



BERTRAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2025

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

Viking Nation:

As we move into November, I'm reminded once again how fortunate we are to live and work in a community that consistently invests in its students and their future. Bertrand Community School is proud to be participating once again in the Give2Grow campaign, a wonderful opportunity for residents and alumni to support local organizations that make a lasting impact. You can support Bertrand Community School directly by visiting give2growphelps.org/organization/Bertrand-Community-School-Foundation. Every donation—large or small—helps us continue to grow programs and opportunities for our students.

One shining example of that investment is The Viking Grind, our student-run coffee shop. This school-based enterprise has not only been a hit with our community—it's become a living classroom where students apply real-world skills in business, marketing, customer service, and entrepreneurship. The success of The Viking Grind demonstrates exactly why we believe so strongly in these kinds of hands-on experiences. They build confidence, connect learning to life, and foster the kind of career-ready mindset that defines Bertrand students.

Looking ahead, our next major project will be the renovation of our Skilled and Technical Sciences (STS) Shop. This much-needed update will ensure our students have access to modern, industry-aligned tools and facilities that reflect today's workforce expectations. Thanks to careful long-term planning by our Board of Education and administrative team, we're able to take on projects like this responsibly—as good stewards of taxpayer dollars—without raising local levies or increasing taxes. Our goal remains the same: to honor tradition while continuing to inspire the future for generations of Vikings to come.

Finally, as winter approaches, please remember that weather-related school closure decisions will again be made as early as possible to give families and staff ample time to prepare. Communication will go out through our usual channels, and we'll continue to prioritize safety and transparency in every decision.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Bertrand Community School. Together, we're building a bright future for our students—one project, one program, and one cup of coffee at a time.

In Service,

Nicole J. LeClaire

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING.....

Can you believe we've already finished the first quarter of school?

Time is flying, and before we know it, we'll be heading into Thanksgiving break and then the holiday season!

Weather: As the weather starts to turn colder, I'd like to remind parents about the importance of appropriate winter weather gear. As I often remind students, shorts and a hoodie are *not* considered winter clothing. Please make sure your child is dressed warmly for recess and outdoor activities. If your family is in need of warmer clothing, don't hesitate to reach out to me, Mrs. LeClaire, or Dr.C, our school counselor. We partner with organizations that are ready and willing to help.

Testing: Throughout the year, all grade levels will be participating in required standardized testing. We ask that you help your child be well-rested and ready to give their best effort on testing days. As in past years, students have set their own goals, and we're excited to help them work toward achieving them.

Veterans Day Program: We would also like to invite everyone in the community to attend our Veterans Day Program on November 11th @ 2:00 PM. It's a special opportunity to honor the men and women who have served our country, and we hope to see many of you there.

Questions/Concerns: As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I want every voice to be heard, and I will do my best to help in any situation. If you'd like to meet, please call ahead so we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Making Sense of Educational Acronyms

Schools often use many acronyms that can feel confusing.

Each month, we'll share a few and explain what they mean in simple terms. This month is IEP and 504.

Understanding IEPs and 504 Plans: What Parents Need to Know

If your child has a disability or learning difference, you may have heard the terms **IEP** and **504 Plan**. Both are designed to support students at school, but they do so in slightly different ways.

What is an IEP?

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a detailed plan created for students who qualify for special education services. It outlines specific learning goals and describes the special instruction, supports, and services the school will provide to help your child succeed. To get an IEP, a child must go through a formal evaluation and meet specific criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

What is a 504 Plan?

A **504 Plan** provides **accommodations** for students with a disability so they can access the general education curriculum. It's not special education. Instead, it helps ensure students with physical or mental impairments (like ADHD, anxiety, or diabetes) have equal access to learning. 504 Plans fall under **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**, a civil rights law.

What's the Difference?

IEP	504 Plan
For students who need special education services	For students who need accommodations but not special education
Includes personalized goals and specialized instruction	Provides accommodations (like extra time, seating changes)
Must meet criteria under IDEA	Must have a disability that impacts a major life activity

In Short:

Both plans are designed to help your child thrive in school. The right plan depends on your child's individual needs. If you have questions or think your child may benefit from support, reach out to your school's special education team or counselor.

Up Coming Months Topics Stay tuned in future newsletters as we break these down one at a time in parent-friendly language!

- **ELL** – English Language Learner
- **ESL/ESOL** – English as a Second Language / English for Speakers of Other Languages
- **RTI** – Response to Intervention
- **PBIS** – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- **SEL** – Social and Emotional Learning
- **FERPA** – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- **ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act
- **IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- **PLC** – Professional Learning Community
- **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- **SPED** – Special Education

Reminders.....

Cell Phones

- Student cell phones are to only be used before or after school and at lunch.

Activity Etiquette

- Please don't drop your student off at game(s) or events and leave them here without parental or guardian supervision. Students attending these events as spectators are expected to watch the events and not be wandering the halls.

Drug Testing

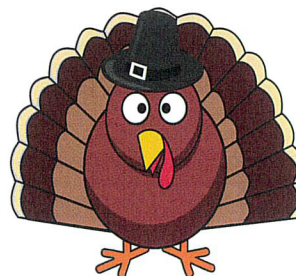
- Random drug testing continues for all students who are involved in 9-12th grade extracurricular activities.

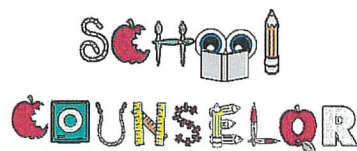
Eligibility List

- Eligibility lists continue to be run weekly for all 7-12 students. If students are failing one class for two weeks or two classes for one week, they will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities until they get their grades up to passing the following Monday. See the student and activity handbook for a greater definition and details.

The Last Laugh

What is the biggest difference between a turkey and a chicken?
Chickens celebrate Thanksgiving!





Apply 2 College Week/FAFSA Completion Week was a HUGE success!

October 13th-17th was Apply 2 College Week and FAFSA Completion Week at Bertrand High School. The seniors were busy with activities that helped them prepare for college. Some of the activities were: filling out a college application form, applying for scholarships, and filing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We would like to congratulate the six seniors who won a \$500 scholarship for filling out their FAFSA and a HUGE thank you to: Tiffany Langford, Aurora Co-Op, Sam Lavene, Central Community College, Terry Smith, and Cross Diamond Beef for their generous contributions to the silent auction as well as the Bertrand Agricultural Society for their generous donation to the scholarship program. We could not have awarded these scholarships without all of your help, as well as the generosity of those who bid on the items in the silent auction. We appreciate all of you for supporting the Class of 2026!

ACT Dates: SENIORS--you have two more chances to take the ACT and have it count toward scholarships--December and February. After that, the colleges typically will not take ACT scores and have them count for scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Notable scholarships that are coming up:

SCOTT Career Pathways Scholarship--this is for students who are going to a community college like Northeast, Southeast, Metro or Central. There are specific career fields (depending on the college) that count for the program, but this is a MAJOR scholarship that covers tuition, room, and board. It doesn't cover books and tools. This scholarship opens December 1st.

Buffett Scholarship--this is for any Nebraska student attending a Nebraska college. It is based on need (usually have to be Pell Grant eligible) and it opens on November 1st. www.buffettscholarships.org is the website. You must have a FAFSA filed no later than December 1st to be eligible for this.

Institutional Scholarships--most colleges have institutional scholarships that are open right now or will be open as of December 1st. Go to the college/university's website and look up scholarships/financial aid/or any tab that talks about paying for college. Most of these will be quick and easy to apply for, so do not waste time getting these done.

TRANSCRIPTS/GPA/CLASS RANK/ACT SCORES

If you are needing a transcript/GPA/class rank/ACT score sent somewhere, please email me where it needs to go and if there is a specific person it needs to go to, their information. I try to get these done within a 24 hour timeframe, however, sometimes it takes 2-3 days depending on my schedule. If you need a hard copy for a scholarship, please let me know as there are a couple things I have to do to the transcript before it is considered "official."

SENIORS

As you get acceptance letters, scholarships awarded to you, and other honors bestowed upon you; please keep a running list of these so you can get them to me in April. If you start keeping track now, it will be less of a struggle later. I will remind you again of this.

Lastly, seniors and senior parents, please join the Google Classroom I have created. I post a lot of information there and I am trying to make it a one-stop spot for all things related to senior year and graduation.

Dr. C.

November Quiz Bowls

Thursday, Nov. 4 @ Southern Valley

Elementary: 1 pm

Thursday, Nov. 6 @ Axtell

High School: 9 am

Junior High: 1 pm

Elementary: 3 pm

Monday, Nov. 10 @ Maywood

Elementary: 1 pm

Monday, Nov. 10 @ Arapahoe

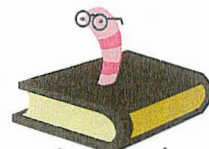
High School: 4 pm

Thursday, Nov. 13th @ Franklin

Elementary: 9 am

Junior High: 1 pm

Way to Go, September AR Achievers! 📖



We're so proud of our amazing readers who've reached new milestones in Accelerated Reader! Your curiosity, focus, and passion for books keep shining through. ✨
Every story you finish takes you one step closer to becoming an even stronger and more confident learner.

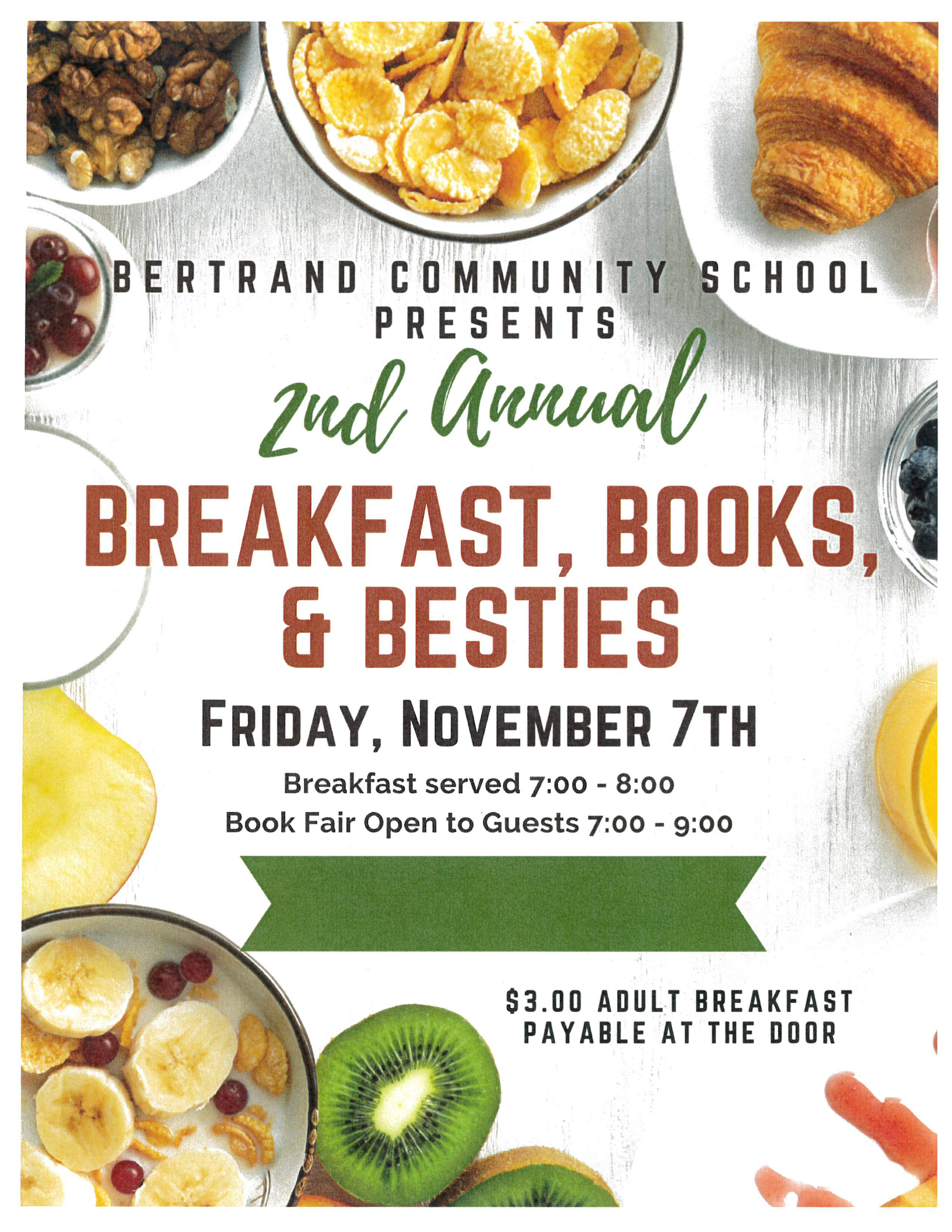
👏 Let's give a huge cheer for our newest AR superstars — you're proving that readers are leaders! 🚀

Keep reading, keep growing — the next adventure is waiting on the next page! 📖

Piper Davison
Bronson DeBoer
MaLynn Gardine
Miley Holen
Rikyn Kuck
Gracelyn Thompson
Sterling Birkel
Sebastian Christen
Emma Gonzalez
Blakely Hock

Chloe Kuck
Sheila Mejia Reyes
Crew Pierce
Kinzley Potter
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Jasmine Ruiz-King
Maddox Steinbrink
Jozlyn Weber
Diego Chavez

Sebastian Estrada
Lilly Hansen
Jenna Nelson
Liam Teel
Stella Johnson
Jayton Kreitman
Ruger Gardine
Tinley Langford
Raina Nelson



BERTRAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PRESENTS

2nd Annual

BREAKFAST, BOOKS, & BESTIES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

Breakfast served 7:00 - 8:00

Book Fair Open to Guests 7:00 - 9:00

**\$3.00 ADULT BREAKFAST
PAYABLE AT THE DOOR**



Bertrand Community Calendar of Events

- November 6** Deadline for Phelps Community Pantry Thanksgiving Food Boxes ~ forms available at Village Office & other locations
- November 11** Bertrand Village Board Meeting @ 6 pm
- November 13** give2GROW – Phelps County Giving Day, many organizations in Bertrand participate in this event
- November 14** Community Coffee & Veteran's Brunch @ 9:30 am ~ Bertrand Nursing Home 'Honoring all who served'
- November 15** Young at Heart Thanksgiving Fundraiser ~ Auction & Dinner ~ Reserve by Nov. 7th, call: 308-472-5010
- November 17** Cross Diamond Meat - Operation Christmas Beef starts, Contact Meredith: 402-741-0833
- November 30** Lions Club Breakfast Burritos are available to order until Nov. 30th. Call Kathy: 308-991-2961
- November 21** Hollidazzle, Ladies Night Out ~ 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Downtown Bertrand
- December 9** Bertrand Community Blood Drive ~ Bertrand Community Building
- December 9** Bertrand Village Board Meeting @ 6 pm
- December 10** Young at Heart ~ Holdrege High School Swing Choir performance
- December 12** Community Coffee @ 9:30 am ~ Bertrand Nursing Home
- December** Young at Heart Senior Center ~ Watch for date for their Annual Holiday Bake Sale

BERTRAND LIONS CLUB

BREAKFAST

Call Kathy:
308-991-2961

BURRITOS

Taking order's till Nov. 30th

Cross Diamond Meats

Operation Christmas Beef

Help us spread some Christmas cheer in Phelps County by donating \$25 which we will match to give a family \$50 worth of beef this Christmas!

Thanks to you, we gifted beef to 20 families and this year we want to double that and donate 40 boxes of beef!

Can you help us?

We will start receiving donations online at crossdiamondmeats.com on November 17th! But if you would like to donate NOW, contact Meredith Cable at 402-741-0833

HOLLIDAZZLE

2025

Downtown Bertrand

Ladies Night Out

November 21st 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

Forms available at any of these Bertrand locations: Bertrand Village Office, Bertrand Schools, Bertrand Post Office, C-Plus, First State Bank-Bertrand, Cross Country Market. Please note both the deadline & pickup info.

give2GROW

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

BERTRAND TOWN SQUARE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

TO READ: Read fresh news every Tuesday for free at any of the 29 places in and around Bertrand where Town Square is displayed.

TO SUBMIT: Fill out the form at bit.ly/bertrand-town-square.

TO SUBSCRIBE: Go to bertrandtownsquare.com, visit the village office, or call 308-325-0448 to subscribe. You'll get a copy by mail.

TO SPONSOR: Get your business ad on an issue by visiting bertrandtownsquare.com. Two positions are available every week.

Phelps Community Pantry

Thanksgiving Food Box Reservation Form

(Limit of 1 form per household)

Name _____ Last Name _____ City _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone # you can be reached at _____

Please see address labels in household member column below

Household Member	Name	Age	Sex
Child (under 18)	_____	_____	_____
Adult (18+)	_____	_____	_____

*This form must be returned BEFORE Friday, November 7, 2025

Boxed drop off at or mail to: Phelps Community, P.O. Box 78, Holdrege, NE 68949 Q. Drop off at Holdrege Public Library, 604 East Ave. da 10 a 5 de lunes a sábado

Return to: _____

PLEASE TO BE PLACED IN A "DRIVE-THRU" MANNER ON Thursday, November 20, 2025 Between 1:00-5:00 PM At the Phelps County Agricultural Society (Bertrand)

A reservation is not valid if it is not picked up within 14 days before the event. This is a "first-come, first-served" basis. If you do not pick up your box, please arrange to have someone else pick up your box with your permission. No substitutions please. Call the pantry at 308-991-2961.

Despensa comunitaria de Phelps

Caja de comida de acción de gracias

Formulario de reservación

(límite de 1 formulario por hogar)

Nombre _____ edad _____

Dirección de envío _____

De teléfono _____

Cópyeje u otras/os adultas/adultos en el hogar

Nombre	edad
Nombre _____	edad _____
Nombre _____	edad _____

Niños viviendo en casa:

Nombre	edad
Nombre _____	edad _____
Nombre _____	edad _____

Este formulario debe de volver se ANTES del Viernes, 7 de noviembre de 2025

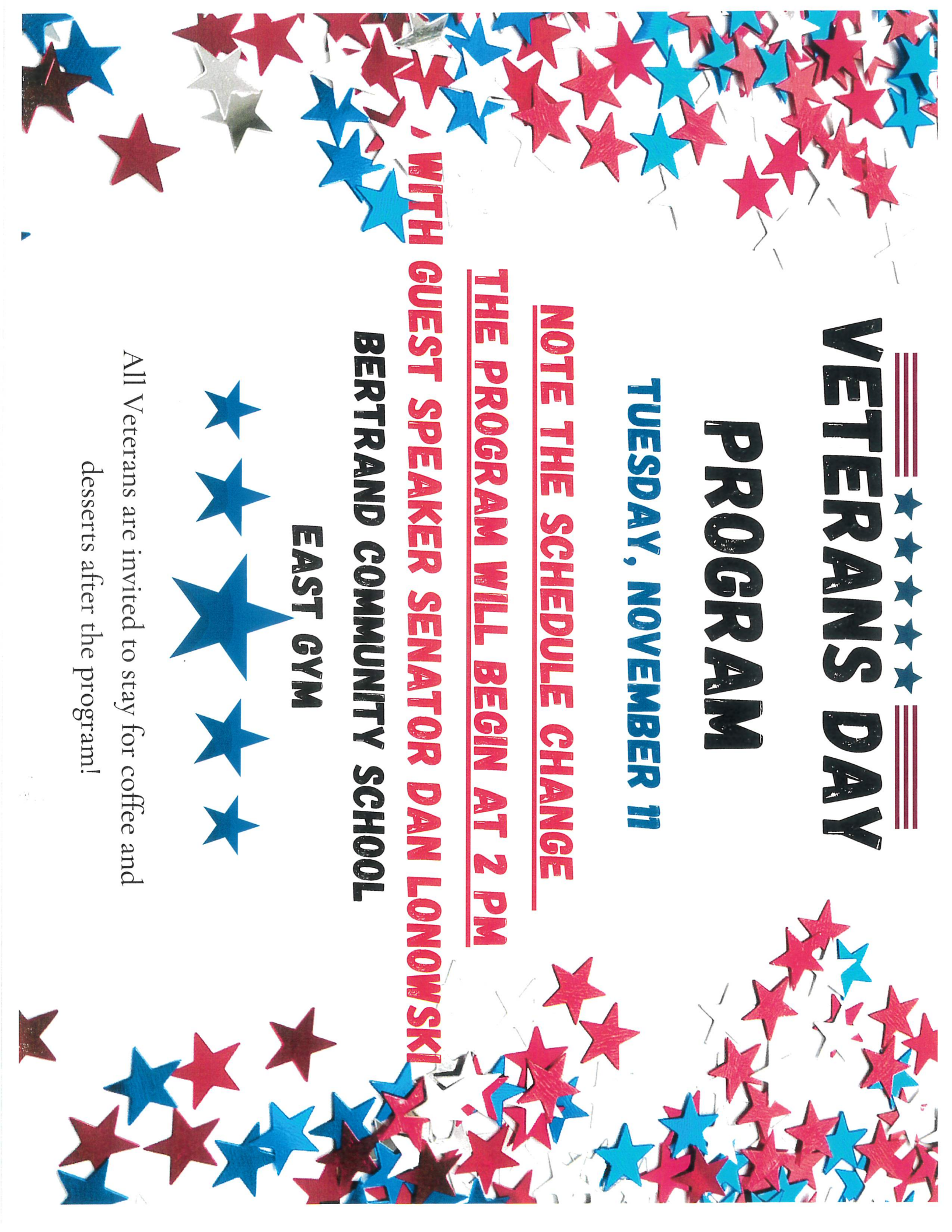
Envíalo por correo a: Phelps Community Pantry P.O. Box 78 Holdrege, NE 68949 Q. dejar en Holdrege Public Library, 604 East Ave. da 10 a 5 de lunes a sábado

-----Quite y conserve la sección inferior-----

Las cajas reservadas se colocarán en el vehículo de manera "drive-thru" el **jueves 20 de noviembre** de 2025 entre la 1:00 y las 5:00 p.m. En el edificio agrícola del condado de Phelps (estacionamiento sur) 1308 S. 2nd St. Holdrege, NE

Se le enviará una postal de confirmación una semana antes del evento. Esto servirá como su "boleto" y debe mostrarse para recibir su caja reservada.

*No intercambios. Llame a la Despensa al 308-991-2961



VETERANS DAY

PROGRAM

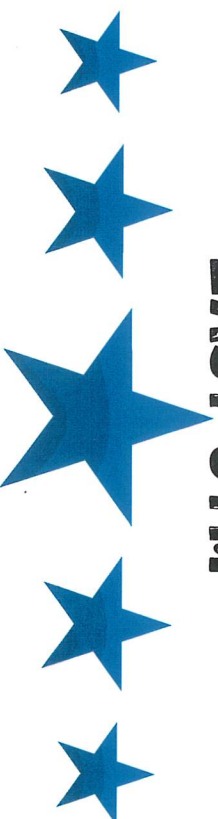
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

NOTE THE SCHEDULE CHANGE

THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM

WITH GUEST SPEAKER SENATOR DAN LONOWSKI
BERTRAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EAST GYM



All Veterans are invited to stay for coffee and
desserts after the program!

November 2025

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Schedule Subject to Change					1 FFA National Convention @ Indianapolis VB Dist Finals TBA
2	3 7:00 FFA Officer Mtg @ Loomis	4 1:00 Elem Quiz Bowl @ SV 1:30 Picture Retakes, JHWR & JHGBB	5 1:00-3:45 Grandparents Day	6 1:00 Dismissal 9:00 HS QB @ Axtell 1:00 JH QB @ Axtell 3:00 Elem QB @ Axtell	7 Breakfast & Books FB State Playoffs	8 Sing Around Nebraska @ Kearney
9	10 1:00 Elem Quiz Bowl @ Maywood 4:00 HS Quiz Bowl @ Arapahoe 6:00 School Board Mtg 7:00 FFA Mtg @ Loomis	11 2:00 Veterans Day Program	12 Scholastic Book Fair	13 Play Prod RPAC @ Tassel 9:00 Elem Quiz Bowl @ Franklin 1:00 JH Quiz Bowl @ Franklin	14 FB State Playoffs	15
16	17 Winter Sports Practice Begins	18 2:00 JHWR @ Alma	19 9:00 FFA CDE @ Curtis	20 2:30 JHGBB vs SV (home) 7:00 One Act Public Performance	21 10:00 JHWR @ MV 1:45 Staff vs Srs VB	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	2:30 JHGBB @ SW FB State Finals TBA	1:00 JHWR @ Cambridge BB Jamboree (home)	American Education Week			
30				No School – Thanksgiving Break		

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 1-12 NHS Canned Food Drive	1	2	3	4 1:00 Dismissal- Teacher Inservice	5 11:00 BWR@Ravenna 11:00 GWR @ SW	6 JHGBB @ SV Tourn
	1:00 JHWR @ SV 2:30 JHGBB @ Alma			4:30 JVGBB/JVBBB 6:00 VGBB 7:30 VBBB @ Alma 5:30 BWR @Bertrand Tri	4:30 JVGBB/JVBBB 6:00 VGBB 7:30 VBBB vs Axtell (home)	
	Week of District Play Prod TBA					
7	8 1:00 JHWR @ Arapahoe 4:30 JVGBB/JVBBB 6:00 VGBB 7:30 VBBB vs EC (home)	9 9:00 FFA Leadership @ Curtis 6:30 PK-5 Gr Christmas Concert	10 Play/ Prod Class D1 @ Norfolk	11 2:00 Pictures-HS BBall &WR 2:00 JHGBB vs Arapahoe (home)	12 9:30 BWR @ SV Tourn	13 1:30 JVGBB/JVBBB 3:00 VGBB 4:30 VBBB @ Loomis 1:00 FFA Concessions
14	15 6:30 FFA Mtg & Caroling @ Bertrand	16 9:00 GWR @ Maxwell 4:30 JVGBB/JVBBB 6:00 VGBB 7:30 VBBB vs Hi-Line (home)	17 A/R Games in Gym	18 JH & HS Finals	19 2 nd Qtr Ends 1:00 Dismissal	20 10:00 B&G WR @ Cambridge
21	22	23	24 NSAA Moratorium	25 NSAA Moratorium	26 NSAA Moratorium	27 NSAA Moratorium
	No School					
28 NSAA Moratorium	29 11:00 VGBB 12:45 VBBB @ EC Tourn	30 VGBB & VB BB @ EC Tourn TBA	31			
	No School					

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Meals Schedule Subject to Change All meals served with a choice of white or chocolate milk & fruit & veggie bar.					1
2	3 B: Cereal or Parfait L: Poppyseed chicken Peas, cheese stick, roll	4 B: Sausage Gravy & Biscuit or parfait L: Pizza and Green beans	5 B: Waffles or Parfait L: Cowboy Stew PB&J	6 B: Pancake Wrap or Parfait L: Chicken Fajitas & Corn	7 B: Cinnamon Roll & cheese trick L: Turkey or Tuna Carrots & Hash brown	8
9	10 B: Cereal or Parfait L: Tater Tot Casserole & Roll	11 B: Cheese Omelet or parfait L: Turkey Dinner	12 B: French Toast or Parfait L: Chicken noodle soup, bread, & cheese stick	13 B: Croissant Sandwich or Parfait L: Taco & Corn	14 B: Turnover or Parfait L: BBQ Pork Sand, Baked Beans, & chips	15
16	17 B: Cereal or Parfait L: Lasagna Green beans & Cheesy Bread	18 B: Breakfast Burrito or Parfait L: Chicken Nuggets Baked beans & Roll	19 B: Pancakes or Parfait L: Chili or Potato soup & Cornbread	20 B: Waffle Sandwich or Parfait L: Nachos & Corn	21 B: Muffin or Parfait L: Turkey or Tuna or Chkn Salad Sandwich, Carrots & Hash brown	22
23	24 B: Cereal or Parfait L: BBQ Ribs Green beans & Roll	25 Bacon Pizza Scramble or Parfait L: Pig in a Blanket Baked Beans	26 	27 	28 	29
30			No School – Thanksgiving Break			