

PALMYRA



PANTHERS

School District OR-1

425 F Street, Box 130
Palmyra, NE 68418
402-780-5327 Fax: 402-780-5349
Superintendent: Rob Hanger
Secondary Principal: Heath Johnson
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

Elementary Principal: Linde Walter
50 Dogwood ST
Bennet, NE 68317
402-782-3535 Fax: 402-782-3545

www.districtor1.org Twitter: @OR1_Panthers

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
November, 2019

*****ECRWSS*****

**Local
Postal Customer**

*Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet
the challenges of the future.*

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

\$567,000 – Contributions - you have contributed to The Foundation For Knowledge.

\$192,650 – Scholarships – 165 students from your community have been assisted with their post-secondary educations.

\$74,550 – Staff Development – helping to make District OR-1 one of the highest ranked and best trained teaching Staff's in the state of Nebraska.

Graduation Rate – District OR-1 has achieved one of the highest graduation rates in the State.

Post-secondary Education – the vast majority of District OR-1's students go on for further education that will help them for the rest of their lives.

\$12,600 – School Support – Assisting school programs, and support for students representing District OR-1.

\$326,000 – Invested Market Value – For endowed commitments.

With your help The Foundation For Knowledge's investment account ensures that your contributions will be available for the future of your community.

With your support we will continue our work for the future of your community

Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1 - P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418
Enclosed is my/our ☐ individual gift ☐ corporate gift _____

(corporate contact person)
of \$ _____ to the Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1
-OR-

I/We pledge \$ _____. Enclosed is my/our payment of \$ _____.

Balance paid by _____, 20____.

To validate your pledge, your signature is required _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If an alumni of Palmyra/Bennet School, please list year _____

Please make checks payable to - Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

Thank you for your investment in the future.



PANTHER PANTHER

NEWS

District OR-1 Public Schools
425 F Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
<http://www.districtor1.org>

Serving the Communities of Bennet, Palmyra, and Douglas, NE

November, 2019

- Follow District OR1 at www.districtor1.org
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at www.1011now.com
- Superintendent Notes
- General Fund at Historic Low
- Superintendent Search Begins
- FFA News
- Fine Arts News
- Anti-Bullying Month is November

Superintendent Notes...by Robert Hanger

The 2019-2020 school year is well under way with the first quarter of academic work, parent/teacher conferences and regular season fall activities nearing completion. As we enter the second academic quarter it seems fitting to thank our parents for their hard work and diligence in helping us educate students at District OR-1. Your efforts and support make our work as educators rewarding both personally and professionally. Fall parent/teacher conferences were well attended and are indicative of the collaboration between staff, students and parents that enable the academic success we are accustomed to. I would also like to extend a thank you to the greater OR-1 community. This includes all of the supportive and caring individuals that take time from their busy schedule to work with our youth in wide array of settings that include but are not limited to youth groups, TeamMates, youth activities/sports, the backpack program, school volunteers, the Foundation for Knowledge, Strategic Planning team members, boosters and so much more. It continues to be a pleasure to work in such a supportive and caring environment. As we have enjoyed fall activities I would like offer a special thank you to the Olson Foundation for the tremendous gift to the Village of Palmyra and all of the District OR-1 communities. I hope that many of you have had the opportunity to attend a football game at the new complex to experience the super facilities firsthand. Thank you Olson Foundation!



Facilities work at both campus locations has been rewarding for staff, students and patrons. Updates to infrastructure continue to pay dividends as the district has added coursework opportunities in the area of Digital Media. As a part of the strategic planning process the new course provides a variety of experiences including but not limited to yearbook, web site maintenance, network

Superintendent: Rob Hanger
Palmyra Principal: Heath Johnson
Bennet Principal: Linde Walter
Activities Director: Aaron Hoefft

...Continued on next page.

Stakeholder Survey:

District OR1 Superintendent Search

The District OR-1 Board of Education has selected McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., Executive Recruitment and Development to assist them in the important task of selecting superintendent candidates for the board to interview. McPherson & Jacobson (www.macnjake.com)

Please share your vision for selecting the next Superintendent of Schools for District OR1

Stakeholder Input Survey Link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DistrictOR1NE>

The survey will open on Monday, October 28, 2019 and will close on Monday, November 4, 2019

Questions that will be asked at the "Community Input Forum" and through the Survey Monkey will be :

- *Tell us the good things about the communities within your school district.
- *Tell us the good things about District OR-1.
- *What are the skills, characteristics, and traits you're looking for in the next superintendent?
- *What are the hot topics the new superintendent should be aware of so he or she can get off to a great start?

maintenance, web page design, satellite kiosks in commons areas and broadcasting events via striv tv just to name a few of the exciting areas the class will be working in. I would like to thank Mr. Brown and Mrs. Gill for their work in making this course a reality for our students.

In November a final Strategic Planning report will be delivered to the Board of Education. We would like to invite members of the planning team to the November 11th board meeting at which time Dr. Dlugosh will provide information related to the process and status of each goal and action plan. The goals for our strategic plan are available at:

<http://www.districtor1.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/District%20OR1%20Public%20Schools%7C2018%20School%20Improvement%20Plan>

Please take a moment to review the blueprint that was designed to meet the challenges of what lies ahead during the next five years. This will now assist everyone in creating thoughts to apply to the next phase of planning that should reach the next five years and perhaps beyond.

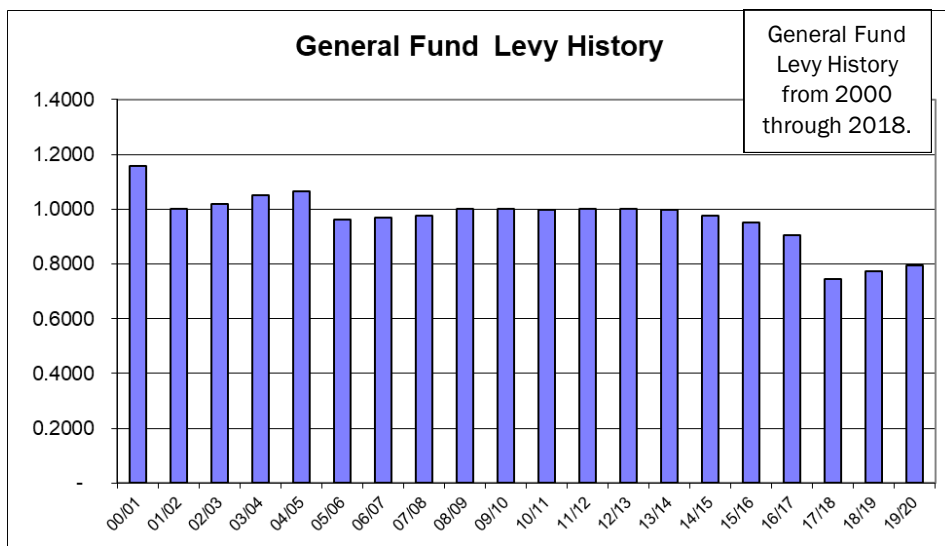
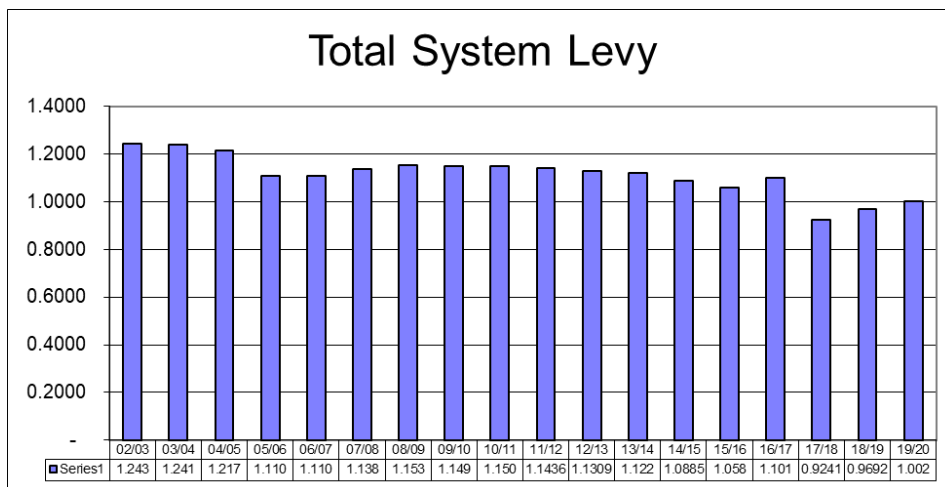
Fiscal 2019-2020 Budget

At the September meeting the Board approved the budget for all funds for the current fiscal year. The present budget has a General Fund Levy set at 0.7961, the Building Fund Levy at 0.0507. The Bond Fund Levy is currently set at 0.1295. The budget also includes the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund Levy of 0.0265 necessary to complete roofing projects at both campus locations. These levies represent a slight change in the tax rate of 1.60%. The Chart below shows the total levy history for District OR-1 from 2002 to date. As reflected in the chart the total levy is the second lowest in our current history.

The District continues to be low spending in comparison to the cost group of 20 schools with enrollments closest to District OR-1. The District ranks near the lowest in spending in the array of schools and has consistently remained in the bottom tier for the past ten years. As a part of the General Fund budget State Aid for the current school year is set at \$938,830.00 and includes Poverty Grant Funds. This is a modest decrease of \$11,046.00 from fiscal 2018-2019 due primarily to a valuation increase

last fiscal year. Currently District OR-1 budget authority reflects a needs based budget calculation which will open the possibility of continued needs stabilization in the future. I would like to thank our Board members past and present who through careful preparation and foresight planned the correct timing for the issuance of bonds, passage of responsible budgets and the facilities construction process all of which has saved tax payers in the district a significant amount of dollars. The equalization formula remains based on needs vs. resources pending any potential changes in the upcoming legislative session. This year the district's valuation increased approximately 3.69%. Additional grant funds available to the district budget include but are not limited to \$32,038 Title I, Title IV, \$7,992 Title IIA, and

\$49,897 Rural Education Achievement Program. The district will also receive approximately \$110,886 in IDEA funds. That amount will be finalized prior to December when the IDEA grant process is completed. District OR-1 also receives a large financial commitment from the Universal Service Fund to provide reimbursement for internet and network fees at a rate of 60% of the total charges. All of these dollars are welcomed as they assist us in keeping the local tax levy rate at a much lower level than would otherwise be necessary to fully fund the district.

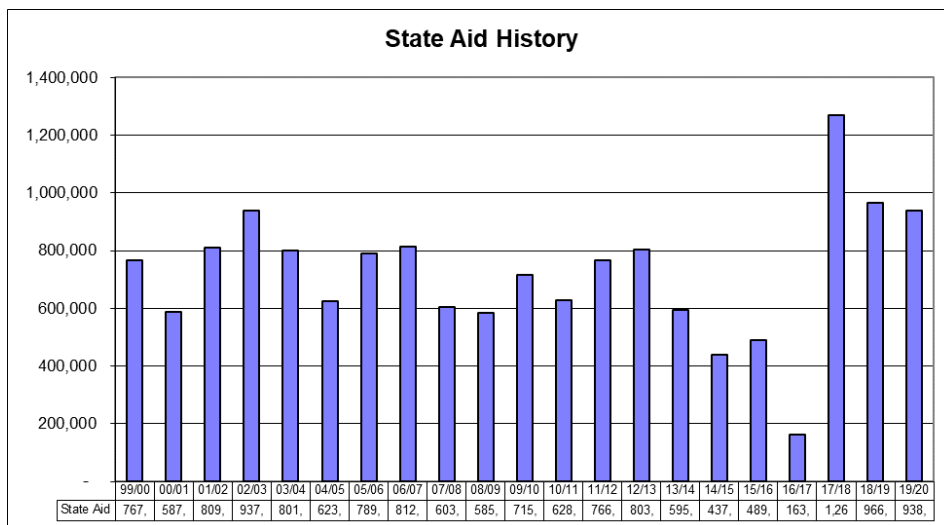


The chart below shows a twenty year history of State Aid received by District OR-1.

As a part of the budget the district will begin the process to replace roofing on the existing building areas in both Bennet and Palmyra. Utilizing Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Funds the project will begin in early November and start at Bennet Elementary. Weather permitting the contractor will move to the Palmyra Campus. If the weather pattern is not favorable Palmyra work will begin in March or at the earliest possible time in February. This project will provide valuable maintenance updates to our existing 1957, 1982 and 1996 building areas. When complete all of the roofing on our structures will be less than four years old.

Nebraska Education Profile Information:

Access is now open to the Nebraska Education Profile for District OR-1 Public Schools. At the Department of Education website you will be able to view our latest scores in Reading, Writing, Math and Science as well as information concerning staff endorsements, and data related to state and federal guidelines. I encourage you to review the information available for our district so that you are familiar with the excellent work in which we are engaged. Information is available at <http://nep.education.ne.gov>.



When a school bus engages the red stop lights and stop arm a driver must stop and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and deactivates the red warning lights. The only exception occurs when approaching a school bus in the opposite direction on a roadway divided by a median. At a four way stop with no median, drivers are required to stop in all directions. A simple rule to keep in mind is to always stop “all ways”. A driver should come to a complete stop at a reasonable distance from the bus keeping in mind that they will need to safely cross the street. When approaching a bus drive cautiously and slow down knowing that they may stop.

Know the Rules on School Bus Stops:

When a school bus engages the red stop lights and stop arm a driver must stop and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and deactivates the red warning lights. The only exception occurs when approaching a school bus in the opposite direction on a roadway divided by a median. At a four way stop with no median, drivers are required to stop in all directions. A simple rule to keep in mind is to always stop “all ways”. A driver should come to a complete stop at a reasonable distance from the bus keeping in mind that they will need to safely cross the street. When approaching a bus drive cautiously and slow down knowing that they may stop.

School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

Each winter we have school days when we are faced with the dilemma as to whether school will start on time, start late, or should be cancelled altogether. This decision is never easy to make, but I want you to know that we have our students’ safety foremost in mind. With that said, be aware that we will monitor road conditions closely and will use that information to make the determination about a school closing or late start. We will check roads beginning at 4:30 a.m. so that we can arrive at a decision by 6:15 a.m. If a decision is made to close school or to have a late start, we will notify families via the School District notification system and KFOR radio 1240 AM as our primary contacts with the late start or closing information. In addition we will notify channel 10-11 television for the Lincoln market and channel 6 television in the Omaha market as well as our website, mobile app and Twitter feed as quickly as we can in order to get information out in timely fashion. If the snow begins in the evening and is only a light accumulation, then a decision will not be made until the next morning. When the snow is heavy and the wind is a factor in terms of drifting then the decision may be made that evening. If snow begins during the school day the administrative staff will monitor road conditions and watch to make sure we can get students home safely. If road conditions deteriorate during the school day and we are to dismiss early we will again notify radio and television contacts with closing information and in addition we will attempt to contact parents with the School Messenger system to let them know we are dismissing early, as we understand that closing school early when it was not planned requires some parents to make arrangements for the care of their children.



When school does start late due to road conditions, school will begin at 10:00 a.m., but we ask that students do not arrive prior to 9:30 a.m. The late start is designed to serve several purposes:

1. to allow the buses to go out when it is light and they can more safely see the road,
2. to allow you to have more time to clear driveways, and allow adequate time for students who drive to school to arrive safely.

On late start days the buses will run later than normal and pickup times will be adjusted accordingly. Your drivers will provide you with the adjusted time for late start days. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

With all of that said, I would remind you to update your contact information with the school. This includes your email, home phone and mobile phone information. If our information is incorrect or missing we will be unable to contact you via the District Notification system in case of a weather closure. You may also want to download our mobile App from the App store by searching for District OR-1.

We sincerely hope your holiday season is a safe and happy one.

Panther Fine Arts News

From marching band to concert band; from choir to show choir; from the One-Act play to the main-stage musical, our fine arts department is always busy working away. Here's what we've been up to and what we have in store for the holiday season.



Our marching band had another fantastic season – perhaps their best! At the Applejack parade in Nebraska City they earned 1st place in Class C. At Harvest of Harmony in Grand Island they earned a superior rating in field marching, and 3rd place in the parade. This past week they competed at the Ox-bow marching contest in Ashland, earned a superior rating, and the 2nd best score of the night! Way to go Panther Band!

Our One Act Play – *Children of Eden*, will be performed on our home stage in the West gym on November 15th. Admission to the play is \$5. If want to check out even more theatrical performances, then join us as Palmyra hosts the District One Act play competition on Wednesday December 4th. Schools from our area will take the stage starting at 8:00 am, and the day will wrap up around 5:00 pm. This event was formerly held at the Lofte Theatre in Manley. How exciting that we get to host this event!!!



Our choirs have been flexing our vocal chords in class and rehearsals and are ready to share their harmonies with you. Upcoming performances include Veteran's Day, ECNC Honor Choir, and Winter Concerts. Check out the dates below to catch some singing and great music from our Panther choirs.

Congratulations to these students who made All-State Band! They will perform in the Lied Center on November 23rd. Tickets available through www.liedcenter.org

Austin David – trumpet, junior, 3rd year
Sarah Davis-Kovarik – flute, senior, 1st year
Gwen Leuschen – percussion, junior, 1st year
Alternate - Oscar Thomas – tenor saxophone, freshman 1st year.

Congratulations to Henry Iwan – he has been selected for the Midland University a Capella Honor Choir. The concert is at 4:00 pm on November 2nd, at Midland University's Clemmons Chapel. Bravo Henry!

Continued....

Upcoming Fine Arts performances:

Kindergarten Round Up

Bennet Elementary is registering students for kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year.

Kindergarten Roundup will be held on Friday, April 3rd from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten in the fall, please call Bennet Elementary at 402.782.3535.

November 4th – Jr/Sr High Fall Concert –
PHS West Gym – 6:30 pm

November 11th – Sr. High Choir – Veter-
an's Day at Palmyra – 9:00 am

November 11th – Bennet Singers – Veter-
an's Day at Bennet Elementary –
11:00 am

November 12th – ECNC Jr/Sr High Honor
Choir - @ JCC Tecumseh

November 15th – One-Act Home Perfor-
mance – PHS West Gym - \$5.00 admission – 7:00 pm.

December 2nd – Elementary Winter concert @ PHS- K-3 6:30 pm; 4-6 7:30 pm

December 4th – District One Act Play – PHS West Gym – 8:00 am – aprx. 5:00 pm

December 11th – Show Choir performs at Palmyra Community Center - noon

December 12th – Jr/Sr High Winter Concert – PHS West Gym – 6:30 pm

December 18th – Jr/Sr High Caroling at Douglas Community Center

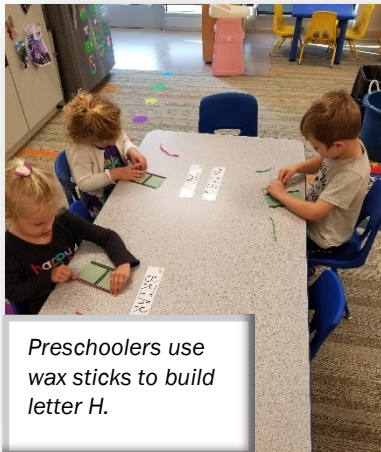
December 19th – Bennet Singers Caroling at Bennet Community Center – 11:00 am

Thanks for your continued support of our Panther Fine Arts Department! By: Beth McCreight



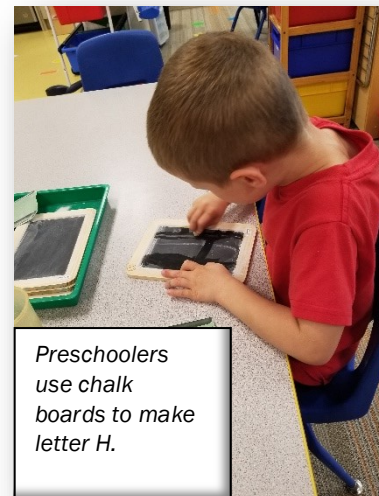
Pre-Writing Skills in Preschool

Preschool students are introduced to pre-writing, and math skills early on. Preschool teachers implement the Learning Without Tears curriculum that focuses on early writing and math intervention. The Learning Without Tears curriculum makes learning about writing, reading, and math fun and hands-on! There are songs, music and movement, and many different manipulatives that make this curriculum so engaging and hands-on.



Preschoolers use wax sticks to build letter H.

As a 3-4 year old it is important to be able to name, identify, and begin to draw the main parts on your body. The Learning Without Tears curriculum introduces a song called, "Mat Man". This song identifies different body parts and the use for each. As the song plays, the children are able to build Mat Man using the different wood pieces from the curriculum. For example, the song says "Mat Man has one head so that he can think. or Mat Man has two eyes so that he can see, etc.) When the song is over the children are able to see



Preschoolers use chalk boards to make letter H.

Mat Man, identify all of his parts, and feel accomplished that they were able to build him together.

I enjoy using this curriculum because it isn't about sitting down with a pencil and a worksheet. When children are able to be hands-on and totally interactive with materials that is when they are truly learning and exploring! I also love that this curriculum serves for all different unique learners in the classroom setting.

Witches, & Bats, & Tests, Oh My!

Our Kindergartners have been working very hard this first quarter. They are learning their ABC's and 123's, AND they are learning how to share, solve problems, and be good friends. How does one measure all that they have learned? Report card testing!

We have been doing our report card testing, one-on-one, with each kiddo. While we are doing that, the rest of our lovelies are making some super fun Halloween crafts to festive-up our rooms. We've made a Creepy Pair of Underwear, a Bat, a Candy Corn Guy, and a Witch. Our crafts have been paired with an awesome Halloween book or video. Now, to get all those projects up on the walls!

Since this is also fire safety month, we made a firefighter craft to help us remember what we learned on Fire Safety Day with our very own Bennet Firefighters. I think the favorite part of Fire Safety Day was being able to climb up on the firetruck. The smiles were huge as they got to look around from WAY UP HIGH!

As this quarter winds down, it is amazing to realize what the kiddos have learned in such a short time. We can't wait to see what next quarter will bring! They keep getting smarter everyday!



Bennet Sixth Graders Victorious

For the first time, the Bennet sixth graders were invited to partake in the Homecoming Parade in downtown Palmyra. As tradition, each grade comes to the parade with a class cheer, and the teachers and parents decide which grade has the best cheer. Our sixth grade Student Council spent their recess time writing an original cheer and teaching the rest of the sixth graders. All were surprised when the sixth graders came out victorious! They were even asked to share their cheer with the Panther Cheerleading Team.

Go team, go team, Sack, sack the quarterback, Attack, attack the running back, We'll say it loud, we'll say it proud, P-A-N-T-H-E-R-S Panther pride, Panther pride, We're stepping up, so step aside, Get lost, we're comin' in, Panther pride here again!



PURPLE HAND PLEDGE

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. At Bennet Elementary, we take a strong stance against bullying to create a safe environment for everyone. The students participated in the Purple Hand Pledge.

"I will not use my hands or my words to hurt myself or others. I Promise!"

The Purple Hand Pledge is posted in all classrooms and is a reminder to the students and staff that Bennet Elementary is "Bully Free."

Some information shared with students about bullying:

Bullying can make someone feel hurt, afraid, or uncomfortable. When someone does this to another person **more than once and usually over and over again for a period of time this is called Bullying.**

There are many different types of bullying that can be experienced by children and adults.

Physical bullying:

Physical bullying includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching and pushing or damaging property. Physical bullying causes both short term and long term damage.

Verbal bullying:

Verbal bullying includes name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, or verbal abuse. While verbal bullying can start off harmless, it can escalate to levels which start affecting the individual target.

Social bullying:

Social bullying is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation.

Cyber bullying:

Cyber bullying uses digital technologies, including hardware such as computers and smartphones, and software such as social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other online platforms.

What to do if you are being bullied: talk to someone about it. Find a staff member or family member to talk to. Hang around friends who respect, encourage and support you. These friends should care about you and be fun to hang around.



What bullying is not:

- *single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- *single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- *random acts of aggression or intimidation
- *mutual arguments, disagreements, or fights.



Elementary Student Council

This year Bennet Elementary is happy to announce our new 6th grade Student Council members. The 6th grade Student Council is made of 15 students that have volunteered their time to help plan events within the elementary. Each student is responsible for two events. They help plan the event and work during it. Students, can at times, spend recesses and free time helping prepare for these elementary activities.

Over the past seven years, the 6th grade has been in charge of the Caring Project in February. However, there are many more activities at Bennet that require assistance. Some of these projects are Homecoming, Red Ribbon Week, Kindness Week, Veterans Day, and Elementary Awards.

We just finished Homecoming Week and are starting to prepare for Red Ribbon at the end of October and Veterans day in November. We have also added a 6th grade Bake Sale to our list of activities. Thanks to our 6th grade families, the bake sale in September raised over \$350 for the Bennet Back Pack Program!!

Way to go Bennet Elementary.

By: Jen Hanger



Top left: Kailey D. Kenlee N. Lauren L. Audrey E. Emberlin J. Owen R. Lincoln J. and John H.

Bottom left: Weston G. Grant F. Grace G. Harrison B. Bella C. Lucy C. and Kaden M.

Animal Adaptations

The last few weeks, 4th graders have been learning about animal adaptations in Science. We discussed certain physical features and behavior traits that

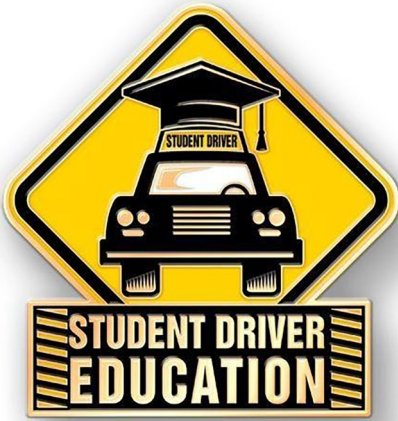


some animals possess in order to survive in their environment. Specifically, we focused on the insect group. To demonstrate their knowledge of insect adaptations, they had the task of creating an insect that had the same body parts all insects have, plus adding an additional behavior adaption that it could have. They had to choose from hive dweller, burrower, nectar gatherer, bloodsucker, parasite, and meat eater. The challenge was to come up with a name and build a 3-D model of their own insect out of random materials and present it to the class. Their



Join Mr. Malone, PHS students, and your neighbors to save a life. The District OR1 FFA will sponsor a blood drive to be held at PHS on November 7th from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Contact Mr. Malone to set up your reserved time at malone.ken@districtor1.net. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Don Cunningham Set as New Driver Education Provider:



Don Cunningham, representing Pathfinder Traffic Safety Services, will be the chosen provider for District OR1 Driver Education certification. This course will be held beginning in January, allowing students to regain some time from summer vacation and to experience a bit of cold-weather driving.

This course is offered using a hybrid format, where all students will need to complete a set of worksheets from an e-textbook prior to class. Five-hour classes will be held at the school site on January 19 and January 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided for lunch each day.

When class tuition is paid, the student will receive access to the e-text. The worksheets must be sent to dcunning1@yahoo.com by January 18th, 8:00 p.m. All work must be completed before class or the student will not be allowed to participate. There will be two written tests...one each day. Don Cunningham and Elizabeth Cunningham will teach the class. Elizabeth will drive all students the required five hours over a time span of 8 to 12 weeks, depending upon the student's schedule.

To register: Go to pathfindertss.com. On the third page, register your student. If your student will be age 14 by Oct 1, 2020, you may enroll him or her in the class. Tuition is \$350. to be paid by cash, checks or money orders.

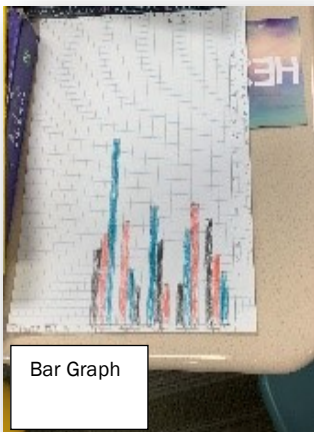
If any questions arise, call Don Cunningham to leave a voice mail at 402 720-3586. Your call will be promptly returned.

5th Grade Physics by Mr. McChristian

Fifth grade has been studying Newton's three Laws of Motion in science class. One experiment that students have conducted was to make a soda can water engine to gather data to study the effect the size holes punched at the bottom of the can has on the rotation of the water engine. Students then graphed their data, discussed with their experiment group members what the data means, and then wrote their conclusions.

Also, students were able to see the action and reaction forces at work to cause the water engine's motion, which also created an unbalanced force for motion to occur.

"When will I ever use this information?" you might ask. Newton's Laws of Motion are constantly at work in students' lives. Students will use the knowledge from the water engine experiment to apply to their balloon powered satellites which were constructed during Engineering Fridays. Their satellite are going to the Moon. Not the real Moon, but powering their constructed satellite to travel on a fishing line several meters. Students will learn that greater, sustainable thrust can be achieved by a smaller opening that will move the satellite farthest distances.



The Week of October 7th was National Fire Prevention Week. On October 9th the Bennet Volunteer Fire Department presented fire safety tips to the Bennet Elementary students. Thank you Bennet Fire Department for supporting District OR1.





As we continue in this first semester we want to remind parents and students of the policy regarding our random drug testing. All students in grades 9-12 who participate in school sponsored competitive activity are subject to the random testing draw. To further clarify some rules regarding testing we want to reiterate some key features.

Students remain eligible for testing from the date the Consent to Test Form is turned in until a Drop Form is completed, student graduates or is otherwise no longer enrolled. If a Drop Form is submitted the student shall be ineligible for participation in school sponsored competitive extracurricular activities for twelve months from the date the Drop Form is submitted. Students

have a fifteen (15) day grace period for reconsideration of a Drop Form.

Students who are not participants in a school sponsored competitive extracurricular activity may volunteer for participation in the testing program by submitting the Consent to Test Form.

The following shall result from a positive test result:

- The student's parents or guardians will be contacted and a meeting will be held to discuss the positive test result, with the object of collaborating on a plan to assist the student in avoiding future substance abuse.

- The student's privilege of participating in extracurricular activities will be restricted as follows:

- *For a first positive test, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for twenty (20) school days. The student may continue to participate in extracurricular activities if within ten (10) school days of the meeting with the parents or guardians of the student shows proof that the student is receiving substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and submits to a second drug test within two (2) weeks.

- *For a second and subsequent positive test, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for one (1) calendar year. To return to participation, the student must complete substance abuse counseling as and to the extent determined appropriate by a qualified professional, and in any event for no less than four (4) hours, and must submit to five (5) follow up drug tests during the next twelve (12) month period.

All testing forms are available in the office or can be found on the www.districtor1.org website by searching "Board of Education Policy" and referencing, Policy 5306, in the document. By: Mr. Hoeft, Activities Director



District OR 1 Bennet Elementary School staff and students would like to invite our area Veterans to a special luncheon on Monday, November 11th, 2019 at Bennet Elementary.

Bennet Singers will be performing at 11:15 and lunch will be served from 11:30-12:30. We would be honored to have you and your spouse join us. Please call 402-782-3535 by Thursday, November 7th with your reservation, so we can plan ahead. We hope you will be able to join us!

VETERANS DAY: HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

On Monday November 11th, Palmyra High School Student Council would like to invite our former and current military members along with their spouses for breakfast, an honorary assembly, and a guest speaker at Palmyra High School. Breakfast will be served out of the concessions stand by the new gym at 8:15 am, and the assembly will take place in the new gym at 9:00 am. Parking in front of the West entrance will be reserved for veterans. Thank you to all men and women for their service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Jon Davenport about any questions or concerns.

New Baby Lock Presto II by Becky Cunningham

The Family and Consumer Science Department started the year with 4 new Baby Lock Presto II sewing machines. The Textile and Clothing class has been learning to operate these machines during seventh hour class. As they were learning all the new stitches that the machines made we discussed how we might use the stitches in projects. It was then decided to incorporate the stitches into the FCCLA project to make Fun Pillowcases for a nursing home at Christmas time. Below is a sample strip the students made with the machines that will later become part of the Fun Pillowcases.

A special thanks to the school district for the great machines. All the options on the machines add to the fun of learning.



Industrial Tech

We in the Industrial Tech department are excited about the upcoming year. We have worked with the administration and will be planning and building the storage building up at the new sports complex along with many other projects in the class. There is a large number of Junior High students who have enrolled in classes this year and seem to be very excited about their upcoming projects. We are in the planning stages for all of these and will begin in the shop in the next week. As the projects move forward we will post photos to the school web site for everyone to view. Thank you for all of your support and help. By: Mr. Gabriel



FFA

At the Southeast Area Land Judging Contest Oct. 9 in Beatrice, there were 13 schools with 189 participants and 40 complete

teams consisting of 3 or 4 persons. Palmyra had 23 individuals compete earning 19 individual ribbons of the 80 ribbons presented. Zach Kirchner placed 10th and qualified to compete in the State Land Judging contest Oct. 23 in the Tecumseh area.

Other individuals were: Zach Fitzpatrick 15th, Nate Palm 19th, Kaileigh Sabatka 23rd, Kylee Kment 27th, Eathon Hornby 28th, Davi Rodriguez 31st, Josh Jones 34th, Sophia Bonifant 35th. Teagan Bogle 36th, Lukas Lindeman 40th, Maddie Busch 41st, Lane Glantz 47th, Charlee Luff 48th, Michael Rempel 49th, Jami Gabriel 50th, Tristan Bretta 56th, Kailyn McMann 58th, and Isaac Falls 79th.

State qualifiers are Teagan, Josh, Davi, Nate, and Zach.



In team ranking Palmyra had 6 teams, earning 5 team ribbons of the 18 team ribbons presented. The top Palmyra team of Nate Palm, Davi Rodriguez, Josh Jones and Teagan Bogle placed as the 4th place school team and qualified for the State Contest Oct. 23 in Tecumseh. Other teams placing: Zach Kirchner, Sophia Bonifant, Lukas Lindeman and Lane Glantz - 8th, Kaileigh Sabatka, Kylee Kment, Maddie Busch and Kailyn McMann- 10th, Jami Gabriel, Eathon Hornby, Michael Rempel and Isaac Falls- 14th and Zach Fitzpatrick, Charlee Luff, Luna Hinkley and Alex Hatcher- 17th.

FFA

The Life of a Co-Teacher

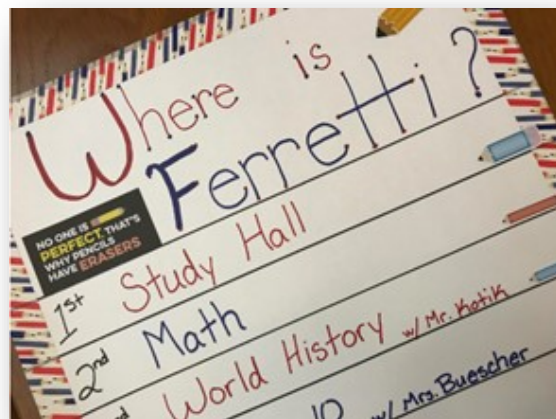
From Biology to Medieval Europe, being a co-teacher can truly broaden your knowledge. As a special education teacher, I have learned the most beneficial job I can do for students who receive special education services is taking on the role of a co-teacher. This year I am in four classes: World History, English 10, Speech, and Biology. Co-teaching can look vastly different from class to class and room to room. Either way, the benefits can be observed in all students, not just students who receive special education services.

As a special education teacher, I am not specifically trained in particular subject areas; however, I am trained to recognize how students learn best, and I have knowledge of ways to adapt lessons to suit the needs of all learning abilities. Because of my skill sets, collaborating with the classroom teacher is very important. Collaboration can include discussing assignments, choosing projects, looking through and adjusting an exam, creating notes, talking through a lesson, etc.

Co-teaching benefits both teachers involved. Instead of the content teacher writing a lesson plan and implementing the lesson, time is taken to go through or create the lesson together. Both teachers help identify where confusion might occur, and the problem-solving results in creative ideas that help increase student engagement. The benefits for me are the opportunities to relearn a variety of content, creatively problem solve with a co-worker, and interact with a broader variety of students. Both teachers build upon the knowledge of the other teacher and share their expertise during co-teaching collaboration.

The benefits of co-teaching can be seen most in students. Having two teachers review the lesson before it is implemented increases the effectiveness of the lesson just like an essay would improve by constructing a rough draft before completing the final product. When the lessons are being implemented, students have the opportunity to experience two different teaching styles from teachers with different training and experiences. If a student is confused about a topic that was taught by one teacher, the other teacher is readily available to explain the content in a different way within the same class period. If there are multiple aspects to a lesson the class can be split between the teachers so students can learn in a small group setting.

Being a co-teacher takes time and effort from both teachers involved, but the benefits of co-teaching are seen in educators and students alike. The icing on the cake is that I get a refresher on my history of Medieval Europe!



Solving Equations

In Math 7, the class is reviewing one step equations. This may seem easy, but it is built on understanding the basics of mathematics. When we solve equations, we do the opposite operation of the problem. If the equation is $x - 9 = 17$, then we add 9 to both sides of the equals sign.

For example:

$$\begin{aligned} X - 9 &= 17 \\ \text{Since the equation has a minus 9 on left side, then we add 9 to both sides.} \\ X - 9 + 9 &= 17 + 9 \\ \text{The nines cancel on the left to leave } X + 0, \text{ and on the right equal 26.} \\ X + 0 &= 26 \\ \text{Any term plus zero is the term.} \\ \text{So, } X &= 26. \end{aligned}$$

The class does this for all operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The class reviews this from the previous year, and in 7th grade, they learn new concepts with integers. Like equations like $X - (-7) = -11$, $9Y = -$

$\frac{x}{4} = 9$. They apply concepts learned from adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers earlier in the class.

After the expertise with these equations increase, then later in the year we expand into two step equations. These may look like $2X - 7 = -9$. The process for solving two step equations is to do opposite operations, but in reverse order. The order of operations is parentheses, exponents, multiply, divide, add, and subtract. When we solve two step equations, the process is to do the opposite operations of addition, and subtraction first followed by opposite of multiplication and division.

For example:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x - 7 &= -9 \\ 2x - 7 + 7 &= -9 + 7 \\ 2x &= -2 \\ \frac{2x}{2} &= \frac{-2}{2} \\ X &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

Once the class learns the process for solving two step equations, then they can apply this to more advanced equation solving when they get into Algebra 1 and higher level math classes. They learn the basic processes, and they will keep building on the foundation started in 7th grade. By Kim Jensen

Mock Interviews By Cassidy Buescher

The sophomore Speech and Communication class completed a chapter on interview skills first quarter. The students learned the valuable life-skill of interviewing for a job by practicing general questions, positive body language, good eye-contact and a solid handshake, and researching the job and company ahead of the interview. As public speakers, the students also must learn the skill of interviewing others. A professional, an adult, or even a peer can act as an excellent source of information for a speech. In order to maximize time spent interviewing a source, they practiced developing the right questions, doing their homework to learn about the subject and topic beforehand, and jotting down good notes during the interview, while still actively listening.

After learning the basics of interviewing skills, each student chose a job he or she could potentially apply for as a high school student. Then, they researched the job and the company in order to develop a set of questions that may be asked during the interview. They completed their groundwork by preparing and practicing answers to the questions. The chapter then culminated



in a “Mock-Interview Day” for which the students dressed up and practiced their skills as both interviewer and interviewee. They gave their prepared set of questions to a partner, who was then responsible for acting as the employer, asking the questions, taking notes, and asking follow-up questions. The students even entered the room to introduce themselves and shake hands! During the debriefing discussion after the process, the class remarked about the importance of being self-confident and poised, having answers prepared, practicing good listening skills, and being polite. They were also amazed at the importance of nonverbal communication, noting the significance of sitting forward on the chair, smiling, and “talking with your hands” to appear enthusiastic and actively engaged.



The class left feeling ready to tackle a nerve-wracking interview with confidence!

Physical Education News

Physical Education classes at District OR-1 Jr Sr High School will take a fitness test to assess student’s health and fitness levels. These tests use a complete battery of health-related fitness items that are scored using criterion-referenced standards that are age and gender specific and are established based upon how fit children need to be for good health. The use of health-related criteria helps to minimize comparisons between children and to emphasize personal fitness rather than goals based on performance. The test administered is The Fitnessgram.

The Fitnessgram is administered during the 1st Semester. It is a comprehensive health-related fitness and activity assessment with a computerized reporting system that allows teachers to produce individualized reports for students and parents to view. Another unique feature of this test is that it figures each student’s Body Mass Index. Body Mass Index (BMI) determines whether a student is overweight or is at risk for becoming overweight and is based on age, gender, height, and weight.

Physical Education provides students with knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and confidence to maintain a physically active lifestyle. Exercising combined with nutrition, helps students maintain healthy bones, build muscle, controls weight, and reduces the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers. Schools and parents play an important and unique role in providing environments where students can learn and practice positive healthy behaviors. Stay active and eat right! By: Mr. Wergin, 7-12 Physical Education Teacher



Latino Art in the Language Classroom

How is your knowledge of the arts? How about Latino art? Culture is a component that world language teacher, such as myself make a point to weave into our language curriculums. It is extremely important to have a cultural lens that highlights a people's history, beliefs, and thoughts. Each Spanish class, no matter the level of study, will spend time exploring art, and always in a multitude of ways. Most recently Spanish one has explored the Spanish master Diego Velazquez while learning "AR" verb conjugations. In addition, students also did adjective work, infusing the part of speech into poetry. Each student performed in front of the green screen, pretending we were at a cafe. Spanish II students have been exploring the work of Goya, a royal court painter of Spain during the 18th and 19th century. In addition to this talented painter, we have also viewed the more modern and relevant work of the Mexican-American Carmen Lomas Garza and it has offered us examples of Latino family traditions, helping to explain the idea of the quinceañera in our family themed chapter.

Spanish III has incorporated a modern, Colombian artist by the name of Fernando Botero. Although he can be a political artist, students have enjoyed his art that focuses on people's appearance and dress and his sculptures of warriors, animals and even huge hands. They have viewed his work and created their own that sculptures (from Model Magic) of various animals and hands too. These will be used in the coming week to reinforce comparisons and equalities via speaking and writing. Grammar can be a little confusing, so a little humor and fun, quick art can make a difference and add a bit of spice to the learning process.

As students reach higher levels of language learning, they must be able to converse about such topics, while also navigating native speaker literature and additional resources. The students have not only explored painting and sculptures, but also talk shows, literature, musicals, sitcoms/telenovelas, music, and dance. After three weeks of discussion it is up to them to choose an artist to explore in depth. Students can pick from a variety of famous Latin authors, dancers, actors, painters or singers. Using their knowledge of more than eight different tenses and chapter vocabulary, students have created videos in Spanish to teach others about Latin culture. Through the use of Google Slides and WeVideo, projects are shared with one another and actually create the test students take. They are required to view these and listening to one another's work, responding to test questions. Testing in this manner allows students to focus on their strengths of listening and/or reading comprehension. Art is significant component of language learning that can anchor the importance of traditions, but also connect major grammar lessons when learning a language.

US Civics and Americanism

To become a citizen of the United States, an immigrant must take a 10 question oral exam that covers US government, civics, history, and geography. To successfully pass this oral exam, prospective US citizens must answer 6 out those 10 correctly to pass the test and become a citizen of the United States. The 10 question exam is derived from a 100 question test bank.



In conjunction with this concept of Americanism, the Nebraska Unicameral passed LB 399, that will require Nebraska students to show American "ideals and values" throughout their education. The seniors at Palmyra will be asked to go above and beyond the 6 out 10 and be asked to answer all 100 questions in a multiple choice, year-end exam.

To help the students understand what our focus will be in the classroom and how the test will function, each student will have the opportunity to take a pre-test. This test will be proctored on our online service, Canvas. Canvas allows the test taker to learn of the results immediately. Though each student will answer all the same questions, Canvas will mix up and shuffle each question and its answers to give each student a unique testing event.

This is not the first year seniors have participated in such an exam. The test will now become more formal. I have encouraged our seniors to ask parents, relatives, and friends to take the practice exam with them; each year many of them are surprised on how much they know or do not know. I invite you to join us in appreciating the American experience by testing your knowledge regarding the United States of America.

For more information on LB 399 or American citizenship in Nebraska go to <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>, <https://my.uscis.gov/>, or <https://optiqal.com/us-citizenship/>. by: Mark Kotik

Algebra I Instruction is Now Available 24/7

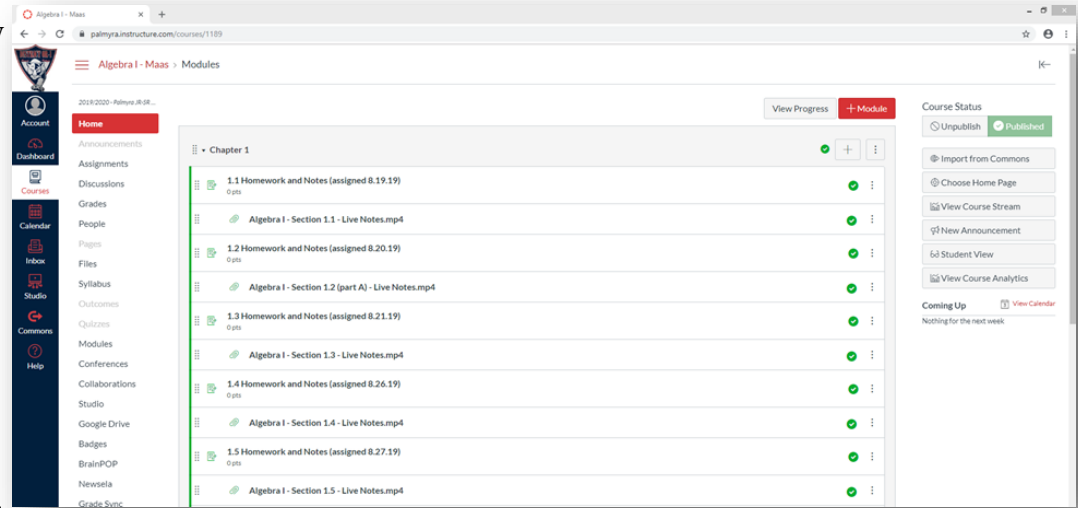
Have you ever been frustrated that you didn't get an example from class? Frustrated that you don't remember exactly what the teacher said? Frustrated that it's 10:30 at night, you just got home from a ball game, and you realized your textbook is locked in the school? Frustrated that you missed class due to illness or a school activity? Are you a frustrated

parent who doesn't remember Algebra from years ago, but would still like to help your child with a problem? Or maybe you're just curious to see what the future of education looks like. If any of the above describes your situation – Mr. Maas has the answer for it.

Mr. Maas has moved both of his Algebra I classes in a direction that addresses each of these issues. First of all, all information needed for class is available on the school's Canvas platform. Canvas can be accessed by virtually any tech device, and it is extremely easy to navigate. The days of needing to drag your textbook around are over. Assignments are posted within Canvas, and they are kept organized within each section.

Taking it to another level, Mr. Maas is also utilizing his *Clear Touch Interactive Screen* to record his daily notes. Everything important to that day's success is recorded by the Clear Touch, and uploaded into Canvas within the appropriate section. This gives students (or parents) the ability to re-watch, or relearn, any particular lesson. This is especially helpful for students who missed a given class period.

Mr. Maas and his classes are working hard to learn how to best implement all these new tools, giving his students the best possible chance at success. There are already more improvements planned for the future – keep an eye out for these as they hit the Canvas platform throughout the year! By Mr. Maas



First Graders Love Their Communities

First graders have been talking about communities in reading and social studies over the past couple weeks. To help students better understand our own communities and all the wonderful places and business we have, we took to the streets and toured two of our communities, Palmyra and Bennet. We visited all the students' favorite places in their towns. Once back at school, the students wrote about their favorite places and why they loved going there. One of the most exciting stops on our tour was the new Olson Sports Complex where the first graders got special permission to get on the field. They loved running, falling, diving, and rolling around on the new field. Students enjoyed learning about how amazing our communities are and how much they have to offer! By Lisa Dowding



Palmyra, District OR1 Schools will begin taking online lunch payments beginning December 2.

Soon, patrons will be able to pay lunch balances when it's most convenient for you with a computer or mobile device at <https://districtor1.revtrak.net/>. The District OR1 Web Store even integrates with PowerSchool! Save time and be confident that your payments will make it where they need to go. You will be able to pay online with an eCheck, debit card, or credit card. Keep an eye out the week of November 25 for full instructions. In the meantime, make sure you can log into PowerSchool to see your student's grades and lunch balance at districtor1.nebps.org. If not, please contact your school's office to request credentials. Bennet Elementary is 402-782-3535 x1 and Palmyra High School is 402-780-5327 x2.

High
Lunch Menu

Menu
Nutrients
Print

LUNCH

October 2019

Daily Milk
Alternates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 1 + </div> <div style="text-align: left; padding: 0 10px;"> Chicken Tenders Baked Potato Broccoli Fruit and Salad Bar Daily </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 2 + </div> <div style="text-align: left; padding: 0 10px;"> Breaded pork patty Hamburger Bun Mixed Vegetables WG chips Fruit and Salad Bar Daily </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 7 + </div> <div style="text-align: left; padding: 0 10px;"> Chicken Fajita Flour Tortilla Black beans California Blend Fruit and Salad Bar Daily </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 8 + </div> <div style="text-align: left; padding: 0 10px;"> Beef Patty American Cheese Hamburger Bun Tater Tots Fruit and Salad Bar Daily </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 9 + </div> <div style="text-align: left; padding: 0 10px;"> Terriyaki Chicken Seasoned Rice Broccoli Dinner Roll Margarine spread Fruit and Salad Bar Daily </div>

Terriyaki Chicken

Serving Size: 2.8 oz	
Calories	130 kcal
Total Fat	3.5 g
Saturated Fat	1 g
Trans Fat	0 g
Cholesterol	70 mg
Sodium	480 mg
Carbohydrates	10 g
Dietary Fiber	0 g
Sugar	9 g
Protein	16 g

Food and Nutrition!

Visit our nutrition web page at . . .

districtor1nutrition.org

to view upcoming breakfast and lunch menus. More importantly, click on each food item to learn how that food relates to USDA nutritional guidelines.



The Olson Complex is coming along nicely, as construction continues on the baseball diamond. This October shot shows crews have a huge start on the dirt work. It's GREAT to be a PANTHER!

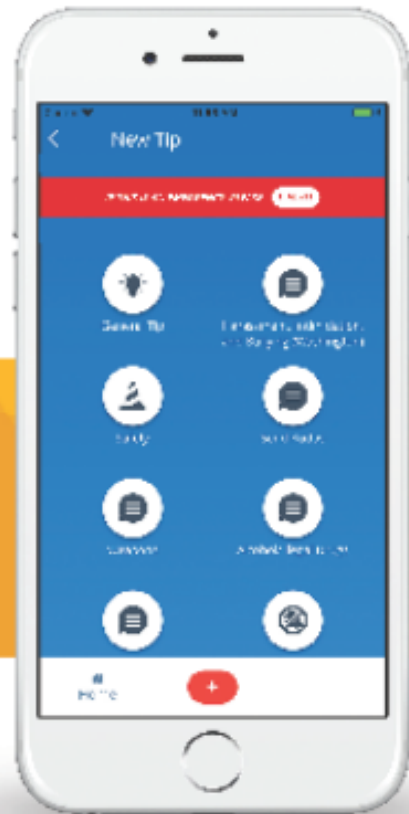


Palmyra District OR-1

Report It

SafeSchools Alert is our district's tip reporting service. If you have information about a threat to our safety, do your part and report it! And remember, you can remain anonymous.

SUBMIT USING OUR APP



FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 911

EASY WAYS TO REPORT



Visit the website
<http://1795.alert1.us>



Email your Tip to
1795@alert1.us



Call to report your tip
402.858.9423



Text your Tip to
402.858.9423

REPORT ON:

- BULLYING
- INTIMIDATION
- HARASSMENT
- WEAPONS
- DRUGS
- OTHER



Our District Code is: 1795

All tips submitted are taken seriously and will be acted upon. Please be responsible with your submissions.

"Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future."

DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020 Adopted

August 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2019

- 12-Aug Start of Fall Practice
- 12-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 13-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 14-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00 .
- 15-Aug First Day of School

September 2019

- 2-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
- 24-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.

October 2019

- 21-Oct Start 2nd Quarter
- 24-Oct 1:30 Dismissal Fall Break
- 25-Oct Fall Break; NO SCHOOL

November 2019

- 18-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 27-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 28-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 29-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2019

- 20-Dec End of Second Quarter
- 20-Dec Dismiss at 1:30 for Christmas
- 23-Dec Winter Vacation December 23-January 1
- 22-26 Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2020

- 1-3 Jan Winter Vacation
- 6-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
- 20-Jan Martin Luther King Day Teacher Inservice No School

February 2020

- 11-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 14-Feb NO SCHOOL Winter Break
- 17-Feb Teacher In-Service No School

March 2020

- 2-Mar Start of Spring Practice
- 6-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 12-Mar 1:30 Dismissal
- 13-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 16-Mar Start 4th Quarter
- 24-Mar NO SCHOOL PHS MUDECAS Music

April 2020

- 9-Apr 1:30 P.M. for Spring Break
- 10-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break
- 13-Apr NO SCHOOL; Easter Break

May 2020

- 9-May Graduation
- 20-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dis.
- 21-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S.
- 22-May Teacher Work Day

January 2020

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

179 student days

185 total for teachers

Elementary End of Second Semester

Teacher days

Vacation Days

Parent Teacher conf.

Early Dismissal

Notes: *Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10 p.m.

*Elementary transition meetings will be May 21-22.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING