



# The Colt Connection

December 2021

Richland #44 School District & Community Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, December 13**  
JHGBB vs. Kindred  
JV/V BBB @ Park Rapids

**Tuesday, December 14**  
JV/V GBB @ Oak Grove  
BW Hockey @ Park Rapids

**Thursday, December 16**  
Elementary Program  
7:00pm - RHS

**Friday, December 17**  
JV/V GBB vs. MPCG  
JV/V BBB @ Hankinson

**Monday, December 20**  
JHGBB @ Park Christian

**Tuesday, December 21**  
JHGBB @ N. Cass  
JV/V GBB @ Leeds  
JV/V BBB vs. Kindred  
BW Hockey @ Breezy Point

**December 23**  
Winter Break Begins

**Tuesday, December 28**  
JV/V BBB vs. Hillsboro  
BW Hockey @ Wahpeton

**December 29-30**  
Varsity BBB @ Hatton

**January 3**  
School Resumes

## "Annie" Musical at RHS

The recent production of "Annie" at RHS was a great success! With three public performances, and an additional show for the student population, the actors/singers awed their audience with energy, enthusiasm, and talent! Great costumes and stage set added to the fun performance.

Congratulations, students and directors, for a job well done.



## Superintendent's Corner>>>



Hello Colt Country!

Winter has arrived at our doorstep, and we are always hopeful it will be mild. Student safety is always our top priority, so please know that I monitor the weather closely and weigh potential school closures carefully. We never want to inconvenience families, but I will call delays or closures if I feel it is in the best interest of students and staff. It is imperative that any students who ride the bus are equipped with proper winter gear on every ride in the winter: coat, gloves, hat, and proper footwear. This also includes our students attending votech and participating in extracurricular events like sports, FFA, speech, etc.

School safety is weighing heavily on many of us given the recent violence in Michigan and threats at FM area schools. Schools continue to be one of the safest places kids can be, and we do everything in our power to keep our schools safe. Our Building and Emergency Response Teams (BERT) have plans in place for many situations, and we hold drills for a variety of emergencies including lockdowns. These types of drills are not conducted frequently and are not meant to frighten students, but it is best practice for students to be prepared in the unlikely scenario that they are needed.

In lighter news, our students have been busy with many activities and events! This year's musical Annie was an incredible performance by our students and directors. Our FFA Small Animal Care team took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the UM -Crookston competition on December 3. Cora Hermunslie led the team and placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our girls basketball teams – both high school and junior high – are currently in season and the boys' season kicks off December 10 against Sisseton. 9<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the Health, Tech and Trades Career Expo at the FargoDome earlier this month and were able to learn about a variety of careers as well as participate in STEM activities. The choir and band did a wonderful job at our winter concert they just performed on December 9.

Our annual Colts Care Community Service Day will take place on Wednesday December 22. Jr/Sr HS students will participate in a variety of community service projects in Colfax and around the community. Winter break begins Thursday December 23; when we return from winter break on January 3, we will have one week to finish out the first semester. Second semester begins January 10.



I continue to be so grateful to serve this wonderful community. I wish all of Colt Country a wonderful holiday season that is filled with rest, quality time, and lasting memories.

Warmly, Dr. Gandhi

### Richland #44 Freshman attend the 2021 Health, Tech, and Trades Expo



  
**NO SCHOOL**  
**December 23-**  
**January 2**

# From the desk of the Elementary Principal>>>



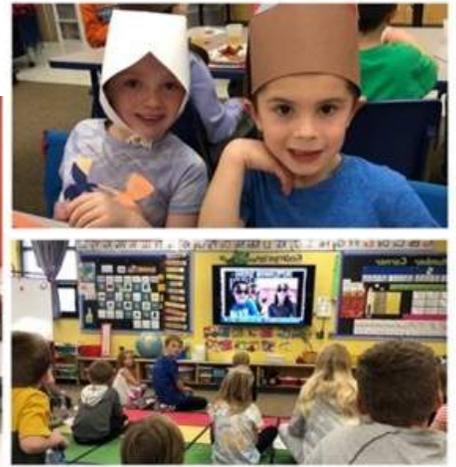
Dear Richland Elementary Families,

Our students, staff and families have been unbelievably generous this holiday season. The elementary student council organized a food drive during the week of November 15-19 to support the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry in Wahpeton. The food donated totaled 1,032 pounds/750 items! The Veteran's Day Program, Turkey BINGO and a live Thanksgiving skit were additional highlighted events at the elementary school in November.

Math and reading winter benchmark assessments are scheduled during the weeks of December 6-17 for grades K-6. Let's work together to make sure your child's experience is a positive and successful one! Parents, please help your child arrive at school on time, eat a healthy breakfast at home or school, ensure your child gets enough sleep and gently encourage them to do their best!

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season with your families,

-Staci Schmitz, Elementary Principal

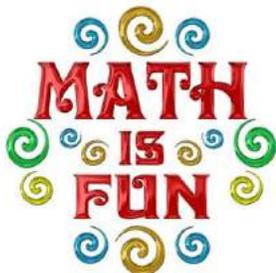


## New Math Curriculum

**Elementary Math Curriculum Update:** This past spring, the school board approved *Bridges* as the new comprehensive K-5 math curriculum. As we transition to *Bridges*, it was decided to implement fully in grades K-3 for the 2021-2022 school year and grades 4-5 within the next two school years.



The curriculum compliments the ND State Standards and has proven to be both rigorous and engaging. Students are developing a deeper understanding of number sense, math vocabulary and math concepts taught at each grade level.



## 3rd Grade Thanksgiving Play>>>

Third graders performed the annual Thanksgiving play for elementary students. This fun play lets kids hear the story of the first Thanksgiving while incorporating hand made costumes/props!



# Rotary Student of the Month>>>

Each month, the high school faculty votes on the Rotary Student of the Month. The Student of the Month is selected from the junior class. The faculty looks at students who excel in many areas including academics, extra-curricular activities, character, and community involvement. On the third Tuesday of the month, students are recognized during a gathering put on by the Wahpeton Rotary Club. Congratulations to the following on being named Student of the Month:



Tanner Z.  
December SOTM

## SCHOOL COUNSELOR CT

We have so much to be thankful for, and the students and staff at Richland Elementary showed their attitude of gratitude with a bulletin board display outside the counseling office during the month of November. In large group we also started working on Emotion Management where students learn to identify emotions in themselves and others and apply strategies to manage their emotions to stay calm. The "Lucky Ducks" lunch meet has been a success in meeting with all second and third graders this month. What a wonderful time for me to have an opportunity in getting to know students on a more personal level.

Again, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the school counseling program at Richland Elementary. I can be reached by phone, email, or please stop in if you have time.

Best, Mrs. Bobbi Jo Jelinek  
Elementary School Counselor



Richland #44 Offers  
LIVESTREAM for many events>>>



Last year, Richland #44 introduced BOXCAST. This livestream service allows for many events to be seen remotely. And while this option is great, there are a few behind the scene tasks required to make it happen. Our Technology Coordinator, Sheila, does an amazing job keeping our Livestream up and available for our patrons.

Another opportunity became available to us this Fall with a grant to install NFHS cameras. NFHS is another streaming service. One that allows for automatic streaming. NFHS is also an approved stream for some regional games that our Boxcast would not allow for.

While next year's options are still being discussed, at this point both streaming options are available to you. Boxcast is free for our viewers. NFHS does have monthly and yearly subscription plans, allowing for unlimited streaming of MANY events (not just Richland #44).

Streaming of events provides a great opportunity for our fans unable to attend in person. However, we do encourage those who are able, to come and cheer on our teams in person! The atmosphere is encouraging to our players on the field/court!

You can find a link to the Boxcast Livestream on our website at: <https://richland44.com/live-stream/>

To sign up for NFHS, visit [nfhsnet-work.com](http://nfhsnet-work.com). The NFHS app is also available in the AppStore.



## Coltbacker Flags >>>



**Attention Coltbacker Members:** Our official flag has arrived and will look great proudly flying from your flag pole, behind a boat, or even just hanging on a wall. This 2'x3', double-sided, nylon flag is a fun way to show your Richland Pride.

**Cost is \$65** (comes complimentary with our Gold & Platinum membership levels.) Available at the high school office.



## 2021 Cross Country Team Wrap-up>>>

The 2021 Cross Country season was plum full of picturesque and warm summer and fall days. Goals of the young seventeen-member team ranged from prolific competitive racing to finding a sense of community/belonging and everything in between. Practices were held at multiple different parks and trails. Running was primary, but athlete training also included fitness circuits, weights, pool, agility, balance, and deep tissue stretching.

Spotlighting Varsity Achievements (PR = Personal Record):

- \*Nick W, dual sport with football, pushed himself to the max and led his team. He ran 4 of his 8 races (5K/3.1 miles) in under 20 minutes, achieving PR 19:34 at Casselton. Nick will come into the 2022 season striving for Jett Foley's 2019 School Record of 19:06.
- \*Preston S, dual sport with football, trained hard in the off-season and it paid off. He ran 8 Varsity races with a PR of 22:26 during Regionals at Cooperstown.
- \*Brezlyn C transitioned from being a top 3K finisher to 5K racing at the end of the season with a top 30% finish at State. Her time of 22:39 is only 5 seconds shy of the School Record set by Katelyn Blilie in 2016.
- \*Cora H never raced like a rookie in her first year of Cross Country and took home plenty of hardware. Cora was the instigator of harder practices, often adding an extra mile or loop. She achieved a PR at State with a time of 23:01



*2021 Inspiration:* Inger H hated running. She not only hated running; she hated running for years. Yes, years is plural. Yet she kept running. And this season, Inger was transformed. She would often be in the lead pack at practices and her times kept getting better and better. In 2019, Inger barely finished her first 5K in 19:55. Fast forward to 2021, Inger ran an impressive 13:55 in her last 3k of the season. Inger's story is an inspiration to all of us and a testament to being a Cross Country Runner.



## Colt Country "Rocks" >>>

If you have been to RHS recently you may have noticed a new feature to our entrance! Thanks to some very generous donors, this amazing boulder let's everyone know they are in COLT COUNTRY!

Thank you to Anna Loff for organizing this project and working with Adam Ward of Infinite Edge to have this fantastic focal point installed. Also thank you to the following for their monetary donation to make this purchase possible:

**Dallas & Anna Loff**  
**Jeff & Stephanie Steger**  
**Northland Truss Systems**

**John & Becky Flaa**  
**Sharon Rostad**  
**Minn-Kota Ag**



## Richland #44 Dollars for Scholars>>>



Richland #44

# Dollars for Scholars.

As the Richland #44 Dollars for Scholars Chapter, we have recently heard the question "Do we need a Dollars for Scholars Chapter in our Community?". Here is some information about Dollars for Scholars and why it is needed in our community and how it helps Richland #44 students! It is a community scholarship program for graduates and alumni of Richland #44.

### What DFS does in our community

We hold a variety of activities/fundraisers through the year to help support Richland #44 seniors and alumni through scholarships. Some of them include Fall Sponsorships where individuals or businesses can purchase a sponsorship and be recognized in the game program. Chrysanthemum sales which take place in August and September, Stampede where three wooden horses travel around the community helping to raise funds. The Vendor Fair in November is also a big event for us. We also try to hold some sort of family or kid events once a year, such as a dance, nerf wars, or the haunted gym to mention a few. There is a Penny War held in January where the kids and community members can contribute coins or bills, the great thing with this is that the money each class raises stays with that class and becomes a scholarship for them when they graduate. We hold a Bunko event in March for the adults and a February calendar raffle and 50/50 raffle at Volleyball and Football games. The best thing with the money raised is that it STAYS in our COMMUNITY!! The Dollars for Scholars board then meets during the year and makes the list of scholarships according to what monies were raised for the year!



We also have organizations and families that have their own sponsored scholarships through DFS. For a minimum of \$500, they can name their scholarship, come up with the criteria and are able to choose the recipient of their scholarship. So far there are eight sponsored groups or families.



Along with fundraisers we also do some promotional events like the Homecoming Parade where people can show their school spirit by participating in the full-size parade, we also go to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation and Back to School Night to explain what DFS does.

Thrivent is another way community members can help. If you are a Thrivent member you can use your \$250 Action Team monies to help an organization strengthen their fundraising. You can apply online and once approved, use the money to help purchase items for an event so it will help defray the cost of supplies for the group to have a better fundraiser, ask us how!

If you feel the call to help, please contact us at [richland44dfs@gmail.com](mailto:richland44dfs@gmail.com) to find out how. We can always use the help even if it is just for one event!

## State FFA Competition>>>

Seven Richland FFA members competed at the State Leadership Development Day on November 22, 2021. The Conduct of Chapter Meetings team including Cody Boehm, Kalie Boehm, Lily Davis, Otto Dockter, Cora Hermunslie and Lincoln Hegseth received a silver award. Ella Weinmann competed in Extemporaneous Speaking and placed bronze. Congratulations to these members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Addie Christensen

Richland 44 FFA  
Chapter Reporter



## 2021 Volleyball>>>>



The 2021 Colts volleyball team had a slow start to our season, but once we found a way to overcome and fit all the pieces of the team together we had many great accomplishments... and a ton of fun! We may have had limited numbers, but with the girls' fierceness and tenacity they found a way to step on the court and play like a team. The JV team ended with a 4-11 record and Varsity's overall record was 19-10.



Other highlights of the season include Megan Roob reaching the 2,000 assists and 1,000 digs milestones along with Megan Roob and Megan Taszarek being named to the All Region Team.

A huge thank you to our managers, Gwen Hopping, Tiana Schroeder and Josie Skoblik for doing the book, libero tracker and helping with the live stream. Thank you to Don Thiel who did the announcing at our home games. Also, thank you to the fans and parents for all of your support; we all appreciate you!



All-Region  
Megan R & Megan T

It was a very fun and memorable season!

Thank you girls for your dedication and hard work!  
#ALLIN

Coach Dawn & Coach Tami



Team Captains  
Megan R, Megan T,  
and Megan L.



## Elementary Girls Basketball Recap>>>>

The Elementary Girls' Basketball team wrapped up their 2021 season with a home game on Tuesday, November 16. These athletes had a short but productive season. Nine 5th-graders gained many new skills over this past month of basketball and finished the season with a record of 4 wins and 3 losses. Six 6th-graders worked together as a team and finished the season with a record of 2 wins and 5 losses. Both teams improved from the first practice to the last game!

Coach Vorachek



# 20 22

## New Year

### Coffee with Kids

Let's kick off the new year by reading good books with friends!

#### Richland Elementary School

Friday, January 7th  
8:45 - 9:15am

For the past five weeks, several parents have attended the SEEDS of Relationship Based Parenting learning opportunity at Richland Elementary. They learned about brain development, emotional control, early school readiness, quality interactions and more.

While parents attended the learning, high schoolers provided childcare for community service hours. Even though the learning was targeted at ages Birth-5, parents found the learning can be applied to older children and even adults. Some of their highlights include:

*"I appreciated this class overall. There was so much I didn't realize contributed in a child's growth, such as learning how the brain of a child works, and figuring out how to be emotionally available for my children."*

*"The thinking brain was big for me, so were the different ways of helping my children to hit their milestones and how to better help them to express their feelings."*

*"Having a more unified background with both parents helps keep you consistent and on the same page."*

This opportunity was sponsored by the Comprehensive State Literacy Development Grant with financial support from Richland #44 PTO. We hope to provide this opportunity again in the future.

If you're interested in more information, please contact Erica Carney at [Erica.carney@k12.nd.us](mailto:Erica.carney@k12.nd.us)



**Elementary Winter Concert**  
**Thursday, December 16 @ 7:00pm**  
**Richland High School Gymnasium**



## eFunds>>>

Have you signed up for online payments yet? If not, we highly encourage you to take advantage of this useful tool.

You can pay for fees, lunch, fundraisers, school store items, and much more all in an instant at your fingertips!

Find the link to online payments on our homepage at [www.richland44.com](http://www.richland44.com) or by going directly to: <https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/55629>



## The Colt Connection

Richland #44 School District & Community Newsletter

Did you know that you can subscribe to the *Colt Connection*? If you would like each issue mailed to you, we ask for a \$10 donation each year to cover the cost of postage. Or you can subscribe to have each issue emailed to you by emailing Kendra at:

[Kendra.L.Dockter@k12.nd.us](mailto:Kendra.L.Dockter@k12.nd.us)

For convenience, we also place copies throughout the community. You can find the *Colt Connection* at Colfax Express, Aber Grocery, Red River Communications, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Galchutt Lutheran Church, the Post Offices in Abercrombie, Colfax, and Christine, and at both the Elementary and High School Offices.

You will find current and past newsletters on our school website by clicking on the "News Tab" at [www.richland44.com](http://www.richland44.com).

## FCCLA District Leadership>>>

The Richland #44 FCCLA chapter recently joined 14 other school chapters at the Fargodome for the District Leadership Meeting. FCCLA members had a full day of speakers and activities relating to FCCLA initiatives.



# GO, COLTS!

Choose the custom Richland #44 Colts debit card – and support your favorite team!

It's FREE – plus, Bell Bank will give \$5 to the Richland #44 School District for each card ordered.

**Bell Bank**

[bellbanks.com/MyCardCreation](http://bellbanks.com/MyCardCreation)

Member FDIC



Thank you to everyone for being patient as we await new items to our School Store.

Supply chain delays have caused problems for many types of orders, and our Richland #44 Clothing is no different.

We are excited to release our new items and will let you know as soon as they arrive.

**We anticipate a few to be in before Christmas!**



## Surplus Property Sale—Winter 2021>>>

We are cleaning out once again! Over the past months we have collected a few more items to sell via Surplus Property.

Instead of bidding, the items below have been assigned a preset price. The first person to "BUY" an item with a response, gets the item.

Sale ends Monday, December 20. Items must be picked up by Wednesday, December 22. You will be contacted as soon as sale is confirmed and notified of location of pickup.

Please note all items are sold "as is" and due to the nature of the sale, no returns are accepted.

\*\*Items include bulletin boards, library/AV carts, trophy case, table, shelves, yearbooks, lunch tables, and other items.

Link to surplus sale: <https://forms.gle/uYW8Y2TYneGqPdKHA>

Please email Kendra at [Kendra.L.Dockter@k12.nd.us](mailto:Kendra.L.Dockter@k12.nd.us) or 701-372-3713 with any questions.



Check us out on Facebook

**RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #44**



## Subs Needed>>>

### We are seeking substitute teachers

**Pay is \$120 a day plus school lunch.**

ND substitute teaching licenses require:

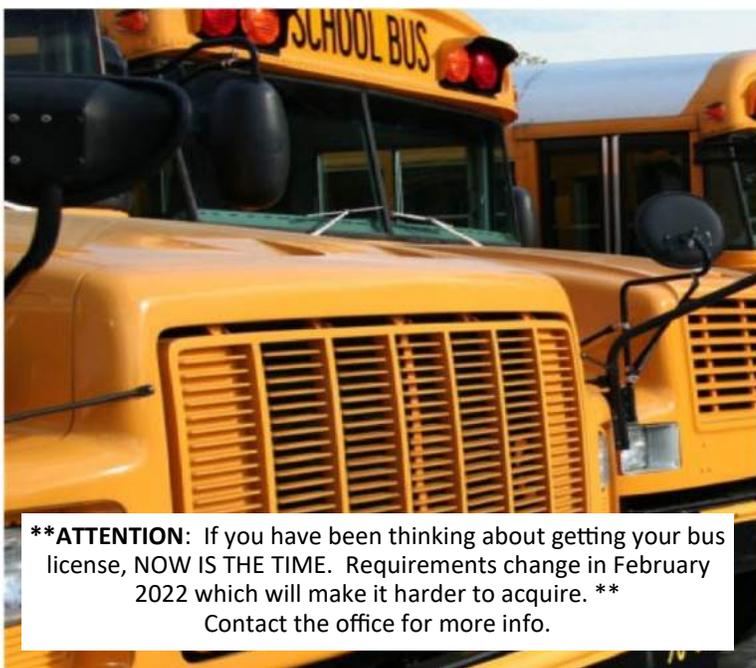
- 48 hours of college coursework (degree not required)
- Background check
- Online application

Please contact our office if you are interested and help us spread the word!

Elementary office: 701-553-8321  
Jr/Sr HS office: 701-372-3713



**Substitutes  
Needed!**



**\*\*ATTENTION:** If you have been thinking about getting your bus license, NOW IS THE TIME. Requirements change in February 2022 which will make it harder to acquire. \*\*  
Contact the office for more info.

## Sub Drivers NEEDED

Richland #44 School District is in need of  
**SUB BUS DRIVERS**

Drivers are needed for sub routes and  
extra-curricular driving

### Requirements:

**Bus Driver** - Class B License with passenger  
and bus driver endorsements.

**Sub Driver for MINI Bus** - only requires regular license

Background check and finger printing

Drivers must complete a physical every 2 years  
Driver will be subject to random drug/alcohol testing

### Wages:

Sub Route Driver: \$35/route (\$70/day)

Extra-curricular Driving: \$14/hour

Mini Bus Driver: \$12.50/hour

Apply at: <https://www.applitrack.com/ndsec/onlineapp/jobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&ApplITracklobid=2389>

Questions? Call Richland #44 at 701-372-3713