



# Panther Weekly Bulletin

## Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Pancake & Sausage on a Stick Syrup Scrambled Eggs Hard Boiled Egg	NO SCHOOL	Yogurt Parfait Granola Hard Boiled Egg	Pancake Bites Syrup Bacon Hard Boiled Egg	Circle Donut Yogurt

## Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Hamburger Bun American Cheese Sweet Potato Fries Corn	NO SCHOOL	Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Roasted Broccoli Egg Roll	Pulled Pork Bun Macaroni & Cheese Potato Salad	Pizza Green Beans Garlic Breadstick

# Happening this week at PHS

**Monday, April 13th -** FFA Meeting 7:30 am.

Mudecas HS Quiz Bowl @ JCC, 10:00 am. Van leaves at 8:30 am.

HS Boys Baseball @ Louisville Ash Grove Field, Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at 6:30 pm,  
Bus leaves at 2:00 pm.

HS Girls Basketball Banquet @ Bennet Elementary Commons, 6:30 pm.

**Tuesday, April 14th-** NO SCHOOL, Staff work day.

JH Mudecas Quiz Bowl @ PHS, 10:00 am.

HS Varsity Track @ Yutan, 12:00 pm. Bus leaves at 9:30 am.

**Wednesday, April 15th-** Boy's Golf @ Milford, 9:30 am. Van leaves at 7:30 am.

FFA Blood Drive @ PHS, 10:00 am– 2:00 pm. Contact Ms. Beach with questions.

**Thursday, April 16th-** JH Track @ Olson Complex, 10:00 am.

HS Boys Baseball vs. Adams Central @ Olson Complex, Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at  
6:30 pm.

**Friday, April 17th-** JV Track @ Olson Complex, 2:00 pm.

Dodgeball Tournament, 6:30 pm.

**Saturday, April 18th-** JH Track Mudecas Tournament @ Olson Complex, 8:30  
am.

Prom @ The Shed, 7:00 pm. Post Prom @ PHS, 11:00 pm. Use North Main  
Doors for entry.

**Sunday, April 19th-** Teammates End of Year Celebration @ PHS East Com-  
mons. Use North Main Doors for entry.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, April 20th**– HS Boys Baseball @ Lincoln Christian, Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at 6:30 pm.

**Tuesday, April 21st**– Boys Golf @ Auburn, 9:00 am.

HS Track @ Falls City Sacred Heart, 9:30 am.

Unified Track @ Norris, 10:00 am.

HS Boys Baseball @ Auburn, Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at 6:30 pm.

Spring Concert, 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday, April 22nd**– JH Track Invitational @ Freeman, 10:00 am.

**Thursday, April 23rd**– Boys Golf @ Lincoln Lutheran, 9:00 am.

HS Boys Baseball @ Falls City, Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at 6:00 pm.

**Friday, April 24th**– NO SCHOOL. District Music Contest @ PHS.

**Saturday, April 25th**– HS Track Mudecas Tournament @ Tri County, 8:30 am.

HS Boys Baseball vs. Fairbury @ Olson Complex, Varsity at 11:00 am, JV at 1:00 pm.

**Sunday, April 26th**– FCA Event, 5:00 pm.

# GO PANTHERS!

# Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

(402) 782-3535 50 Dogwood St, Bennet, NE 68317 ostrander.mel@districtor1.net



## Newsletter - April 10th, 2026

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Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

### Principal's Update

#### **Summer Enrichment Program – Registration Open**

Bennet Elementary is excited to offer a Summer Enrichment Program from June 8 through June 25, running Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This program is open to all District OR-1 students **entering** Kindergarten through 5th grade for the 26-27 school year and will include engaging reading, math, and writing activities designed to keep students learning in a fun and relaxed environment.

Cost: \$75

Checks payable to District OR-1, Memo: Summer Enrichment

Families with students on an IEP or participating in the free/reduced lunch program may contact the office for sliding fee options.

Transportation: Shuttle bus service will be available with pickup and drop-off locations in Bennet, Douglas, and Palmyra.

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 1st

Please complete the Google Form to register:

[Summer Enrichment Registration Form](#)

We look forward to a great summer of learning and growth.

#### **Janet's Jungle Fundraiser Update!**

We have already surpassed over \$8,000 in sales in just one week! We still have 2 more weeks of sales!

For those new to Bennet Elementary, Janet's Jungle is our primary fundraiser of the year. Students have the opportunity to sell a variety of plants and flowers, earning prizes and fun incentives along the way by sharing with family and friends. This is a great chance to purchase flowers and plants for the spring and summer season while



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supporting our school. Proceeds from this fundraiser go directly toward funding student field trips.

Thank you for your continued support of Bennet Elementary!

## Preschool Open House – May 18

We invite families to join us for a Preschool Open House on Monday, May 18 from 3:30–5:30 PM at Bennet Elementary.

This is a great opportunity for interested families to visit our program, meet our preschool staff, and connect with district administration. We'll be available to answer questions and share important information to help you feel prepared for the upcoming school year. We look forward to welcoming you and your future learners!

## Lost and Found Reminder

Our lost and found is overflowing! We have collected jackets, water bottles, and other items over the past weeks. Please take a moment to stop by by the entryway and see if anything belongs to your child. Don't miss the chance to reunite them with their things!

## Bus Changes

Due to limited bus drivers and seating, we are unable to support students riding to a friend's house. Students can be bused home according to their regular route, and we are unable to provide transportation to other locations. We will continue to have daily shuttles from the elementary school and high school. Thank you for understanding.

## Car Lane Dismissal Process

To keep our dismissal line safe, smooth, and efficient, please follow the expectations below:

- Continue pulling all the way forward until you reach the front cone or the staff member directing traffic.
- If there is a gap in the car line, please keep moving up. This helps us load more students at the same time and prevents the line from backing up onto the street.
- Only stop directly in front of where your child is waiting **if there is no gap in the lane**. Otherwise, continue pulling forward and your child will walk up to meet you.



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- Students will be directed to walk forward to your vehicle, which allows us to load multiple cars simultaneously.
- Once your child is safely in the vehicle, please signal and exit the lane carefully.

Thank you for helping us keep dismissal running safely and efficiently for all families.

## Dismissal Changes

Coordinating the dismissal plans for 350 students each day is extremely challenging and time consuming for the office staff. If you have a change request, we ask that these are communicated to the office by 2:00 each day. Ideally, the transportation plan is consistent day to day. We understand that some days a change is needed. However, receiving these requests within an hour of dismissal is a challenge for ensuring timely communication to staff to ensure these students get to where they need to go. Please assist in helping make this process smooth and effective.

## Arrival Procedures

Students in the Rec Program may be dropped off starting at 7:00. All other students should arrive no earlier than 7:50 unless they are riding the bus or attending the Rec Program. The front doors will open at 7:50, and staff will begin monitoring the drop-off line at that time. Students dropped off before 7:50 will be unsupervised and the doors will be locked. Breakfast will be served from 7:50 to 8:20 daily. During arrival, students will gather in the Bennet Commons until 8:20 and then be escorted to classrooms. The school day starts at 8:20, and the tardy bell rings at 8:25.

If you are dropping a student off to ride the morning bus shuttles to PHS and have elementary students with them, we cannot provide supervision for students prior to 7:30. Please have students wait in the car until this time as the buses do not arrive until 7:30.

## Parent Drop Off and Pickup Procedures

A few reminders that I would like to share to help everyone get in and out quickly:

- Please have students enter and exit your vehicle on the passenger side of your vehicle. The drop off lane is extremely effective and the safety of your student is our top priority. By doing this, we can ensure that students are not in zones of traffic and are not in harm's way.
- If you are using the parent drop/pick up lanes, please stay in your vehicles. If you would like to park and walk up, please utilize the parking spaces in the interior of the parent pickup/dropoff lane.



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- In the afternoon **only**, Kindergarten parents may utilize the bus drop off lane for pickup for Kindergarten students and older siblings. Grades 1-5 will continue to use the primary pickup/dropoff lane. Teachers have now been assigned zones to help aid in the location of your students to help you get in and out quickly.

## Upcoming Events

- April 14th- No School- Teacher PD/ Mudecas Quiz Bowl
- April 17th- First Grade Field Trip
- May 1st- Kindergarten Roundup (No School for Current Kindergarteners)
- May 7th- 4th Grade Field Trip (Maibaum)
- May 11th- 4th Grade Field Trip (Dowding)
- May 12th- 4th Grade Field Trip (Sullivan)
- May 13th- Fifth Grade Field Trip
- May 15th- K-5 Track and Field Day @ Olson Complex- 9-2
- May 18th- Fifth Grade Graduation @ PHS West Gym- 1:30-2:30
- May 19th- Last Day of School K-5
- June 8th-25th- Summer Enrichment

## **PowerSchool**

Please check PowerSchool to view grades, missing assignments, and lunch balances. If you need to set up your account, please call Melissa in the office.

## **District Calendar**

[25-26 District Calendar](#)

[26-27 District Calendar](#)

## **Transportation**

If you have any questions regarding busing, please contact Cathy Fick at 402-540-2879.

## **School Directory**

The Bennet Boosters have compiled a [school directory](#) for families.



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 27, 2026 (Lincoln, Neb.)** – Weather permitting, work will begin April 6 on Nebraska Highway 2 (N-2), from reference post 475.41 to reference post 476.91, according to the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, is the contractor for this project. Work includes grading, culverts, concrete pavement and lighting. Traffic will be maintained with single lane closures. A 12-foot width restriction will be in effect. Anticipated completion is fall 2026.

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously in and near work zones, to buckle up, and put phones down.

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## ● Panther Paw Winners ●



SAFE  
RESPECTFUL  
RESPONSIBLE

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## School Counseling

### PROGRAM

#### What's Happening in the Classroom?

In guidance this week, Kindergarten students took time this week to learn about their first grade transition. As this discussion begins, it is natural for big feelings to surface and kiddos can feel nervous, worries, or sad that Kindergarten is coming to an end soon.

We played a game where each student got to draw a card and we discussed each card as a class. The goal was to identify if each topic would be the same or different from Kindergarten to First Grade. Students learned that many things in First Grade are very similar to Kindergarten. The goal of the final couple lessons for Kindergarten is to ease the big feelings and get kiddos comfortable and confident when thinking about their transition to First Grade.

#### Focus for the School Year

- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect
- Emotional Regulation

#### Strategy/Skill to reinforce at home

#### Kindness

The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

#### Random Acts of Kindness Month Poster Contest Winners

Around the school, you will notice Kindness posters that were created by our talented students. Every student K-5 got the opportunity to design a poster in February. Names were removed and staff voted on their favorite from each grade level.

Students who's posters were selected received a printed poster to take home and other posters are present around the school to remind students, staff, and families about the importance of being kind each day.

Thank you to our community partner, United Against Violence, for their support with this project! Please see the next page for a photo of students with their posters.

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# School Counseling PROGRAM



Austin Lahmon | School Counselor | lahmon.aus@districtor1.net

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# School Counseling PROGRAM



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Quarter 3

## Specialist Team Newsletter

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### Computer

📧 Bennet Computer Room Update! We've had a busy 3rd quarter in computer class! Each grade level has accomplished so much, and I'm excited to share their progress.

Kindergarten students have been doing an amazing job exploring the new learning websites we've been using. They have worked hard to develop their mouse skills, and every student has now mastered using the mouse. Most importantly, they are learning that computers can be a fun and exciting tool for learning!

First graders have been working hard as well. They are learning how to find important facts from stories on our classroom websites. We have also been practicing the difference between facts and opinions and identifying different parts of a story. In addition, students are continuing to build their computer vocabulary.

Second graders are continuing to learn about the different parts of a computer and how each part works together. We also discussed input and output devices on the desktop computers we use in class. Recently, students have begun focusing on how to find important information on a website that can help with research. Next quarter, they will begin a larger research project!

- Mrs. Hanger

### Upcoming

**March 12** - Palmyra Middle Level Music Contest  
Band & Bennet Singers

**April 21** - 5th - 8th Grade Spring Concert  
Band & Bennet Singers only  
6:30 pm at PHS

**May 15** - Elementary Track Day

**May 18** - 5th Grade Graduation  
Band & Bennet Singers

### Music

Greetings! In music we have been going over many of the fundamentals. For kindergarten and first grade we have been going over the difference between beat and rhythm; high vs low; loud vs soft and introducing the quarter note rest. In second grade, we introduced the half note and are starting to read rhythms with words at the same time - yes - we can read music! Third graders have been staying active by adding games and dances to our songs. Fourth grade learned about sharps, flats and natural signs, and have recently started singing in rounds. Fifth grade learned about some highly influential musicians as part of Black History month, plus we've focused on rhythms that include mixed 8th and 16th notes.

- Mrs. McCreight

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Quarter 3

## Library

Kindergarten and first grade students spent the third quarter reviewing the parts of a book and practicing alphabetical order. We also began reading several nominees for the Golden Sower Award, Nebraska's children's choice book award, which students will vote on later this year.

Fourth grade learned about the ten main sections of the nonfiction collection and discussed media balance—making thoughtful choices about time spent online and with family and friends. Fifth grade created online ocean trading cards in a collaboration project with their classroom teachers, and also explored advertising around the time of the Super Bowl, learning why companies advertise and the different types of ads they see every day.

– Mr. Smidt

## Art

Throughout third quarter, kindergarten and first grade students were busy creating self-portraits. Students learned how portraits can capture the likeness of a person's face, feelings or personality, and express thoughts, ideas, and stories.

Kindergarten focused on the elements of line, shape, and color to create realistic self-portrait collages. First grade used their imagination and creativity to express their future career goals. Students also used a variety of techniques to develop craftsmanship and improve art skills.

– Mrs. Garris



## Physical Education

Since the last newsletter, the PE department has finished our basketball unit with grades K-5. We spent a short amount of time with "Flying 10s" which is a speed test that we can run with a laser timing system that the high school department was gracious enough to lend us. The kids enjoyed seeing their times and we will be able to run these a couple of more times this year to hopefully see improvement.

We are now nearing the end of our hockey unit with grades 3-5. They learned passing and receiving and had to pass a scoring test in order to graduate to hockey games, which each class is now competing in.

As we move to the spring, we will run another Flying 10 test day and move to kickball, soccer, and relays in preparation for our track and field day in May!

– Mr. Wemhoff

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## SUMMER CAMP DATES



**JULY 14-16 & 20-23**

### HS CAMP

8:30-11:00 am

OLSON FIELD

**JULY 27-29TH**

### JH CAMP

7:00-8:30 pm

OLSON FIELD

**JULY 27-29TH**

### YOUTH CAMP

5:30-6:30pm

ENTERING 3RD THROUGH 6TH GRADE

OLSON FIELD

INTERESTED OR HAVE  
QUESTIONS?

CONTACT COACH BAUMERT  
BAUMERT.TAY@DISTRICTOR1.NET

CAMP FLYERS WILL BE SENT  
HOME SOON!



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## PATHFINDER TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICE

**Teen Driver Education**

## PROVISIONAL OPERATOR'S PERMIT PROGRAM (POP)

**20 hours hybrid course work:**  
*10 hours online course work*  
*10 hours in the classroom*

**5 hours behind the wheel training  
with an instructor**

### WHEN:

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> AND  
JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
12:00 PM- 5:00  
PM**

### WHERE:

**PALMYRA HIGH  
SCHOOL  
425 F ST.  
PALMYRA, NE**

### TUITION

**\$425**

### GO TO:

**[pathfindertss.org](http://pathfindertss.org)**

### REGISTER

### FOR:

**Palmyra**

### Contact:

**Liz Cunningham  
402-719-5481 or at  
[pathfindertss@gmail  
.com](mailto:pathfindertss@gmail.com)**

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## Western Otoe County Food Pantry

Located at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
955 C Street, Palmyra, Nebraska  
Enter at the dedicated north entrance

*Neighbors Serving Neighbors:  
Many Hands Lighten the Load*

- Confidential help when you need it
- Select your own items
- Private visits by appointment only
- No Paperwork

Supported locally by the Bennet Community Church,  
Palmyra community churches (Catholic, Lutheran,  
Presbyterian), and Douglas Catholic church.

### For more information or an appointment contact:

All seasons:

Brooke Hay	402/992-0130
Diana Poskochil	402/580-1234
Molly Hall	402/560-2229
Melissa Carpenter	402/817-3958

Times other than winter:

Sheila Lienau	402/499-3865
Charlie Lienau	402/429-8918



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## Standard Response Protocol

Bennet Elementary’s adoption of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) provides a standardized approach to managing various events, both threatening and non-threatening, that may happen in or around our school.

These protocols provide actions for the following situations:

- Hold (stay in classrooms due to a non-threatening event)
- Secure (danger is outside the school)
- Lockdown (danger is inside the school)
- Evacuate (leave the school building, often referred to as fire drill)
- Shelter (tornado or severe weather)

# IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



## **HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.**

### **STUDENTS**

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the “All Clear” is announced  
Do business as usual

### **ADULTS**

Close and lock the door  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



## **SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.**

### **STUDENTS**

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

### **TEACHERS**

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Do business as usual  
Take attendance



## **LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.**

### **STUDENTS**

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

### **ADULTS**

Recover students from hallway if possible  
Lock the classroom door  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door  
Prepare to evade or defend



## **EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)**

### **STUDENTS**

Leave stuff behind if required to  
If possible, bring your phone  
Follow instructions

### **ADULTS**

Lead students to Evacuation location  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



## **SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.**

### **STUDENTS**

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Safety Strategy</b>
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

### **ADULTS**

Lead safety strategy  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



## IT'S GIVING GREEN FLAG

Join us to give and help **save lives.**

# Palmyra High School Blood Drive

**Held on the Bloodmobile**

**Wednesday, April 15  
10:00AM – 2:00PM**

### Appointments Recommended

Visit [ncbb.org/searchdrives](https://ncbb.org/searchdrives)

Use sponsor code: **PHS**

*You can also scan the QR code  
to access the schedule*

Or call **402.486.9414**

For questions, Contact **Ms. Beach**



### Prepare to donate



Eat well  
and hydrate



Bring a  
photo ID



Feel good and  
symptom free



Must be 17+ or  
16 with parental  
consent form



Meet minimum  
weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements  
and COVID-19 information, visit  
[ncbb.org/eligibility](https://ncbb.org/eligibility).

### Are you 16 years old?

Please have your parent  
permission form complete &  
with you at donation  
(Must be completed each time  
you donate while you are 16)



Earn your Green Flag shirt  
when you join us to give.

While supplies last.

# PATHFINDER TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICE

Teen Driver Education

## PROVISIONAL OPERATOR'S PERMIT PROGRAM (POP)

20 hours hybrid course work:  
*10 hours online course work*  
*10 hours in the classroom*

5 hours behind the wheel training  
with an instructor

### WHEN:

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> AND  
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12:00 PM- 5:00  
PM

### WHERE:

PALMYRA HIGH  
SCHOOL  
425 F ST.  
PALMYRA, NE

### TUITION

\$425

### GO TO:

[pathfindertss.org](http://pathfindertss.org)

### REGISTER

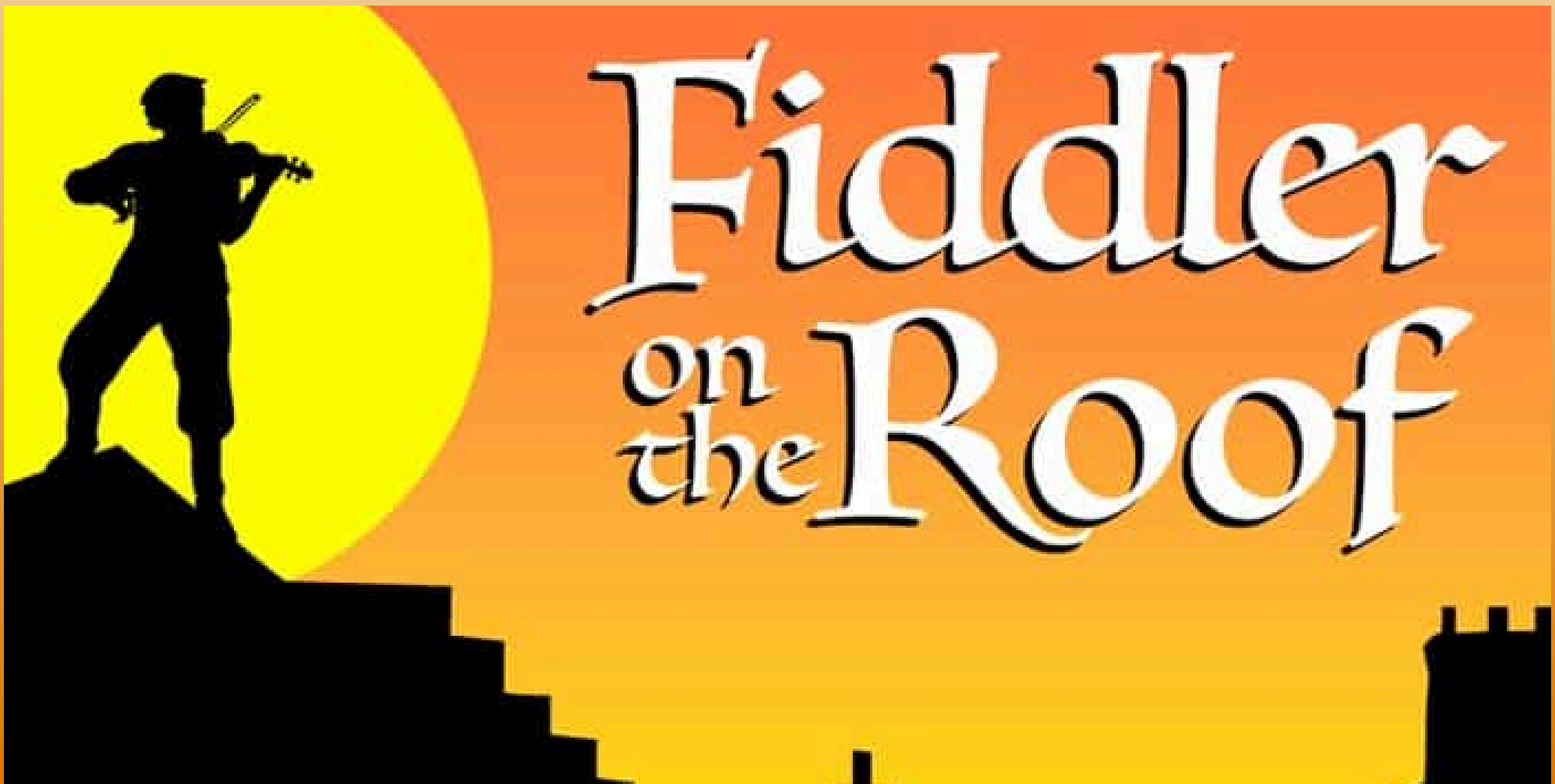
### FOR:

Palmyra

### Contact:

Liz Cunningham  
402-719-5481 or at  
[pathfindertss@gmail  
.com](mailto:pathfindertss@gmail.com)

Palmyra Music & Drama Departments  
Proudly Present



April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

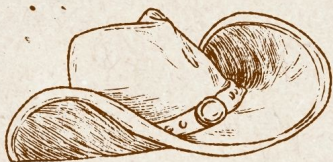
at 6:30 pm

April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm

Palmyra High School - west gym

Tickets are \$5 at the door

Cupcakes, flowers, basket raffle tickets  
are available for purchase.



*Palmyra Prom 2026*

# A NIGHT IN NASHVILLE

APRIL 18TH | THE SHED

22500 s 176<sup>th</sup> St Adams, Nebraska

Pictures: 7 pm | Dance: 8:00 pm



Juniors: \$20  
Seniors: Free  
Outside Date: \$25



Post Prom to follow @ Palmyra HS