



# Panther Weekly Bulletin

## Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Baked French Toast Syrup Bacon Hard Boiled Egg	Biscuit Sausage Patty Over Hard Fried Egg	Cook's Choice	Pancake Bites Syrup Sausage Links Hard Boiled Egg	Cinnamon Roll Yogurt

## Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Breaded Beef Patty Bun Mashed Potatoes White Gravy Baked Beans	Panther Rib Baked Beans	Cook's Choice	Cheeseburger Mac Green Beans Dinner Roll	Soft Pretzel Cheese Sauce Chef Salad

# Happening this week at PHS

**Monday, February 23rd-** FCCLA Peer Education Conference in Kearney all day.

National FFA Week Feb. 22– 28th. Teacher breakfast on Monday Feb. 23rd. Daily Dress Up Days, see attached flyer. Daily trivia announced each morning!

Boys Varsity Basketball Sub Districts vs. Louisville @ Ashland Greenwood 6:00 pm. Bus leaves at 4:15 pm.

**Tuesday, February 24th-** Boys Varsity Basketball Sub Districts @ Ashland, TBD.

FFA District Career Development @ SCC Beatrice. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

**Wednesday, February 25th-** FFA Member Breakfast.

ECNC Speech @ Mead. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

Health Screenings for 7th and 10th grade students.

**Thursday, February 26th-** Boys Varsity Basketball Sub District Finals, TBA.

Drive Your Tractor to School Day for FFA (must have a signed waiver).

**Friday, February 27th-** HS Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library, 7:30 am.

JH Boys Wrestling @ Weeping Water 10:00 am. Bus leaves at 8:00 am.

FFA Truck Contest. See attached flyer.

Junior High Dance for grades 6– 8th @ PHS East Gym. Pictures 7:00– 8:00 pm.

Dance ends at 10:00 pm. Enter through South Gym Doors. Cost is \$5.00.

**Saturday, February 28th-** Speech Meet @ Plattsmouth, 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, March 2nd**– Start of Spring Practice!

Chapter FFA Meeting 7:30 am.

FCCLA STAR Night, 4:00 pm.

**Tuesday, March 3rd**– NAEP Testing.

Freshmore Honor Choir.

JH Boys Wrestling Meet @ Malcolm 3:00 pm.

**Thursday, March 5th**– Speech Night.

End of 3rd Quarter.

**Friday, March 6th**– NO SCHOOL, Spring Break.

# GO PANTHERS!

# Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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



## Newsletter - Feb 20th, 2026

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Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

### Principal's Update

#### **Yearbook Cover Contest Winners!**

We are excited to announce the winners of this year's Yearbook Cover Contest. Designing a yearbook cover is a special tradition for our fifth grade students who choose to participate, and one design is selected to represent the yearbook for the entire school year.

 1st Place: Marilyn

 2nd Place: Makara

 3rd Place: Lola

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all of our fifth graders who participated and shared their creativity. We cannot wait for everyone to see this year's yearbook cover.

#### **Caffeinated Beverages**

At Bennet Elementary, we do not allow caffeinated beverages to be consumed at school. This includes during arrival, and during our lunch time if your child brings a cold lunch. Thank you for your understanding of this policy.

#### **Kindergarten Roundup**

Please mark your calendars for Kindergarten Round Up 2026 on Friday, May 1st! If you have an upcoming Kindergarten student, please call the office and provide information about your child so we can prepare for their attendance.



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**Preschool Enrollment**

If you are interested in the Little Panther Preschool program for next year, please take a moment to complete this [Google Form](#) to add your child's name to the enrollment waitlist for the 2026–2027 school year. Submitting this form helps us better understand family interest as we plan class sizes, staffing, and program needs for the upcoming year. Completing the form does not guarantee enrollment, but it is an important first step in our planning process. Thank you for your interest in Little Panther Preschool, we appreciate your time and look forward to connecting with you as plans for next year take shape.

## **Attendance Notification Information**

Nebraska state law requires schools to send attendance notification letters when a student reaches 5, 10, 15, and 20 total days absent during the school year. The purpose of these letters is to keep families informed of their student's current attendance total and to support regular school attendance. Our goal is to help all students remain below 20 total absences, as students who reach 20 or more days absent are considered chronically absent by the State of Nebraska. We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances that contribute to student absences, and these letters are not meant to be punitive. Rather, they serve as a notification and an opportunity to communicate, provide support, and work together to promote student success.

## **Special Education Parent Survey**

The Nebraska Department of Education is inviting parents of students who are age 3-21 and currently receiving special education services to take part in a parent survey for District OR-1. This survey is confidential and will be used to facilitate improving services for students with disabilities. This survey link is open until April 27, 2026. If you have questions please contact Linde Walter at [walter.lin@districtor1.net](mailto:walter.lin@districtor1.net). Thank you for your time.

[Parent Survey Link District OR1](#)

## **Winter Weather Clothing**

Now that we are in the middle of the winter season, please help your child come to school prepared for the day's temperatures. Students go outside for recess as long as the weather allows, so be sure they have appropriate jackets, hats, and gloves when needed. Guidance for jackets and recess wear as well as indoor recess can be found below. We strongly recommend labeling your child's jackets and coats with their name. This helps ensure that their items are returned to them instead of sitting unclaimed in



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the lost and found. Our lost and found is located by the entryway. Please take a moment  
to visit the lost and found if your child is missing any items.

## 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.
- 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.



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## 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.
- 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

- Feb 24- Health Screenings
- March 6- No School
- March 11- Third Grade Field Trip
- March 12-13- No School
- April 2-6- No School
- April 14- No School- Teacher Professional Development
- April 17- First Grade Field Trip
- May 1st- Kindergarten Roundup (No School for Current Kindergarteners)



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**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](#)

## **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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## ☀ Panther Paw Winners ☀



**SAFE  
RESPECTFUL  
RESPONSIBLE**



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# School Counseling PROGRAM

## What's Happening in the Classroom?

Students in second and third grade continued to discuss kindness this week in guidance class. Specifically, we focused on how to appropriately join a group or game, how to include others in your games or activities, and how to compromise to find a common activity where all can be included.

Small Groups through the school counseling program for the second semester began this week as well! Topics such as big worries, test anxiety, social skills, friendship development, and perfectionism/resilience are being covered in a variety of small groups to meet our students needs. Please see the next page for an activity from one of our fun, interactive small groups!

## Focus for the School Year

- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect
- Emotional Regulation

## Strategy/Skill to reinforce at home

### Kindness

Please talk to your student(s) each day about the importance of being kind to others

## February Kindness Family Challenge

The February Kindness Challenge has been a great success so far! Many students have submitted their sheets already and I am so proud of how many have gone above and beyond to get total blackouts on their Kindness Bingo Cards.

\*There is still time to complete your Kindness Bingo. Be sure to get it done and submit your sheets back by March 5<sup>th</sup> for a prize!



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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:

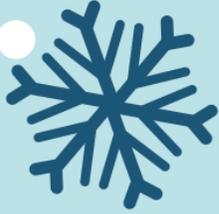
Sheila Lienau	402/499-3865
Charlie Lienau	402/429-8918

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## Weather Protocols



**NO RECESS WHEN IT  
"FEELS LIKE" 15 OR BELOW,  
OR ANY PRECIPITATION**



**60 OR BELOW: NEED LONG  
SLEEVES OR JACKET**



**50 OR BELOW: NEED  
JACKET OR COAT**



**40 OR BELOW: NEED COAT,  
HAT & GLOVES**



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Palmyra Memorial  
Library

ESCAPE

ROOM

**\$10 per participant**

**Locked in our church building**

**February is Family friendly**

**Elementary students and parents  
together. 8 people max.**

**1 hour to solve the puzzles and open  
locks to get out of the church**

You will need to register for  
preplanned time slots.

**February Family Friendly**

this QR code will take you to a  
link to sign up



**call 402-890-0964 with questions  
Follow us on Facebook to register**

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## Palmyra Memorial Library

### Monthly

**Storytime with Denise**  
**3rd Sundays 2:30pm at**  
**Library**

**Feb 15, Mar 15, April 19...**



**Stories**  
**Craft**  
**and Snacks**

**Follow us on Facebook to see more  
information**

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**PALMYRA**  
**FIRE & RESCUE**

## *Soup Supper*



**February 28th | 5PM – 8PM**

**Free-will donations welcome**

**Palmyra Senior Center • Palmyra, NE**



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Huskies



## DO YOU KNOW AN INSPIRING TEACHER?

**Nominate them to win a  
Huskies VIP experience!**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska is teaming up with Husker Athletics to sponsor **Touchdown for Teachers**, a celebration of the amazing educators across Nebraska who make our communities great.

The winning teachers will receive a special classroom visit from Herbie Husker and will be recognized by Nebraska Athletics this spring!



**Nominate your  
favorite teacher  
through March 1.**



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, 60-247 (01-22-26)

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Spring

**SOCCER**



Signups

**Micro teams: (Ages 3-6) \$30**

**Register by 3/15/26**

**Traveling recreational teams:**

**(Ages 7-9) \$55, (Ages 10 and up) \$75**

**Register by 2/15/26**

**[HTTPS://CLUBS.BLUESOMBRERO.COM/SYRACUSESOCCLUB](https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/syracusesoccerclub)**

SCAN TO  
ORDER



SCAN TO  
REGISTER

**[HTTPS://STORES.INKSOFT.COM/SYRACUSESOCCLUB/SHOP/HOME](https://stores.inksoft.com/syracusesoccer/shop/home)**

**Uniform store orders due by 2/13/26**

**Uniforms are optional for micro teams!**

**Used jerseys are available through the club!**

**Questions? Email us @ [syracusesoccer@gmail.com](mailto:syracusesoccer@gmail.com) or**

**Facebook @ Syracuse Soccer Club - Nebraska**



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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

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<http://iloveugys.org>





*Register Today!*

## **CHEER PREP CLINIC**

**FEB 26TH 4-6 PM**

**GRADES 6-11**

**COST- \$10**

**EMAIL: [PANTHER.CHEER@DISTRICTOR1.NET](mailto:PANTHER.CHEER@DISTRICTOR1.NET) TO REGISTER**



**If you are interested in becoming a PHS Cheerleader now or in the future. Let us help you be prepared in a no pressure environment.**

**Our cheer prep clinic will review the basic skills required for cheer try-outs including:**

**motions, jumps, basic tumbling, flexibility, learning choreography, spirting, and crowd leading.**

**The clinic is a glimpse into what a typical cheer practice is like, showing just how physically demanding it can be.**

# Palmyra Memorial Library

# ESCAPE

# ROOM



**\$10 per participant**

**Locked in our church building**

**February is Family friendly Elementary students  
and parents together. 8 people max.**

**March is Madness we are making the room  
tougher for middle school to adults 6-10 people  
Larger Groups and teams Special set up**



Family Friendly Escapes

You will need to register for  
preplanned time slots.

**Family Friendly  
Strong Group**

this QR code will take you to a  
palce you can choose



March Madness Escapes

**call 402-890-0964 with questions  
Follow us on Facebook to register**

# FCCLA STAR NIGHT



**STATE QUALIFIERS  
WILL PRESENT  
THEIR PROJECTS!**

**MAR. 2, 2026  
→ AT 4:00PM**

LOCATION

Mrs. Paxton's Classroom

TICKET PRICE

**FREE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[herrington.car@districtor1.net](mailto:herrington.car@districtor1.net)  
[paxton.mic@districtor1.net](mailto:paxton.mic@districtor1.net)

# FFA Week

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

## Dress up Days

Monday

Country vs. Country Club  
Pick a side and dress your best!

Tuesday

Farmers day off  
Wear your PJS!

Wednesday

Career Day  
Dress as your future career or  
wear merch for where you  
want to go to college!

Thursday

FFA day  
Members wear official dress or  
wear blue and gold for FFA!

Friday

Beach day  
Dress like you're headed to the  
beach or dress like Mrs. Beach!

Daily Trivia!!

Prizes for Best Dressed!!

# THE MATTRESS FUNDRAISER



**EVERY PURCHASE  
BENEFITS THE  
PALMYRA BAND**

 **SUN., MARCH 8**

 **10AM - 4PM**

 **PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL  
EAST COMMONS - ENTER  
THROUGH NORTH DOORS**

- ✓ All sizes available, including custom
- ✓ 25+ mattresses on display, all comfort levels
- ✓ Brand New with 1 to 20 year warranties
- ✓ Delivery and Shipping Available
- ✓ Cash, Check, Credit Card Accepted
- ✓ **Financing Available**

\*FOR EARLY INQUIRIES ON FINANCING, PLEASE CALL/EMAIL CFS OMAHA\*  
712-249-5551 OR [AUSTINKESTERSON@CFSBEDS.COM](mailto:AUSTINKESTERSON@CFSBEDS.COM)



Adjustable  
Bases



Sheet  
Sets



Protectors



Luxury  
Pillows

Scan For:



Facebook Event  
Details!

**FREE THRESHOLD  
DELIVERY WITH PURCHASE  
OF ANY MATTRESS  
(SET UP DELIVERY AVAILABLE AT  
ADDITIONAL COST)**

You've been personally referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

# **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**

**Friday, Feb. 27**

**All 6th-8th Graders Are Welcome!**

**Pictures 7:00-8:00 PM, Dance ends at 10:00 PM**

**\$5.00 at the door**

**ENTER THROUGH SOUTH GYM DOORS**

**Sponsored by Palmyra Student Council**



# **PALMYRA** **FIRE & RESCUE**

## *Soup Supper*



**February 28th | 5PM – 8PM**

**Free-will donations welcome**

**Palmyra Senior Center • Palmyra, NE**



# FFA Vehicle Judging



## Competition



Friday, Feb. 27th

Park your truck (or car) in the south parking lot to enter.

Vehicles will be judged by the following classes...

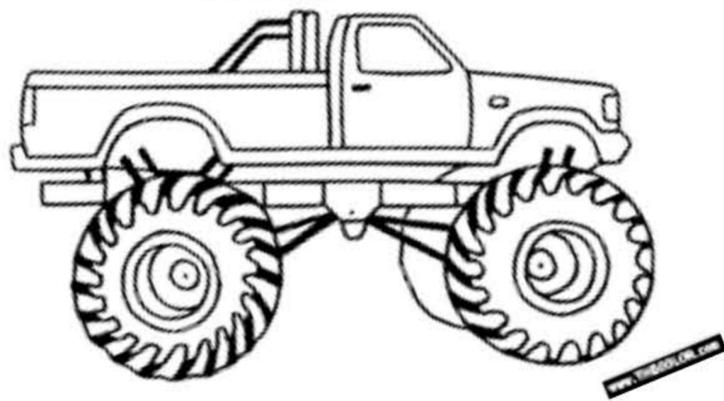
**Dirtiest**



**Newest**



**Biggest**



**Cleanest**



**Oldest**



**Smallest**



Winners pick up prizes in Mrs. Beach's room after school