

NORTH LYON COUNTY

MAY 2023

PATRON NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message

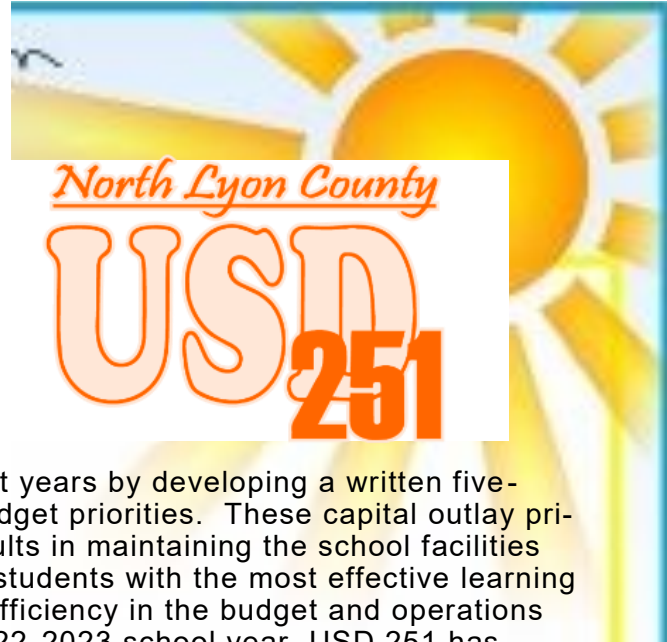
Dear North Lyon County School Community,

The USD 251 Board of Education has been proactive in recent years by developing a written five-year capital outlay improvement plan outlining the districts budget priorities. These capital outlay priorities serve to ensure careful planning to obtain the best results in maintaining the school facilities and other property. These best results include providing our students with the most effective learning environment and resources, managing risk, and maintaining efficiency in the budget and operations by avoiding a back log of capital outlay needs. During the 2022-2023 school year, USD 251 has completed the following capital outlay projects:

- Cafeteria/kitchen floor replacement at NLC Elementary
- New school bus ordered/delivered
- South gym bleacher replacement at NHHS
- South gym scoreboard replacement at NHHS
- NHHS roof replacement
- NHHS security fence completed
- NLC fence repairs completed
- Early Learning Center building & playground (four-year old pre-school completed – 80% grant funded)
- Early Learning Center furniture, curriculum, learning manipulatives (100% grant funded)
- Early Learning Center security cameras completed (grant funded)
- Admire baseball field lights repaired
- Americus baseball/softball field scoreboards ordered
- Allen softball field restroom remodel/concession stand painting (currently in progress, work being completed by NHHS Agriculture Mechanics class)
- NLC gym bleachers repair completed
- Chromebook replacement completed
- NLC annex remodeling for weight room (in progress, to be completed June 2023)
- NLC weight room equipment ordered
- Milk cooler replacement at NHHS (100% grant funded)
- New ice machines at NLC, NHHS (100% grant funded)
- I-Pads for grades K-2 (grant funded)
- Storage sheds 14'X40' (2 sheds) ordered to be delivered May 2023 (100% grant funded)
- HVAC for NLC weight room (100% grant funded)
- Door security systems installed on 3 doors at NHHS
- Door security system installed on district office door
- Door security systems installed on Early Learning Center door
- Windows at NLC/Office, Music Room, Science Room (\$150,000 grant) to be completed in May 2023
- Windows at NHHS/Main Gym, Office (\$150,000 grant) to be completed in May 2023

The currently planned 2023-2024 projects are as follows:

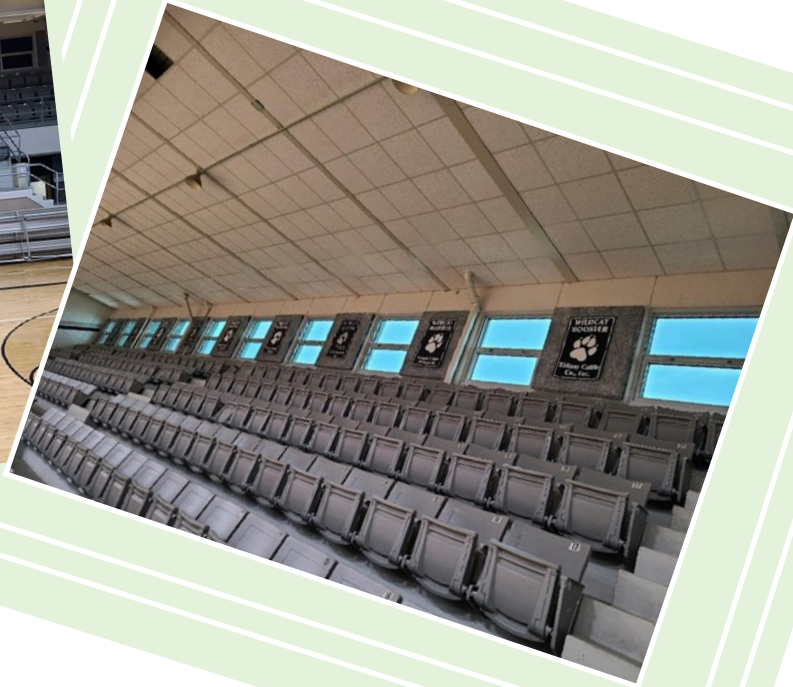
- New school bus ordered (to be delivered summer 2023)
- SUV replacement (2 vehicles) ordered/delivered early
- NHHS floor replacement (2 rooms) FACS kitchen, teacher lounge
- NHHS hallway lockers (2 sections in southeast hallway) three-year old used lockers ordered/delivery summer 2023
- NHHS track repair (completed early)
- NLC gym scoreboard replacement ordered/installation summer 2023
- NLC gym floor sanding/refinishing (scheduled for June 2023)
- Chromebook replacement
- NLC concrete repairs
- NHHS concrete repairs
- Parking lot repairs
- NLC concession stand repairs
- District office tuck pointing
- District office roof repair
- NHHS South gym cover insulation



USD 251 held a Special Board of Education Meeting on April 26th where Dr. G. Kent Stewart presented his completed school facilities study. As I stated in the January 2023 USD 251 Newsletter, the Strategic Planning Committee appointed by the board will begin meeting in May 2023. The Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewing the school facilities study and engage in long-term strategic planning by reviewing USD 251's four strategic directions adopted by the board in early 2022. Again, 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.**

This includes engaging the community in researching potential solutions for school district facilities. Again, as I stated in the January 2023 Newsletter, the Strategic Planning 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 provide feedback to the USD 251 Board of Education.





NLC/ELC Principal Recap

PreK News

Our Pre-school enrollment is off to a great start. We had 11 families at our pre-school round up on April 10. We are expecting between 15 and 20 pre-school students next year. This program is a tribute to this Board's commitment to educating the children of our community.



Athletic News

Records are meant to be broken. That's what Josie Tiffany and Hayli Gerkin have accomplished.

Josie broke the 3200 meter record set by Teagan Hines four years ago. Teagan's time was 14:09 and the new record is 13:41. Hayli threw the turbo javelin 72' 8" beating Kerstyn Fox last year's record of 72' 4". Congratulations to Josie and Hayli on their outstanding performances at the Osage Invitational Meet on April 21st. Josie and Hayli will receive the Wildcat Award during the May board meeting.

NLC GIRLS TRACK RECORDS		
LJ	M FRENCH	14'5"
HJ	M FRENCH	4'8"
TJ	L PREISNER	30'5"
DISC	K MASSEY	38'4"
SHOT	N LEFFLER	38'4"
75 H	J HARMON	18.35
100 H	A HINRICHS	13.48
100	J HARMON	28.41
200	J WOODERSON	1:03.90
400	M FRENCH	2:44.88
800	M FRENCH	5:54.44
1800	J TIFFANY	13:41.90
3200	WOODERSON PREISNER	58.38
4x1	HOYT HARMON	2:04.44
4x2	WOODERSON HOUSTON	2:04.44
	HAMLIN BRECHEISEN	4:40
4x4	WOODERSON PREISNER	4:40
JAV	HOUSTON MOTER	72'08"
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Several of our students received honor roll certificates for outstanding academic success. Congratulations to all of these students for their hard work.



Along with the academic awards, we had several 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.



upcoming events

- May 1st – Count Your Kid In @ PreK
- May 2nd – Track @ West Franklin
- May 5th – Muffins with Moms 7:30am
PreK–5 Play Day 9:30am
- May 8th – Spring Concert
K–2 – 6:00
3–5 – 7:00
- May 18th – NLC Gym @ 2:30pm
- May 19th – Last Day Of School
- May 22nd – Awards Night and 8th grade Celebration @ NHHS 6:30pm



USD 251 Kindergarten Jumpstart



USD 251, North Lyon County, is pleased to offer Kindergarten Jumpstart. Kindergarten Jumpstart is open to incoming USD 251 kindergarteners for the 2023-2024 school year.

Kindergarten Jumpstart will focus around early literacy skills. Attention will also include building relationships and setting and reinforcing academic and nonacademic expectations and routines.



Kindergarten Jumpstart will be held August 7-10 from 8:30-11:00, Monday through Thursday at NLC Elementary School.

gearing up for  
Kindergarten



Happenings at Heights



The school year is about to wind down, but like every spring, things are wild and crazy until the end. With the end of regular season spring sports, competitions for FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Forensics, and everything else, kids and staff are incredibly busy finishing off the year. I want to thank the staff and students at NHHS for making my first year so memorable and enjoyable. There have been some changes and differences from the past, but staff and students have accepted and worked hard to make 2022-23 a remarkable year. We have had great accomplishments, some disappointments, but overall it has been a great year. As we close out 2023, there are some very important dates listed below:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|--|
| May 6 | State Forensics | May 15 | Regional Baseball / Softball begins |
| May 8 - 12 | Senior Finals | May 15 | Last Day of Class of Seniors – Check out |
| May 9 | NHHS Fine Arts Night @6:00 p.m. | May 17 | Free Physical Night at NLC |
| May 9 | NHHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00 p.m. (following Fine Arts Night) | May 17 | Baccalaureate at NHHS gym 7:00 p.m. (Sponsored by area churches) |
| May 11 | NHHS Awards Night | May 18 | Regional Track @ Lyndon |
| May 12 | NHHS Semester Incentive Lunch | May 19 | Last Day of Class – Check out |
| May 12 | Flint Hills League Track @ TBD | May 20 | Graduation at NHHS 7:00 p.m. |
| May 15 - 18 | Finals week | May 22 | Teachers Last Day |
| | | May 23 | Last Chance Blood Drive at NHHS |
| | | May 25-26 | State Baseball / Softball |
| | | May 26-27 | State Track @ Wichita (Cessna Stadium WSU campus) |

Juniors Experience the 20's

As part of *The Great Gatsby* unit, juniors had a Roaring Twenties party complete with 1920s attire, jazz music, poker, and mocktails.



NHHS Honor Flight

Please join us Saturday, May 13 at Harry & Lloyds in Americus for a meal and Cornhole tournament as our final fundraiser for the 2023 Honor Flight Trip. The food and tournament will run from 12-5 that Saturday afternoon in the outdoor section of Harry & Lloyds in Americus. Northern Heights students Emily Maxwell, Addison Landgren, Hannah Cathcart, Lilly Parks, and Jonathan Marcotte will be accompanying five local guardians for a two day trip to Washington DC, June 4-5th. Mr. Jerritt Curtis, NHHS math teacher, himself a veteran, will be joining the trip as a sponsor.



FFA Update

The Northern Heights FFA Chapter has been busy since we have returned from spring break. We have competed in multiple district and regional competitions as well as participated in some local activities in the community.

In March, 14 students attended the Fort Scott Community College Aggie Day competitions. The entomology team of Kelton Bish, Cheyenne Paige, and TJ Dean placed 8th with Kelton Bish placing as the 6th high individual. In the food science contest, Mariah Anstey placed 8th, and our floriculture team placed 9th. Jena Hall competed in the East Central District Creed Speaking competition and finished in 4th place.



April started with students attending the East Central FFA District Banquet. Bethany DeDonder was elected to serve as the 2023-2024 East Central District Vice-President. The next day, 16 members traveled to Iola to compete at the Allen County Community College Aggie Day. The floriculture team placed 10th, entomology was 7th, food science was 5th, and livestock was 2nd. Individually, Kelton Bish finished 8th in entomology, Sadie Bathurst was 3rd in food science, Mariah Anstey was 9th in vet science, Braxton Young was 8th in livestock and Bethany DeDonder as 5th in livestock. The next week, a group of students traveled to Council Grove to compete in the Regional Envirothon Competition. The group of freshmen competed well and learned a lot as we look to improve our results in the coming years. Later in the week, a small group traveled to Paola to compete in the Miami County Aggie Day Competition for a final tune-up before State CDE's in May. Our final competitions of the month were livestock and food science held in Alma. The livestock team placed 8th overall with Bethany DeDonder finishing as the 9th high individual. In food science, the A-team placed 4th and Hope Miller was the 10th high placing B-team individual.

Members also completed a couple of community service projects in April. During the in-service day in April, a group of FFA members came to the school to make dog treats and chew toys to donate to the local animal shelter. Later in the month, 8 FFA members helped with the annual Lyon County Farm Bureau Day on the Farm. Members presented about the US Dairy Industry as well as presenting about sheep and serving as group leaders in the morning.



We wrapped up our month and FFA year with our annual Chapter FFA Banquet and Awards night. Members were recognized for their work throughout the year. Members were awarded Greenhand and Chapter FFA Degrees as well as recognized for their participation throughout the year.

It has been a busy month since spring break as we have prepared ourselves for the end of the year and State CDE's coming up at the beginning of May.

NHHS Art

Every year Northern Heights participates at the Flint Hills Art League Art Competition. It is a fun event that showcases student artwork from several participating schools. It is a great opportunity for our students to see a wide range of artworks in person. In addition to the competition, there are multiple art workshops that students can choose from.

This year, we had 3 Northern Heights students place at the art competition. Emily Maxwell placed 3rd in the Handbuilt Ceramic category, Hanna Cathcart placed 2nd in the Colored Pencil category, and Esperanza Arevalo received 2nd in the Pen and Ink category.



To the Class of 2023

Seniors! It's almost over, 13 years of educational training has led you to May 20th and graduation day. Whether your experience has been blissful all the way through or has challenged you throughout, you have done what you needed to prepare for the next journey in life. I want to say thank you for allowing me to be a part of your last year within USD 251. I appreciate your willingness to deal with changes, new rules, and new expectations from a new principal with limited pushback. Each of you has indeed left your mark on USD 251 and NHHS. I hope you can take memories of your time here, look back, and reflect on some enjoyable times. As you move into whatever the future may hold, please remember that you did not get where you are today by yourself. There were many individuals along the way that helped guide, mold, and shape you into the individual you are today. Whether parents, teachers, or friends that helped you when you were down, gave you incentive to push forward, or just gave you a friendly smile to make the day better. These individuals helped shape you - remember to say thank you to them for all they have done. I wish you all the best of luck in the future, and as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

Best Wishes
Mr. W



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

