



# Heartland Community School

## Henderson/Bradshaw

### November 2010 Newsletter

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Dear Parents, Patrons, and Friends of Heartland Community Schools,

The State of the Schools Report, an annual report on Nebraska's public schools and student performance, was recently released on the Nebraska department of education web site. The report highlights the performance of students by district in reading, mathematics, writing, and science. We take this information seriously, and we are already working with Heartland staff members to identify ways to help our students to improve their learning. Some of the information included in the State of the Schools Report is included in our "Annual Report to Patrons", that is included with this newsletter. We hope you will look at it in detail and feel free to call us with any questions or clarification.

The new State of the Schools Report shows that 69 percent of the 153 students tested, at Heartland, in grades 3-9 and 11 were proficient on the first-ever state reading test, a new test that measures performance on newly revised, more rigorous state reading standards. These new test results should not be compared to results from the previous assessment system.

The report also shows that 98 percent of the students tested in grades 3-8 and 11 were proficient in mathematics based on results from an assessment system that that allowed teachers to test at the point of instruction and to retest student to ensure that they were proficient. This assessment system is being phased out and is different from the new reading test, a one-time drop-in measure of content and skills.

Also, 100% of Heartland students tested in grades 4, 8 and 11 were proficient in writing. These scores were masked on the state report card because they are not allowed to report when all students score in one category.

As I stated earlier, we are continuing to analyze this data and identify ways we can help Heartland students improve their learning.

All of this information can be viewed at the Heartland Community Schools website, [www.heartlandschools.org](http://www.heartlandschools.org), via a link to the Nebraska Department of Education website at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Main/Home.aspx> or directly at the NDE website.

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Norm Yoder, Superintendent



#### SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

As the winter approaches, occasional bad weather necessitates the closing of school for the safety of our students. School closing information will be announced over the radio station KAWL (1370) and television stations KHAS, KLKN, NTV and KOLN. In Henderson it will be announced with voiceover capabilities on any cable channel (in town) when your TV is on. This year we are again implementing an automated phone message service through School Reach which we plan on using for school closings. You may also call our school closing phone line at 402-723-4421. If a decision has been made the night before, the closing will be announced at 10:00PM. In the mornings it will be announced on the half hour from 6:30AM to 8:00AM (cable only).

#### *WHAT'S COOKING IN FCS?*

The junior high FCS class finished their nutrition unit with a taco lunch. They practiced setting the table with china and used fall centerpieces on each table. Good table manners were used, also. They will begin their sewing unit with construction of small cloth pumpkins for autumn decorations. Senior high FCS and Culinary foods are practicing garnishes and baking in preparation for a holiday open house in December.

#### **ART HAPPENES AT HOMECOMING!**



In October the Art Club was busy with Homecoming. This was the second year for the high school spirit poster contest. Congratulations to the Freshman for receiving first. Art Club added an new elementary poster contest to Homecoming events this year. Every elementary student, kindergarten through sixth grade designed a 9"x 12" poster expressing their Huskie spirit. The posters were hung in the cafeteria. All of the elementary students received a participation ribbon and one winning poster was chosen from each class by art club members. The artist of the winning poster received a Huskie t-shirt as their prize. The winners were: Kindergarten -Ava Tessman, 1<sup>st</sup> grade - Carson Ott, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade -Ellyn Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade -Aiden Swartzendruber, 4<sup>th</sup> grade -Kate Bergen, 5<sup>th</sup> grade -Hayes Oswald, 6<sup>th</sup> grade -Ethan Hall.

## **TURN YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR PRETEEN INTO SCHOOL SUCCESS**

Research shows that your expectations for your child have a direct effect on how he will do in school and life. But not all expectations produce equally good results. If you want your child's best, keep expectations high but realistic.

Research suggests you:

- Expect your child to achieve at his best level, as shown by the top level of work he has produced at school. Do this consistently and you are apt to get a pleasant surprise--he will surpass himself.
- Have a good attitude about your child's school and schoolwork. This shows your child that you expect him to learn at school and you expect his teachers to be committed to his growth and achievement.
- Know what your child should be learning and the standards for his grade. This has a direct link with your ability to set good expectations.
- Expect effort! This can't be overstated. Research shows that children do better and feel better about themselves when effort is emphasized over ability. Say, "You worked so hard on that." Not, "That was easy for you because you are so smart."

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## **MOTIVATE YOUR PRETEEN WITH TIMING, ROUTINES & SUPPORT**

What happened to your once-enthusiastic student? She turned into a preteen! Suddenly, motivating her to do just about anything can feel like pulling teeth. But don't despair. To motivate your preteen to do what needs to be done:

- Catch her before she plugs in. It's tough dragging a preteen away from her favorite TV show or website. So if there's something you need her to do, ask before she turns on the TV or computer. She may be more compliant.
- Stick to routines. Routines are critical when it comes to keeping order at home. So don't abandon them just because your preteen is now in middle school. If she knows exactly what time she's supposed to study, set the dinner table and get ready for bed, she may be less likely to dig in her heels when it's time to do those things.
- Support her interests. Find out what your preteen likes to do and encourage her to do it. If she's interested in

soccer, for example, kick around the ball together. The more you support her as she works at something she loves, the more inspired she may be to work hard at other things--like school!

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## **Ch.I.L.D. DAY PROVIDED BY HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**



The Heartland Community School - Henderson/Bradshaw is setting aside special time for parents of children age 5 and below to participate in **Ch.I.L.D. Day**, which stands for *Childhood Information on Language and Development*. Just as parents take their young children to the doctor for medical check-ups, the school can provide to parents the services of a "developmental wellness visit". The early childhood personnel at the school can provide current and useful information to parents concerning the early development of their baby, toddler, or preschooler.

Ch.I.L.D. Day is a childfind effort conducted by Educational Service Unit #6, which provides early intervention services for the Heartland Community School District. School districts are required to conduct childfind activities to ensure that young children who need early intervention services are identified. Involvement in Ch.I.L.D. Day is a free, completely voluntary service and is conducted in a confidential manner.

There again will be evening times available to parents. Ch.I.L.D. Day is set for **Tuesday, November 16 from 4:00 – 8:00pm** and will be held in the TYKE preschool room in Henderson. Interested parents who live in the Heartland School District can call the school office in Henderson to register for a 45-minute time slot when they can bring their child to the school. Parents will be able to ask questions about their child's development, complete a developmental checklist, and have their child play and interact informally with adults knowledgeable about young children. Further information may need to be gathered at a later time if the parents and school staff see any concerns. Parental permission is required for any further evaluation.

The Heartland Community School wishes to extend this invitation as one way of providing support and information to parents of young children in our district. Again, parents of the Heartland school district are invited to call the school at 723-4434 to register for Ch.I.L.D. Day.



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#### **DON'T LET YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER BE DISRESPECTFUL**

A disrespectful child will have trouble in school. A disrespectful adult may not be able to hold onto a job. It is important to remember this as your child goes through middle school.

Your child's newfound sense of independence and separation may make him prone to backtalk and disrespect. Do not allow yourself--or him--to get used to it. Instead:

- Call him out. Label disrespectful talk and behavior as such. "Your tone of voice is not appropriate." "Making faces is rude. I won't tolerate it." "Do not curse. It is disrespectful."
- Don't stoop to disrespect. Your child's disrespectful words, tone, or actions deserve nothing from you. Simply say, "I won't deal with you at all when you speak that way. I am your parent and I deserve your politeness. When you are ready to speak respectfully, come back and we will try again."
- Use consequences if necessary. "Instead of telling me your feelings calmly and with respect, you have chosen to shout and throw a tantrum. You are acting like a much younger child and I will have to treat you like one. You will be staying in this weekend. You will have another chance next weekend if you can show more maturity this coming week."

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#### **An encouraging environment helps children do well on tests**

As a parent, you have an important role to play when your child takes a test. Your attitude about schoolwork and the way you nurture your child at home help her do her best. Do your best to:

- Stay calm. Many children are anxious enough about taking tests. Your anxiety makes it worse.
- Be positive. Your child will benefit from words like: "You studied hard." "You are prepared." "You know your stuff."

- Understand that sometimes things go wrong. If your child generally does well, there is no need to panic about one poor test result. Just say, "I'm confident you'll do better next time. Let me know if you want me to help you review."
- Know what's expected. Stay in contact with your child's teachers, to learn things such as how far in advance tests are announced, the format of the test and whether the teacher provides a study guide.
- Promote attendance. Your child can't do well on tests if she doesn't get to school regularly. She should be there unless she is sick or there is a family emergency. She also needs at least eight hours of sleep each night, and three balanced meals each day, including breakfast.

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#### HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Henderson/Bradshaw

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2010

Henderson Attendance Center – Conference Room

8:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Galen R. Friesen, Gary Braun, Debra Wilhelm, Kerri Kliewer, Mark Dick, and Paul Brune. Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder, Principals Tim Carr and Cindy Huebert. Faculty: Cole Blomendahl

#### I. Call to Order

President Brune called the regular meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

II. President Brune declared the meeting to be open, legal and properly advertised with all members having been informed of the nature of the meeting and having received Related information. He also indicated the posting of the open meetings law at the front of the room.

#### III. Approval of Agenda

**Action 1:** Motion by Kliewer, second by Dick, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

IV. Audience with Individuals and/or Committees  
The FFA Officers were present to request permission to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the end of October.

V. Minutes of Meeting

VI. Treasurer's Report  
The General Fund Treasurer's report was reviewed and filed pending audit.

VII. Claims

VIII. Financial Reports  
The financial reports for the School Lunch Fund, Activity Fund, Unemployment Fund, and the Depreciation Fund were reviewed and filed pending audit.

**Action 2:** Motion by Braun, second by Friesen, to approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the August 16, 2010 regular meeting, budget hearing and Special meeting of August 24<sup>th</sup>, the special meeting of August 30, 2010 and the general fund claims. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

IX. Administrative Reports  
The board heard administrative reports on summer school for special education students, the summer reading program, the elementary open house, backpack program, PTO organization, seniors attendance at a town hall meeting conducted by Congressman Adrian Smith, the number of students involved in extra curricular activities, the John Baylor Test Prep program to begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>, FFA accomplishments at the State Fair, one student participating in the SENCAP program, and 34 students participating in dual credit courses.

X. Summer Projects  
Supt. Yoder reported that the lighting project in front of the school has been completed. The new lights have been installed in both gyms. The board also reviewed possible cost projections on the remodeling of the front entrance.

XI. Discussion with Neighboring Districts  
There have been no further discussions with neighboring districts at this time.

XII. Tax Levy for 2010-2011  
**Action 3:** Motion by Braun, second by Wilhelm, to set the tax levy as required for the 2010-2011 budget that was adopted earlier at 1.05006031 for the General Fund and at \$0.196 for the Qualified Capital Purposes Undertaking Fund. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

**Action 4:** Motion by Friesen, second by Dick, to approve going above the \$1.05 budget lid as required by statute. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIII. Enrollment Report for 2010-2011

Supt. Yoder gave an update on the current student enrollment which is currently 309 students. This consists of 157 students in K-6 and 152 in 7-12. The official enrollment is taken on the last Friday in September, which is September 24, 2010.

XIV. Selection Process for non Athletic Awards  
The board reviewed the criteria for selection of the outstanding student award in the non-athletic organizations.

XV. FFA Request to Attend the National FFA Convention  
**Action 5:** Motion by Dick, second by Friesen, to approve the request for the FFA officers to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis end of October. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

**Action 6:** Motion by Kliewer, second by Wilhelm, to approve funds of \$100.00 each towards expenses for two FFA students who qualified for National FFA Band and National FFA Talent Competition at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the end of October. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XVI. Fire Alarm System  
Supt. Yoder reviewed some of the problems the district has been having with false alarms and that they are in the process of replacing a number of smoke detectors.

XVII. Early Retirement Policy  
The board reviewed the early retirement policy and decided to discuss it further at the October board meeting.

XVIII. Adjournment  
President Brune adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS -  
Henderson/Bradshaw  
8:00 PM Tax Levy Setting Hearing

Conference Room  
Thursday, September 13, 2010  
MINUTES

Members Present: Galen R. Friesen, Gary Braun, Debra Wilhelm, Kerri Kliewer, Paul Brune, and Mark Dick. Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder and Principals Cindy Huebert and Tim Carr.

I. Call To Order  
President Brune called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. President Brune declared the meeting to be open, legal and properly advertised with all members having been informed of the nature of the meeting and having received related information. He pointed out open meetings law poster at the front of the room.

III. Public Comments  
There were no comments from the public.

VI. Adjournment  
President Brune adjourned the Public Hearing at 8:02 p.m.

Heartland Community Schools  
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## ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER



### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

November 8th - Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm

November 9th - Teacher In-Service, 2 hour late start

November 9th - Fall Vocal Concert 7:30 pm

November 12th - School Picture Retakes

November 23rd - 6-12 Fall Band Concert 7:30 pm

November 24th - Dismiss @ 1:30 pm, Thanksgiving Vacation

November 25th - NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Vacation

November 26th - NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Vacation