



Palmer Public School



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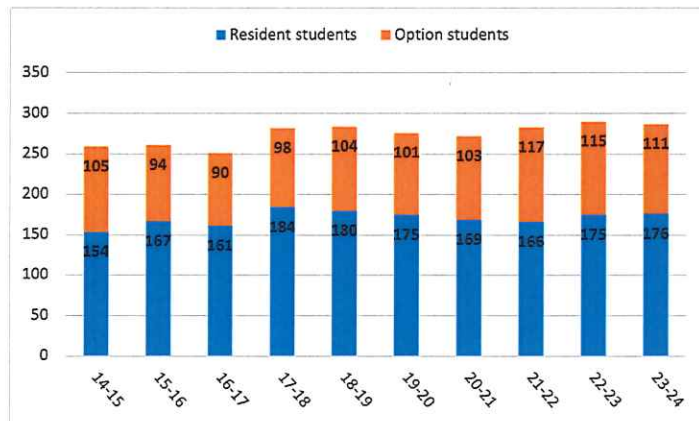
Board of Education
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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Following are some statistics and information about Palmer Public School. This report to the public is outlined in district policy and its content is prescribed in Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10 (Rule 10); *Nebraska Rules and Regulations* governing the operation of schools. Much of the information contained relates to the 2023-24 School Year with information regarding prior years for purposes of comparison.

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

With regard to school finance, no factor applies greater influence than student enrollment, affecting state aid, per-pupil expenditure statistics, and staffing determinations. The chart at right shows numbers of Resident students and Option students enrolled in K-12 at Palmer over the past 10 years. The enrollment count of K-12 students has fluctuated moderately during the past ten years.



During the ten-year period portrayed in the chart, the enrollment count of resident students and the option student enrollment count have both risen, resulting in an overall increase in enrollment of 11%. While districts of comparable size and makeup have endured large decreases in enrollment, Palmer Public School has maintained its overall student enrollment the past several years.

ENROLLMENT

The table on the right shows the enrollment by grade for the 2023-24 school year. In grades K-12, there are an average of 22.1 students per grade. With two class sections of preschool and 1st grade, the average class size in the elementary is 20.3 students. Including paraprofessionals, there are 10.7 elementary students per staff member. Palmer’s low student to teacher ratio allows us to provide every student with individualized attention and support.

Grade	Students Enrolled 23-24	Grade	Students Enrolled 23-24
PreK	31	7th	21
Kdg	23	8th	16
1st	22	9th	26
2nd	32	10th	19
3rd	24	11th	15
4th	19	12th	18
5th	21		
6th	31		
Elem Total 203		Sec Total 115	
District Total 318			

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

	Nebraska	Palmer
Free/Reduced Lunch	51.80%	50.63%
English Language Learners	9.15%	1.74%
Special Education Percentage	16.77%	10.45%
School Mobility Rate	5.50%	4.48%
Highly Mobile Students	3.91%	6.62%
Graduation Rate	87.68%	83.33%
Attendance Rate	92.59%	95.90%
Dropout Rate	1.66%	2.61%

The table on the left compares Palmer to the State on several demographic points. Palmer’s rate for special education, and English Language Learners (students whose first language is not English) are below the state average. Students receiving free/reduced lunch (a measure of the poverty demographics) is also slightly below the state average.

Any student who enrolls in two or more public schools during an academic year will be considered a highly mobile student. Any child who enters or leaves school between October 1 and the last day of school is counted in the mobility rate. An individual child is counted only once and is divided by the K-12 Fall Membership count taken October 1. Example: A school building begins the year with 20 students. During the year three students move out and three students move in. The mobility number is six. Example: A school building begins the year with 25 students. During the year five students move out, but one of them returns. The mobility number is five. Palmer had a lower mobility rate but a higher rate of “highly mobile” students moving in and out during the 2023-24 school year than the state average.

Graduation rates are calculated on a cohort basis, which is calculated by dividing the number of students entering 9th grade by the number of students who graduate within four years (8 semesters). Palmer regularly exceeds the state average in this category, even though having small class sizes means one student could significantly decrease the figure. Due to this, the graduation rate was slightly below the state average for 2023-24. The dropout rate is calculated by dividing the total number of 7th-12th grade students who dropped out by the official fall enrollment for grades 7-12.

Palmer’s attendance rate is consistently better than the state average. This is due largely to parental support. School attendance is one of the most important variables in a student’s success. This can also effect funding, because a large difference between Average Daily Membership and Average Daily Attendance can adversely affect state aid.

STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Information gleaned from Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) helps identify areas where we most need to accelerate learning opportunities for our students.

NSCAS Test Results: The data below are from the Nebraska Students-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) tests, which are given in the spring of each year to students in grades 3 through 8.

The following table shows the “Percent Proficient” on NSCAS English Language Arts (ELA) for students in grades 3 through 8 only for All Students, and separated by Males, Females, and Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Meals.

NSCAS ELA	All Students		Males		Females		Students eligible for free/reduced lunch	
	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska
2021-22	55%	47%	54%	44%	57%	50%	58%	31%
2022-23	60%	58%	53%	55%	66%	61%	54%	43%
2023-24	68%	59%	62%	56%	74%	63%	54%	44%

The following table shows the “Percent Proficient” on NSCAS math for students in grades 3-8 only.

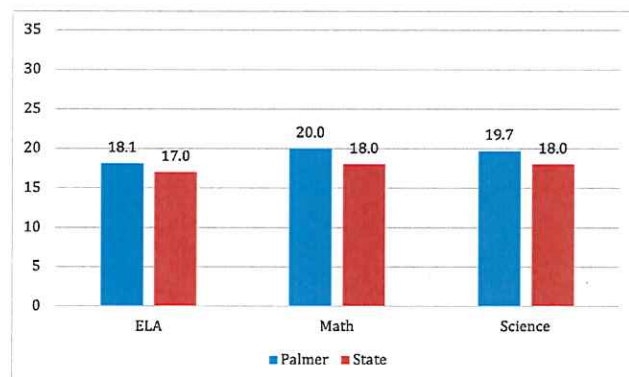
NSCAS Math	All Students		Males		Females		Students eligible for free/reduced lunch	
	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska
2021-22	53%	46%	52%	47%	54%	45%	50%	28%
2022-23	59%	61%	58%	62%	61%	59%	55%	45%
2023-24	65%	58%	70%	59%	62%	57%	57%	42%

The NSCAS Science test is only given in 5th and 8th grades.

NSCAS Science	All Students		Males		Females		Students eligible for free/reduced lunch	
	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska	Palmer	Nebraska
2021-22	79%	66%	78%	66%	79%	67%	84%	51%
2022-23	76%	70%	68%	69%	87%	71%	74%	57%
2023-24	95%	74%	88%	73%	100%	75%	92%	63%

ACT Test Results: The graph at right shows a three-year average performance history for Palmer students on the ACT with comparative data for the entire state. Beginning in 2017, the ACT test was required for all juniors in Nebraska. The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test made up separate exams in English, reading, writing, mathematics and science. It is scored on a scale of 1 to 36, with 36 being the highest possible score. ACT scores are accepted at virtually all colleges and universities across the nation.

ACT SCORE COMPARISON – 3 YEAR AVERAGE



FACULTY AND STAFF

The table below shows the Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) count of teachers for Palmer Public Schools over the past three years, along with the number and percentage of teachers who have earned advanced degrees.

Years	Total Teacher Count		Total Teachers with Master's Degrees		Percentage of Teachers with Master's Degrees	
	State	Palmer	State	Palmer	State	Palmer
2021-2022	23,962	26	13,831	11	58%	42%
2022-2023	23,758	25	13,839	12	58%	46%
2023-2024	23,791	25	13,929	12	59%	46%

The table at right shows both Average Years Experience and Average Salary for teachers in Palmer and the state average. Average teacher salaries in comparison

Years	Average Years Experience		Average Teacher Salary	
	State	Palmer	State	Palmer
2021-22	14	13	\$57,536	\$53,556
2022-23	14	14	\$58,923	\$56,584
2023-24	14	15	\$60,378	\$59,715

to the state change accordingly as Palmer’s average years of experience increases or decreases; and as the percentage of Masters Degrees increases or decreases.

FINANCES: GENERAL FUND BUDGET, TAX LEVY, TAX ASKING

The largest single source of receipts for the District is property tax. The table at right shows the District’s assessed valuation with a breakdown by county over the past four years, with this year’s assessed valuation increasing 8.8%.

County	Assessed Valuation		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Howard	\$44,500,564	\$50,558,786	\$51,461,749
Merrick	\$189,827,490	\$196,513,431	\$221,146,049
Nance	\$74,548,375	\$79,722,965	\$83,131,618
Total	\$308,876,429	\$326,795,182	\$355,739,416
% Change	1.76%	5.80%	8.85%

The table at right shows the General Fund budget requirements for the past two fiscal years as well as the current year. The General Fund is the District’s day-to-day operating fund and does not include fiduciary funds such as those used to support activities (Activity Fund) and the Nutrition Fund, or the Bond Fund and Special Building Fund. The difference between budgeted amounts and audited expenditures is due to unforeseeable expenses over the course of the budget year, cash flow requirements, and varying needs for transfers from the General Fund and other funds within the General Fund, reflected as expenditures from the General Fund.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
General Fund	\$5,451,034	\$5,609,109	\$5,805,427
Cash Reserve	\$1,382,440	\$1,651,270	\$1,484,683
Total Requirement	\$6,833,474	\$7,260,379	\$7,290,111
Expenditures	\$4,777,110	\$5,419,375	

The table below shows the property tax rates, by fund, for the past two fiscal years and for the current year, as well as a calculation of the amount by which each levy changed. Note: Levies are expressed in dollars and cents per \$100 of valuation.

Fiscal Year	General Fund Levy	Bond Fund Levy	Special Building Fund Levy	QCPU Fund Levy	Total	Levy Change	Percent Levy Change
2022-2023	0.908484	0	0.015048	0.048189	0.971721	.008087	0.84%
2023-2024	0.877216	0	0.062263	0.003760	0.943239	-(.028482)	-(2.93)%
2024-2025	0.870109	0	0.014635	0.004105	0.888849	-(.054389)	-(5.77)%

The table at right shows the recent history of the tax amounts the district has asked in support of Palmer Public Schools. The All Other Funds amount includes the General Fund asking as well as the Special Building and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) asking for debt payments.

Tax Asking	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Bonds	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other Funds	\$3,001,419	\$3,082,457	\$3,095,319
Total Asking	\$3,001,419	\$3,082,457	\$3,095,319

The District’s State Aid over the last three years is presented at right. State aid to Palmer Public Schools decreased for years before rebounding in 2018-19. The decreases can be attributed to state budget cuts, and increases in property valuations, which increased the amount of local resources calculated in the state aid formula. From 2015 to 2020, the district was “Non-equalized”, meaning we received no State Aid for equalization, and received state aid only for option enrollment students and the income tax rebate. Starting in 2020-21, the district again received equalization aid due to decreases in property valuations which decreased the amount of local resources.

Fiscal Year	State Aid	Difference	% Change from previous
2022-2023	\$1,443,890	\$26,017	1.83%
2023-2024	\$1,721,292	\$277,402	19.21%
2024-2025	\$1,806,034	\$84,742	4.92%

In comparing 2021 receipts to 2024 receipts, we see the level of support from each source remained relatively stable, with local support decreasing and state support increasing. The cost associated with the federal and state requirements for data tracking, assessment, and reporting continued to increase.

FSY 2020-21		Funding Source	FSY 2023-24	
% Total	Receipted		Receipted	% Total
55.5%	\$2,475,979	Local Sources	\$2,635,325	50.0%
0.4%	\$17,981	County/ESU Sources	\$13,821	0.3%
41.7%	\$1,859,932	State Sources	\$2,450,500	46.5%
2.0%	\$87,763	Federal Sources	\$157,250	3.0%
0.4%	\$16,134	Non Revenue	\$13,044	0.2%
Total	\$4,457,789	Total Receipts	\$5,269,940	Total

Per pupil expenditures (PPE) can be affected by a number of factors including fluctuations in enrollment and General Fund expenditures, number of building sites and depreciation on the building and equipment, and transfers to the Depreciation Fund. Palmer’s overall PPE consistently remains near the statewide average and below that for schools of comparable size. Per Pupil Expenditure varies only slightly from “General Fund Operating Expenditures per Formula Student,” a critical component in the State Aid funding formula. The GFOE for the next five larger and five smaller schools in the state for 2023-24 are portrayed at right. Unique circumstances (poverty, transportation needs, Special Education...) can have a dramatic effect on a district’s budget and should be considered when comparing such data.

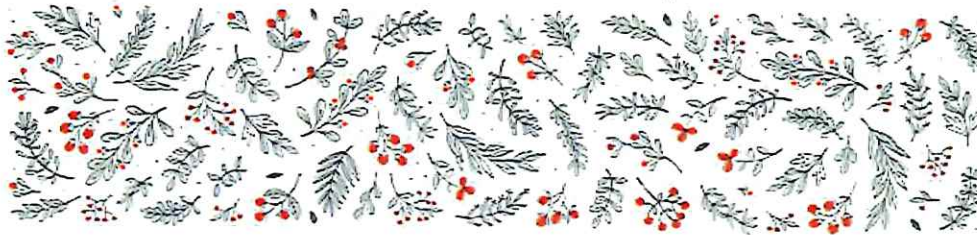
District	Formula Students	Adjusted GFOE per formula student
Lyons Decatur	279.5	\$16,892
Southwest	283.3	\$17,711
Arapahoe	285.3	\$14,930
Morrill	288.3	\$22,841
East Butler	290.0	\$20,217
Palmer	290.4	\$14,460
Walthill	291.1	\$15,047
Fullerton	291.2	\$16,217
Loup City	295.0	\$16,786
Axtell	296.8	\$16,020
Central Valley	298.2	\$22,892

The total assets for the funds used by Palmer Public Schools for the past three years are portrayed below.

Fiscal Year	Governmental Funds	Fiduciary Funds	All Funds
2021-2022	\$3,207,355	\$82,396	\$3,289,751
2022-2023	\$3,523,240	\$80,540	\$3,603,780
2023-2024	\$3,556,927	\$80,180	\$3,637,107

Governmental Funds=Total Assets of The General Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Bond Fund, Special Building Fund and The Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Cooperative Fund

Fiduciary Funds=Activities Fund



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dear Families,

As we approach the holiday season, here are a few important updates and reminders to keep in mind:

Stay Warm and Organized

The weather is getting colder, and we encourage students to come to school dressed in warm clothing, including hats, mittens, and boots. Please label all items with your child's name to help us return any misplaced items. We frequently acquire a lot of lost and found items so ask your child to check that frequently if something is missing!

Christmas Concert – December 16th

Mark your calendars! Our annual Christmas concert will be held on Monday, December 16th at 6:30 PM in the school gym. Join us for an evening of festive music and performances by our talented students led by Mrs. Anna Sake who was just named NFHS Outstanding music educator of the year by NSAA! Congratulations Mrs. Sake!

Winter Break

Winter break begins on **December 20th** after school. Students will return to classes on **Monday, January 6th, 2025**. We hope you have a restful and joyful holiday season! It is hard to believe that this will mark the half way through the school year! Thank you for a great first half of the school year!

Sincerely,

SHERISE LOEFFELBEIN

PK-Principal - Special Education Director



'Tis the Season!

'Tis the season of hustle and cheer,
With concerts, plays, sports, and gatherings drawing near.
Gyms alive with the echo of voices and cheers,
Family activity filling calendars clear.

Early alarms and a few late nights,
Sitting in the bleachers, holidays in sight.
A tangle of schedules, quick goodbyes,
Practices, game days, and travel in strides.

Through every activity, each drive and cheer,
Embrace the laughter, listen beyond words, and let mindfulness be your steer,
A season buzzing, fast, and bright—
Find time for joy in every busy night.

The hustle and bustle of any busy season can be exciting, but it often leaves little room for us to pause and truly savor what's happening around us. We can all benefit from slowing down to enjoy each moment, being fully present, connecting with loved ones, and finding joy in the simple things. Whether it's appreciating the splendor of the season, the camaraderie of teammates, connections among staff and students, spending time with family, or finding quiet moments to reflect, taking a step back and pausing to appreciate the little things can make the hectic days a little brighter and more meaningful.

Mrs. Kristin Reimers

December

3- Senior FAFSA night
4- District One Act Play at Neligh
5- UNL Senior College Visit
HSBB vs. Central Valley
6- HSBB @ Humphrey St. Francis
GJHBB @ Humphrey St. Francis
7- HSWR @ Exeter-Milligan-Friend
9- JHWR @ Central City
JHGGB @ Nebraska Christian
Board Meeting
10- HSBB @ Harvard
11- JHGGB @ Riverside
FFA LDE Night

12- HSBB @ Giltner
13- HSBB vs. St. Edward
14- Old Fashioned Christmas
HSW @ Osceola
16- Christmas Concert
JHGGB vs. St. Edward
17- HSBB @ Twin Loup
18- FFA District 7 LDE's
JHGGB @ Central Valley
19- HSW @ Kenesaw
21- HSW @ Elgin Pope John

Counselor's Corner

Fun Activities for Parents and Students During Long Breaks

Long breaks from school are a great opportunity for families to bond and create lasting memories. Here are some engaging activities parents can do with their students at home:



1. Creative Arts and Crafts

- **DIY Projects:** Set up a crafting station with supplies for painting, drawing, or making holiday decorations.
- **Scrapbooking:** Create a family scrapbook together, compiling photos and memories from past vacations or holidays.

2. Cooking and Baking Together

- **Try New Recipes:** Choose recipes that interest your kids, whether it's baking cookies or preparing a new dish.
- **Cultural Cooking:** Explore different cuisines by cooking meals from around the world.

3. Outdoor Adventures

- **Nature Walks:** Explore local parks or nature trails. Use this time to observe and discuss local wildlife and plants.

4. Family Game Nights

- **Board Games and Puzzles:** Have a game night featuring favorite board games or work on a large puzzle together.
- **Video Game Tournaments:** If your family enjoys gaming, organize friendly tournaments.

5. Reading and Storytelling

- **Family Book Club:** Choose a book to read together and discuss it afterward. Each family member can take turns selecting the book.
- **Storytelling Nights:** Share stories, whether they're personal anecdotes, family history, or imaginative tales.

6. Movie or Documentary Days

- **Themed Movie Marathon:** Choose a theme (like holidays or adventure) and watch movies that fit.
- **Documentary Discussions:** Watch educational documentaries and discuss what you learned together.

7. Fitness and Sports

- **At-Home Workouts:** Find family-friendly workout videos online and exercise together.
- **Backyard Sports:** Play games like soccer, basketball, or frisbee in the yard or at a local park.

8. Learn Something New Together

- **Online Classes:** Explore free online courses or tutorials on topics of interest, such as coding, art, or music.
- **Language Learning:** Start learning a new language using apps or online resources, practicing together.

9. Volunteering and Community Service

- **Local Charities:** Find opportunities to volunteer as a family, such as helping at a food bank or organizing a neighborhood clean-up.
- **Kindness Projects:** Create care packages or cards for those in need, teaching the importance of giving back.

Conclusion

Long breaks offer a wonderful chance for families to connect and explore new interests together. With a bit of creativity and planning, you can turn these breaks into memorable experiences that strengthen family bonds and create lasting traditions!

As always, contact Mrs. Valasek for any questions or concerns at cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org.

Happy Holidays!

DECEMBER

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE



SENIOR NEWS

Mrs. Trout 7-12 School Counselor

Scholarships

Seniors have been emailed a google sheet that has all the scholarships and the deadlines. I am continuously updating it as scholarship committees send me updated information. If you have any questions please email me.



FAFSA

Beginning this school year (2024-2025), Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-729 states that each public high school in Nebraska is required to account for all seniors in regard to the FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID) as part of its graduation requirements. A student will not be required to submit a FAFSA if an opt-out form is filled out and signed by a parent or guardian.

To help with this new state law we are hosting a FAFSA Night and bringing in EducationQuest to help you with applying for the FAFSA. Here is the RSVP link bit.ly/3YFF9LC to let us know if you are planning to attend and if not how will you be completing this state requirement. If you have any questions please reach out to Mrs. Trout at atrout@palmer.esu7.org or 308-894-3065.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December:

3rd: FAFSA Night 5:30 - 7:30 pm for seniors and their parents/guardians in the Chochon Room

5th: Seniors will be attending University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Mrs. Meyer's First Grade

This year's Palmer First Graders have gotten the year off to a great start! We have so much more learning in store, but here are a few snapshots of what we've done so far this year!



First Day of School
August 13, 2024



Helgoth's Pumpkin Patch
September 19, 2024



Merrick County STEM Day
October 1, 2024

ELEMENTARY RESOURCE

It is hard to believe that we are already finishing up our first semester and looking toward January 2025! Where did this first semester go?

Well, we definitely hit the ground running in August and September with beginning of the year assessments. This year brought a new screening assessment, so this was a learning process for all. We are no longer using DIBELS assessments and are now using Fastbridge to screen all students. Fastbridge allows us to screen students in the areas of both Math and Reading. This gives us valuable information so we know specifically what each student may need to help them be successful in the classroom. This has been a learning curve for all, but the information is very beneficial to help address areas of need.

In December, we will be doing our Winter MAPS assessments and Fastbridge screenings. We are all looking forward to seeing all the growth the students have made throughout the first semester!

Happy Holidays,

Mrs Kriz

5th Grade

Brandon Rolf

We are almost halfway done with another school year! We have nineteen students in our classroom this year, thirteen girls to only six boys.

We are in year three of our new reading curriculum called Common Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). It is a rigorous program that keeps the students engaged and writing a lot. Over the summer I spent a lot of time going over each of the nine units to see how many standards each unit covered. I will teach the units in the order that covers the most standards. There is not much spelling in the new curriculum. In order to understand the materials deeper, we probably will not get through every unit. One of my goals as a teacher is to give students more think and “soak in” time during classroom discussions.

In math we have battled through some multiplication, long division and exponents. We just got finished adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. I have pulled a lot of resources to try and help with memorization of math facts. So future students who are coming into fifth grade, (Know your math facts please!).

In social studies our explorers are just starting to make their way to America to start colonizing.

Our biggest accomplishments are trying to get real world ready, taking pride in our work, working to learn and not working to get done, trying our best at all times, learning from our mistakes and treating others how we want to be treated.

It will be fun to watch these youngsters continue to grow together into junior high, high school and beyond! Thank You all for allowing me to teach your wonderful children. #Rolltigs!

- *Brandon Rolf*

Mrs. Green's World

Hello, Everyone. I am here for year twelve at Palmer Public Schools. This year has been extra crazy. It feels like every minute of every day is busy putting on one hat and then another, then another again. From teaching 7th Language Arts (32 kids) to adding ACT prep, One-Act, PYSA, and running kids around...the exhaustion is real! 😊

We are in year three of our new curriculum and working out the kinks from the first year. Mrs. G, Mrs. Samuelson, and I spent many hours deliberating on a new curriculum to challenge and enhance our students' knowledge of English. We are always coming up with ways to make it better. It is completely different from what we were doing in the past. Still, in year two we can see the leaps in critical thinking, research, and analysis that are challenging for kids to do, pushing the kids in directions that demand critical thinking. We are excited to keep evolving and implementing it successfully.

One-Act is in full swing. Finding time to practice and use the gym is always a struggle. Our opening night for the community was a success, and strong performances are sure to follow. One-Act is lucky to participate in a workshop with one-on-one time with a judge who is always so helpful going into Conference and Districts. With my five seniors this year, a hole in my heart will be left with their time ending. A special group of kids is an understatement for the place in my heart these kids possess. With struggles and success, the leadership, commitment, and love shown by them and all the cast is something I will treasure. Yearbook made a big switch to TreeRing last year, moving away from the conventional Jostens approach. It is a learning curve for sure, but overall the transition seems to be working out. The turnaround time, the customer service, and the money saved has been good for the program. The great thing about it is that we can add or subtract pages as we need, we can have parents add special sections for only their child, and we only have to pay for the number sold.

Kyler is in 7th grade, and I get to see him every day in class. It was weird at first, but I love it. He is loving 7th grade and is excelling at the transition. He is driven by school, learning, and dreaming of ways he can change the world. Kyn is in 6th grade but thinks she is in 18. She has had an amazing year singing the National Anthem for minor league baseball teams, events around the state fair and on the broadcast, football games, and was even asked to sing at multiple Palmer games. Kyndrek is my 3rd-grade energizer bunny. He never wants to sit still and would carry his Nebraska football around everywhere to stay "in the game" at all times. He is obsessed with the NFL and watches plays, stats, and games whenever we let him. This year our family was able to go to a Bengals game, and the kids (all three) had the best time. Core memories were made. With Kyndrek, all things sports motivate him, but school is becoming more and more enjoyable every year. Time is going way too fast, and I cannot believe how much they are growing and changing,

And as always, I am grateful to teach these kids and be a part of this amazing community!

Jaime Green

Co-Teacher MSLA II and MSLA III

Speech

Intro to Lit / Real Word Lit

Play Production

Prom Sponsor

ACT Prep

English 10 and 12

Creative Writing

Journalism

Competitive Speech

Busy Mom 😊

A World Apart – Part 1: Earth Science Travels to The Amazon **By Jim Chvala**

Earth Science has moved...from spring semester to fall. Mineral identification; cruising the Amazon; water, weathering, and soil; a comet; and the solar system...these are some of the topics we've looked at this fall. Starting off the year, students identified the five areas of earth science and tested their observation skills in working to identify a variety of minerals.

For several weeks afterwards, our students prepared and took a trip to the Amazon Rainforest in Peru. Jessica W., from Reach The World, invited us to join her on a riverboat up the Amazon. She shared with us some interactions with the people and plant and animal life from the rain forest, and answered questions that our students posted in a Zoom broadcast. She even brought back a sloth figurine (handmade from locally-sourced plant and dye material) for our class; we are currently in the process of naming him/her.

Students worked in groups to prepare presentations and activities about water, weathering, and soil; these are key factors in our agricultural state.

Most recently, we began our unit on astronomy. Students created a scale model of the sun-moon-Earth system down the long hall from the Chochon Room to just outside the south door of the high school wing, then prepared posters about the other objects in the solar system. Finally, they created a scale model of the solar system on Worms Road running north from Rose Hill Cemetery.

Upcoming topics to finish the semester are stars and constellations, meteorology (weather), and Earth history.

Enjoy the holiday season!

A World Apart – Part 2: Loup River Spanish Connects with Puerto Rico and Colombia

What is Loup River Spanish? It is an efficiency-based program to share costs in providing Spanish education to five school districts in central Nebraska. Our group this year includes Palmer, Fullerton, Sandhills at Dunning, Elba, and Anselmo-Merna.

On October 31, after weeks of studying song lyrics, learning dances, and singing, students from three of our schools met up at the Performing Arts Center in Central City for a concert by Edgar René. Edgar is a singer / songwriter from Puerto Rico who has been working with the Justo Lamas Group to provide encouragement and a sense of respect to all students, to hear an affirmative life message about reaching their dreams, to realize that English is also a foreign language that is difficult to learn to speak, and to get excited about continuing their study of the Spanish language. After the concert, students experienced authentic Mexican food at El Agave restaurant.


Also, this semester, we are connecting via Zoom with Jennifer A., a Fulbright Scholar who is working at a school in Cali, Colombia. Jennifer is sharing her perspectives of life in Colombia, from city-life to food to nature as she learns and works in the South American country. Jennifer is from the Midwest (Ohio), so shares some of the same perspectives of our students even as she tries new things and relates her experiences back to us in the U.S.



December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>B: Cereal</p> <p>L: Chicken Tenders, Mandarin Oranges, Green Beans, Dinner Roll</p>	<p>3</p> <p>B: Pancakes</p> <p>L: Walking Taco, Pink Apple, Corn, Brownie</p>	<p>4</p> <p>B: Scrambled Eggs</p> <p>L: Cream Chicken on a Biscuit, Peaches, Peas</p>	<p>5</p> <p>B: Biscuits & Gravy</p> <p>L: BBQ Rib Sandwich, Pineapple, Potato Triangles</p>	<p>6</p> <p>B: Br Pizza</p> <p>L: Chili Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Grapes, Carrots</p>
<p>9</p> <p>B: Soft Pretzel</p> <p>L: Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant, Pears, Scalloped Potatoes</p>	<p>10</p> <p>B: Cheese Omelet</p> <p>L: Pork Patty on a Bun, Peaches, Baked Beans, Cheese Iffs</p>	<p>11</p> <p>B: French Toast</p> <p>4th grade meal</p> <p>L: Pizza, Glazed Bananas, Corn, Italian Ice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>B: Cereal</p> <p>L: Salisbury Steak, Mandarin Oranges, Whipped Potatoes, Dinner Roll</p>	<p>13</p> <p>B: Cinni Minis</p> <p>L: Chicken Noodle Soup, muffin, Strawberry Cup, Carrots</p>
<p>16</p> <p>B: Waffles</p> <p>L: Hamburger, Peaches, Smiley Fries</p>	<p>17</p> <p>B: Donut</p> <p>L: Stromboli, Strawberry Cup, Green Beans, Ice Cream Cup</p>	<p>18</p> <p>B: Br Sandwich</p> <p>L: Mini Corndogs, Pears, Bakes Beans, Cookie</p>	<p>19</p> <p>B: Pancakes</p> <p>L: Meal in a Bowl, Pink Applesauce, Dinner Roll</p>	<p>20</p> <p>B: Br Pizza</p> <p>L: Hamburger Soup, PB & J Sandwich, Peach Cup, Carrots</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>			
<p>USDA is an equal opportunity employer – Menu subject to change – Milk variety available with each meal</p>				

January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>USDA is an equal Opportunity employer- Menu subject to change Milk variety available With each meal</p>		<p>1 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>2 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>3 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>6 B- Cereal L- Fiestada, Green Beans Pink Applesauce Rice Krispie Bar</p>	<p>7 B-Soft Pretzel L-Teriyaki Chicken on Rice Broccoli, Pineapple Fortuna Cookie</p>	<p>8 B- Pancakes L- Chicken Fried Steak Whipped Potatoes, Peaches Dinner Roll</p>	<p>9 B- Cheese Omelet L- Sandwich Bar, Carrots Grapes, Cookie/Chips</p>	<p>10 B- Breakfast Pizza L- 3rd Grade Meal Mac & Cheese w/Ham, Corn Glazed Bananas.. Italian Ice</p>
<p>13 B- Donut L- Mini Corndogs Baked Beans, Pears</p>	<p>14 B- French Toast L- Pork Patty on a Bun Peas, Pink applesauce Cheese-Its</p>	<p>15 B- Fruit Turnover L- Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>16 B- Scrambled Eggs L- Crisпитos, Spanish Rice Corn, Pineapple</p>	<p>17 B- Cereal L- Chili Soup, Carrots Strawberry Cup Cinnamon Roll</p>
<p>20 B- Cinni Minis L- Spaghetti, Green Beans Garlic Bread, Pears</p>	<p>21 B- Breakfast Sandwich L- Hamburger Smiley Fries, Glazed Bananas</p>	<p>22 B- Pancakes L- Popcorn Chicken Whipped Potatoes, Peaches Dinner Roll</p>	<p>23 B- Soft Pretzel L- Super Nachos, Corn Strawberry Cup</p>	<p>24 B- Biscuits & Gravy L- Chicken Noodle Soup Carrots, Muffin Mandarin Oranges</p>
<p>27 B- Breakfast Burrito L- Cream Chicken on a Biscuit, Peas Pink Applesauce</p>	<p>28 B- Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant L- Pizza, Green Beans Pineapple, Fruit Snacks</p>	<p>29 B- French Toast L- Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant, Scalloped Potatoes, Peaches</p>	<p>30 B- Early Riser- Ham, Egg & Cheese Patty L- Chicken Sandwich, Corn Strawberry Cup, Cookie</p>	<p>31 B- Breakfast Pizza L- Hamburger Soup, Carrots Grapes, PB & J Sandwich</p>