among teens has a negative effect on academic performance. The best way to change this narrative is through education of our young people. They need to hear a consistent message from family, community, school, teachers, coaches, and peers.



Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Respectfully,

Robert W. Blair, Superintendent

NLC/ELC Principal Recap

KINDERGARTEN Round-Up

On March 28th, we hosted kindergarten round-up for the 2023-2024 school year. We would like to thank all those who attended this event. We are planning to have 2 sections of kindergarten next year. It is great to see another large class enter our district. The future looks bright for USD251!



Academic Information:

State testing is well under way. The students are working diligently to finish and score well on all the tests.

3rd – 8th Reading and Math

5th & 8th Science

7th – Social Studies

No Trading Cards at School

There are no trading cards allowed at school. This includes Pokémon cards. Please make sure your students keep their cards at home. Thank you.

upcoming EVENTS

APRIL 1ST - 14TH 3RD GRADE - 8TH
GRADE STATE TESTING

APRIL 6TH - MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK MEET @
MADISON 1:00

APRIL 7TH - NO SCHOOL

APRIL 10TH - TEACHER IN-SERVICE
PRESCHOOL ROUND-UP @ 6:30

APRIL 17TH - MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK MEET @
EMPORIA 9:30

APRIL 18TH - MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK MEET @
LYNDON 2:00

APRIL 21ST - MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK MEET @
OSAGE CITY 10:00

APRIL 27TH - SITE COUNCIL @ NLC 6:00

APRIL 28TH PTO CARNIVAL @ 5:30-7:00PM

MAY 5TH - MUFFINS WITH MOMS.
PRE-K - 5TH PLAY DAY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND JOIN PTO



-Parent Teacher Organization-

Please become an active member of our PTO. The PTO is a group of parents that helps to provide special programs and events for your children, but it cannot function without the help of many parents. Please see the calendar for meeting times and dates. We're counting on you!

Join
the
PTO



**Count Your Kid In
Play, Learn and Grow Together
FREE SCREENING
May 1, 2023**

The purpose of the screening is to assess children **age 0-5** who may have potential learning and/or developmental delays, and **children who are planning to attend preschool in USD 251**. If you have any concerns about your child's development in the following areas:

Physical Development, Vision, Hearing, Language,
Behavior, Coordination, Learning

Call and schedule your appointment today! Our staff will assist you in the identification of special needs your child may have and in locating services available.

Count Your Kid In Screening

Location:

**NLC Early Learning Center
558 Broadway St.
Americus, KS 66835**

Date: 5/1/2023

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Call and Schedule Your
Appointment Today:**

620-481-2049



Sponsored by: The Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative
and The Flint Hills Infant Toddler Network



Happenings at Heights

Spring has sprung, and wow is it busy! Spring sports, activity programs, contests, preparations for track meets, prom and graduation. Seems like we were just enrolling, but the school year has flown by. As we wind down to the end of the year, I want to remind students and parents to make sure they keep apprised of updates and changes that always seem to occur during the spring for NHHS via website and Facebook pages.

Senior Scoop: May 20th and graduation will be here before we know it. There are several items that seniors need to be aware of as we move towards the end of the year:

April 19th Senior Interview day

April 29th Prom

May 11th NHHS Awards Night

May 17th Baccalaureate at NHHS gym – provided by NLC community churches

May 19th Graduation practice (time TBD)

May 20th Graduation at NHHS 7:00 p.m. (Seniors need to report at 6:00 p.m.)

Counselor's Corner

8th Grade Parent and Student Meeting at NHHS– April 26 @ 6 p.m.

Families will have the opportunity to tour the building, speak with staff and learn about being prepared for high school.

Register for ACT- June 10th test deadline is Friday, May 5th

Juniors have now received their February test scores. Now is the time to consider taking the test again. If not taken in June, students will have the opportunity to take it in September or October and still meet college scholarship/applications deadlines.

National Honor Society

Recently, invitations for qualifying students were sent out to join National Honor Society. These students meet character, scholarship, leadership and service requirements as designated by chapter and national by-laws. These students were invited to complete application process for review by faculty counsel. Members of the faculty counsel will then determine final qualifications and admittance to National Honor Society. Induction of new members will occur on May 11th during awards night.

Student of the Month: Student of the month nominee's and winners:

Bryer Scales, Tegan Hines, Kailyn Schlimme, Addisyn Hinrichs, and Madison Bauer – Schreiner. Not pictured John Crook.

All nominees were nominated by faculty member at NHHS.



HOSA Spring Leadership Conference

Monday, March 27, our Northern Heights HOSA chapter traveled to Pittsburg, KS college campus for the Kansas Spring Leadership Conference. Prior to this conference, our students have been putting in a large portion of their time at home and at school working on their Health Career Displays and other projects. Some of our entries included Riley Smith and Makenna Delgado's Health Career Display over Pediatric Nursing, Addisyn Hinrich's Research Poster, "Does School Impact Students' Mental Health?" and Abigail Sull's Research Poster, "How Do Beauty Standards Impact Overall Health In Our Society?". Other members, Samantha Redelfs and Shawna Marie Mollet participated as courtesy corps and helped in other competitions and played the roles of "patients" that came very helpful to other students competing. As our group patiently waited for results, Addisyn Hinrichs' poster placed 2nd overall in her competition! She is well deserving of the medal she received and will now proceed to HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas on June 21st to compete at a national level.

By Secretary/Reporter, Riley Smith



Honor Flight



A big shout out to the Allen Senior Center for donating their space for an impromptu trivia night fundraiser that raised several hundred dollars from attendees and outside donations. Pay attention to upcoming social media posts as Mike Phillips from Harry & Lloyds in Americus has set aside Saturday, May 13 as our last final fundraiser before 5 NH students accompany 5 local veterans for a once in a lifetime trip to Washington DC. The trip is June 4-5 and NH students will be accompanying other student guardians and veterans from Lyndon, Central Heights, Prairie View, and Holton. Please come out and help support a wonderful cause! There will be food available and likely a cornhole tournament! Even if you can't attend, checks can be made out to NHHS Honor Flight and given to any school office or administrator. Questions about Honor Flight or how to donate can be directed to: eckerts@usd251.org or wilsons@usd251.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Assessment Testing April 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12 and 14

Travis Sheeley Memorial Track meet April 13

FCCLA Star competition @ Wichita on April 16,17,18

NHHS Prom and After Prom April 29

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>



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

Out of district families are welcome to apply as well!

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

Attention all preschool families!
Please plan to attend
PRESCHOOL Roundup!



NLC PTO CARNIVAL

APRIL 28th from 5:30-7:00 pm
AT NLC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GAMES

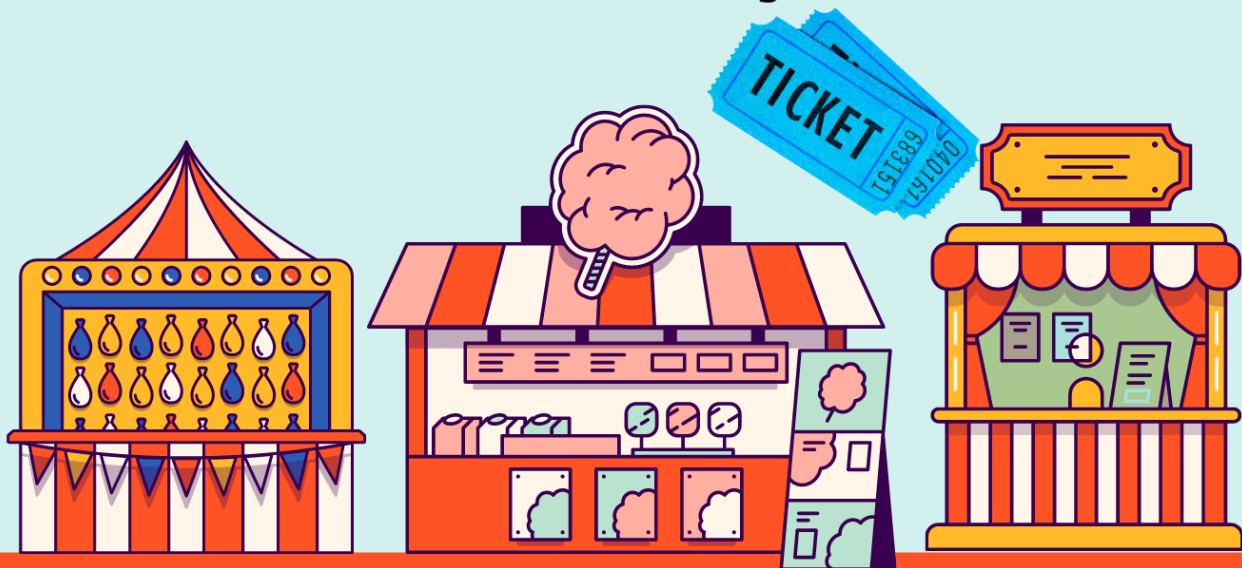
PRIZES

**SILENT
AUCTION**

Tickets will be sold for games
All Proceeds will benefit the NLC Elementary PTO
which supports both students and staff!

USD 251 Wellness Committee Dinner

Walking Taco Meal (\$5) and cookies \$1 from 5:00 - 7:00
Dinner proceeds will be used to support the USD 251
Staff Wellness Program.



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

