

Niobrara Public School

September 2018



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Dear Niobrara School Families,

Welcome Back!

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff has been planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. And, our much-appreciated Niobrara School Supports group geared up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

New Staff

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Crosley as our middle school teacher as well as Ciera Morton who will have middle school and high school social studies. Both new teachers are energetic, creative and ready to engage the students. Additionally, we welcome Stephanie McClellan as our Family Service Worker to the Preschool, Tatianna Runnels as high school para and Susie Kelley as library aid. We are so fortunate to have hardworking, caring and highly skilled teachers and staff.

Facilities Update

If you drove past the school or utilized our outdoor playing spaces this summer, you may have noticed that not much has changed. We installed new throwing rings for the track program last Spring and the Industrial Technology students along with Mr. Runnels are working to get them finished up. We anticipate the delivery of six spring action riders for the playground. It will take a bit to get them installed, but we hope to get them set up as soon as possible upon their arrival.

Last year's district-wide safety and security team generated an off-campus evacuation site. Special thanks to Moody Motor's for their help to organize and facilitate our practice run. Quarterly safety meetings and monthly training programs for students and staff will once again take place. I remind you all that if you see something to say something. Just a reminder that if something is out of order or someone is in the building and they don't seem to fit in tell someone. Together we will be more vigilant and proactive!

Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. Your commitment to insuring that Niobrara Public Schools remains a celebrated and successful school is awe-inspiring. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your Superintendent and Elementary Principal. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Warmest Regards,
Margaret Sandoz, Superintendent/Elementary Principal

September Birthdays

Summer Key - 2nd

McKaylee McClellan - 3rd

Rolando Jaimes, Delani Runnels - 4th

Cort Chohon - 8th

Angel Grant - 11th

Raquella LaPointe - 12th

Pearl Klug- 15th

Cole Swanson - 17th

Kalyn Nielsen , Elizabeth Traversie - 21st

Kennedi Reynolds, Austin Avery - 22nd

Courtney Hrbek - 28th

JoWen Chiang - 29th

PICTURE DAY

**Wednesday, September 26th
8:15 a.m.**

**Digital Solutions
www.digitalsolutionsschools@gmail.com**

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Class Representatives

Student Council

★ **President** - Camden Eisenhauer

★ **Vice President** - Jolee Crosley

★ Members

★ Abby Swanson, Brooke Swanson, Ken Justo,
★ Stran Fritz, Emily Parks, Cole Swanson, Octa-
★ via Bluebird, Daniel Redowl, Ashley Parks,
★ Danika Runnels

★ Senior Class Officers

★ **President** - Abby Swanson

★ **Vice President** - Erika Kitto

★ **Secretary/Treasurer** - Abigail Holz

★ Junior Class Officers

★ **President** - Ken Justo

★ **Vice President** - Emil Brandt

★ **Secretary** - Summer Key

★ **Treasurer** - Adam DeKay

★ Sophomore Class Officers

★ **President** - Clay Holz

★ **Vice President** - Kiera Moody

★ **Secretary/Treasurer** - Kalyn Nielsen

★ Freshman Class Officers

★ **President** - Jordayn LaPlante

★ **Vice President** - Tracen Runnels

★ **Secretary/Treasurer** - Tierre Kitto

ANNUAL FALL HEARING ABILITY SCREENING

Niobrara School

Tuesday, September 11th

Students in preschool through 12th grade will receive a hearing ability screening. If the student does not pass the screening, the ESU #1 audiologist will see the student to confirm the findings and determine if this is a medical concern or a new hearing loss. For students that have hearing losses, their past records will be compared to the updated results obtained. Parents will be notified if concerns exist for their child's hearing ability via a letter. The ESU #1 audiologist will return periodically throughout the school year to help monitor those students with hearing ability concerns or for students where concerns arise. If you notice a change in your child's hearing ability throughout the school year, please let the school know so a follow up screening can be provided. Children are processing auditory information throughout their waking hours and if the auditory signal is muffled, it takes that much more time to process or reprogram what has been presented. Healthy ears are vital for reaching educational potential.

YOUTH FRONTIERS

On Thursday, August 23rd, Niobrara Public Schools hosted the *Youth Frontiers Kindness and Courage Retreats*. In attendance were thirteen area schools bringing 105 fifth graders for the Kindness Retreat and 225 seventh graders for the Courage Retreat. Youth Frontiers is an organization that comes out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and helps schools foster a more positive atmosphere school climate through positive interactions and character building activities. The Youth Frontiers Retreats were made possible through many donations by community businesses to help with the cost of the retreat, breakfast in the morning, and a snack for the ride home. Thanks to all that made it such a huge success!!"

Middle School Math would like to welcome the 6th graders to middle school and look forward to enjoying the year with them. The first couple of weeks have been spent on classroom behaviors and getting used to preparing themselves for class. They have done a pretty good job so far with transitioning from one class to the next. The middle school has also been utilizing the new chrome books for math. All middle school grades in math have been using them to do IXL. That is a program that provides enrichment, story problems and great graphics to represent things in math. As a parent, please ask your child(ren) what they are doing in math. Be active in their learning and just have a conversation with them. I am also available if you ever have questions by contacting the school or visiting the classroom. I look forward in engaging your child in math and continuing their education. Have a great year! *Mr. Eisenhower*

Fifth Grade Is on Point!



We are so “on point” in fifth grade! There are 16 students that make up this awesome group. Their names are Amaryah, Kady, Miley, Reina, DuWayne, Trista, Julius, Payten, Travis, Nathaniel, Joel, Taylen, Elena, Amayra, Cooper, and Brena. We have “sharply” gotten our routine down and have adjusted to the changes. We have a morning rotation. After our reading class, fifth graders have math with Mrs. Guenther, then we rotate to Mrs. Bauer for science while Mrs. Guenther teaches third graders math. Then fifth graders rotate to Mrs. Justo for social studies while Mrs. Guenther teaches the fourth graders math. It may sound a little confusing, but we are promising you that it isn’t!

In math, we are doing place value, sequencing, digits, and writing numbers. Mrs. Bauer has been teaching about matter. We are figuring things out about particles in different states of matter and density. In social studies Mrs. Justo is teaching American History, when Columbus invaded North America. We are discussing whether he is a villain or hero. So, as you can see, our morning is jam packed with learning!

In the afternoon we continue with our reading, language, and spelling. Lots and lots of language arts! Something else that is different for us is that we have P.E. in the afternoon. Last year we had it in the morning. We end our day with a specials class or core time in our classroom. The day flies by and it will be a great year! Everyone is welcome to come visit our “sharp” group. We will “stick it to you” with kindness!

Homecoming 2018

Homecoming will be held during the first week of October! The theme for the week is Super Heroes. Dress up days will be Pajama Day, Role Reversal Day (teachers dress as students and students dress as teachers), Squad Day (get with a group of people and dress alike, or dress up as the cast of Star Wars, a box of crayons, etc.), Formal/Fancy Day (dress in formal or fancy clothes, suits, prom dresses, etc.), and of course Blue, Black, and Silver Day! Weekly activities will include Junior High, JV and Varsity volleyball, football and cross country, and also Coronation and the dance. There will be more info in the October newsletter and on our school website as the week approaches! Go Cougars!

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	_____



Blood Drive

Niobrara High School Gym
Wednesday, October 3rd

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



**American
Red Cross**

Please consider how much sleep your child is getting—it's hard to learn when you are sleepy.

3-6 Years Old: 10 - 12 hours per day

Children at this age typically go to bed between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. and wake up around 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., just as they did when they were younger. At age 3, most children are still napping, while at age 5, most are not. Naps gradually become shorter, as well. New sleep problems do not usually develop after age 3.

7-12 Years Old: 10 - 11 hours per day

At these ages, with social, school, and family activities, bedtimes gradually become later and later, with most 12-years-olds going to bed at about 9 p.m. There is still a wide range of bedtimes, from 7:30 to 10 p.m., as well as total sleep times, from 9 to 12 hours, although the average is only about 9 hours.

12-18 Years Old: 8 - 9 hours per day

Sleep needs remain just as vital to health and well-being for teenagers as when they were younger. It turns out that many teenagers actually may need more sleep than in previous years. However, for many teenagers social pressures conspire against getting the proper amount and quality of sleep. From Webmed.com

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.

It is also important to remember that if your school should happen to close during the school year due to a large number of students absent with influenza, that parent keep children home and not allow them to congregate with friends. This will help prevent the spread of illness.

Win \$1500!

The student council is selling raffle tickets right now for a chance to win \$1500!! Only 200 tickets were printed and they are selling for \$25 each. The drawing will be held on October 2nd at the volleyball game in Niobrara. (Need not be present to win!) All proceeds go towards Student Council activities throughout the year including Homecoming activities, supplies for Clean-Up Day, and the Winter Formal. You may purchase a ticket from any student council member or by calling the school. Good luck!

ATTENTION PARENTS

**Student Assurance Services regarding the 2018-19
Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program**

We have approached the time when fall sports are starting to play their first couple games and regular school session is underway. While some student athletes are starting to experience their first aches and pains due to participating in their sport, there are other families that might start to realize that their primary insurance could leave them with a sizable medical bill should their student sustain an accidental injury. This program is designed to not only assist families with their out-of-pocket medical expenses, but it also serves as a line of protection for your school district. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (800) 328-2739.

Sincerely,

David Desch, Sales Director
Student Assurance Services, Inc.
Phone: (800) 328-2739
E-mail: Davidd@sas-mn.com

Parents' Night

Tuesday, October 2nd

Volleyball & Cross Country

Friday, October 19th

Football

Players, Student Managers,
Coaches & Parents will be recognized.

Parents get into the game free!