



# Panther Weekly Bulletin

## Breakfast Menu

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
Pancake and Sausage on a Stick Hard Boiled Egg Syrup	Breakfast Pizza Yogurt	Yogurt Parfait Granola Hard Boiled Egg	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

## Lunch Menu

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
Hamburger Bun American Cheese Sweet Potato Fries	Pulled Pork Bun Macaroni & Cheese Baked Beans	Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Roasted Broccoli	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

# Happening this week at PHS

**Sunday, March 8th -** Band Mattress Fundraiser @ PHS East Commons 10:00 am– 4:00 pm. Use north doors.

**Monday, March 9th -** Start of 4th Quarter.

ECNC JH/HS Quiz Bowl @ Freeman, 10:00 am. Bus leaves at 8:45 am.

**Tuesday, March 10th–** Radio Quiz Bowl 9:30 am on B103.

JH Boys Wrestling Invitational @ Raymond Central, 4:30 pm. Bus leaves at 2:30 pm.

HS Baseball Parent Meeting 6:15 pm, PHS East Commons, use north doors.

**Wednesday, March 11th–** FCCLA Meeting 7:45 am.

ASVAB Testing.

HS Boys Basketball Uniform Check-In over lunch. See band app for details.

**Thursday, March 12th-** NO SCHOOL. Staff Workday.

Palmyra Middle Level Music Contest (6th– 8th) @ PHS.

JH Boys Wrestling Meet @ Weeping Water, 5:00 pm. Bus leaves at 3:30 pm.

**Friday, March 13th-** NO SCHOOL.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, March 16th**– JH Boys Wrestling @ Syracuse, 4:30 pm.

**Tuesday, March 17th**– District Speech 9:00 am.

JH Boys Wrestling ECNC Tournament @ Falls City, 4:00 pm.

**Thursday, March 19th**– ESU 4 HS Quiz Bowl, 3:00 pm.

JH Track Meeting in the West Gym, 3:25 pm.

HS Boys Wrestling Banquet, 6:30 pm.

**Friday, March 20th**– Boys Baseball vs. Nebraska City @ PHS. Varsity at 4:30 pm, JV at 6:30 pm.

# GO PANTHERS!

# Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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



## Newsletter - March 5th, 2026

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Arrival: 7:50-8:20

Dismissal: 3:20

Early Dismissal Days: 1:00

### Principal's Update

#### **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.

#### **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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## 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.

## 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](#)

## 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.



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- 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.

## 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.



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- 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

- March 5- End of Quarter 3
- March 6- No School
- March 10- Bennet Boosters Meeting- 7:00
- March 11- Third Grade Field Trip
- March 11- Q3 Report Cards Sent Home
- March 12-13- No School
- April- 4th Grade Kindness Retreat at Bennet Elementary
- 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)

## **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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## ☀️ Panther Paw Winners ☀️



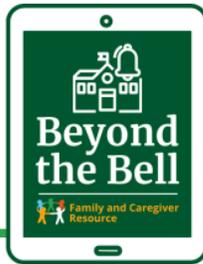
**SAFE  
RESPECTFUL  
RESPONSIBLE**

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## Fun, Age-Based Activities to Strengthen Kids' Problem-Solving at Home

From sorting games to chess strategies, these age-based strategies offer practical ways families can nurture logic skills in their child at home.

### Ages 3–5: Early Patterns and Cause-and-Effect

Young children learn logic best through play, repetition, and simple cause-and-effect experiences. Start with activities that strengthen pattern recognition, sorting, and basic reasoning.

Use toys like blocks, matching cards, or simple puzzles to help them group objects by color, shape, or size. Games such as Connect 4 or memory matching introduce early strategic thinking.

Try these activities:

- **Sorting baskets:** Sort toys by color, size, or type. Ask, "Why does this belong here?"
- **Pattern play:** Create simple bead or block patterns and have your child continue them.
- **Hula-hoop Venn diagram:** Place two hoops on the floor and sort stuffed animals (e.g., "has fur," "is small," "both").
- **Cause-and-effect talk:** "If we clean up, then we can read a book."

### Ages 6–10: Growing Problem-Solvers

As children grow, they can handle more structured logic activities. Puzzles like Sudoku, riddles, and beginner chess help them practice categorization, sequencing, and strategy. UNO is great for teaching rule-based thinking and anticipating outcomes.

Try these activities:

- **Beginner Sudoku or logic puzzles:** Start with 4x4 grids.
- **UNO strategy:** Ask, "What card helps you most right now?" or "What if you save that Wild card?"
- **Riddle of the day:** Encourage them to explain how they solved it.
- **Task breakdown:** Help them divide homework or chores into smaller steps. A simple study schedule with short, focused blocks builds discipline and reduces frustration.



### Ages 11–13: Abstract Thinking and Multi-Step Reasoning

Kids in the middle level are ready for deeper reasoning. Chess, advanced Sudoku, and multi-step puzzles challenge them to think ahead.

Encourage them to analyze different viewpoints—discuss stories, age-appropriate news, or family decisions by asking "What's another way to see this?"

- **Chess challenges:** Try "mate in two" puzzles or ask them to explain their strategy.
- **Advanced Sudoku or logic grids:** Solve together and discuss the reasoning behind each deduction.
- **Debate prompts:** "Should school start later?" Have them argue both sides to build flexible thinking.
- **If-then planning:** "If we leave at 4, then we'll miss traffic; if not, what happens?"

### 5 Tips For Supporting All Age Groups

1. Kids often need time to process. Give them space to talk through their ideas.
2. Praise the process, not the answer.
3. Pause before offering hints when they're stuck. Productive struggle is where logic develops.
4. Encourage them to explore alternate possibilities.
5. Kids learn by watching adults. Narrate your own thought process.

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## Read Across America Week

*Monday*

**Sleepy Book**  
Wear Pajamas

*Tuesday*

**Fox in Socks**  
Wear your crocs, socks,  
and Birkenstocks

*Wednesday*

**Wacky Wednesday**  
Wear wacky clothes!

*Thursday*

**The Cat in the Hat**  
Wear Red, White,  
and a Hat Day!



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# School Counseling

## PROGRAM

### What's Happening in the Classroom?

Students in Kindergarten and First 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.

### 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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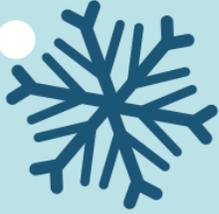


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## Weather Protocols



**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**

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



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

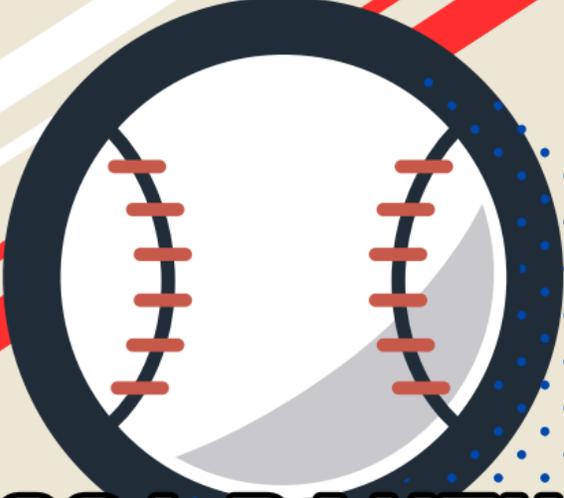
**Follow us on Facebook to see more  
information**

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## 2026 PANTHER BASEBALL APPAREL

Forms Due March 17th . NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED.

Check (Payable to District OR-1) or Cash: No Venmo  
Accepted. Payment can be submitted to Ms.

Swartzendruber at the High School or Ms. A.  
Swartzendruber at the Elementary. A new form will need

to be filled out if ordering multiples of the same  
size/design. PLEASE NOTE ALL SIZES ARE UNISEX OR  
MENS-POSTED ON PICTURES.

[Fill Out the Google Form](#)

[Link to Apparel Gallery](#)



# Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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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>



# CHEER TRYOUTS

**01**

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR ALL 8TH-11<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

📍 Downstairs Common Area @ HS

🕒 6PM

**MAR 10**

## TRY-OUT PRACTICES

📍 Garden Level Weight Room

🕒 6 PM – 8 PM

**02**

**MAR 16, 17,  
19**

**03**

## CHEER TRY-OUT

📍 Garden Level Weight Room

🕒 6PM

**MAR 20**

# 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**

PALMYRA FFA

# FIELD FUEL

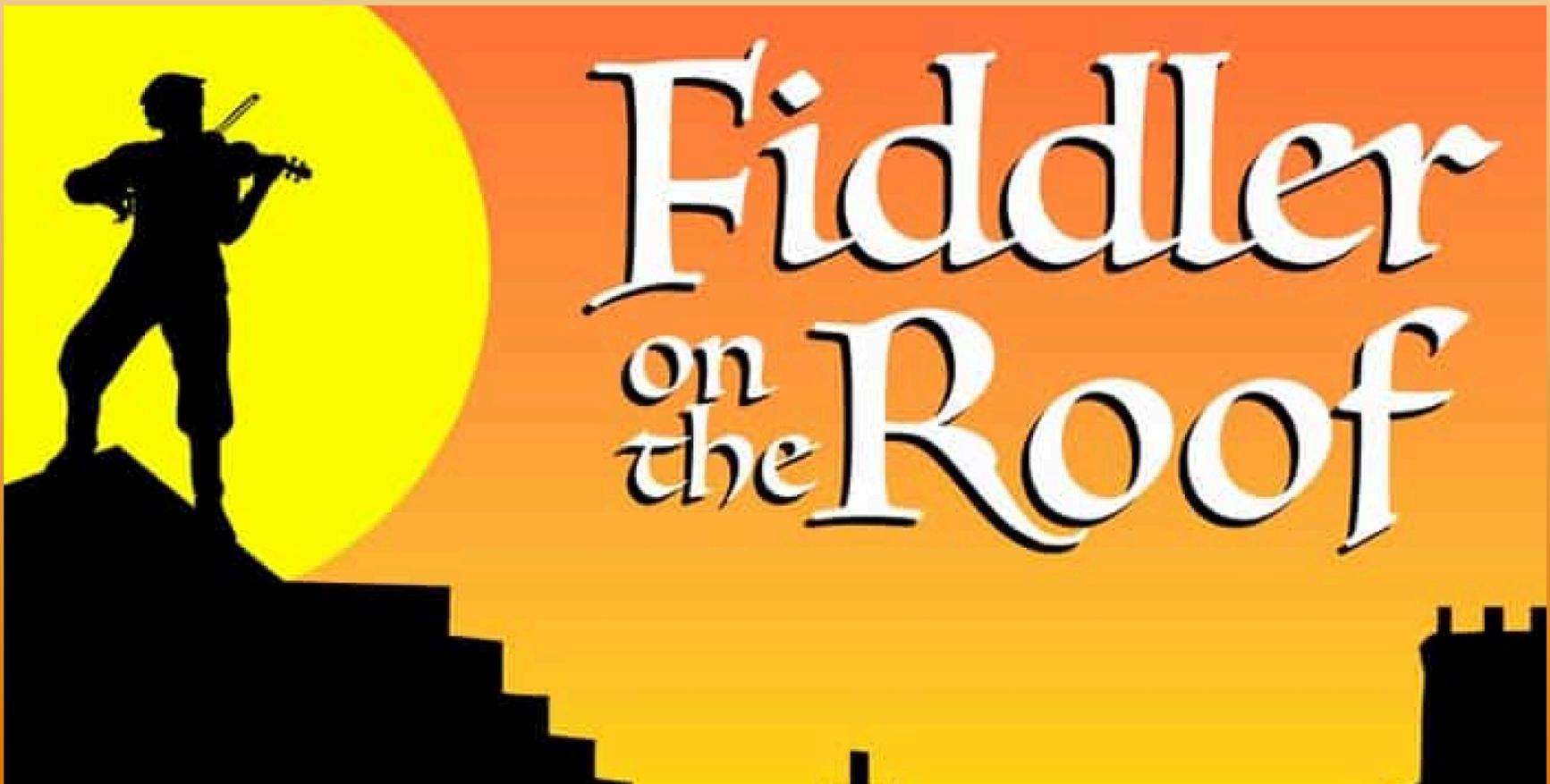
## PLANTING POWER PACKS

SPONSOR A FARMER THIS PLANTING SEASON

SCAN THIS CODE AND FILL  
OUT THE FORM TO SPONSOR



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.

# 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)

  
HELIX

  
PureCare

**purple**<sup>®</sup>  
**THERAPEDIC**<sup>®</sup>



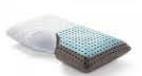
Adjustable  
Bases



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: \_\_\_\_\_