Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools



MAY, 2026 Newsletter

Dear parents,

Thank you for all you have done to make the 2025-2026 school year another great one at Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools. We appreciate your support and your teamwork as we all work to do what is best for our kids. Parenting isn't an easy job, but it's the most important one you have and I want to thank you for all you do for your kids and your support this school year.

As we enter the home stretch of the school year, it sure is a busy time at HNS with activities and field trips. Please be sure to encourage your students to finish the year as strong as possible. With nice weather and days missed for fun activities, it's easy to forget the reason why we are all here and helping them to commit to finishing the year the right way even when it's not easy will be a good life lesson for them to take moving forward.

Soon we will start a project for more parking to the south of the school. This will be to the west of the playground and will give us more parking spaces for the regular school day and activities as well. The project is set to start soon and should be completed in July, so the new area will be ready for the new school year.

Summer is right around the corner, so please keep in mind that we are still here to serve you in the summer months. The office staff, administration, and custodians all work during the summer. What do we do? Well, the custodians work very hard to make sure the school gets a good deep clean over the summer, something they can only do when there are no kids in the building. The administration and the office staff will be busy filing reports to wrap up the school year and then will begin preparations for the next. There's always something going on at HNS!

I hope you all have a great summer. My wish is that you can find some time to relax and spend time with your children, whether it be on an official vacation, or just some quiet time at home. It's important for us all to recharge for the new school year. August 13 will be here before we know it.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

A. J. Johnson
Superintendent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

May 1	**Amber Davies and the High Ability Learning (HAL) students to the Omaha Zoo**
May 1	**Ryan Macholan and fourth grade students to Homer**
May 4	**High School Awards Night at 6:30 p.m. (Grades 9 – 12)**
May 5	**K-6 Spring Concert at 6:30 p.m.**
May 6	**Kindergarten Field Trip to Sioux Falls Zoo**
May 6	**First Grade Field Trip to Dreamers – at Wayne**
May 8	**Third Grade Field Trip to Sioux Falls Zoo**
May 8	**First Grade Field Trip to Burbach Dairy**
May 11	**K – 6 Track and Field Day**
May 12	**Fifth Grade Students to Aqua Fest at Wayne**
May 12	**Preschool Promotion at 2:45 p.m.**
May 12	**Kindergarten Graduation at 6:30 p.m.**
May 14	**Class C District Track at Hartington**
May 15	**Commencement Rehearsal – 8:00 a.m. – Pictures / 9:00 a.m. - Practice**
May 16	**Commencement at 1:00 p.m.**
May 18	**District Golf at Fair Play in Norfolk**
May 19	**Last Day of School – Noon Dismissal – No Breakfast or Lunch – Buses will run**
May 20-21	**Teacher In-service and Work Days**
May 22-23	**State Track**
May 24	**Close Up Students Leave on their trip (They will return on May 31)**
May 25	**Memorial Day**
May 27-28	**State Golf at Grand Island**
June 1-5	**Dr. Education Classes at Hartington-Newcastle Public School – 8:00 a.m. - Noon**

ATTENTION PARENTS:
No teacher in-service in May.

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ATTENTION PARENTS:
JUST A REMINDER – ALL LUNCH BILLS, MILK BILLS, BOOK FINES, SHOP BILLS, ETC. MUST BE PAID IN FULL ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE THE STUDENTS CAN CHECK OUT.

DRIVER EDUCATION CLASSES

Driver Education Classes will be offered this summer at Hartington-Newcastle Public School. The classroom portion will run from June 1 thru June 5 each day from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Classroom sessions are mandatory with no make ups. Five hours of behind the wheel driving will be scheduled over the rest of the summer. The cost is $325.00. **Registration Deadline is May 1st!** Any questions – please call Ron Rolfes at 402-357-2130.

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ATTENTION PARENTS:

Just a reminder: All incoming seventh graders must have a physical.

<u>School Physical Forms are in the seven thru eleven end of the year packets</u>. The Avera Medical Group here in Hartington will be offering Well Child Exams and sports physicals throughout the summer during clinical hours of Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. They are requesting that you schedule your child's physical sooner rather than later this summer. (402-254-3935)

NEWS FROM KEN KNEIFL

Remaining ACT Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 27, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026

***Note: Any student who wishes to take the ACT this summer, and does NOT have a John Baylor "Onto College" account, please see Mr. Kneifl and an "Onto College" account can be set up for them.**

You may register for the ACT either online at www.actstudent.org. The high school code for Hartington-Newcastle Public School is 281-035.

SAT Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline
May 2, 2026	Past	Past
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

The easiest way to register for the SAT is to go online at www.collegeboard.com. Again, the high school code for Hartington-Newcastle Public School is 281-035.

Students who wish to take the SAT test should be aware that we do offer the John Baylor SAT Test Prep Course. See Mr. Kneifl for further information.

Senior/Senior Parent Notes

******* A reminder that the Nebraska Department is requiring, as a graduation requirement, that all graduating seniors apply for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or sign a waiver indicating they are choosing not to file. That waiver then must be given to the school prior to graduation. The waiver form can be found in the Newsfeed on the school's website. It can also be obtained at the Central Office.**

The FAFSA is the form needed to obtain financial aid from the government. To complete this online form both the student and the parent will need an FSA ID which will serve as your electronic signature. Each will also need their own e-mail.

For the student it is best not to use their school e-mail as this is the ID number that will be used in future years.

The FAFSA application is free of charge. If you find you are being charged for it, you are at the wrong site. Again applying through the FAFSA is free of charge.

I encourage seniors who are awarded any scholarships (does not matter if they are attending the college which may be awarding the scholarship) to please provide me with written documentation of the award. This is what is read at graduation and goes on the graduation program. All known documented awards are recognized at graduation.

Seniors should also continue to look for scholarship opportunities. Make sure you are aware of scholarship criteria and deadlines.

This spring a number of seniors will be awarded scholarships from local donors. In the graduation packet of each senior awarded any type of local scholarship, is a list of local awards they have won. Included in this are dollar amounts, payment details, and of extreme importance, names and addresses where the recipient may send a thank you note. These thank you notes are extremely important. After all, these donors do not have to do this. They do this because they know not only the importance of furthering one's education, but they know the cost of such an education. It is their way to help. Please parents, help your graduate in making sure thank you notes are sent in a timely fashion. These notes should include who they are, where they are attending college, and what they will study. In their packets I will include thank you note tips. These notes are truly the right thing to do.

Parents! I want you to know that I have enjoyed working with your sons/daughters and with you. The next chapter of your journey with your children will be exciting. I wish these young people the very best and, just because they become alumni, it does not mean they are no longer members of the HNPS family. If they need, I hope they feel they can continue to contact us if they find they need to. On that note I also hope they stop in and say hi and update us as to what they are doing in life because they want to. Once a Cat, always a Cat! Best wishes to the Class of 2026!

Mr. Kneifl

NEWS FROM MRS. CARISSA KLEINSCHMIT

Hello from Mrs. Kleinschmit's 6th Grade! It is almost unbelievable that the end of the year is almost here, and soon they will all be 7th graders! This class has had a year full of laughs and learning, and we are looking forward to finishing the year strong!

As the school year comes to a close, it's incredible to reflect on how much our 6th graders have grown. What began as a year filled with first-day jitters has transformed into a classroom of confident, capable young individuals. Watching this change is always my favorite part of the year!

Throughout these final months, the students have been soaking in many "lasts"—their last holiday parties, last concerts, and, as THE WHOLE CLASS would proudly say, their last spelling tests. While these moments can feel bittersweet, they mark important milestones in their elementary journey. These "lasts" are what make the upcoming "firsts" so meaningful. As students prepare to take their next steps, they carry with them not only the knowledge they've gained, but also a sense of maturity, confidence, and readiness for what lies ahead.

With the end in sight, the class is looking forward to our field trip, track & field day, and all the other activities that come with the finality of the school year. We are working daily to gain skills and knowledge to be prepared for 7th grade. They are a little nervous, but excited for the change. This class has been such a joy to teach and I am looking forward to watching them succeed in their future endeavors.



Mrs. Stevens's Second Grade Stories

Our year has gone by in a flash! The kids have learned so much already. I am happy to say we have enjoyed every minute of it!

Every day we stretch our brains and speed through math facts! Many of the class have mastered addition and subtraction and moved onto multiplication. Over the past few weeks we have also worked on more complex 3-digit addition and subtraction problems too.

Reading and comprehension are a must for us! We take time every day to read stories and discuss the author's meanings. During our class discussions, everyone does an amazing job of participating and talking about their favorite parts of what we are reading, recently it has been poetry and greek myths! The class loved acting out the parts in the play our book provided, taking turns reading the parts and being the best actors they could be!

Last week, our class went on a field trip to the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The students were able to explore all kinds of science exhibits that included space, nature, a variety of different occupations. The students took turns pretending to be nurses and astronauts and farmers! It was a day filled with hands on learning.

Another interactive lesson our students participated in recently was mailing Flat Stanley letters all across the country to friends and family members! Flat Stanley is a project that teaches them about different regions of the world while still keeping the creativity of our fictional book character alive! We were lucky enough to have mail sent to us from California, Texas, Utah, and even Alaska! With each state we received Flat Stanley mail from, we did some research to find out its distance from us well as some interesting facts about those locations!

Wow, as I think about our year in a glimpse, I am overwhelmed with how much we have learned and how much we have grown! Even though we will miss each other as the year comes to an end, we are all so excited for summer! It has been so much fun getting to see everyone learn and grow this year!

Mrs. Stevens and the Second Grade

Pierce Honor Band - Students who auditioned and were selected for this honor band.
Max Wiedenfeld (2nd Chair -1st Alto Sax, Danika Kleinschmit, and Sarah Clark (1st Chair -1st Trombone)





Jazz Band takes home a Plaque and 3 superiors at the District Music Contest.
Jazz Band Members performing at the contest: Piano - Brooklyn Lenhoff, Trap Set - Emily Climer, Bass - Henry Folkers.
First Row: Saxophones - Danika Kleinschmit, Max Wiedenfeld, Harper Folkers, Elliot Kneifl (behind Mrs. Hahne), Randall Huesers, Issac Santiago.
Second Row Trombones - Nathan Heimes, Sarah Clark, Camryn Bruning, Aidan Anderson, Caleb Heimes, Merrick Folkers, Kyptin Collier, Kate Wiedenfeld
Third Row Trumpets - Alyk Zach, Trynity Zach, Malyla Zach, Cell Martell, Logan Kneifl.



Sibling Trumpet Trio Earns Superior Rating at DMC: The Trumpet Trio of Trynity Zach, Alyk Zach, and Malyla Zach earn a superior rating at District Contest.

May, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER	**ALL MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**			01 Assorted Cereal Bars/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Walking Taco Lettuce Tomatoes Red Peppers Fruit Milk **Mrs. Davies & HAL Field Trip** **Ryan Macholan and his fourth grade students to Homer**	02
03	04 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chips Fresh Veggies Fruit Milk **High School Awards Night for grades 9-12 @ 6:30 p.m.**	05 Chocolate Muffins/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Mandarin Orange Chicken Rice Bread Veggies Fruit Milk **K-6 Spring Concert – at 6:30 p.m.**	06 Cheese Omelet/Toast/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Hamburger/Bun Hash browns or Tater Tots Veggies Fruit Milk **Kindergarten Students to Sioux Falls Zoo** **First Grade – Dreamers – at Wayne**	07 Donuts/Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Veggies Fruit Milk	08 Assorted Cereal Bars/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Chili Soup Cinnamon Rolls Veggies Fruit Milk **Grade 3 Field Trip to Great Plains Zoo – Sioux Falls** **Grade 1 – to Burbach Dairy**	09
10 **Mother's Day**	11 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Cooks' Choice of Hotdogs or Mini Corn Dogs Potato Wedges Veggies Fruit Milk **K- 6 Field Day**	12 Chocolate Bread/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Pizza/Quesadilla/Fiestada Veggies Fruit Milk **Fifth Grade Students to Aqua Fest at Wayne** **Preschool Promotion – at 2:45 p.m.** **Kindergarten Graduation at 6:30 p.m.**	13 Sausage and Egg Patty Sandwich/Fruit/Juice/Milk Meatballs or Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Peas Fruit Milk	14 Frudels/Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Day Chips Veggies Fruit Milk **Class C District Track at Hartington**	15 Pumpkin/Banana/or Chocolate Bread/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Pulled Pork Sandwich Veggies Fruit Milk **Graduation Practice** **Pictures at 8:00 a.m.** **Practice at 9:00 a.m.**	16 **Commencement @ 1:00 p.m.**
17	18 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Ham & Cheese Sandwich Veggies Fruit Milk **District Golf @ Fair Play in Norfolk**	19 **Last Day of School** **Noon Dismissal** **No Breakfast** **No Lunch** **Buses Will Run**	20 **Teachers In-service**	21 **Teachers In-service**	22 **State Track**	23 **State Track**
24 Close Up Students Leave 31 Close Up Students Return	25 **Memorial Day** June 1 **Dr. Ed. – 8:00 a.m.**	26 June 2 **Dr. Ed. – 8:00 a.m.**	27 **State Golf at Grand Island** June 3 **Dr. Ed. – 8:00 a.m.**	28 **State Golf at Grand Island** June 4 **Dr. Ed. – 8:00 a.m.**	29 **June 5 Dr. Ed. – 8:00 a.m.**	30

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER
HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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