

# **Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools**



**APRIL, 2026**  
**Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

April means finishing up projects and assessing the success of the school year. This time of year always goes by too quickly.

The Nebraska State Test (NSCAS) will begin in April for grades 3 – 6.

The third quarter reports have been sent home. Any parents wishing to meet with their child's teachers can always set up time by calling or emailing the teacher. As the school year winds down and the weather warms up it can be easy to let school work slip. It is important to check with your child and teacher regularly in order to ensure continued success in the classroom.

Preschool Registration: Please register your child by calling the office. There is a morning and afternoon preschool session running Monday – Friday. Children that will turn 5 by July 31 are not eligible for preschool under state law. The district is accepting applications for children that will be 4 by July 31, 2026. The current cost is \$6.00 a day (150 days) unless you qualify for reduced - \$3.00 or Free - \$0.00. If you have questions or wish to register, please contact the school as soon as possible. Preschool Roundup will be Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kindergarten Registration/Roundup is scheduled for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. **There will be no regular preschool or kindergarten classes on this day.** Please contact the school to set a time for registration day.

The weather is changing day to day. Please continue to send jackets. Students may wear shorts when the high temperature for the day is 60 degrees or higher. Please remind students that their shorts need to be fingertip length in order to be appropriate for school. Students are welcome to wear some type of pants over their shorts on days when the morning is cool and the weather is predicted to warm up. Sandals must have a strap on the back to be worn for school. It is Nebraska, so please plan accordingly for our ever changing weather.

Sincerely,

Sarah Edwards, Elementary Principal

# CALENDAR DATES:

April 1: Teacher In-service – Noon dismissal –  
No preschool.

April 2, 3, and 6: No School – Easter Vacation.

April 15: ACT Test (Juniors) – No School for grades 7, 8, 9,  
10, and 12.

April 17: Preschool Registration

April 17: Kindergarten Registration.

April 18: Prom

April 21: 7 – 12 Pre-Contest Concert at 7:00 p.m.

April 23 – 27: GNAC Art Show at Summerland

April 24: District Music Contest at Laurel.

April 27: FCCLA Banquet at 6:00 p.m.

# NEWS FROM KEN KNEIFL

## Remaining ACT Dates

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Fee Deadline</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 11, 2026   |                              |                          |
| April 15, 2026   | In School ACT (Juniors)      |                          |
| June 13, 2026    | May 8, 2026                  | May 27, 2026             |
| July 11, 2026    | June 5, 2026                 | June 24, 2026            |

\*On Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> the Juniors will be taking the ACT at school beginning at 8:00 a.m.

\*Note: Currently all Seniors and Juniors have an account which provides them access to the John Baylor Onto College Program. This includes prep access for the ACT Test as well as College Counseling information. We encourage all students to access this account to assist them in their college preparation.

You may register for the ACT either online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The high school code for Hartington-Newcastle Public School is 281-035.

## SAT Dates

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Fee Deadline</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| May 2, 2026      | April 17, 2026               | April 21, 2026           |
| 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](http://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**

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form needed to obtain financial aid from the government is a state mandated graduation requirement. 2026 graduates and their families who do not wish to complete the FAFSA may sign an "Opt Out" waiver which would fulfill this requirement. That waiver can be obtained at the Hartington-Newcastle Public School central office or on the Hartington-Newcastle Public School website. It can be found under the Documents tab. Once completed this needs to be turned in at the central office. A reminder that applying through the FAFSA is free of charge.

Seniors are allowed two college visitation days which do not count against their attendance. Visits can be set by the family by going to the college website. Thus far this year the seniors have done a nice job getting out to visit perspective schools. It should be noted that all college visits need to be completed by April 15, 2026. Any visit scheduled after that date will need to be approved by Superintendent Johnson in order to not count against their attendance.

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 Mr. Kneifl 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.

\*In February and March the applications for the Hartington-Newcastle Education Foundation Scholarship and the Local Scholarship application were presented to the seniors. The deadline for these local scholarship applications as well as several other individual local scholarships was Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Spring truly is a busy time for all of our students, especially in seems, for the seniors.

## **Juniors**

Remember the juniors are allowed one college day which does not count against their attendance. We encourage the juniors to use this opportunity to get a jump in the college decision. Like the seniors, college visit for the juniors must be completed by April 15, 2026. Otherwise you must take the request to Superintendent Johnson in order for the visit to not be counted against your 1 day allowed.

# **Attention Parents**

**Yearbooks may be purchased at this time – cost is \$25.00.**

**Thanks to the generosity of the Booster Club – the seniors only need to pay \$15.00.**

**Please make checks payable to Hartington-Newcastle Public School. Please get your orders in as soon as possible.**

**Thank you!**

**Lori Peitz**

# Big Cat Little Cat Mentoring Program

Hello!

I wanted to share a quick update on our Big Cat Little Cat Mentoring Program at Hartington-Newcastle Public School.

Big Cat Little Cat continues to be a valuable part of our school culture. This program pairs over 35 high school juniors and seniors with students in grades 3–6. Each month, our high school mentors participate in leadership training and then work directly with elementary classrooms through structured, hands-on activities.

Throughout the year, students focus on important character skills such as kindness, teamwork, leadership, gratitude, inclusion, sportsmanship, etc. While the lessons are meaningful, the real impact comes from the consistent interaction between older and younger students. High school mentors gain leadership experience and responsibility, and elementary students benefit from positive role models within their own school.

Thank you to our high school mentors for their commitment and to our 3rd–6th grade teachers for continuing to support this program each month.

*Tanner Fischer*

*K-6 School Counselor & K-12 Mental Health Team Lead*

## **Greetings from the 5th Grade Classroom of Mrs. Kathol,**

With state testing around the corner, I have been reflecting on the year our class has had together. As a new teacher to 5th grade, I had some learning of my own to do, and a class with a variety of interests, personalities, and learning styles to teach me. As we stop to look at how far we have come this year, I feel like this class deserves a round of applause. They have worked hard, had very little "free time", and it has paid off. I am excited as they enter a season of testing to show off all they have learned! Even if the testing doesn't turn out the way they would like, I know this year is one we will not forget. I am looking forward to the last few months with this class and all the growth and fun we will continue to have!

## **Greetings from 5th and 6th Grade Science,**

This year has been a BLAST! \*Pun intended\* If I could go back and get a different degree, it would be in teaching science (or counseling). It has felt like a dream to teach science this year and really dive into the concepts that help students learn how the world around them works. So far, my favorite topic in 5th grade has been chemical reactions. The experiments we were able to do were fun, engaging, and taught students a lot about the process of scientific experimentation as well as chemical reactions.

In sixth grade science, my favorite topic has been reproduction of living things. Our first unit of science was about biological organization. They learned the parts of a cell, how cells work together to create tissue, how tissue forms organs, and how organs work together in organ systems to create living things. 6th grade has had fewer hands-on experiments that are "exciting" (like 5th graders erupting volcanos, exploding bags, and making elephant toothpaste) but we have still been able to learn so much about the world around us.

With this being my last few months at HNS, I want to thank all of the people who made working here so rewarding, especially every student I have been blessed to teach. I don't have a plan for where I am going next, maybe another degree in science or even counseling, advocating/working for early childhood education, or maybe even more teaching with a focus on helping students who need more hands-on learning.

Wherever I go, I thank you all for being a part of my story!

♥Mrs. Katrina Kathol



HNPS Varsity Jazz Band takes home second place trophy of 14 bands at the NE Community College Jazz Festival on Monday, March 30th. This is the first time HNPS has placed second place at this event according to plaque history. The Jazz Band performed "Valero" by Swearingen featuring Alyk Zach and Trynity Zach, "I'll Always Smile in the Spring" by Alrich featuring Trynity Zach on the trumpet, and "Fat Cat" by Doug Beach featuring Cell Martell on the trumpet and Max Wiedenfeld on the Alto Sax.

Pictured in the front row: Bass Guitar - Henry Folkers, Alto Sax - Max Wiedenfeld and Harper Folkers, Tenor Sax - Ali Ford, Elliot Kneifl and Randall Huesers, Bari Sax - Issac Santiago.

Second row: Mrs. Hahne, Trombones - Nathan Heimes, Sarah Clark, Camryn Bruning, Caleb Heimes, Merrick Folkers, and Kate Wiedenfeld

3rd row: Drummers - Emily Climer, Max Climer, Gabe Sovereign Trumpets - Cell Martell, Logan Kneifl, Trynity Zach, and Alyk Zach

A soloist award is given when two of the three judges nominate a student for a soloist award. Earning a solo award at NE Jazz Festival was Trynity Zach and earning soloist awards at USD were Cell Martell on the trumpet and Trynity Zach on the trumpet.





Ten students were selected for Class C All-State Band. These students were ranked as the top musicians in Class C. Selected for the Symphonic Band - Trumpet - Trynity Zach and selected for the Wind Ensemble - Alyk Zach - Trumpet and Kyptin Collier - Tuba. Selected for the Class C All-State Junior High Band: Trombones - Camryn Bruning, Kate Wiedenfeld, and receiving first chair - Sarah Clark; Alto Saxophones - Elliot Kneifl and receiving first chair- Max Wiedenfeld; Tenor Saxophone - Tate Dickens; and Tuba - Merrick Folkers.

Picture: Bottom row - Alyk Zach, Kyptin Collier, and Trynity Zach  
 Middle row - Merrick Folkers, Kate Wiedenfeld, and Camryn Bruning  
 Top row: Tate Dickens, Elliot Kneifl, Max Wiedenfeld, and Sarah Clark

# APRIL, 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                   | MONDAY                                                                                                            | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                            | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                    | SATURDAY                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                          | <b>ALL MENUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b><br><br><b>CHEF SALADS OFFERED DAILY</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                                    | 01 Cheese Omelet/Toast/<br>Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza<br>Croutons<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk<br><br><b>NOON DISMISSAL</b><br><b>NO PRESCHOOL</b><br><b>TEACHER INSERVICE</b> | 02 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                                                                                         | 03 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                                                                                                                                       | 04<br><br> |
| 05<br><b>EASTER</b><br> | 06 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                                                                               | 07 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Hamburger/Bun<br>Fries<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                  | 08 Chocolate Muffins/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Meatballs<br>Mashed Potatoes/Gravy<br>Peas<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                                                  | 09 Pancake Wraps/Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Popcorn Chicken<br>Mac and Cheese<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                      | 10 Banana Bread/Fruit/Juice/<br>Milk<br><br>Mexi Tots<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                                                         | 11                                                                                            |
| 12                                                                                                       | 13 Assorted Cereal, Fruit,<br>Juice, Milk<br><br>Cavatini<br>Bread Sticks<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk<br><br>.    | 14 Sausage Biscuits/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Chicken Strips<br>Cheesy Green Beans<br>Fresh Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                             | 15 Frudels/Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich<br>Chips<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk<br><br><b>NO SCHOOL FOR GRADES<br/>7, 8, 9, 10, and 12</b>                                             | 16 Breakfast Pizza/Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Salisbury Steak<br>Mashed Potatoes and Gravy<br>Corn<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk | 17 Assorted Cereal Bars/<br>Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Fiestada<br>Lettuce<br>Tomatoes<br>Red Peppers<br>Fruit<br>Milk<br><br><b>PRESCHOOL AND<br/>KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP</b> | 18<br><br><b>PROM</b>                                                                         |
| 19                                                                                                       | 20 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Tavern/Bun<br>Potato Wedges<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk            | 21 Long John Donuts/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Homemade Pizza<br>Croutons<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk<br><br>7-12 Pre-Contest Concert @ 7:00 p.m. | 22 Blueberry Muffins/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Sweet & Sour Chicken<br>Rice<br>Bread<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                                                       | 23 Pancake on a Stick/Fruit/Juice/<br>Milk<br><br>French Toast Sticks<br>Sausage Links<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk          | 24 Assorted Cereal Bars/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Grilled Chicken Sandwich<br>Hash browns<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                   | 25                                                                                            |
| 26                                                                                                       | 27 Assorted Cereal/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Lasagna<br>Bread Sticks<br>Green Beans<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk | 28 Tornados/Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Chicken Legs<br>Mashed Potatoes/Gravy<br>Corn<br>Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                      | 29 Pumpkin Bread/Fruit/<br>Juice/Milk<br><br>Super Nachos<br>Lettuce/Tomatoes<br>Red Peppers<br>Fruit<br>Milk                                                                                            | 30 Egg Bites/Fruit/Juice/Milk<br><br>Cheesy Chicken Sub<br>Chips<br>Fresh Veggies<br>Fruit<br>Milk                          | <b>THIS INSTITUTION IS AN<br/>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY<br/>PROVIDER.</b>                                                                                                         |                                                                                               |

HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER  
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