Hartington-Newcastle

Public Schools



March, 2026

Newsletter

KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION SET FOR HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Kindergarten Registration

On Friday, April 17th, Kindergarten Registration will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools. Sign-up will be available for 1 of the 2 session times. Children will take part in classroom activities and meeting their teacher.

Any child who is a resident of School District #8 and who will be 5 years old on or before July 31, 2026 is eligible for kindergarten.

According to state law and the school board policy, kindergarten students will need to have a physical exam and an eye exam prior to the first day of school.

Parents or guardians are asked to call the school secretary at 402-254-3947 to set up a Registration Day appointment for their child entering kindergarten. Choices of session times are 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Preschool Registration:

Any child who will be 4 years old on or before July 31, 2026 is eligible for preschool. Preschool parents or guardians are asked to call the school secretary at 402-254-3947 to register for the 2026-2027 school year. Preschool will have Registration Day on April 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Parents or guardians are asked to call the school secretary at 402-254-3947 to set up a Registration Day appointment for their child entering kindergarten. Choices of session times are 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Parents or guardians of an eligible 2026-2027 kindergarten and/or preschool child will receive a registration packet. Parents or guardians are asked to fill out the forms in advance and bring them to school on registration day along with the child's birth certificate. Hospital certificates cannot be accepted.

Any person who has or who knows of an eligible child that has not received a registration packet should contact the school.

There will be no regular preschool or kindergarten classes on Kindergarten Registration Day.

Sarah Edwards, HNS Elementary Principal

TEACHER IN-SERVICE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – Teacher In-service. We will have a noon dismissal. Lunch will be served. There will be no preschool.

ATTENTION PARENTS

REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR ON MARCH 8, 2026.

SPRING BREAK

NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13!

DISTRICT SPEECH

Friday, March 20 – District Speech at Creighton.

News From Mr. Ken Kneifl

Remaining ACT Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline
April 5, 2025	March 16, 2025	February 28, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025
July 12, 2025	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025

*Note: The juniors will take the ACT on April 9th as part of the state mandated testing. They will go through the John Baylor Onto College ACT Prep prior to the test. We strongly encourage the juniors to take this opportunity and use it to the best of their abilities. As they prepare for college, the ACT can be part of the admission process and is used for scholarship and class placement purposes. The ACT or MAP scores are also used as eligibility criteria to take Mrs. Stappert's English IV class as well as Mr. Rolfes's Trigonometry and Calculus classes for college credit.

The sophomores will go through a Pre-ACT test on that day. This test does not have any direct implications on college but is a useful experience in their preparation for their junior testing.

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
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025

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 the Nebraska Department of Education has made it a graduation requirement that all seniors/senior parents must file a FAFSA application or complete the FAFSA Opt Out form. The FAFSA Opt Out form can be found on the Hartington-Newcastle Public School website.

The FAFSA form itself can be found at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA application is free of charge. If you find that you are being charged for it, you are at the wrong site. Again, applying for the FAFSA is free of charge.

Seniors are allowed two college visitation days which do not count against their attendance. The deadline for visits is April 15, 2025. After that date the student can still take visits but it may count against their attendance. If a student needs to take a college visit after this deadline, the student must get permission from Superintendent Johnson for it not to count against their attendance. Visits can be set by the family by going to the college website.

This is the time of year that many seniors are either making their college choice or are narrowing the options greatly. Seniors should contact those colleges they have applied to when they know for certain they are NOT attending to let that school know. As seniors make their choice, they need to be in contact with that school to see what still needs to be done. This may include things like making their housing plans.

Finally, as students are awarded scholarships, please provide Mr. Kneifl with written documentation of the awards. This is what is read at graduation and goes in the graduation program. It does not matter if the student is attending the college of which the award is made. All known documented awards are recognized at graduation.

- The Hartington-Newcastle School Education Foundation Scholarship application and the Hartington Chamber of Commerce Scholarship application are due March 7th. These applications are found within the Appcentri account each senior has.

- The local scholarship application is handed to the seniors in March and has a due date in early April. I encourage all seniors who are college bound to apply. This single application makes the applicant eligible for not all, but for a number of local scholarships. Different scholarship donors are looking for different things. Again, I encourage all college bound seniors to make application. A final FYI. There will be several other singular local applications which will be made available to the seniors. I will keep the seniors posted as they become available.

8th Grade Update

The 8th Grade Career day at Northeast Community College that was postponed from February 12th has been rescheduled for March 26th. The students will leave school at 8:00 a.m. that day and return by 2:15 p.m.

Close Up – Update

Our fundraisers for the month of March include:

- Cookies delivered March 23

Thank you for supporting us in our fundraisers. We appreciate your support.

As always, we will keep you updated on our future fundraisers.

HNS Close Up Students and Mrs. Spahr

Dear Families,

We have had such an exciting and productive few weeks in second grade! Our class recently participated in the ReadBowl reading challenge led by former Super Bowl champion Malcom Mitchell, and I am proud to share that we read over 3,600 minutes in 4 weeks as a class! It was fun to see their excitement about books and working towards this goal.

We also had a blast completing a Math Escape Room! Students worked as a class to solve math problems, uncover clues, and try to "escape" within one hour. It was fun to see them collaborate and practice important math concepts. Our Valentine's Day party was another highlight. The students enjoyed making their bags, exchanging cards, and sharing treats.

In math, we have been focusing on solving word problems and subtracting with regrouping. In science, we are learning about Earth's surfaces and erosion, exploring how wind, water and ice change the land over time. In social studies, we have been discussing President's Day and learning about important leaders in our country's history, as well as recognizing and celebrating Black History Month.

Thank you for your continued support at home! And as always, Go Wildcats!

Mrs. Fincher and her 2nd grade class

MARCH, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 	02 Assorted Cereal/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Mexi Tots Fresh Veggies Fruit Milk	03 Frudels/Fruit/Juice/ Milk Mandarin Orange Chicken Rice Bread Veggies Fruit Milk	04 Banana Bread/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Fiestada Lettuce Tomatoes Red Peppers Fruit Milk **NOON DISMISSAL** **TEACHER INSERVICE** **NO PRESCHOOL**	05 Egg Bites/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich Hashbrowns Veggies Fruit Milk	06 Assorted Cereal Bars/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Fish Nuggets Mac & Cheese Veggies Fruit Milk	07 
08 	09 Assorted Cereal/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Noodle Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Veggies Fruit Milk	10 Pancakes/Fruit/Juice/ Milk Ham and Cheese Sandwich Chips Veggies Fruit Milk	11 Pumpkin Bread/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Chicken Alfredo Breadsticks Peas Veggies Fruit Milk	12 Pancake on a Stick/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Sausage Links French Toast Sticks Mini Cake Donuts Veggies Fruit Milk	13 **NO SCHOOL**	14 
15 	16 Assorted Cereal/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Veggies Fruit Milk	17 Chocolate Muffins/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Strips Cheesy Green Beans Veggies Fruit Milk	18 Cheese Omelet/Toast/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Pork Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Corn Fruit Milk	19 Chocolate Bread/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Walking Taco Lettuce Tomatoes Red Peppers Fruit Milk	20 Mini Cake Donuts/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Tetrazzini Bread Sticks Peas Veggies Fruit Milk	21 
22 	23 Assorted Cereal/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Drummies Mac & Cheese Veggies Fruit Milk	24 Breakfast Pizza/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Tavern/Bun Baked Beans Veggies Fruit Milk	25 Waffle Sticks/Fruit/ Juice/Milk Homemade Chicken Alfredo Pizza Croutons Veggies Fruit Milk	26 Blueberry Muffins/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Hot Roast Beef and Cheese Sandwich Chips Veggies Fruit Milk	27 Assorted Cereal Bars/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Grilled Cheese Sandwich Hashbrowns Veggies Fruit Milk	28 
29 	30 Assorted Cereal/ Fruit/Juice/Milk Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Corn Fruit Milk	31 Donuts/Fruit/Juice/ Milk Lasagna Garlic Bread Veggies Fruit Milk	**ALL MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**	**USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**	**CHEF SALADS OFFERED DAILY!**	

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER
HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #40
HARTINGTON, NEBRASKA 68739

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HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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