

PALMYRA



PANTHERS

School District OR-1

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Secondary Principal: Heath Johnson
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

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www.districtor1.org Facebook: District OR-1

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District OR-1 Newsletter
District OR-1 Public Schools
December 2023

*****ECRWSS*****

**Local
Postal Customer**

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

Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1 - P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418

Enclosed is my/our individual gift corporate gift _____

(corporate contact person)

of \$ _____ to the Foundation For Knowledge District OR-1

-OR-

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

Balance paid by _____, 20__.

To validate your pledge, your signature is required _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

Thank you for your investment in the future.



PANTHER 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

December, 2023

- Follow District OR1 at www.districtor1.org
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Superintendent Notes
- Classroom Activities
- Contact Information Request
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at www.1011now.com
- District OR1 E-Book News
- Construction News

Superintendent Notes

...by Michael Hart

Panther Families,

Hello again! I just wanted to provide another community update as we head into the last full week before the holiday break.

Kudos:

- On behalf of the District OR-1 Board of Education, our staff, and our students, I would like to personally thank all of you for your continued support of our schools. We greatly appreciate your flexibility, patience, and grace as we continue to deal with the challenges of efficiently and effectively conducting learning while construction is actively occurring on both campuses.
- During the winter break, we wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

2023-2024 School Calendar Clarification:

- Just to clarify that **there is school for all students on Wednesday, December 20th** (weather permitting).
 - **Please note:** This is a 1:00 p.m. dismissal for all students K-12.
- All students return to school on **Thursday, January 4th, 2024.**

Student Cell Phone Update at the High School:

- On behalf of the high school staff, I would also like to thank all of our high school families for your support of our cell phone policy adjustments that started at the beginning of this first semester.
- To this point, our students have handled the transition well, and they have done a good job of following the expectations that were set in place.

Superintendent: Michael Hart
Palmyra Principal: Heath Johnson
Bennet Principal: Linde Walter
Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

...Continued on next page.



District OR-1 e-book information

Students of District OR-1 have the option to use our online e-book collection. Online e-books are a way students can check out full-text books and read them on a computer, laptop, Chromebook, or any mobile device. It is an additional resource for students to use, and it is part of my plan is to continue to reinforce this concept with students in the future.

We have access to both fiction and non-fiction books, student favorites like *Dog Man*, *Magic Tree House*, *Harry Potter*, even picture books as well.

Students in grades 4-6 were introduced to this during the first block rotation during library class. Although students enjoy digital reading, one downside is that the records do not include AR information, so I have told the older students to use ARbookfind.com to check and make sure there is an AR test for the book before checking it out.

We are part of a consortium of schools from Nebraska with ESU2 in Fremont being the hub. All students in grades K through 12 have access to it. There are currently 9,961 titles in the elementary collection and 6,855 titles in the high school collection. Most of these books are not on the shelves in our libraries.

Email reminders and a “how-to” video for students in grades K-12 are sent an email with information on checkout procedures. If an issue arises, please send Mr. Smidt an email smidt.mat@districtor1.net, and in the subject line please type e-book question.

- Comments from staff indicate increased student engagement in classes, and an overall reduction in the amount of issues dealing with drama and misinformation that sometimes is spread through social media and excessive screen time.
- We will continue these cell phone procedures through the second semester, and we will inform parents if any changes occur before the end of the school year.
- Thanks again for helping us to support and maximize student learning.

Parking at Traffic Flow at Bennet Elementary School:

School:

- Special thanks to everyone for your flexibility this first semester related to the parking and traffic changes at Bennet.
- With all of the construction going on, combined with the increased amount of large trucks, constant presence of construction workers, equipment intermingling with student and parent foot traffic, limited parking, and cars constantly dropping off and picking up, your patience is greatly appreciated.
- Listed below is some important information regarding parking signs around the elementary school campus.
- There is also a graphic listed below that shows the designated direction of traffic on streets around the elementary school.

Stop Sign:

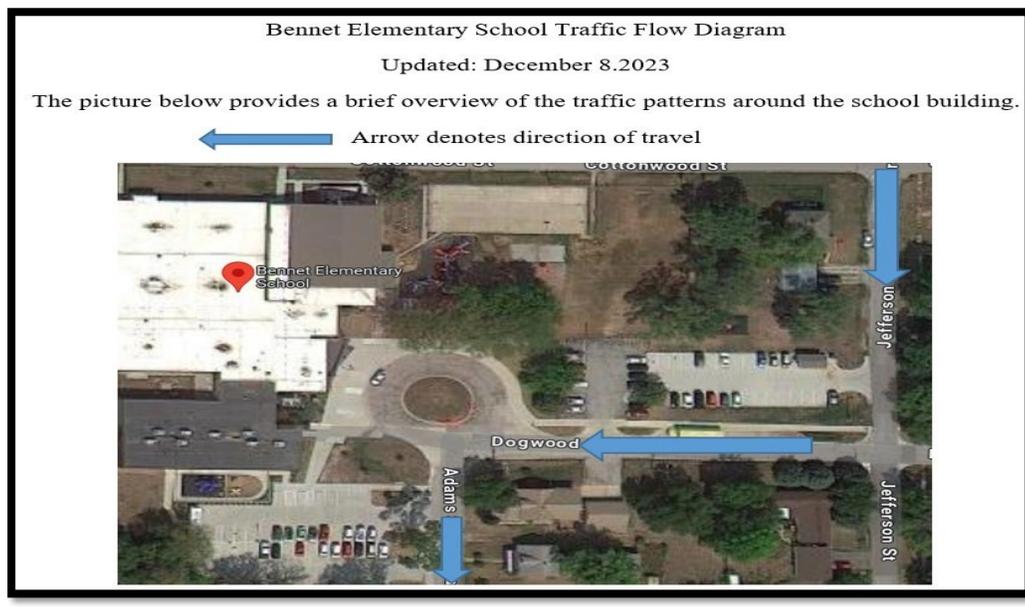
- There is now a stop sign in place at the northeast corner of Dogwood Street and Jefferson Street.
- Please make sure you are stopping at this intersection as it helps to slow down traffic coming into the immediate area of the school.

“One Way” Signs:

- Jefferson Street is now “one way” heading south from Cottonwood Street to Dogwood Street (see diagram below).
- Dogwood Street is now “one way” heading west from Jefferson Street to Adams Street (see diagram below).
- Adams Street is now “one way” heading south from Dogwood (see diagram below).
- Our buses will continue to pick up and drop off students in the morning in the bus lane on the north side of Dogwood Street from **7:30–7:45 a.m.**
 - If buses are in this area when you are coming to school, please be aware of these vehicles and slow down to no more than 15 mph or please use the east parking lot to park.
- We will continue to load the buses transporting students home after school in the bus lane on the north side of the building.
- Thank you in advance for making adjustments to these traffic patterns, as we are also trying to have all cars entering the east parking lot from the north on Jefferson Street and exiting south towards Dogwood Street upon leaving the lot.

Severe Weather Protocols:

- Although we have been very blessed with decent weather most of the first semester, the weather will eventually turn much colder, and we want to make sure we review our severe weather protocols to ensure that you stay as informed as possible.
- Information regarding school closings or late starts is broadcast regularly by KOLN/KGIN channel 10/11, KLKN channel 8, and KFOR 1240 AM. District OR-1 school closing information can also be found on our school website at www.districtor1.org.
- A decision to close school will be made in the best safety interest of our students, staff, and families when local weather forecasts indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school.
- *If possible, a decision about school closures or late starts will be made by 9:00 p.m. the night before* for announcement during the 10:00 p.m. news.
- Although we do our best to make these weather related decisions as early as possible, the decisions are not always feasible because of constantly changing weather conditions.
- If we are unable to make a school closing decision the night before, we will conduct periodic assessments during the night and strive to make an announcement **no later than 6:00 a.m.**
- Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. In this case, students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes, provided parents properly notify the school of their decision.
- Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day may be inevitable if children are



to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm. In these cases, we will provide as much advance notice to parents.



- Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

10:00 A.M. Late Starts and Bus Communication:

- If the weather dictates the need for a “late start” to school, please note that **all schools will start at 10:00 a.m.** and buses will run accordingly.
- Cathy Fick will be the “point of contact” for families who have students riding our district buses.
- Cathy will also be in touch with families about specific times for bus pickup for late start dates.

Parent and Family Contact Information:

- Keeping our families informed is a top priority. In order to make sure we are able to contact you as soon as possible regarding school information, please make sure your contact information has been updated in our **Powerschool** database.
- SchoolMessenger is our automated messenger system, which allows us to quickly send a telephone or email message to you regarding important information about school events or emergencies.
- We will also utilize SchoolMessenger to notify parents of security situations, school delays, cancellations, or changes in schedules due to inclement weather.
- SchoolMessenger will also be used to remind families about various activities and events, including report card distribution, open house, field trips, and more.
- ***If you are not currently receiving automated messages or using the Powerschool parent academic and attendance resources, please call our school office, and we will help you to update this contact information in our system. Keeping this information accurate and updated ensures everyone receives critical information as soon as possible.***

Upcoming Board Meeting:

- District OR-1’s next board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 11th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Palmyra High School in the media center.**

The public is always welcome to attend these public meetings!

- The January regular board meeting will be moved to **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to accommodate delays incurred with vendors and billing over the holiday break.

Football Classification Update

- We recently distributed a survey to more closely gauge our projected participation numbers for boys football next school year.
- Based upon the recent survey results, we have submitted our proposal to NSAA for our district to move to 11-man participation beginning next year (this is at least a two-year commitment).
- Currently, we are waiting to hear back from NSAA about whether we might be classified in football as C-1 or C-2 (all recent indications point toward C-2). Those results will probably not be finalized until February 1.
- At that time, we would also find out about possible opponents, as the NSAA schedules all football contests.

Activities Update:

- As a board and district, we continue to look at feasibility of adding district extracurricular activities. To help address this issue, we have organized a district activities committee consisting of school and community patrons to discuss staffing, facilities, student participation numbers, and interest in various future activities.
- When decisions are made considering the addition of future activities, we want to make sure we have considered all circumstances and analyzed logistics and overall costs so that we are making decisions that are best for our students and our district.
- Thank you for your input and interest in making sure that we offer the best educational and extracurricular experiences possible for our students.

Construction Progress Summary:

- Listed below is a brief overview of the additions and renovations taking place at each building:

Bennet Elementary School:

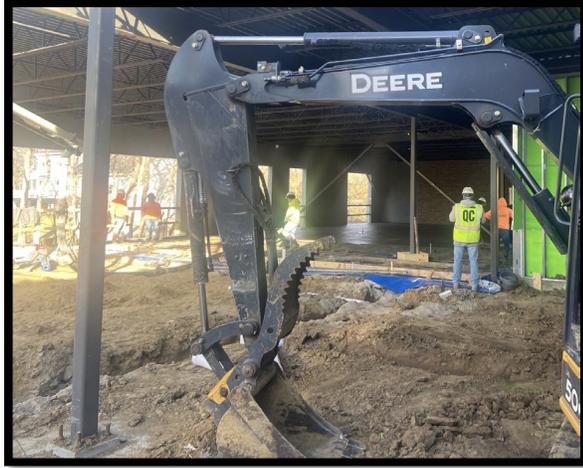
Adding additional classrooms on the southwest side of the building.

- This area is moving quickly as walls have been put up in this area and concrete is being poured in the northeast corner of this area. See pictures below:

Bennet Elementary West side addition facing Southwest



Bennet Elementary West side addition facing Northwest



Expanding the current kitchen and student commons area to the east side of the building.

- Work will begin in this area during the winter break as the small carpeted commons area just to the south of the old main entrance will be sealed off so that heating and ventilation projects can be completed before school gets out in the spring.
- The small commons will be essentially “walled off” to the rest of the school to allow contractors the opportunity to work ahead in getting the space prepped for the work that will continue below as soon as school is out in May. *See pictures below:*

Artist Rendering of Bennet Student Commons Area



Bennet Elementary East addition facing North



Expanding the current office area to the east side of the building.

- *Work is in progress in this area as walls are going up, infrastructure of the office area: Please see the pictures listed below:*

Artist rendering of the Bennet main office area



Bennet Elementary East addition facing Northeast



Adding additional commons/multipurpose space near the southeast edge of the gym.

- Work has begun with the installation of the east walls for the new office space.
 - No pictures of this space are available at this time.

Enhancing the current gymnasium and repurposing the current stage area in the gym.

- The bleachers in the Bennet gym and walls surrounding Mr. Wemhoff's office will be completely removed over the winter break. Work on the gym area will probably begin as soon as school is out in May.
 - Pictures will be updated after the winter break.

Upgrading / renovating outdoor playground spaces and adding fencing to the southeast side of the playground.

- The playground equipment has already been moved farther to the east to make way for a more efficient spot for our students to play football and soccer. This new green space is now located directly to the east of the building and the area will be reseeded sometime this spring with sod or grass to allow for a safer and more level playing surface.
- We are also in the process of replacing swings, a low level climbing structure, and some inclusive sensory panels on the playground and those items will continue through the winter and into the spring. See pictures below:

New location of Playground Equipment at Bennet



Future location of Additional Swings at Bennet facing south)



Redesigning the east parking lot and pedestrian paths:

- Most of this area is now complete. The rest of this area will be completed once the office space and kitchen space to the east have been completed. Please see pictures below:



Additional Lighting Improvements at Bennet Elementary:

- **East Parking Lot:**
 - We now have enhanced LED lighting in the east parking lot. This enhanced lighting helps with visibility and safety in this area.
- **Lighting on the north side of the building:**
 - New safety lights have also been installed above the gym doors on the north side of the building.
 - These new lights help increase visibility and safety for our community and district teams using the gym after school hours for practices and events.
 - Additionally, a new light pole (complete with LED lamp) has been installed at Bennet on the north side of the building in the north bus cut at the school.
 - This pole illuminates the buses and vehicles parked in that area, and this has greatly helped with safety concerns and visibility.
- Our employees and families at both buildings have shown great flexibility in handling these changes!

Palmyra High School:

Review of Expansion and Renovation at PHS:

Add additional classrooms on the northeast side of the building.

Palmyra facing north

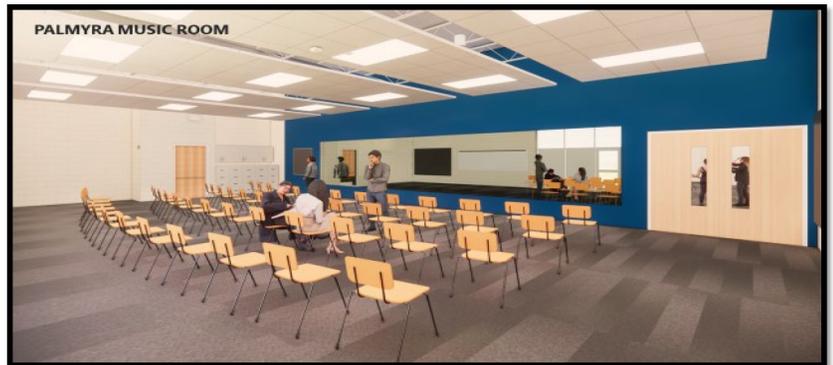


Palmyra East Addition: looking northeast



Relocate the current music area into the current shop area.

-Artist rendering of the future PHS music room.



Relocate the current weight / fitness center and add increased community access to this area.

-Artist rendering of the future PHS Student /Community Fitness Area.



Palmyra looking northeast



Rendering of Palmyra Front of School North Entrance



Expand the current “commons area” space near the main office, adding extra restrooms, and expanding the main office area.

Rendering of Palmyra Student Commons Area



Rendering of Palmyra New East Addition



Build and Expand the current Career Technical Education (CTE) areas to the southeast side of the building.

- See picture below:

Rendering of Career Technical Education (CTE) Area (facing west)



What a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! We've loved seeing so many faces come thru the doors. We are still currently hiring for a custodian at the high school and substitute teachers in the district. If you're interested in either position, please reach out to Cassie Wemhoff at wemhoff.cas@districtor1.net or 402-780-5327 ext. 2005.

NSCAS Assessment Data:

- As a district, we recently received updates on how our students scored on the state NSCAS assessments.
- The district's overall classification in the AQUESTT system received a "great" rating which shows the collective efforts of our staff in pursuit of academic excellence.
- More information regarding our district's information can be found at the following link:
- Nebraska Education Profile: <https://nep.education.ne.gov/>.

<u>Math Proficiency %</u>	<u>Language Arts Proficiency %</u>	<u>Science Proficiency %</u>	<u>ACT Proficiency %</u>
<p><u>District % of Students Proficient</u></p> <p>65%</p> <p>4% above the state average</p> <p>Bennet Elementary: 67%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 % above the state average 	<p><u>District % of Students Proficient</u></p> <p>65%</p> <p>7% above the state average</p> <p>Bennet Elementary: 70%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12% above the state average 	<p><u>District % of Students Proficient</u></p> <p>79%</p> <p>9% above the state average</p> <p>Bennet Elementary: 94%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24% above the state average <p>WOW!!</p>	<p><u>District % of Students Proficient</u></p> <p>Math: 54%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12% above the state average <p>English: 68%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 % above the state average <p>Science: 76%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 % above the state average

Thank you again for your support of our district!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Mr. Hart

“SNEAK PEAK”: Below are Branding Shields of the NEW District OR1/PHS



Guess Who?: Mineral Edition

Over the past few weeks, freshmen science students have been working in earth science. They made it through volcanoes, tectonic plates, earthquakes, the atmosphere, weather, minerals, rocks, and are currently on weathering and erosion. This year, we incorporated some of our vocabulary words into a game. Students used those terms in order to identify the mineral that their partner chose. Students had to use clues like metallic/nonmetallic, hardness, cleavage, fracture, colors, streak, characteristics, composition, and what the mineral is a part of.

Most of us have played the game, "Guess Who". Rather than physical features of humans, students used physical properties of minerals to narrow down their choices to one. The challenge came, as students were only able to ask five questions and offer three guesses regarding their partner's mineral, so they had to be particular on which questions they asked about their partner's mineral.

If anyone wanted to see some competition, this game brought out that competitive spirit in the freshmen, as they were trying to use fewer questions and fewer guesses than their partner did. I had to remind some competitive students that this to help with learning about minerals, not necessarily being first.

We were able to use our vocabulary words, but we also had some fun while doing it. We also discussed using everyday skills like problem-solving, good questioning techniques, memory, and attention to detail to play our Guess Who?: Mineral Edition game. The best part was seeing the interactions amongst the students because it brought out a social side in everyone.



Dannica Hose and Grady Vasa study their physical property list to prepare their next questions.



2023 Marching Festival Results

Applejack Festival - Superior Rating,
1st place parade band in class C

Waverly Parade & Field Festival - Superior
Parade, Superior Field, Second amongst all
classes

Bluez Marching Festival - Superior Rating,
Drumline Superior Rating, Grand Champions

Lincoln Public Schools Festival - Superior Rating

Oxbow Marching Festival - Superior Rating /
NSBA State Marching Festival - Superior Rating,

Color Guard: Superior Rating

Marching Band has a "Superior" Season

The 2023-24 school year has started out great start in the instrumental music department. The marching band partook in six different marching festivals this fall each earning Division I - Superior ratings! The students worked extremely hard this fall having two early morning rehearsals a week at 6:40 am up at the Olsen Complex, as well as in their class time. We would like to thank Mr. Phil Priel for all of his volunteer work with our drumline and pit percussion. We would also like to thank all of the parents and boosters who helped with MANY different things throughout the marching season. We are looking forward to keeping things going during concert season! By John Furrow

STUDENT CONFIDENCE

Research continues to show a positive correlation for the use of positive affirmations building student's self-confidence and an increase in academic achievement. Many studies are starting to show the neurological changes that occur within youth's brains when positive affirmations are utilized each day. These same student's are also showing an increase in academic self-concept, or their belief in their academic abilities, which leads to improved academic performance.

So what can I do?

Ensure that your child uses positive affirmations each day! We all get caught in the day-to-day grind of life (I'm guilty!). Take some time each day to help your student recite positive affirmations that you choose together and talk with them about why those affirmations are true. A few of my favorite affirmations are listed to the right!

Austin Lahmon, School Counselor--Bennet Elementary

I am bright
I am a good friend
I am funny
I can do this
I am pretty/beautiful
I am unique
I am enough
I love who I am
I am confident

I will always do my best!

Vocal Music

What have we been up too?

On October 16th the 7th-12th grade singers performed at their own vocal music concert. The junior high and high school choirs each sang three pieces, and the show choir performed the first two pieces from their set. One of the favorite pieces from the night was the high school choir singing "Flashlight" from Pitch Perfect 2. We dimmed the gym lights and shined our lights bright for the audience. It was beautiful!

On November 6th, Palmyra opened its doors to host ECNC Honor Choir. Each school in the conference selects their best 13 junior high and 13 high school students to participate, creating two choir of over 100 students. We practiced the music together as a mass choir, and then gave a performance at 7:00 pm. Our guest clinician for the junior high choir was Mrs. Lauren Ballou – from Papillion-La Vista schools. For the high school honor choir our guest clinician was Dr. Kurt Von Kampen, who teaches and directs the choirs at both Concordia University in Seward and at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. It truly was a fabulous day of singing! You can find the video of the performance on our youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@palmyrapanthersstreamingch281>

We joined forces and combined all 5th-12th grade singers – 80 singers to be exact - to sing the National Anthem at the Veterans Day assembly which was held at the high school on November 10th. Our sound filled the gym with pride for our Veterans! Then the high school choir gave a nice rendition of "America – the New Colossus" which included the message inscribed on the statue of liberty. It was quite moving.

Next, our singers are gearing up for the upcoming holiday season! Here is when you can hear them in action:

November 27th – K-2nd grade concert at 6:15 pm; 3rd & 4th grade concert 7:15 pm @ PHS

December 2nd – Caroling for Christmas in the Parks – 3 pm Bennet/Palmyra TBA

December 4th – 9th-12th grade vocal and instrumental concert @ PHS 6:30 pm

December 7th – 5th-8th grade vocal and instrumental concert @ PHS 6:30 pm

December 16th – Caroling at Tailored 360 in Bennet – Times and groups to perform TBA

Mark your calendars for our
spring musical!



April 4th & 5th @ 6:30 pm

April 7th @ 2:00 pm

FOLLOW YOUR STUDENTS' PROGRESS ON POWERSCHOOL.

It's easy to follow your students' grades on "distractor1.nebps.org". If you need to get set up with credentials or just a password change, please call your school's office.

Palmyra: 402-780-5327 x2000 or Bennet:402-782-3535 x1000

In September, the first-grade students spent a week learning about apples and Johnny Appleseed. During this week, the students learned about the life cycle of an apple tree through videos, crafts, and books. It



was so much fun to see the different food items apples can be turned into! During this week, we also learned about Johnny Appleseed! Johnny Appleseed introduced apple trees to large parts of the northeast of the United States. He was also a very kind person. Johnny Appleseed's birthday is on September 26, and to celebrate his birthday and our week of learning about apples, the first grad-



ers ended the week with an Apple Tasting Party!

The first-grade Apple Tasting Party is a tradition that has been carried on throughout many years. Each student tried a slice of yellow, green, and a red apple. We then created a graph of their favorite apple color. The winner was the red apple! Students also volunteered to bring different apple products to the party. These products include juice, cider, bread, donuts, candy, cereal, and pie. The students had an opportunity to try all of the different items and their different apple flavors. It was a fantastic time to be in first grade!



Bennet Elementary PE classes are off to a great start this school year! To start the year we did some familiar activities that helped get some of our muscles going again and our legs back under us. We then did our beginning of the year fitness testing, which included a shuttle run, vertical jump, standing broad jump as well as a couple others. Grades 3-5 then transitioned into a volleyball unit, where our main focus was passing. Our lower grades worked on our throwing mechanics and catching the ball. With our younger students, we start close and work on tracking the ball from our partner and catching with our hands, not trapping it against our body. With the older students, we back up and focus on proper throwing mechanics and again catching the ball with our hands. As the year goes on we will continue to work on improving our strength and speed as well as exploring some more team activities like basketball, floor hockey and soccer. We look forward to a great school year full of different activities! GO PANTHERS!



Skills To Work On To Best Prepare Your Child For Preschool

Exposure to their written name

Anytime you write your child's name, show them and tell them that is your name.

Feeding themselves and drinking from an open cup

Encourage your child to feed themselves (even with fingers) and drink from an open cup during all mealtimes using a booster seat, kneeling or sitting on a chair.

Answering simple questions

When someone asks your child their name or how old they are, let them respond before you. If they don't, whisper it to them so they are able to answer the question. Using fingers to represent age is appropriate.

Putting on and taking off their coat and shoes

This skill takes a lot of practice and patience from their adult. Anytime you leave the house, plan for extra time and give your child the opportunity to practice. It's okay for your child not to be able to tie, zip, or button items yet.

Helping you clean up

Encourage your child with your assistance to put away toys they use for play, wipe up spills, and clear the table after meals.

Toilet Learning

Plan a regular toilet routine and let your child observe you use the restroom, so they learn it's a natural thing. If accidents occur have your child assist in clean-up and changing their clothes. When your child enters preschool, they will need to be wearing underwear during all awake hours with limited accidents.

Brittany Eisenhauer and Taylor Black
Little Panthers Preschool

Third grade has been focusing on team and community building this year. Each Friday we do an activity as a grade level to build relationships and social skills. We have played team games that have focused on following directions, talked about how being unique makes third grade more diverse, and have completed activities to develop perseverance. In the future we plan to work on kindness for the month of November, empathy for others in the month of December, and cultural diversity in the month of January. Our goal is to show our students that by building strong relationships with others, you can develop a positive school community.

The 5th grade students have been working really hard to meet 5th grade expectations. They not only learned new rules and procedures, but they have started taking on the responsibility of being the leaders in our school. Many of them will begin leading daily announcements.

Academically, students have been studying a variety of topics. Social Studies with Mr. Pester has been focused on the Explorers of the New World. Next, students focused on the thirteen colonies and what life was like under the English rule and what led to the American Revolution. Students worked on building their own colonies. They came up with their own laws, jobs, and how it would be run.

In Reading, with Mrs. Borg, students have read a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories. Students practiced using a variety of reading strategies to deepen their understanding of the text. The students favorite story so far has been *Old Yeller*. We will finish out the 2nd quarter reading a novel, *Hound Dog True*. The next unit focuses on the Revolution. These are great stories that parallel the learning done in Social Studies class.

Students have been exploring a variety of phenomena in Science thus far. Everything from how density affects buoyancy to mass and volume to light and electricity to pH of liquids before turning our attention to Biology. To understand various scientific concepts, students have performed experiments that gave them a deeper understanding to the complexities of how our visible and unseen world works, such as sensing the elasticity of gas as students compressed a column of air and felt the resistance of the air molecules crowding together. In later science classes, students will discover this is Charles's Law.

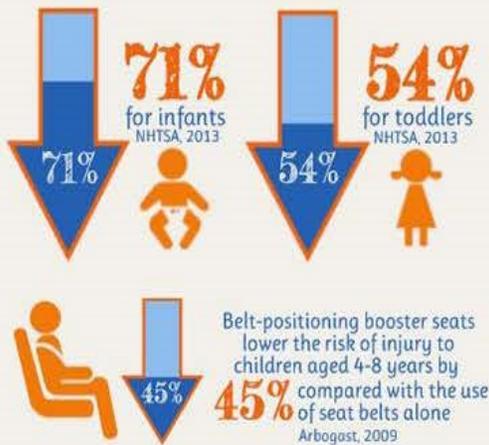


Buckle Up for Winter

- ❄️ Motor vehicle crashes are leading cause of death in 5-24 year olds
- ❄️ Proper use of child safety seats significantly reduces risk of death
- ❄️ Unbelted vehicle occupant fatalities (77%) were more likely to occur in rural areas

THE GOOD NEWS

Child safety seats can reduce fatalities by



Nebraska Child Safety Laws

- ALL CHILDREN (8 and under) MUST be correctly secured in child safety seat
- 2 and under: Required to be in REAR facing seat or until they reach upper weight or height limit allowed by the car seat
- 8 and under: Must ride in the back seat, as long as there is a back seat equipped with a seatbelt and is not already occupied by other children under eight years of age.
- 8-18 years old: must wear a seat belt or use child safety seat (booster seat).

❄️ Buckle then Bundle

Remember your child car seat's harness **CAN NOT** be tightened correctly when your child is wearing a thick jacket. In the event of an accident or even harsh braking, the winter jacket is compressed and the harnesses are not close enough to your child to keep them safe.

❄️ Keeping Warm:

1. Secure child, wear coat backwards
2. Use car blankets over buckle
3. Wear thin fleece/sweater in the car seat instead

❄️ More Information:

- <https://www.safekidsnebraska.org/>

The infographic features five numbered icons of a child in a car seat, each with a corresponding green box below it. The boxes contain the following text: 1. 'Back against the vehicle seat', 2. 'Knees bend at edge of seat', 3. 'Lap belt on tops of thighs, not on belly', 4. 'Shoulder belt between neck and shoulder', 5. 'Sits properly. No slouching, no playing with seat belt, etc.'. At the bottom, it says '* To ride safely, most kids need a booster until age 10-12 *' and includes a logo for 'THE SAFE KID CLUB'.

The Future of Palmyra Band and Its Ties to the Past

By Owen Ramaekers

Drawing in extra practice tallies on practice sheets. Faking parents' signatures. Pretending to have practiced Hot Cross Buns and Mary Had a Little Lamb. The band program at Palmyra has continued to change over time, but many things have stayed the same. This year's 6th-grade band has some unique ties to the past.

After taking over at the beginning of the 2022 school year, new band director John Furrow has made some adjustments to the 6th grade band. According to Mr. Furrow, the curriculum and practice books are different, the kids now start at the beginning of the year, and they get many more practice days than before.

Now that the 6th graders are in the high school building, the full 6th grade band can meet every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during 4th period, while Mondays and Fridays are smaller group practices. I've gotten the privilege to help out these young musicians, and it brightens up my day every time. Recently, I made a fascinating discovery. Many of the current 6th-grade band students are offspring of Palmyra alumni. Not only that, but six of them had a father who was in the Palmyra band between 1995 and 2005.

I had the privilege of interviewing five of them: Korbin King, Ella Desh, Logan Wilson, Makenzie Ringland, and Madi Cheney. While the parents had some influence on their decision to join band, many of them said they decided to join on their own. At first, starting out in band was a little rough, but all agreed that the band was much better this year than last year. As in many things, it takes time to improve in band. When I asked if they would continue on to high school band, I got five very enthusiastic yesses!

In a few years from now, these band students will be playing at an even higher level. They'll look back on their 6th-grade band days, remember the pieces that they think are challenging now, and laugh at how much they've learned. Ella Desh said she is looking forward to the trips in high school band while Logan Wilson said she's excited to hang out with friends. Makenzie Ringland added that she is excited to grow closer to her band friends. All these great things are part of the tradition of the Palmyra Band.

I reached out to four of the Palmyra band alumni 6th grade dads from the graduating classes of 1998 and 1999 to hear about their favorite band memories. Scott Ringland recalled a joke he and a buddy played on a fellow trumpet player in the old band room. Brandon Desh, Bryce Wilson, and Shane King all remembered the days of blasting out the gym with pep band tunes, a fun activity that their kids will begin next year.

In Mr. Furrow's words, "The fact that so many kids of Palmyra band alumni are in the band speaks to the tradition of the school and program." Mr. Furrow certainly plans to continue this. I couldn't have put it better than Shane King: "They will do a great job of carrying on the tradition of an outstanding band." These kids are the future of the Palmyra band. They will get to carry on the tradition that their parents had before them. And who knows, maybe someday they will have their own kids in the Palmyra Band!



The collage below includes senior pictures of the dads and current photos of their kids who tried to replicate their dad's poses.



Collage Includes:

Brandon Desh; Class of 98; Ella Desh
 Brandon-Trombone
 Ella-Trombone

Shane King; Class of 98; Korbin King
 Shane-Alto Sax
 Korbin-Trumpet

Bryce Wilson; Class of 99; Logan Wilson
 Bryce-French Horn
 Logan-Percussion

Scott Ringland; Class of 99; Makenzie Ringland
 Scott-Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone
 Makenzie-French Horn

Cody Chambers; Class of 02; Callen Chambers
 Cody-Trumpet
 Callen-Percussion

Ryan Cheney; Class of 05; Madi Cheney
 Ryan-Percussion
 Madi-Trumpet

Dads' Panther

Current Panther



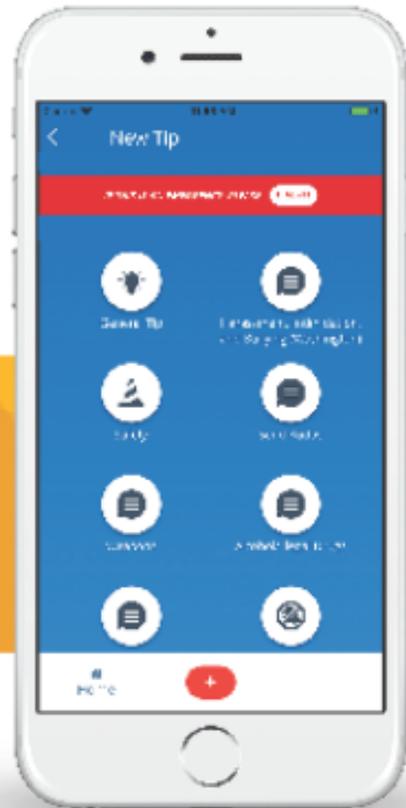


Palmyra District OR-1

Report It

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

SUBMIT USING OUR APP



FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL 911

EASY WAYS TO REPORT



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



Email your Tip to
1795@alert1.us



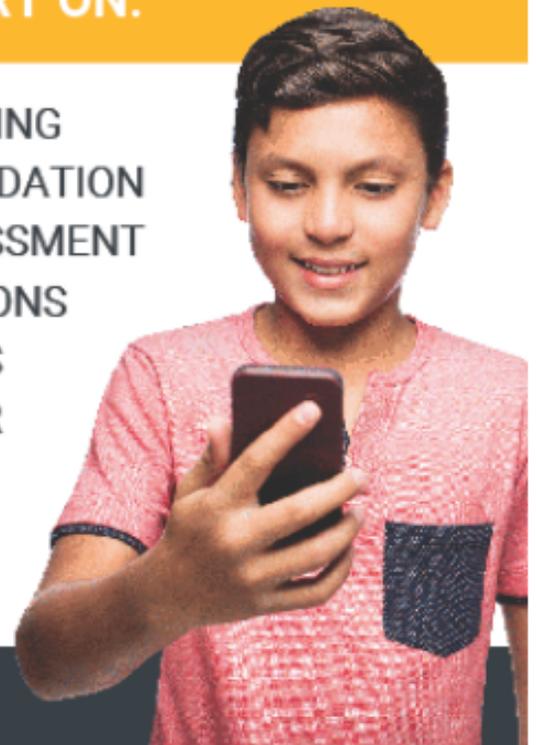
Call to report your tip
402.858.9423



Text your Tip to
402.858.9423

REPORT ON:

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



Our District Code is: 1795

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

“Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the fu”ture.

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.

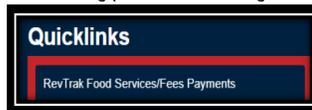


REVTRAK:

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
CALENDAR 2023-2024. Updated 6.12.2023

August 2023						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
19 Teacher Days						
14 Student Days						

September 2023						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20 Teacher Days						
19 Student Days						

October 2023						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
21 Teacher Days						
21 Student Days						

November 2023						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
19 Teacher Days						
18 Student Days						

December 2023						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
14 Teacher Days						
14 Student Days						
93 Teacher Days First Semester						
86 Student Days First Semester						

August 2023	
8-Aug	Start of Fall Practice
Aug 7-11	District Staff Development: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
14-Aug	First Day of School (Grades K-12)
15-Aug	First Day of Preschool

September 2023	
4-Sep	NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
19-Sep	Dismiss @ 1:00 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
20-Sep	Collab. PD/WVD - No School for students

October 2023	
13-Oct	End of First quarter
16-Oct	Start 2nd Quarter
20-Oct	Fall Break; NO SCHOOL

November 2023	
13-Nov	Start Winter Practice
14-Nov	Teacher Inservice No School
22-Nov	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
23-Nov	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
24-Nov	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

December 2023	
20-Dec	End of Second Quarter: Dismiss @ 1:00 P.M.
21-Dec	Winter Vacation December 21-January 3
22-26-Dec	Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

January 2024	
1-3-Jan	Winter Vacation
3-Jan	Collab PD/WVD - No School for Students
4-Jan	School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter
15-Jan	No School - Martin Luther King Day

February 2024	
6-Feb	Dismiss @ 1:00 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
9-Feb	NO SCHOOL Winter Break
21-Feb	Collab PD/WVD - No School for Students
29-Feb	Start of Spring Practice

March 2024	
1-Mar	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
7-Mar	End of Third Quarter
8-Mar	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
11-Mar	Collab PD/WVD - No School for Students
12-Mar	Start 4th Quarter
28-Mar	Dismiss @ 1:00 P.M. Begin Easter Break
29-Mar	NO SCHOOL: Easter Break

April 2024	
1-Apr	NO SCHOOL: Easter Break
17-Apr	Collab PD/WVD - No School for Students

May 2024	
11-May	High School Graduation
15-May	Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dismissal
16-May	End 2nd Sem. -1:00 Dismissal H.S. :HS: Elem. Transition Day
17-May	Teacher Work Day
Note:	Early dismissal times are 1:00 p.m. Elementary students riding the buses will be dismissed at 12:45 p.m.

173 Student Days
185 Teacher Days
Legend for Colors
Regular Dismissal for High School Students
Elementary Students: End of Second Semester
Vacation Days
Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal: 1:00 p.m. HS / No School for elementary
Professional Development Day for Staff: No school for students
Board Approved: 6.12.2023

January 2024						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
20 Teacher Days						
19 Student Days						

February 2024						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
20 Teacher Days						
19 Student Days						

March 2024						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
18 Teacher Days						
17 Student Days						

April 2024						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
21 Teacher Days						
20 Student Days						

May 2024						
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
13 Teacher Days						
11 Elem/12 HS Student Days						
92 Teacher Days Second Semester						
87 Student Days Second Semester						

Additional notes:
 Due to construction at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the first day of school has been moved to **Monday, August 14th.**
 The first day of preschool will be **Tuesday, August 15th.**