

Niobrara Public School

September 2017

Parents Please Talk to Your Children About School Bus Safety at the Start of the School Year

As families begin to prepare for children returning to school, it's important for parents and children to go over school bus safety tips together. This will help ensure a safe, enjoyable start to the school year for everyone."

Many injuries happen when children are boarding or exiting the bus. A blind spot extends about ten feet in front of the bus, obstructing the driver's view. Often times, children are not aware of this blind spot and might mistakenly believe that if they can see the bus, the bus driver can see them.

Here are some suggestions on how to ensure your child is safe before, during and after their school bus ride.

While Waiting for the Bus

- Children should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is expected to arrive. Early arrival helps children avoid running across the street to catch the bus or running after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Parents should encourage their child to avoid horseplay while waiting for the bus to keep children and/or their belongings out of the road and away from traffic.
- Teach kids to stand at least three giant steps back from the curb as the bus approaches and to never move towards the bus until it has stopped and the driver opens the door.
- Children should avoid the school bus "danger zone" by staying 10 feet away from the front or back end of the bus so that the driver can see them.

During the Bus Ride

- If a child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
- Children should always use the hand rail when entering the bus.
- Check that drawstrings, backpack straps, scarves and loose clothing cannot get caught on the bus handrail, door or the seats.
- Parents should teach children to never push or shove other students.
- All children can help prevent falls on the bus by keeping the aisles clear of backpacks or books that can trip someone or block the way to the emergency exit.
- Children should remain seated, facing forward at all times during the bus ride.
- Shouting should be avoided to avoid unnecessarily distracting the bus driver.
- Parents should discuss the importance of never throwing any objects into, out of, or inside the bus.

After the Bus Ride

- Children should never leave their seat until the bus makes a complete stop.
- Remind kids to use handrails when exiting the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, he or she should take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross when the driver indicates it's safe.
- The child should not talk to strangers when walking to and from bus stop.
- Teach kids to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Reminder to Drivers: It is unlawful to pass a bus when red lights are flashing and the **STOP** sign arm is extended.

Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences - A conference is a time for parents and teachers to share information, solve problems, and form a relationship that will help the student succeed. You don't need to wait for a special invitation though. You can request a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss academic progress at any time. The teacher needs to hear from you and you need to hear from the teacher. You know more about your child than anyone at school. Talking with the teacher about your child will help pave the way for your student to do well in class and will help you understand what is being taught in the classroom. Conferences are usually short and to the point. These tips will help you make the most of your time with your child's teacher.

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

Find out your child's questions and concerns about school. Check progress reports, report cards and work your child has brought home. Write a list of questions you want to ask the teacher. Bring your list to the meeting with you. Write down information about your child that the teacher should know, such as a family death, divorce, changed finances, illness or a new home. If you need a ride, childcare or a different time or day for the conference, the school can help. Call the school office and ask.

AT THE CONFERENCE

Let the teacher begin the meeting but be sure to ask the questions on your list before time runs out. Ask the teacher what your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year. Make a plan for how you and the teacher will work with your child to reach those goals. Find out the best way (notes, phone calls, e-mail) and the best time to communicate with the teacher throughout the school year.

SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE

Weekly school surveillance is conducted every Wednesday by North Central District Health Department, which is our local health department. Information is collected from the schools every Wednesday throughout the school year regarding the number of students absent for that day and the reasons for the absences. Additional information will be collected if there are clusters of illness.

School surveillance is a state-wide effort that is used for early recognition of disease outbreaks throughout Nebraska in order to treat the diseases, such as influenza, promptly and stop the spread of the disease as quickly as possible. It is important to remember, when you call the school to let them know your child is ill, please let them know what symptoms your child is experiencing. If your child has vomiting, diarrhea and fever, let the school know these specific symptoms. This information is very beneficial in tracking different types of illnesses.

Fifth Grade

Welcome back! The school year is off to a great start in fifth grade. All the regular house-keeping drills and expectations have been taken care of and we are well on our way. This is the second year most of these students have been through our new reading, spelling, and math programs so they understand the protocol of how it works and we have moved quickly on our way. It has been quite an easy adjustment. We have also been getting right into our language class and figuring out the schedule of everything.

Fifth graders were also able to attend a kindness retreat put on by Youth Frontiers. There were seven other schools in attendance to learn about how important it is to be kind and how you can help people that are not being treated kindly. It was a fun-filled day held in our gym. Ask a fifth grader what their goal is to show kindness this year.

There are 19 students in fifth grade this year. They are: Colt Adema, Mya Chohon, Chloe Hanzlik, Alan Henry, Tate Frazier, Amos Owen, Layten Moody, Alana Denney, Alan Rodriguez, Tessa Janak, Glen Sagaste, Hepan Thomas, Lori DeCora, Taylor Teadtke, Christian Torrez, Benjamin Hayes, Meadow Leboldus, Isabella Wright, and Charlie Widow. We are all looking forward to a lot of learning and memory making! Come join us anytime!

Homecoming 2017

Student Council met on August 29th to decide on the Homecoming theme and spirit days for 2017. This year's theme is "Surf's Up." The spirit days will be Pajama Day on Monday, Hawaiian Day on Tuesday, Nerd Day on Wednesday, Western Day on Thursday and Blue/Black/Silver on Friday.

Homecoming Week begins on September 11th with the coronation in Verdigre after the JV football game. Approximate start time will be 7-7:30 p.m. at the football field. Classes will be creating spirit posters to hang in the gym to boost Cougar pride throughout the year. We will be grilling out on Friday, September 15th. A pep rally will follow at 1:00 p.m. with competitions and games provided by the classes. The homecoming dance will be in Verdigre following the volleyball game there on Friday evening. Check the newspaper and school website for any updates on times.

The **Niobrara FBLA** is making and selling sports buttons for both Junior High and High School, including the sports Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball. The prices are \$3 for one button or \$5 for two buttons. Each additional button will be \$2. If you would like to buy a sports button of an athlete, please return the bottom portion ASAP so you have the button to wear to the games/events.

Your Name _____

Student Name _____

_____ First Button	\$3.00	_____
_____ Additional Buttons	\$2.00 each	_____
	Total	_____



CHILDFIND

The Niobrara Public School is currently conducting CHILDFIND activities to locate children with disabilities. The federal government has ruled that all children from birth to 21 years of age, who have academic, physical, social, emotional, or other difficulties, are guaranteed a free, appropriate education. We at Niobrara Public School do not want to overlook or miss any child with a disability. If you know of a child who may have a disability that is not receiving services, please help us to help them, by contacting the Niobrara Public School,

Blood Drive

Niobrara High School Gym
Wednesday, October 4th
9:00-2:00 p.m.

Contact Chelsey Chohon 402-857-3323 to schedule an appointment.
Walk-ins are welcome.



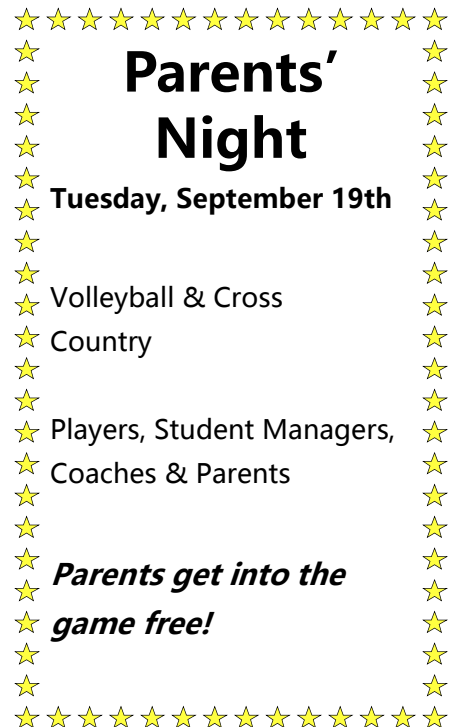
Parents' Night

Tuesday, September 19th

Volleyball & Cross
Country

Players, Student Managers,
Coaches & Parents

*Parents get into the
game free!*



Science News - The science room has been busy! We started off with the eclipse and even with the storm rolling in and chasing us back to school we got some pretty good looks at the event. Some students are planning to go see the one in Australia next!

Biology II, which is Anatomy and Physiology, we are finishing up learning the anatomical directions and how to describe regions of the body. They completed their "Gummi Bear Lab" where they have to demonstrate their knowledge of the dissecting planes and directions.

Geology is learning about the structure of the interior of the Earth. This is a favorite chapter where we get to create a recipe for a 5 layer food dish as a model. The top layer must be rigid/brittle, the second layer must be gooey, the third layer must be solid, the fourth layer liquid, and the bottom must be solid. This mimics the layers of the lithosphere, asthenosphere, mesosphere, outer core, and inner core.

Chemistry will be spending some time with unit factoring, the metric system and conversions, significant figures and all that fun math stuff. We will soon be learning the equipment and safety protocols as well as basic skills such as measuring and lighting Bunsen burners, etc. Weekly elements tests have gone well so far.

8th Grade Science is a new class for me and I am enjoying these middle schoolers. We are almost done with our Big Bang unit about to take our first test. Make sure you ask an 8th grader why the Big Bang was NOT a good name for the beginning of our known universe.

STEM class is big again this year. After learning about our Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences, we are working on our first engineering project. These guys are talented builders and I look forward to seeing what they can create this year.

We are talking about the Characteristics of Life in **Biology** and will soon be moving into Cell Structure. The students looked at various cells under the microscope and saw how they are alike and different. They took great pictures of their cells and I hope to put them up on the school website.

The **Freshmen** are wondering why they need to learn how to write in science class. Communication is key to successful science advancement. If you can't communicate your ideas and record your work, all of your effort is for nothing. After we study the Library at Alexandria they will understand.

I am teaching three online classes: **Biology III, Oceanography, and Ecology**. While I have had Ecology online for a few years now, Biology III, which is Medical Terminology, and Oceanography are new. Online classes take a lot of time to develop and the student doesn't have face to face interaction with me but I hope it helps our students' schedules and allows them to explore different electives. Ms. Koehn and Mrs. Spencer are in my room occasionally as helpers and Isabel is my student aide last hour of the day, all of whom are working very hard to keep me organized and sane.

The **First Graders** are off to a great start. We have been busy remembering rules to follow on how to be safe, respectful, and responsible. It's only been a couple of weeks and we are moving along quite nicely in reading and in math. In Math, we are working on numbers, matching numbers, making sets, making numerals the correct way, and which one is fewer and greater. In Reading, we are working on sounding out words and reading words together to form sentences.

In Science, we are learning about Energy. One thing we learned was how charcoal was made. The kids may not have understood it all, but I learned how. Also, we made telephones using Styrofoam cups and string. They worked! We could talk from across the room!!!!!!!!!! Can't wait to see what the rest of the year teaches us!!!!!!!!!!