

# Administrator's Notes

**2018-19 School Year Motto: *One who looks for limitations will never see the possibilities.***

## **AQuESTT Classification for Nebraska Schools**

The State of Nebraska developed a rating system for all school districts and schools in our state. The system combines performance on several indicators grouped by tenet to provide schools and districts with an overall descriptive classification of Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Improvement. Our school district received the highest rating, an Excellent classification. We were one of twenty-eight districts in the state to achieve this high ranking. This is a huge accomplishment for our district considering Nebraska has 272 school districts.

The AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) rates schools based on several components such as absenteeism, student achievement, support for students, curriculum, graduation rate, qualified teachers, technology and more.

## **Community Blood Drive to Help Save Lives**

The National Honor Society students and their sponsor, Mrs. Munson, is hosting a community blood drive on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:15-3:45 in the band room at SCHS. This will be the second drive of the current school year. Our first drive exceeded our goals and expectations by generating more donations than anticipate. Please help support this event by donating blood for a much needed cause.

Eligible high school students may also donate with parental consent. We had several students and staff donate last drive.

Our students can use this act of community service when applying for college scholarships and college entrance. ACT/SAT scores and involvement in community service projects are the two major determinates when awarding scholarships to high school students.

You can schedule your appointment on-line. To make your appointment go to [www.blood4life.org](http://www.blood4life.org) and click on "locate a blood drive" then put in the code: Harrison.

## **Inclement Weather Notice-Be on the Lookout**

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools or initiate late starts in case of severe weather. The superintendent will notify staff and local news media when the weather warrants such action. The information is regularly broadcast by radio stations KQSK 97.5 FM, KCSR 610 AM, KNEB 960 AM/FM and websites Chadrad.com and KNEB.com. **Families of children enrolled in Sioux County Schools will be notified via the One Call Now automated phone call system. Please accept calls from the One Call Now system identified by 877.698.3261.**

If parents do not feel that the conditions are safe for travel, then they should make the decision to keep children home even if school is in session or call the school to have the children released for an early dismissal.

## **Sports, Activities and School Calendar**

Please check our website for the sports schedule and list of important dates and activities. Notifications will be sent to parents via Twitter or Remind.

Stay connected with all of our scheduled activities by visiting our web site at: <http://siouxcountyschools.org>.

**Dr. Brett Gies**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**Mr. Barry Swisher**  
**Pk-12 Principal & Athletic Director**

# Pink School

The new year is off to a busy start at Pink School. The first graders are working in math to learn adding, subtracting, measuring, counting money, and telling time. Third grade is beginning multiplication facts and elapsed time, as well as making change with money. Fourth graders have been learning to convert within the metric system and use long division. They also are interpreting graphs and collecting data to create a variety of graphs. Sixth grade is working with coordinate planes, multiplying and dividing fractions, and working with angles. Seventh graders are working with algebraic expressions and equations. They are also studying ratios and probability.

In social studies, first and third grade students are learning about the local government and economy. Fourth graders continue their studies in Nebraska history. They are learning about the unicameral and will begin to study state economics. Sixth grade is learning about the Cold War and its effects. Seventh grade is studying the American Revolution.

In science, first and third graders are learning about interdependent relationships in ecosystems. Fourth through seventh graders are incorporating Odyssey Ware into their grade level studies.

In reading, all of the students are enjoying grade level trade books which go along with their new reading series. Students continue to write using text dependent analysis, in which they support their responses with evidence from the text. Two thousand nineteen is off to a great start!

# Chalk Butte

Our time here at school seems to fly by. It is hard to believe it's already February! January began with NWEA testing. The kids worked very hard and we appreciate parents for keeping them well rested and prepared for the testing. One highlight in January, was our visit from the Environ Art program. Our students learned about waterfowl and enjoyed an engaging art lesson. Each student chose a bird to draw and got some pointers on how to draw, color, and shade their bird. The students work hard on this project each year and this year is no exception. We should have some great drawings to enter in the Duck Stamp contest.

The upper room focused some of their learning this month on Black history. They learned about several famous African American athletes and musicians. They also listened to the well-known speech, "I Have a Dream," from Martin Luther King, Jr. In science, they are learning Earth Science. Both rooms are excited to use the new science curriculum. It looks very engaging and students can't wait to get their hands on some of the leveled readers that come with the curriculum.

The lower room had an enjoyable time celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. They participated in several different "100" themed activities. They also learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. We read several different picture books about his life. They especially liked learning about his life from a book written by Dr. King's sister, which gave them a different perspective of this great man. In science, we are learning about climate and weather patterns.

In February, we are looking forward to a trip to Harrison for the spelling bee and a Valentine's Day party all in one day! Also, students will not have school on February 15<sup>h</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Sioux County High

### The Role of the School Library 2019:

- To take a lead role in teaching and learning information literacy across the curriculum
- To collaborate with teaching colleagues to embed information literacy across the curriculum
- To provide targeted teaching for pupils and inset for staff
- To provide an environment suitable for group and independent research
- To provide a wide range of resources
- To provide opportunities to browse and discover
- To stimulate independent learning

Veteran and new teachers alike seem to be covering these points superlatively! Wonderful and various research done by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Ms Ivy this year; perpetual review with upper grades by our special ed teacher, Ms Dunn is conducted in the library; Lexile scores (to guide young people as to the reading level of the book in which they are interested) have been added to the Fiction section. Most of the nonfiction has been updated in science, history and biography, as well as the latest encyclopedias, for any and all kinds of reports and projects. It is so healthy to see young people search for themselves, not just on our laptops and computers, but for the best places to find information in our collections.

## Harrison Elementary

Wow! 2019 is already flying by! This month, the elementary students took their Winter MAP tests. Students have been working really hard and the results are showing all their hard work. Each student is setting a goal for their Spring MAP tests and we cannot wait to see if they meet or surpass their goal.

In January, students in the third through eighth grades had an opportunity to enter the Duck Stamp competition. They had a wonderful time learning the steps it takes to draw a duck. The students did a fantastic job listening to and learning from the artist. We have some amazing artistic students in our school!

The Third and Fourth graders have been working very hard to build their fluency in their multiplication and division facts. They are using a Reflex math computer program to help them achieve their goal and are doing a fantastic job with the program. Many of them are extremely close to leveling up to a more challenging level!

# February 2019

Sioux County <https://www.siouxcountyschools.org//cms/Admin/Sites/ManageSites.aspx#managesitesSchools/>  
Sioux County Schools Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Quarterly Progress Reports <hr/> <b>3:00 PM</b> JH Boys Basketball @ Minatare <hr/> <b>4:00 PM</b> JV/V G&B Basketball @ Minatare	2 FFA State Degree Interviews @ Alliance <hr/> Speech @ Chadron Invite <hr/> <b>9:00 AM</b> Varsity Wrestling @ Bayard <hr/> <b>10:00 AM</b> JH Boys Basketball vs. St. Agnes <hr/> <b>12:00 PM</b> JV/V G&B Basketball vs. Leyton
3	4 <b>5:30 PM</b> High School Parent/Teacher Conferences	5 <b>4:00 PM</b> JV/V G&B Basketball vs. Crawford	6 FFA Ag Education Contest @ Gordon	7	8 District Wrestling <hr/> <b>8:00 AM</b> Pink and Chalk Butte 2:30pm Dismissal <hr/> <b>4:00 PM</b> JV/V G&B Basketball @ Guernsey-Sunrise	9 District Wrestling <hr/> Speech @ Bridgeport
10	11 Varsity Girls Basketball Sub-District	12 Varsity Girls Basketball Sub-District	13	14 State Wrestling <hr/> Varsity Girls Basketball Sub-District <hr/> <b>9:00 AM</b> County Spelling Bee	15 No School - Winter Break <hr/> State Wrestling	16 <b>8:00 AM</b> State Wrestling
17	18 No School - Teacher In-Service <hr/> Varsity Boys Basketball Sub-District	19 DIBELS Progress Monitoring (Red/Yellow) <hr/> Varsity Boys Basketball Sub-District	20 DIBELS Progress Monitoring (Red/Yellow)	21 DIBELS Progress Monitoring (Red/Yellow) <hr/> Varsity Boys Basketball Sub-District	22 Varsity Girls Basketball District <hr/> <b>8:00 AM</b> 1:30pm Dismissal for All Schools - Teacher Professional Development	23 Speech @ Gordon-Rushville Invite
24	25	26 Varsity Boys Basketball District	27	28 Varsity Girls Basketball State		

## Counselors Notes

- **Be sure to check the school website to find deadlines and links for all scholarships at <http://siouxcountyschools.org/>.**

### Seniors...where are you in the FAFSA process?

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Make sure you get through each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

**Did you complete and submit a 2019-20 FAFSA?** If you haven't, complete the form at FAFSA.gov using 2017 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need the FSA IDs to access and sign your FAFSA.

If you DID submit a FAFSA, here's what happens next:

- **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
- **You might receive a "verification" notification.** The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA may contact you requesting documents to verify information you included on your FAFSA. You must provide those documents before your financial aid can be processed.
- **Watch for an award letter from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.** This will detail the types and amounts of financial aid they are offering you. You must have been accepted for admission before the college will send an award letter.

**It's critical that you watch your email and/or student portal carefully to ensure you don't miss important information about admission and financial aid**

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### Follow us EducationQuest social media and you might win a \$500 scholarship!

Nebraska students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to follow EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for a chance to win a \$500 **Get Social Scholarship**.

Each time EducationQuest reaches specific follower milestones on social media pages, current and new followers are invited to enter into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship. We'll conduct a:

- Facebook drawing when we hit **7,750** followers
- Twitter drawing when we hit **3,750** followers
- Instagram drawing when we hit **1,500** followers

EducationQuest will continue to award \$500 *Get Social Scholarships* each time they reach an additional 500 followers on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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### What you need to know about scholarships!

Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA.

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- **ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org** houses over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria.
- **Check our school website for scholarships.** Visit regularly to check on local and national awards.
- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **National search sites** such as College Board, Peterson's, and Chegg.

**Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

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### February "To Do" List

#### Seniors:

- \_\_\_ If you haven't already, complete the FAFSA.
- \_\_\_ Expect financial aid award notifications from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA.
- \_\_\_ Apply for scholarships.

#### Juniors:

- \_\_\_ Start preparing for the ACT. Use your account at <https://prep.ontocollege.com>.
- \_\_\_ Register by February 8 for the March 9 SAT.
- \_\_\_ Register by March 8 for the April 13 ACT.