

Dates to Note in January

- 5th - JV/V G BB @ Nel-Oakdale; Wrestling Tri @ Niobrara
- 6th - JH Boys BB @ St. Mary's
- 7th-9th - G/B BB Wausa Tournament
- 7th - Wrestling Duals @ Pender
- 9th - Wrestling @ Winside
- 11th - JH BB vs. Summerland @ Niobrara
- 12th - JV/V G/B BB @ Wynot
- 15th - JV/V G/B BB vs. Elkhorn Valley @ Niobrara
- 16th - Wrestling @ Battle Creek
- 19th - JV/V G/B BB vs. North Central @ Niobrara
- 20th - JH BB @ Wausa
- 21st - JH Boys BB @ St. Mary's; NVC Wrestling @ Elkhorn Valley
- 22nd - JH Boys BB vs. Bon Homme @ Niobrara
- 23rd - Wrestling @ Nel-Oakdale; G/B JV Tournament @ Niobrara
- 26th - Wrestling Tri @ North Central; JV/V G/B BB @ CWC
- 27th - JH BB @ Bloomfield
- 28th - JV/V G/B BB @ Osmond
- 29th - Wrestling @ Greeley; JH Boys BB @ Tyn-dall
- 30th - Wrestling @ Plainview; 1st Round NVC G/B BB

CHILDFIND - According to Federal law, all children with disabilities residing in Niobrara Public School district, including children with disabilities who are homeless or wards of the state or attend non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, will be identified, located, and evaluated. To locate the children with disabilities, each year we ask the public for assistance. If you have a concern about a child from birth to age 21, please call the school, Superintendent, or Special Education Department at 402-857-3322 or 3323, or stop by the office.

Parents' Night

Friday, January 15th we will recognize wrestlers, basketball players, student managers, coaches, & parents at the basketball game in Niobrara.

Parents get into the game free!

Congratulations 2020 Fall NSAA Winners!

Volleyball
Emily Parks

Play Production
Emily Parks & Harley Stark

NO SCHOOL PK-12

January 4, 5, 18, 25, and 26

January Birthdays

1 - Bryan Coffman

18 - Kase Teadtke, Ella Crosley, Matthew Mechaley

19 - Billie Pritchett

20 - Cambrie Henry

23 - Addison Peed

1st Grade News

The First Graders have been very busy learning about adding, subtracting, decoding words, spelling words, and plants. They have been working extra hard. Another thing they've been working on this month is putting on the play "Arthur's Christmas" by Marc Brown. They did a great job learning the new words for their parts. Happy Holidays and Have a Great Winter Break!!





2nd Grade News

January 2020

Merry Christmas!!

The second-grade class has had an AMAZING first semester! They worked so hard whether they were in the classroom or on zoom. I am so proud of them and thankful for all the memories and giggles we've had these last five months! We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas! Stay safe and healthy, and we will see you in 2021!

Mrs. Steffen





4th Grade Newsletter

Reading:

The 4th grade are finishing up 'Where the Red Fern Grows' and will soon be watching the movie to compare and contrast the book and movie! When reading 'Where the Red Fern Grows', the students do an amazing job of thinking deeply about the text - they gain understanding of character's perspective, analyze elements of setting, plot, and resolution of conflict, and recognize and explain effects of figurative language to uncover meaning. We have enjoyed making many connections to this book and can't wait to finish it!

Science:

The students are currently learning about sound and light energy. Our next lessons will be on electricity and heat, where they will be building different circuits and observing how particles move. At the end of the unit, the students will be designing a community warning system as an Engineering Design Challenge by utilizing their knowledge of energy transfer.

Writing:

The 4th graders are continuing to learn more about figurative language. So far, we have covered idioms and similes. We are now focusing on 'magnificent metaphors' - comparing two unlike objects without using the words 'like' or 'as'. Identifying these and explaining them in our reading and writing will help us become better thinkers of the text we are reading, as well as making our writing more descriptive and engaging for our readers! We will also be learning more about poetry and the important aspects of writing poems!

NPS Artists Create with Clay

The Niobrara High School and 7th grade Art students have completed a clay unit where they created a variety of clay artworks. Connecting the aesthetic and the functional purpose was their goal in their clay speaker/amplifier as well as plates, bowls, and mugs. They used handbuilt and wheel throwing techniques showing skill and craftsmanship.



Seventh grade Art students also learned handbuilding techniques to create mugs and plates using skill and craftsmanship.



January Newsletter

No one invited a pandemic, yet here we all are, doing our best to face the adversity and deal with whatever comes our way. While we are all fatigued, unsatisfied and a bit tattered at the edges, there are still more questions than answers. Medical and long-term health care facilities are in phase 1a of the vaccine distribution in the State of Nebraska. Education professionals are in phase 1b of vaccine distribution in the State of Nebraska. We do not have much information at this point about distribution of phase 1b and will pass the information along as it is made available. We have been informed by public health that they anticipate phase 1b to occur in mid to late January.

There is potential for side effects such as fever, tiredness, chills and headache. We have identified the Niobrara School as being a place that vaccinations can potentially take place once the supply reaches this area. This will be a great community outreach in collaboration with the North Central District Health Department. I am still encouraged by how people have come together to support this great school and community of Niobrara. We need to be grateful for the support of many.

Our kids are amazing. They have done everything we have asked of them. I have always believed in our young people; and seeing how they have taken this in stride and been a willing part of the solution has been nothing short of inspiring. I am grateful that we have such astounding kids.

I am grateful for the collaboration for our State school leaders, who navigate daily challenges with passion and purpose. Our support staff is making sure the bills are paid, the supplies are ordered, our buildings are clean, and our kids are fed and transported, and our office staffs are ensuring that schools run as smoothly as possible. I am grateful for the work of many whose work goes largely unnoticed.

Frankly, I stand in awe of our teachers and paraeducators. It's not often that an entire industry changes how it operates literally overnight. Basically, we have asked teachers to "drive the car while building it." They have learned new tools, technology, and teaching strategies in an effort to meet the needs of every learner. Make no mistake; it's not perfect and we have a long way to go, but our teachers continue to embrace the challenge and have been great partners in finding our way in this new environment. I am grateful for our teachers.

I am grateful for our parents and families. Thank you for trusting us. We will continue to do our best to earn your confidence every day.

We didn't choose how 2020 rolled out. As the New Year is here let's take time to be grateful for the support we have received and will continue to receive as we navigate the new landscape and we can only hope that 2021 is a better than the one before.

LIBRARY NEWS:

The Scholastic Book Fair was at the Niobrara School from December 1-11. The fair was a book cart only fair, allowing only students and staff to shop in person, while the community shopped online. Our book fair brought in \$2600 this December. Due to COVID-19, I wasn't sure how well the school fair would do this year, but I'm really pleased with the sales we made. Hopefully, we will be able to host the buy one get one free book sale in the Spring. That will depend on if Scholastic is still running their "in person" fairs at this time.

Every day of the book fair, we had a drawing for prizes. Students won either a book or a poster and their picture was put on our prize winner wall. These students were our prize winners:

Chloe Hanzlik, Gavin Chohon, Melanie Crosley, Olivia McClellan, Sofia Farrar, Christine Mechaley, Karissa Kurpgeweit, Bryan Coffman, Sophia Mackey, Lynae Nielsen, Peyton Henry, Zayden Andrews, Matthew Mechaley, Klaire Runnels, Jade Brandt, Kenny Dine, Gracie Fritz, DuWayne Traversie, Oakley Wright, Jaxon Smith, Cambrie Henry, Jaxon Edmisten, Elizabeth Traversie, Damien St. Cyr, Anthony Smith, Jowen Chiang, Gage Kreycik, and Aiden Henry.

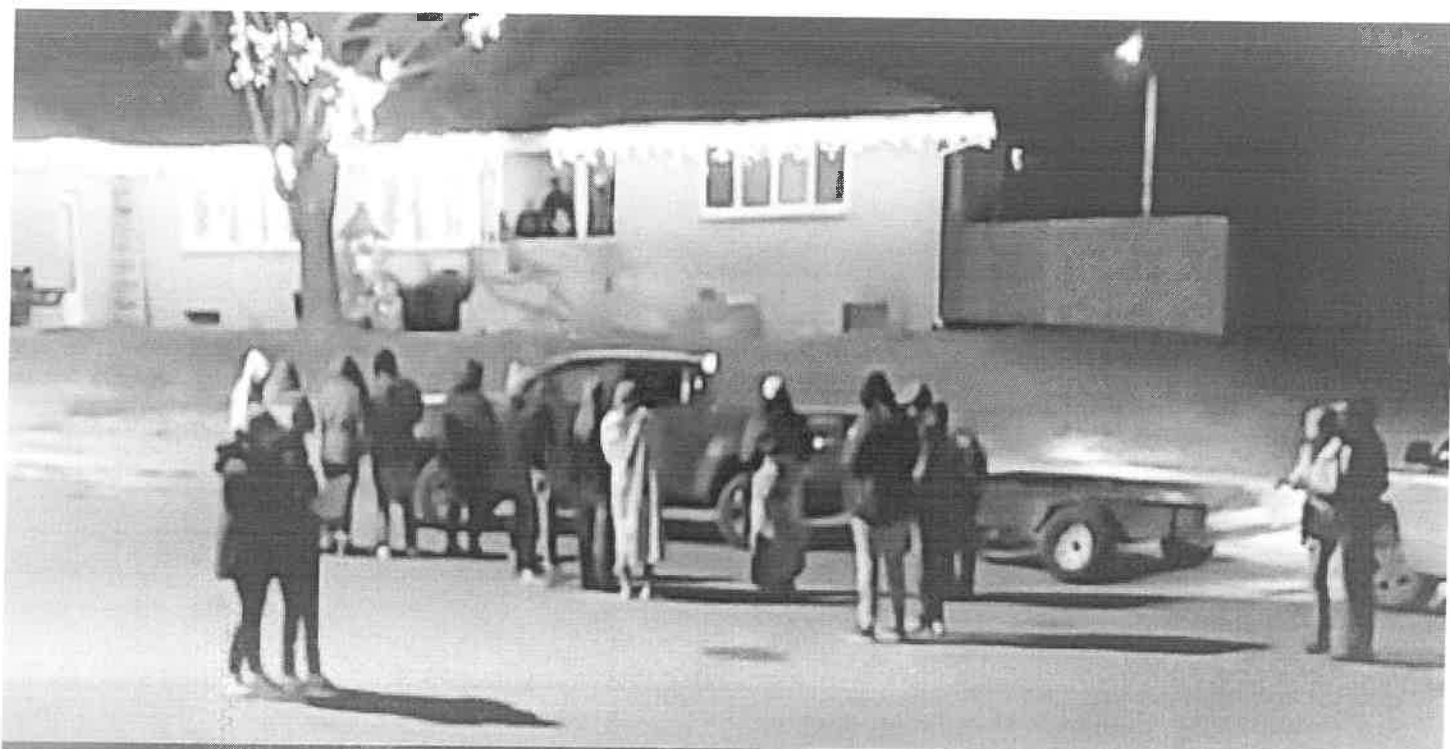
MUSIC NOTES:

December was a time of singing, playing, and recording Christmas songs for the Holiday Showcase. This recording was then posted to the Niobrara Facebook page and shared with parents through a link. While a video is not the same thing as having the program in person, it was fun and the students learned that recording songs isn't a one and done. We took three class days for HS Choir, two for band and third grade, and the whole 30-minute classtime for the rest of the elementary grades. My phone had lots of videos to go through and the videos chosen were sent to google drive and shared to Charissa Avery. She then took the videos to trim, chose the backgrounds, added pictures, and put together a wonder video for the community. If you haven't seen it, please contact me through email or text and I will send you the link. jstark@niobraraschools.org or 402-857-3621.

December 18, the 9-12 Choir and Band students went caroling around the community. We are thankful that it wasn't colder and there wasn't any snow! Students had pizza in the music room before we started, sang around town, and ended the evening having hot chocolate and cookies at Sportsman's Bar in the back room. We had loads of fun and hope the community enjoyed our singing also. A big thank you to Mr. Runnels and Mrs. Pritchett for coming along, singing, and handing out Skills USA goodies!

CAROLING PICS – Picture credits: Cindy Sage, Tammie Parks, & Sharla Hanzlik.







January

Month of January in Dakota—Witeh’l Wi, Hard or Difficult Moon

Month of January in Omaha/Ponca —Hóⁿga Umúbthii-k^h

When Snow Blows into the Tent

Dakota word for Bear – Mato (Mah Toe)

Omaha/Ponca word for Bear – MoNchu (Mah_n choo)

Dakota word for Bread – Aguyapi

Omaha/Ponca word for Bread – Wamo’_{ns}ke

Dakota word for Red – S’a

Omaha/Ponca word for Red – Zhide



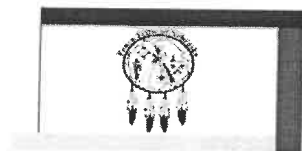
Hi Hanna Waste

“Good Morning”

Anpetu Waste

“Good Day”

Tribes of Nebraska





MTSS UPDATE

Academic Learning

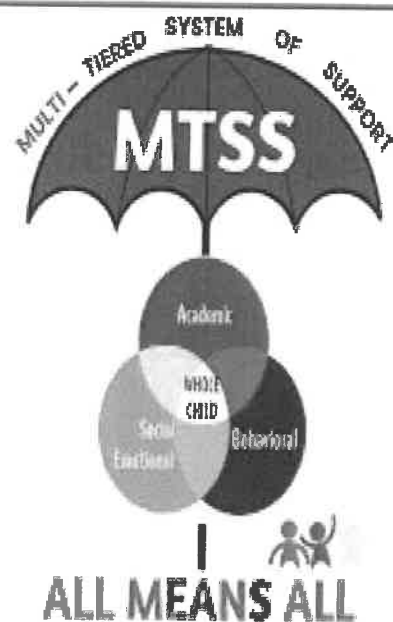
Niobrara Public Schools saw *INCREDIBLE* growth from beginning of the year benchmark testing to middle of the year benchmark testing. Teachers and students have been working hard to ensure success is happening on a daily basis, and it was very evident by the amount of growth that was shown in winter benchmark tests. Please look for your student's data to come home with report cards. If there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Mullanix, or Mrs. Kalkowski.

Behavior Learning

All NPS students will be retaught the Behavior Expectations throughout the school building after they return from Winter Break. We will start the New Year ensuring our students are set up for success!!

Social Emotional Learning

All students in 6th - 12th grade are building a Personal Learning Plan outlining goals, interests, and plans for post-secondary college, career, or work. It is our goal to ensure all students are successful in life after they graduate from NPS.



EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

January 2021

Winter break is a good time for college prep!

Here are a few things you can do:

Seniors, complete your FAFSA

If you haven't already, complete your [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Need help? Use our [FAFSA Tools](#) or call us to make a free virtual appointment: Omaha - 888.357.6300; Lincoln - 800.303.3745; Kearney - 800.666.3721; or Scottsbluff - 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

Juniors, prepare for the ACT

All Nebraska high school juniors will take the ACT Test this spring. Ask your school counselor about test- prep options at your school. These [resources](#) are also available.

Search for scholarships

Use our free [ScholarshipQuest](#) tool to find Nebraska-based awards. You'll also find links to national scholarship sites.

Update your Activities Resume

Our free [Activities Resume](#) is an easy way to track your extracurricular activities, accomplishments, volunteer work, and part-time jobs. The information is then readily available when you apply for scholarships and employment.

January "To Do" List

Seniors:

- _____ If you haven't already, complete the [FAFSA](#).
- _____ Apply for scholarships; see [ScholarshipQuest](#) for Nebraska-based awards.
- _____ Update your [Activities Resume](#).
- _____ Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

Juniors:

- _____ Update your [Activities Resume](#).
- _____ Register by January 8 for the February 6 ACT.
- _____ Register by February 12 for the March 13 SAT.
- _____ Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	308-708-7199
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	800-303-3745 ext. 6654

[EducationQuest.org](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#)!

Your Journey to College Begins with Us