

THE CARDINAL'S CHIRP



ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL
PO BOX 170
ALMA, NE 68920



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FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DAVIS

It's that time of the year to start thinking about winter and the possibility of having to close school due to threatening weather, or bad road conditions. The decision to have school, or not to have school due to threatening weather, or road conditions is a decision that we take very seriously. The simplest decision would be to call off school anytime there is threatening weather, or when the roads are snow packed, or ice covered. Unfortunately, living in Nebraska, those days could add up quickly. The fact is that at some point during the school year, it is very likely that buses, students, parents, and teachers will have to drive on roads that will require the driver to be cautious, and reduce speed to accommodate the winter conditions. During inclement weather, families who live outside of Alma and believe the road conditions are unsafe for their children to travel to school, should keep their children at home. The school policy states, "parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances." If this were to happen please call the school and/or bus driver to let us know of your decision.

School Closing Information

In case of bad weather the school will make an announcement through the School Message System. You can also call the schools announcement line at 928-2401 or listen the radio for an announcement that school has been cancelled: KRVN – 880 AM or 93.1 FM, KQKY – 105.9 FM, KUVR – 1380 AM or by watching KHGI – Channel 13, KGIN – Channel 10-11, or KHAS – Channel 5. The information will also be posted on the school's Facebook and Twitter pages as well as being displayed on the school electronic sign. If a late opening is announced, please continue to monitor the phone and/or media as conditions may worsen warranting a closing of school. If the school is in session and closed early, we will make this announcement through the School Message System and the above media outlets as well as the school's social network pages. If you have any specific questions that you would like answered in regards to the school please contact me at the school. You can call me at 308-928-2131 or send your question by email to jon.davis@almacardinals.org.

Important Dates

10 AM start -Teacher inservice
Wednesday November 11th

No school - Thanksgiving break
Wednesday November 25th
Thursday November 26th
Friday November 27th



2020-2021 Alma Honor Roll Quarter 1

*Denotes High Honor Roll

<u>7th Grade</u>	
Tucker Biskup	Q1*
Ian Dunst	Q1
Mason Gestick	Q1
Kalen Lukas	Q1*
Issiah Neal	Q1
Nolan Pfeil	Q1*
Parker Seyler	Q1*
Alle Shicksneider	Q1*
William VanBoening	Q1

<u>8th Grade</u>	
Ethan Bach	Q1
Tucker Brandyberry	Q1
Davis Clark	Q1
Jamin Crawford	Q1
Jeremy Felix	Q1
Harper Fennel	Q1*
Bladyn Herrick	Q1
Alleigh Holmberg	Q1
Elizabeth Jurey	Q1
Matthew Mantzmyer	Q1
Abbigail Park	Q1*
Drew Schofield	Q1*
Jaxon Tischner	Q1
Zalie White	Q1
Miley Whitney	Q1*

<u>9th Grade</u>	
Mekimi Bantam	Q1
Karsten Bradley	Q1*
Anton Cook	Q1*
Elizabeth Dubbs	Q1
Gavin Dunst	Q1
Avery Hadley	Q1*
Kallie Hammond	Q1
Jersey Lewis	Q1
Alek Molzahn	Q1
Jakin Neal	Q1
Brett Pfeil	Q1*
Addison Pool	Q1
Dominick Schmitt	Q1
Addison Siebel	Q1*
Griffin Stemper	Q1*
Samantha Stone	Q1
Madison Zade	Q1*

<u>10th Grade</u>	
Linden Biskup	Q1*
Carter Brandyberry	Q1
Lili Brown	Q1*
Ryan Brugh	Q1
Daniel Cook	Q1
Sage Dieter	Q1
Peyton Herrick	Q1
Natasha Hock	Q1
Ryan Kermode	Q1
Steven Mapes	Q1
Garrett Molzahn	Q1
Addison Neal	Q1*
Swara Patel	Q1*
Kathryn Prickett	Q1*
Delaney Seyler	Q1*
Torrance Tischner	Q1*

<u>11th Grade</u>	
Kaylee Baker	Q1
James Dubbs	Q1
Joshua Felix	Q1*
Elliott Fletcher	Q1
Abigail Fox	Q1
Natayla Hock	Q1
Cyrus Jordan	Q1
Madison Korman	Q1*
Grant McQuay	Q1*
Jessica Pfeil	Q1*
Kendall Stemper	Q1*
Jason Stenka	Q1
Carlee Stuber	Q1*
Gage Thulin	Q1
Alexis Wolfe	Q1*
Madison Wolfe	Q1

<u>12th Grade</u>	
Tessa Bach	Q1
Brooke Burton	Q1
Karri Christensen	Q1*
Austin Christian	Q1
Colton Dahlgren	Q1*
Maddie Ehrke	Q1*
Zachary Halbert	Q1
Michelle Lujan Medrano	Q1
Tyler McConnell	Q1
Andrew Russell	Q1
Tegan White	Q1
Haylee Wang	Q1*

Spanish news from Mr. Bell

¡Hola amigos! ¿Qué tal? Our junior and senior highers are adjusting to a new teacher this year-- ¡uno que habla español! It's been fun to get to know the students and to challenge them to learn a new set of skills and to gain an appreciation, not only for other languages, but also for other countries and cultures. Junior High students take Spanish for nine weeks. During this time, they begin by learning basic phrases used in conversation, as well as numbers, colors, days of the week, months of the year, etc. Toward the end of the course they are able to put together simple sentences of their own. My Spanish 1 students have learned how to describe the weather, themselves, and other people, including their likes and dislikes. In our study of Hispanics in America, we learned that the first European language spoken on American soil was not Dutch, French, or English—it was Spanish! (The town of San Agustín, now St. Augustine, Florida, was founded by the Spanish in 1565, some 40 years before the founding of Jamestown, Virginia). In Spanish 2 our focus has been beautiful Costa Rica which has protected almost one third of its land via national parks, reserves, and wildlife refuges. In addition to present events, Spanish 2 students can now speak about past events using a tense known as the preterite. With my Spanish 3 students, we've been busy finding out what they have learned in previous years and filling in as needed. At present, we are working on translation in both directions: English to Spanish and Spanish to English. This exercise teaches us a lot about how both languages work. Also in Spanish 3, we have looked at Mexican history going all the way back to 1521 when the Spaniard, Hernán Cortés defeated the Aztec king, Montezuma II at the great city-on-a-lake, Tenochtitlán. I am thankful to be a full-time teacher in Alma after years of involvement in other roles.

TITLE 1 WITH MRS. EHRKE

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Title 1 Reading classroom on a typical day? Well, if you have, please read along and you will find out! Class size typically ranges from 3-5 students, as determined by the MAPS and Aimsweb scores, as well as teacher recommendation; Kindergarten through 6th grade.

We work hard on letter-sound correspondence, beginning sounds and endings, blends, phonemic awareness, word recognition, spelling, reading fluency, articulation and grammar skills, just to name a few! And the learning doesn't stop at school! Take-home reading passages and books are also incorporated into the curriculum, complete with short quizzes and question/answers, to engage the parents in the learning process. Oral reading as well as learning games are also utilized throughout the week.

Sound Partners and Early Interventions in Learning are utilized as our core curriculum in grades K-3rd. For 4th-6th grades, a variety of lessons are utilized: Phonics Lessons, A-Z & Scott Foresman Leveled Readers, as well as the Reading Detective Series, which consist of short literature passages and stories designed to increase higher level critical thinking. Cross-Curricular stories from K12 Learning are also great ways to increase our comprehension skills as well as learn about History, Physical Science, Math, and more!!

Keeping everyone busy and learning in my classroom at all times is my goal for everyday. Needless to say, there are very few dull moments around here!

-Mrs. Ehrke, Title 1 Reading Teacher

Mr. Schoneman's History Notes

Cardinal Chirp November 2020

To say that this has been a year for the books would be an understatement but I love how our kids are making history come alive in this trying we are going through. In 7th grade students have just finished up a project over the timeline that led up to the American Revolution and the shake-up of the British Empire. It has been great to see how students take the information and put a spin on the project to make it their own!

In American History which students have been diving into the construction of our first governments and are amazed with how our first true form of government was such a failure that we had to rewrite the plan altogether.

World History is beginning to look into the fascinating topics of the Native Americans in Mesoamerica, South America, and North America. Students will be studying how some of the first Americans thrived in this new land, and how some of these natives vanished without a trace.

I am very pleased with how this year has started and can't wait to see how my students grow and understand the history that has changed the world we see today, and how we are living in a time that will go down as one of the strangest.

Mr. Brummer's PE Notes

It has been awesome to have the students back in school! I thought they did very well for me during the remote learning, but seeing their faces, personalities, and progress with their skills and activities is always the best part of my job! The students have been involved with Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf, Tennis, Kickball, Running the Track, Ping-Pong (my favorite so far), Volleyball, and various games in the gym. We will end the semester with some Bowling and Basketball. Some of the things we will be doing 2nd semester will be Pickleball, Badminton, Hockey (another favorite), Soccer, and Track. I hope everyone enjoys the Holidays & the time off with Family and Friends

- Mr. Brummer



Special Education

Mr. Felix

A little information about Special Education.

What is a learning disability?

I often find myself explaining what Learning Disabilities are to students. I thought this would be a great opportunity to get a little information to you. The easiest way to explain a Learning Disability is to describe a student with a Learning Disability as having a normal IQ ranging from 85-115 with the average being 100, which means they are just as “smart or smarter” than their peers! A student with a Learning Disability may have a brain that may have difficulty reading, writing, spelling, reasoning, recalling, and/or organizing information. Learning Disabilities can’t be cured or fixed. So what can be done? We, it’s a team of teachers and parents, work together as a team to help support students with Learning Disabilities in the learning process. We focus on strengths, we make accommodations, and/or modifications. With these tools and support from parents and staff, students can be successful within the school setting and beyond.

Some facts about Learning disabilities:

One in seven Americans has some type of learning disability.

As many as 80% of students with learning disabilities have reading problems.

Learning disabilities should not be confused with other disabilities such as autism, intellectual disability, deafness, blindness, behavioral disorders, or other health impairments.

Some things to consider:

Students with Learning Disabilities can learn, they are just as “smart” as their peers, and just like you and I, they have areas in their lives that are hard. For them school may be harder, it may take extra time and support, but they can be very successful in school. As you watch TV, movies, sports and go throughout your day remember many of your favorite entertainers, co-workers, shop owners, and family members, may have a learning disability. Those are examples of the successes students with Learning Disabilities can and do have in school, post-high school, and as they enter the work force and into their adult lives.

I hope this information helped you understand a little about Learning Disabilities. There are many online websites and organizations that can help you gather more information concerning disabilities as well as ways to support children and parents.



Learning Knows No Bounds

Science Notes from Mrs. Nora Christensen

Welcome to Mrs. C's room, where kiddos love to learn about, discover and analyze the world that they live in. Where there are science experiments on the walls such as skulls of many types of animals, a peanut butter sandwich from 2012, a dead mouse from 9 years ago, cheese rotting, sea creatures, and many other specimens and that were found and brought in by students, prior teachers (Mr. Luedke), and myself. Welcome to 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Science. We are all about writing hypotheses, doing experiments, and figuring out "Why?"

The two 4th grade classes are learning about Energy and Motion. They are currently working on a project to protect an egg. They must act like a biomechanical engineer and design a solution to protect an egg dropping from two meters. The goal is to not break the egg!

The two 5th grade classes are studying elements, atoms, molecules, and compounds. They have found it quite amazing that two or more elements forming a compound have completely different properties. One example is table salt. Table salt is made from sodium (a highly reactive metal) and Chlorine (a poisonous gas). The 5th graders will be researching everyday compounds to find out what elements they are made of and how the properties of those elements change.

The 6th graders have been learning about living things, and what it takes to be "living". They have made a dichotomous key using their PE shoes, watched a candle to see if it had qualities of being alive, and drawn a cell with a city inside to show the characteristics of a living thing: Multicellular organisms are made of cells that are organized (City Hall), respond to the environment (fire truck), reproduce (copy machine in City Hall), use energy (power plant), eliminate waste (trash truck), move (road system), and grow (cement truck). We will be continuing our study of cells, this next week.

This is, also, the homeroom for the sixth-grade class. We're learning a lot about being responsible and accountable for ourselves so that we are ready for Jr. High. We have welcomed four new students into our class this year, so we are 26 strong! I truly wish that you could stop in and see what we were learning. Unfortunately, this year that is not an option. Just believe me when I say that there is a lot of learning going on in this room.

ESports Mr. Howsden

I like many of the teachers here at Alma have been glad to be back in school. What I would like to talk about is an activity that is still relatively new and unknown activity at our school: the Esports team. This is my second year coaching the team and the third year of it being offered at our school. We have three games for our students to compete in with other schools this year. We are currently in the Rocket League season; in fact, the playoffs will be starting the first week of this month so keep your eyes out for updates on how we do for that. After the Rocket League season is over, we will start practices for the games Super Smash Brothers and League of Legends.

I am happy to say that our team has almost doubled in size this year from last year. Any students in grades 7-12 that are interested are still more than welcome to join. With all of these students joining and our activity being a new one we are currently working on fundraising to pay for controllers, games, and other necessities for our team and any donations from the community would be greatly appreciated. Our students were doing very well last year when the season ended early and I can't wait to see what they are going to achieve this year.

Mrs. Christensen's 1st Grade News

Hello, Cardinal Nation! Wow, November, already? It's crazy to think that we are nearly done with the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. My first grade students have been growing and learning so much!! Thanks to the amazing help of Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Kahrs, I have been able to spend some extra time at home with our newborn son.

In the classroom, this awesome bunch has been learning tons of new math facts, how read more fluently, and SO much more. With the uncertainty of 2020 and all of the "fun" that it has brought, I thought it would be very important for the kids to take a minute to reflect on something that they are each thankful for. We all have so much to be thankful for, even amidst a very unprecedented time!

I am thankful for...

Meritt McConnell – my dog.

Amrik Shaw – my pets.

Macie McCarley – friends.

Sawyer Shada – my parents.

Crayton Schimidt – school.

Ryker Crooker – God.

Lane Laux – family and friends.

Kalob Taylor – my dog.

Elizabeth Biggs – Jesus.

Kaydense Dunse – my teachers.

Aela Low – my brother.

Jack Holmberg – brother and sisters.

Wyatt Evans – my puppy.

I hope that you enjoyed reading the many things that these sweet kids are thankful for. I know one thing is for certain, we are thankful to still be in school! This is a freedom that we have taken for granted in the past, and something we will never take for granted again. Enjoy the holiday season with those you are so fortunate to be surrounded by!!

Mrs. Christensen's First Grade Class

