

Niobrara Public School

September 2020

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Welcome back for all our returning students and to those who are new to Niobrara Schools--we are so happy that you will be joining us for the 2020-2021 school year! Our goal at Niobrara Schools is to work together to provide our students with a rich learning environment. My vision, as the superintendent, is to ALWAYS put kids first! My belief is that all students can learn. As educators, we need to discover how each child learns in order to differentiate our instruction to support diverse learning styles. In a collaborative effort, we want children to thrive in all ways possible. My hope is that Niobrara students will LOVE school and experience a learning environment that is positive, safe, warm, caring, as well as a fun place to learn and grow.

We are all excited about beginning a new year! Student success is attributed to the partnership and the relationships we build within our community and this is MOST important now more than ever. It truly does take a village and at Niobrara Schools we value teamwork and collaboration! Education is a joint venture and we greatly appreciate the support you provide for your children at home and at school to help them meet their learning goals.

Our teachers have been participating in professional development, collaborating with their colleagues, and creating learning plans for your students. Thanks to everyone who came to our open house to obtain Chromebooks for your student(s). If you have not yet done so, you may contact the school office for more information.

The school day will begin at 8:05am and will run until 3:52pm. Friday we will continue to have a 2:08pm dismissal. There will be a blend of face to face, synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) work happening daily. We know that over time, the schedules will be adjusted based on the needs of the students in the class.

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken each day. If your child is ill or will not be joining us for any reason, please call the office to report your child's absence at (402)857-3322 or email our school secretary, Dee Kemp at dkemp@niobraraschools.org

We are looking forward to a successful year for all our students. Remaining flexible is essential as we keep everyone safe and respond to the current conditions. Take care and be well!

Sincerely,

Margaret Sandoz, Superintendent

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

September Birthdays

3rd - McKaylee McClellan

4th - Delani Runnels

8th - Cort Chohon

15th - Pearl Klug

17th - Cole Swanson

20th - Gabriel Flyinghawk

21 - Jordon Ingebo, Kalyn Nielsen, Elizabeth Traversie

22nd - Kennedi Reynolds, Austin Avery

29th - JoWen Chiang, Hayden Lyons

ANNUAL FALL HEARING SCREENING

Niobrara School

Wednesday, September 17th

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.

Miles of Smiles

North Central District Health Department and your school have partnered together to bring dental services to pre-school, elementary and middle school students. The service be available at your school on **September 15th**. A Registered Dental Hygienist will provide a dental screening/checkup and apply fluoride varnish, which helps prevent tooth decay. For children covered by Kids Connection or Medicaid, this service is free of charge. A \$15.00 donation is appreciated if your child is not covered by these programs. **However, if you are unable to pay, your child will not be refused service.** Children participating will also receive oral health education, along with a free toothbrush and toothpaste. A note will be sent home with your child if any areas of concern are found during the checkup. This service does not take the place of regular checkups by your family dentist or daily brushing and flossing. You are encouraged to allow your child to participate in the screening and preventive fluoride application even if you have a family dentist. Parent permission is required for children to receive services.

Fluoride Varnish Facts

- sticky, honey-like material applied to the teeth with a small brush
- fluoride varnish is safe, adheres to the teeth once it comes into contact with saliva
- fluoride varnish is approved by the American Dental Association and the Federal Drug Administration

Fluoride varnish should be applied up to 4 to 6 times per year, and can decrease further cavity development by about 38%.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Student Assurance Services regarding the 2020-21 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 us at (800) 328-2739 or e-mail www.sas-mn.com.



Here is the link for the ***Cougar Apparel Online Store***. <https://nvcougars2020.itemorder.com/sale> N-Club appreciates your support! The store will be open until September 20th. If there are any questions, email Mrs. Pritchett at jpritchett@niobraraschools.org

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Technology

What's Going on in Mrs. Motacek's classes

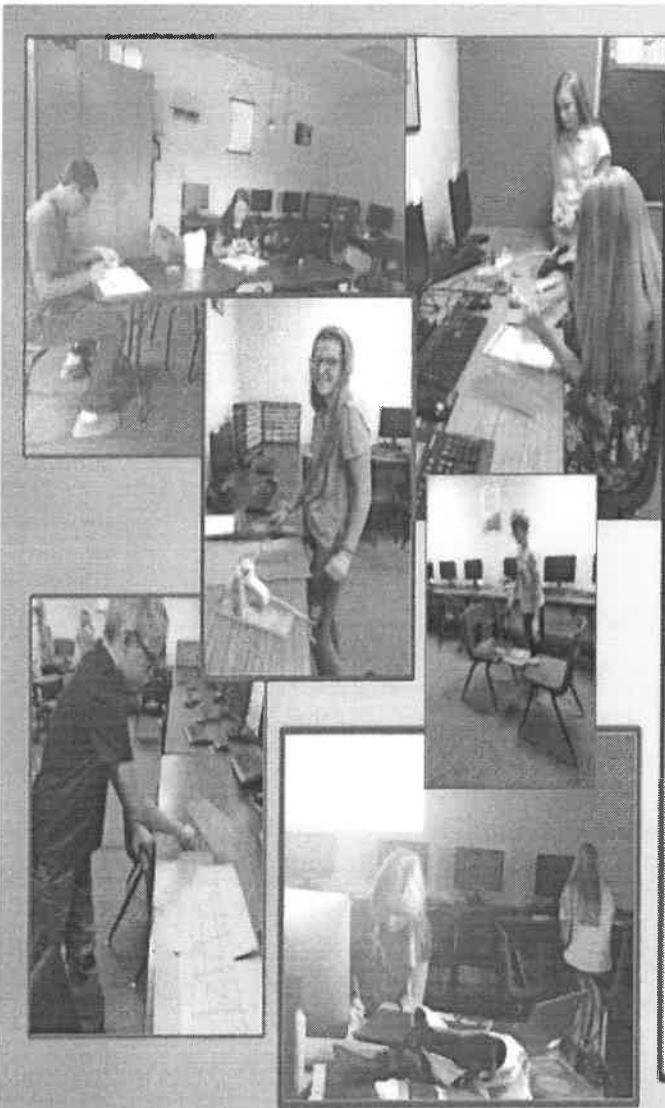
Web Design: Students are learning to define a problem solving process, which is an important part of coding

Foundations of Computing: Students are learning to represent data with binary code

Information Technology: Students are learning how to use Google Products to organize and research

7th Grade Tech: Students are learning how to use the Google search engine more efficiently and will be moving on to a problem solving unit this week

Elementary Tech: Students are learning more about digital citizenship including how to stay safe when online and how to deal with cyberbullying. Students will be working on typing skills in September



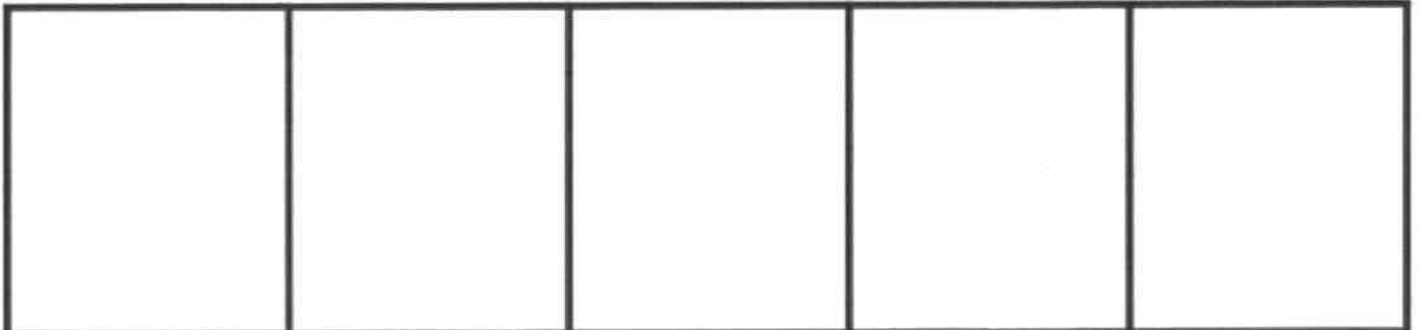
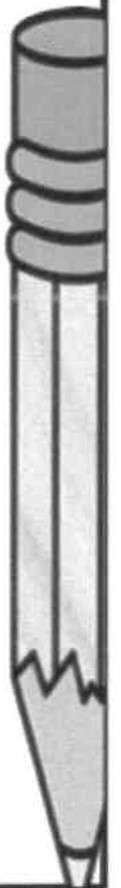
MTSS NEWS



It has been a busy start to the new school year! Students have been busy taking various benchmark assessments to determine their current instructional level in content areas. Niobrara Public Schools utilizes Acadience for students in PK-5, aimswebPlus for students in 6-8, and MAP for students in K-11.

Our goal at Niobrara Public Schools is to ensure that all students receive effective instruction. The data from the benchmark assessments allow us to adjust the level and intensity of instruction based on each student's individual needs.

Please watch for more information coming home showing how your student scored. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



The First Graders have been so busy to start the year. This year we have chairs called Scoop chairs that we get to sit and listen in when we aren't at our desk. They are pretty cool. To start the year in Math we have been reviewing our numbers to 10. We made towers using our cubes and placed them on each number. We have also started talking about graphs and graphing how we got to school and also the weather. In Reading we have been really working hard remembering all of our letter sounds. We are working on blending sounds to read words and to decode words. In Language we have been working on classifying like plants and animals, working on opposites, reading a calendar, and remembering and repeating rules for objects. In Science we started on our Plant Unit and we talked about the parts of a plant and we are learning the function of each part. One of our first lessons is that we went outside and used a magnifying glass to look closer at the plants around our school. Stayed tuned for more of what First Graders Learn!!





2nd Grade News

September 2020

A Note from the Teacher

Welcome back to school everyone! We had a long break, but the kids are back and ready to learn! We are working on a calendar unit in math right – identifying weekdays/weekends, solving problems using a calendar and writing the full date. In science we are learning about land and water. The students are working very hard and they are a great group to have! Stay safe and healthy!

Mrs. Steffen

