

Niobrara Public School

September 2021

ATTENTION PARENTS

Student Assurance Services regarding the 2021-22 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.

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, bed-times 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 bed-times, 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

Attendance Matters!

Good attendance really matters to your student's success which leads to success later in life. Attending school is extremely important for social, emotional, and educational development. The Knox County Attorney's Office will be starting a Truancy program for the 2021-2022 school year to monitor students who have missed 10-15 or more days of school. The objective of the Truancy program is to support students who are habitually truant and to work with parents or guardians to identify the reason(s) for a student's truancy and develop a plan and long term-goals to ensure student success.

Please reach out Sam Holecek or Angela Roskeland at the Knox County Attorney's Office with any questions or concerns. Our number is 402-288-5635.

Class Officers & Student Council Members

Seniors

President - Beau Hrbek

VP - Scotty Klinetobe

Sec/Treas. - Kenny Dine

Student Council - Chase Pritchett, Tierre Kitto, Bradyn Tschirren

Juniors

President - Harley Stark

VP - Ashley Parks

Secretary - Olivia Holz

Treasure - Kennedi Reynolds

Student Council - Natasha Henry, Yesenia DeAnda

Sophomores

President - Billie Pritchett

VP - Rowdy Nielsen

Sec/Treas. - Brady Koehn

Student Council - Chloe Reynolds, Danika Runnels

Freshman

President - Anthony Smith

VP - Mya Chohon

Sec/Treas. - Bella John

Student Council - Terik Pedersen, Chloe Hanzlik

8th Grade

Student Council - Duwayne Traversie

7th Grade

Student Council - Delani Runnels

September Birthdays

1st - Thackery & Theory Daniels

3rd - McKaylee McClellan

4th - Delani Runnels

15th - Pearl Klug

20th - Gabriel Flyinghawk

21 - Jordon Ingebo, Kalyn Nielsen, Elizabeth Traversie

22nd - Kennedi Reynolds, Austin Avery

25th - Dakota Griffin

29th - Jowen Chiang, Hayden Lyons

30th - Serenity James, Parkyr Klug

The **Middle School Math** is starting up in full swing as the students have finished their Diagnostic Testing and will be doing a little different intervention this year than in the past. Each grade will be utilizing the i-Ready results to create groups for a unit to help enrich their skill level of that concept. These will change from unit to unit and sometimes from lesson to lesson. This will take place for the first 30 minutes of class and then we will have whole group instruction for all students at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade respectively. This is the 3rd year in Middle School with this program and we are trying to utilize it to its fullest potential. *Mr. Eisenhower*

7th & 8th graders are beginning their sports career by either going out for football, volleyball, cross country, or just participating in PE. JH football has started and is in high gear. We will be having our first game in Wynot on August 30th. We have 24 football players this year and are looking forward to the season. This is the largest group of players I've had in junior high and it is nice to see that many boys out. With this type of number we are scrambling right now to find helmets so please bear with us as we find enough for them to wear. *Mr. Eisenhower*

The **high school science** room has been a very busy place so far this school year. Technically, our high school science department doubled in size! I have been joined by Mrs. Tara Meyer who is teaching high school Biology and helping out in the middle school sciences as an MTSS interventionist. I am thankful to share a classroom with someone who loves science and teaching as I do. Mrs. Meyer has great ideas and enthusiasm and she is a valuable addition to our system. I have a feeling the two of us together can make quite an impact. My schedule this year includes Ecology which is environmental studies, Chemistry, freshmen Science, Meteorology (a new 1-semester class, with Oceanography to follow this spring), 7th grade Science support, STEM II (Physics), and Medical Terminology. I will include descriptions for those classes in the coming months. Watch Facebook for pictures of class activities. I try to post things every week. It has been so good to see the students again and get back into the routine of school. There are some science events coming up including Wonderful World of Water and Mitchell Scrubs Camp that will involve some of our students so keep watch for those permission slips coming home. *Mrs. Hanzlik*

2nd Grade

Welcome back to school everyone! We have had a busy first couple days of school. The 2nd graders took the MAPS tests for the first time, and I was proud of their positive attitude during the tests. In math we are focusing on mental strategies for solving addition/subtraction equations, and in science we are talking about Earth's landscape. It's been great getting to know these students, and I think we will have a great school year. Stay safe and healthy!

Mrs. Steffen

Welcome Back to school. We are excited for another fun filled year of learning. Hope everyone had an awesome summer! The First Graders are off to a great start. There are eight students in first grade and they are eager to learn. Some of the things we will be learning in Science are plants, animals, light, sound, and the sky. In Math we will be learning numbers to 120, addition and subtraction, and strategies to solve word problems, plus many more concepts. In Reading we will be learning to sound out, decode, and read words and stories. In Social Studies some of the things we will be learning are holidays, American symbols, goods and services, and many more concepts. The First Graders are excited about the new technology they get to use, like their chrome books and the new promethean board in the classroom. We had a great first week of school. We reviewed our school expectations of Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Kind. The kids did a great job of remembering these expectations. We also reviewed some of our reading skills and strategies from last year and we are set to go for Monday to begin the first grade book. In Math we have a new series called "Ready Classroom." We are excited for the new concepts and structure of the new math. Parents and Guardians ask your child about what they are learning in class! 2021-2022 School Year we are ready for you, hope you are ready for us!!!!

1st Grade
Mrs. Eisenhower

Handle with Care

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, we would like to provide additional support at school. We understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please let us know that we need to "Handle with Care". Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let us know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day. Together We Can!!!



Third Grade



I am excited for the year to come. We have a great group of 15 students that are all eager to learn. We started out the year with our first round of MAPs (Measure of Academic Progress) test. Then jumped right into getting into our regular routine. We have a busy schedule that keeps us going all day long. Students' daily homework is to read for at least 20 minutes each night. They are to log the book they read in their student planner and have a parent/guardian sign it. They will take an AR test on the books they read and are working toward a 10 point goal for the 1st quarter. Looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Justo

September *LIBRARY NEWS* With Ms. Stark: I'm so excited to have library classes this year and plan to work on building a positive reading culture in our school. Each month, I'll touch on the importance of reading in this newsletter, one item at a time, and then will post a MONTHLY challenge for parents and students!

HERE'S the FIRST Challenge!

Parents: Read to your children for at least 25 days September for at least 10 minutes at a time! Set aside a time each evening to make this a special time for you and your child/ren. A calendar copy is being sent out. Put your name and student/s name on the calendar, mark off days you read. Send it back to Mrs. Stark when finished and you will be recognized as a Literacy Builder in next month's newsletter!

Student/Teacher Challenge: Read one book during the month of September! Students, when you have read that book, send Mrs. Stark a snipped copy of your AR test over the book. Teachers, just email Mrs. Stark with the book title. I want a starting percentage of how many students/teachers read in our school. This way, we can challenge everyone to step up and read!

Literacy information for you!

1 Reason of 6 to Read Aloud to Your Kids

- **Reading aloud to children creates a lifetime interest in reading.** If you start reading to your children while they are young, they will be much more likely to grow into the habit of reading. When they associate reading with happy memories, they are more likely to persist in learning to read, even when they run into occasional roadblocks in the process of learning to read.

5 Reasons Why Reading is Important for Students

- **It expands the student's vocabulary.** While reading, they might come across words they have never heard – prompting them to find out what they mean. As a result, they add it to their vocabulary.

AWESOME READERS from AUGUST!

In 16 days, students have checked out 278 books from the library! AMAZING! Middle School and Elementary are checking out the highest percentage of books so far, both above 40%. The high school and staff are checking out less showing 7% of our checkouts. Let's see if we can raise our percentages!

Here are some of the top readers for the month of August!

10 checkouts: Praeson Klug

9 checkouts: Gracie Fritz,

8 checkouts: Keely Koehn and Isaiah Rodriguez

7 checkouts: DuWayne Traversie

6 checkouts: Austinia Latorra, Olivia McClellan, Mrs. Pavelka

5 checkouts: Christopher McDonald

MUSIC NOTES: September 2021

Upcoming Events:

*Home Bingo Fundraiser will begin Monday, September 13!

7-12 Grade Music Students will be selling Bingo Cards starting Friday, September 3 for \$25 for a packet of 5. (See flyer in this month's newsletter) You can get cards by either: contacting a band/choir student, named below, or contacting Ms. Stark. Contact either by Facebook, Messenger, text, or calling. Cards will be delivered to you – please spread the word! There is a possibility if we haven't sold our quota, that we will be going door to door.

Students in Band and Choir:

Beau Hrbek	Chase Pritchett	Austinia Latorra	Tasha Henry
Olivia Holz	Ashley Parks	Kennedi Reynolds	Harley Stark
Elizabeth Traversie	Jordon Ingebo	Pearl Klug	James Mackey
Billie Pritchett	Chloe Reynolds	Tiffany Thieman	Mya Chohon
Bella John	Terik Pedersen	Amaryah Block	Leon Coffman
Reina Coffman	Amayra DeAnda	Nathaniel Ferris	Aiden Henry
Kady Koehn	Elena Mackey	Angel Roman Espinoza	Brena St. Cyr
Taylen Stark	Joel Valburg Jr.	Isabella Boyd	Elijah Coffman
Gracie Fritz	Ashton Henry	Talan John	Praeson Klug
Arlan Lammers	McKaylee McClellan	Alex Motacek	Kash Nielsen
Starlet Nielsen	Wade Pritchett	Delani Runnels	Gage Wickersham

Story Wright.

Beginning Band will start for fifth and sixth grades. A note has been sent with your student and an email sent to parents who provided the school an email. Please fill out the back sheet and send it to Ms. Stark as soon as possible. At that point, we will have a parent meeting to start band right away!

HOME BINGO

Music Fundraiser 2021-2022

Starts September

FORA CHANCE TO WIN \$50 WEEKLY

B I N G O				
1	27	33	48	75
8	19	45	56	61
3	18	FREE SPACE	49	69
15	26	41	53	66
2	21	37	46	65

- 7-12 Music Students will be selling Home Bingo Cards as our Fundraiser starting in September. Play will last 5 weeks.
- The packet of cards will include a five-page packet that has 3 cards on each page. This packet costs \$25.
- On Monday the first week, you will play the first page. Second week, the second page, and so on until the 5th week is up. Each week of play will be a different color, so I will make sure to post "playing on the (specific color) this week."
- You will have 3 cards on each page therefore giving you 3 chances to Bingo.
- Each day of the week, starting on MONDAY, 5 numbers will be called. Each day, check your card and mark your numbers. Play will continue until someone has a Bingo.
- When a Bingo is confirmed that week of playing is over, and you can rip that sheet off. The next round will start the next Monday and will repeat.
- **First verified Bingo wins \$50 for that week. Each week is guaranteed a \$50 winner!**

How this works:

- *Mrs. Stark will go live on Facebook at 7:00 a.m. each day and draw 5 numbers.
- *Those numbers will then be posted in the Niobrara Mall, The Trading Post, and Facebook. **DO NOT CALL AND ASK FOR THE NUMBERS.**
- *When you have a Bingo, call Mrs. Stark at 402-857-3621 to verify your card.
Once your card is verified, the winner will be announced and the \$50 Prize Awarded.
- *When a Bingo is verified, tear that sheet off and get ready to start again the Upcoming Monday.

BINGOS MUST BE VERIFIED IMMEDIATELY AND NO LATER THAN 9AM THE FOLLOWING MONDAY AFTER EACH GAME TO JILL STARK, OR WINNINGS WILL BE RELINQUISHED TO THE PURPOSE OF THE FUNDRAISER.

Any questions call, text, or message: Jill Stark (402) 857-3621

A "BINGO" IS STRAIGHT OR DIAGONAL LINE OR FOUR CORNERS.

A BOOK CONTAINS 5 DIFFERENT COLORED SHEETS:

RIP THE TOP SHEET OFF FOR THE FIRST GAME, CONTINUING FOR EACH NEW GAME. EACH WEEK THE SHEET WILL BE A DIFFERENT COLOR. I WILL SPECIFY THE COLOR ON THE MONDAY POST.

GOOD LUCK AND LET'S HAVE FUN SUPPORTING THE NIOBRARA MUSIC DEPARTMENT!

MEET THE NEW STAFF

GO COUGARS!



My name is Mr. Stauffer and I was born and raised in Overton, Ne. I Graduated from Overton High School and went to Midland University. At Midland I played basketball and ran track for the university. During my stay at Midland I took up coaching at a local high school, Archbishop Bergan Catholic. I Coached while I was going to school and was an assistant coach on the state championship team in 2014 and 3rd place in 2015. I then took a job at Cozad High School for the past 3 years and was the Head Girls Basketball coach for them. I also own a Travel Basketball Team in the area called Next Level Athletics that has been around for the past 6 years. I'm excited to be a part of the Cougar Family and ready to get to know the community!



In addition to being the new high school English teacher here at NPS, I am also a new neighbor. I moved to Niobrara this past June, from Eagle Butte, SD. I originally became a Midwesterner back in 2006 when my family moved to Yankton. My son Jake, graduated from Yankton High School in 2017 and went directly from his graduation ceremony to Sioux Falls and into the Marines. He re-upped last May, and Sgt. Jake Rodriguez is now stationed in Bahrain, in the Middle East. Teaching is a second career for me. I graduated from Mount Marty College in 2011, with a B.A. in Secondary Education and Literature. I also have an M.A. in Differentiated Instruction, 25 credit hours in an M.A. in Literature, and am now writing my thesis for an EdD in Educational Leadership. My focus is always to help students explore their gifts and talents and make learning fun and creative.



I am Sarah Pahl and I am currently living in Bazile Mills, NE where my husband (Austin) and his family run an earth construction business. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and have taught at Winnebago Public Schools as a 9-12 Social Sciences teacher and Santee Community Schools as a 6-8 Middle School Teacher. I am excited to be here and teach the students of Niobrara!



My name is Bruklynn Henery and I am so excited to be teaching kindergarten in Niobrara this year! I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in December of 2020 with a degree in Early Childhood Inclusive. This is my first year teaching but I have 2 1/2 years of experience working as a para in elementary classrooms. When I'm not in the classroom, I enjoy going to the river with my fiance, Lane, and going on long walks with my dog, Harlow.

MEET THE NEW STAFF

GO COUGARS!



My name is Ayla Wade. I am from Lynch. I enjoy organizing, gardening, and raising chickens. I live on a farm with my husband, Michael. We have two children, Maverick who is four and Mylah who is 16 months. Maverick loves everything farm related and Mylah loves anything girly. My husband is a farmer/rancher. As a family, we enjoy drives on country roads and weekend trips to the Omaha Zoo. Prior to joining the staff of Niobrara Public School, I was a teacher in Santee at the Santee Sioux Nation Head Start Program. I taught there for ten years. I am a certified teacher with a Bachelor of the Arts in Education. My passion is teaching our youngest learners and I am excited to start my new journey as a Cougar!



Hello. I am Mrs. Tayleigh Koupal, the new full time substitute teacher here in Niobrara. I am looking forward to being incorporated in all the classrooms in the school. My husband and I live in Dante SD with our almost 2 year old corgi, that we think of as our kid for now. My husband works on his family operation of cow calf pairs and row crop, beans and corn. This year I am going into my second (ish) year of teaching, as I graduated in December of 2019 and started in the middle of the year. In my free time I enjoy walking our energetic corgi, trail riding with our side by side, and helping out at the farm. I am looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year at Niobrara Public School.



I am Scott Kraus. This will be my 15th year teaching, and my second year at Niobrara. My first year at Niobrara was in 2007-08. I teach K-12 Health and PE, I am an Assistant Football coach, and will be helping out with JH track. I just celebrated my 6th anniversary with my wife Kelly. We have 2 sons Stanley who is 3 1/2 and attends Preschool in Niobrara and Wallace (Wally) who just turned 8 months who stays at home for daycare. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, hunting and fishing, watching sports on tv, and going to see grandparents. I am very happy to be here and look forward to a great school year.



Hello! My name is Kami Soukup and I am the new elementary special education teacher. I am excited to start my 6th year teaching in Niobrara. I have been teaching in Nebraska for the past two years and before that taught in South Dakota. My husband and I live in Avon, South Dakota with our six month old son. My husband works on the family farm near Wagner, SD raising Angus cattle and row crops. I am looking forward to a great school year!



Hello, my name is Tara Meyer, born & raised in Atkinson NE on cow/calf operation however, weekends were spent at Fort Randall on the water. Nebraska roots! I moved across the river after graduating from Chadron State College, with a Natural Science Degree in Education, to purchase a place north of Wagner to farm/ranch with my own family & hit the river during the weekends as well. I am an EMT & taught in Wagner for decades. My husband, Clint, works the farm/ranch; my daughter Telsey, who attends CSC majoring in conservation & zoo animal care; my daughter Tayleigh, who teaches here at Niobrara; and my son in law Tyler all farm/ranch. I see a new future in hitting the trails with the side by side as a family! I am super excited to be teaching Biology, 6th & 8th grade science, Medical Terminology & supporting the MTSS process in a school that feels like how I was raised.



September Newsletter

2021

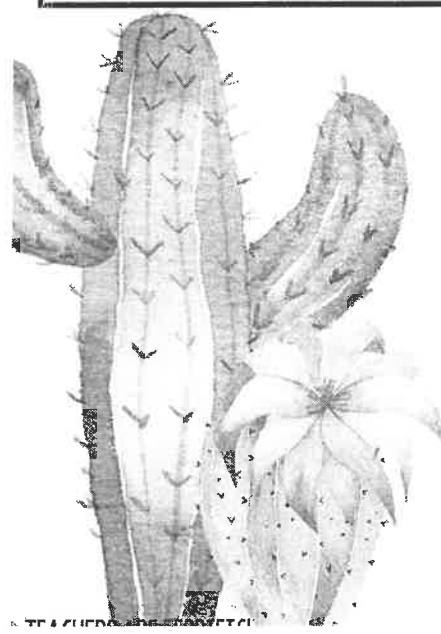
Mrs. Pischel

This year in the 5th grade class, we have 13 students. They are all unique and keep this classroom fun! We have already been busy learning new things & reviewing material from last year.

**“A new school year
means new
beginnings, new
adventures.”**

-Denise Witmer

Hello everyone! I am Mrs. Pischel, the 5th grade teacher. I am married to a Niobrara alumni, Clint Pischel. Together we have two little girls, Peyton (2 years) and Emersyn (4 months). We live on the family ranch west of Niobrara. My husband & I have cattle, hay ground, and do custom feeding. We also have two dogs, Stella & Nora. This summer we enjoyed checking cows and going on a vacation to Colorado. I am excited to have the year starting!



Math – Students are talking about volume and refreshing our memory of multiplication & division!

Reading/Language Arts– We are learning how to problem solve and writing narrative stories.

Science – The class is going to create the “Perfect Pancake”!

Social Studies – Students are learning about early explorers.

SEPTEMBER



4th Grade Newsletter

Star Student of the Week!

Each week, a 4th grade student is picked for the 'Star Student of the Week'. They will have a poster about them in the hallway, as well as their picture in the paper! Be sure to look for our star student each week! Our first star student is Isaiah Rodriguez!

Science

In Science, we will be constructing an argument to explain how plants use their structures to survive, grow, and reproduce. We will be dissecting lilies to examine the parts of a flower, as well as observing the features of a Venus Fly Trap and how those features help them survive in their environment!

Reading

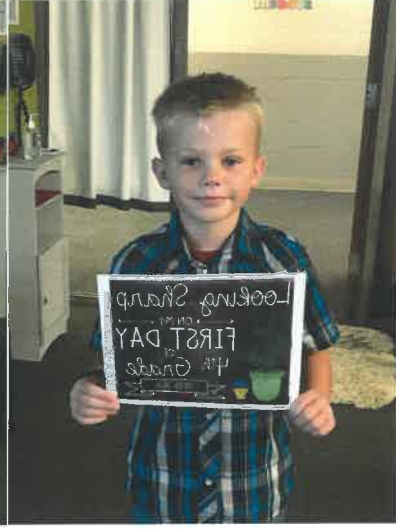
During our reading enrichment time, we will be discussing what it means to have a great heart, figuratively and literally. This will require us to dig deep into our brains to discuss the different meanings of having a 'great heart'! This will lead us into our first two texts - 'The Circulatory Story' and 'Love That Dog'.

We will also begin reading 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' during Reading Mastery. During our reading, we will discuss character perspectives and fantasy verse reality.

Social Studies and Writing

During Social Studies, we will take a deeper look into Nebraska's geography and how people interact with the land. We will be using maps to locate physical and human features in Nebraska as well as comparing the characteristics of places and regions and their impact on human decisions.

In writing, we will review subject and predicate and begin using editing and proofreading marks to edit sentences. We will also be reviewing statement, question, and exclamatory sentences and the proper end marks that go at the end of these types of sentences.





Preschool



Preschoolers have been enjoying learning about their classroom, exploring centers, and making new friends! Some favorites of the day are recess, lunch, centers, and listening to stories!



COFFEE WITH YOUR COUNSELOR!!

CASEL COMPETENCIES



September 5th - 11th is....

Suicide Prevention Week 2021

suicideispreventable.org

NATIONAL

**SUICIDE PREVENTION
LIFELINE**

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Welcome back everyone! It has been great to see everyone these last few weeks!!

My role as the school counselor is to assist students in their academic journey, their social emotional development, and their college and career planning. We have many exciting things going on this year:

- Weekly Elementary SEL lessons that will focus on being good learners, problem solving, empathy for others, and being a good friend.
- Middle School and High School students will receive a weekly **ROAR** meeting with myself. We will focus on **R**eteaching expectations, **O**rganizational skills, **A**cademic planning, and **R**elationship building. I will be using the *CASEL Competencies (to the left)* to help plan for ROAR.
- Middle School students will receive one quarter of career exploration.
- High School students will receive college and career planning through a wide range of activities throughout the course of the school year.

I am so anxious to get to work with your children again. If you have any questions, please let me know by sending an email to jpritchett@niobraraschools.org.

Check out my website at:
bit.ly/NPSCounseling

Take Care....Mrs. Pritchett



Together We Can! The Cougars are off to a great start as students and staff opened the school year on August 18. There is a special feeling this year that we all feel, but we can't explain. We believe it is due to the great relationships we have grown over the years and the new faces that bring the school energy, laughter, and learning. The staff has been reminded not to listen to the negative noise that our world has fallen into and to focus on the students and making each day better than the last.

Thanks to a grant from the Nutrition Program and the School Board paying for the rest, the purchase of nine new tables have updated the lunchroom. New paint on the walls has created an area that invites all to enter. Students will once again be receiving free breakfast and lunch this year through the Nutrition Program.

Teacher leadership is extremely high at Niobrara Public Schools. High quality educational materials purchased for math and science are a bonus this year. Teachers have been in trainings since August 1 on how to use the materials and all the functionalities of the resources. Thanks to the Curriculum Coordinating Council we have a system wide process of selecting texts and online materials that ensures they meet the local curriculum standards. This process is lead by classroom teachers closest to the action and learning.

Many new faces and changes of positions have occurred. Getting the right people on the bus and in the right seat is a key factor for success. We have the best of the best here at Niobrara Public Schools. Collaboration, cooperation and focus on student success will guide the year and ensure learning opportunities for the students throughout the year.

Through various Federal Grants the school contracts with consulting groups on what best practices and supports are suited for the students. Social emotional learning is a priority for all students. Students receive an individualized learning plan that is customized to each student. The school partners with area agencies to give students access to mental health supports.

As the school year starts, it is the hope of the Niobrara Public School Family that you will show your school support through your actions and words. You are encouraged to attend games, activities, and presentations as they are available and cheer on our students. Thank you for your continued support and pride that you show in all your encounters with Niobrara Public Schools.

Budget for 2021-2022

Niobrara Public Schools (NPS) is publishing the Budget Hearing and Budget Summary Notice as well as the Special Hearing Notice to Set Final Tax Request in this week's paper. School district budgets are to be filed with the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts annually before September 20. The following key points are being provided to share with the constituents of the school district for financial transparency.

1. 2021-2022 General Fund budget amount totals \$5,661,559; increase of \$205,834 from last year.
2. Certification of Taxable Values have increased from \$199,031,907 to \$201,211,299
3. State Aid funding has decreased from \$1,804,252 to \$1,685,642 a difference of \$119,128 from last year.
4. NPS is asking for the same amount of property tax as last year, \$1,868,687.
5. NPS will not be requesting property taxes for the Special Building Fund for the 2021-2022 budget.
6. The 2020-2021 tax rate for all Funds was .954113 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The 2021-2022 tax rate proposed for all funds is .928719 (Difference of -.0254). (Yes, you read that correctly, the levy is being lowered.)
7. The budget is planned to be funded by State Aid (\$1,685,642), Property Taxes (\$1,868,687) and Federal Funds (\$2,107,230).



From the desk of Mrs. Bowen

Hello fellow parents, guardians, and community members! I would like to share with you three great things that are happening at NPS this year. The implementation of each of these procedures/programs is to improve the overall educational experience of our students. As always, our students' well-being is our number one priority and ensuring they receive high quality instruction in a safe and healthy environment is always at the forefront of our decision making process. If you want to learn more about this information, please reach out to me at abowen@niobraraschools.org or call the school directly.

Niobrara Public Schools Evaluation Procedures:

A new evaluation of instructional and professional practices is being implemented this year. The tool is a collaborative process between Administration and classroom teachers. Usually, evaluation tools require one or two formal observations with a follow up meeting. The purpose of evaluation procedures is to impact instructional and professional practices and it takes more than that to have an impact. This year, each teacher will be formally observed a total of at-least four times in both classroom and non-classroom settings. The process also includes self-evaluations, goal setting, and follow up discussions to discuss observations and evaluations. I am really excited about the impact this will have on instructional and professional practices. I have no doubt that I will learn a tremendous amount from our teachers that will improve my leadership skills as well.

Improving Attendance Initiative:

"By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school." – Attendance Works

Success in school begins with daily attendance! Niobrara Public Schools is putting a focus on attendance and tardiness to school/class. A systematic process has been put in place and communicated to students and in the Student Handbook. Please take the time to learn more about it by looking over the information in the Student Handbook.

We are also putting a focus on students who are showing up to school and class on-time. Students who attend school with a 95% attendance rate will be placed in the "Attendance Matters" group and will receive the reward chosen for each group of students.

High Ability Learners Program:

We are revamping our HAL Program this year to provide opportunities for high ability learners to engage in project-based learning with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Mrs. Motacek has been identified as our HAL teacher and collaborates with teachers to schedule opportunities for all identified HAL students. This will be a collaborative effort between Administration, classroom teachers, parents/guardians, and students. I am looking forward to seeing the growth that takes place through enrichment activities!



MTSS UPDATE

Welcome Back!

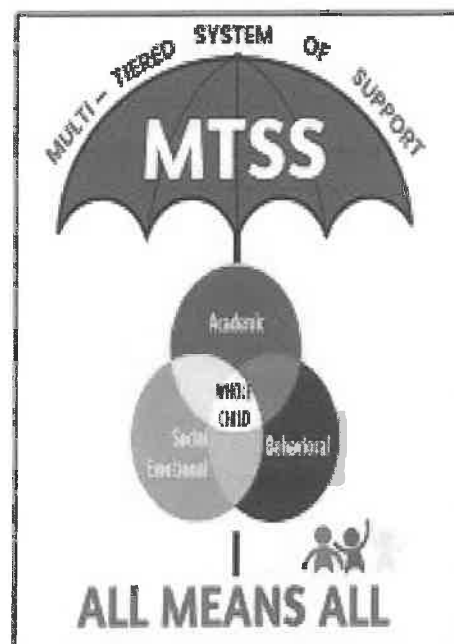
What an amazing start to the 2021-2022 school year! Even after just a short time back, it feels like students never left! They are back in the school routine.

In the upcoming weeks, all students will be completing beginning of the year benchmark testing (Acadience, aimswebPlus, and MAP). This information gives teachers the data needed to drive classroom instruction. Students not meeting benchmark will be placed into an intervention and/or will receive prerequisite instruction to address unfinished learning. Progress will be monitored frequently and instructional changes will be made accordingly.

Everyone at Niobrara Public Schools works hard to ensure that all students are reaching high levels of success!



A Multi-Tiered System of Support or MTSS Process is an educational framework for continuous improvement, problem-solving, and decision-making. It is a systematic way of ensuring all instruction improves outcomes for all student.



Cougars of Character are

Kind, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe

in school. This year, NPS will continue to utilize Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to ensure our students are recognized for all of the amazing things they do! Please contact Sarah Higgins if you would like to be a member of the school's PBIS team. We NEED you!!!!

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE SPORTS COOPERATIVE

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Schedule SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2021

Verified 5-15-21

2021 CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 2, 2021	Thursday	Niobrara-Verdigre Invite	Niobrara State Park	4:30 p.m. - VG 5:00 p.m. - VB
(Bloomfield, Chambers/Wheeler Central, Creighton, Neligh-Oakdale, Niobrara-Verdigre, Osmond, Plainview, Randolph, Stanton, Winside)				
September 9, 2021	Thursday	Boyd County Invite	Butte Golf Course	4:30 p.m.
September 13, 2021	Monday	Neligh-Oakdale Invite	Antelope C.C.	4:30 p.m.
September 20, 2021	Monday	Bon Homme Invite	Tyndall, SD	2:00 p.m.
September 30, 2021	Thursday	West Holt Invite	Atkinson	4:00 p.m.
October 8, 2021	Friday	NVC Invite Hosted by N-V	Atkinson	4:00 p.m.
October 14, 2021	Thursday	Districts	TBA	TBA
October 22, 2021	Friday	State	Kearney	TBA

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE SPORTS COOPERATIVE
FOOTBALL SCHEDULES
2021-2022

Verified 5-15-21

2021 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 20, 2021	Friday	V	Soap Scrimmage	7:00 p.m.
August 27, 2021	Friday		at Wausa	7:00 p.m.
September 3, 2021	Friday	V	OSMOND	7:00 p.m.
September 10, 2021	Friday		at Madison	7:00 p.m.
September 17, 2021	Friday	V	ST. MARY'S	7:30 p.m.
September 24, 2021	Friday		at Creighton	7:00 p.m.
October 1, 2021	Friday	V	BLOOMFIELD	3:30 p.m.
October 8, 2021	Friday		at Boyd County	2:00 p.m.
October 15, 2021			BYE WEEK	
October 21, 2021	Thursday		Football Playoffs - 1 st Round	
October 29, 2021	Friday		Football Playoffs - 2 nd Round	
November 5, 2021	Friday		Football Playoffs - Quarterfinals	
November 12, 2021	Friday		Football Playoffs - Semi-finals	
November 22, 2021	Monday		Football Playoffs - Finals	

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE SPORTS COOPERATIVE
FOOTBALL SCHEDULES
2021-2022

Verified 7-16-2021

2021 J.V. FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 30, 2021	Monday		at Wynot	6:00 p.m.
September 13, 2021	Monday	V	BOYD COUNTY	6:00 p.m.
September 20, 2021	Monday	O	at Summerland (in Orchard)	7:00 p.m.
September 27, 2021	Monday	V	WAUSA	6:30 p.m.
October 4, 2021	Monday		at Creighton	6:00 p.m.

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE SPORTS COOPERATIVE
FOOTBALL SCHEDULES
2021-2022

Verified 5-28-2021

2021 JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 30, 2021	Monday		at Wynot	4:00 p.m.
September 13, 2021	Monday	V	BOYD COUNTY	4:00 p.m.
September 20, 2021	Monday		at Summerland	5:00 p.m.
September 27, 2021	Monday	V	STUART	5:30 p.m.
October 13, 2021	Wednesday	V	WAUSA	3:00 p.m.

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE SPORT'S COOPERATIVE VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

Schedule SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2021-2022

Verified 7-8-21

2021 J.V. & VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 17, 2021	Tuesday		at Bloomfield - Jamboree	7:00 p.m.
August 20, 2021	Friday	V	Soap Scrimmage	5:30 p.m.
August 26, 2021	Thursday		at Madison	6:00 JV & Varsity
August 31, 2021	Tuesday		at Osmond Triangular (Creighton, N-V, Osmond)	5:30/6:30/7:30 p.m.
September 7, 2021	Tuesday		at Summerland Double Tri. (EPPJ, N-V, Stuart, Summerland)	5:00/6:00/7:00/8:00
September 9, 2021	Thursday		at Elkhorn Valley	5:00 CBA
September 11, 2021	Saturday		at St. Mary's 9/10/JV Tournament	9:00 a.m.
September 14, 2021	Tuesday		at Santee Triangular (N-V, Santee, St. Mary's)	5:30/6:30/7:30 p.m.
September 16, 2021	Thursday		at Neligh-Oakdale	5:30 CBA
September 20, 2021	Monday		at Summerland	5:30 J.V.
September 21, 2021	Tuesday	V	WEST HOLT	5:00 CBA
September 28, 2021	Tuesday	N	N-V TRIANGULAR (Boyd County, N-V, Summerland)	5:00/6:00/7:00 p.m.
September 30, 2021	Thursday	V	WAUSA	5:00 CBA
October 4, 2021	Monday		at Summerland JV Triangular	5:00 J.V.
October 5, 2021	Tuesday		at Winside	6:00 JV & Varsity
October 7, 2021	Thursday	S	at North Central Triangular (N-V, North Central, St. Mary's)	5:00/6:15/7:30 p.m. (Will be played in Springview)
October 9, 2021	Saturday	V	Verdigre Booster Club 9/10/JV Tournament (Creighton, EPPJ, Neligh-Oakdale, Niobrara-Verdigre)	9:00 a.m.
October 11, 2021	Monday		Knox County Tournament	4:30/5:30/6:30/7:30
October 12, 2021	Tuesday		at Bloomfield (Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, Wausa)	5:30/6:30/7:30
October 14, 2021	Thursday	V	EPPJ	4:00/5:15/6:30 CBA
October 16, 2021	Saturday		Eagle Classic at LHNE (Blair, LHNE, N-V, South Sioux City, Summerland)	9:00 a.m.
October 18, 2021	Monday		NVC Tournament (Top 4 Seeds Host)	6:15 & 7:30 p.m.
October 19, 2021	Tuesday		at Summerland	6:15 & 7:30 p.m.
October 22, 2021	Friday		at Niobrara	6:15 & 7:30 p.m.
October 25, 2021	Monday &		Sub-districts at TBA	TBA
October 26, 2021	Tuesday		(Niobrara-Verdigre,	
October 30, 2021	Saturday		District Finals	TBA
November 3 thru	Wednesday --		State Tournament	

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS COOPERATIVE
VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Schedule SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2021-22

Verified 5-28-21

2021 JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 30, 2021	Monday		at Wynot	2:30 p.m.
September 9, 2021	Thursday		at Elkhorn Valley (Tilden)	2:30 p.m.
September 13, 2021	Monday	V	BOYD COUNTY	3:00 p.m.
September 18, 2021	Saturday		at St. Mary's Tournament	8:00 a.m.
September 20, 2021	Monday		at Summerland	4:00 p.m.
September 22, 2021	Wednesday		at Bloomfield	2:00 p.m.
September 25, 2021	Saturday	V	Verdigre Booster Club Junior High Tournament	9:00 a.m.
(Boyd County, Creighton, Niobrara-Verdigre)				
September 27, 2021	Monday	V	STUART	4:00 p.m.
October 13, 2021	Wednesday	V	WAUSA	1:30 p.m.

September

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 B-Cereal & Yogurt L-Chicken Sandwich	2 B-Longjohns/Donut L-Meatloaf	3 B-Breakfast Pizza L-Burrito	4
5	6 NO SCHOOL	7 B-Biscuits & Gravy L-Corn Dog	8 B-Cereal & Muffin L-Pizza	9 B-Cinnamon Rolls L-Softshell Taco	10 B-Breakfast Pizza L-McRib Sandwich	11
12	13 B-Bagel Bar L-Lasagna	14 B-Biscuits & Gravy L-Shepherd's Pie	15 B-Cereal & Yogurt L-Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole	16 B-Longjohns/Donut L-Italian Dunkers	17 B-Breakfast Pizza L-Taverns	18
19	20 B-Fruited L-Walking Taco	21 B-Biscuits & Gravy L-Chicken Alfredo	22 B-Cereal & Muffin L-Beef Stroganoff	23 B-Cinnamon Rolls L-Spicy or Mandarin Orange Chicken	24 B-Breakfast Pizza L-Chicken Nuggets	25
26	27 B-UBR L-Hot Dog on a Bun	28 B-Biscuits & Gravy L-Cheeseburger	29 B-Cereal & Yogurt L-Grilled Cheese/Tomato Soup	30 B-Longjohns/Donut L-Nachos		

Niobrara September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Aug 30 JH/JV VB/FB @ Wynot 2:30/4:00 pm JV FB @ Wynot 6:00 pm	Aug 31 National Guard Rep 12:30 pm Varsity VB Tri @ Osmond 5:30 pm	1 Ag Field & Industry Expo Day NECC	2 XC Niobrara State Park Girls - 4:30 pm Boys - 5:00 pm	3 Varsity FB vs. Osmond @ Verdigre 7:00 pm	4
5	6 Labor Day No School	7 Army Rep 12:30 pm JV VB @ Ewing 4:30 pm Varsity VB @ Summerland Double Quad 5/6/7/8/ pm	8	9 XC @ Butte Golf Course 4:30 pm JH VB @ Elkhorn Valley 2:30 pm VB @ Elkhorn Valley CBA 5:00 pm	10 Varsity FB @ Madison 7:00 pm	11 JV VB Tourney @ St. Mary's 9:00 am
12	13 XC Antelope Country Club 4:30 pm JH VB 3:00 & JH/JV FB 4:00 & 6:00 pm vs. Boyd Co. @ Verdigre	14 Varsity VB Tri @ Santee 530/630/730 pm	15 Wonderful World of Water Musical - Form of Art 7th-12th 10:00-11:00 1st-6th 2:00-3:00 Knox Co. College Fair @ Creighton juniors & seniors 1:00-3:00 pm	16 VB @ Nel-Oak CBA 5:30 pm Pre-K Parent Committee Meeting 5:00 pm	17 Varsity FB vs. St. Mary's @ Verdigre 7:30 pm	18 JH VB Tourney @ St. Mary's 8:00 am
19	20 XC @ Tyndall 2:00 pm JH/JV VB/FB @ Summerland 5:00/7:00 pm	21 ASVAB Testing Sophomores VB vs. West Holt @ Verdigre CBA 5:00 pm	22 JH VB @ Bloomfield 2:00 pm	23 Pre-ACT Testing Sophomores Flu/Covid Shots 12:00-6:00 pm P/T/C 4:00-7:00 pm	24 No Pre-K Varsity FB @ Creighton 7:00 pm	25 JH VB Tourney @ Verdigre 9:00 am
26	27 Picture Retake Day JH VB/FB vs. Stuart @ Verdigre 4/5 pm JV FB vs. Stuart @ Verdigre 6:30 pm	28 Varsity VB Tri @ Niobrara 5/6/7 pm Raffle Sophomores	29	30 XC @ Atkinson 4:00 pm Varsity VB vs. Wausa @ Verdigre CBA 5:00 pm	Oct 1 Varsity FB vs. Bloomfield @ Verdigre 3:30 pm	
			Homecoming Week			