



Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools

Home of the Warriors



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



District News

Classroom News

Activity News

MR. ROBERT DREWS - SUPERINTENDENT

MR. RUDY PEREZ - 7-12 PRINCIPAL & ACTIVITY DIRECTOR | MR. BEN ELLIS - PK-6 PRINCIPAL

MRS. LEANDRA MONIE - COUNSELOR | MR. DUSTIN KRONHOFMAN - ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

www.arapahoewarriors.org

District News

Mr. Drews



AHPS Students and Patrons,

Last year's April edition of my newsletter article celebrated the fact that AHPS had been able to secure "FULL STAFF of certified personnel" for the 25-26 school year. I'm happy to again say that, even though we've had a couple changes, we will again have a full staff for the 26-27 school year with no vacancies for teaching positions! Our system and community are lucky to be able to fill these positions, as there is a serious teacher shortage in Nebraska, and the number of unfilled and vacant positions has continued to be a problem for many school districts. While this is cause for AHPS to celebrate, it is also cause for financial concern. Meeting the needs of our students with a full complement of teachers for our course requirements means we have more financial obligations. Those obligations are difficult to cover while the state squeezes our ability to generate revenue.

There are a limited number of days left in this current session of the Nebraska Legislature. Even though it is a short session (60 days as opposed to the 90 day session every other year), there are a number of bills still in play that would restrict our ability to draw in revenue to meet our expenses, or some that will mandate we start new programs/training. LB 1219 was a proposal to create a hard cap on property tax growth of 2% each year for schools beginning with the 26-27 school year. LB 1050 requires new testing for 3rd grade students prior to any advancement into the 4th grade (with new program requirements if they are held back). Another proposal would add a separate training for a cardiac arrest plan at our school, when we already cover that element in other safety training sessions each year. The list of possible new duties goes on and on as the list of ways to restrict our spending grows right beside it. From an economic philosophy standpoint, the process has become ridiculous. It basically demands that we make things cheaper. If there was a way for schools to make fuel, food, repairs or personnel cheaper without losing any services, products or quality, the rest of our society would have implemented those methods long ago. While it's unlikely that all of these attempts to change laws will come to fruition this session, those that don't will surely be back at the start of the next legislative session in January of 2027.

District News

Mr. Drews

(cont'd)



Demands on school and teachers continue to grow, while the resources we are allowed, including an inadequate teacher supply and reduced financial flexibility, creates a stressful system that cannot meet the needs of our communities. Public schools are under attack and we must be prepared to defend ourselves and fight for local control in our programming choices and the resources we choose to fund them. If you want to be of help in keeping our school operating with programs and services that everyone expects, it's time to be in touch with our legislators and demand that we be allowed to hold on to the little bit of local control we still have. Our current Senator for District 38 is Dave Murman. Contact info for his Lincoln office is available on the Unicameral website (<https://nebraskalegislature.gov>). He is in the final days of tenure due to term limits, so make sure you are paying attention to those who are running to take that seat for the next term. We need people representing us who will listen to our perspectives and opinions. Nebraska school districts have been losing local control at an alarming pace. We need to stop this trend before the state dictates every last aspect of our school system without even asking us what we believe is important for kids in our school district.

Robert Drews
Superintendent
Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools



Elementary News

Principal's Message

Hello Warrior Nation,

Can you believe that it is already Spring? Talk about a mild winter. April means that it is time for students to rock those state assessments and show everyone what they have learned this year. Students in grades 3-8 will be taking the tests in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in fifth and eighth grade will also take the Science test. The focus will be on developing a growth mindset and demonstrating improvement.

Please make sure that your child is well rested, has breakfast, and ready to try his/her best on the test. The tests are not timed so students can take all the time they need to do their best. I always tell students to not let the test win, the moment you stop focusing and just start clicking ... the test wins. Students are encouraged to use test taking strategies like eliminating obvious wrong answers, rereading, and using scratch paper on the math test. Each test provides certain tools that students can access to help them during the test. Please have a conversation with your child about having a positive mindset and desire to do their best.

In other April happenings, there will be several days of no school. There will be no school on April 3rd and 6th due to Easter Break. Students will also be able to enjoy a day off of school on April 22nd due to the High School Track Meet. The K-4 Spring Music Program will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 7pm.

Go Warriors!

Mr. Ellis

Elementary Principal

Principal's Perspective

Mr. Perez

Can you believe it's Spring already???? Well, I guess some days it is and some days it isn't based on the inconsistent weather! We sure could use some rain!

Shout out to the girls basketball team on their very successful season and for qualifying for the State tournament! What a great ride it was for the girls and coaches. Our school and community were very supportive of the girls' efforts. Congratulations to Briggs Hill who once again brought home 2nd place from the State Wrestling tournament. Lauren Moore once again qualified for the State Bowling tournament but was unsuccessful in her bid to defend her state title from last year. Best of luck to Lauren as she continues her bowling career at Baker University in Kansas.

Congratulations to our newest National Honor Society members; Emma Strand, Carli Rathbun and Taytum Roskop. It's always a pleasure to recognize these students who have established themselves as students of character and academia.

Spring sports have gotten started and the competitions will begin soon. The Speech team ended their season with three members qualifying for the State Meet. Congratulations to Bobby Dunn, Hailey Devries and Isabelle Roberts! The FFA Chapter just returned from a very successful State Convention. Mr. Hambidge's FFA Chapter continues to grow and become more successful each year.

This was our year to host the RPAC East Instrumental Clinic. It was so nice to hear the bands play their individual pieces and the combined bands. A big shoutout to Mr. Messner for coordinating this event.

Principal's Perspective

Mr. Perez (cont'd)

Congratulations to our High school Quiz Bowl team for finishing in 3rd place at the ESU #11 meet. They dropped the match to qualify for state on the last question. It was a very successful season for the team. Miss Gunderson continues to build a strong competitive team and the students enjoy the competitions.

Once again, our student enjoyed a nice Prom. They enjoyed a great time at Post Prom which was held at the YMCA in Holdrege. We are thankful to all the parents who helped make this night so special for our students.

The Warrior Tribe program is going along nicely. We plan to have an end-of-the-year event in May before the students leave for the summer. We hope that the weather will cooperate. It is great to see the students work together in different activities.

As we get into the last quarter of our school year, I encourage everyone to finish the school year strong and on a positive note. Continue to show your Warrior Pride!

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Monie

Greetings Warrior Nation,

As we quickly march through the final quarter of the year, here are some items I want to make you aware of, especially if you are a parent of a secondary student.

- Juniors have taken the ACT and should be receiving their scores soon if they have not already. They can access these on their myact.org accounts they have created.
- The ACT will be offered on June 13 with a registration deadline of May 8th , and July 11 with a registration deadline on June 5. Students can register for the test in their myact.org account page and will cost \$68 which is payable online at the time of registration.
- Sophomores and even freshmen can take the ACT test if desired. Students would need to create their account which I can help them with.
- Central Community College summer and fall registration will open on Monday, April 13. If your student is interested in taking a college class, either with or without dual credit, please see me as I can help guide your student through this process. It is relatively easy and after they have done it once or twice, they will be a pro.
- Class registration for 7-12 has been in the works. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter comes out, everyone will have entered their class requests online. Our goal is to make sure students have their exact class schedule before they leave for summer break. IF there is something about their schedule they are unhappy with, they will have the opportunity to come to drop and add days which will be held the week before school begins.

Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Monie (cont'd)

- Parents- if you have a student who will be a junior or senior during the 26-27 year, please note that they have three excused college-visit days that will not count against their attendance. Your student will need to pick up a blue college-visit sheet from me. Your student will have someone from the college sign it. Then they will return it to the front office as proof of the visit.
- Next school year, Mrs. Kaitlin Spaulding will be taking over our Work-Based Learning program, which allows seniors who have met all necessary graduation requirements to check out early and spend some time working with a business they think they may be interested in pursuing after high school. Because Mrs. Spaulding has the necessary endorsement, students who do this will be able to obtain class credit. We will be having a meeting with soon-to-be seniors before the end of the year.
- The 7th and 8th grade classes will be traveling to UNK on April 8th to attend a health sciences career exploration event. This is hosted by UNK and free to all who attend. Students will even get to eat in the college cafeteria which is always a hit!

As always, there are many activities going on in the spring. Wishing everyone a fantastic last quarter!

Mrs. Monie



Words From Winnie

This semester, staff, students and even community members have found themselves struggling with the concept of loss due to the unfortunate passing of a parent of three of our students followed by the death of a former student and 2025 graduate. This often leaves us wondering how much more can we deal with before we break? Grief affects everyone differently based on age, emotional maturity and previous experience. As a therapy dog in our school, I want to pass along some common myths about grief.

- Myth #1: Grief and mourning are the same experiences. Grief is the internal meaning given to the experience of bereavement. Mourning is when you take the grief on the inside and express it outside of yourself. Expressing your grief outside yourself is necessary to move forward in your grief journey.
- Myth #2: The experiences of grief and mourning progress in predictable and orderly stages. Do not try to determine where you should be, just allow yourself to be naturally where you are in the process. The thoughts and feelings you will experience will be totally unique to you.
- Myth #3: Move away from grief, not toward it. Many people view grief as something to get over rather than experience. These ideas encourage people to repress thoughts and feelings about the death and do not allow themselves to cry or show their true feelings. Many people have internalized society's message that mourning should be done quietly, quickly, and efficiently. Don't let this happen to you.
- Myth #4: Following the death of a loved one, the goal should be to "get over" your grief as soon as possible. You do not "get over" your grief. The pain you feel will change from being ever-present, sharp, and stinging to a sense of loss. It will not completely disappear, but it will soften. You will always remember that person but once again your life can and will move forward.
- Myth #5: Tears expressing grief are only a sign of weakness. Crying is nature's way of releasing internal tension in your body, and it allows you to communicate a need to be comforted.

Grief and mourning are ruff! Give yourself patience and grace as you work through feelings and never be afraid to talk to someone or be afraid to hug a dog!

All the Best,
Winnie the Pooch
Arapahoe Therapy Dog



JH English & Beginning Speech

Mrs. Bergquist

Do you know more grammar than a 7th, 8th, or 9th-grade student? Our students have been working very hard on their grammar this year—and it is paying off! They have developed a strong understanding of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, articles, and interjections. As a result, their writing has improved significantly.

The 7th-grade class has been reading *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Set in central Florida, the novel has also provided an opportunity to explore the region's setting and the "Cracker" culture of the late 1800s and early 1900s. This has been a challenging yet rewarding experience, as the book contains unfamiliar dialect and references to a lifestyle very different from our own.

The 8th-grade class has been studying selected works from the Civil War era. Students have read about heroes from both the North and the South, including Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, excerpts from *The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass*, and selections from Louisa May Alcott's diary. Currently, they are reading *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, which explores the events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Be sure to stop by and view their research reports on topics from the Civil War era.

Both the 7th- and 8th-grade classes have been writing weekly five-paragraph essays as they work through John Wooden's *Pyramid of Success*. They are on track to complete this study by the end of the year. Ask them what it takes to be successful, and they will tell you: "Success is being your best," and "There is no progress without change."

The 9th-grade class is currently studying literature from World War II. They began with *The Diary of Anne Frank* and concluded the unit by watching the 1959 film adaptation. Currently, they are reading *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz, a novel based on the true story of Jack Gruener, a Holocaust survivor from Poland. This powerful narrative brings the realities of Nazi concentration camps to life. Students are also working on individual research projects to further explore this important and difficult period in history.

Thank you to all of the community members who took the time to allow our Beginning Speech Class to interview them about their businesses and careers. You should have received your hand-written Thank-you notes. I trust that each student shook your hand confidently, looked you in the eye, and conversed with you in a professional manner. We did practice!! They have been reporting to us what they learned and the sage advice you shared with them. By the time this newsletter goes to print, we will be on to Persuasive and then Impromptu speeches.



Arapahoe Warrior Speech Team

The Arapahoe Warrior Speech Team wrapped up a memorable season filled with growth, grit, and plenty of standout moments. Through the highs and lows that come with competition, our team continued to push forward, ultimately earning a 5th place finish at Districts. We are proud to announce three state qualifiers: senior Isabelle Roberts, sophomore Bobbie Dunn, and freshman Hailey DeVries, whose hard work and dedication have truly paid off.

As we close out the season, we also want to recognize our seniors—Isabelle Roberts, Jordan Holstein, and Ryleigh Tidyman. You will be deeply missed. Thank you for the energy, leadership, and heart you brought to this team. We wish you all the best as you head out into the world and take on your next chapter.

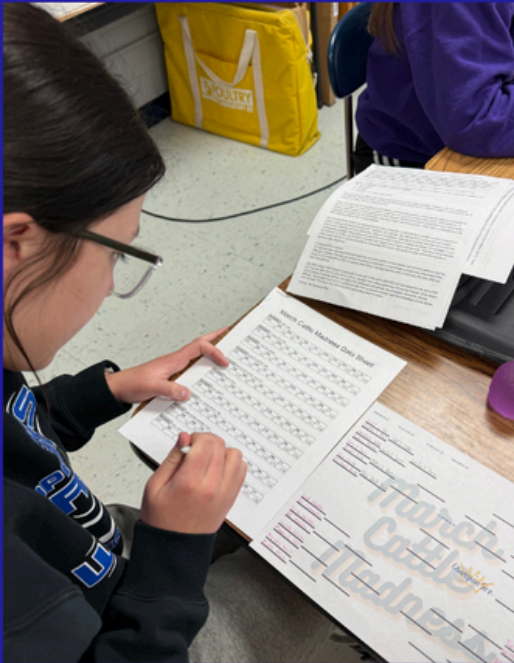
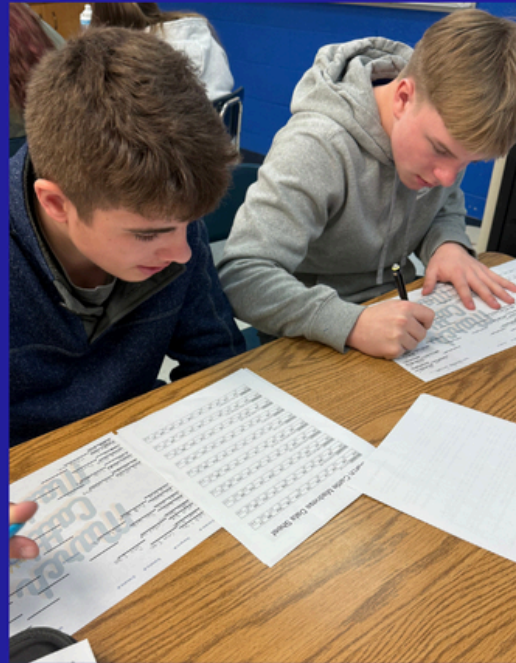
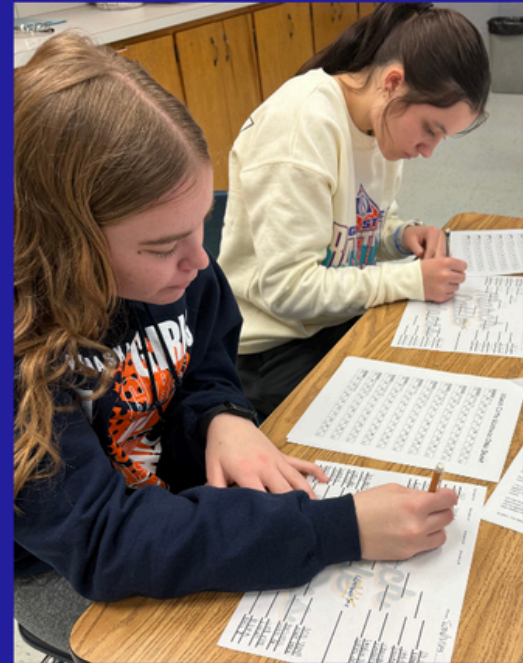
This season would not have been possible without the incredible support from our community. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents, as well as Ms. Pettis, Mrs. Leising, and Mrs. Star Cramer for generously giving their time to judge and provide valuable feedback. Your support has helped our students grow as speakers and competitors.

We are proud of everything this team has accomplished.

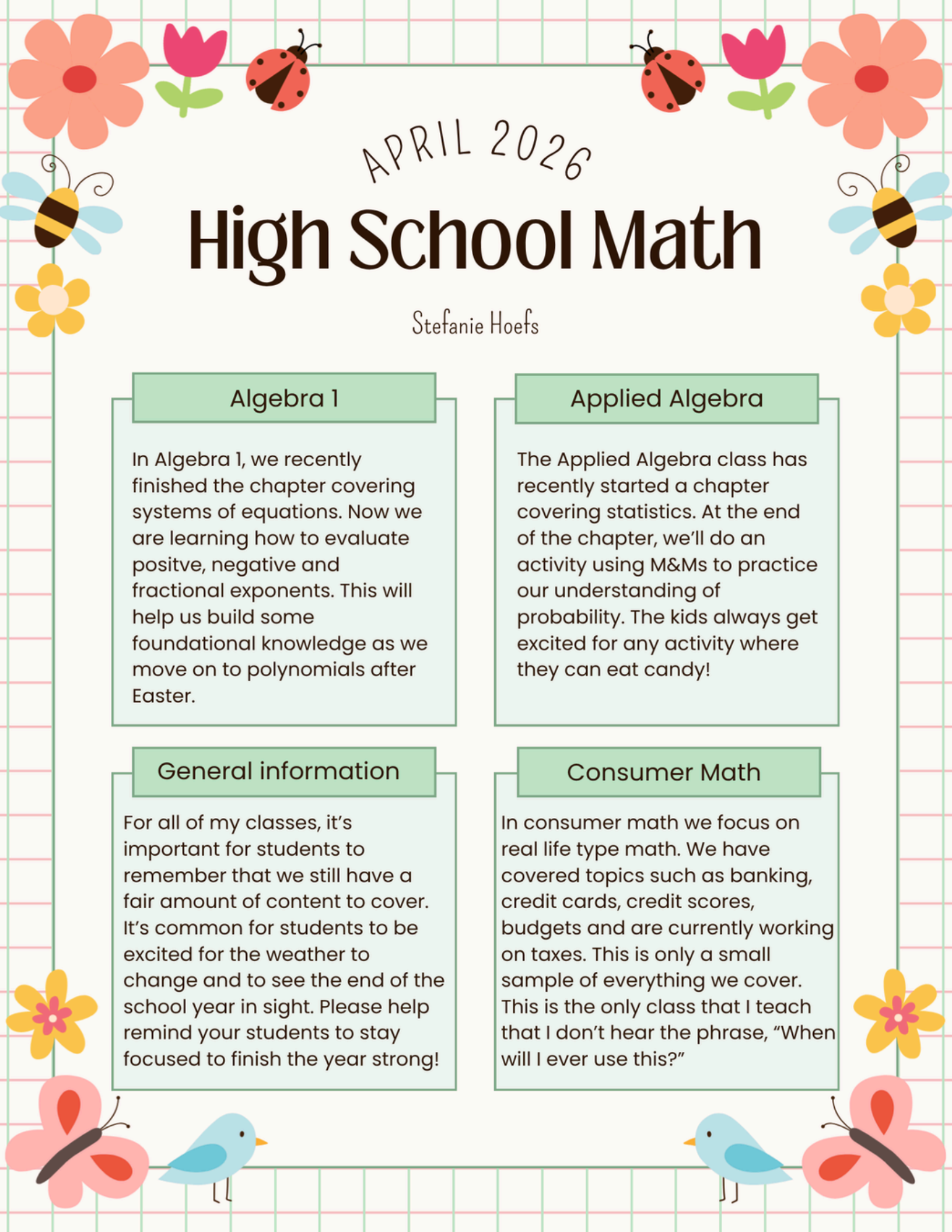


Ag Ed Update

The intro to Ag classes competed in their own Mach Madness Bracket challenge. Students learned about Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's). Using their EPD Data sheets, they were challenged with selecting the best bulls based on different production scenarios.



The Power, Structure, and Tech class has been learning about Residential Electricity. Learning to draw wiring diagrams/schematics and then create real-life wiring projects using NEC code that will be later tested in class!



APRIL 2026

High School Math

Stefanie Hoefs

Algebra 1

In Algebra 1, we recently finished the chapter covering systems of equations. Now we are learning how to evaluate positive, negative and fractional exponents. This will help us build some foundational knowledge as we move on to polynomials after Easter.

Applied Algebra

The Applied Algebra class has recently started a chapter covering statistics. At the end of the chapter, we'll do an activity using M&Ms to practice our understanding of probability. The kids always get excited for any activity where they can eat candy!

General information

For all of my classes, it's important for students to remember that we still have a fair amount of content to cover. It's common for students to be excited for the weather to change and to see the end of the school year in sight. Please help remind your students to stay focused to finish the year strong!

Consumer Math

In consumer math we focus on real life type math. We have covered topics such as banking, credit cards, credit scores, budgets and are currently working on taxes. This is only a small sample of everything we cover. This is the only class that I teach that I don't hear the phrase, "When will I ever use this?"

JH Quiz Bowl

Mrs. Huxoll

The Junior High Quiz Bowl Season has come to an end. I am so proud of these kids! They took second place in Cambridge and FIRST place at the Southwest meet. Our overall highest correct answer leader was Boede Soncksen, followed closely by Easton Strand.

Our last meet did not go as we had hoped, but overall, we had a great season.

JH QB Coach
Mrs. Huxoll

AD News

Mr. Kronhofman

We have wrapped up all of the Winter Activities with the last event being State Speech where Arapahoe had 3 qualifiers, Isabelle Roberts, Bobbie Dunn, and Hailey Devries. The Girls Basketball team qualified for the State Tournament as well for the first time in over a dozen years. Lauren Moore qualified for State in Girls Bowling.

We are now starting the Spring Sports Seasons with Girls and Boys Track & Field and Golf. There are 8 boys out for golf and 14 boys and 15 girls out for track & field.

5th/6th Math

Mr. Mues

The fifth and sixth-grade classes continue to make progress in the math department every day. The 5th grade is climbing the mountain known as mountain math. Each morning, we start with a review of previously covered lessons, such as place value, rounding, estimation, and two-digit multiplication. Now we are on to the study of fractions, which has been tricky, but the students are working hard and starting to figure these skills out. Many students improved their Maps test scores from last fall to this spring.

Now we will finish our preparations for the NSCAS test later in April. The 6th grade finished a rather large unit on converting fractions, decimals, and percents. These lessons went perfectly with our NFL football folders this fall. They have also been using skills that involve Pre-Algebra. The class will now move into a Chapter that focuses heavily on finding area, volume, and surface area of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures.

Students in 5th and 6th grade can earn bonus tickets by demonstrating good behavior, participation, and doing well on math and science assessments. Many of these students then use these tickets to buy candy, sit in the teacher's chair, have lunch in the classroom, or receive other various rewards.

This has been a fun year with such creative and engaging students. Keep up the good work!

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

FCS CLASSROOM WITH MRS. SPAULDING

The Family Consumer Science classroom has been buzzing with active learning this academic year.

The goal for every student in the FCS classroom is, always, to learn ways to build skills and knowledge to find success in the working world.

I look forward to the remainder of the year in FCS!

#GOWARRIORS

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

Comprehensive Health is a Sophomore level class that focuses on health and wellbeing. These students started the year learning about personal health and just rounded out a Chapter about emotional health and emotional intelligence.

LIFE & CAREER

Life and Career Readiness is a Senior level class that focuses, very specifically, on learning skills for the working world. These students utilized the first semester to gain knowledge about a potential career and assess whether or not that career was/is suitable for them.

INTRO TO FCS

Intro to FCS is a level 1 FCS class that focuses on every element of FCS—career planning, financial basics, food and nutrition, early childhood education (parenting basics), and research. Students often find our Quarter of Parenting the most interesting!

JH FCS

JH FCS is currently in curriculum B and it focuses on employability/“soft skills.” Students have learned about communication, leadership, money, conflict resolution, and consumerism, to name a few. In this class, students get a little bit about a lot in one quarter.

ARAPAHOE-HOLBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Preschool Enrollment



Good to know

- Child must be at least 3 years of age by July 31, 2026
- In district students have priority
- 2 years of preschool allowed
- In school Monday – Thursday
 - AM 8:00–11:15 (2 years from K)
 - PM 11:15–3:30 (1 year from K)

What you need to enroll

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Copy of immunizations
- \$50 registration fee

Now Enrolling for 2026–2027

To set up a time to enroll, please email Ms. Doggett at:
heather.doggett@arapahoewarriors.org





YOU'RE INVITED TO KINDERGARTEN KAMP THURSDAY, MAY 7TH 2:30PM-3:30PM



Afternoon preschoolers will come to school as usual. Around 2:20 the students will meet up with Mrs. Pearson for snack time. Afterwards they will head to the Kindergarten room for an activity and a story!

*Students that will be 5 years of age by July 31, 2026 are eligible to attend.

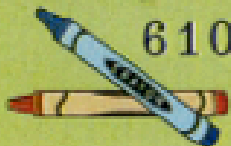
If your child plans to attend and is NOT currently enrolled in afternoon preschool at Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools, please contact Kim Treece (308-962-5458) to confirm attendance.



Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools

610 Walnut Street Arapahoe, NE 68922

308-962-5458 | arapahoewarriors.org



Tech Tip - How To:

- **View Activity Calendar**

1. Use the following link:

<https://www.rpac-ne.org/public/genie/751/school/2/>

- **Subscribe/Sync Activity Calendar to iCal & Google Calendar**

iCal - Apple (Mac/iPhone)

1. Open the Calendar App on your Apple device

2. Add a new calendar subscription:

a. (Mac) File->New Calendar Subscription

b. (iPhone) Calendars → Add Calendar → New Calendar From Subscription

3. Past the following link (including webcal://):

- **webcal://srv2-**

advancedview.rschooltoday.com/public/conference/ical/u/3e338ee18220e2ad82bbd0aa1df40552

4. Click Subscribe

5. It will load/sync the activity calendar and will then let you change some settings (name, color, refresh rate)

6. *Mine defaulted to refresh every week, I'd switch this to daily.

Tech Tip - How To:

• Subscribe/Sync Activity Calendar to iCal & Google Calendar

Google Calendar (Android)

1. Open Google Calendar on a Desktop Browser on your Computer and sign into your main Google Account
 - a. <https://calendar.google.com/>
2. On the left-hand side menu scroll all the way to the bottom to 'Other Calendars' and click the '+' sign and choose 'From URL' and paste the full link below:
 - o <webcal://srv2-advancedview.rschooltoday.com/public/conference/ical/u/3e338ee18220e2ad82bbd0aa1df40552>
3. Click 'Add calendar'
4. You can then edit the Name and Color of the calendar
5. Then, you can click the menu button on your calendar app on your phone, then click on your email you used to import the calendar and make sure the School calendar is checked. If you still don't see them you may have to click 'Sync Now' to resync after making the changes.

Tech Tip - How To:

- **View/Print Specific Season Schedules (Web)**

1. Go to the Activity Calendar Site
 - <https://www.rpac-ne.org/public/genie/751/school/2/>
2. Click 'View Schedules' on the right-hand side
3. Check your desired sport/activity or choose as many as you wish
4. Click 'View'
5. Click the 'Print' icon and print the generated schedule

***You can also watch/follow this tutorial video as well that goes through all the steps above:**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g4CT7jQVQ-JCrpEAEAAa95Gnl_Sm-MB8/view?usp=sharing

The Warrior Within

Capture Your Memories – Order Your Yearbook Today!

Don't miss out on preserving your unforgettable school moments! Our exclusive yearbooks are now available for just \$45, but only if you order by October 31st.

Secure your copy and cherish the memories for years to come!



To place your order, contact Mrs. Dirgo at riley.dirgo@arapahoewarriors.com. Alternatively, you can pick up an order form directly from the school office. Act fast – this limited-time offer won't last forever!

Child Find

Child find is...

A process required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need early intervention or special education services. It is a process to ensure children with identified needs can receive the help they need to succeed as early as possible.

How are children identified and located?

Anyone concerned about a child's speech, learning, behavior, or development can request a Child Find (an evaluation for early intervention or special education). The school district must have written permission/consent from the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) before conducting an evaluation.

What is a multidisciplinary evaluation?

A multidisciplinary evaluation will involve observations and assessments with the child and input from family. A meeting will be held to determine eligibility for early intervention or special education services and written summary of the results will be provided to the family.

Who should I contact about making a Child Find request?

For a child Birth to three years of age, contact the local Early Development Network Service Coordinators for the ESU 11 area, which can be reached at 308.398.6567.

For children ages 3 to 21, please contact the AHPS office at 308-962-5458 for information regarding your concerns for your child.

Stay in the know!

**DOWNLOAD
OUR APP TODAY!**



Visit arapahoewarriors.org
to learn more about
our school.

School Hours:

8am - 3:40pm M-Th

8am - 2:30pm Fridays

Breakfast is served

daily from

7:30am - 7:50am

Sign up at

schoolbeacon.com

**to get alerts via text or
email for any school
changes or updates!**

**WILL YOUR STUDENT BE
ABSENT BUT DON'T
HAVE TIME TO CALL?**

Please email us:

attendance@arapahoewarriors.org



Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

Getting started with e~Funds for Schools Mobile Website

CREATING A NEW ACCOUNT

***Lunch Accounts Only**

1. Go to: <https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/56682>
2. Click on **Create an Account**.
3. Provide Requested Information.
4. Click **Create Account**.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT – STUDENTS

***Call the office if you need your family ID#**

1. Log into your account.
2. Select **Manage Students** under **Manage Account**.
3. Enter student Last Name and Family or Student ID#.
4. Select **Add Student(s)**.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 to add additional students.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - PAYMENT INFORMATION

1. Log into your Account
2. Select **Payment Methods** under **Payment Settings**.
3. Select **New Credit Card** or **New Direct Debit** to add new payment information.
4. After entering all required information, read Consent and select **Add** to save information to account.

MAKE A PAYMENT

1. Select type of payment you would like to make.
2. Select student.
3. Enter amount of payment.
4. Select **Begin Checkout**.
5. Choose payment method or enter new method.
6. Review items and total.
7. Select **Pay Now**.