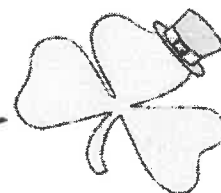


# Niobrara Public Schools



## LOCAL SPELLING BEE WINNERS!



**Congratulations** to the Local Spelling Bee Winners! Left to Right - 5th Grade Keely Koehn, Junior High Amayrah Block, 6th Grade Arlan Lammers and the alternates, not pictured, Christine Mechaley, Ashton Henry, and Aiden Henry. Winners will advance to the Knox County Spelling Bee.

### Knox County Spelling Bee

Wednesday, March 3rd 1:00 pm

Zoom

### MILES OF SMILES

Wednesday

March 17th

### DISTRICT SPEECH

Monday

March 8th

Wausa

## March Dates to Note:

*1st - NVC Speech Elgin*

*3rd - Knox Spelling*

*4th, 5th 11th, 12th - PreK-12 No School*

*6th - Speech Invite Creighton*

*8th - District Speech Wausa*

*9th - Spring Pictures*

*10th - End of 3rd Quarter*

*17th - Miles of Smiles; Scholastic Contest Remote*

*19th - Kindergarten Roundup; No School Kindergarten*

*22nd - NVC Band Niobrara*

*23rd - ACT Juniors*

*24th - NVC Quiz Bowl Niobrara*

*25th - Track Neligh-Oakdale @ Neligh*

*26th - Blood Drive*

*30th - Golf O/C/E Tri @ Summerland;  
Track @ Hartington*

### NVC BAND

Monday, March 22nd

Niobrara



**American  
Red Cross**

**Blood Drive  
Niobrara High School Gym  
Friday, March 26th  
8:00-2:00 p.m.**

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

## MUSIC NOTES

### NVC BAND

Niobrara will be hosting four schools for the Niobrara Valley Conference Band on Monday, March 22. The schools participating are Niobrara, Verdigre, Elkhorn-Valley, and Neligh-Oakdale. Chad Dean from O'Neill will be our clinician. Students will begin the day at 9:30 a.m. and a final concert will be held at 5:30 p.m. in our new gym. A ticket system is going to be utilized for audience that evening, so we do not exceed our gym capacity numbers for COVID-19 purposes. That information will be coming out closer to the date of the concert.

Niobrara students involved: Flute: Karli Nielsen, Clarinets: Ashtyn Holz, Ava Chohon, Ashley Parks, Elizabeth Traversie, Alto Saxes: Kennedy Reynolds, Natasha Henry, Baritone Sax: Olivia Holz, Trumpets: Emily Parks, Chase Pritchett, Chloe Reynolds, Billie Pritchett, French Horn: Gavin Chohon, Trombones: Beau Hrbek, James Mackey, Baritone: Kalyn Nielsen, Tuba: Jordon Ingebo, Bells: Harley Stark

## ATTENTION PARENTS

### Student Assurance Services 2021-22 Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program

Spring sports will begin soon. Some student athletes may experience their first aches and pains due to participating in sports. Also, some families may 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 [davidd@sas-mn.com](mailto:davidd@sas-mn.com).

### NVC QUIZ BOWL

Wednesday, March 24th  
Niobrara

## March Birthdays

3rd - Ashtyn Holz

5th - Kellen Moody, Gunner Nielsen, Rainy Fischer

6th - Garrett Reynolds, Ian Mackey

7th - Ava Chohon

9th - Isaiah Rodriguez

11th - Wolfgang Hallum, Lane Wickersham, Artemis Davis

13th - Klaire Runnels

15th - Keaton Lowery

19th - Chloe Hanzlik, Tatum Mullanix, Jose Coffman,

21st - Hunter Klinetobe

22nd - Harley Stark

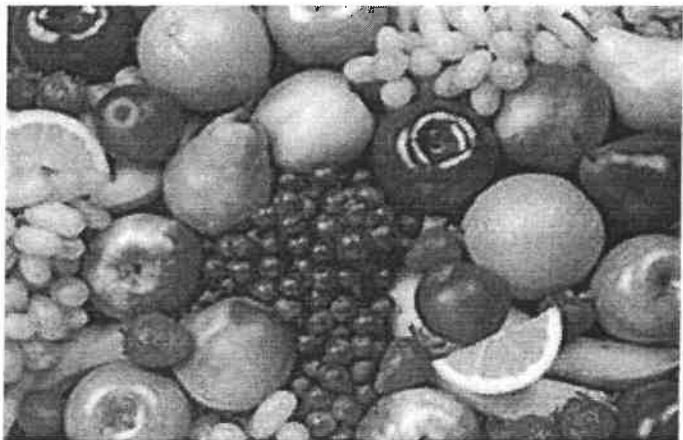
27th - Zane Brandt

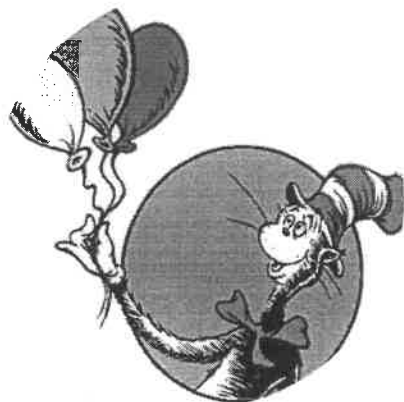
29th - Jacie Strom

30th - Peyton Henry

31st - Trista Camey, Jamarion St. Cyr

### K-6 Love Their Fruit Snacks





# Dr. Seuss March Calendar of events

## MARCH 1, 2, 3

M

1. Pre-K Classes *DECORATE YOUR DOOR WEEK!* Dr. Seuss Books/quotes.
2. Sneech Day! *WEAR YELLOW!* Students will create a sneech star at school that reflects their personality.
3. Read Dr. Seuss: Punch Cards given out to the K-6 grades.
4. 4<sup>TH</sup> Grade has library specials

## MARCH 8, 9, 10

1. Fox in Sox Day! *WEAR CRAZY SOCKS.*
2. Door Judging begins.
3. 1<sup>ST</sup> Grade has library specials.

T

1. Sleep Day! *WEAR PAJAMAS!*
2. *READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY: DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!*
3. Continue *DOOR DECORATION* if not finished.
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade has library specials.

1. Put me in the Zoo Day! *WEAR ANIMAL PRINTS OR DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL*
2. Prizes are awarded for Punch Cards!
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade has library specials.

W

1. Cat in the Hat Day! *WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAT!*
2. Green Eggs and Ham for Breakfast!
3. Door Decorations should be finished by the end of the day.
4. K has library specials

1. Wacky Wednesday! *WEAR CRAZY MIS-MATCHED CLOTHES, SHOES, PATTERNS.*
2. 3<sup>RD</sup> Grade has library specials.

T

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

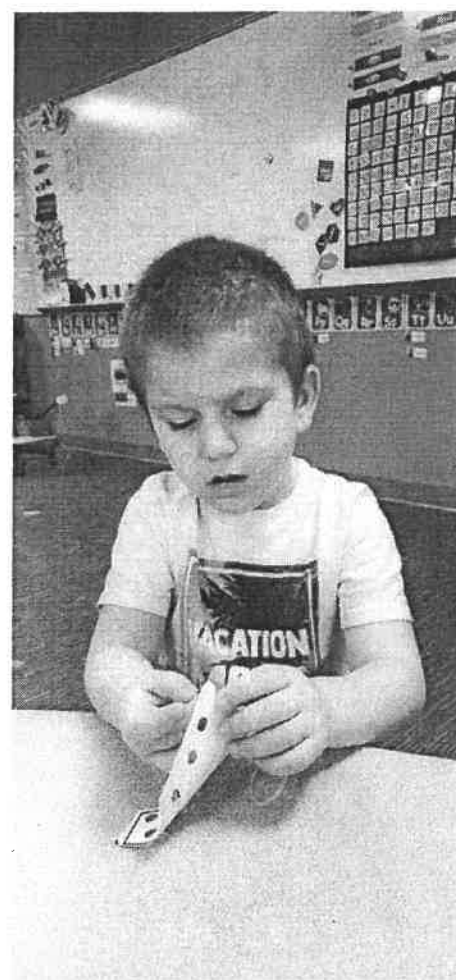
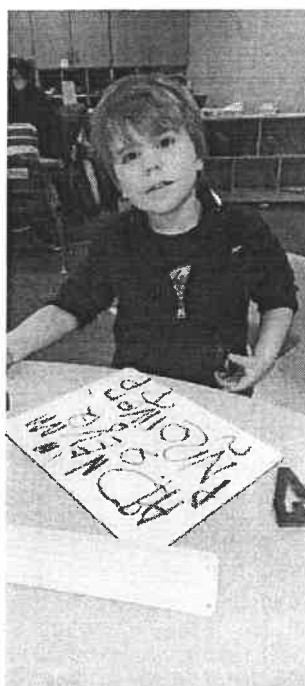
F

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL



Preschool celebrated their 100th day. They have been hard at work learning to write their names, working together with their peers, making patterns, counting, taking turns, rhyming, making memories, and so much more!



# **DR. SEUSS**

## **Decorate Your Door: Dr. Seuss Theme/Quote**

- Each grade, pre-K-12 will choose a Dr. Seuss book/quote and work together with their teacher or sponsor to decorate their door. You will get 3 days (March 1-3) to have your door decorated. Judging on the door will begin Monday, March 8 with winners announced May 10 in the morning.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – either a popcorn party in the classroom OR home-made Dr. Seuss style trophy.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – lollipop OR home-made Dr. Seuss style trophy.
  - Fan Favorite – gummies or home-made Dr. Seuss style trophy

## **Punch Cards for Pre-K-5: Read Dr. Seuss**

- Students will be given a Punch Card on Monday, March 1 in the morning.
- Students will sign the back of their card.
- When they read a book on the punch card and take the test, that spot on their card will be punched.
- When the card has every book punched, turn it in to the library. They will have a container to drop it in.
- On Tuesday, May 9 at the end of the day there will be a drawing for each class PreK-5.
- One winner from each class will receive the following:
  - PreK & K: ABC Dr. Seuss Book
  - 1, 2, & 3: My Book about Me
  - 4 & 5: Dr. Seuss T-shirt

## **Read Across America Day – March 2**

- PreK-5 will have DEAR time today. Have random “drop everything and read” for up to 20 minutes.
- 6-12 will use their ROAR time today to Drop Everything and Read today.
  - Teachers can use this time to read aloud to students/have a guest reader for the period. If students prefer to read their own books independently, they may read on their own).

- Have a choice of books in different genre's available prior to this day and let your ROAR class choose the book ahead of time. Make sure you have read through the first 5 or so chapters so you are not shocked by any content. Maybe make it relate to your content area. *HS see me if you need ideas on books.*
- Use your discretion when allowing students to "get comfortable". At certain ages that might mean napping.

### **Dr. Seuss Virtual Library on Mrs. Stark's Music Google Classrooms**

- There is a link to a virtual library with Dr. Seuss books in Mrs. Stark's K-5 google classroom. If a student is unable to check out a Dr. Seuss book from our physical library, they can have the book read to them!
- Students will still need to take a test on the book to get their card punched for that title. They may want to listen to it at least two times prior to taking a test.
- BEFORE students start using this library, I am in the process now of making sure links work the way they are supposed to.

### **Clothing and Days: March 1-3 and 8-10 we will have the following dress up days.**

- Monday, March 1: Sneech Day! Wear Yellow
- Tuesday, March 2: Sleep Day! Wear Pajamas
- March 2 is also the national holiday: Read Across America
- Wednesday, March 3: Cat in the Hat Day! Wear your favorite or crazy hat.
- Monday, March 8: Fox in Sox Day! Wear crazy socks.
- Tuesday, March 9: Zoo Day! Wear any type of animal print clothing.
- Wednesday, March 10: Wacky Wednesday! Wear mismatched clothes, shoes, patterns, stripes, backwards, crazy hair.
- There is going to be a daily class contest of dress up days. Teachers will take a picture of their students right away in the morning and send it to Mrs. Stark. This will be our way of figuring out percentages of classes dressing up.
- The winning class will be announced at the end of the day and each student in that class will receive a cougar cash!



# Niobrara Public Schools

## KINDERGARTEN Round-up

**Friday, March 19, 2021**

**Runs from 8:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Children are eligible to attend Kindergarten if they turn 5 on or before July 31st of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins.

\*State law requires that students have a physical administered by a licensed physician and an eye exam before a child enters Kindergarten. All immunizations do not need to be done before Kindergarten Round Up.

\*We will be filling out forms and paperwork and answering any questions you may have. The school nurse, audiologist, and speech clinician will be on hand conducting individualized testing.

\*If you are a resident of another district, option enrollment papers must be completed and turned into Niobrara Public Schools by March 15, 2021.

Both breakfast and lunch will be served in the school cafeteria. Students are invited to eat as the school's guest.



**Round  
Them  
Up!**

**Call 402-857-3322  
for more information!**

We look forward to meeting  
you and your child!

**Niobrara Public Schools'  
Kindergarten Room**

# Niobrara Public Schools

Office of Superintendent  
P.O. Box 310  
Niobrara, NE 68760  
Phone (402) 857-3323 – Fax (402) 857-3716

February 17, 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

The Niobrara Kindergarten Round-up has been scheduled for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It will be held in the Kindergarten Room in the elementary building from 8:10-2:00. We will be filling out forms and paperwork and answering any questions you have. You will have the opportunity to meet many of the staff members who will be working with your child next year. The school nurse, audiologist and speech clinician will be on hand doing individualized testing.

School Law section 79-214 states that children are eligible to attend kindergarten if they turn 5 on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins.

State Law requires that students have a physical administered by a licensed physician and an eye exam before a child enters Kindergarten. All immunizations do not need to be done before round-up on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A copy of an official birth certificate must also be kept on file at the school. You may wish to bring that on the 19<sup>th</sup> so we can make a copy.

As a general reminder, if you are a resident of another district, option enrollment papers must be completed and turned in to Niobrara Public Schools by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

Your child will be working and playing with their future classmates and will become accustomed to the school setting on the day of round-up. The students are invited to eat in the school cafeteria as our guest. Both breakfast and lunch will be served. Breakfast runs from 7:45 thru 8:10. Lunch is served at 11:20 a.m.

Niobrara Public Schools welcome you and your child to Kindergarten Round-up 2021. We hope you find it informative and helpful. We look forward to meeting you and your child.

Sincerely,  
Sonya Legate  
Kindergarten Teacher

Margaret Sandoz  
Superintendent



# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Flower Dissection







## 4th Grade Newsletter

### Science

We just finished up learning about plant structures and how they help them survive.

To better understand how flowers reproduce, we dissected a flower to identify the stamen, pistil, anther, and ovary. We had a blast carefully dissecting our flowers to see all these unique parts! We are currently learning about animal structures and how they help them survive, grow, and reproduce!

### Reading

In reading, we finished up reading two myths based on Greek Mythology - 'The Golden Touch' and 'The Miraculous Pitcher'. Both of these stories teach us valuable lessons in life, which is the theme of a story - Be careful what you wish for and be kind to others. We are currently reading the folktale - Beauty and the Beast. It's quite different than the movie versions, so it's been fun to compare and contrast the two!

### Writing

Because we were learning about Greek Gods and Goddesses in reading, the students took notes on the main Greek Gods and Goddesses and then wrote an opinion writing piece on their favorite one! These Gods are quite interesting and definitely entertained us by reading about each of them! Ask a 4th grader which God/Goddess is his/her favorite!

## SPRING FORWARD

Spring is approaching and learning is in full swing here at Niobrara Public School. As you may know, this is a time of year that students make the most academic and social learning improvements. Make school a priority. Very soon the weather will change with spring right around the corner. It can be challenging to keep our children focused on learning.

The time shift has a major impact on human routines, which influence sleep-wake cycles, body temperature, hormone release, digestion, eating habits, and other important bodily functions. Don't be surprised if you notice a temporary state of mix-up in sleep, hunger, and metabolism. Keep an eye out for these shifts and know that they will subside in a few weeks.

It takes time to adjust to the new routine and to going to sleep a little earlier. This is especially important for students that need routine and consistency. Lack of sleep can lead to troubled mood, motor skill reduction, and memory, performance, and concentration level changes. This can be very stimulating for students with demands from both home and school. What can you do to make school a top priority for your child? Keep these ideas in mind:

- Make attendance your number one priority. Let your child know that unless they are sick, they must attend school (and be on time.) Try to schedule appointments after school hours.
- Show you care. Talk about school activities and projects. Try to attend as many school events as you can.
- Remain positive. Try to set a positive example for your child, even when your own day has been challenging. If you show a positive attitude about your work, your child may feel better about their own.

Also, students in grades 3-8 will be venturing into the first state assessment cycle with NSCAS testing during March 30-April 1. Juniors will be taking their ACT test on March 23. During the week that your child is testing, make certain that your son/daughter rests properly each night, arrives for school on time, and is not distracted at home.

Finally, know that you do not have to wait for parent conferences to call if you have questions, concerns, or needs. We are here to serve your children and your families. Please contact your child's teacher, the office staff, or administration if you want to set up a meeting to discuss any issues that arise. As always, THANK YOU for being our partners in this important work helping your child enjoy learning and prepare for a bright future!

Looking forward to warmer days,

Mrs. Sandoz



## **March**

**Month of March in Dakota**— Istawicayazan Wi - Moon When Eyes Hurt  
(Snow blindness)

**Month of March in Omaha/Ponca** – Pénishka Mí Etái-<sup>h</sup>ke - Little Frog's  
Month

**Dakota word for Hawk** – Cetan

**Omaha/Ponca word for Hawk** – gtho<sup>n</sup>shká

**Dakota word for Milk** – Asanpi

**Omaha/Ponca word for Milk** – Teska mon zeni

**Dakota word for Pink** – g'itka

**Omaha/Ponca word for Pink** – Zhi-egon

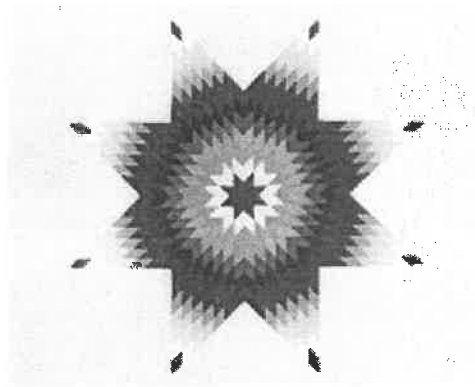
## **Anpetu Waste**

### **“Good Day”**

#### **February Events**

- Dean Jacobs spoke with 4th Grade and Middle School
  - February Art Challenge
- Native Traditional Foods prepared by Dakota Language and Culture Club  
Students
- Cultural Literature for Library and High School Language Arts

# Star Quilt Design Challenge



The star quilt was adopted by many tribes during the reservation era, when tribes were displaced from their traditional homelands onto Indian reservations and witnessed the near extermination of the buffalo. The giving of buffalo hides and robes is a tradition among many tribes as an act of love, peace and respect. Giving a star quilt is one of the greatest honors among the Lakota, Dakota and other Northern Plains tribes that have traditionally hunted buffalo.

The pattern of the star quilt is inspired by the Morning Star. The Morning Star is the last and brightest star in the eastern horizon before dawn. It was believed the Morning Star represented the way the spirits came to earth and served as a link between the living and those who have passed.

Design a Star Quilt that best represents your family with unique colors. Stop by the NCATE Room for a Star Quilt Template.



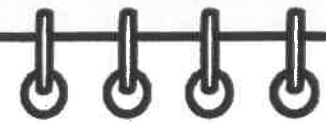
# MTSS UPDATE

## Academic Learning

Communication between school and home is one of the biggest key factors in setting students up for success. Research shows that the more parents and teachers communicate, the better equipped everyone becomes to help the student achieve high levels of success. When information is shared regularly between school and home, it supports learning from all sides. Parent-Teacher Conferences gave many parents and teachers the opportunity to share pertinent academic information. If you missed conferences and still want to set up a meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s).

## Social Emotional Learning

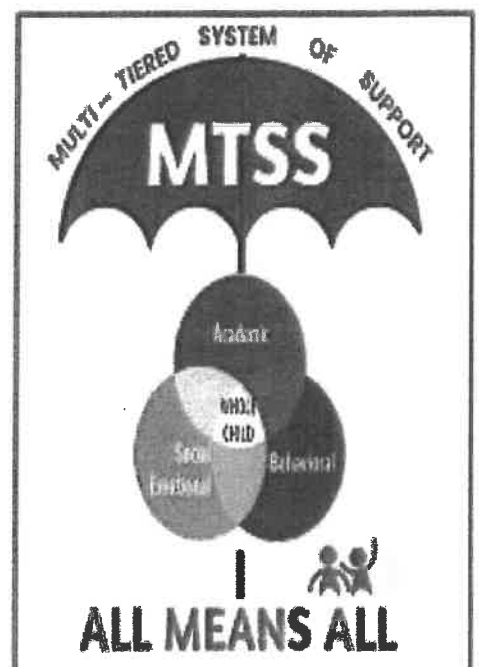
In February, all students and staff participated in Bullying Prevention provided through the Nebraska Department of Education. At Niobrara Schools, we take bullying very seriously and want to ensure our staff and students know how to respond and report any bullying.



The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

Testing for students in grades 3-8 will begin March 30.

It's important students are getting a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast.





## **NIOBRARA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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 to a free, appropriate education. We at Niobrara Public Schools 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:

**NIOBRARA PUBLIC SCHOOLS,**

Box 310, Niobrara, NE 68760  
or call Mrs. Lauri Spencer or

Mrs. Mykah Moeller at the school at

**402-857-3323.**

Thank you for caring about our youth.

**CHILD  
FIND**

# EducationQuest Foundation

## College Planning Bulletin

### March 2021

#### Virtual College Fair is March 2-3

Attend the EducationQuest Virtual College Fair March 2-3 to visit with representatives from nearly 75 colleges and to hear from college-prep experts. Register at [eqf.org/collegefair](http://eqf.org/collegefair).

College reps will be available during these times, but you can visit college booths any time: Tuesday, March 2 from 9:00 - noon CT and Wednesday, March 3 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. CT

Live presentations March 2 at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will cover critical college-prep tasks for seniors and juniors. A presentation March 3 at 6:00 p.m. will provide answers to common questions about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

#### Wrapping up your senior year

**Complete the financial aid process.** By now, you should have completed your FAFSA. If you haven't, do so at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). If your college requests verification of your FAFSA information, submit required documents so that the school can award your financial aid.

**Watch your student portal and email closely.** Once you're accepted for admission, the colleges you listed on your FAFSA will notify you of the financial aid they're offering.

**Keep your grades up.** If you get poor grades this semester, your college could revoke your admission.

**Apply for scholarships.** See [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) for Nebraska-based scholarships. You'll also find links to national scholarship sites.

**Make your final college selection.** Notify the other colleges so they can take you off their mailing list.

**Be aware of deadlines** to accept financial aid and college admission offers, submit your housing deposit, and register for new-student orientation.

#### Juniors...it's time to narrow your college choices.

Narrow your college choices soon to prepare for these upcoming activities:

**ACT Test.** When you take the ACT this spring, you'll be asked to provide a list of colleges that should receive your score.

**Completion of the FAFSA** early next fall. You and your parents can complete the FAFSA beginning October 1 of your senior year. The colleges you list on the form will receive the results.

**College applications.** Early next fall, it will be time to apply to your top college choices.

#### Campus visits will help you narrow your choices

Spring break is a perfect time to visit schools that interest you. Find campus visit tips in the ["Selecting a College"](#) section at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org).

These resources at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) will also help with your college search:

- ["Nebraska College Costs"](#) breaks down costs for all colleges in Nebraska.
- [College Profiles](#) has details about colleges in Nebraska and across the country.

#### March 31 is deadline to apply for \$500 Scavenger Hunt Scholarship

To apply, create a [ScholarshipQuest](#) profile at [EducationQuest.org](http://EducationQuest.org) and then scavenge around our website to find answers to questions on a survey. We'll draw two winners from those who answer all questions correctly. [Click here](#) for details.

# LOOKING AHEAD MARCH DAYS OFF

✿ Thursday, March 4th - No School- Childcare provided by NCATE

✿ Friday, March 5th - No School- No Childcare

✿ Thursday, March 11th - No School- Childcare Provided by NCATE

✿ Friday, March 12th - No School- No Childcare

✿ Friday, March 19th - Kindergarten Roundup- No School for Current Kindergarten

✿ Friday, April 2 - No School - Spring Break

Click **HERE** (<https://bit.ly/2NPS411>) to sign up for childcare for March 4th and 11th.