



THE HUSKIE LEADER



February 2024
Heartland Community School News

IMPORTANT DATES

February 7

York County Spelling Contest

February 9

No School

February 12

7:00 PM School Board Meeting

February 12 - 16

FBLA Week

February 14

York County Spelling Contest
(make up day)

February 16

Ch.I.L.D. Day

February 17

6:30 PM Winter Song/Winter Ball

February 21

8:30 AM Winter Concert (9-12)

February 19 - 23

FFA Week

March 1

No School - Professional
Development

March 4 & 5

4:30 - 8:30 PM Parent /Teacher
Conferences

March 7 & 8

No School

March 16

5:00 - 7:30PM Smorgasbord
7:45PM Band Concert

March 22 & 23

All School Play

WinterSong Fire & Ice

February 17, 2024

Doors Open at 6:30 PM

Concert Begins at 7:00 PM

Tickets will be available online

Table seating is \$15.00 per person, tables
seat 8 people

General admission is \$7.00 per person for
seating in the bleachers.

Appetizers and desserts will be served

Performances include: solos, small ensembles, and
mixed chorus. Accompaniment by
The House Band with professional lighting and
sound.

We hope you can join us for an enjoyable evening!

OUR MISSION

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE - Every Student, Every Day

Construction Update & Proposed Bond Election

Our pending facilities project has been on hold for a number of months as the board of education has worked towards solving the issues that we have faced relating to project cost and financing. In August a tax request authority initiative narrowly failed and since that time the board has been identifying workable solutions and alternatives for moving forward.

Completion of the comprehensive facilities project is still the goal of the board. To finance the completion of the comprehensive facilities project, the board plans to hold an election for the issuance of bonds as a means for securing the funds necessary for project completion. The bond election will coincide with the statewide primary election which will be held on Tuesday, May 14th . Like the bond election that was held in May of 2022, a simple majority of votes cast is required for passage of the bond initiative.

The board has not yet determined the amount of bond authority that will be placed on the ballot, but based on the board's work up to this point, it is likely to be an amount not to exceed approximately \$6,850,000. This amount has been determined through careful examination and close scrutiny of expected project-area costs. These costs were estimated by working closely with our architect and with the advisement of a large, general contractor in a forward-looking manner.

Between now and the election, the board and our architect will be adjusting and finalizing plans for two different types of projects: a target project and a contingency project. The target project represents the comprehensive facilities project that the board seeks to complete through passage of the bond initiative at the May election. The target project needs very little adjustment at this time, as the scope of this project has been largely finalized for a number of months. The target project includes expansion of and security enhancements to the main entrance, connecting the Ag shop to the main building, adding elementary classrooms, adding new boys and girls locker room and treatment facilities, adding new and safer weight room facilities, improvements to the north gym including AC and bleacher replacement, infrastructure updates/additions (electrical, fire panel, sprinklers, etc.), and construction of the early childhood/daycare addition. The contingency project represents a much smaller, and far less comprehensive, scope of work that would need to be completed without the passage of the additional bond initiative in May. The final scope of the contingency project is still being determined but it is likely to be limited to, at most, expanding the main entrance, connecting the Ag. shop to the main building, updating/adding infrastructure to the existing building (electrical, fire panel, sprinklers, etc.), and construction of the early childhood/daycare addition.

In short, if the bond election in May is successful then the board will move forward with the target project. If the bond election in May is unsuccessful then the board will move forward with the contingency project. It is the intent of the board to move into the bidding phase of either project within a matter of days following the results of the election.

Using current-year tax requests and valuations, we can provide some reasonable estimates as to the effect that the passage of the additional bond would have on our current tax levy. Our current/actual total tax levy for the 23-24 year is 57.797 cents. For the purposes of making a comparison, we can reasonably estimate that if the newly proposed bonds were in effect now, the total, combined tax levy would increase from the 57.797 cents to 64.461 cents (using current-year requests and valuations).

Each year we will look at a regional comparison of tax levies. Including Heartland Community Schools, this regional comparison looks at all 21 schools that are headquartered in Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Polk, Seward, Thayer, and York counties.

- Our current/actual total levy of 57.797 cents represents the 3rd lowest total combined levy out of those 21 school districts.
- In the hypothetical comparison where the new bonds were added to our current/actual total levy, that 64.461 cent levy would represent the 6th lowest total combined levy out of those 21 school districts.

Additionally, on a statewide basis there are 244 public school districts in Nebraska.

- Our current/actual total levy of 57.797 cents represents the 21st lowest total combined levy out of all 244 school districts in Nebraska.
- In the hypothetical comparison where the new bonds were added to our current/actual total levy, that 64.461 cent levy would represent the 39th lowest total combined levy out of all 244 school districts in Nebraska.

Play
Learn
Grow



Heartland Preschool

2024 - 2025

Attention parents of 3-5 year olds

Heartland Preschool is currently gathering interest for the 2024-2025 school year. Currently, preschool serves students ages three to five. Students cannot attend if they are Kindergarten eligible (5 by July 31, 2024).

Please call the school office to express your interest before March 15. Please note that space is limited and not guaranteed.

Call before March 15
402-723-4434

Children 3 - 5 years old
Cannot be Kindergarten eligible (5 by July 31, 2024)

A B C

Heartland Community Schools

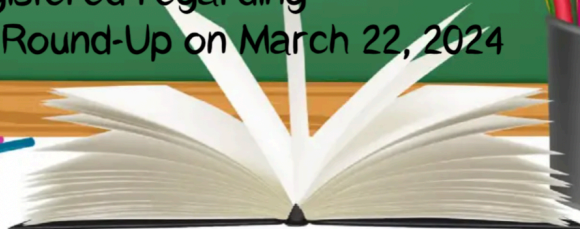
Kindergarten

2024 - 2025 - REGISTRATION

Call Tammy or Janet at
(402) 723-4434 to register

Child must be 5 by July 31, 2024

Information will be mailed after student is
registered regarding
Kindergarten Round-Up on March 22, 2024





9th-12th Vocal & Instrumental

Winter Concert

Wednesday, February 21st

In the South Gym

8:30 a.m.



Heartland elementary students must be accompanied by an adult at all Heartland activities and sporting events.

Elementary students are asked to sit beside the adult throughout the activity to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment of the event.

Heartland Ch.I.L.D. Day



What: Heartland Ch.I.L.D. Day is free and voluntary. It is a developmental check-up for your child!

When: Friday, February 16, 2024

Where: Heartland Community Schools
(In the preschool classroom for kids age 3-5; at the family home for babies age 0-2)

Why: The earlier we can help children who may be behind developmentally, the better outcomes they have! If you have concerns about your child or just want to know how they are developing call the school to make an appointment.

402-723-4434

Elementary Spring Testing Schedule

K	May 2	DIBELS
1st	May 2, 6	DIBELS
2nd	May 1 - 2 May 7 - 8 May 7	MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
3rd	April 3 - 4 April 10 - 11 May 1 - 2 May 7 - 8 May 8	NSCAS ELA NSCAS Math MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
4th	April 3 - 4 April 10 - 11 May 1 - 2 May 7 - 8 May 9 - 10 May 9	NSCAS ELA NSCAS Math MAP Reading MAP Math MAP Science DIBELS
5th	April 3 - 4 April 10 - 11 April 17 - 18 May 1 - 2 May 7 - 8 May 6	NSCAS ELA NSCAS Math NSCAS Science MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
6th	April 3 - 4 April 10 - 11 May 1 - 2 May 7 - 8 May 9	NSCAS ELA NSCAS Math MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS

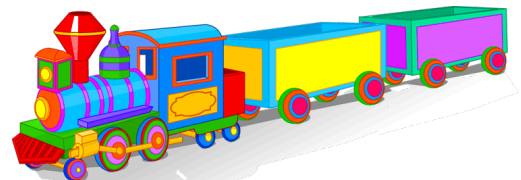
Please avoid scheduling appointments on these important dates.

NSCAS = State Testing

MAP & DIBELS = District Testing

National Honor Society

November and December were busy months for the Heartland National Honor Society chapter. The 3rd annual Christmas toy drive committee that was led by seniors Kaylee Goertzen and Ava Stebbing began working together in early November. They wrote letters to local businesses asking for donations, designed fliers to hang up around town and at school and sent notes home with the elementary students. The committee was able to use the cash donations from businesses and families to go shopping for toys and games to be donated. The items purchased in addition to those donated at school allowed Heartland to donate 191 toys for the families at Children's Hospital in Omaha to enjoy. The goal for next year will be even bigger!



FBLA, FFA AND NHS

The annual Heartland Community Schools food drive sponsored and organized by the students and sponsors of the FBLA, FFA and NHS groups got off to a great start by collecting over 700 items during the annual can caroling event. Each class was encouraged to donate items to the food drive and Mrs. Blase's 2nd grade class donated the most items with a total of 249 items. Over 2000 non-perishable items were donated along with hams donated by an anonymous donor. These items were sorted and delivered to 30 households in the Bradshaw and Henderson communities. Each donation also included a gift card to Henderson Food Mart made possible by the cash donations made by businesses and individuals. Thank you for not only supporting our service projects, but for your generous donations to the members of our communities.





FFA members traveled to The Leadership Center in Aurora to compete in LDE's. Members who attended spent the weeks before preparing for their competitions. In the Creed competition, Emma Ott placed first and qualified for state and Maddie Janzen received a red ribbon. In the Junior Public Speaking competition, Lexi Inglsbee received a blue ribbon and in the Senior Public Speaking competition, Ben Janzen received a red ribbon. In the Employment Skills competition, Thane Wetjen and Zack Miller both received blue ribbons. Katrina Epp and Allie Boehr participated in the Agriculture Demonstration competition and received a blue ribbon. Maddie Janzen, Nevada Gloystein, Emma Ott, Amanda Goertzen, Kinsley Friesen, Colby Frisbie, and David Hiebner competed in Conduct of Chapter Meetings, and received a red ribbon. The parliamentary procedure team consisting of FFA officers received a red ribbon. Congratulations to all members!





FBLA Members had a fun-filled eventful evening filled with a Secret Santa Gift Exchange and Pizza. This was followed by joining our local NHS and FFA chapters for Can Caroling, Food Sorting, and finishing the evening with some Hot Apple Cider and snacks!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences Online

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on the evenings of March 4th & March 5th. Parents of all students can choose which available time works best in their schedule using our website at heartlandschools.org. In the top menu, choose "Parent Teacher Conferences" and follow the screen prompts. You will be asked to log in to the website. If you do not already have an account, you can create one during this process. You can use your account to receive other information, as well. If you would like detailed instructions on how to schedule conferences, go to our website and click on the "For Parents" menu. Give us a call with any questions at 402-723-4434.

IT'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR TIME!

Scholastic Book Fair

Heartland Community School is excited to have the Scholastic Book Fair back for students grades K-12!

It will be held in the High School Library.

Monday, March 4 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, March 5 8:00 am - 8:00 pm



2024 SMORGASBORD



Smorgasbord 2024

On Saturday, March 16th, 2024, the Band Parent Organization will be hosting the Annual Smorgasbord. This event is the sole fundraiser of the Heartland Band Program. The Smorgasbord consists of a meal of ethnic German food. The evening ends with a band concert.

The meal will be served from 5:00 - 7:30 pm and the band concert will begin at 7:45 pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Adult tickets are \$20 and child tickets (ages 4-12) are \$10. To purchase tickets, contact any band member or call the school office at 402-723-4434.

~ Heartland Band Parents Committee

As many of you know, Royce Schweitzer will be retiring at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Schweitzer has taught for a total of 51 years, 48 of those years at Heartland. The Heartland Band Parent Organization would like to take some time to honor his dedication and success at our annual fundraiser, the German Smorgasbord & Band Concert, on March 16, 2024. This will be Heartland's final band concert with Mr. Schweitzer. We invite students, parents, and community members to submit words of appreciation, a fun memory or story, and pictures throughout the years to create a slide show and memory book to be gifted to Mr. Schweitzer. These can be emailed to heartlandsmorgasbord@gmail.com. Please submit your memories by March 1st. We also invite all band alumni, anyone who has had Mr. Schweitzer as their instructor, to join us at the 7:45pm concert. Let's fill the gym with all the students Mr. Schweitzer has impacted through the years.

MENU

KOHL SALAT
(cole slaw)
PARTZILKE
(New Years Cookies)
PLUMA MOS
(raisin and prune mouss)
PRIESHKE AND PLAUTZ
(fruit filled pastries)
SCHNETYA
(lady fingers)
WEIT BROT an BUTTA
(wheat bread and butter)
TWIEBACK and JELLE
(Zweiback and jelly)
CUFFA (coffee)
MILCH (milk)

KUMPST BORSCHT
(cabbage soup)
KLUPITZ
(ground meat patties)
WORSCHT
(sausage)
SCHAUBLA-met schmont fot
(beans with cream gravy)
KIELKE-met schmont fot an sippla
(noodles with cream gravy and onions)
VERENIKE-yebrot oda yekookt
(cottage cheese bundles—fried or cooked)
KORN (corn)
GESCHMUCKE—relish
(pickles, celery, carrots, beets)



January's Winter Weather

The month of January gave us a good deal to contend with on the winter weather front. A couple of strong storms that brought a fair amount of snow and wind disrupted our ability to have school on a number of occasions. In the month of January we utilized late-starts, school cancellations, and alternative bus routes.

We strive to make weather-related decisions with the safety of our students, families, and staff at the forefront of that decision-making process. We don't always get it right and sometimes those decisions may cause some frustration. With that being said, I greatly appreciate the cooperation, the flexibility, and the understanding that has been extended by our parents, students, staff, and stakeholders as we've had to contend with the winter storms this past month.

It is not yet entirely clear whether it will be necessary to extend the school year due to the cancellation of school and the loss of instructional time. The two factors that are considered in ultimately making that decision are meeting the number of hours required by the Department of Education and the impacts that we determine have been made on instruction and learning. With several weeks of winter left to face, I expect a final decision to be made and communicated by mid-March as to whether the school year will, or will not, need to be extended.



Heartland Community Schools

February 2024



			1 Cinnamon Roll French Toast Sticks Egg & Sausage Patty 100% Juice Tri Tater	2 Muffin & Yogurt Sweet & Sour Chicken Steamed Broccoli Brown Rice	All grains are whole grain rich. Fresh fruit and vegetable bar is offered daily with lunch. A variety of fruit and juice is offered daily with breakfast. A variety of low-fat milk is offered daily with breakfast and lunch. Menu is subject to change without notice. All beef is donated and locally raised.
5 Long John Mini Corndogs Baked Beans Green Beans	6 Pancake Wrap Sloppy Joe French Fries Slushies	7 Blueberry Waffles Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll	8 Strawberry Bagel Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese Steamed Peas French Bread	9 NO SCHOOL	
12 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Patty Sandwich French Fries Ice Cream	13 Cereal Pizza Burgers Steamed Corn Jello	14 Chocolate Chip French Toast Chili OR Chicken Noodle Soup Cinnamon Roll Saltines	15 Tornado Max Cheese Sticks Marinara Sauce Green Beans Pudding	16 Apple Frudel Tacos Long John Steamed Corn	
19 Pancake Wrap Pork Tenderloin Mashed Potatoes Gravy French Bread	20 Long John Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll	21 Sausage Biscuit Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Bread	22 Strawberry Bagel Grilled Cheese Tri Tater Tomato Soup	23 Tornado Pizza Steamed Corn Slushies	
26 Cinnamon Breadstick Popcorn Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Steamed Peas Dinner Roll	27 Breakfast Pizza Taco Salad Steamed Corn Mini Donuts	28 Egg & Cheese Biscuit Deli Sandwich Chips Cookie	29 Chocolate Chip French Toast Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll		

Heartland Community Schools is an equal opportunity provider.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	<div>HS Basketball SNC Tournament</div> <div>4:30 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Fillmore Central (Fairmont)</div>			<div>HS Girls & Boys Basketball SNC Tournament</div> <div>Groundhog Day</div>		<div>HS Basketball SNC Tournament</div> <div>Robotics @ Cross County School</div> <div>10:00 AM JH Boys Basketball @ Friend</div>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<div>4:00 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Harvard</div>	<div>4:30 PM HS Girls & Boys Basketball @ Centennial</div>	<div>York County Spelling Contest</div>	<div>4:30 PM HS Girls & Boys Basketball vs Okeola @ home</div> <div>4:30 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Centennial</div>	<div>No School</div>	<div>Lunar New Year</div> <div>9:00 AM Robotics @ Columbus</div> <div>10:00 AM JH Boys Basketball vs EMF @ home</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<div>FRLA Week</div> <div>HS Girls Basketball Subdistricts</div> <div>7:00 PM School Board Meeting</div>	<div>4:00 PM JH Boys BB vs Sandy Creek @ home</div>	<div>York County Spelling Contest make up day</div> <div>Ash Wednesday</div> <div>Valentine's Day</div>	<div>HS Girls Basketball Subdistricts Scheduled: Feb 12, 2024 to Feb 13, 2024</div> <div>4:00 PM JH Boys BB vs Sutton @ home</div>		<div>6:30 PM WinterSong/Winter Ball</div>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<div>National FFA Week</div> <div>HS Boys Subdistricts</div> <div>Presidents' Day</div>	<div>UNL Math Day - Lincoln</div>	<div>8:30 AM 9-12 Winter Concert Vocal / Band Concert</div>	<div>ESU 6 Quiz Bowl @ Seward</div> <div>HS Boys Subdistricts Scheduled: Feb 19, 2024 to Feb 20, 2024</div>	<div>FFA 212/360 Conference</div> <div>5:00 PM HS Boys Basketball vs Sandy Creek @ home</div>	<div>Henderson Home Show</div> <div>HS Boys Basketball Districts</div>
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
	<div>HS Boys Basketball Districts</div>		<div>Varsity Girls State Basketball</div> <div>JH Quiz Bowl @ Seward</div>		<div>Varsity Girls State B...024 to Feb 29, 2024</div> <div>No School - Professional Development Day</div>	

Option Enrollment

Heartland Community Schools is open to accepting more option enrollment students and we feel that we have much to offer! A student from another district may enroll at Heartland when approved through the option enrollment program.

If you know of someone who would be interested in enrolling their children at Heartland, please have them call the superintendent's office at 402-723-4434. High school students must have an option enrollment application filed and approved **before March 15, 2024** in order to be immediately eligible for extracurricular activities in the fall.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or handicap in admission or access to or treatment of employment, in its program and activities. If any patron or employee feels they have been discriminated against by any school employee, please contact:

Superintendent - Jeremy Klein
High School Principal - Tim Carr
Elementary Principal - Dana Reinke



Office of the Superintendent
Heartland Community Schools
1501 Front Street
Henderson, NE 68371

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage PAID
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Henderson, NE 68371



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