



District OR-1 Schools

Palmyra High School
425 F Street, Box 130
Palmyra, NE 68418

Bennet Elementary
50 Dogwood St.
Bennet, NE 68317

Superintendent: Michael Hart
Director of Student Services: Linde Walter
Secondary Principal: Heath Johnson
Elementary Principal: Jared Haag
Activities Director: Aaron Hoef

www.districtor1.org Twitter: @OR1_Panthers
402-780-5327 Fax: 402-383-4008

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District OR-1 Newsletter District OR-1 Public Schools July 2024

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 - Post-Secondary Education
 - Staff Development
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 - Elementary and Secondary Education
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Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1 - P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418

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

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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

July 2024

- 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
- New Staff
- Aspire Academy
- Graduation News
- Elementary Happenings
- 2024-2025 Calendar

Aspire Academy Thrives in First Year

The commencement of the Aspire Program at District OR1 during the 2023-2024 school year introduced a transitional initiative for special education students aged 18-21, focusing on developing crucial work and life skills aiding in their transition to adulthood. Students engaged in community-based work experiences, acquiring practical job knowledge and exploring various career opportunities.

Students throughout this year gained meaningful work experiences in many different career fields allowing them to fine-tune their list of potential jobs after the program. Places Aspire visited this year include: Work N Ranch retail store, Tailored Life, Copper Moon Steakhouse, the Lincoln Children's Zoo, cleaning the Bennet Community Church, Runza, Douglas Theaters, and Hy-Vee.

Along with these businesses, students also had jobs within the school that they helped with daily including salad bar preparation, helping check in books in the library, and assisting in preschool and PE classes. Additionally, they also practiced life skills such as cooking, personal hygiene, shopping, and financial management.

The program's inaugural year was successful, and we look forward to its future progress.

On the following page are some pics that are some of our favorites!

Superintendent Notes...by Michael Hart



Panther Families,

I hope all of you are having a safe and relaxing summer! As we move quickly through July, we have a lot of information to share with you. Please use this newsletter as a guide for organizing information relative to the start of the **2024-2025** school year.

"New to the District" Teaching Staff

- Included below is the list of "New to the District" teachers hired for the **2024-2025** school year.
- We are excited to welcome our new teachers to the district, and I am confident they are going to do a fantastic job working with our students, families, and current staff.
- More specific information about these staff members is contained later in the newsletter.

District OR-1: "New to the District" Teachers for the 2024-2025 School Year		
Teacher	Building	Position
Mr. Taylor Baumert	High School	Social Studies and Physical Education
Mrs. Ann Fritsch	Elementary	Special Education
Mr. Jared Haag	Elementary	Principal
Mrs. Julie Hendricks	High School	English
Mr. Mark James	High School	Science
Mrs. Payton Partida	Elementary	5th Grade
Mrs. Jonna Pester	High School	Math
Mr. Jacob Wieseler	High School	English

Personnel Change:

- Ms. Linde Walter will now be our Director of Student Programs, and she will be primarily located at the high school.
- Although Ms. Walter will no longer be serving as the Bennet Elementary School Principal, I am confident she will do an outstanding job maximizing our student programs (Title, Gifted, Special Education, etc.) and successfully meeting the needs of our students, staff, and families in this new role.

Superintendent: Michael Hart
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Palmyra Principal: Heath Johnson
Bennet Principal: Jared Haag
Activities Director: Aaron Hoef

...Continued. "Superintendent"



Getting ready to deliver Bennet Bites orders to the elementary teachers.



Anjali watering flowers at Tailored Life.



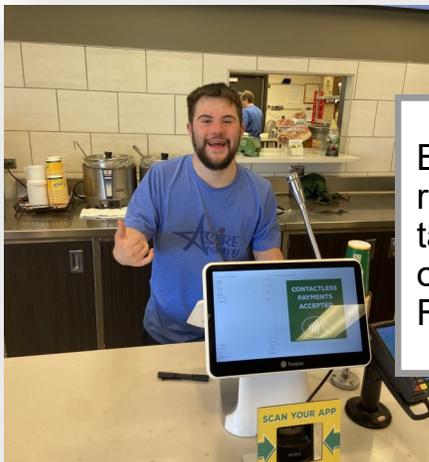
Learning how to use a fire extinguisher during Fire Safety Week.



Learning how to roll silverware at Palmyra Bar.



Prepped and ready to serve the teachers Thanksgiving feast.



Ben ready to take an order at Runza.



Megan filling ranches at Runza.

Aspire

Construction Update:

Thank you again for your patience with the construction this past year and all of the challenges associated with the building expansion projects at both buildings.

Bennet Elementary Update:

- Currently, we are closing in on having all classrooms at Bennet Elementary ready by the first day of school.
- Unfortunately, we will experience some slight delays with the accessibility of the gym, multi-purpose room, and certain areas of the playground, but we have a plan in place to address these potential delays.

Palmyra High School Update:

- Progress continues nicely at the high school, and it appears that the first-floor classrooms and commons area will be available by the first day of school.
- There may be some slight delays in the completion of the second-floor classrooms in the new east addition, but plans are in place to mitigate these delays until the rooms are completely ready.

Community Open House:

- We are tentatively planning to have a community Open House at both buildings sometime in September.
- Please stay tuned for more details on these events as we get closer to the start of school.

District Calendar Update:

An updated district calendar is contained within this newsletter. A summary of the most recent changes is listed below:

- **K-12 students will start on Monday, August 12th.**
- **Preschool will begin on Tuesday, August 13th.**
- **Tuesday, February 18th, 2025** will now be a regular school day for all students.
- **The last day of school will now be Tuesday, May 20, 2025, for elementary students.**
- **The last day of school for students in grades 6-12 will now be Wednesday, May 21, 2025.**

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility with the changes to the calendar.

Community Meeting on Area Childcare Possibilities:

- In collaboration with the **Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's Communities for Kids**, we will be hosting a community input meeting on **Monday, July 29th beginning at 5:00 p.m.** at the American Legion building in Bennet.
- All community members are invited to come and hear input about the potential for increasing childcare opportunities in our area.
- More information about this event will be communicated in the coming weeks through our social media channels.

Student and Staff Kudos:

- Even though our teachers and students have not been in school since the end of May and there have been building access limitations related to construction, there still has been

a lot of activity in and out of our district facilities this summer.

- Aside from sports camps, community events, summer enrichment, credit recovery, field trips, high school weightlifting and conditioning, staff curriculum work, driver training, lesson planning, and committee work, our staff and students continue to stay busy working to be ready when school starts up again in the fall. We are blessed to have such outstanding staff who are committed to serving our students, families, and our community!

- Additionally, I would also like to spotlight the hard work of our office support staff, administrators, custodians, technology support staff, food service, and maintenance/transportation personnel. The "behind the scenes" work these individuals do throughout the summer is critical in facilitating efficient and effective operations throughout the school year.

- Special congratulations also go out to our students for their continued participation in our camps, clinics, and "team-based" activities this summer and to our coaches and sponsors for organizing these activities.

- Events like basketball, football, volleyball, cheerleading, and other camps (as well as students attending leadership and extracurricular-specific events like FFA and FCCLA conferences) are shining examples of our students and staff giving extra effort to enhance their skills throughout the year.

- Our students and coaches have also participated in community events like the Old Settlers Picnic in Palmyra and the 4th of July celebration and parade in Bennet and continue to participate in a variety of community activities throughout the summer months. Many of our students also remain busy helping families at home or working at various jobs throughout the area, and we are proud of all of their accomplishments and service.

- Finally, strong community support for our district and advocating for high-quality public schools is critical for success. District OR-1 is an excellent school system filled with great students and outstanding staff members, but we simply could not do what we do as a district without the continued support of our community patrons and local businesses.

- There are also a myriad of patrons and businesses who contribute their time and talents to helping our students, staff, and programs thrive and we are grateful to all of them. Thank you for supporting our students, staff, and the district!

- In summary, we are very fortunate to serve in a growing and progressive school district with a solid commitment to continued excellence and a "kids first" approach to education. District OR-1 is a great place to be!

School Newsletter:

- In this issue of the school newsletter will be information relative to school meals, activities information, facility expansion information, school supply lists, “beginning of the school year” activities and events, lunch applications, physical forms, and other information that will help our families prepare for the new school year.
- **Please note:** Subsequent newsletters throughout the 2024-2025 school year will only be distributed electronically through our school website and social media channels. Listed below is the link for the district's Facebook page and school website:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/District-OR-1-School>
 - www.districtor1.org
- Any community patron or organization wanting to receive “hard copies” of any newsletter can call our school offices during regular school hours and our staff will make copies for those requesting the “hard” copies.
- Additional “hard copies” of the district newsletters will also be available at designated local business and community gathering spots like the banks, post office, etc. in the Palmyra and Bennet communities.
- To ensure patrons receive all district information on time, **please make sure you update all family contact information before the start of the school year.**
- If you have questions about updating your information, please contact our school offices.

School Lunch Program and Student Meals Reminder:

- Families should contact our school office as soon as possible for information on free and reduced school meal guidelines, income parameters, and application procedures.

“Beginning of School” Events and Important Reminders

Monday, August 5th

- All staff return to the district for staff training and beginning of school orientation

Thursday, August 8th:

- Open House for elementary students from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Bennet.
- Please note parking will be limited.
- Open House for PHS students from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the high school.

Monday, August 12th

- First Day of School for students: K-12
- Board of Education regular board meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Palmyra High School in the Media Center

Tuesday, August 13th:

- First Day of Preschool at Bennet Elementary School

Thursday, August 22nd:

- Panther Booster Bash at the Olson Complex at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you again for supporting our school district! If you have any additional questions, please call our school offices. Enjoy the rest of your summer break!

ALLERGIES:

Due to various student allergies, any treats brought into the elementary classroom need to be store-bought with the ingredients clearly labeled. Thank you for your cooperation with this safety/wellness procedure.

Before and After School Recreation Program:

- Bennet Elementary will continue to offer a before and after school recreation program. Starting on Monday, August 12th, for a fee, school age children attending Bennet Elementary may take part in this program. **There will be a table at Open House for you to register your child.** If your child will be attending the before or after school care program, please stop by to register your child.
- Times: 7:00 –8:20 a.m. and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Students not pre-registered will not be allowed to take part in the program.
- Cost: \$4.50/hr per child. Time kept to the nearest 15 min. increment. A minimum of one hour’s time will be charged for after school participation.
- Payment: Prepayment in blocks of \$25.00 or more. There will also be a \$25 non-refundable registration fee at the beginning of the year.
- Structure: Activities will be offered such as board games, gym games, computer lab time, crafts, and playground fun. Study time and help for those that desire it will be available also. In addition, students will be offered an after school snack and be eligible for school breakfast in the morning.
- The cost of breakfast will be additional.
- Supervision: Students will be supervised by at least one adult. Additional help will be hired if needed, so student to supervisor ratio doesn’t exceed 15 to 1.

Go Panthers! Mike

Panther Families,

Please help us in growing our Palmyra-Bennet-

Douglas Teammates chapter in the 2024-2025 school year! We are looking for mentors who can meet with a teammate roughly 30 minutes a week. If you or somebody you know would be a great mentor to our youth, let’s connect.

Everybody can use another trusted adult in their lives. All students grades 3-12 are eligible for the TeamMates program. If you would like to discuss your student having another positive mentor, please reach out to program coordinator, Austin Lahmon.



What's Happening in Kindergarten

KDG

On Friday, April 12th we welcomed 47 upcoming Kindergarteners for Kindergarten Round-up. They spent the morning getting a glimpse into just what Kindergarten might be like next year. The children were able to experience calendar time and centers in the classrooms, meet Mrs. McCreight and her assistant “Freddy the Frog” for music, have some outside time, and enjoy story time along with a snack. We look forward to seeing them in the fall when they are officially Kindergarteners. We are heading into the last days of this school year, and to celebrate that, the Kindergarteners have been counting down with the ABCs. Since the middle of April, each school day has had a letter theme. This week our letter themes were for the letters M-Q...Musical Chairs, New Name Day, Outdoor Lesson Day, Pajama Day, and Queen (or King) Day. Can't wait to Zip in and Zip Out on our last day of school.



Second Graders went on their field trip to the SAC Museum on Monday, April 29th. Second graders got to explore Leonardo da Vinci's inventions and learn how they work. We also spent time in the planetarium learning about space and constellations. It was a great way to learn hands-on about space and science! We are so thankful for all the parents that joined us on our field trip!



Elementary Art

While in art, students are given opportunities to use their imaginations, solve artistic problems, and develop ideas, knowledge, and skills to create, respond to, present, and connect art to what they already know. Students participate in creative experiences that promote individual growth, encourage cooperative learning, and teach the importance of perseverance and craftsmanship. This year, students have explored a variety of materials to create projects that include portraits, pinch pots, and works inspired by nature and various artists such as Georgia O’Keeffe and Faith Ringgold.

Artsonia.com is the world's largest collection of student art. Here you can view art online, leave comments, and order keepsakes featuring your child’s artwork. Artsonia allows students to share artwork with family and friends and gain access to hundreds of virtual art classes that can be enjoyed from home. To create an account and view the amazing artwork that has been created this year, be sure to scan the provided QR code.

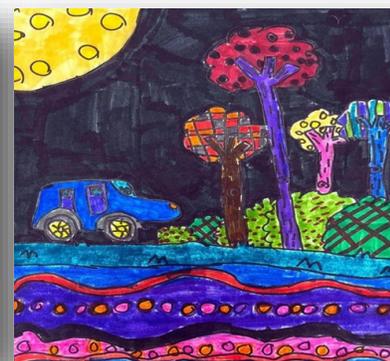
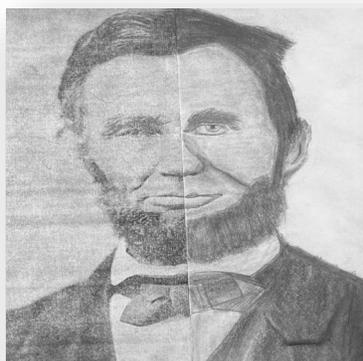
Bennet Elementary School

PARENTS! Connect to Bennet Elementary School using Artsonia to receive important updates on your child's art classroom activity.



Use your camera to scan this code.

You can also browse to www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code M83TSTBJ



Teacher's Association Team with ASPIRE

As Teacher Appreciation Week unfolded this year, Aspire Academy, District OR1's 18-21 transition program, took on the task of catering a meal for our amazing teachers for all their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment.

In our ongoing efforts to honor and appreciate the invaluable contributions of our teachers, Aspire Academy organized two separate feasts. The event was a collaborative effort with Palmyra Bennet Education Association. Aspire prepared and served the delicious meals while the PBEA financed the meal for all association members. From homemade dishes to gourmet treats, every item that was served was made with love and care and provided a teaching moment for the Aspire students. Students learned and practiced many of the basics of cooking such as planning the shopping list, going to the store, and then cooking the food, but they also worked on skills like portioning dressing cups, rolling silverware, and serving and pouring drinks.

As the teachers arrived for their meal, they were greeted with smiles and expressions of gratitude from the students. This was especially meaningful to the Aspire students, as many of the teachers they served had an impact in their lives and schooling at some point from preschool on up to graduation. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement and appreciation as they enjoyed a well-deserved break from their busy schedules to enjoy their food and connect with their colleagues.

To all the teachers out there: thank you for your passion, your dedication, and your unwavering commitment to shaping the future. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and your influence extends far beyond the walls of the classroom.



Top: Association members enjoy a full pasta luncheon. Middle: Deserts were especially well-received. Right: Anjali sets tableware and drinks. Above: Aspire is ready for service.

Preseason Sports Information. *If you don't see your fall sport/activity information in this newsletter, your coach will be reaching out to you at a later date with information.*

HS practices can officially begin on August 12th.

All players need to have a physical completed prior to the start of practice. If you are unable to get one by the first day of practice, you may attend but only watch.



Concussion Testing at Palmyra High School

A link will be emailed to all athletes' school email account, that will allow them to complete their concussion test on a computer or Chromebook. Please look for an email after August 1st.

Sports Physicals

If you are in grades 7-12th and plan to participate in a sport for the upcoming 24-25 school year, you must have a current physical on file, dated after May 1, 2024, and in the office prior to the first practice. An NSAA permission form is also needed on file prior to the first contest. Both the physical form and NSAA form can be found and printed from the school website under the [HS Athletics tab](#).

2024-25 Activity Passes/Fees

For those wanting to purchase single or family passes, which are good for all athletic events at the school (exceptions; One Act, Main Stage, District and Conference contests), may do so at the Booster Bash scheduled for August 22nd. Otherwise, passes may be purchased in the east downstairs office during normal school hours. Pass fees are as follows:

Senior Citizen Pass (60+): \$5

Single Pass: \$65

Family Pass: \$140

Regular daily event admission:

JH Contest: Adults \$5, Students (K-12) \$3

HS Contest: Adults \$6, Students (K-12) \$4

Student Activity Fee (7-12): \$40

Prom Fee: (new in 2023)—Starting in 7th grade and through their junior year, each student will pay a \$15 fee that will go towards their senior prom. This will eliminate the need for class fundraising and ensure that funds are available for the cost of the facility rental, decorations, DJ and snack food. Additional leftover money from the prom fees will go towards the costs of cap and gown. Graduating classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 will need to continue fundraising when they are juniors to make up the difference that was not collected from the beginning of their 7th grade year. Graduating classes of 2028 and beyond should have enough money from fees to cover prom expenses.

Activities Calendar

The Activities Calendar for the 2024-25 school year is linkable to Google Calendar starting July 1st by using the [school website](#) and clicking on the calendar icon on the main page. At the top of the calendar you can click the "Subscribe" tab to add it to your personal calendar. Another option is to download the "rSchool" app from your app store. Do a search for "Activity Scheduler" and follow the set up options for viewing our school's calendar. A final option is to use the www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org link to view the school's events and activities through the summer and next school year.

2024-25 Booster Bash

Will be held at the Olson Complex on Thursday August 22nd. Food and various booths selling apparel, activity passes and other activity information will be set up and ready by 5pm. The program portion will begin at 7pm.

Facilities use requests for 2024-25

Facility use requests for youth teams will be accepted starting Monday August 12th. Requests for volleyball and youth football will be processed first and then basketball and wrestling. Elementary gym requests can be made by emailing haag.jar@districtor1.net. High School gym requests can be made by emailing hoeft.aar@districtor1.net. Gym requests will be processed in the order received based on the email time stamp. Please indicate a first and second choice in your email with your preferred day and time. Due to the large number of requests in the past, teams are limited to one practice slot a week Monday thru Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday 8am-9pm and Sunday 12pm-6pm, at either the elementary or high school until all requests have been received. At this time we plan on allowing youth practices to start August 26th. However, we do not have a final construction completion schedule, and that may affect the start date at either building and/or some dates/times may be limited. Once we receive the requests we will coordinate with the construction contractors and communicate a starting date.

BENNET CLASS LISTS TO BE POSTED:

Class lists will be posted on the windows of the Bennet Elementary gym door and the front doors at Palmyra High School entryway on Wednesday, August 7th after 3:00 p.m. Students and parents may come up to the school and check to see whom their child's teacher will be.

To Guardians of Students Utilizing OR-1 Busing

School will start on Monday, August 12th. We have been busy working on bus routes for this year. Cathy Fick will contact you approximately 1 week before school starts with your pick-up time. If you are new to the district and requesting bus service, please contact Cathy Fick at 402-540-2879, or email her at fick.cat@districtor1.net, so that your name can be added to the routes. If you plan to use bus service again this year please email, call or text Cathy. If she doesn't hear from you, she will assume no bus service is needed.

The routes and times may not be permanent until everyone needing bus service is registered. There is a good chance times will vary the first week of school, which is dependent on who is riding, so please be patient. Daily drop off times are not a guarantee and will vary depending on who is riding each day. You should, however, start to see some consistency starting the 2nd week of school.

Please note that the bus drivers are allowed a maximum of **one -minute wait time** for picking up and getting students on the bus, so please have your child ready and waiting outside at their scheduled time for pickup. This one minute wait time is factored in so that drivers are not late to their next pickup and students arrive on time to school. Unfortunately, drivers will not be able to wait.

We ask that if your child will not be riding the bus for any reason to please call or text Cathy Fick at 402-540-2879. Please make every attempt to call the night before if possible. If not, please call at least 15 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time, so drivers have time to adjust their route. It is important that the school and driver both have this information. If your child will not be riding for an extended period of time, please let Cathy know well enough in advance.

Late Start Notice

When the district announces a late start, school begins at 10:00 a.m. This will adjust your pick-up time approximately one hour and 45 minutes later than normal. For example, a 7:00 a.m. pick-up time will change to 8:45 a.m. The Bennet shuttle leave-time for the high school will be 9:30 a.m., and the Palmyra shuttle leave-time to the elementary will be at 9:45 a.m.

We prefer that you call (a signed note is also acceptable and must be turned into the office) when your child has alternate plans for riding the bus. For example, if they are not riding the bus home, if they are going home with another student, or if they are having a friend go home with them. If they don't have a note or been called in, they will ride their normal bus route. Please make sure alternate plans are communicated, so your child gets to the proper

location. It's preferred if parents call/text Cathy prior to 3:00 p.m. to make a change in your child's afternoon bus transportation. No changes will be accepted after that time as buses may be in route and calls cannot be taken (emergency situations only).

There is to be no food, candy, gum, or drinks on the bus except for water in a plastic or non-glass container. No skateboards, scooters, spray deodorant, colognes, etc. are allowed. If your student has a band instrument that needs to be taken home and is riding the bus, it must fit in the overhead rack or in the seat with them. Large instruments that don't fit in one of those areas pose a safety risk to the driver and other students on the bus because they can't be secured. Alternate plans will need to be made to transport items that can't be secured safely.

If your child has a health issue that you feel the bus driver should be aware of, please let Cathy know.



If your child has any problems on the bus, please let Cathy Fick know. Our driver's focus is on driving the bus and getting your child to and from home and school safely. Depending on the situation, school administration will be informed to help resolve any issues. Please see the student handbook for the bus discipline policy.

Please observe parking restrictions and times in the drop off areas at both school buildings. The South side morning bus loading at Bennet is 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Please note that

the north side afternoon bus loading at Bennet is 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Also the bus shuttle will return to Bennet on the south side from 3:55 p.m. - 4:10pm. These time frames are restricted to all non-bus vehicles.

Bus load times at the high school are 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the **North Side** of the school, in the bus indent. For morning shuttle bus riders loading at the high school and going to Bennet, please drop off your child on the northwest side of the school and have them walk down the sidewalk to the east to load.

Please do not go around bus stop arms when they are extended on roads and school property. This is for the students' and your safety and it's the law.

Shuttle Bus Leave Times

- * Shuttle from the elementary to the high school in the mornings are 7:30 a.m., 7:40 a.m., and 7:45 a.m.
- * Shuttle from the high school to the elementary in the mornings are 7:55 a.m., 8:00am., and 8:05 a.m.
- * Load time at the Legion in Palmyra is 7:35 a.m., and leave-time is 7:40 a.m.
- * Afternoon drop off at the Legion in Palmyra is 3:10 p.m.
- * Shuttle drop off from the elementary to the high school is 3:20 p.m.
- * Shuttle drop off from the high school to the elementary is 3:55 p.m

Thank you for your help and patience.

If you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Fick's cell: 540-2879 (call or text) email fick.cat@districtor1.net**

4th Graders Contemplate Their Futures

What are you going to do when you turn 16, 21, and 28 years old? This was a question that all 4th graders had to answer this year. There were many high school plans made, future college decisions decided, and students even started to ruminate on what life may look like at 28 years old.

At 16 years old, many of our 4th graders were very focused on the fact that they could possibly have the opportunity to drive to school. Some had to do some quick calculations to determine if they would be driving at 16, or would they have an older sibling who would have to drive them to school. Some were also very invested into what specific model of car they would driving... just a heads up, they were not cheap.

At 21, 4th graders had to decide if they were going to join the work force, military, or attend 2 year or 4 year college. Many of the students described what job, major, or branch of military they would be a part of.



At 28 years old, students described what their lives would look like. Would they be living in Nebraska? Do they own a home? Did they make it through college or make a career change? All of these and many other questions were answered by our 4th grade students.

After the students had organized their thoughts. The kids had to create a speech including all of their information about what life looks like for them at 16, 21, and 28. The 4th graders would then have to present this speech to all of their peers, while also practicing proper speech etiquette such as appropriate voice level, eye contact, and hand gestures.

Altogether, the kids had a great time and enjoyed sharing some of their dreams and aspirations with their peers. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and achieve those goals someday.

Quality Reading **By Ms. Swartzendruber**

Back-to-School is right around the corner, and it can be a busy time. Encouraging your child to continue to read is important to help students avoid the “summer slide.” The “summer slide” is when students lose some of the achievement gains they made during the previous school year. Here are some tips and activities to help motivate your child to read during the summer.

Tips to Encourage Reading

- Read aloud with your child everyday
- Take turns reading, I read/You read
- Read the same book as your child and discuss it
- Let your child pick the books they want to read
- Visit the library regularly
- Schedule a time for reading each day
- Track reading minutes on a log
- Set a goal
- Create a reading nook

Reading Activities

- Reading Programs at your local library
- Sight word hopscotch
- Book scavenger hunt finding 5-10 things from the book
- Read items around the house like cereal boxes, newspapers, magazines, etc.
- Listen to audiobooks in the car



New staff at District OR1

A new year brings new faces to School District OR1. Please welcome the following new teachers to our schools!

Jacob Wieseler - High School English



1. Where are you originally from? *Wynot, NE*
2. What college did you graduate from? *Mount Marty University*
3. What are your hobbies/interests? *I love sports and video games. I like playing chess and I love talking about mythology.*
4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *The thing I am most excited about is getting to know the students and the staff. I really think that relationships are the most im-*

portant part of a classroom and school environment. I'm excited to build a space where students feel safe and respected. I want to encourage a classroom of true learning and growth.

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *During the week, I am an early bird. On the weekends, I am a night owl.*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be, and where would you go? *Denzel Washington. I don't know for sure where we'd go, but he seems like an individual that would be fun to discuss things with.*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself. *I don't have much. One of my eyes is blue, and the other is green, but it is hard to see.*

Taylor Baumert - High School PE and Social Studies



1. Where are you originally from? *Pawnee City, NE*
2. What college did you graduate from? *Wayne State College (2013)*
3. What are your hobbies/interests? *Anything to do with athletics & competition. Spending time with family. I love to read.*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *District OR-1 is on the rise. I'm looking forward to being a part of that.*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *Early bird.*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *Abraham Lincoln. The location doesn't really matter, but might as well be the White House if we are going all-out.*

Mark James - High School Science



1. Where are you originally from? *I grew up on the North shore of lake Superior. Yes, I am originally a Canuck. However, I also lived for a year in England as my father is British. My mother, however, is American and for a period of time I*

had the dubious honor of being eligible for getting drafted into 3 militaries at once!

2. What college did you graduate from? *I graduated from UNL after spending my first year at the University of Calgary, in Canada. My graduate work has included The University of Aurora in Chicago and The University of Nebraska - Kearney.*

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *In terms of hobbies, I spend a lot of time outdoors camping, fishing and hunting with my boys. We also have a small farm where we are slowly trying to tame wild Nebraska into something manageable. Our "farming" consists of raising bees, goats and chickens at the moment. In the past it has also included rabbits and pigs but trying to keep pigs on one side of a fence was driving me mad!*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *Palmyra caught my attention in terms of its leadership and vision. A school district that wants to do whatever it takes to prepare its students for their NEXT step, rather than just paying attention to the time they spend in High School.*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *If I have to stay up late I may turn feral! Late night seems like a chore but the early morning light really strikes me as beautiful: the most underappreciated parts of the day.*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *I want to sit at a table BESIDE Craig Ferguson's table; where I am not having to interact directly but can listen in on his insanity.*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself At least one of the following is true:a) I adopted a child while my wife was on vacation

b) I was a figure skater in my youth

c) I was attacked by a river otter while tubing

d) I have a story called "the poo chips" that I use when teaching

Payton Partida - 5th Grade

1. Where are you originally from? *I am originally from Hickman, NE! We moved to Panama 6 years ago!*



2. What college did you graduate from? *I graduated from Peru State College! Go Bobcats!*

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *I love going for long walks, reading, drinking coffee, and shopping.*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *I can't wait to meet all of the students and their families! I'm so excited to get out in the community and connect with everyone!*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *A night owl for sure!!*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *I would have to choose Taylor Swift and I would want to go to Texas Roadhouse!*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself. *I broke my first bone (my leg) when I was 22 years old...slipping on ice. My son was four-months old at the time...that was an experience!*

Ann Fritsch - Elementary Special Education

1. Where are you originally from? *Wausa, NE.*



2. What college did you graduate from? *Wayne State College*

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *-Hiking, Travelling, Reading*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *To meet all the amazing staff and students!*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *Night Owl*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *I would go get coffee and brunch with Lainey Wilson at The Table Coffee House.*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself *I get married to my fiancé at the end of June!*

Jonna Pester - High School Math



Where are you originally from? *I grew up just outside of Lincoln and went to Waverly High School.*

2. What college did you graduate from? *I graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a major in mathematics and a secondary education endorsement. Then went on and got my masters degree from UNL in Masters in the Art of Teaching (Mathematics).*

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *My hobbies/interests are spending time with my family (immediate and extended), playing*

tennis, reading, playing cards and other games with my family and friends, and taking care of my flower gardens.

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *I am looking forward to meeting new people, both faculty and students, and to the challenges and helping expand the dual credit courses that District OR-1 can offer. I taught at Palmyra from 2000-2007 and am excited to be returning.*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *I used to be 100% night owl. Now, I am a night owl during the summer and an early bird during the school year.*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *This is a tough one. However, knowing myself, I am not sure I could handle dinner with a famous person. I would get nervous and not be able to talk and I definitely wouldn't be able to eat. So I am better off admiring the famous from afar.*



Julie Hendricks - High School English

1. Where are you originally from? *I am originally from Palmyra, Nebraska.*

2. What college did you graduate from? *I received my teaching degree from the University of Nebraska at*

Kearney.

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *I love to read, travel, and follow all "HUSKER" sports.*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *District OR-1 is such an exciting district because of the progressive nature of the building project. The additional teaching staff also demonstrates an investment in our youth that is really second to none. I'm very impressed with the commitment of the teaching staff at Palmyra and that makes it a pretty exciting place to work.*

5. Are you an early bird or night owl? *The problem is I'm kind of both so sometimes burning the candle at both ends can be exhausting.*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *I would most like to have dinner with Tom Osborne. We would go to Casa Bovina and discuss football and politics.*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself *I worked for the postal service for 16 years and loved carrying mail. Additionally, I am a Licensed Massage Therapist.*

Jared Haag - Elementary Principal



1. Where are you originally from? *Fairbury, NE*

2. What college did you graduate from? *Peru State College*

3. What are your hobbies/interests? *Spending time with my family, watching sports, and summer boating.*

4. What are you most excited for at District OR-1? *Building relationships and getting to know the students, families, and staff that create an outstanding school community that is District OR-1.*

5. Are you an early bird or night

owl? *Early Bird*

6. If you could have dinner with any famous person (past or present), who would it be and where would you go? *Patrick Mahomes @ Arthur Bryant's in Kansas City*

BONUS: Give me one interesting fact about yourself: *Between both sides of my extended family, 27 of us are current or retired educators. I often say I "joined the family business".*

Transition of Current Staff:

Staff	Former Position	Current Position
Ms. Walter	Elem Principal	Director of Student Services
Julie Hendricks	Full-time Sub	HS English
Mr. Pester	5th Grade	6th Grade
Mr. Weils	Special Education	HS Math

6th-Grade Supplies List:

- 1 single-subject spiral notebook
- 1 red folder
- 1 green folder
- 1 blue folder
- 1 yellow folder
- 1 black folder
- 1 folder your color/design choice
- 24-40 pack mechanical pencils
- 1 package washable markers
- 1 package-colored pencils
- basic calculator
- 1 package Clorox wipes or 1 package multiple Clorox wipes
- no binders
- no toys

2024-2025 “Elementary School Supply List”

Kindergarten	Must Have Large backpack that will fit a folder and library book 12 Large glue sticks 2 inch, 3-ring binder with clear sleeve on front cover Box of 24 crayons Headphones Gym Shoes (Velcro or slip-on if they do not tie shoes independently)	May Not Bring
First Grade	Must Have 12 large glue sticks Small, plastic pencil box 4 boxes of 24 crayons #2 pencils, 24 total, Ticonderoga brand 4 black fine-tip dry erase markers 4 pink erasers 4 red ball point pens	May Not Bring mechanical pencils pencil sharpeners
Second Grade	Must Have #2 yellow pencils (a package of 12) 12 Crayola Classic Washable markers Box of 12 crayons 2 Spiral wide rule notebooks 1 pack of skinny dry erase markers Small plastic crayon box (5.5 x 8 inch) 2 pink erasers 1 yellow highlighter	May Not Bring pencil sharpeners mechanical pencils
Third Grade	Must Have #2 Ticonderoga pencils (2 packages) Glue sticks (4 small or 2 large) 1 pack of dry erase markers (fine tip) 2 boxes of 12 crayons 2 large erasers 2- Spiral 1 subject notebooks (college ruled) Scissors 3 colored folders (no red or blue) Small plastic crayon box	May Not Bring large pencil boxes markers pencil sharpeners mechanical pencils scented supplies
Fourth Grade	Must Have #2 Ticonderoga pencils (2 packages) 1 pkg. wide ruled notebook paper 1 pack of 5 tab dividers for binders 1- 1 inch 3 ring binder with clear front 1- 2 inch 3 ring binder with clear front 1 pkg. of highlighters 1 pkg. of 12 markers 2 large glue sticks Box of 24 crayons Clorox wipes	May Not Bring gel pens/ multicolored toys pencil boxes over 8 x 10 inch
Fifth Grade	Must Have #2 Ticonderoga pencils (2 packages) White board eraser Dry erase markers- 2 packs 2 -two pocket folders Colored pencils, box of 12 Small pencil box 1- Spiral 1 subject notebook (college ruled or wide ruled)	May Not Bring large pencil boxes multicolored pens toys mechanical pencils



DISTRICT OR-1

BENNET ELEMENTARY -- PALMYRA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
425 F ST, PALMYRA, NE 68418 402-780-5327 www.districtor1.org

Michael Hart
Superintendent

Heath Johnson
Secondary Principal

Jared Haag
Elementary Principal

Linde Walter
Director of Student Programs

Aaron Hoeft
Activities Director

July 9, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **District OR1- Bennet/Palmyra** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs at the Elementary **\$2.20**, Jr./HS **\$2.45**; lunch costs Elementary **\$2.85**, Jr/HS **\$2.95**. **Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch. If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by **September 12, 2024** in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Applicants who qualify for free or reduced price meals also qualify to receive Summer EBT, which provides \$120 in grocery funds on an EBT card mailed to the household during summer break. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Michael Hart, 425 F St. Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327.**

3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Lisa Phillips, 425 F. St, Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327, Phillips.lis@districtor1.net.**

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Lisa Phillips** immediately at **425 F. St, Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327, Phillips.lis@districtor1.net.**

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if your school district makes this option available. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit **www.districtor1.org** to print an application.

Contact : **Lisa Phillips, 425 F. St, Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327, Phillips.lis@districtor1.net** if you have any questions about the online application.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Michael Hart, 425 F St. Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327, hart.mic@districtor1.net**.
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact : **Lisa Phillips, 425 F. St, Palmyra, NE 68418, 402-780-5327, Phillips.lis@districtor1.net**.to receive a second application.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, please go online to ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov or call 1-800-383-4278.

If you have other questions or need help, call **402-780-5327 ext: 2007**

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Phillips

Instructions for Completing the Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application

For households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** List each child's name, the school they attend and their grade.
Part 2: Enter household's Master Case Number if the household qualifies for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR.
Part 3: Skip this part.
Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.
Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

For households with FOSTER, HOMELESS, MIGRANT or RUNAWAY CHILDREN, follow these instructions:

If all children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1:** List all foster children, the school they attend and their grade. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.
Part 2: Skip this part.
Part 3: Skip this part.
Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.
Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

If some of the children in the household are foster children or are homeless, migrant or runaway children:

- Part 1:** List all children, the school they attend and their grade. Check the appropriate box.
Part 2: If the household does not have a Master Case Number, skip this part.
Part 3: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.
Column 1 – Household Members: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Column 2 - Gross Income and How Often it was Received: Gross income is the amount earned **before taxes and other deductions**; it is not your take-home pay. For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must also report how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly.

Earnings from Work includes the following:

- Salary, wages, cash bonuses
- Net income from self-employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military, include:

- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments or privatized housing allowances)
- Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing

Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster care payments.

Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony includes the following:

- Unemployment benefits, Worker's compensation
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash assistance from state or local government
- Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), Strike benefits
- Child support payments, Alimony payments

Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income includes the following:

- Social Security payments (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- Private pensions or Disability benefits
- Regular income from trusts or estates, Annuities, Investment income, Earned interest, Rental income and *Regular* cash payments received from outside the household.

If you have no income, write "0" or leave the income field blank. By doing this, you are certifying there is no income to report.

Household Size: Enter the total number of people in your household.

Social Security Number: The adult signing the form must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN) or check the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.

Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

Please note: Children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant or runaway, are eligible for free meals. However, the school district must have documentation on file from a migrant coordinator, homeless/runaway liaison or the district's Direct Certification list to approve the child for free meals.

For ALL other households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all children, the school they attend and their grade.

Part 2: If the household does not have a Master Case Number, skip this part.

Part 3: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.

Column 1 – Household Members: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Column 2 - Gross Income and How Often it was Received: Gross income is the amount earned **before taxes and other deductions**; it is not your take-home pay. For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must also report how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly.

Earnings from Work includes the following:

- Salary, wages, cash bonuses
- Net income from self-employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military, include:

- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments or privatized housing allowances)
- Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing

Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster care payments.

Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony includes the following:

- Unemployment benefits, Worker's compensation
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash assistance from state or local government
- Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), Strike benefits
- Child support payments, Alimony payments

Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income includes the following:

- Social Security payments (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- Private pensions or Disability benefits
- Regular income from trusts or estates, Annuities, Investment income, Earned interest, Rental income and *Regular* cash payments received from outside the household.

If you have no income, write "0" or leave the income field blank. By doing this, you are certifying there is no income to report.

Household Size: Enter the total number of people in your household.

Social Security Number: The adult signing the form must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN) or check the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.

Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

Computing Income for Self-Employed Individuals

Individuals who are self-employed or engaged in farming may experience variations in cash flow and cannot easily report a monthly income. These individuals can use their 2020 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 to report self-employment income for the free and reduced-price meal application. The income to report is income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as interest on home mortgages, medical expenses and other similar non-business items are not allowed in reducing gross business income.

When completing this form, **losses** (negative numbers) reported on any of the lines below are included when determining the **total** self-employed income. If the total income is a negative number, it is to be recorded as zero on the meal application in the column labeled "All Other Income".

Zero income resulting from use of the 1040 Form does not require follow-up.

Important Reminders from the U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040:

Line 1 cannot be used to report current income. Income from wages or salaries must be reported on the application for the most recent month.

Line 9 (Total Income) and line 11 (Adjusted Gross Income) cannot be used for the purpose of applying for free and reduced-price meals.

The five line items listed below are used to determine allowable self-employment income.

From the first page of the U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040:

Line 7 Capital Gain or (loss) _____

From the U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 – SCHEDULE 1 - under Part 1 - Additional Income:

Line 3 Business Income or (loss) _____

Line 4 Other Gains or (losses) _____

Line 5 Rental Real Estate, etc. _____

Line 6 Farm Income or (loss) _____

Total of the above five lines: _____ **equals annual self-employed income ***

* Report this figure on the meal application in the column labeled "All Other Income".

If the total of the above lines is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the meal application.

NOTE: This form is used only to report income from self-employment and/or farming. If any members of the household have income from other jobs, the gross income from those jobs must be reported on the meal application form.

Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application – complete one application per household Attachment C: 2024-25

Return Completed Application to: _____ *(District OR 1 Public Schools)*

Part 1: Children in School

List names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last). If <u>all</u> children listed are foster, skip to Part 4 to sign the form. If some of the children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application.	Grade	Name of School Child Attends	Check all that apply:	
			Foster Child	Homeless, Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: Assistance Programs – SNAP, TANF or FDPIR Benefits

Enter **MASTER CASE NUMBER** if household qualifies for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR: _____
(Social Security numbers, Medicaid numbers and EBT numbers are not accepted.) Skip to Part 4

Part 3: Total Household Gross Income – You must tell us how much and how often.

1. Household Members List everyone in the household, current income each person earns in whole dollars (no cents) & how often. Entering "0" or leaving the income field blank certifies no income to report. A foster child's personal use income must be listed.	2. Gross Income (before taxes) and How Often it was Received					
	Earnings from Work before deductions		Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony		Pensions, Retirement and All Other Income	
	Income	How often	Income	How often	Income	How often

Total Number of Household Members: _____ (Children and Adults)
 Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of the adult signing this form: XXX – XXX – _____
 Check if no SSN

Part 4: Adult Signature and Contact Information – An adult household member must sign the application

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Sign here: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____
 Street Address (if available): _____ Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Part 5: Children's Ethnic and Racial Identities – Optional

Check one Ethnic Identity: – and – **Check one or more Racial Identities:**

Hispanic or Latino Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 Not Hispanic or Latino White American Indian or Alaskan Native

Do Not Fill Out the Section Below - For School Use Only

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52; Every 2 weeks X 26; Twice a month X 24; Monthly X 12

Total Household Size: _____

Total Income: _____ per _____

Free Reduced Denied
 Income Income Reason for denial:
 Categorically eligible: Income too high
 SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Incomplete application
 Foster Child
 Homeless/Migrant/Runaway:
 (Official Documentation Required at School)

Signature of Determining Official: _____ Date Approved: _____

FOR THE VERIFICATION PROCESS ONLY

Signature of Confirming Official: _____ Date Confirmed: _____ Date Withdrawn From School: _____

Signature of Verifying Official: _____ Date Verified: _____

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART for School Year 2024-25					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each additional person:	9,953	830	415	383	192

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Sharing Information with Other Programs - Optional

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify.

For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Bennet Backpack Program**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Activities – student fees**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Chromebook Fees**.

If you checked “yes” to any or all of the boxes above, complete the following form to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child’s Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **Lisa Phillips** at **402-780-5327**
or email at **Phillips.lis@districtor1.net**.

Return this form to: **425 F. St, Palmyra, NE 68418 by September 12, 2024**

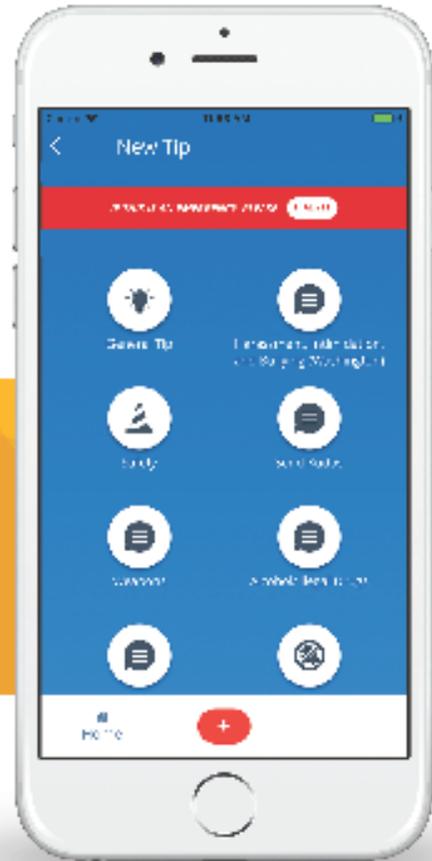


Palmyra District OR-1

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



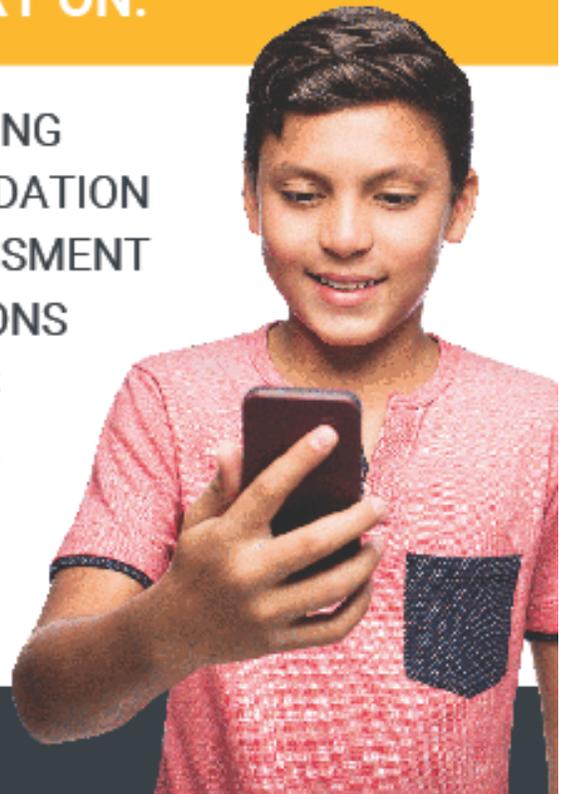
Call to report your tip
402.858.9423



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.

Get Connected!

TEXT MESSAGES:

If you currently receive our Emergency and Weather notifications, you will definitely want to **opt-in** to the text messages that go along with the notifications. Moreover, District OR1 plans to send “text only” messages to further support notices that do not require a fully-launched voice message.

On your phone, send **Y** or **yes** to our short code number 67587



VOICE, E-Mail, & Text:

If you currently do not receive our Emergency and Weather notifications, please call your school secretary and let them know the below information prior to opting-in to text message:

Primary Phone 1	<input type="text"/>
Primary Phone 2	<input type="text"/>
Primary Phone 3	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Phone 1	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Phone 2	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Phone 3	<input type="text"/>
Primary Email 1	<input type="text"/>
Primary Email 2	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Email 1	<input type="text"/>
Emergency Email 2	<input type="text"/>



POWERSCHOOL:

If you currently cannot check your students’ grades on PowerSchool, please call your school secretary and let them know the email address you want to use to log into our PowerSchool Portal. Once you are linked, you can also sign up to pay your students’ food services online.

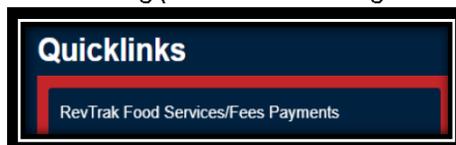


REVTRAK:

If you currently are linked to your student’ grades on PowerSchool, you can create a RevTrak account by going to the following link:

<https://districtor1.revtrak.net/>

This RevTrak link can also be found on districtor1.org (in the list on the right side of the page).



Phone Numbers:

Bennet--402-782-3535 x1

Palmyra—402-780-5327 x2



District OR-1 Public Schools

2024-2025 School Calendar (updated with 8/12/24 start and 5/22/25 last day)

(402) 782-3535 - Bennet Elementary

(402) 780-5327 - Jr.-Sr. High School

Board Approved: 7/11/2024



August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	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

5 Start of Fall Practices / Staff Return
5-9 Staff Development - No School for students
12 First Day of School for Students (K-12)
13 Preschool First Day of School

20 - Teacher days
15 - Student days
20 staff and 15 student days

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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	

4 Early Dismissal - 1:00pm / PT Conferences 2-8pm
5 Staff Development - No School for students
14-18 Winter Break - No School

18 - Teacher Days
17 - Student Days
Second Semester: 37 Staff and 35 Student Days

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	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					

2 Labor Day - No School
24 Early Dismissal - 1:00pm / PT Conferences 2-8pm
25 Staff Development - No School for Students

20 - Teacher Days
19 - Student Days
40 staff and 34 student days

March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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					

6 End of Third Quarter
7 Spring Break - No School
10 Start of Fourth Quarter
14 Spring Break - No School
31 Staff Development - No School for students / MUDECAS Music Host

19 - Teacher Days
18 - Student Days
Second Semester: 56 Staff and 53 Student Days

October 2024						
Su	M	Tu	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		

11 End of First Quarter
14 Start of Second Quarter
17 Staff Development - No School for students
18-21 Fall Break - No School

21 - Teacher Days
20 - Student Days
61 staff and 54 student days

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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			

17-21 Easter Break - No School

19 - Teacher Days
19 - Student Days
Second Semester: 75 Staff and 72 Student Days

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	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

11 Start of Winter Practices
19 Staff Development - No School / ECNC One Act
27-29 Thanksgiving Break - No School

18 - Teacher Days
17 - Student Days
79 staff and 71 student days

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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

9 Staff Development - No School for students / ECNC Track Host
10 High School Graduation
20 Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg Dismissal
21 End of 2nd Semester - 1:00 pm Dismissal for grades 6-12 / No school K-5
22 Last Day for Certified Staff
26 Memorial Day

18 - Teacher Days
14 - Student Days
Second Semester: 91 Staff and 86 Student Days

December 2024						
Su	M	Tu	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				

20 End of Second Quarter - Early Dismissal 1:00pm
23-31 Winter Vacation - No School
22-26 Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

15 - Teacher Days
15 - Student Days
First Semester: 94 Staff and 96 Student Days

June 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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					

Summer Enrichment dates are tentative and subject to change

January 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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	

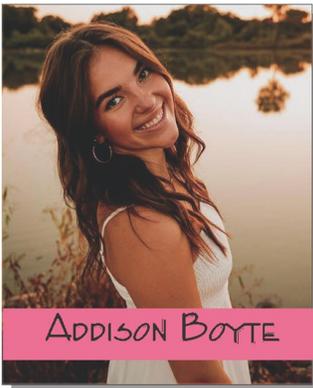
1-3 Winter Vacation - No School
6 Staff Development - No School for students
20 Martin Luther King Day - No School

19 - Teacher Days
18 - Student Days
Second Semester Days: 19 Teacher Days / 18 Student Days

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	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		

No School Days for Staff or Students
Staff Development Day for Staff: No School for Students
1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for all students: Parent /Teacher Conferences on September 24th and February 4th
Bennet Elementary Last Day of School. Please note: BEES has a full day of school on this date.
First Day of School for K-12 Students
First Day of School for Preschool Students
High School Graduation
Calendar Updated: 6.12
Board Approved: 6.10.2024
185 Teacher Days
172 Student days

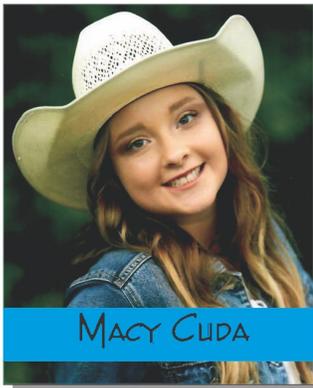
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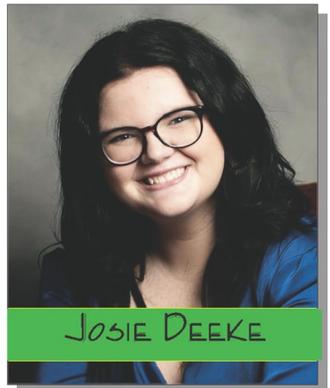
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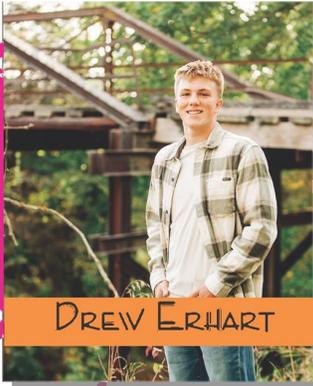
DORIAN CASTILLO



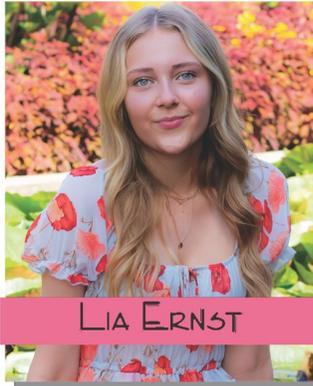
MACY CUDA



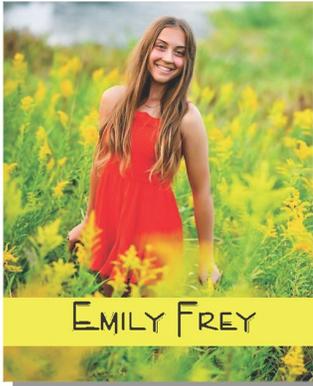
JOSIE DEEKE



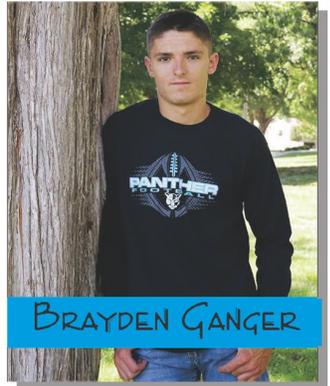
DREW ERHART



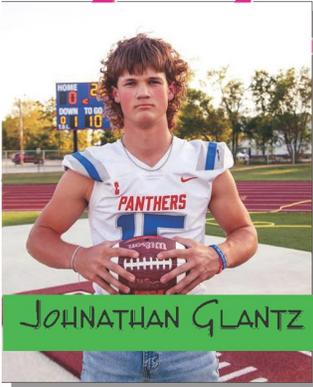
LIA ERNST



EMILY FREY



BRAYDEN GANGER



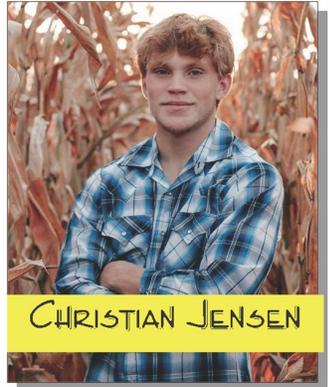
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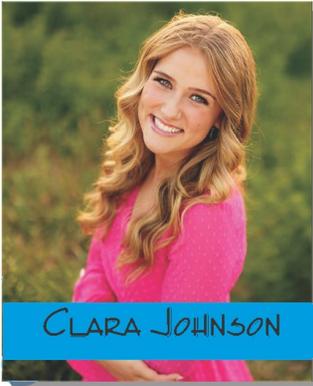
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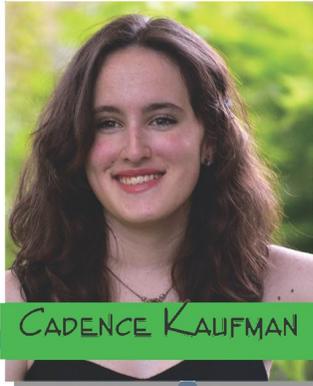
KINSLEY HAVRANEK



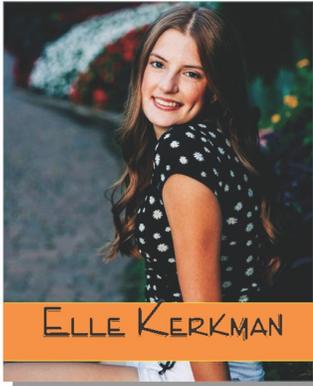
CHRISTIAN JENSEN



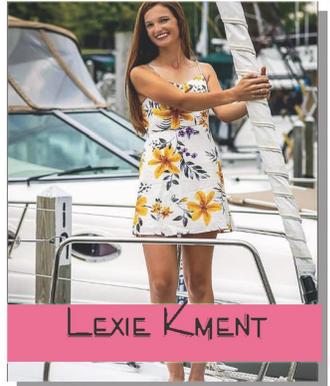
CLARA JOHNSON



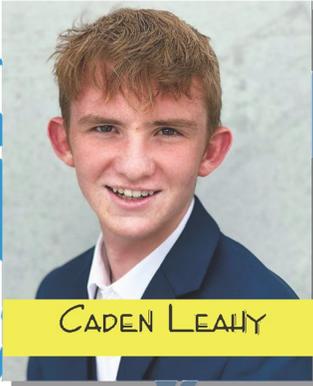
CADENCE KAUFMAN



ELLE KERKMAN



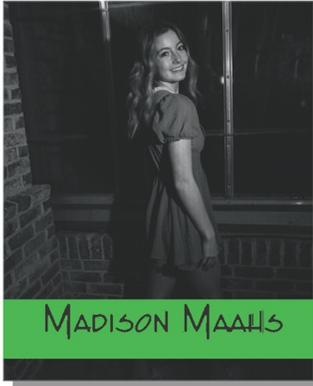
LEXIE KMENT



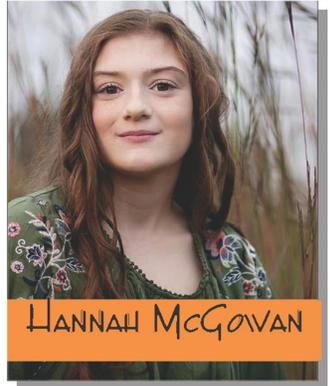
CADEN LEAHY



CONNOR LINDEMAN



MADISON MAAHS



HANNAH MCGOWAN



SAMANTHA MURDOCK



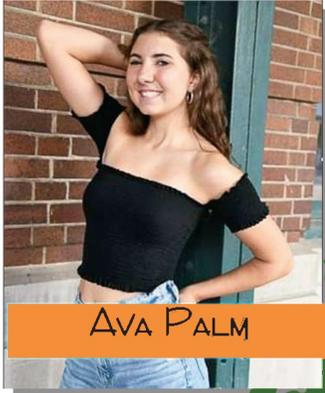
ALYSA MYERS



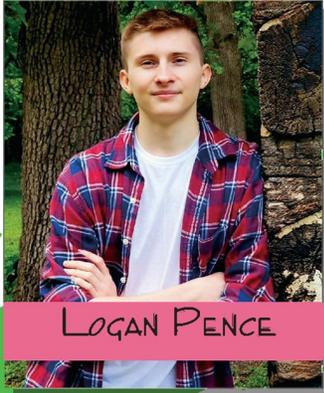
KARTER NIDER



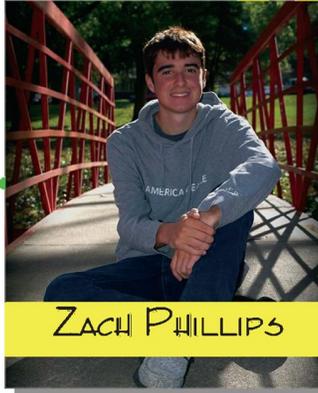
KORBÁN NIDER



AVA PALM



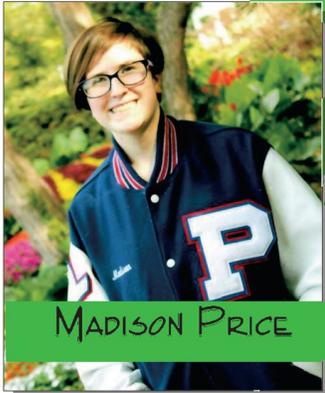
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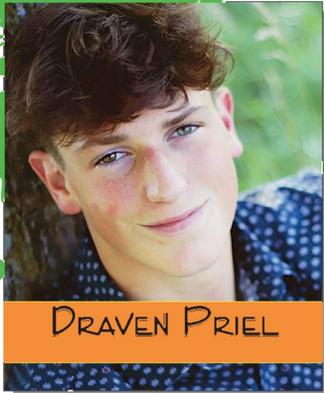
ZACH PHILLIPS



AVERY POTEET



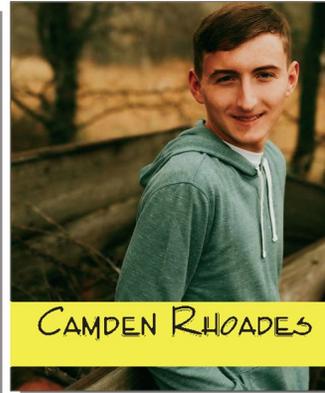
MADISON PRICE



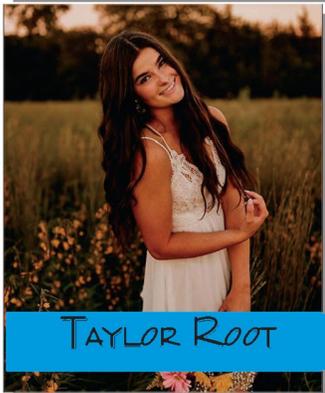
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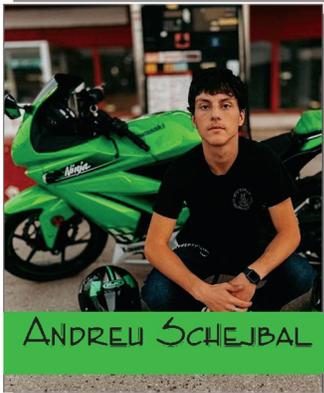
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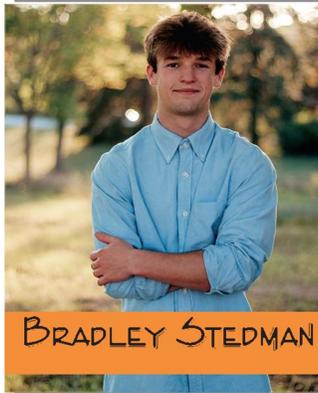
CAMDEN RHOADES



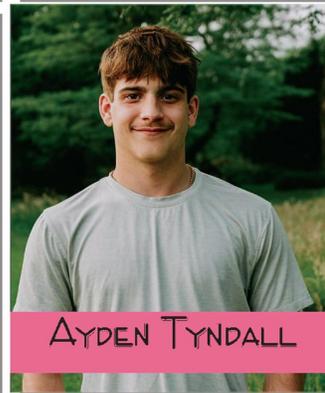
TAYLOR ROOT



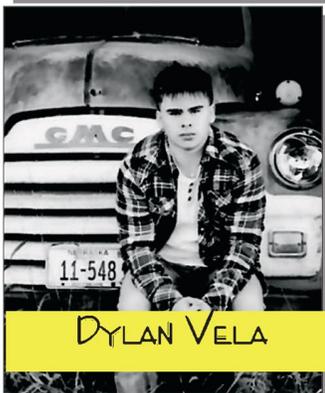
ANDREU SCHEJBAL



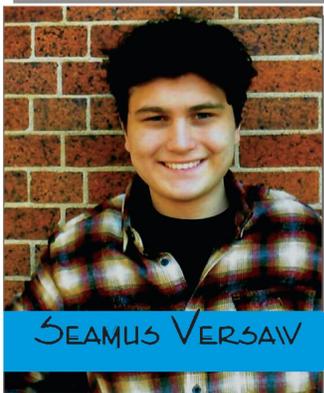
BRADLEY STEDMAN



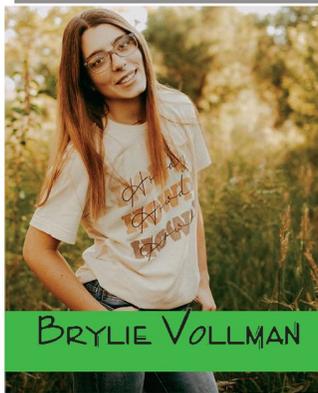
AYDEN TYNDALL



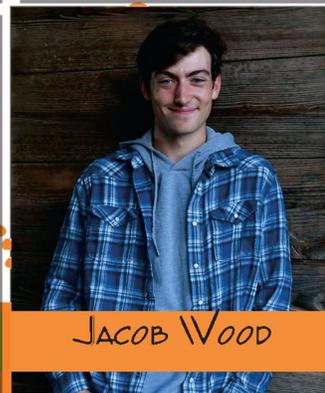
DYLAN VELA



SEAMUS VERSAW



BRYLIE VOLLMAN



JACOB WOOD