

**PALMYRA**



**PANTHERS**

**School District OR-1**

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Palmyra, NE 68418

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Superintendent: Michael Hart

Secondary Principal: Heath Johnson

Activities Director: Aaron Hoeft

Elementary Principal: Linde Walter

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Bennet, NE 68317

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[www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org) Twitter: @OR1\_Panthers

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District OR-1 Newsletter  
District OR-1 Public Schools  
February, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

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

# Foundation For Knowledge, District OR-1

## Since our beginning in December of 1998 -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Balance paid by \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

**To validate your pledge, your signature is required** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Thank you for your investment in the future.**



# PANTHER PANTHER

NEWS

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

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

February 2021

- Follow District OR1 at [www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org)
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Superintendent Notes
- SafeSchools Portal
- Wellness Tips From CDC
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1\_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at [www.1011now.com](http://www.1011now.com)
- Life of a Glow Stick
- Pre-School Enrollment
- Learning about Genetics

## Superintendent Notes...by Michael Hart

As we move through the month of February, the recent severe weather patterns remind us that we need to maintain an accurate database of student and family contact information available to our schools so that each parent is able to quickly and accurately receive important messages regarding school closures, schedule changes, late starts, etc. This updated information is critical for us to have not only when there is snow, ice, and extreme winter weather, but it will continue to be important as we deal with upcoming spring weather conditions like tornado and thunderstorm warnings. With that in mind, please take some time to check your contact information to verify all of the information is accurate. If you need to update anything, please call our school offices and our staff will help you through this quick and easy process.



Accurate and timely communication to our families remains a critical priority for us and in order to keep up with all of the information we need to share with the community, we will continue to use a variety of digital mediums to get our message out to students and families. Our district messenger feature (through Powerschool) provides the ability for us to immediately send an email as well as a phone or text message. We will also continue to communicate via Twitter and those feeds are automatically uploaded to the District OR-1 app as well. The District OR-1 app is a great communication tool, so please make sure you update your mobile devices to include this app. These digital tools are a great way for us to communicate, but our communication is only effective if we have up to date contact information for you.

### Foundation For Knowledge:

At this time of year, I would like to thank the **Foundation for Knowledge** for the outstanding work they do to provide additional opportunities for our staff and students. The foundation's continuing efforts to provide scholarships and instructional materials has a major impact on District OR-1 instruction and postsecondary

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

...Continued on next page.

## Pay Lunch Bills ONLINE!

District ORI Schools is now taking payments for food service online!

Pay when it's most convenient for you with a computer or mobile device at <https://districtor1.revtrak.net/>. This district Web Store even integrates with PowerSchool!

Save time and be confident that your payment makes it where it needs to go. You can pay online with eCheck, debit, or credit cards.

You will need a PowerSchool account before you can create a RevTrak account. Call your school office if you need help!

## NSAA Transfer Rules

A few years ago the NSAA changed the Incoming Transfer Deadline date to May 1<sup>st</sup>. All penalties associated with the old NSAA March 15<sup>th</sup> date will apply to the May 1st date. All paperwork (incoming Transfer report) must be submitted electronically to the NSAA on or before midnight May 1, 2020. Students are permitted one NSAA transfer during their high school years unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent (Bylaw 2.7.8).

## Sports Physicals

All students entering grades 7-12 and wishing to participate in a JH or HS sport at Palmyra for the 2020-21 school year must have a current physical on file in the office. All physicals obtained after May 1, 2020 will be accepted for the 2020-21 school year. In addition, a NSAA Parent Consent form must be filled out and on file in the office as well.

## NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Certification – Prospective College Athletes

All students who want to participate in athletics after high school in any Division I, II, or NAIA college MUST register at the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Center. Complete these online forms during the second semester of the junior year. For information, visit [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org).

opportunities for so many individuals. We remain deeply appreciative of the Foundation support we receive. Thank you again for all you do for our students and staff!

### **Spring Assessment Time**

Even though Covid and remote learning has challenged our ability to complete all of our regularly scheduled state directed assessments like NSCAS and MAPS, we know that assessments are important to monitor and analyze student learning and achievement. As our staff and students prepare for second semester state and district assessments, we want to provide a few tips that parents can put into practice at home that will be of assistance when students are preparing for these tests.

- **Meet and/or communicate with your child's teacher:** *Do this as often as needed to discuss your child's progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of school-work. Parents and teachers working together is an extremely strong partnership that greatly benefits students.*
- **Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home:** *Offer your assistance with homework on a regular basis to foster good study habits and to ensure that homework is being completed.*
- **Make sure that your child is well rested:** *Children need sleep. This is important not only on regular days, but especially on testing days. Children who are tired*

*are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test. Many teachers report that children who do not test well have not had enough sleep on a regular basis.*

- **Provide your child a well-rounded diet.** *A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind and a student that is ready to learn.*
- **Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home.** *By reading new materials, a child learns new vocabulary words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's teacher about suggested reading materials that will enhance these literacy skills.*
- **Make sure your child is prepared.** *Check with your child's teacher to see if you need to provide your child with additional materials. Also, check to see whether your child will be able to make up the test if he or she is sick on the day of the assessment.*
- **Remain positive:** *Staying calm and positive will help your child stay calm. If your child gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help them practice some relaxation techniques that will reduce that anxiety.*

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for their commitment and service to all of our students and families and I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and flexibility during the pandemic and this most unusual school year! Go Panthers!

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### **How to Protect Your Computer**

“If you don't lock your car, it's vulnerable; if you don't secure your computer, it's vulnerable.” “Reduce your vulnerability, and you reduce the threat.” Below are some key steps to protecting your computer from intrusion:

#### ◆ **Keep Your Firewall Turned On**

A firewall helps protect your computer from hackers who might try to gain access to crash it, delete information, or even steal passwords or other sensitive information. Software firewalls are widely recommended for single computers. The software is prepackaged on some operating systems or can be purchased for individual computers. For multiple networked computers, hardware routers typically provide firewall protection.

#### ◆ **Install or Update Your Antivirus Software**

Antivirus software is designed to prevent malicious software programs from embedding on your computer. If it detects malicious code, like a virus or a worm, it works to disarm or remove it. Viruses can infect computers without users' knowledge. Most types of antivirus software can be set up to update automatically.

#### ◆ **Install or Update Your Antispyware Technology**

Spyware is just what it sounds like—software that is surreptitiously installed on your computer to let others peer into your activities on the computer. Some spyware collects information about you without your consent or produces unwanted pop-up ads on your web browser. Some operating systems offer free spyware protection, and inexpensive software is readily available for download on the Internet or at your local computer store. Be wary of ads on the Internet offering downloadable antispyware—in some cases these products may be fake and may actually contain spyware or other malicious code. It's like buying groceries—shop where you trust.

#### ◆ **Keep Your Operating System Up to Date**

Computer operating systems are periodically updated to stay in tune with technology requirements and to fix security holes. Be sure to install the updates to ensure your computer has the latest protection.

#### ◆ **Be Careful What You Download**

Carelessly downloading e-mail attachments can circumvent even the most vigilant anti-virus software. Never open an e-mail attachment from someone you don't know, and be wary of forwarded attachments from people you do know. They may have unwittingly advanced malicious code.

#### ◆ **Turn Off Your Computer**

With the growth of high-speed Internet connections, many opt to leave their computers on and ready for action. The downside is that being “always on” renders computers more susceptible. Beyond firewall protection, which is designed to fend off unwanted attacks, turning the computer off effectively severs an attacker's connection—be it spyware or a botnet that employs your computer's resources to reach out to other unwitting users.

# How to Buckle Up for Winter:

Please do not forget during those cold winter days that **your child car seat's harness CAN NOT be tightened correctly when your child is wearing a thick jacket.** (rear facing infants/toddlers, forward facing toddler/early elementary) 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.

## Test the coat:

1. Place child in seat, fasten car seat harness **WITHOUT** coat ensuring no slack to pinch on harness (see picture)
2. Remove child and put on winter coat
3. Place child back in seat and try to fasten with the same harness setting
4. If you can't secure the harness without loosening---- the coat **MUST** be removed for proper fit



## **Buckle then Bundle:**

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



## **Keep your family safe:**

- Always BUCKLE up yourself
- Ensure child is in the appropriate seating
  - Rear facing until AT LEAST 2 and height/weight limit on seat is reached
  - Forward facing harness until height or weight limit reached
  - Booster seat when height or weight limit reached on forward facing
  - Booster seat until they pass the seat belt test:

Questions?

Email: Liz Pohlen, OTR/L, CPST  
pohlen.eli@districor1.net

A child can ride **safely** without a **booster** seat when you can say **YES** to **ALL 5**

1	2	3	4	5
				
Back against the vehicle seat	Knees bend at edge of seat	Lap belt on tops of thighs, not on belly	Shoulder belt between neck and shoulder	Sits properly. No slouching, no playing with seat belt, etc.

\*To ride safely, most kids need a booster until age 10-12 \*

THE CAR SEAT LADY

## Preparing for Kindergarten

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrated 100 days in school. We also celebrated the fact that Kindergarten students are 100 days SMARTER! It's truly amazing to see the progress these kids have made in just 100 days and we will be working hard to fine tune the skills we have learned. While we are excited about all that our students have and will accomplish, we are also looking forward to meeting next year's group of Kindergarten students and want to see them be just as successful as our current group.

If you have had a child in Kindergarten recently, then you know that Kindergarten has changed over the years and expectations are very different. What can parents do right now to help prepare their child for their first day of Kindergarten? We put together a short list of ideas to help parents out.

Work on developing their fine motor skills. Get used to holding a pencil properly and cutting with a scissors.

Practice writing their first name with ONLY the first letter capitalized.

Practice number recognition from 0-20 and counting with one-to-one correspondence.

Work on letter and sound recognition. Help your child practice saying the letters and their sounds.

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### Little Panthers Preschool

Casandra Hohensee

The preschool years are a special time in a child's life. Preschool allows children to become more independent, develop self-regulation, increase social-emotional experiences, provide school exposure, and enhance early academic skills. District OR-1 Little Panthers Preschool provides students with the opportunity to practice these skills and more. We are an inclusive preschool program that gives typically developing children and children with special needs the opportunity to learn together. Our goal is to prepare our students for kindergarten while allowing them to explore their natural curiosity and creativity. We aim to create a purposeful play environment that encourages student exploration and foster playful learning.

Our preschool program offers a half day morning or afternoon session to students from 3 to 5 years of age, 4 days a week. Little Panthers Preschool is currently taking registrations for children who are interested in preschool for the 2021/2022 school year. Please call the office to place your child on the list.

Join Ms. Turax, FFA, and others from the District OR1 Community to Save a Life. The FFA Blood Drive will be held Palmyra FFA partners with Nebraska Community Blood Bank on March 10th, 2021 at the Palmyra High School Parking Lot from 1 PM - 6 PM (Appointments every 10 minutes).

Practice social skills and using manners. It's important to learn how to function with others in a classroom setting. Being able to share, take turns, handle our emotions, and start solving simple problems on their own can help promote a positive learning environment.

Do we expect your child to master all of these before their first day? No, we do not expect mastery, as we will also be working on them throughout the school year. However, any early practice and exposure will help make the transition into Kindergarten much simpler and will also help in easing any anxieties going into the school year. We look forward to meeting your child at Kindergarten Round-Up.

### Elementary Notes

#### **KDG-Round Up...**

**KDG Round Up will be Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM. Be looking for more information coming soon regarding specifics for the day. Please contact the school office to register your child for KDG for the fall of 2021.**

#### **Fall Preschool Enrollment**

**Little Panther Preschool is currently taking registrations for children who are interested in preschool. Please call the office to place your child's name on the list.**

#### **Summer Enrichment**

**Summer Enrichment information will be coming home with students in March. Please be looking for more information regarding dates and time.**

#### **Become a Teammate**

**E-mail Mr. Chaffee at [chaffee.mic@districtor1.net](mailto:chaffee.mic@districtor1.net) or call 402-780-5327 find out how to get paired with a mentee.**

#### **Box Tops**

**Bennet Elementary is collecting Box Tops! If you have Box Tops at home, bring them in and turn them into the office. Our school can earn cash for the Box Tops turned in. We are then able to use the cash with-in our school to buy the items we need. Every Box Top helps!**

## Elementary PE

Bennet Elementary PE classes are very thankful for favorable weather for most of the fall semester. With the Covid-19 pandemic, we tried to be outdoors as much as possible. The last couple of months we have moved indoors and our upper elementary classes have been involved in basketball activities, different versions of tag, throwing and catching, as well as some agility work to help improve our physical fitness. We will continue to work on improving our strength and speed as well as exploring some more team activities like floor hockey and kickball. We look forward to the spring and will welcome the warmer weather to hopefully get back outside and enjoy the fresh air.

—Mr. Wemhoff



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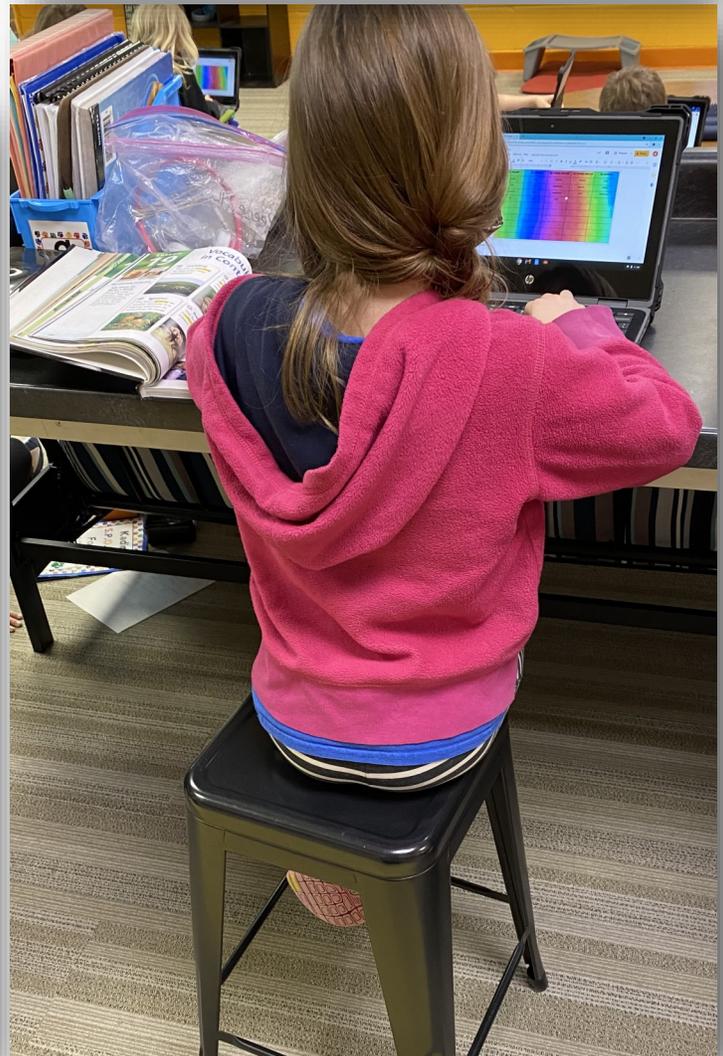
## 1st Graders are BOOMing With Excitement Over New Chromebooks

This year has been a year like no other and we have had to change the way we do things on a daily basis in first grade. One of those big changes was having to remove our reading centers where students could play games and do phonetic pattern sorts in small groups to practice the skills we were teaching. We as teachers, were struggling to find a way for our students to safely have those extra practice opportunities. Then, our district was fortunate enough to receive a grant allowing us to go 1:1 with Chromebooks in all grades kindergarten through twelfth grade! The Chromebooks came over Christmas break and we first grade teachers went right to work trying to figure out how to best utilize these amazing machines in our classrooms. BOOM, the perfect tool found us, Boom Learning. This is an amazing website that we as teachers can use to create activities for the students to practice all kinds of skills on. Then those activities can be assigned to the students for practice. We even take our reading tests on them! Besides using Boom, we have also created a class website that allows students to easily access content and websites we are incorporating into our curriculum. Please check out our website at <http://bit.ly/1stGradeClassWebsite>. If you ask any first grade teacher or student, I am sure they will tell you we are BOOMing with gratitude for this wonderful gift and exciting way to learn!



### 3rd Grade Enriches Learning with Technology Grant! Mrs. Sadie Conn

Thanks to a technology grant received in late December, 3rd grade students are able to enrich learning and day to day activities. Each student was issued a Chromebook and have been able to integrate them into their daily school schedule. Teachers have been able to individualize student instruction and assignments even more so than before and provide valuable feedback in a more time efficient manner. Students have shifted to a mixture of traditional paper and pencil activities with whole group instruction and guided practice, as well as an online format resembling a flipped classroom putting them in the driver's seat of their education. Students have enjoyed learning math through pre-recorded videos that they can access multiple times and refer back to if they experience confusion. Teachers have used this time to pull individual students who might have misunderstood or just need a little more practice on other topics to help close gaps. With the addition of Chromebooks, students have been able to enrich their writing skills by putting together presentations with Powerpoints, composing documents within Google Docs, and working together on the same document at the same time while adding their own information. Third grade teachers and students are excited to continue their learning with this new tool to help further individualize instruction.



The first grade teachers started the second semester with a new tool for each student in their classrooms, a Chromebook. This instructional tool allows the flexibility for teaching and learning in the classroom. With students having their own devices, we are able to assess, reinforce, and teach creatively to all students at the same time. When it comes time to take our weekly reading test, instead of passing out a paper test, we are calling on our students to pick up their Chromebook and log in to Boom Learning. Our first grade students take the same test, but in a different format. As teachers, we can reflect instantly on what questions were missed as a whole class so we can go back and teach those same concepts again.

Students also have the opportunity to go on other approved websites to practice math, reading, or unit studies skills. Finding new and interactive ways to keep the students engaged both on paper and through technology, will continue to reinforce ideas already taught by the teacher in a whole class setting. As technology evolves, so will our style of teaching. Having 1:1 devices at a young age, will set the students up for more individualized projects as they continue through school, but will also set them up for success in their future career choices.

My students love using their Chromebook in the classroom, and keeps the spark of learning present. As teachers, we are so excited to see how we can implement our 1:1 Chromebooks in our future first grade classrooms.

Mrs. Petska's First Grade Class with their Chromebooks



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- Did you know that you can keep up with your student's grades, lunch balances, and other information by getting your PowerSchool username and password from your school offices in Bennet and Palmyra?
  - Did you know that you can download the DistrictOR1 app for your Android or iPhone device?
  - Did you know you can follow District OR1 happenings by following OR1\_Panthers on Twitter?

## Flipped Classroom

In Mr. Maibaum's sixth grade classroom this year, I have decided to use flipped lessons for teaching math. This leads to the question, "What exactly is a flipped math lesson?" Flipped lessons, in general, are lessons that are designed around the idea of a teacher recording themselves teaching the lessons and distributing the videos for the students to watch. In my case, I use Canvas to distribute these lessons to my students.

### Why I use Flipped Math lessons

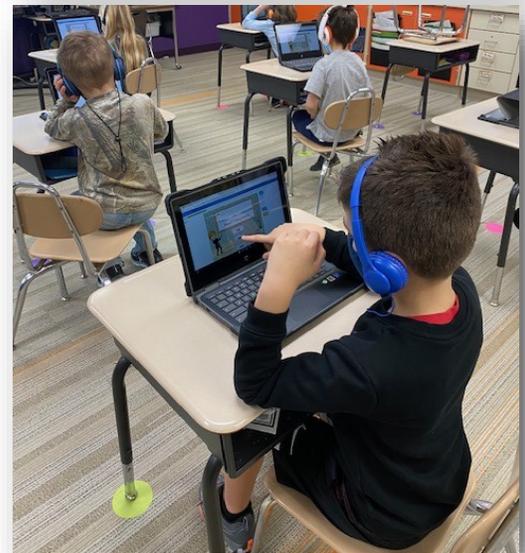
There are a couple of reasons why I decided to move to flipped lessons. The first reason was to be able to check in with as many students as possible while they are working. If I have the whole class watching the video, I can walk up and down the aisles as students are working. By doing this I am able to see if they are understanding the concepts, and I am able to check in more frequently with students who struggle with math.

Another reason I chose to move math to flipped lessons is because it makes learning portable. If a student has to take a math assignment home, and they need a refresher, they can re-watch the video on Canvas to help them complete the assignment. If a student is gone for a couple of days, they do not need to worry about missing a math lesson. They can go on Canvas and watch the lessons. By using flipped lessons, I have allowed my students access to learning at both home and school.

### How it works

My recorded lessons are very similar to normal math lessons, the only difference is that the lesson is pre-recorded. I start out by telling the students what we are learning about, and then I show them how to complete at least three of the problems that are on their worksheets. After this I will assign at least two to three problems for them to work on their own. After I assign these problems, I have the students pause the video to work on these problems all by themselves. After the students have finished the problems, I go through the answers to those in the video. If the students get all of those problems correct, they can get start on the assignment. If they are getting the problems wrong, they are encouraged in the video to raise their hand so they can get the help that they need.

Overall, I feel that flipped lessons have had a positive impact on the way I teach math in my classroom. I am excited to continue using this model to see how it impacts students' learning and engagement in math.



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## Accelerated Reader Update and Reminder-Mr. Smidt

Now that we are a month into the second semester, I would like to share where the elementary school is with total AR points for the school year. As of February 2nd, Bennet Elementary has 14,778.1 points! Our annual goal is 20,000 points, students are doing very well. Just a reminder that the Accelerated Reader (AR) program is open for students of District OR-1 schools to take tests from home 24 hours a day. The following link can be used to access the AR site.  
<https://global-zone53.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/334102>

[https://striv.tv/  
channel/palmyra/](https://striv.tv/channel/palmyra/)

Can't make it to the game? Watch select activities from any Internet device.

[https://striv.tv/  
channel/palmyra/](https://striv.tv/channel/palmyra/)

Together We Transform Lives  
**TEAMMATES**<sup>SM</sup>  
MENTORING

Become a Teammate: e-mail Mr. Chaffee at [chaffee.mic@districtor1.net](mailto:chaffee.mic@districtor1.net) or 402-780-5327 to find out how to get paired with a mentee.

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## Ashfalls Fossil Beds

By Nichole Ourada

How did the land at Ashfalls Fossil Beds in Nebraska change over time? This is the phenomenon that the 4th graders were presented with at the beginning of the unit on Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth. Each lesson in this unit has focused on a different Investigative Phenomenon.

The first lesson was on volcanoes and if one could pop up where we live. The students mapped the location of prehistoric volcanoes and evaluated the distance of the volcanoes from the Ashfall Fossil Beds. They made a hypothesis on what happened at Ashfalls based on their findings. Using that evidence and their developing questions, we learned why some volcanoes explode and some don't in Lesson 2. In this lesson, students were able to complete an investigation on thick vs. thin lava and then make connections about the different types of volcanoes that exist and how that has affected the Earth.

Lesson 3 focused on the question, will a mountain last forever? Students were able to model what happens to the tops of mountains using sugar cubes during our sugar shake activity. This will lead us into our final lesson on how they could survive a landslide. Students will have to design and generate a plan on how to save their house from a landslide if it were at the bottom of a mountain based on the evidence they have gathered.

By the end of this unit, students will be able to recognize that the patterns in the Ashfall Fossil Beds give clues to how the earth's surface has changed over time. In the lessons that we have completed, the students have done a great job of approaching the conclusion that weathering and erosion cause the earth's surface to change over time.



Every year seems to always bring new attitudes and new trends. A new trend that students enjoy is Tik Tok. Tik Tok can provide teachers with new, fun, and interesting content that can drive learning. In our previous chapter, chemistry students were learning about the electromagnetic spectrum and how elements and different compounds give off different emission spectrums. We used Chemiluminescence to investigate how excited electrons give off colors. Chemiluminescence is a chemical reaction that causes a release of energy in the form of light. To produce this light the electrons in the chemicals become excited and rise to a higher energy level. When they go back to their original level, we see the colors given off by the glow stick. To investigate the emission spectrum of a glow stick, the students were going to



**Spectrum of a  
GLOW STICK**



have to do a little dissection to get their glow stick to get the contents separated into two different beakers. After the glow stick was cut open and the glass cylinder was broken, students separated the hydrogen peroxide and tert-butyl alcohol into the separate beakers. Students had to then make quantitative and qualitative observations about the two liquids. Next, they poured the two liquids into the same beaker and used a spectroscope to observe the emission spectrum of the light given off by the glow stick. Students then wrote down the colors they saw in the tube and finished the rest of their lab after dipping some objects into the solution and tried writing with those objects. The great thing about social media is using things seen on platforms like Tik Tok that can drive their learning and peak their interest.



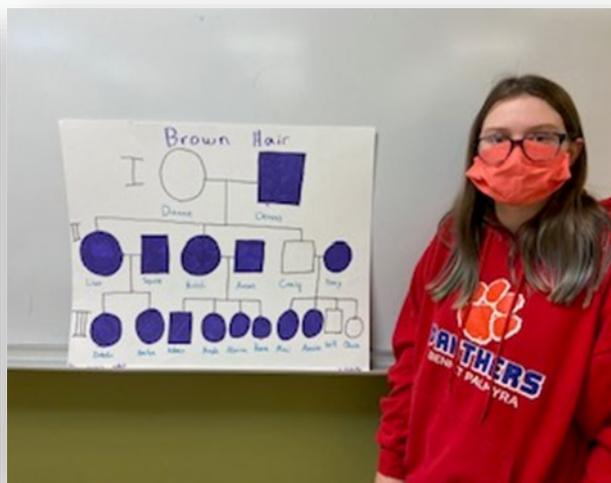
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### Science World

Submitted by Char Church

Science is all around us, from technology that has become an integral part of our lives to the pandemic that we are currently facing. Our knowledge of the solar system and planet Earth has expanded immensely through exploration. Thus today's students are required to learn more and more about their world.

The seventh graders have been learning about genetics. Genetics is the passing of traits from one generation to the next. One activity they participated in was to design a pedigree chart showing three generations of their family. They were to select one trait, such as eye color, and follow this trait in their family. They presented their pedigree charts to the class. Students were able to learn something about their own family and well as gain an understanding of who they may have received their own traits from.

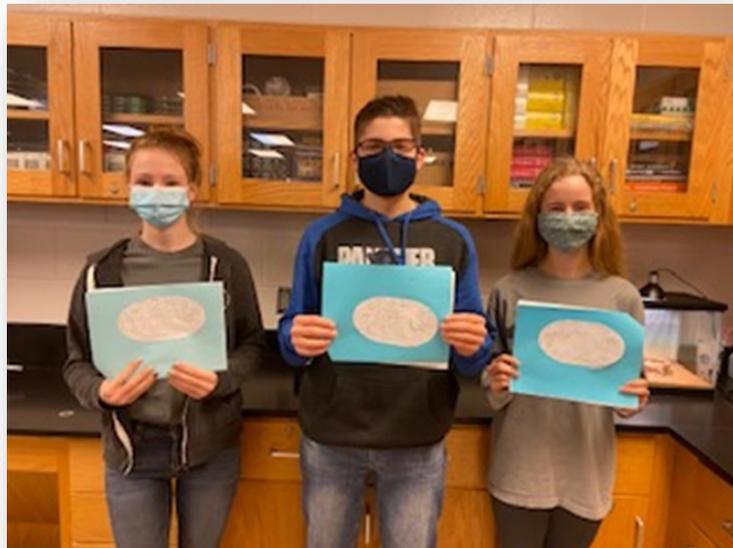


The eighth graders are studying continental drift and plate tectonics. Did you know that the North American plate is moving westward at a rate of about 2 centimeters per year? Hawaii is moving towards Alaska and Australia is moving northward, towards the equator. So in the distant future new maps will need to be drawn.

Students participated in an activity where they had to plot the San Andreas Fault in California, label the plates, cut out the plates and reassemble the plates on a separate sheet of paper. They have been learning about divergent, convergent and transform boundaries. These boundaries determine whether there will be earthquake or volcanic activity. In addition they have been studying the ring of fire and labeling various volcanoes around the earth.

The sophomores recently completed their project on a futuristic organism. They had to design a habitat and organism that would be able to survive on Earth 100 years from now. They had to establish the conditions on Earth and explain how this organism would be able to survive.

Currently, we are studying the world of fish. This is to prep them for participating in the Nebraska Trout in the Classroom program that will begin in January. In January we will receive rainbow trout eggs that we will raise in the classroom. In addition students will dissect adult rainbow trout. They will do water tests to determine the quality of water samples. Students will also research the water quality of our rivers and streams in Nebraska.



In the combined junior/senior class we are currently studying human anatomy. Students have recently completed labs involving taking blood pressures, pulse rates, and respiration rates. In other labs, students identified the blood types of four individuals and learned what blood types can be transfused safely to certain patients. Did you know that donating plasma, the liquid part of blood, can save lives? Plasma can be given to patients that have lost a lot of blood due to trauma. The plasma does not have to be matched to the patient's blood type. Plasma will restore the blood volume thus saving a person's life.

It is my hope that you can take time to enjoy all that mother Earth has to offer. The beautiful sunsets, night skies, tranquility of a lake and the deer at dusk.

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### Peru State Business Contest 2021

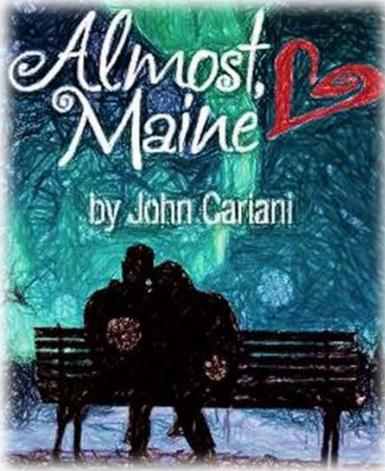
PHS business and technology students once again participated in the annual Peru State Business Contest. This marks the 48<sup>th</sup> year that the contest has been in existence. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the contest looked a little differently this year. Instead of taking the students to the campus of a thousand oaks for their competitions, the students competed virtually. Each student who participated had to take a 100-question test over a given category. These tests were administered on Peru State's online learning platform, Blackboard. This is very similar to the program that we use at PHS, called Canvas. I feel that our students' familiarity with online testing allowed them to feel more confident when testing.

Competing in the contest virtually had both its benefits and its challenges. In a normal year, we are limited to three entries per contest. Because the testing was conducted online this year, we were able to enter ten entries per contest. This gave more students the opportunity to compete. However, this also brought on its own set of challenges, as other schools were able to have the same amount of contestants. Normally, over 20 schools attend Peru State Business Contest. With an allowed 10 entries per contest, this means that each competition could have up to 200 contestants! With the increased number of competitors, the competition in 2021 was increased heavily.

The students at PHS rose to the challenge as we had seven students finish in the top five! Each of the students who finishes in the top five will receive a medal and the winners of any competition receive a \$500 scholarship to Peru State College! The following list shows which PHS students finished in the top five and in which contest. Congratulations to these students and to all who participated!

<b>Computer Concepts</b>	
<b>Contestant</b>	<b>Place</b>
Daniel Frey	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Faith Green	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Word Processing</b>	
<b>Contestant</b>	<b>Place</b>
Daniel Frey	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cadence Kaufman	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Webpage Design</b>	
<b>Contestant</b>	<b>Place</b>
Hunter Pope	1 <sup>st</sup>
Elli Jung	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Oscar Thomas	3 <sup>rd</sup>

Palmyra High School Theatre Presents:



Almost, Maine. It's love.

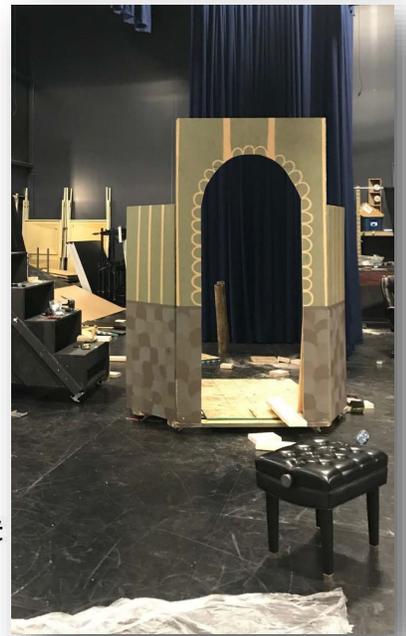
But not quite.

*Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town, because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.*

*Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*

*And Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. on the PHS stage.*

Rehearsals are underway!!



**Safety** is the number one priority of District OR1. To help safeguard our school community, we've taken an important step that I want to share with you.

Our district is now using *SafeSchools Alert*, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration five different ways:

**App:** Search for “SafeSchools Alert” in the App Store to download for free

**Phone:** 402.858.9423

**Text:** Text your tip to 402.858.9423

**Email:** 1795@alert1.us

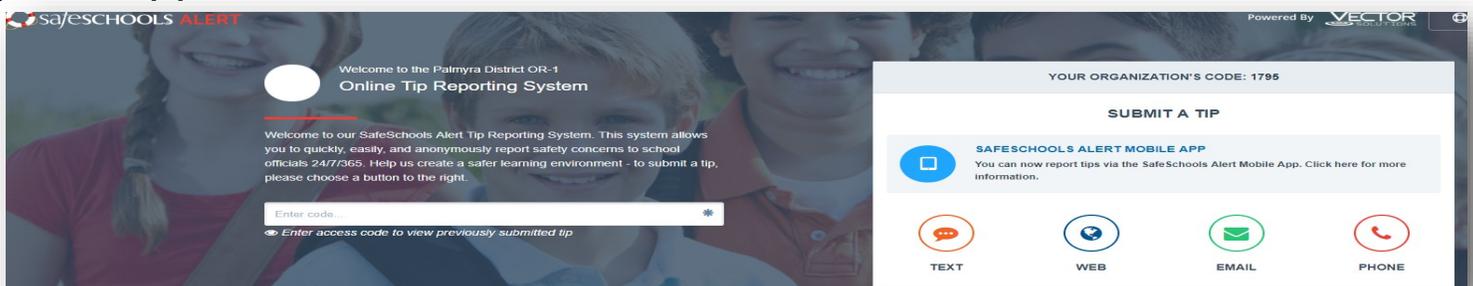
**Web:** http://1795.alert1.us

▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ **Be sure to use our district's identification code: 1795**

You and your child can easily give KUDOS to a teacher, another student, or other district adult. If all is not right, on the other hand, you can report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, threats of violence, or any safety issue you're concerned about through District OR1's SafeSchools Alert. When you submit a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code: **1795** in your communication.

**Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.**

Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future. Using SafeSchools Alert, we can continue to keep our district a safe, nurturing place to work and learn! Thanks in advance for your support.

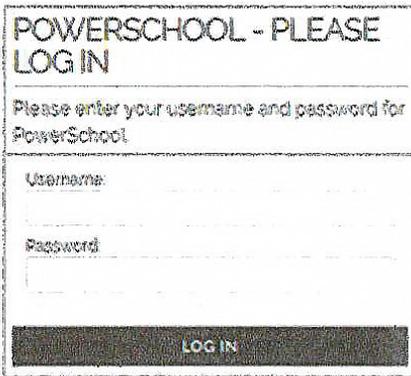


# PowerSchool Payments Made Easy

## Visit the Web Store

Visit <https://districtor1.revtrak.net/> and click **Log in** or create your personal Web Store account to make payments for your student's PowerSchool Food account.

## Make Payments to your PowerSchool Account



POWERSCHOOL - PLEASE LOG IN

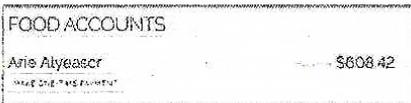
Please enter your username and password for PowerSchool.

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

LOG IN

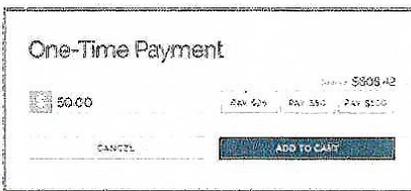
NOTE: YOU WILL FIRST HAVE TO HAVE SET UP POWERSCHOOL CREDENTIALS LINKING YOU TO YOUR CHILDREN. CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL SECRETARY TO ACTIVITE POWERSCHOOL CREDENTIALS. If you haven't previously logged in to PowerSchool, you will need to enter your student's credentials. The student will show in the future, when logged in to the Web Store.



FOOD ACCOUNTS

Arie Alyeasor \$608.42

To make food payments, click on **Make a One-Time Payment** under the desired student's name.



One-Time Payment

Amount: \$0.00 (Total: \$608.42)

Pay \$25 Pay \$50 Pay \$100

CANCEL ADD TO CART

Enter your amount or choose a quick pay option: \$25, \$50, \$100.



CHECKOUT

ADD CARD

DISCOVER, MASTERCARD, VISA

card number: \_\_\_\_\_ name: \_\_\_\_\_

expiration: Month Year nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

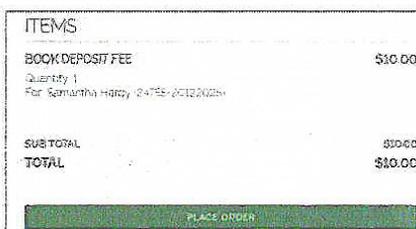
SAVE CARD

CANCEL CONTINUE

Select **Add to Cart**.

Confirm all items in the cart and click **Checkout** to proceed to the Web Store.

Enter your billing information and click **Continue**.



ITEMS

BOOK DEPOSIT FEE	\$30.00
Quantity: 1	
For: Samantha Harry 2475 (2012/2025)	
SUBTOTAL	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$30.00

PLACE ORDER

After verifying your information, click **Place Order** to process your transaction and view your receipt.

Please note, District OR1 does not add convenience fees. All processing fees from RevTrak will be added at checkout.

Payment will be processed and receipt can be viewed and printed. A receipt will automatically be sent to the email address provided. Receipt can be viewed at any time through your account settings.

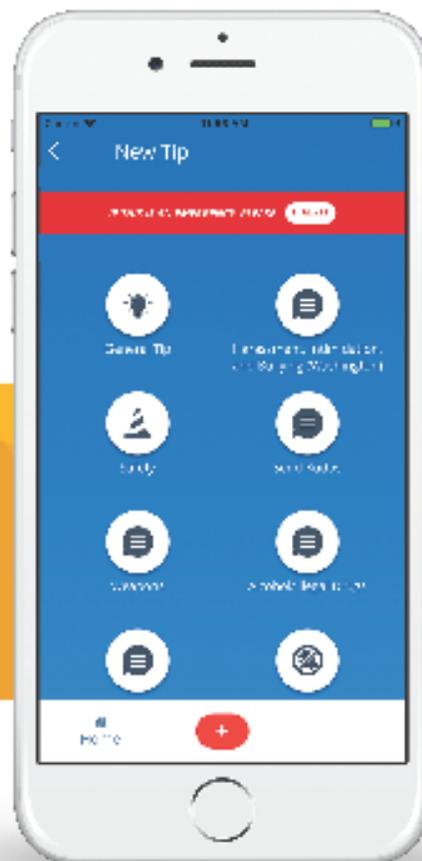


Palmyra District OR-1

# 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](mailto:1795@alert1.us)



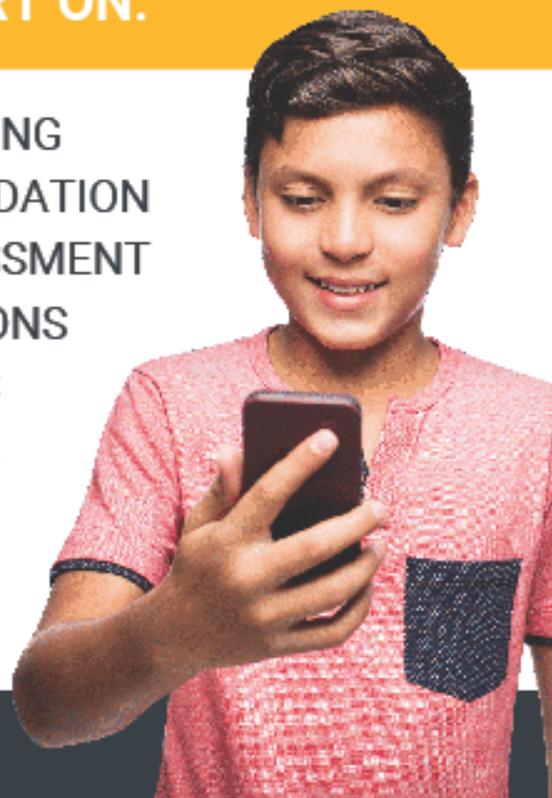
Call to report your tip  
**402.858.9423**



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.

**DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR: 2021-2022**

August 2021						
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				

Notes:

September 2021						
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		

Notes:

October 2021						
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						

Notes:

November 2021						
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				

Notes:

December 2021						
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	

Notes:

**August 2021**

9-Aug Start of Fall Practice  
 9-Aug Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00  
 10-Aug Teacher Workday  
 11-Aug First Day of School for Students

**September 2021**

6-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day  
 21-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.  
 22.Sept Collab. PD/WD -No school for students

**October 2021**

15-Oct End of First quarter  
 18-Oct Start 2nd Quarter  
 22-Oct Fall Break; NO SCHOOL

**November 2021**

15-Nov Start Winter Practice  
 16-Nov Collab. PD/WD: One Act Host  
 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break  
 25-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break  
 26-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

**December 2021**

21-Dec End of Second Quarter  
 22-Dec Winter Vacation December 23-January 6  
 22-28-Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

**January 2022**

3-4-Jan Winter Vacation  
 4-Jan Collab. PD/WD -No school for students  
 5-Jan School Resumes, Start 3rd Quarter  
 17-Jan Martin Luther King Day: No School

**February 2022**

2-Feb Collab. PD/WD -No school for students  
 8-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.  
 11-Feb No school - winter break

**March 2022**

1-Mar Start of Spring Practice  
 4-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break  
 10-Mar End of Third Quarter  
 11-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break  
 14-Mar Collab. PD/WD -No school for students

**April 2022**

14-Apr Dismiss at 1:30 P.M. for Easter Break  
 15-Apr NO SCHOOL: Easter Break  
 18-Apr NO SCHOOL: Easter Break

**May 2022**

7-May Graduation  
 19-May End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S.  
 20-May Teacher workday

Notes: Early dismissal times will result in elementary dismissal time of 1:10 p.m.  
**177 Student days (88-1st, 89-2nd)**  
**185 Teacher Days (92-1st, 93-2nd)**

January 2022						
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					

Notes:

February 2022						
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					

Notes:

March 2022						
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		

Notes:

April 2022						
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

Notes:

May 2022						
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				

Notes:

Teacher Days  
 Vacation Days  
 Parent Teacher Conferences  
 1:30 p.m. dismissal High School Only  
 Full Day: Elementary/ HS: ECNC Host

