



Panther Weekly Bulletin

Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
French Toast Sticks Syrup Hard Boiled Egg	Croissant Sausage Patty Over Hard Fried Egg	Waffle Syrup Bacon	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Chicken Patty Bun Baby Ranch Potatoes Peas	Flour Tortilla Taco Meat Shredded Cheese Refried Beans	Pancake Bites Sausage Links Hashbrown potatoes	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

Happening this week at PHS

Monday, February 9th- JH Girls Basketball @ Freeman 4:00/ 5:00/ 6:00 pm.
Bus leaves at 2:45 pm.

FCCLA Week February 9th—13th!

Tuesday, February 10th- Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Fairbury. JV 4:30 pm. Girls Varsity 5:45 pm. Boys Varsity 7:15 pm. Buses leave at 2:15/ 3:15 pm.

Wednesday, February 11th- Early Dismissal at 1:00 pm.

FCCLA Meeting at 7:45 am.

Peru State Business Day @ Peru State College 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:10 am.

Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00– 8:00 pm.

FCCLA Teacher Dinner at Parent Teacher Conferences.

Thursday, February 12th- No School.

Parent Teacher Conferences from 8:00 am– 12:00 pm. Staff work day 12:00– 4:00 pm.

JH Girls Basketball vs. Lincoln Christian @ PHS West Gym, 4:00/ 5:00/ 6:00 pm.

Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Nebraska City. JV 4:30 pm. Girls Varsity 6:00 pm. Boys Varsity 7:30 pm. Buses leave at 3:00/ 4:00 pm.

Nebraska Wesleyan Honors Weekend.

Friday, February 13th- No School.

Nebraska Wesleyan Honors Weekend.

Saturday, February 14th- Boys Varsity Wrestling District Tournament @ Centennial 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 5:45 am.

Speech Meet @ Auburn 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 16th– No School, President's Day.

Girls Varsity Basketball Sub Districts, TBA, Away.

JH Girls Basketball vs. Syracuse @ PHS, 4:00 pm.

FFA Poultry Evaluation.

Tuesday, February 17th– Girls Varsity Basketball Sub Districts, TBA, Away.

Girls Varsity Wrestling State Championships, Away.

Wednesday, February 18th– Midland Show Choir Festival.

Girls Varsity Wrestling State Championships, Away.

Thursday, February 19th– Girls Varsity Basketball Sub Districts, TBA, Away.

Boys Varsity Wrestling State Championships, Away.

JH Girls Basketball vs. Weeping Water @ PHS, 4:00 pm.

Friday, February 20th– HS Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library, 7:30 am.
State Cheer.

Boys Varsity Wrestling State Championships, Away.

Boys C/JV/Varsity Basketball vs. HTRS @ PHS. C Team 4:15 pm, JV 5:00 pm, Varsity 6:15 pm.

Saturday, February 21st– Speech Meet.

Girls Varsity Basketball Sub District Finals, TBA, Away.

Boys Varsity Wrestling State Championships, Away.

JH Girls Basketball Tournament @ PHS, 8:00 am.

Pinewood Derby, 1:00 pm.

GO PANTHERS!

Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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



Newsletter - Feb 6th, 2026

Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

Principal's Update

Parent Teacher Conferences

We are looking forward to meeting with all of you next week to discuss your child's progress this school year. On Wednesday, February 11th, we will have an early dismissal at 1:00. The school will be open from 2:00-8:00 for parent teacher conferences. Our Rec Program will operate normal hours until 5:30. On Thursday, February 12th, the school will be open from 8:00-12:00 for parent teacher conferences. Each child should receive a parent teacher conference reminder slip sent home this week with your date and time for your conference.

No School

There will be no school on Thursday, February 12th due to parent teacher conferences and staff development. There will also be no school on Friday, February 13th and Monday, February 16th.

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.

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.



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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.

School Counseling Advisory Program

As a part of the school counseling program, we would like to start a community-based advisory council. The purpose of the school counseling advisory council is to provide feedback on program goals, review program results, make recommendations, and advocate for the school counseling program. This council would meet two times a year (once in the fall and once in the spring) and we would look to have 2-year terms (4 meetings total). This is a positive experience and a way for families to learn about our school counseling program and provide additional insight, perspectives, and ideas that can continue to move the program forward in an innovative way. If you are interested, please reach out to Mr. Lahmon at lahmon.aus@districtor1.net. There are no guarantees you will be selected this first time as we are looking for a diverse group representative of our community and all grade levels, while maintaining an appropriate amount of individuals to drive meeting efficiency and effectiveness.

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. Thank you for your time.

[Parent Survey Link District OR1](#)



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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 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.



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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.
- 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.



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Upcoming Events

- Feb 10- Bennet Boosters Meeting- 7:00
- Feb 11- 1:00 Dismissal- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb 11- Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb 11- Parent Teacher Conferences- 2:00-8:00
- Feb 12- No School- PT Conferences/ Teacher PD
- Feb 13-16- No School
- Feb 24- Health Screenings
- May 1st- Kindergarten Roundup (No School for Current Kindergarteners)

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?

Fifth, second, and third grade students worked on creating kindness posters this week for a poster contest being sponsored by our #BeKind community partner, United Against Violence. We discussed kindness, focusing on simple kindness acts that can have large impacts on others each day.

Fifth graders also began their Middle School transition curriculum. We focused on organization skills, emphasizing learning about organization strategies for planners, folders, backpacks, desks, google drives, computer tabs, etc. Students were challenged to begin identifying the organization system that works best for them.

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

A new family challenge was sent out this week for the month of February. Please complete these kindness activities and return your signed papers to me by March 5th for a reward!

*Those who completed the December challenge will be receiving their recognition next week

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

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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

Monthly

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

Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15...



Stories Craft and Snacks

Follow us on Facebook to see more
information

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Palmyra Memorial Library

Upcoming community programs

Storytime with Denise

3rd Sundays 2:30pm Library



LEGO Display

Sunday Feb 1st 2-6 in the Church



Escape Room

*group experience fundraiser

Feb and March. Need to register for preplanned time slots more information.



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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Huskers.



**BlueCross
BlueShield**
Nebraska

DO YOU KNOW AN INSPIRING TEACHER?

**Nominate them to win a
Huskers 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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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

Hazard

Tornado
Hazmat
Earthquake
Tsunami

Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold
Get to high ground

ADULTS

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

Applications Fees

Applications can be obtained from any American Legion Post in Nebraska or downloaded from www.nebraskalegion.net. Click on Programs and then Boys State.

All applications, along with the required \$425.00 application fee, must be submitted to Cornhusker Boys' State Program Director by March 15, 2025.

Transportation Fee

Because of the distance from Lincoln, some Districts in western Nebraska require Boys' State delegates to use mandatory transportation provided by a contract carrier. This cost will vary and applies to delegates residing in Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9. More information can be obtained from those District Commanders.

Registration Fee

The required registration fee is \$25.00. This fee is paid by the Boys' State delegate, or parents, at the time of registration on Sunday, June 1. Checks are made payable to Cornhusker Boys State.

Refunds

Refunds for cancellation will only be given to the sponsoring individual or organization if Department is notified prior to May 1, 2025.

After May 1, no refunds will be given. If a boy does not attend Boys' State and no written prior notice was given to the sponsoring individual or organization, the sponsoring entity can ask the parents for reimbursement.

Instructions to Boys

A packet of instructions is sent to each boy explaining the rules and regulations of Boys' State. Additionally, these instructions let each boy know what he needs to bring with him for the week. Several forms are included in the packet. These forms must be filled out completely and returned to Department Headquarters by May 1.

Instructions to Boys (Continued)

Boys will report to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln campus on Sunday, June 1st at 12:00 p.m. for registration. Exact location will be included in the instruction packets. Late arrivals and early departures are seldom approved. The Program Director is the only individual that can approve these requests. Exemptions for funerals and illness are typically granted but family vacations, sports camps, ACT/SAT exams, and such are not valid reasons for late arrival or early departures. Boys need to plan accordingly.

Once the program is in session, any boy who is unable to follow the rules and regulations will be immediately dismissed.

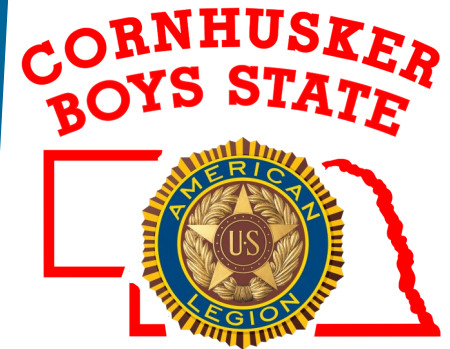
Boys that do not attend the full week will not graduate nor receive their Boys' State pin and graduation certificate.

Boys' Nation

At the end of Cornhusker Boys' State, two delegates are chosen to represent Nebraska at the American Legion Boys' Nation program in Washington D.C. During Boys' Nation, you will create and debate laws, visit the US Capitol, meet the Nebraska Senators, and visit other historic places. Although not guaranteed, most delegates have had the opportunity to visit the White House and meet the President of the United States. Only 98 young men get to attend each year. To be eligible you must be a legal US citizen, possess legal residency, or have visitor status.

**Cornhusker Boys' State
Program Director Dave Salak
150 NW 40th St, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528
402-464-6338
dsalak@nebraskalegion.net
www.cornhuskerboysstate.org**

85th Annual Session June 1 - 7, 2025



Informational Brochure

**Sponsored by
The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

The American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State

History and Purpose

Boys' State began in Illinois in 1935 and was later adopted nationally by The American Legion. Since becoming a national program, the Department of Nebraska has been proud to offer young boys throughout the state an opportunity to attend Cornhusker Boys' State at the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln.

The purpose of the program is to educate youth in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship. This is accomplished through the creation of an imaginary 51st state which is then governed by the citizens of Boys' State.

Throughout the course of the week-long program, Boys' State citizens organize their own city, county, and state governments and choose their own elected officials through the election process. They introduce and argue their own bills in a legislature, and justice is administered by law enforcement agencies and the courts.

Non-Partisan

The program is non-partisan and is not military in any sense. The political parties in Boys' State are the "Federalists" and the "Nationalists."

Activities

Morning and afternoon sessions are set aside for educational and government training. Afterwards, boys have the opportunity to participate in either band, chorus, newsletter staff, or sporting activities.

Special Lectures

Highly respected public servants and community leaders present lectures on subjects pertinent to the program. Evening sessions with motivational speakers are also held throughout the week.

Camp Staff

Counselors and chaperones of the Cornhusker Boys' State program are well-trained and experienced leaders. They are American Legion members and/or past Boys' State delegates and have also passed background checks.

Health and Medical

During registration and check-in, medical staff review each boy's medical forms for accuracy before they are admitted. Every care will be taken to avoid accidents and illnesses, but Boys' State will not be responsible or held liable for injuries or sickness if they occur.

Eligibility and Selection

Any boy who has been a member of the junior class for the 2024-2025 year and attends a Nebraska school, or is home-schooled, is eligible for Boys' State.

A letter has been sent to every high school principal in the state to request they explain the Boys' State program to all eligible boys and secure a list of those who are interested. Traits to be considered when recommending a student include scholastic performance, leadership qualities, and citizenship.

Every sponsoring American Legion Post should ask the principal for the list of interested boys and then make its selection.

The Cornhusker Boys' State Board has the right to accept or reject any application. No publicity about a student's selection should be made until official notification is received from the Program Director, which is usually by April 1.

Endorsement vs Sponsorship

Every boy must be endorsed by a local American Legion Post. Other individuals and businesses, besides a Post, can sponsor the registration fee but the application must be endorsed by a Post. There is no limit to the number of boys that each Post can endorse and/or sponsor.

Applications are due to Cornhusker Boys' State Program Director by March 15, 2025

The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program

Who:

Each year, 2 girl and 2 boy high school juniors from each of the Nebraska American Legion's 14 districts are chosen to participate in the Junior Law Cadet Program.

When:

Boys- June 23-24, 2025

Girls- June 25-26, 2025

Where:

Participants will stay at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island.

What You Do:

Explore and experience the various aspects of law enforcement such as firearms training and emergency vehicle operations. Learn the latest in law enforcement technology, tactical medicine, and K-9 handling. If you are considering a career in law enforcement, the Junior Law Cadet Program is for you! It will offer you an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a paramilitary setting, complete with making beds and cleaning.

How to Become a Junior Law Cadet:

Fillable application forms are available at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/JRLaw.html>. The form must be signed by your local Legion Post. You may also contact the American Legion Programs Director, Eric Martin at his e-mail address: emartin@nebraskalegion.net. His office number is (402) 464-6338.

Junior Law Cadet participants will be selected by competitive evaluation based on interest, citizenship, evidence of self-discipline, and the ability to share their knowledge with others. Completed applications and an endorsement from your school principal or superintendent must be submitted to your local Post Commander by March 1, 2025.

Your local Post Commander will select a male and female applicant from each school and forward their selections to Department Headquarters for review. All eligible applicants will be notified, by mail of the location, date, and time of their District selection interview.

Costs:

Each cadet chosen will be sponsored by the local American Legion Post/District, which will cover the costs. Cost per cadet is \$100, which covers insurance, food, T-shirts, caps, classroom materials and administrative expenses. The Nebraska State Patrol provides training, counselors, facilities and equipment as a public service.

Basic Requirements To Become A Junior Law Cadet:

1. High School Junior in good health and able to participate in physical activities.
2. Must possess a positive attitude and display respect for law enforcement.
3. Good grooming, average or above scholastic record, and be able to share the knowledge gained through the program with others.
4. Must possess a valid operator's license or learner's permit.
5. Must reside in the State of Nebraska.
6. Must have attended an accredited Nebraska High School or home school equivalent for the 2024-2025 school year.

Other Activities and Areas of Learning:

- Drone
- Aviation Support
- Gangs
- SWAT



The American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program provides young adults the chance to:

- Drive a State Patrol car.
- Learn to fire a service weapon under expert guidance.



- Interact with law enforcement officers and other young adults while learning the different roles agencies play in the criminal justice system, both here in Nebraska and across the United States.
- Study drug enforcement, proper methods of patrolling, K-9 handling, gangs and many issues facing law enforcement today.



- Have fun while working as a team, carrying out responsibilities, and achieving individual goals in a para-military setting.



*The American
Legion
2025 Junior
Law Cadet
Program*



AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY Girls State



SCAN
ME



www.ALAforVeterans.org/ALA-Girls-State-Locations

American Legion Auxiliary departments (states) across the country proudly host ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership, and the mission of the ALA. Girls State Leaders ensure the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are carried out through interactive learning. Though the week is filled with many learning opportunities, there is always time for fun and the formation of long-term friendships.

ALA Girls State is a program to learn about the political process through actively running a mock government. The participants are assigned to mock counties and cities and are assigned either the "Federalist Party" or "Nationalist Party." Throughout the program, participants elect officials for all levels of state government.

ALA Girls State is a program for rising high school seniors. Candidates should be keenly interested in government, current events, and show strong leadership abilities.

Looking for more information on your ALA Girls State Program? Scan the QR code to get started!

PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

What is CTE?

What is CTE? Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs give students the chance to explore real-world skills that prepare them for both college and future careers. CTE connects classroom learning with hands-on experiences in areas such as Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture, Business, Industrial Technology, and more. These courses help students build valuable life skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership, all while exploring possible career paths.



Learning that works
for Nebraska



The CTE Newsletter

To help highlight the amazing things happening in our CTE classrooms, we will be sharing a monthly CTE newsletter with our school community. Each month, we'll showcase projects, events, and learning experiences that our students are involved in. This is a great way to celebrate student success while keeping families and community members connected to the learning happening every day. We are excited to share the incredible opportunities CTE provides for our students!

The Palmyra CTE Teachers are: Ag - Mrs. Beach; Digital Communications - Mr. Conn & Mrs. Gill; FCS - Mrs. Paxton; STS: Mr. Fritsch

AGRICULTURE

New semester, new students, new experiences! January went by quickly, and agriculture classes were in full swing learning new things! This semester students have the opportunity to take Agriculture Business, Livestock Management, Intro to Ag, and Junior High classes. Students in ag business have been learning the importance of supply chains in the ag industry and how the government impacts the industry at the local, state, and national level. Livestock Management students have dug into the importance of livestock industries and how they impact markets globally and different management techniques impact producers and consumers. 8th graders have been learning about agriculture careers and ones that they are interested in. They ended the month with a career project that we are presenting later this week! 7th graders are learning about agriculture in Nebraska and the United States and how consumer trends have impacted what producers grow and raise. All classes also had the chance to visit with a bottle lamb thanks to the Dowding family!



Pictured: Logan Georges, Karson Brooks, Kolby Thompson, Korbin King, Ryan Bechtle and Lauren Johnson

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Our Family & Consumer Sciences classes have been busy building real-world skills through hands-on learning throughout the month of January

In FCS 8, students are putting their creativity to work with an interior design project where they are creating detailed “shoebox bedrooms.” Using design principles like color, balance, texture, and space planning, students are transforming ordinary shoeboxes into impressive miniature rooms. From tiny furniture to carefully planned décor themes, their projects highlight both creativity and an understanding of how interior design connects to real careers in housing and design fields.

Culinary students are currently working through their desserts unit, and the kitchen has been full of sweet success. So far, students have made chocolate pudding from scratch and homemade toaster strudels. While these treats have been fun (and delicious), students are also strengthening important kitchen skills such as measuring accurately, practicing food safety, and following multi-step recipes. They are also learning how precision and technique play a major role in culinary and baking careers.

In Health class, students are wrapping up their unit on physical activity and nutrition. They have been learning how regular movement and balanced eating habits contribute to overall wellness and long-term health. In February, students will also have the opportunity to hear from a guest speaker who will share real-world insight into health, fitness, and wellness-related careers, helping students connect classroom learning to future opportunities.

Meanwhile, FCS 7 students have been focusing on developing strong soft skills as they work toward becoming career ready. Through class activities and discussions, students are practicing communication, teamwork, responsibility, and professionalism. These essential skills are valued in every career field and help students build confidence both in school and beyond.

February is CTE Month. This is a great time to celebrate the meaningful, hands-on learning happening in our classrooms. Through Family & Consumer Sciences courses, students are exploring careers, gaining practical life skills, and preparing for success in their futures.



Braelyn making a vanity



Logan organizing her bedroom

SKILLED & TECHNICAL SCIENCES

7th Grade STS

Students have completed the design phase of their balsa wood bridges, which must span a 12-inch gap. They are now beginning the construction phase in the shop, applying their designs while focusing on accuracy, structural strength, and teamwork. This project helps students understand basic engineering concepts and the importance of design planning.

8th Grade STS

Students are learning how to draft and design projects using SketchUp, focusing on accurate measurements, basic layout skills, and proper planning techniques. They are using these designs to plan a birdhouse that they will later build in the shop, connecting digital design skills with hands-on construction and reinforcing the importance of planning before building.

Welding

Students are practicing and refining their welding skills by welding a round piece of pipe to a flat piece of metal. After welding, they test their work by checking whether the joint can hold water, allowing them to evaluate weld quality, penetration, and consistency. This activity reinforces proper welding technique, attention to detail, and real-world application of welding standards.



Anthony, Rhys, & Drake

Woodworking

Students are working on building a nightstand using scrap wood, which encourages creativity, problem-solving, and efficient use of materials. Through this project, they practice measuring, cutting, assembling, and finishing while learning how to adapt designs based on available resources.

Intro to STS

Students have recently finished rebuilding school engines and are now bringing in their own engines to rebuild and get running. This hands-on experience allows them to apply mechanical knowledge, troubleshooting skills, and safe shop practices while gaining confidence working with real-world equipment.

VIDEO AND MEDIA PRODUCTION

Video Production Class Update

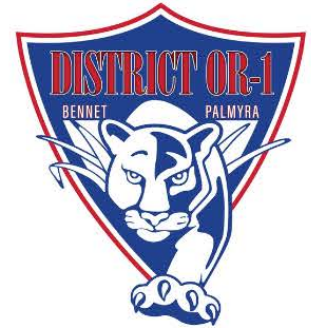
This semester, students new to Video Production have been diving into the basics of visual storytelling. After learning how to create storyboards, the class recently completed Winter sports hype videos, all of which can be viewed on the school's YouTube page. Students are now exploring the world of Adobe Premiere Pro as they work on individualized projects and continue developing their technical skills. In the coming weeks, the class will collaborate with Miss Swartzendruber's 8th grade art class to create a stop-motion production. This exciting project will take place during a half-day workshop in the building—so stay tuned for the finished results!

Media Production Class Update

Media Production students have been busy interviewing students and staff as they continue working to complete additional yearbook pages. With exciting content still being added, this year's yearbook is on track to exceed 120 pages. Families are reminded that yearbook prices will increase after February 13 to \$50, so be sure to order soon by picking up an order form in the office or at <https://yearbookforever.com/>. Seniors are also encouraged to submit their senior photos and baby photos digitally by March 3 to powell.jan@districtor1.net, and senior ads are still available for purchase online at <https://yearbookforever.com/> as well.



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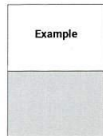
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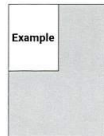
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