

**PALMYRA**



**PANTHERS**

**School District OR-1**

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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  
November 2022

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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 NEWS

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

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

November, 2022

- Follow District OR1 at [www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org)
- Download the app for iOS and Android
- Follow student progress on PowerSchool
- Follow District OR1 on Twitter @OR1\_Panthers
- Make sure your school has your e-mail and phone
- Follow official weather at [www.1011now.com](http://www.1011now.com)
- Superintendent Notes
- District OR1 E-Book News
- District Climate Survey
- Veteran's Day News
- District Student VOTE
- Anti-Bullying Month is November

## Superintendent Notes

...by Michael Hart

Panther Families:

- It is hard to believe that we are almost at the Thanksgiving break! As we move into the extended holiday weekend, I just wanted to personally thank all of you for your support of our staff, our students, and our district. We were blessed to be able to enjoy a more “normal” start to the beginning of school and I am grateful our students and staff have been able to focus on things other than mask mandates, social distancing requirements, and other pandemic-related items.
- I hope that we can maintain this posture throughout the rest of the school year so that we can remain laser focused on improving student learning, raising academic achievement, providing strong support systems, celebrating extracurricular success and opportunity, and strengthening our connections and communication with students and families. The past couple of years have at times, been very challenging for students and staff, yet they have shown great resilience through remote learning and the myriad of changes that have resulted from the pandemic experience. District OR-1 will continue to adjust to evolving conditions as needed as we have done in the past, and we are excited to be able to see our students continue to learn and thrive as we move forward into the future.
- In summary, we have an outstanding group of students and staff in our district, and we greatly appreciate the collaborative efforts of our families to provide support in helping us make each student's experience at school as successful as possible



## 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](http://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](mailto:smidt.mat@districtor1.net), and in the subject line please type e-book question.

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

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## Building Expansion Projects Update:

- As we begin the second semester of the school year, work on the future building expansion projects at the high school and the elementary will begin to more clearly take shape. At this point, we have worked closely with Clark Enersen Architects to refine preliminary ideas for these projects and recently the board of education took action to select a Construction Manager at Risk to assist with these projects.
- The Construction Manager At Risk process is a construction delivery method where a construction manager (CM) is engaged to help oversee a project from design to construction close-out. The CMAR process was selected because this method helps to better control overall costs of the project, it provides additional support for the management of the day-to-day aspects of the project, and it provides additional opportunities and resources for transparent communication, updates, and engagement of our community patrons.
- Listed below are the steps we have utilized thus far in the CMAR process:
- At the September 29th Special Board Meeting, the board took action to utilize the Construction Manager at Risk process as the preferred method for construction of our future building expansion projects.
- After the special board meeting, a Construction Manager at Risk Selection Committee was established to evaluate initial CMAR proposals and conduct finalist interviews.
- Advertisements and public notice of the process and deadline for submitting CMAR proposals were posted on **Tuesday, October 4th, 2022**.
- Proposals for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) were submitted by interested firms on **Thursday, November 3rd, 2022**.
- The first meeting of the Construction Manager at Risk Selection Committee was held on **Tuesday, November 8th from 6:00-8:30 p.m.** at Bennet Elementary School.
- The overall purpose of this meeting was to discuss and evaluate all of the submitted CMAR proposals and select finalists to interview at the subsequent CMAR Selection Committee meeting on **Tuesday, November 15th**.
- The second meeting of the Construction Manager at Risk Selection Committee was held on **Tuesday, November 15th from 8:00 a.m -12:30 p.m.** at Palmyra High School.
- The overall purpose of this meeting was to select a Construction Manager at Risk from the list of finalists.



- On **Tuesday, November 15th**, the board of education took action at a special meeting to approve **BIC Construction** as the Construction Manager at Risk for the upcoming building expansion projects. This selection was based on the recommendation provided to the board by the CMAR Selection Committee.
- On **Monday, December 12th, 2022**, the board will take action at its regular monthly meeting to approve final documents for the CMAR and Clark Enersen.
- We are excited to work with BIC and Clark Enersen and additional information regarding project updates will be communicated in the coming weeks.

## Student Enrollment:

- Our district student enrollment continues to grow as we head into the latter stages of the first semester.
  - Listed below are current student enrollment numbers as of the end of the day on **Friday, November 18th, 2022**.
- Bennet Elementary (Pre-K -5): **400**
- Palmyra High School (6-12): **315**
  - Total District Enrollment: **715**
  - Last year's student enrollment at the end of the 2021-2022 school year was **661**.
  - This represents a **54** student or **8.2%** increase over the last year.

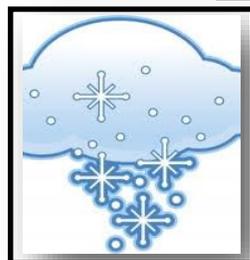
## Board of Education Elections:

- Special congratulations to **Mr. Dean Busch** on his successful re-election to the District OR-1 Board of Education. Mr. Busch's next board term will be: Monday, January 9th, 2023 - Monday, January 11th, 2027.
- Special congratulations also go out to **Mr. Josh Penterman** on his successful re-election to the District OR-1 Board of Education. Mr. Penterman's next board term will be: Monday, January 9th, 2023 - Monday, January 11th, 2027.

- Additionally, we would also like to formally congratulate **Mrs. Dee Moore** on her election to the District OR-1 Board of Education. Mrs. Moore will officially join the board at the Monday, January 9th, 2023 regular board meeting. Mrs. Moore's initial board term will be: Monday, January 9th, 2023 - Monday, January 11th, 2027.
- Finally, **Mr. Clayton Maahs** will be retiring from the board of education effective at the end of his current elected term, which ends on January 9th, 2023. Mr. Maahs has faithfully and successfully served the board and our school district for the past 16 years. Mr. Maahs will attend his last regular board meeting on Monday, December 12th, 2022.
- We thank Mr. Maahs for his leadership, vision, and dedication to our students, staff, and the District OR-1 community.
- We would also like to thank our community patrons for their participation in the recent election process.

### Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) and Student Achievement:

- Public release of statewide assessment data (NSCAS) from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will be going out the week of Thanksgiving.
- Due to the delay in the public release of this student assessment data, we will not be able to share our district information until the December regular board meeting on **Monday, December 12th, 2022.**
- At the December meeting, our admin team will present a more comprehensive review of our district student data and statewide school classifications (Excellent, Great, Good, Needs Improvement, etc.). This information will be based on the results of the recent NSCAS testing and other standardized assessments given over the course of this year and the last school year.
- Information from NDE will also include state and national student achievement comparisons.
  - Topics to be covered in the upcoming report will be the transition from pre-Covid to post-Covid learning and the impact of remote learning and school closures.
  - Additional discussion will be focused on the impact of “unfinished learning”, socio-emotional challenges and student supports, and instructional strategies designed to accelerate learning and address student learning gaps.



### Additional Information from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE):

- **ACT Testing Information:**
  - Nebraska achievement levels remained on pace with the nation amidst declines nationally on the ACT entrance exam that measures college readiness in English, reading, mathematics, and science.
  - Although all Nebraska public school juniors are required to take the ACT as part of the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), due to COVID not all 2022 graduates had taken the assessment. Nebraska still had 94 percent of public school graduates participate in the ACT.
  - Nebraska’s average 2022 ACT composite score is **19.4**, down from 20.0 in 2021 when only 86 percent of graduates had taken the ACT. The national average is also down five tenths of a point from 20.3 to 19.8 and only 36 percent of students take the ACT nationwide. The highest possible ACT score is 36.
  - Nebraska continues to score well compared to the 14 states with more than 90 percent of graduates taking the ACT. Only Utah at 19.9 scored better. This is significant as states that test a high percentage of graduates tend to have lower averages as the scores include more students who are not on a college course-taking track.
  - Nebraska students scored an average of **18.6 in English** compared to 19.0 nationally. **In reading**, Nebraska students scored an average of **19.8** compared to 20.4 nationally. **In math**, Nebraska students scored an average of **19.1** compared to 19.3 nationally. **And in science** Nebraska students scored an average of **19.6** compared to 19.9 nationally.
  - The national and state ACT press release and reports can be viewed and downloaded on the ACT website at:
    - <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/research/services-and-resources/data-and-visualization/grad-class-database-2022.html>

### Severe Weather Notifications

- As we move into colder weather, it is important for all families to make sure they update their contact information in our student information database. Updating your contact information to include your current email, emergency contacts, home phone, mobile phone, or other relevant information changes ensures that the right people receive the right information as soon as possible.

- If a decision is made to close school or to have a “late start”, we will notify families via the district school notification system and KFOR radio 1240 AM, Channel 10-11 News and Channel 6 News television as soon as possible. These are our primary contacts with “late start” or school closing information.
- In addition, we will also post the information on our district website at [www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org) and send notifications through our Facebook, Twitter, and other social media feeds in order to get accurate information out in a timely and accurate fashion.
- If your information is incorrect or missing, we will be unable to contact you via the district notification system in case of a weather closure. You may also want to download our mobile App from the App store by searching for District OR-1.
- When school does start late due to road conditions, school will begin at 10:00 a.m., but we ask that students do not arrive prior to 9:30 a.m. The late start is designed to serve several purposes: to allow the buses to go out when it is light and they can more safely see the road, allow families more time to clear driveways, etc., and allow adequate time for students who drive to school to arrive safely. On “late start” days the buses will run later than normal, and pickup times will be adjusted accordingly. Our transportation department personnel will provide families with the specific adjusted pick up times for “late start” days.

### **Upcoming Events and Dates:**

- **Wednesday, November 23rd - Friday, November 25th:** Thanksgiving Break: No school for students or staff. School resumes on Monday, November 28th.
- **Wednesday, December 21st:** Last day of school for first semester.
- **Thursday, December 22nd - Wednesday, January 4th:** Winter break for students
- **Thursday, December 23rd - Tuesday, December 27th:** NSAA moratorium on high school activities.
- **Thursday, January 5th:** First day of second semester. Students return from winter break.
- **Monday, January 16th:** “No school” for students or staff: Martin Luther King Day
- **Tuesday, February 7th:** 1:30 p.m. early dismissal for students (Pre-K - 12): Parent Teacher Conferences from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Friday, February 10th:** “No school” for students or staff
- **Wednesday, February 22nd:** “No school” for students: Staff collaboration day and ECNC district speech contest.

Have an excellent Thanksgiving break and a wonderful upcoming holiday season!

Mike

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Agriculture Science

On October 4, students from the Ag Science and Animal Science classes had the opportunity to visit the Syracuse Veterinary Service in Syracuse. During the visit, Dr. Steven Falcone walked us through the preg-checking process of 25 cows. Students saw the cows being unloaded from the trailer, walked through the chute, and were preg-checked using the new ultrasound machine the clinic received about two years ago. Dr. Falcone used a probe that was attached to a screen that showed the calf and the stage of pregnancy the cow was in. He showed what a calf looked like at a 3, 4, and 5 month period. After being shown, the students tried to determine the age of the calf with indicators such as the head and spine. We had one “open” cow which means she was not pregnant. Dr. Falcone explained how this happens and what indicates an open cow. Students also learned the process of tagging each cow as well as how to properly move them through a squeeze chute. After the process was done students asked some questions about careers within vet science and walked through the clinic.



**FOLLOW YOUR STUDENTS' PROGRESS ON POWERSCHOOL.**

It's easy to follow your students' grades on “[districtor1.nebps.org](http://districtor1.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

## First Graders Fall in Love with Apples

First graders enjoyed the sweet taste and crisp crunch of apples at their apple tasting party in September. They each tried a red, green, and yellow apple and graphed their favorite. The yellow apple was the favorite this year!

First grade families provided a wonderful selection of apple foods for students to try. Apple muffins, apple pie, dried apples, apple bars, apple straws, apple flavored chocolates, caramel apple popcorn, along with apple juice and apple cider. There was something for everyone!

September 26th is John Chapman's birthday. He is credited with the spread of apple trees on the new frontier in the early 1800's. He planted so many trees in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, that he earned the nickname Johnny Appleseed.

Students enjoyed the delicious variety of apple foods and learning about John Chapman and his contributions to getting apple trees to this part of the country. Thank you Johnny Appleseed!



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## Computer Science in Bennet Elementary!

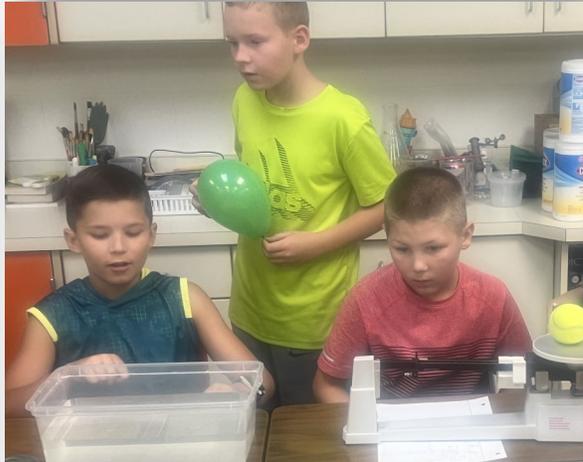
Our 4th and 5th graders are enjoying a taste of computer science by working on code in the elementary computer lab. We live in a world surrounded by technology. We know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. However, only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students now are studying it than a decade ago. Most of us have an idea that knowledge of computer science will help you get a job, but the actual numbers are pretty shocking:

- \* New programming jobs are growing 3 times faster than the number of students entering the field.
- \* More than 50 percent of all math and science jobs are for computer scientists.
- \* Computer science jobs are the highest-paying jobs for new graduates. Software powers our economy, but less than 2.4 percent of college students graduate with a CS degree. That means there aren't going to be enough graduates to fill the jobs. To make matters worse, 95 percent of our schools don't teach programming.

At Bennet Elementary, we learn programming and code free on the internet. It is fun and we encourage you to give it a try. We use a free website that helps students learn code. <https://hourofcode.com/us> it is great for all ages! The kids work through some basic programming puzzles using Minecraft, Star Wars, and Frozen. They get a taste of coding and programming and have a great time doing it. Bennet Elementary Students, may also enjoy Scratch <https://scratch.mit.edu/>. Scratch is a programming website online where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation with people from all over the world. Scratch is designed and maintained by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the [MIT Media Lab](#). For students interested in learning more, they can contact me at school for a free student account. By: Jen Hanger



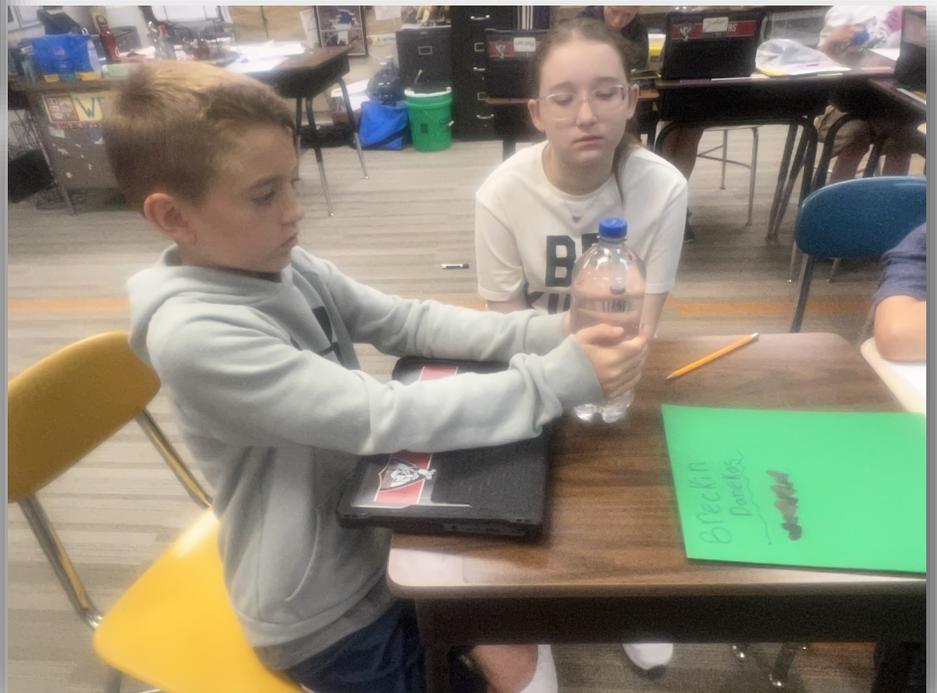
The 5th grade students have been meeting many expectations. They not only learned new rules and procedures, but they have started taking on the responsibility of being the leaders in our school. Many of them have lead announcements and help guide our young students throughout the building during Panther Family.



Academically, they have been studying a variety of topics. Social Studies with Mrs. Borg has been focused on the Explorers of the New World. Students researched people who had an impact on the settling of new colonies. Next, students focused on the 13 colonies and what life was like under the English rule and what led to the American Revolution. Students worked on special presentations comparing the 13 colonies.



In Reading, also with Mrs. Borg, students have read a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories. Using a variety of reading strategies to deepen their understanding of the text. The students favorite story so far has been *Old Yeller*. Finishing out the quarter students read a novel, *Hound Dog True*, and applied the strategies previously taught. The next unit (5 weeks) focuses on the Revolution. These are great stories that parallel the learning done in Social Studies class.



**Top:** Students engage in *Hound Dog True*. **Middle:** Greyson, Caleb, and Wyatt measure the mass and volume of a balloon, tennis ball, and golf ball to calculate the object's density, as well as other characteristics of mass and volume. **Above:** Ella and 5th graders discover the Law of Conservation of Energy. Ella's potential energy is converted into kinetic energy as she aims to hit the steel spheres together with the paper in between them. The kinetic energy is transformed into thermal and acoustic energy. The collision of the steel spheres burned a hole in the paper. **Above-Right:** Joe applies more force to the Cartesian diver as Breckin watches on. Students discovered how the additional mass to the diver would change its buoyancy and become denser than the water and sink to the bottom of the bottle.

**Needed: Bus Substitute Drivers.** A CDL would be nice. Or, the mini bus driver needs no CDL — just a level-one class. Call 402-780-5327 x3

On late starts, buses will run 1 3/4 hour later on routes and shuttles. All routes will run accordingly depending on road conditions. -Cathy Fick

## Elementary School Counselor Update

Hello District OR-1!

The elementary school counseling program has been able to meet the needs of all students in a variety of ways this year. Classroom guidance lessons are provided to K-3 students weekly and 4-5 students bi-weekly. We utilize the digital Second Step curriculum to learn about growth mindset, goal-setting, empathy and kindness, emotion management, and problem solving. Students also get to participate in a variety of supplemental lessons on various topics that engage them through the use of technology, art, reading, writing, and social interactions with peers and adults.



Support is also provided to students in small group and individual settings. The 6-8 week groups focus on self-regulation of emotions, self-control, social skills, and many other topics to help students grow and be successful both inside and outside of the school environment. Other times, students may need to meet individually to have a listening ear, assistance with a problem, or somebody to tell exciting news to and I am available for these services as well.

Students can be seen in this picture displaying their Panther Pride during Red Ribbon Week. Bennet Elementary is united and committed to making healthy, safe, and responsible decisions both inside and outside of school.

It has been a joy to continue getting to know many families and our new students this year. I am looking forward to continuing to serve all students and families through the school counseling program. Please feel free to reach out anytime you have questions or concerns regarding your student. Go Panthers!!

Austin Lahmon

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### Vocal Music News – Mrs. Beth McCreight – K-12 Vocal Music

The junior and senior high Choirs along with the show choir performed very well at the Fall Concert, which was held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The show choir started the concert with two songs: *This Is The Greatest Show* - from *The Greatest Showman*, and *Speechless*, from *Aladdin the Musical*. They did a wonderful job and are thankful to their choreographer – Jessi James. The junior high choir sang three songs: *High Hopes* – by Panic at the Disco; *Memories* – by Maroon 5; and *Waves* – by Dean Lewis. The senior high choir then took the stage to sing their three songs: *Stand By Me* – by Ben E. King; *I Want it That Way* – by the Backstreet Boys; and *The Sound of Silence* – by Simon and Garfunkel, rearranged by Pentatonix. Our awesome soloists for *Sound of Silence* were: Andrew Moyer, Josiah Kirchner, Saryah Briscoe-Freeman, and Kyrus Jensen. The choir received a standing ovation after their performance.



On Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>, select members of the junior and senior high choirs travelled to Mead for ECNC Honor Choir. Our clinician for junior high choir was Matt King, retired from Platteview. Our clinician for high school was Dr. Brett Epperson from Hastings College. Both choirs sang very well, and many of our Panther families travelled to see our students perform. Three of our students earned solos: Andrew Moyer, Oscar Thomas, and Josiah Kirchner.

For Veterans Day, the Bennet Singers, junior high choir and high school choir, teamed up to sing the National Anthem. Next the Bennet Singers performed *America the Beautiful*, and high school choir closed out the ceremony with *Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones* – by Steve Amerson. The choirs thank our Veterans for their service to our nation. Thanks Vets!!

Next we cheer on our own Mason Meehan -8<sup>th</sup> grade – as he was selected for the first ever Nebraska Middle Level All-State Choir. The All-State Middle Level Choir will perform on the Lied Center stage in Lincoln on November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. BRAVO MASON!!!!

Where can you hear the choirs next? Here our upcoming performances:

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Elementary Winter Concert @ PHS: 6:15 pm K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 7:15 pm 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Caroling at Palmyra Park 2:30-3:30 pm; Bennet Park aprx. 6:00-8:00 pm.

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concert @ PHS 7:00 pm 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> band and choir; 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade bands and choirs.

**District OR-1 Problem Solving Team**  
Supporting Students, Teachers, and Parents



***What is the Problem Solving Team team?***

The Problem Solving Team is a school team, which includes the parent and teachers in a positive, problem solving, intervention process. It assists students by ensuring that the school and community are doing everything possible to make students' school lives successful. Students are most successful where there is a strong cooperation between home, school, and community. Based on this shared responsibility, the Problem Solving Team meets to explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the students, and support teachers and parents. The Problem Solving Team may include parents or caregivers, teachers, school psychologist, counselor, support staff, and school administrator who can all provide support for the student.

***How does the Problem Solving Team Process work?***

Students are typically referred by the classroom teacher, but any member of the school staff and/or parent may request support from the Problem Solving Team for a student whose learning, behavior or emotional needs are not being met under existing circumstances. The classroom teacher(s) should have notified you, as the parent, regarding these issues.

Prior to the first Problem Solving Team meeting, teachers would have implemented some classroom accommodations that enhance learning for students. An accommodation may be as simple as a change in seating location, a daily assignment sheet, or an increase in the use of visual teaching aids. Sometimes, a simple change can make a big difference for a student.

Any strategy that has been tried or is currently in place will be discussed with you at the Problem Solving Team meeting. Using this information, the team can suggest further steps to help the student.

***What happens at the Problem Solving Team meeting?***

1. Parents/caregivers meet with the Problem Solving Team. The meeting takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the individual student.
2. The Problem Solving Team leader will facilitate the group through a process discussing the student's strengths, concerns, gather pertinent history/information and discuss present interventions and outcomes. The team then brainstorms interventions and chooses actions to complete a plan of action for student success, while determining what data will be collected to monitor effectiveness of the interventions.
4. As the parent, you will also be asked to contribute information regarding your child's learning needs and help with the development of an intervention plan. The plan is then implemented and is reviewed in six weeks.

***Who can I contact for more information regarding the Problem Solving Team process?***

If you have questions regarding the Problem Solving Team team process, please contact the District OR-1 School Psychologist or an administrator. The School Psychologist can be reached via phone at **402-782-3535 ext. 1002** or email at [linke.klo@districtor1.net](mailto:linke.klo@districtor1.net).

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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. We are now working 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 floor hockey and kickball. We look forward to a great school year full of different activities! GO PANTHERS!

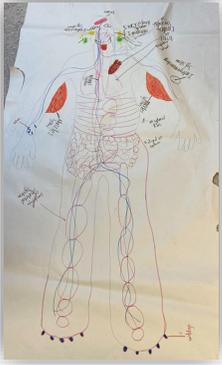


## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Novel Study

It's always fun to steer away from the regular Reading textbook in Language Arts and read a novel. We started our series of novel studies with the book Ungifted, a young adult fiction book, by Gordon Korman. The main character of this humorous book is Donovan, an "ungifted" student that ends up in a gifted middle school by mistake – a mistake that cost the school district a lot of money. He was messing around with his friends and caused a huge metal globe from a statue to break off and roll into the school gym, breaking glass doors and the gym floor. Throughout this goofy, light-hearted, lesson-filled adventurous book, students were taught multiple life lessons. This novel taught students what "real" friends are, that it's better to be honest and upfront right away if you make a mistake, and that being gifted means everyone has their own unique talents. There was also a ton of laughter going on while we read this book aloud to students. Sometimes it was hard to not get the giggles while we learned about Donovan and his friends. Since students loved our first novel study so much, we decided to start a new one called The Giver, by Lois Lowry, and are currently on Chapter 5.

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### 7th Grade Human Body Systems Day!



Hello Everyone! My name is Madison Hanau, and I am one of the science teachers here at Palmyra! Recently, the 7th graders have been going over the human body systems. I believe it is so important for all the students to not only understand how their body works, but how every body system is connected! The students started off with a project to create an advertisement for one body system. They pretended to be "salesmen", trying to sell their body system to the "buyers", which were the other students! I loved seeing the students' creativity in their videos, posters, or presentations!

After learning about each system, the students had to draw the systems on large sheets of paper, trace around a classmate, and use their bodies as an outline. Students' discussions filled the classroom that day with how each system should be drawn and labeled. It was an exciting day in 7th grade science!

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## Mathematics Students Explore Real-World Applications

On Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Maas and ten of his upper-level mathematics students visited TMCO. TMCO (Total Manufacturing Company) is one of the state's largest steel fabrication companies. TMCO is a family owned company, which continues to grow its footprint across not only the state, but also the nation.

Students spent over an hour touring the multi-million dollar facility, seeing "math in action" throughout the entire tour. Students enjoyed seeing state of the art equipment in action, all of which were making a wide range of parts for everyday products. Students were also able to interact with TMCO's employees, having discussions of how "classroom mathematics" transform into "real-world mathematics". Students were surprised at how many topics they've covered in class, do in fact transfer to the world of manufacturing.

One noticeable aspect during the visit was the current level of automation in the manufacturing process. Students noted that even though many processes are now automated, it still requires a highly trained workforce to not only program the automation but also supervise and maintain the automated equipment. It was very apparent during the visit how closely tied programming and mathematics really are.

TMCO put on a great experience for our students, and we can't thank them enough for their hospitality – students were truly engaged throughout the entire visit. TMCO hosts an open-house every fall, with one of the days dedicated to education – while the other days are dedicated to vendors and the public. If you haven't toured TMCO, I strongly encourage you to check it out next fall during their public open house.

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If you are looking to help keep your family safer online, Google's "Family Link" might be the right choice. You can find out more information in the following link:

<https://families.google/familylink/>

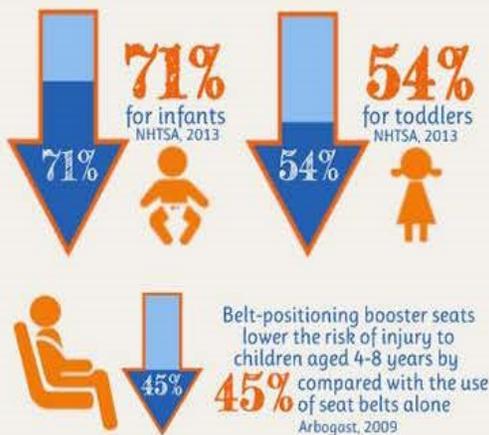
Disclaimer: I am not recommending this product, I'm recommending it is an example of a product to further research on your own that can help keep your family safer online. Make sure to visit the FAQ. Burke Brown

# 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/>
- Liz Pohlen, OTR/L, CPST @ pohlen.eli@district01.net

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

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.

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

THE CAR SEAT LAB

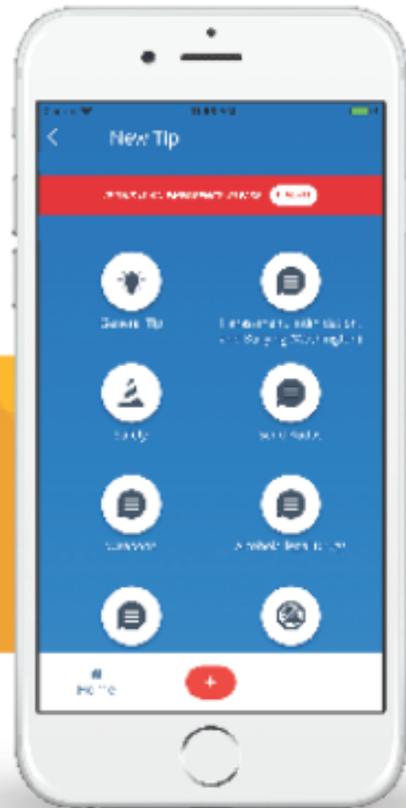


Palmyra District OR-1

# 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)



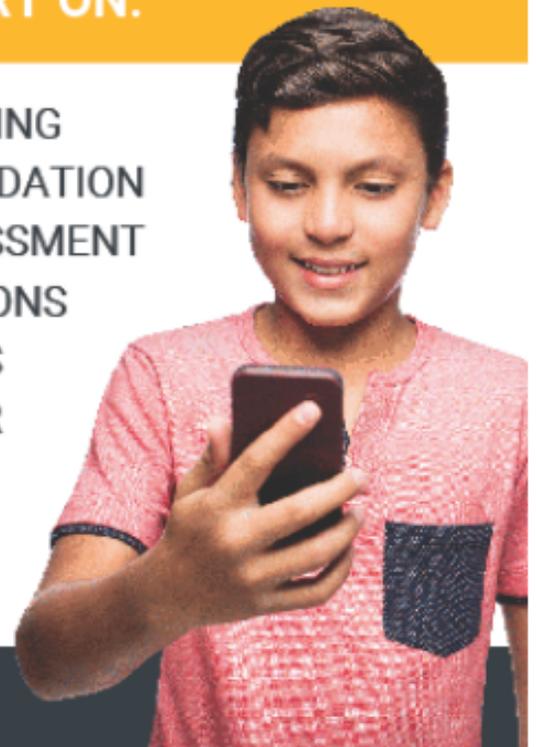
Call to report your tip  
**402.858.9423**



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.

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

**DISTRICT OR-1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CALENDAR 2022-2023: Updated 9.12.2022**

August 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			
18 Teacher Days						
15 Student Days						

September 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	
21 Teacher Days						
20 Student Days						

October 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					
20 Teacher Days						
20 Student Days						

November 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			
18 19						
19 Teacher Days						
18 Student Days						

December 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
15 Teacher Days						
15 Student Days						
93 Teacher Days First Semester						
88 Student Days First Semester						

**August 2022**

- 8-Aug Start of Fall Practice
- Aug 8 / 9 Faculty Inservice-8:00-4:00
- 10-Aug Teacher Work Day
- 11-Aug **First Day of School**

**September 2022**

- 5-Sep NO SCHOOL -Labor Day
- 20-Sep Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 21-Sep Collab. PD/WVD - No School for students

**October 2022**

- 14-Oct **End of First quarter**
- 17-Oct **Start 2nd Quarter**
- 21-Oct Fall Break; NO SCHOOL

**November 2022**

- 14-Nov Start Winter Practice
- 15-Nov Teacher Inservice No School
- 23-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 24-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- 25-Nov NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

**December 2022**

- 21-Dec **End of Second Quarter**
- 22-Dec Winter Vacation December 22-January 4
- 23-27-Dec Five day moratorium period est. by NSAA

**January 2023**

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

**February 2023**

- 7-Feb Dismiss @ 1:30 P.M. P-T conf. 2:00-8:00 P.M.
- 10-Feb NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
- 22-Feb Collab PD/WVD / ECNC Speech -No School for Students

**March 2023**

- 1-Mar Start of Spring Practice
- 3-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 9-Mar **End of Third Quarter**
- 10-Mar NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- 13-Mar Collab PD/WVD - No School for Students
- 14-Mar **Start 4th Quarter**

**April 2023**

- 6-Apr Dismiss at 1:30 P.M. for Easter Break
- 7-Apr NO SCHOOL: Easter Break
- 10-Apr NO SCHOOL: Easter Break

**May 2023**

- 13-May High School Graduation
- 17-May Elementary End of 2nd Semester Reg. Dismissal
- 18-May **End of Second Semester-1:30 Dismissal H.S.**
- 19-May Teacher Work Day
- Note: Early dismissal times of 1:30 will result in an elementary dismissal time of 1:10 p.m

**176 Student days  
185 total for teachers**

Legend for Colors
Regular Dismissal for High School Students
Elementary Students: End of Second Semester
Vacation Days
Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal: 1:30 p.m. / 1:10 p.m. for elementary
Professional Development Day for Staff: No school for students

January 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						
18 Student Days						

February 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				
19 Teacher Days						
18 Student Days						

March 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						
20 Student Days						

April 2023						
	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						
18 Teacher Days						
18 Student Days						

May 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			
15 Teacher Days						
13 Elem./14 HS Student Days						
92 Teacher Days Second Semester						
88 Student Days Second Semester						