



Panther Weekly Bulletin

Breakfast Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Waffle Stix Syrup Sausage Patty	No School Today	Biscuit Sausage Gravy	Egg Patty Bacon Cheese Croissant Potato Triangle	Long John Yoplait Yogurt

Lunch Menu

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Hot Ham & Cheese Bun Potato Wedges Carrots	No School Today	Cook's Choice	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy Broccoli Roll	Quesadilla Refried Beans Nacho Chips

Happening this week at PHS

Saturday, November 15th– One Act @ Fremont HS 11:15 am. Bus leaves at 6:15 am.

Sunday, November 16th– Volleyball Banquet @ PHS East Commons 5:30 pm. Use north doors.

Monday, November 17th– Start of Winter Practices.

FFA Meeting 7:30 am.

Unified Bowling, JV/Varsity ECNC @ Sun Valley Lanes 2:00 pm. Bus/Van leaves at 12:30 pm.

JH Girls Wrestling @ Weeping Water 2:00 pm. Bus leaves at 12:15 pm.

One Act Rehearsal 6:00– 8:00 pm.

Parent Softball Update Meeting 6pm. East Commons. Use north doors.

Tuesday, November 18th– No School. Staff Development Day.

ECNC One Act Competition at PHS at 9:00 am. PHS performing at 9:45 am.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 19th– UNL College Visit. Bus leaves at 8:45 am.

Thursday, November 20th– FCCLA Curbside Coffee and Cocoa 7:30 am

JH Volleyball Girls and Student Managers invited to eat breakfast pizza in Mrs. Malone's room at 7:15 am!

Unified Bowling, JV/Varsity @ Harvest Bowl 4:00 pm. Bus/Van leaves at 2:15 pm.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

One Act Rehearsal 6:00– 8:00 pm.

Friday, November 21st– High School Quiz Bowl Practice, PHS Library 7:30 am.

JH Girls Wrestling Invitational @ Falls City 2:30 pm. Bus leaves at 11:30 am.

Band at NMEA Westbrook UNL Campus at 4:15 pm. Bus/Trailer leaves at 2:45 pm.

One Act Rehearsal 6:00– 8:00 pm.

Saturday, November 22nd– JH Boys Basketball Tournament @ Raymond Central 8:30 am. Bus leaves at 7:00 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 24th– FFA/ FCCLA Blood Drive 1:30– 6:00 pm.

JH Boys Basketball vs. TBD, Away.

Elementary Winter Concert 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, November 25th– Early Dismissal at 1:00 pm.

Girls Basketball Varsity Jamboree vs. Diller-Odell @ PHS 5:45 pm.

Boys Basketball Varsity Jamboree vs. Diller-Odell @ PHS 7:15 pm.

JH Girls Preseason Basketball Practice 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 26th– No School, Thanksgiving Break.

Thursday, November 27th– No School, Thanksgiving Day.

Friday, November 28th– No School, Thanksgiving Break.

GO PANTHERS!

Bennet Elementary - District OR-1

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



Newsletter - Nov 14th, 2025

Arrival 7:50-8:20

Dismissal 3:20

Early Dismissal Days 1:00

Principal's Update

No School, Tuesday, November 18th

We will have no school/ staff development day on Tuesday, November 18th due to our district hosting ECNC One Act.

Lockdown Drill

On Thursday, November 13, we conducted our first lockdown drill of the school year as part of our commitment to student safety. As an *I Love U Guys* school, we follow the Standard Response Protocol (more information is at the bottom of this newsletter), which provides simple, age-appropriate, and consistent language for all safety situations. Before the drill, teachers talked with students about what a lockdown is, why we practice it, and what it looks like in a calm and reassuring way. Our goal with these drills is to help students feel prepared, not scared. We emphasize that, just like fire and tornado drills, practicing helps us know exactly what to do so we can keep everyone safe. The drill went smoothly, and students responded with responsibility and maturity. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school community safe. If you have any questions about our safety procedures or the Standard Response Protocol, please feel free to reach out.

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

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

- Nov 18- No School- ECNC One Act
- Nov 24- Elementary Winter Concert (K-4)
- Nov 25- Early Dismissal- 1:00 Dismissal-Thanksgiving Food Drive Reward
- Nov 26-28- No School- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 5- 5th/6th Grade Quiz Bowl at Bennet Elementary
- Dec 11- 5th-8th Grade Winter Concert
- Dec 19- Early Dismissal- 1:00

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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● Panther Paw Winners ●



SAFE
RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE

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School Counseling PROGRAM

World Kindness Day

Thursday, November 13th was World Kindness Day. To celebrate, all staff at Bennet Elementary wore "Choose Kindness" shirts that were provided by our community partner, United Against, Violence. Students also received a kindness keychain and conversations and activities emphasizing kindness took place throughout the school.



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

November Affirmations Challenge

All students should have brought home a paper with a 30 Day November Affirmations Challenge. Classroom teachers also sent band messages with information for this challenge.

I am hopeful and excited to receive pictures, emails, and conversations of creative ways families choose to reinforce these affirmations to build resilience, growth mindset, and positive self-talk in our students.

If 80% of our PK-5th grade students complete this challenge and return their family-initialed documents to me by December 5th, there will be a whole school reward!

Let's work together to build resilience in our youth!

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School Counseling PROGRAM

Career Day

The first annual Bennet Elementary Career Day went great! Last Friday, November 7th, 4th and 5th grade students got to hear from a variety of local community members on their careers. Students got to listen, ask questions, and get exposed to many different career fields.

We would like to extend a hug thank you to the following individuals:

- President of Countryside Bank - Dave Hall
- Nurse Anesthetist/Nursing- Brandon and Cassie Garvin
- Director of Strategic Marketing for Lincoln Airport - Rachel Barth
- Veterinarian - Jami Hillman
- Lancaster County Sheriff's Office
- Occupational Health Specialist - Jamie Juilfs
- Senior Manager at Arbor Day Farms - Amber Morrison

And another shout out to Megan Jensen and the Bennet Boosters for supplying food to our wonderful presenters and teachers.



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

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Quarter 1

Specialist Team Newsletter

Library

Our students are really enjoying the updated library space! One of their favorite parts of class is spending the last ten minutes relaxing and reading in our new comfortable seating area. A big thank-you to everyone who helped make the Bennet Fun Run such a huge success — your support helps us continue to grow and update our collection. Mr. Smidt has started ordering new books!

In second grade, students spent the first quarter reviewing the parts of a book and learning about the white spine labels that help every book find its special place on the shelf. They also explored the difference between fiction and nonfiction. Coming up, students will learn what the letters E, FIC, and the numbers on book spines mean — and how they help us locate books quickly.

In third grade, students reviewed how to use a table of contents and practiced organizing stacks of nonfiction books in the correct order during class activities. Our current focus is on dictionary skills, including guide words, base words, and parts of speech.

– Mr. Smidt



Upcoming

Nov 24 – K – 4 Winter Concert

Dec 11 – 5th Grade Band & Bennet
Singers Winter Concert

Music

Greetings! In music, Kindergarten has been exploring steady beat; different ways to use their voice, and learning about how music is full of patterns and rhythms. The 1st and 2nd graders have been adding more complex rhythm patterns and making sure we use our good singing voices. Our 3rd and 4th grades have been learning about tempos, dynamics, and learning about and reviewing treble clef note names. Our 5th graders have reviewed dynamics, tempos, added more syncopated rhythms, and attended the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra concert on October 27th.

– Mrs. McCreight



1/2

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Quarter 1

Computer

 Bennet Computer Room Update! We've had a busy and exciting quarter in computer class! Each grade level has accomplished so much, and I'm thrilled to share their progress: Kindergarten has been hard at work learning how to use a computer mouse instead of a touchscreen. It was quite an adjustment, but they did it! 1st grade reviewed some familiar skills from last year and started exploring a few new websites. One favorite has been EPIC, an online library filled with great books to read and listen to. And of course, every grade continues to learn about computer safety. It's been a wonderful quarter of learning, exploring, and growing in our digital skills!

- Mrs. Hanger

Physical Education

The PE world has been very busy to start the school year. Each grade level started the year with their baseline fitness tests including a shuttle run and standing broad jump to name a couple. Our younger grade levels then moved onto our "tossing and catching" unit where we really focus on tracking the ball from our partner and making good tosses that can be caught. Our older grade levels started their first "sports" unit of volleyball with a heaving emphasis on passing. We are looking forward to the rest of the year and pushing ourselves to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be!

- Mr. Wemhoff



Art

Students began the year creating a colorful art display. This collaborative piece taught students the importance of resilience, effort, and working together.

Throughout first quarter, grades 4 and 5 continued building resilience and artistic skills in weaving and portrait drawing. Grade 4 learned about the art and history of weaving. Students designed looms full of color and pattern and challenged themselves in circle loom weaving. Grade 5 explored how heroes can be represented in art. Students have been working hard on portrait drawing and using value to create realism. Both projects encouraged students to use their creativity, take risks, and explore new art techniques.

- Mrs. Garriss



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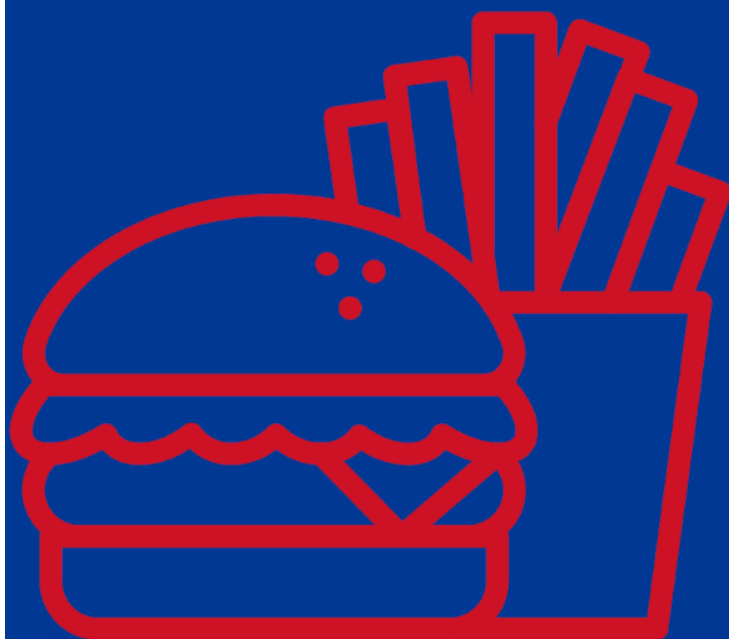
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DINE OUT NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AND
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 5PM-9PM



MAKE DINNER
PLANS EASY!



AND



A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BE
DONATED BACK TO THE BENNET
BOOSTERS

BIG TEN TAVERN
625 MONROE STREET, BENNET, NE

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SOUP With Santa

Join us for our Soup with Santa event! We'll be serving delicious chili, chicken noodle & cheeseburger soup, hot dogs, and cinnamon rolls for a free will donation that will benefit Palmyra Community Foundation & Palmyra Youth Group. Bring the kids to visit with Santa, make fun holiday crafts, and write letters to Santa to drop in his special mailbox! It's a festive afternoon full of food, fun, and Christmas cheer for the whole family!

DELICIOUS FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | PHOTO WITH SANTA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH
THE PALMYRA COMMUNITY CENTER
LUNCH - 11:00AM-1:00PM
SANTA - 11:30AM-12:30PM



Presented by The Palmyra Community Foundation



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Santa's Overflow

** Extravaganza **

For families in need, please come shop new
and used items for FREE!

12.06.2025 | 10 am - 2 pm

Ho Ho Ho

New Coats
New Toys
Canned Goods

Gently Used
clothes, coats,
shoes, toys!

Gently used
blankets, pots
and pans and more

Questions: Lillie at 402.440.2871
Bennet Legion Hall, 970 Monroe Street,
Bennet, Ne



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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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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