

USD ³⁰⁹

Parent Newsletter
Nickerson - South Hutchinson
Vol. 39 No. 2 September 2021

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DISTRICT NEWS

Notes from the Superintendent

Striving for Progress, NOT Perfection



Curtis Nightingale
USD 309 Superintendent

We are off and running in a new school year full of promise and potential. As we continue to wrestle with masks, vaccinations, and quarantines, it is also important to take inventory of all the advantages we enjoy. We have a top-notch teaching staff who work tirelessly to provide our students with the very best educational experiences possible. We also have dedicated support staff (maintenance, custodians, cooks, and bus drivers) striving to ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for everyone. And while it may not always be perfect, at least we are all together...learning and experiencing all the things that make a school year memorable and complete.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the massive amount of work being done behind the scenes to ensure our doors even open. Our secretaries, nurses, and administrators have gone above and beyond already this year, and it is only mid-August as I write this. We truly are blessed with amazing people in this district.

Next Steps – Patience

As we muddle through COVID protocols, know that our marching orders are ever-changing from the Federal, State, and even local levels. Please know if we are required to inform you about a quarantine/exposure situation with your student, that is the last thing we wanted to do. We are quickly learning that with the way the CDC is addressing these variant strains, our very best option to mitigate exposure and risk has been via vaccination. We have already seen many cases where being vaccinated was truly the only difference between multiple quarantine periods or continuing to attend school. To limit the loss of instructional time and potentially prevent your student from being quarantined, please consider consulting your healthcare provider about whether the vaccine makes sense for your family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

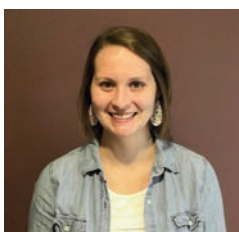
Curtis Nightingale
cnightingale@usd309ks.org

A Message from Penny Stoss, Assistant Superintendent

USD 309 welcomes 16 new teachers for the 2021 -2022 school year. Our new teachers started with a 2-day training ahead of the rest of the staff. They have been working hard to prepare to be part of the Panther family. We are excited with this wonderful group of committed educators. Please join us in getting to know our new Panther team members:



Neoshea Bergman is teaching Grade 4 at South Hutchinson Elementary and is a certified ESOL teacher. She has two sons; Reese age 22, Trace age 19. Ms. Bergman chose to be a teacher when she was a young child. She wanted to be a teacher because she always wanted to help others. Ms. Bergman shared that “Our children are our future, and I am blessed to be able to be a part of their learning experience”. She chose to teach at USD 309 because she knows it’s going to be a great place to work! She’s excited to be with a wonderful group of adults and children daily. According to Ms. Bergman “God has definitely put this district on her heart.” 😊 She also loves being on stage! She enjoys being a part of the Family Community Theatre. She loves to read and spend time with her boys, boyfriend, and his kids. She enjoys traveling and hiking. She likes doing diamond art as well. She went skydiving this summer and tells us it was a blast!!



Laken Cooke will teach Grade 3 at South Hutchinson Elementary. She has a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and is working towards her National Board Certification. Mrs. Cooke was previously a fourth-grade teacher at Jardine Elementary in Topeka. She and her husband have a six-month-old daughter named Isabel. She also has two dogs: Collins, a Saint Bernard, and Bear, a Labrador Retriever. Ms. Cooke chose to be a teacher to help each student find success in their own way and space.

She chose to teach at USD 309 after interviewing with Chelsey and Sheldon. They made her feel comfortable and welcome like she was already family. She moved to the Hutchinson area because her husband graduated from KU in May and acquired a job consulting for Pfizer in McPherson. She loves to garden, read, and spend time with her daughter. She has 9 years of teaching experience in grades 3-6, therapeutic behaviors, and ELL.

DISTRICT OFFICE



Kynzie Flowers is teaching the adaptive classroom at South Hutchinson Elementary. She has a Master's Degree from Kansas State University in Adaptive Special Education and a Bachelor's in Elementary Education.

Last year, she was MIS Clerk for RCEC before that she was at classroom at Haven and Pretty Prairie Elementary. She and her husband James have a Shih Tzu, Petey and a cat, Miss Kitty. She loves helping kids succeed.

She loves to go to Cheney Lake in the summer with her family. In the winter she likes to relax on her couch with her pets. She attended, Kansas State University. Go Cats!



Rae Beck is teaching 5th grade at South Hutchinson Elementary this year. She taught at Central Christian School last year. She has four kids and one grandchild. She started teaching because she loves kids. She is teaching at USD 309 because some of her friends in the district reached out to her and recruited her the Panther Family. Mrs. Beck enjoys life on her farm and is an avid quilter.



Xavier Hoover is teaching in the special education room at Nickerson High School. He has a Master's Degree in Education from Fort Hays State and a Bachelor's in Business from Kansas State. In 2020 he worked from home for Kroger Accounting, but he had previously taught Business for two years at Hutchinson High School. He has two children: a son, Jace, who is 7 years old and a daughter, Gianna, who is 5 years old. They both do sports year round and they love being active. He chose to be a teacher, because it gives him the best chance to make an impact on somebody. It gives him the chance to be a role model and mentor to somebody that really needs it. His dad went to school at Nickerson, and he wanted to go back to his roots. The chance to reinvent himself as a teacher in a more controlled environment. He's really big into sports, especially football (which is why he coaches). Taking his kids to their sporting events is always fun. He also likes to cook, making something out of nothing is just fun. He will be coaching Football at Nickerson High School.



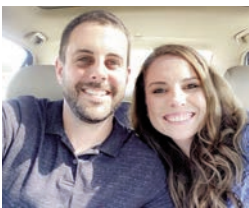
Brooke Bowman is teaching grade 6 at South Hutchinson Elementary. She previously taught grades 5 & 6. She has 5 children. Two are grown, two in high school and one starting preschool. She has wanted to be a teacher because growing up she had some wonderful influences in her life that helped her grow and she want to be that person in children's lives. She came to USD 309 because she had heard many amazing things about the district. She loves spending time with her family and traveling.

Nathan Simmons is teaching Social Sciences at Nickerson High School. He previously was going back to school living in Halstead as a full-time bus driver and substitute teacher. He has been married to his wife Jessica for 27 Years. They have 2 boys: Christian 25 and Keegan 24. Becoming a teacher has been his dream since he was in high school. He chose to teach at USD 309 because he was impressed with his visits to the district and loved the community feel. He plays guitar, collects vinyl records and vintage & die-cast toys. He will serve at the middle school as a football asst. coach. He shared a story of how he convinced the kindergarten students that there was an Easter Chicken that produced all the eggs for the Easter Bunny. The night before Easter Eve he would deliver small gifts to students from the Easter Chicken. They are now believers so much so that the teachers started asking about it.

DISTRICT OFFICE



Cody Casey is teaching grade 5 at Nickerson Elementary. He had been a paraprofessional at Nickerson Elementary the past two years. His girlfriend Audrie, will also be working at NES this school year. He has a chocolate Labrador puppy named Delilah. He chose to be a teacher, because he loves building relationships with students and making a positive impact on students' lives. He grew up in the USD 309 school district. He has worked in the school district as a coach and paraprofessional for the last few years. He loves working with the kids at USD 309! Mr Casey's hobbies are coaching, lifting weights / working out, working out on the family farm, playing and training with his puppy Delilah, and taking power naps. While doing all of this he has Maintained a 4.0 GPA in his teacher education program at Wichita State University and has been on the Dean's Honor Roll 5 times in his college career. Mr. Casey was an assistant coach of CKL Basketball Championship Team 2019. He will be an assistant at Nickerson High School for football and basketball. He will also be an assistant track coach at Reno Valley Middle School. This is his 4th year of coaching football, basketball, and track for the school district. He went to school in the USD 309 School District K-12. An interesting fact about Mr. Casey is that he owns his own cattle herd on his family farm in Newton, KS.



Payton Scheer is teaching grade 3 at Nickerson Elementary and head volleyball coach at NHS. Ms. Scheer taught grade 4 at Hays last year. Her family is from Cheney. She has a sister and younger brother who are both currently playing college basketball. As a teacher she wants to build positive relationships with kids and people. She chose to teach and coach at USD 309 because she enjoys the smaller town atmosphere, and the people were welcoming from the first time she met them. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and reading! She is also a 2019 Kansas Horizon Award Winner.



Lauren Schueren is a 3rd grade teacher at Nickerson Elementary. She is coming from Sterling College! This will be her first year of teaching. She has two brothers and one sister. Her sister and younger brother live here in Kansas, and older brother lives in northern Ohio with his family. Her mom is also in the area, and she is such a wonderful woman! She also has a shorkie (shih tzu & yorkie mix) and his name is Beau!

When she initially entered college, she was not majoring in education, but rather in business. But after a year of entry-level business courses, she decided it was not for her. Ms Schueren had always been that little girl who played "school" on the weekends with her friends, but when it came to choosing a major, teaching never crossed her mind. After her first two semesters of college, she decided to switch her major and that's when teaching finally seemed like a great option. She shadowed her aunt at the local school district--a well-experienced teacher--and decided this was the route she wanted to take! According to Ms. Schueren "It was the best decision I could have made, and I am thrilled to have joined the world of educators!" As a new teacher, she hopes to make a difference in the lives of her students for the better and give them the proper tools that will help them succeed in life! She chose to teach at USD 309 for several reasons, the first being that the district is close to her family. She'd like to stay in the Reno County area (just for now) and having them nearby is a blessing. Second, she loves the small class sizes and the faculty and staff at Nickerson are wonderful people. Ms. Schueren shared that she completed many observational and clinical hours at Nickerson Elementary, and everyone was always so friendly and kind when she was in their building. It is a great place to be! In her free time (which is sparing) she likes to take her dog on walks, read, cook, bake, spend time with family and friends, visit her boyfriend, and play lots of card & board games.



Chelsey Nichols is teaching Business at Nickerson High School. The past 2 years she has been teaching at Pleasant Ridge High School as a Business teacher. She is married to her husband, Ricky and they have three dogs. She also has three siblings that she is very close to. Her mom and dad both work in education as well, so she has gotten a glimpse of education from an early age. Her mom also works at NHS! She wanted to help students direct their lives the way they want to. Mrs. Nichols wanted to be a consistent and safe adult for them and cheer them on and reassure them of their value in life. Mrs. Nichols chose to teach at USD 309 because she felt so welcomed in her interview, it felt natural. The school seemed like they really care about their students which is so important to her! Her hobbies include watching movies, shopping, hanging out with family. Her skills include graphic design. She did a lot for her old school with social media, rosters, programs, etc. and she enjoys doing it. Mrs. Nichols will help coach volleyball and basketball.

DISTRICT OFFICE



Heather Yates is a Kindergarten teacher at Nickerson Elementary. She is coming from USD 308. Last year, she was a para working at Wiley Elementary School. She graduated from Wichita State University in December 2020.

She is married with one daughter, and two dogs. She is a new mom and recently had Aria over the summer. She found a passion for education, when she became a sign language interpreter and worked for USD 308. She found that she enjoyed coming to work every day and found that she was a natural at teaching. Her best friend moved to USD 309 and could not stop raving about how wonderful the district was. She was in the process of job searching, so she decided to put an application in for a fifth-grade teaching position at Nickerson Elementary School. She was then recruited to be one of the new kindergarten teachers. She loves spending time with family at the park and snuggling with her newborn. She is bilingual and

knows how to sign in ASL and SEE. She also knows how to type and read braille.



Sierra Proffer is joining Nickerson Elementary as a Kindergarten teacher. She graduated from Wichita State University in May 2021. She has known since she was a kid that she wanted to be a teacher. Ms. Proffer wants to impact students' lives and help them become the best versions of themselves. She knew USD 309 was the right fit for when she saw the strong community and support all teachers and students had for one another. She is so excited to be part of a great district.

Kendrick Weaver is teaching Vocal Music at Nickerson High School and Reno Valley Middle School. He finished his student teaching last fall at Northwest High School and Haysville Middle School. In December he graduated from Bethel College with a Bachelor's in K-12 Music Education. In the Spring, he subbed in Wichita. For fun, he tried to sub in as many different kinds of classrooms as possible -- from Elementary, Special Ed to Middle School Spanish and High School Literature. The variety helped him get comfortable mixing up his teaching strategies for different ages. He has one younger sister and an adorable golden retriever/poodle mix named Buddie. In high school he enjoyed music, but he was very casual about singing. As he went into his senior year, he took a chance and auditioned for Madrigals and the Fall musical. This ended up being a life-changing pair of decisions for him, because he discovered how music could make him feel so alive! From then on he was involved in choir. In college, he discovered that he could combine his desire to help people and his passion for music by pursuing a degree in music education. The more he got involved with what teaching music actually entails, the more he realized "of course this makes sense for me". What sold him on USD 309 was the staff. All the faculty he talked to in his interview made it clear they were there for the kids - not for the paycheck. He was doubly impressed when the administration was able to answer my specific questions about the choir. From there, he met the students, and the rest was history. In college, Mr. Weaver was a Choir Manager and Assistant Conductor to the top choir there. He got plenty of experience conducting ensembles and was recognized as a Teacher of Promise by the Kansas Board of Education in 2020.

Shawn Hough is teaching grade 6 at South Hutchinson Elementary. He is coming to us from Lawrence, Kansas. He is a Pittsburg State grad and is currently working on a graduate degree from Kansas State University.

John O'Neal is the Welding and Drafting instructor at Nickerson High School. He has 18 years of experience and has licensed in Kansas Industrial Arts Comprehensive Teaching License. He is a National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Core and Carpentry I Certified Instructor, has his Class "A" Commercial Driver License. He is a graduate from Fort Hays State University.



NICKERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Rick Blosser 305 S. Nickerson, Nickerson, KS 67561 422-3226 / 866-422-3226 (Toll Free) 422-3229 (Fax)

NHS Score Board



Nickerson High has a new scoreboard and many improvements to the football field this fall. The scoreboard is on the wall of the Gym located at the football field. Each end has a new time clock this year also.

New Teachers at NHS

The 2021-2022 school year brings many new teachers to NHS.

- Dawn Slifer will teach Biology and Anatomy and Physiology she came over to NHS from the Nickerson Elementary.
- Xavier Hoover will teach Special Education.
- Nathan Simmons is the new Social Studies teacher.
- Chelsey Nichols will teach Business,
- Billie Spear will be teaching Virtual Class,
- Braden Schultz also coming to NHS from Nickerson Elementary is the new Strength and Conditioning teacher who came from Nickerson Elementary where he was PE teacher.
- Kendrick Weaver will teach Vocal Music.
- John O'Neil is the Welding and CAD teacher.



The NHS cheerleaders, under the direction of Bailey Gorges, held a car wash at Dixie's Car Wash in Hutchinson, on August 7. Back row (starting to the left) is Payten Dodson, Josie Schrag, Mia Bourell, Natalie Cooper, Brie Jacobson, Jayli Groth. Front row (starting to the left) is Hannah Giles, Jenesis Gorgas, Liliانا Hoffman, Mari Martinez, and Hadley Nelson.

NHS Cheerleaders

We were very busy with the car wash! We were able to fundraise a little of \$1,600!! I was/am so incredibly proud of all my cheerleaders. They did absolutely amazing and worked so incredibly hard. In addition, I am extremely thankful for Dixie's Car Wash to allow us this amazing opportunity. Dixie Brunson, owner of the car wash, was very kind and helpful during this fundraiser. Without her, none of this would have been possible.

As for the year, I am truly excited for the season to start. While the girls worked hard in the car wash, they have worked even harder in practice. It is paying out to already make a great upcoming season. They will be continuing this hard work through an at-home camp the weekend before school starts. These wonderful ladies will be working hard to cheer on our teams, show support to our school, and provide great representation of what Nickerson High School is all about! Cheer coach is Bailey Gorges.



NICKERSON HIGH SCHOOL

NHS Begins Cross Country Season

PANTHER CROSS COUNTRY

Nickerson's Ashley Teichmann, Emily Hall and Kaden Ketterl return for the cross country team. Freshmen are Levi Pauley, Dakota Brinkley, Trenton Wood and Wyatt Shanks.

"Ashley Teichmann worked with Owen Pearce's running camp this summer and is ready to lower her time. Levi ran consistently with Coach Wiedeman. He has the stamina to run. We'll work on lowering his times.

For Levi and Ashley their goal is to qualify for state. Levi needs to be in the 18 minute range. Ashley needs to be in the 22 minute range.

Workman said the goal is to improve times and compete with Teichmann and Pauley.

"The goal is to run faster at every meet and place in the Central Kansas League meet," she said. "A long-term goal will be

to increase cross country participation and win medals. A runner qualifying for state would help that goal tremendously."

Workman said the team will compete at the junior varsity division and graduate to varsity meets as the season moves forward.

PANTHER RUNNERS

SOPHOMORES—Ashley Teichmann, Emily Hall, Kaden Ketterl

FRESHMEN—Levi Pauley, Dakota Brinkley, Trenton Wood, Wyatt Shanks

SCHEDULE—9-2—at Abilene; 9-9—at Hesston; 9-16—at Stafford; 9-23—at McPherson; 9-30—at Pratt; 10-5—at Ellsworth; 10-14—at Lyons; 10-23—at 4A regional

2021 Panther Tennis

Nickerson Panther singles players Zoe Coonce (12-14) and Olivia Rome (8-17) return along with No. 1 doubles Carly Bontrager/Lanaya Hada (4-17) and Ria Shah, who played with Alyssa Rosenberg last year. Both singles players and doubles tandems lost first-round 4A regional matches in 2020.

"Zoe Coonce and Olivia Rome will compete well in the Central Kansas League," said Nickerson tennis coach Len Smalling. "If they play to their potential, they'll place in the middle to upper half of

singles brackets. I see them as our top two players. Lanaya Hada, Carly Bontrager and Jolie Shultz will be in the mix."

With five of six top players returning, Smalling expects steady improvement.

"We're a very experienced team with players with court experience," he said. "I expect everyone to improve. At summer camp, they showed improved serves which was a weakness for us last year. They're understanding there is a difference in hitting the ball hard and placing the ball where you want it."

Several newcomers will add to the mix. Emma Rome was a freshman who attended summer camp. Sophomore Macy Wiedeman will also compete.

"Newcomers will be seen once we start the season," Smalling said.

TENNIS SCHEDULE—8-26—at Lyons; 8-31—at Hillsboro; 9-9—at Hutchinson Trinity; 9-16—at Larned; 9-20—at Lyons; 9-23—at Hillsboro; 9-28—at Kingman; 10-2—Central Kansas at Hillsboro; 10-8/9—at 4A regional

Nickerson Panther Volleyball

First-year Nickerson volleyball coach Payton Scheer plans to continue the Panthers' recent strong tradition. Nickerson (19-12) has qualified for the 4A state tournament three of the past five years. The Panthers in the regional semifinal last year to Buhler and also lost to Rose Hill for a 4A state berth in 2018.

Cheney native Scheer is optimistic the Panthers will be competitive with 6-2 hitter Ava Jones and setter Josie McLean earning All-CKL honors last year. Six players have varsity experience.

"We have a team goal to win the Central Kansas league and advance in postseason," Scheer said. "4A volleyball is very strong. Our team has high athleticism and volleyball IQ. We have talent and potential. What we do with that talent and how hard we work will help us achieve those goals. Their team chemistry is great. They enjoy being around each other on-and-off the court."

The Panthers will run a fast and explosive offense with five hitters and setter Josie McLean. The defense will feature a perimeter style of defense. The defense covers the outside of the court, and athleticism will pick up balls while moving forward.

Scheer commented on her returning varsity players.

"Ava Jones offers height in the front row. She offers athleticism and knowledge in the back row playing defense. She will see a new position by hitting more on the left side.

"Josie McLean will be our setter in a 5-1 system. She is a smart player who is knowledgeable about the game of volleyball. She has great hands and leads our team.

"Kieryn Ontjes has great experience. She's consistent and reliable. She's a very smart player.

"Kalyse Abernathy is our energy giver who works hard every day. She's constantly diving on the floor and brings energy to the gym. She encourages our younger players and makes them feel welcome.

"Kadence Newman works extremely hard and offers great consistency. She attended every open gym and learned a lot.

"Destiny Ponds works extremely hard. She's done a great job. She might playing positions she's not quite used to."

Scheer considers Smoky Valley and Hesston among the CKL favorites.

NICKERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Volleyball

CONTINUED from Page 7

“We size up well against CKL teams,” she said. “Smoky Valley and Hesston are athletic and well coached teams. We are excited to play them and look forward to those competitive matches.”

SENIORS—7 Kierny Ontjes, OH/DS; 18 Kaytlin Daines, DS

JUNIORS—9 Josie McLean, setter; 10 Ava Jones, OH/MH; 13 Lauren Nelson, DS; 15 Brooklyn Perry

SOPHOMORES—1 Destiny Ponds, MH/DS; 4 Kadence Newman, RH/DS; 5 Ayla Ontjes; 11 Avery Hambrick, RH; 14 Tenley Kauffman; 22 Kaylse Abernathy, MH

NINTH-GRADERS—2 Jayli Groth; 8 Addy Rush; 16 Adaylee Morrell; 17 Mara Pounds; 21 Rachel Nisly

C TEAM—1 Dacotah Gamber; 5 Kassie Graham; 6 Persia Bullock; 7 Kenzie Goetz; 10 Rochelle Renaude; 13 Mylee Smith; 15 Emily Carder; 20 Hayleigh Pickering; 21 A.J. Frank



SCHEDULE—8-28—Central Kansas at Lyons; 9-2—at Cheney, Wichita Independent; 9-7—at Smoky Valley, Hays High; 9-11—at Ellsworth Tournament; at Lyons JV Tournament; 9-14—Halstead, Haven; 9-23—at Sedgwick/Kingman; 9-25—at Newton Tournament; at Pratt JV Tournament; 9-28—at Pratt/Lyons; 10-5—Larned, Hesston; 10-9—at McPherson Tournament; at Marion JV Tournament; 10-12—at Hoisington/Hillsboro; 10-19—Chapman, Smoky Valley; 10-23—at 4A regional

New Coach Leads Panther Football

Nickerson’s new head football coach Reggie Langford features a wide range of playing and coaching experience.

Langford played quarterback at Sterling College and accounted for 34 passing and 16 rushing touchdowns in two seasons while leading the Warriors to the 2013 KCAC football championship.

The native of Rancho Cordova, Calif. played junior college football at American River College. He played professional football with the Hamburg (Germany) Huskies and in the Czech Republic. He’s coached at Sterling College and served three seasons at Nickerson as an assistant coach. He’s operated a quarterback academy where he trains local and Wichita-area athletes.

Nickerson (0-8) was outscored by an average score of 45-15 last season. The Panthers averaged 203 yards rushing and 44 yards passing, but struggled defensively.

“Last season, we were affected by lack of depth defensively,” he said. “When we started to lose players for various reasons, it was tough to perform the way we would’ve liked. We’ve simplified things defensively, so our players can play fast-and-free. We have more experience on defense, so we’re looking forward to improvement.”

Langford said a young football team will build improvement on a positive culture and decent speed. The biggest disadvantage is lack of experience with a relatively young football team.

The Panthers plan to operate a spread-style offense.

“It fits our personnel and gives us a chance to use our speed,” he said. “We plan to play fast and play an exciting brand of football. The potential to be good offensively is there, but we have to execute every week.”

RB/LB Keaton Nevins rushed for 787 yards and scored seven touchdowns. He accounted for 32 tackles. “Keaton will be our workhorse back. He’s one of the hardest workers, and is looking to have a breakout season.”

QB/SS Colton Morrell (42 tackles) will play quarterback.

“He’s had a great summer and gives us an opportunity to be versatile on offense.”

Former QB Blake Teichmann will swing to receiver. “Blake looks like the fastest player on the field. We’re looking forward to him having a great year.”

OL/DL Sam Logan (44 tackses) earned Central Kansas League honors in 2020. “Sam has worked hard and does little things right. He’ll be an anchor on the line both sides of the ball. We expect him to have a great year.”

Sophomore OL/DL Karson Engelland made an impact as a freshman. “Karson is one of the smartest football players on the field who will play center. He’ll play a lot of football as a sophomore.”

OL/DL Matthew Monroe will be a two-way player. “Monroe has the drive that it takes to be a great football player. He’ll be a huge part of our line on both sides of the ball. He’s going to have a great year.”

LB Kohen Starnes(47 tackles) is the top defender returning. Kohen has worked hard to improve his game. We expect good things. He’s ready to take the next step as a player.”

Langford said the Panthers will employ a 4-2-5 defense.

“We plan to play fast defensively and keep things simple,” Langford said.

The 3A football District features Cheney, Holcomb and Pratt.

SCHEDULE—9-3—at Hillsboro; 9-10—Halstead; 9-17—Lyons; 9-24—*at Holcomb; 10-1—*Hugoton; 10-8—*Larned; 10-15—*at Cheney; 10-22—*at Pratt; 10-29—postseason

NICKERSON HIGH SCHOOL

NHS Lift-a-Thon



The Nickerson High ladies golf team is shown here getting in a few swings. Left to Right – Hannah Heinz, Makenna Dodson, Jessica Shelton, Cadie O'Neal. Not pictured is Emily Malecki.

NHS Girls Golf

Girls' golf is back for another campaign led by senior Makenna Dodson. Makenna is the most experienced golfer and even qualified for the state golf tournament her sophomore year.

The team will rely on her to be a positive role model, not a stretch for her kind, caring nature. Junior Emily Malecki improves with each season. She and sophomore Jessica Shelton will most likely bring in the teams' number two and three scores. Freshmen Hannah Heinz and Cadie O'Neal round out the team. These two are fairly new to the game and their excitement will make their improvements climb. Coach Marilyn Smith enters her 24th year as the NHS golf coach. She's thrilled to have these five quality ladies out, and looks forward to a stellar season!



Cody Casey watches as Michael Cunningham, Senior, lifts during the lift-a-thon on Saturday, August 7, at the school. Panther football weight-lifters came together under the direction of Reggie Langford for the event.



Ava Jones lifts weights during the lift-a-thon at NHS, while Josie McLean assists as a spotter.



Sam Logan, Panther Senior, is lifting during the lift-a-thon on Saturday, August 7, at the school. Panther Pride was set up selling new Panther gear for the school year.

RENO VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Vince Naccarato 1616 N. Wilshire RR 3, Hutchinson, KS 67501 662-4573 / 866-662-4573 (Toll Free) 662-6708 (Fax)



Students who made the trip to Washington enjoyed the sights and had a great time learning all the buildings in Washington D. C. they were able to visit.

RVMS Students, Staff See History

Contributed by Scott Wiedeman

“The Trip of a Lifetime!” started over two years ago when the students were 6th and 7th graders, signing up for the World Classrooms’ DC trip that was supposed to happen in 2019.

Due to COVID, the trip was postponed until 2020 when the current freshmen and sophomores, loaded a bus July 19th and headed to the Kansas City, Mo. airport.

Twenty-four students and 15 parents, some making their first flight and trip out-of-state, met tour guide Dawn, who introduced every memorial, museum, and location. She provided historical significance, facts, stories, and protocols.

The first stop was the WWII Memorial, the Washington Monument, and a trip at the National Pentagon 9/11 Memorial.

Also visited were the Martin Luther King Memorial, FDR Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial.

As the sun set on our first day, it was time to head to the luxurious Gaylord National Resort at the National Harbor. It

was recently renovated with dazzling lights dancing across a spectacular atrium.

Day 2 started with a visit to Arlington Cemetery, where we witnessed a rare funeral processional with a horse-drawn casket of a general, the Changing of the Guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After lunch, we visited the recently completed memorial of Kansas’ native son, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Another special treat was our visit coincided with the first day the Smithsonian reopened to the public without an appointment pass.

We toured as much of the Museum of American History as an hour would permit, seeing, Dorothy Gale’s ruby slippers, Lincoln’s top hat, and the Star-Spangled Banner.

After supper, we made a reflective visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial (currently under renovation) before concluding our day at the Lincoln Memorial.

Day 3 was devoted to the Gettysburg

National Military Park, an unforgettable experience.

We drove along the battlegrounds, with a tour guide narrating the events of the Civil War’s bloodiest battle, that would inspire Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

The evening concluded with supper in Alexandria, and time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the National Harbor and hang out at our hotel.

On Day 4, we headed to Mt. Vernon, home of George Washington.

Each room of the mansion was described, as well as the enslaved quarters. We toured the grounds, Washington’s tomb, and slave cemetery, and museum.

Our final afternoon we made it to the Marine Corps War Memorial, and a walk to Lafayette Park, where we stood outside the White House fence. With one more drive-by glimpse of the US Capitol, we were on our way to the airport and back home to Kansas!

This trip was spectacular. Parents and

RENO VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Washington, D.C.

CONTINUED from Page 16

students said the year's delay was worth a remarkable adventure.

Photos of the Washington DC can be viewed at my gallery: <https://wiedemanphotography.zenfolio.com/washingtondc2021>

Students traveling were Chance Barr, Carsen Blasdel, Kennedy Blasdel, Persia Bullock, Natalie Cooper, Micah Engstrom, Myckenzie Goetz, Tyler Hoffman, Breckyn Isley, Tenley Kaufmann, Cage Kelly, Alex King, Riley Linn, Manuel Martinez, Landon McClintock, Jolie Oquenda, Daniel Pride, Kieran Riggins, Ria Shah, Jessica Shelton and Corey Simmons.

Parents attending were Kris Baymiller, Shiloh Blasdel, Barbra Engstrom, Jeanette Hoffman, Misty Isley, Lisa Kaufmann, Allan Kelly, Parker McAllister, Nola Shelton, Tracy Simmons and Kayla Wiedeman.

Scott Wiedeman and Eden Barr were the RVMS sponsors.



Panthers visit the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial, across the tidal basin from Jefferson Memorial.



Jessica Shelton pets Fala, a sculpture of FDR's most beloved dog, said to be a gesture of good luck, at the FDR Memorial.



Manual Martinez, Carsen Blasdel, Daniel Pride, Jolie Oquenda, Ria Shah, Macy Wiedeman, and Kennedy Blasdel pose across the tidal basin from the Jefferson Memorial.



Right: Dawn the tour guide somberly explains the significance and symbolism of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

RENO VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

RVMS Vocal Teacher

There is one teacher who comes to RVMS this year to teach Vocal Music. Kendrick Weaver is the new teacher at RVMS he has one class with Reno Valley students.

Reno Valley Fall Sports

VOLLEYBALL—9-2—Pratt Liberty; 9-7—at Hutchinson Trinity; 9-9—at Haven; 9-16—Halstead; 9-20—Haven; 9-23—at Hoisington; 9-28—Smoky Valley; 9-30—at Hillsboro 10-2—8th at Ellsworth Tournament; 10-7—at Lindsborg; 10-9—7th at Pratt Tournament; 10-14—Larned; 10-16—8th Central Kansas League at Haven

FOOTBALL—9-2—Pratt Liberty; 9-9—at Haven; 9-16—Halstead; 9-23—at Hoisington; 9-30—at Hillsboro; 10-7—at Lindsborg; 10-14—Larned; 10-16—Central Kansas League at Haven

CROSS COUNTRY—9-2—at Abilene; 9-7—at Hutchinson; 9-16—at Stafford; 9-21—at McPherson; 9-30—at Pratt; 10-5—at Ellsworth; 10-14—at Lyons, Central Kansas League

RVMS Coaches for 2021-2022

The RVMS Coaches for 2021-2022 are listed below. Good luck to all the RVMS teams this fall!

Volleyball

Jenna Weimer, Head
Makenzie Starnes, B team
Makena Lare, C team

Football

Kyle Vedder, Head
Tyson Weber
Nathen Simmons
Nathan Shelton

Cross Country

Scott Wiedeman

RVMS Football Roster 2021

COACHES—Kyle Vedder, Tyson Weber, Nathen Simmons, Nathan Shelton

7TH GRADE—2 Rylan Morrell; 11 Max White; 12 Kingston Werner; 13 Conner White; 14 Angie Shultz; 20 Corbin Shelton; 21 Chase Welch; 51 Aaden Vedder; 60 Elijah Chapman; 70 Elijah Trass; 74 Allen Rohling; 76 Ellery Stapleton; 78 Dagan Schneider; 84 Kaidence Keeler

8TH GRADE—4 Lian Hedrick; 5 Evan Trostle; 10 Magnas Legron; 15 Teagan Lowmax; 23 Deion Hamilton; 50 Brayden Mathis; 52 Atton Nelson; 64 Tyler Hauck; 75 Kaden Gillis; 77 Xsavior Cervantes; 79 Jayden Belote; 80 Tyler Morrell; 81 Haygen Murphy; 82 Austin Peterson; 83 Kristopher Monroe; 86 Riley Brawner; 87 Omar Bermudez

Trap Shooters



Trap shooters from RVMS take the hunter safety course prior to the new season during the summer. Season begins on Aug 18 those interested should contact Larry Meadows with questions. The RVMS purpose is getting kids outside having fun and teaching a lifelong skill. If you are wanting to shoot for the fall season, you will need hunter safety.

RVMS Cross Country Begins

Cross Country is officially off and running at Reno Valley Middle School! Starting practice on August 16, Our small but mighty squad of TWO runners presently includes Andy Huggard and Amelia Peil. The cool thing about Cross Country is we won't practice in the same place. Every week we will explore different routes and different locations, to gain experience running in different conditions. We also practice with the high school team, so experienced runners get the chance to help new runners develop their skills. Practice locations include around the school grounds of RVMS and NHS (called "Panther Laps"), Nickerson streets, Willowbrook, Rice Park, Carey Park, and the Highlands, to name a few. We are looking forward to an exciting and intense season! Scott Wiedeman is the Cross Country coach this fall at RVMS.

NICKERSON ELEMENTARY

Principal: Amy Jones 400 N. Nickerson, Nickerson 67651 422-3215 / 866-422-3215 (Toll Free) 422-3216 (Fax)

Welcome Back Students

Students are welcomed back to school by teacher Michelle Collins on the first day of school, August 17, 2021.



Gift Card



Paige and Kyle are the recipients of the Nickerson Elementary Meet Your Teacher Night, \$50 Berridge's gift card. Congratulations!!



Michelle Collins reads to her class on August 17, 2021 the first day of school at Nickerson Elementary.

Michelle Collins Welcomes Class

This is Michlelle Collins 16th year teaching at Nickerson Elementary. "Fifteen years in 1st grade and one year in 2nd, then add 5 years for Nickerson Head Start, "Time flies when you are having fun," she said "I can't believe it!"

Mrs. Collins was just getting ready to read "First Day Jitters" by Julie Danneberg to her class on the first day of school. Such a fun book about being nervous about your first day of school. The book keeps students guessing about who is anxious. Students predicted it was a new student, but they learn that the teacher was the one who was nervous. They were so surprised!

6th Graders



6th graders get back into the swing of school by playing a skill review game in ELA and reviewing math concepts with Mr. Wellman. John Wellman returned to Nickerson Elementary 6th grade this school year.

NICKERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Curtis Field, NES PE

Nickerson Panther basketball coach Curtis Field has shifted to Nickerson Elementary School as a physical education instructor.

“I moved to NES because teaching elementary PE was the most enjoyable position I’ve had in my professional career,” he said. “I loved my first teaching job at Dodge City’s Wilroads Garden Elementary in Dodge City.”

Field also taught and coached basketball at Lawrence Free State High School.

Field’s physical education classes will vary, depending on the number of students in each homeroom class.

“At NES, I look forward to helping students move their bodies and learn a variety of skills every day while having fun,” he said. “I’m looking forward to the 5th and 6th-grade track meet.”

Field will start his fifth season coaching varsity basketball at Nickerson High School.

“I’m looking forward to continuing in that role as well,” Field said.

Kindergartners Practice New Routines & Procedures



Kindergarten boys and girls in Ms. Proffer’s class practice new routines and procedures on their first days of school.



Lyndi Almquist, Remington Wilson and Ashlynn Eshbaugh are getting used to their new classroom on the first day of school at Nickerson Elementary.



SOUTH HUTCHINSON ELEMENTARY

Principal: Chelsey Mathias 405 S. Poplar, South Hutchinson 67505 665-8441/866-665-8441(Toll free) 665-7481 (Fax)



Mrs.Hannah Cook had a great first day of school with her new students in 1st grade on August 17. The class is shown here outside the school.

- Ethan Broeckelman
- Jeffrey Brown
- Abbie Covert
- Bentlee Ericson
- MycKayla Goetz
- Rudy Gomez
- Ainsley Martin
- Lincoln Martin
- Micah Nisly
- Angel Rodriguez
- A'Daliah Terrell



Eilish Samuelson, Neoshea Bergman, and Kelli Lauder milk, the 4th grade teachers at SHE, are shown here at Back-to-School Night.



The new support teacher at SHE is Kinzie Flowers. She is shown here at Back-to-School Night.



Teachers of the 5th grade are Rae Beck and Vicki Huston at South Hutchinson Elementary School. They enjoyed the Back-to-School Night Watermelon Feed on August 18.

<p>Parent Newsletter is published irregularly during the school year by USD 309 4501 West Fourth Hutchinson, KS 67501</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS Curtis Nightingale</p> <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION Dan Schweizer, president Brent Engelland, vice president Jay Mitzner Luke Herren Gordon Roth Mike Apfel</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 147 617 220">U S</td> <td data-bbox="682 147 812 220">4501 West 4th Hutchinson, KS 67501</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="470 220 617 304">D 30</td> <td data-bbox="682 231 860 304">(620) 663-7141 (877) 663-7141 Toll free (620) 663-7148 Fax</td> </tr> </table> <p>RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED</p>	U S	4501 West 4th Hutchinson, KS 67501	D 30	(620) 663-7141 (877) 663-7141 Toll free (620) 663-7148 Fax	<p>Nonprofit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 219 Hutchinson, KS 67501</p>
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Notes from the Nurse

Welcome back USD 309 - to say that the last 18 months have provided some challenges and interesting learning curves would be the understatement of the century. I can honestly say that I am proud to be a USD 309 Panther staff member and I am so proud of what we all have accomplished TOGETHER! As we get back into the swing of the school year and many more unknowns, I want to let you know that I am here for you if you have questions or concerns. I am in each building during the week and I spend Fridays floating wherever the needs are - feel free to call or email me anytime.

Thank you for those that have turned in paperwork and completed the online health management system - SchoolCare. I love that SchoolCare (formerly known as CareDox) allows me to have ALL health information easily accessible since I am at all four school buildings throughout each week. Parents have access to SchoolCare always and can change or update information at any time that is convenient for you! It is imperative that you enter your child's health information as soon as possible, as we do not want to delay in ensuring that we are serving your children to the best of our ability. Please be sure to COMPLETELY and ACCURATELY enter your child(ren)'s data and make certain that you download and print any of the additional forms that you might need (i.e. Medication Permission, Asthma Action, Diabetes, Allergy Action, Meal Modification, etc.).

We have had a great number of children coming through the lunch line saying, "I can't have that, I'm allergic", to various foods that are served. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FOOD ALLERGY OR SENSITIVITY, WE MUST HAVE PROPER MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR CHILD.** Please familiarize yourself with the menu and if your child cannot have a food item, please get with me and I will get you the proper paperwork to have completed.

As I go through paperwork - if I find that your child is missing required information, I will be sending out notifications. You will have until October 8, 2021 to turn in necessary and required paperwork for school attendance or your child will not be permitted to attend school and/or athletic activities until it is turned in.

Let's have a healthy, happy, successful school year ~ D'ana Heinlein, USD 309 District Nurse

School Health Checklist

- Check your child's immunization status and update the health office of any recent vaccinations. **ALL 7th grade students are required to have a Tdap booster and meningitis (MCV4) shot.** ALL JUNIORS are required to have the meningitis vaccination on or after their 16th birthday.
- Ensure that all of the required paperwork (i.e. Proof of Birth, current physical, immunization record) is turned in to the health office as soon as possible. Students entering Preschool and Kindergarten and any new student to the district are **REQUIRED** to have an current immunization record, proof of birth, and a current physical on file.
- Make sure you completed all information on SchoolCare, print any additional forms and get parent and/or physician signatures. Please turn in forms immediately after completing them (you can also scan and email them to dheinlein@usd309ks.org).
- Let me know if there are any changes to your child's health or if you have any concerns.
- If your child needs medication during the school day - **Print and complete the Medication Authorizations for both prescription and non-prescription medications your child will take at school.**

BRING ALL MEDICATION IN THE ORIGINAL BOTTLE WITH THE CORRECT MEDICATION LABEL! Marking things out on the medication label is against the law and the medication will be withheld until a new, correct label is brought to the school. Any time the medication or the dose changes, a new form must be completed. **NO MEDICATION SENT TO SCHOOL IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO A CHILD.** This includes over the counter medications as well. **WE WILL ADHERE TO THIS POLICY!** Please make sure that the medication has not expired - I cannot legally keep/administer expired meds.

Please remember that a child must be fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours **WITHOUT FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION** before returning to school after an illness. This may be increased to 72 hours depending on the child's symptoms/illness. Encourage good hand hygiene, plenty of rest, a well balanced diet, and plenty of exercise and fresh air. Please keep your child home when they are ill and make sure we have the correct phone number to reach parents/guardian in any medical emergency.