



Panther Weekly Bulletin

Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
No School Today	French Toast Sticks Syrup Bacon	Biscuit Sausage Gravy Scrambled Eggs	Burrito Breakfast Wrap Potato Triangle	Long John Yogurt Parfait

Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
No School Today	BBQ Pork on a Bun Scalloped Potatoes Baked Beans	Buffalo Chicken Flatbread Pizza Broccoli	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy Green Beans Biscuit	Sloppy Joe Bun Macaroni & Cheese Carrots

Happening this week at PHS

Sunday, January 18th- Driver's Education Class 8:30 am, PHS.

Summer Legion Baseball Sign Up, 4:00 pm in the PHS East Commons.

Monday, January 19th- No School, Martin Luther King Day.

Driver's Education Class 8:30 am, PHS.

Tuesday, January 20th- Radio Quiz Bowl 8:30 am on B103.

Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Conestoga. Girls JV 5:00 pm at High School, Boys JV 4:30 pm at Murray, Girls Varsity 6:00 pm, Boys Varsity 7:15 pm. Buses leave at 2:30/3:30 pm.

Wednesday, January 21st- CDE Practice 7:30 am.

Technology/ Social Media/ AI Parent Meeting 6:00 pm in the PHS East Commons. Use north main doors.

Thursday, January 22nd- JH Girls Basketball vs. Elmwood Murdock @ Elmwood Elementary 4:30/5:00/6:00 pm. Bus leaves at 3:15 pm.

Friday, January 23rd- High School Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library 7:30 am.

Girls Varsity Wrestling State Duals @ Norfolk YMCA 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 5:45 am.

Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Louisville 10:00 am. Bus leaves at 6:15 am.

Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Yutan @ PHS. Girls JV 4:45 pm, Boys JV 4:30 pm, Girls Varsity 5:45 pm, Boys Varsity 7:15 pm. Girls Basketball Senior/Parent Night Recognition at conclusion of varsity girls game.

Saturday, January 24th- Speech Meet @ Lincoln Southwest High School 9:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:45 am.

Girls Varsity Wrestling @ Weeping Water 9:30 am. Bus leaves at 6:15 am

Sunday, January 25th- Summer Legion Baseball Sign Up, 4:00 pm at the Bennet Legion Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 26th– FFA Meeting 7:30 am.

JH Girls Basketball vs. Nebraska City Lourdes @ PHS 4:00 pm.

Girls C Team Basketball vs. Elmwood Murdock CANCELLED.

Boys C Team Basketball @ Elmwood Murdock 6:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 27th– Baseball Meeting 7:30- 8:00 am in the West Commons at PHS.

Girls Varsity Wrestling ECNC Invitational @ PHS 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, January 28th– CDE Practice 7:30 am.

FFA State Degree Interviews.

Thursday, January 29th– Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Elmwood-Murdock. Girls JV 4:30 pm, Boys JV 4:30 pm, Girls Varsity 5:45 pm, Boys Varsity 7:30 pm.

Friday, January 30th– High School Quiz Bowl Practice in PHS Library 7:30 am.

FCCLA District S.T.A.R. Competition, all day at Peru State College.

Boys Varsity Wrestling@ Freeman 3:00 pm.

Saturday, January 31st– Mudecas Speech

Boys JV and C Team Basketball @ Mead. Boys JV 9:00 am, Boys C Team 9:00 am.

GO PANTHERS!

Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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

Newsletter - Jan 16th, 2026

Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

Principal's Update

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.

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.

Strategic Planning Parent Survey

We're beginning the work of shaping the next five years of District OR-1, and your voice matters. We invite you to take a few minutes to complete our strategic planning survey and share your thoughts, priorities, and hopes for our district. Your input will help guide the decisions we make together for our students, staff, and community.

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Please complete the survey by Friday, January 16th

[District OR-1 Parent/Guardian and Community Patron Strategic Planning Survey: January 2025](#)

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.

Panther Ball Club Registration

Registration for Panther Ball Club opens January 5th and runs through January 23rd. Late registration is available January 24th–26th for a \$25 late fee. Sign up online at: <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/pantherball>

Don't miss out on the fun, get your spot early and help your child join the action this season!

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

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questions please contact Linde Walter at walter.lin@districtor1.net. Thank you for your time.

[Parent Survey Link District OR1](#)

Winter Weather Clothing

As we transition from fall to winter weather, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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

- Jan 19- No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 30- Panther Luau
- Feb 11- 1:00 Dismissal- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb 11- Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb 12- No School- PT Conferences/ Teacher PD
- Feb 13-16- No School

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

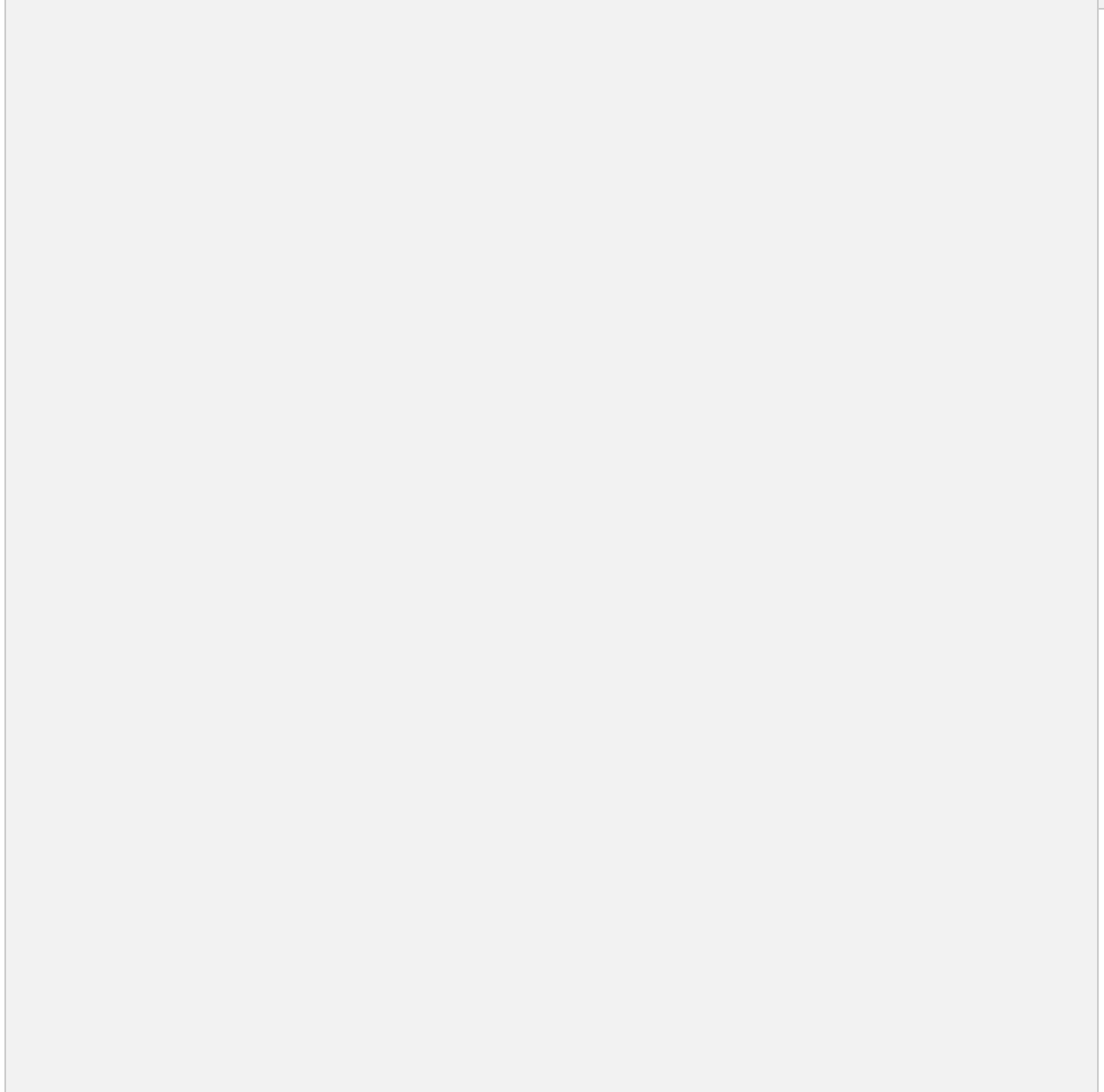
If you have any questions regarding busing, please contact Cathy Fick at 402-540-2879.

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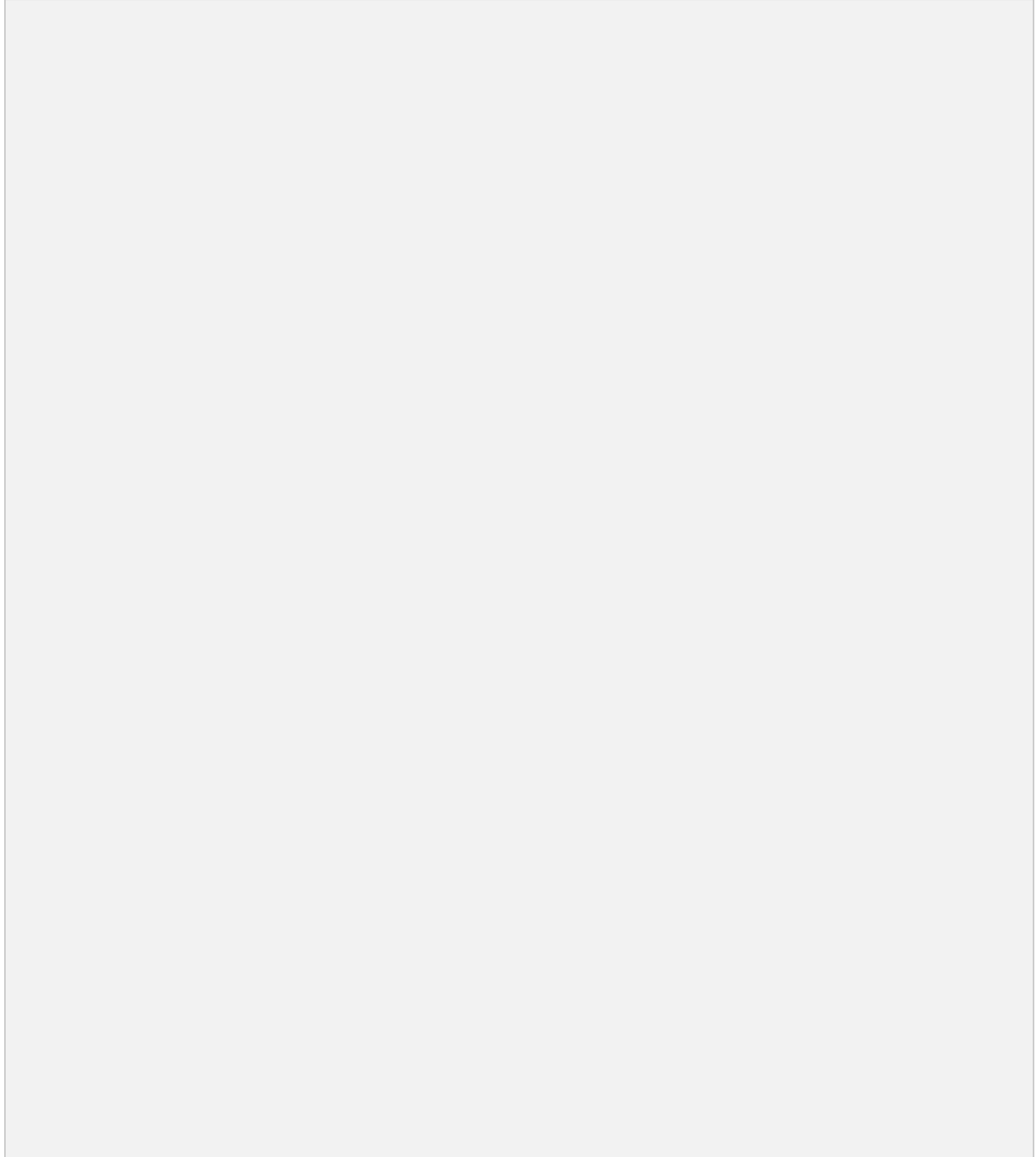
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Quarter 2 Panther Paw Winners!!!

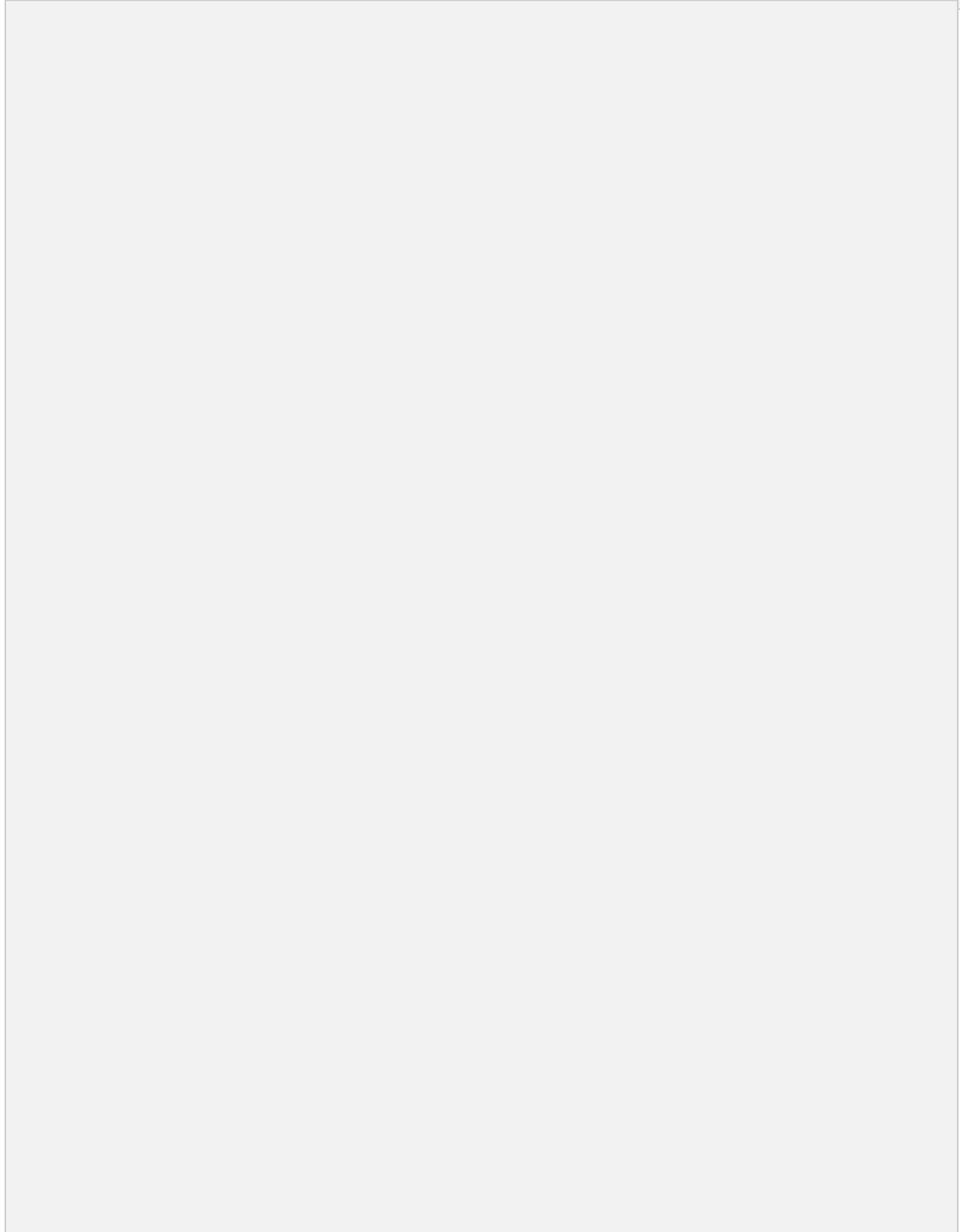


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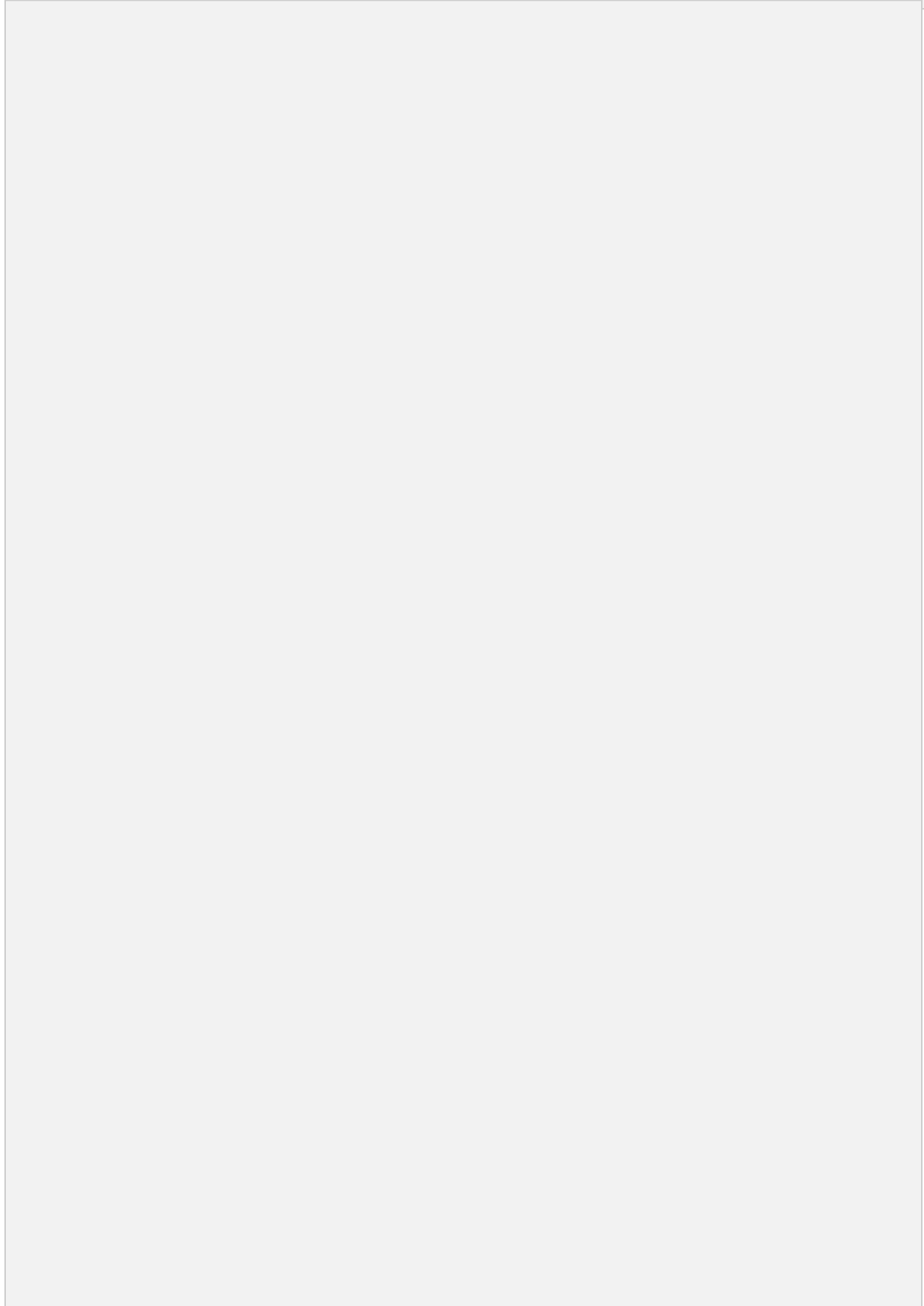
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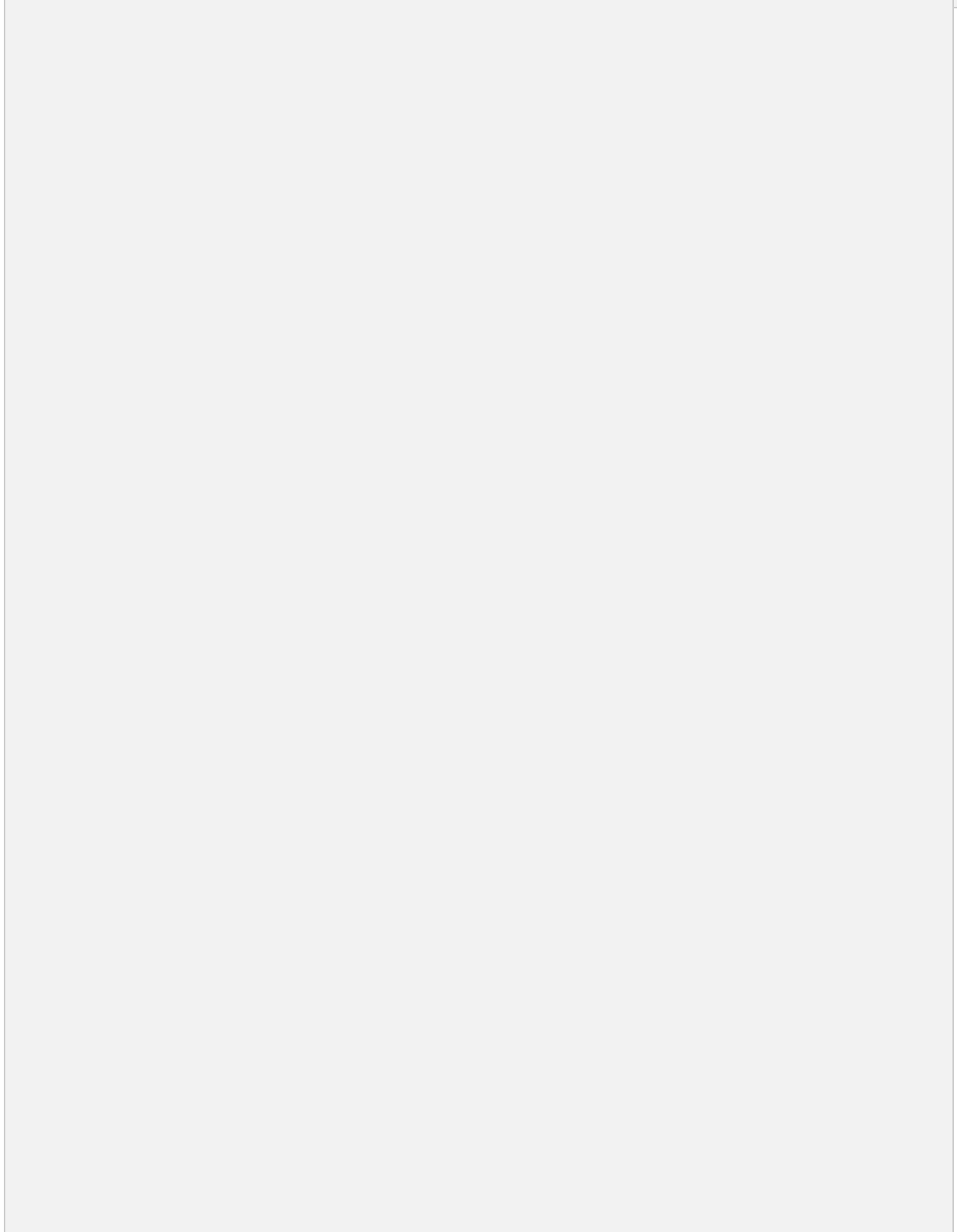
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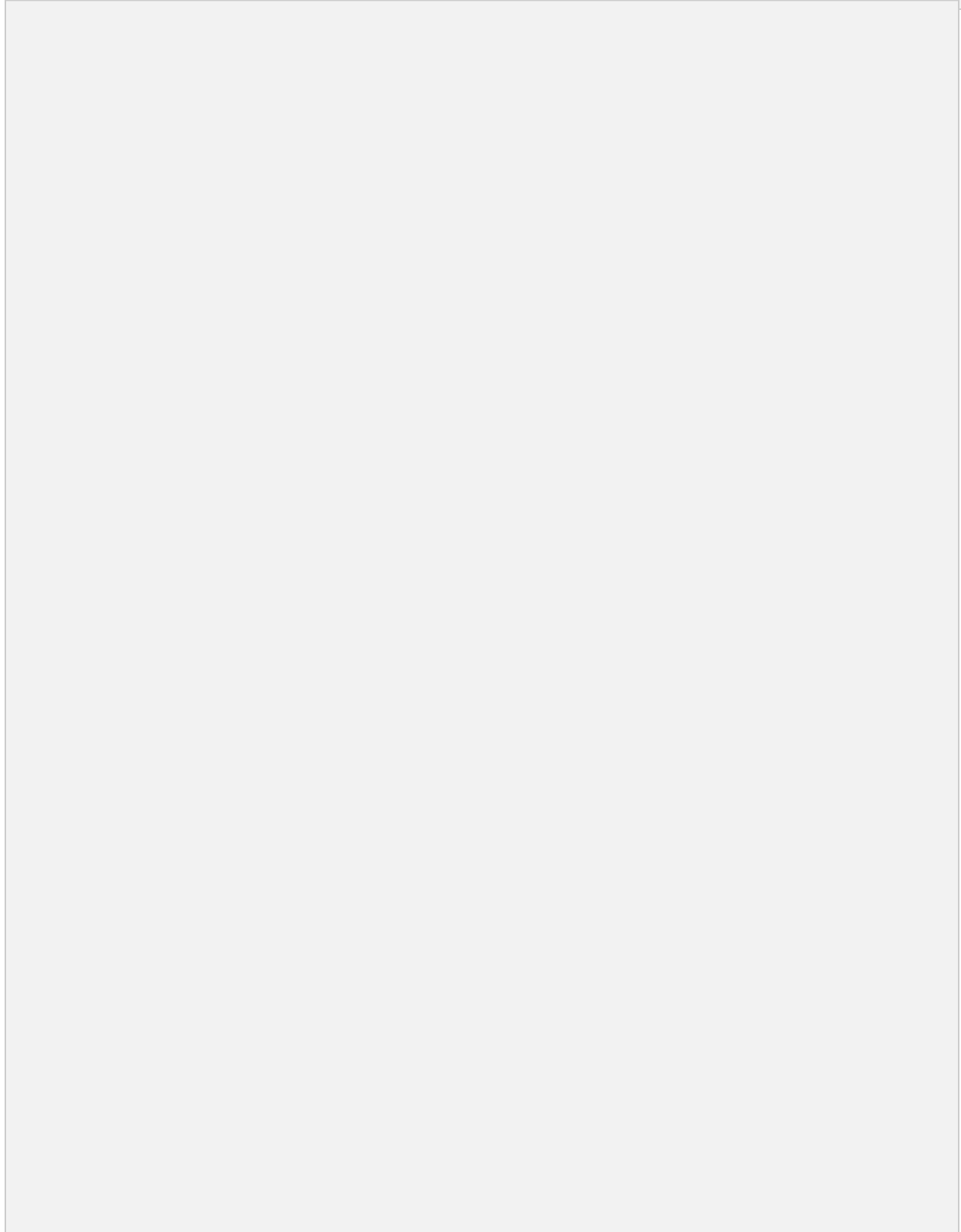


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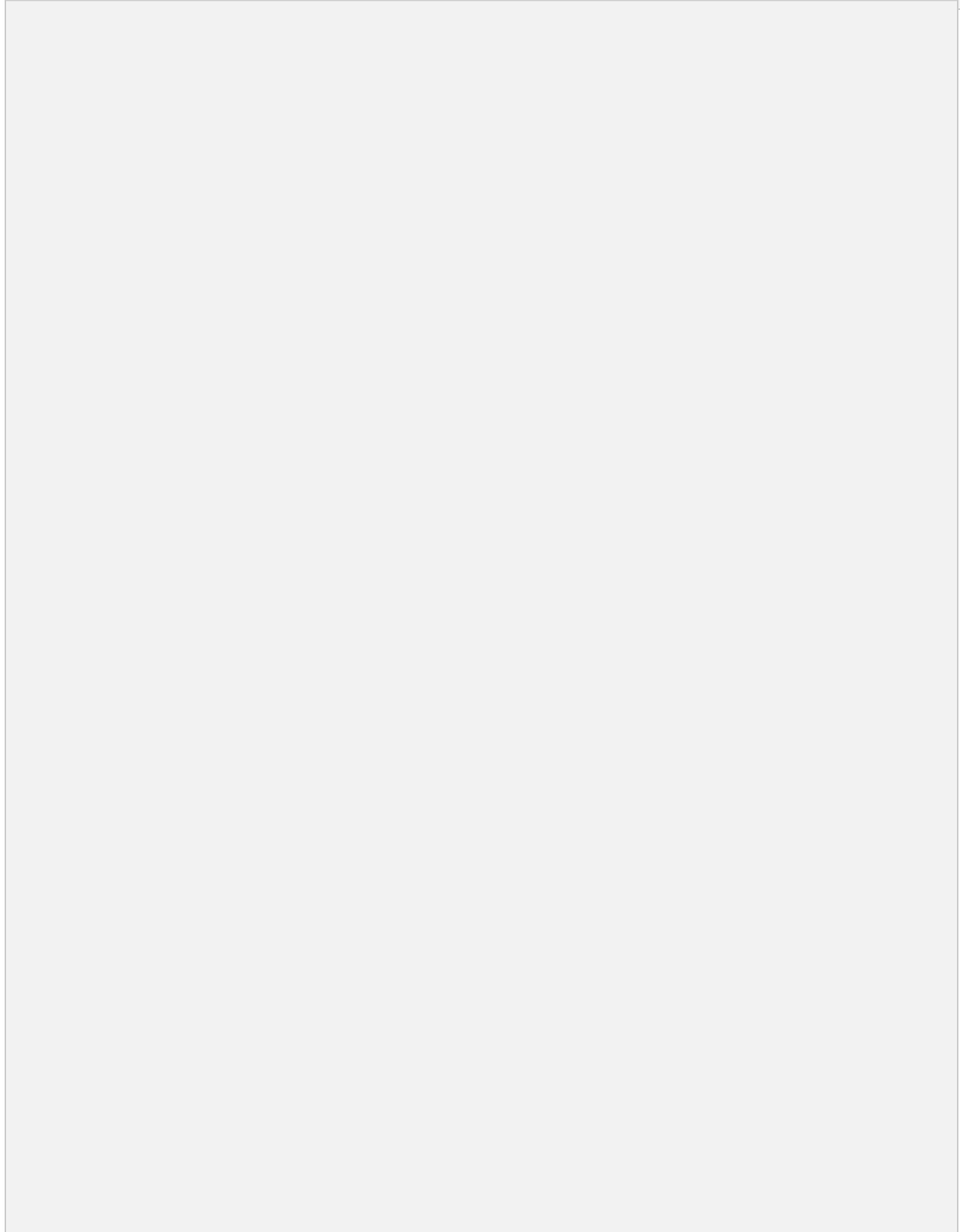


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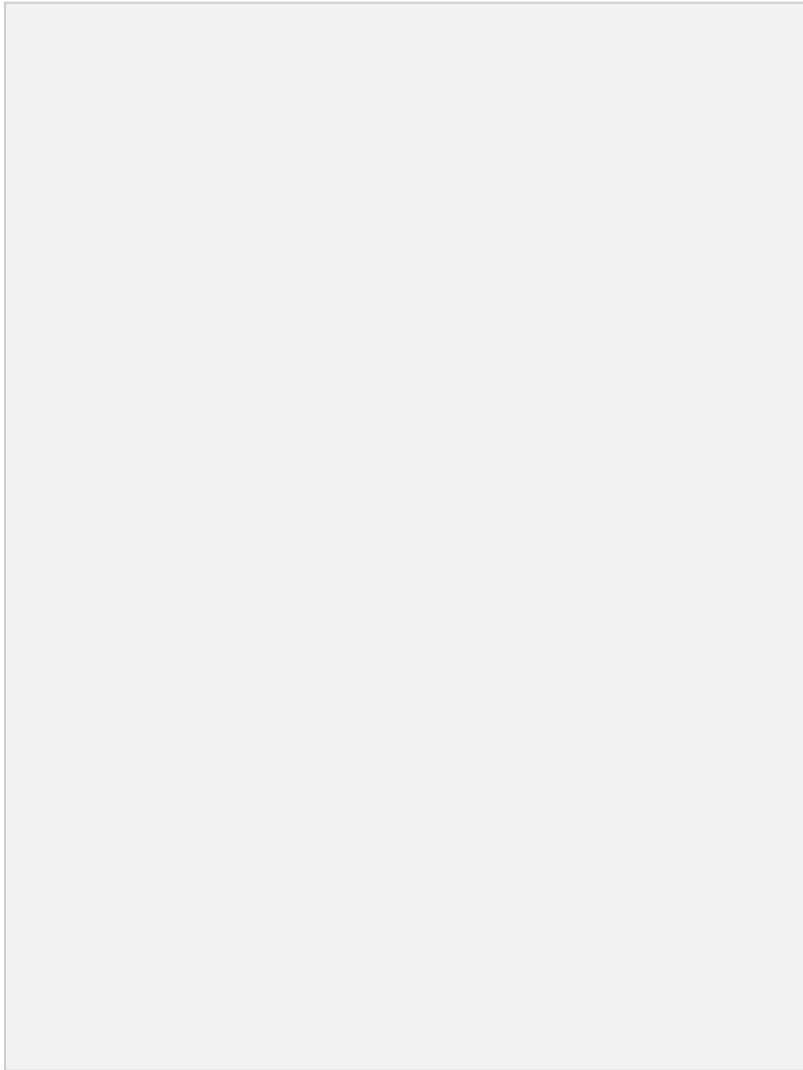
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Standard Response Protocol

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)



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.

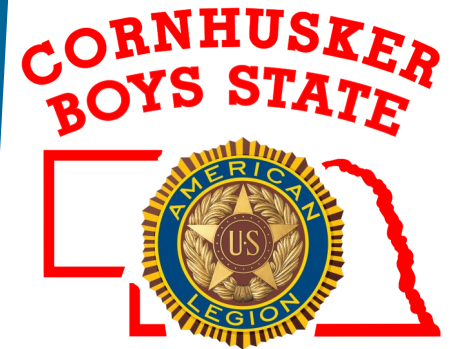
Boys that do not attend the full week will not graduate nor receive their Boys' State pin and graduation certificate.

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*



Bennet-Palmyra

LEGION BASEBALL

REGISTRATION

Important Registration Information


- Both the player and a parent/guardian must attend
- Registration forms must be filled out, signed, and notarized on site
- To complete notarization, please bring:
 - A copy of the player's birth certificate
 - Proof of insurance


Fees

- Player Registration Fee: \$125
- Baseball Pants: \$25
- New Players Only:
 - Home & Away Jersey Set: \$65


Registration Dates & Locations - Please attend ONE

Sunday, January 18

 4:00 PM

 PHS East Commons

Sunday, January 25

 4:00 PM

 Bennet Legion Hall

Questions? Email: bennetpalmyralegionbaseball@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY Girls State



SCAN
ME



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

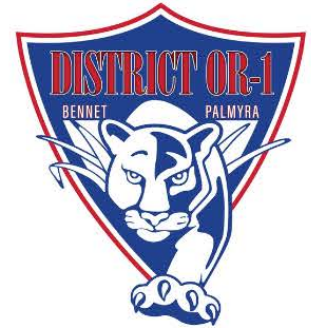
American Legion Auxiliary departments (states) across the country proudly host ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship, leadership, and the mission of the ALA. Girls State Leaders ensure the program's nonpartisan governmental, patriotic, and civic objectives are 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!

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



Adjustable
Bases



Sheet
Sets



Protectors



Luxury
Pillows

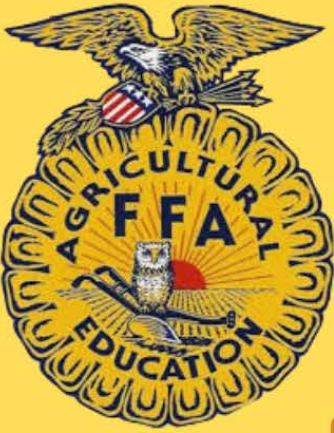
Scan For:



Facebook Event
Details!

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

You've been personally referred by: _____



FFA

PANCAKE FEED/MEMBER AUCTION

FEBRUARY 3RD @ 6:00 PM



MEMBER AUCTION · STARTS 7:00PM

LOCATED IN THE NORTH COMMONS
\$5 PER TICKET (3YRS AND YOUNGER FREE)