Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools

Home of the Warriors

MARCH 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,

In the last edition of the AHPS Newsletter, my article addressed the next steps after our failed special election requesting an additional $750,000 in property tax authority for the 26-27 school year. I explained that we had a backup option that would require more time for our district to become financially stable again (approximately 6-8 years). The budgets developed for those years were calculated using current rules and regulations about what is allowed for property tax requests. One of the tools currently allowed is for a board to pass a resolution accessing an additional growth percentage on the base number used to determine the next year's property tax request.

We have used this option every year since LB 243 was passed. However, like many other local control options, this tool is in the crosshairs of the legislature during the session in Lincoln. LB1219 would eliminate one of the very few financial options still available for locally elected officials to have some say in our financial affairs. The restriction to a "hard cap" number for property taxes dictated by the state, would strangle our district even more than the original LB 243 structures. If our district is allowed only a 2% growth in revenue, we will definitely have to make large cuts in our budget that would wreak havoc with our programs. The other option would be to borrow significant sums of money to try to keep those programs alive.

Using current available figures, this 2% hard cap would limit our total revenue growth to the figure calculated by NDE, which would be $120,000. That may sound like quite a bit of money, but it flies out the window rather quickly with mandated cost increases that we are not able to change. Every year, we have to add to our required training list, and purchase materials or equipment because the legislature decided to "fix" something that may not be broken in our rural district. Financial obligations like insurance go up each year to impact our costs as well. Our district expects to pay about $75,000 more for health insurance in 26-27 than we did in 25-26.

District News Mr. Drews (cont'd)

Our vehicles are not beyond the age of use, but with every year, there are more repairs and maintenance required than the year before. That costs more money. Wages and salaries go up each year, and that adds to our growing expense list. If our "acceptable" rate of inflation for the country is about 3%, how could we expect to cover our current expenses when the revenue side of budgeting is only allowed to go up 2%. For AHPS, we don't even have any reasonable reserves to make up the difference between funds coming in and those required to go out. The only option is to begin cutting those expenses, and we can show that our current offerings are almost at the bare minimum as is. To summarize, we had a plan to become more financially stable over the next 6-8 years based on the current rules in our state. If LB1219 gets traction and is passed into law, our district will suffer in a way that everyone notices.

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 one of the last pieces of local control we have. The Senator for our district (38) is Dave Murman. Contact info for his Lincoln office is available on the Unicameral website (https://nebraskalegislature.gov) Nebraska school districts have been losing local control at an alarming pace. We need to stop this trend before the state controls 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,

Spring is right around the corner and that means testing time. Our district test is the MAP assessment. Students will take tests in Reading, Math and Lanuguage Usage. Testing will take place the first two weeks of March. The state assessment (NSCAS) will be administered April 9, 15, and 16. Hopefully, all students will try their very best on each test they take.

Spring isn't just for testing. It also time to start thinking about field trips! Here are all the places that our students will be going to extend their learning and have fun. Look for more information from the classroom teacher as the time nears for each trip.

Kindergarten:
-Children's Museum -Kearney
-Thursday, May 14th

First Grade:
-Common Scents Greenhouse -McCook
-Tuesday, May 19th

Second Grade:
-Edgerton Explorit Center -Aurora
-Tuesday, May 19th

Third Grade:
-Trails & Rails Museum -Kearney
-Tuesday, May 12th

Fourth Grade:
-Stuhr Museum (Pioneer Living) -Grand Island
-Thursday, March 26th

Fifth Grade:
-Edgerton Explorit Center - Aurora
-Tuesday, May 19th

Sixth Grade:
-Pioneer Village
-Wednesday, May 13th

Go Warriors!
Mr. Ellis
Elementary Principal

January Kindness Challenge Winners

31 students completed the January Kindness Challenge. Students had to complete 10 acts of kindness.

I am super proud of these students!

The fourth grade won the class competition with 9 students completing the challenge.

February Kindness Challenge Winners

37 students completed the February Kindness Challenge. Students had to give 5 compliments to others!

Principal's Perspective
Mr. Perez

The first quarter of the second semester seems to be going by quickly. We have wrapped up most of our winter sporting events. Congratulations to Briggs Hill who brought home his second state runner-up medal from the Class D Wrestling Championships. The girls basketball team hopes to continue their successful season as they will travel to Shelton for the District final.

Our junior high and high school quiz bowl teams continue their season, bringing home many top three placings. Our high school Speech team has had a competitive season and are working towards District competition.

Congratulations to our newest National Honor Society Inductees: Emma Strand, Carli Rathbun and Taytum Roskop.

Mrs. Monie has started a before and after school Homework Room for our students in grades 7th through 12th that have missing assignments. Her hope is to get these students back on track and help them to pass their classes as well as become eligible to participate in school activities.

Principal's Perspective
Mr. Perez

We have started a new program at APS in order to create a family-type culture. The Warrior Tribe Program includes students in grades PreSchool through twelfth. The students are assigned into one of thirteen Tribes. Each Tribe is under the direction of certified and classified staff members (Tribal Leaders). Tribes consist of about 23 students. Tribal Leaders and Warrior students are randomly selected to each Tribe. Tribes will meet once a month to do a Pow Wow (activity) that would be determined by the Tribal Leaders. Tribal Pow Wows (Activities) during the school day. Each Tribe will have their own individual Pow Wow activities as well as school-wide activities. In the future, this program will include Tribal challenges in areas such as Attendance, Behavior, MAP and NSCAS Testing. Also, Tribes would have competitions during selected holidays. We had our first Pow Wow on Thursday, February 24 and it went well.

Spring sports practices begin on March 2nd and I would encourage our students to stay involved in the Spring Activities. The end of the school year will be here before you know it so I encourage everyone to work hard and focus on their academics in order to end the year on a good note!

Counselor's Corner
Mrs. Monie

Many of our students in grades 7-12 are struggling with accountability in terms of finishing homework on time or even turning it in. This, of course, does not describe everyone, but we are noticing a higher number of students each quarter that seem to be stuck in this rut.

First, let's review the current grading policy:

1. Assignments are due the on the day the teacher specifies which seems like a logical idea-right?
2. If the assignment is turned in after the due date, it is worth 50% of its graded value. If it is turned in two days late, no credit will be given.
3. If a student is sick, he or she has a day for each day they are gone plus one day to make up work. For example, if a student is sick two days, they will have three days to make up the homework.
4. If a student knows they will be gone for either a personal reason or school, work must be made up ahead of time. This is known as Prior Notice.

What we, as educators, are hearing on a daily basis are comments like, "I was just too busy to do it.", "I forgot to do it.", "It's not done yet.", or simply a shoulder shrug when asked, "This assignment is due, do you have it?"

Every student is supplied with an assignment book at the beginning of the school year and new 7th graders, as well as, any new students in our district are taught how to fill them out and explained why it can be a good practice in terms of organization. However, many students choose not to put this organizational tool into practice or lose it during the first month of school. Before long, we see students on the ineligible list, many of whom have dug a hole they are struggling to climb out of.

Counselor's Corner
Mrs. Monie (cont'd)

It is often said that school is rehearsal for life as an adult. We are expected to be at school on time---we are expected to be at a job on time. Students are expected to complete and turn in work on time---In the workforce, employees are expected to do their job and meet deadlines. Continuously failing grades result in classes being retaken which can ultimately affect graduation-----Continuously poor work will result in being fired. You get the idea.

Starting February 23rd, there will be a staffed homework room from 3:45 -4:15. Teachers are being asked to keep a running list of students whose work is missing and post it on a google sheet, thereby allowing the homework room teacher to know what each student needs to work on. If a student did not hand in a required assignment that day (assuming it was due), they will report to the homework room until it is finished. If they are needing help from a specific teacher and that person is available after school, they can access help after they check in with the homework room supervising teacher. If a student rides the bus and cannot stay after school, they will be asked to come to the homework room as soon as they get to school. If your child is a student athlete (remember they are students first), they will report to the homework room to finish assignments and then go to practice.

At AHS it is our goal to graduate young men and women who are not only educated, but also understand the concepts of responsibility, respect and integrity. Together as parents and teachers, we are raising / educating the next generation. This is the most important work we can do.

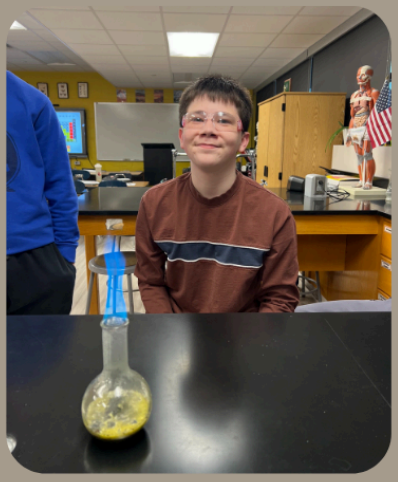
JH/HS PE
Mr. Blackmore

Lifetime Sports

We are beginning our pickleball unit, which is one of my favorites to play. I have 3 classes of Lifetime Sports that have begun playing and learning the rules of pickleball. We will eventually then create a bracket and have a tournament to see who the champs of each are. We also get to the weightroom for strength training twice a week.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE WITH MS. GUNDERSON

CHEMISTRY:



In chemistry, we are covering stoichiometry, the quantitative study of reactants and products in chemical reactions. We have also been preparing for the Science ACT that the Juniors will take on March 24th.

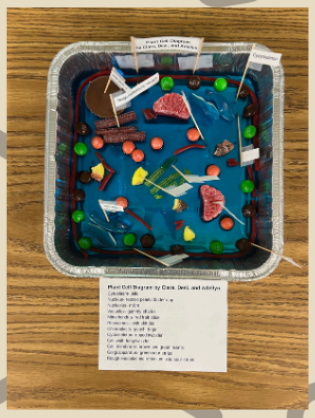
A&P:

In anatomy and physiology, students have learned the integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous system. In November, we travelled to Fort Hays to complete a cadavar lab.

Next unit we will learn about the heart, lungs, and blood.

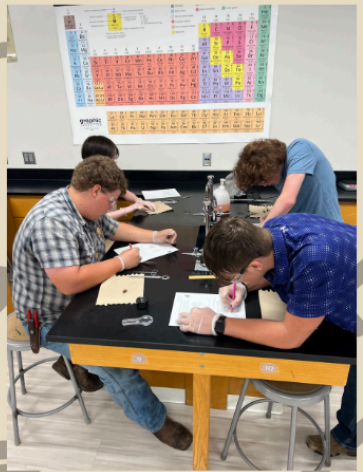
BIOLOGY:

In biology, we have been focusing on the cells and their organelles. The Sophmores recently made edible cells and tested different cleaning methods to determine which was most effective at reducing bacteria.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:

We completed our unit on insects, where students created pinning boxes of different insect orders and dissected cockroaches to explore insect anatomy. Currently, we are going over the phylum chordata. Students are also engaging in independent research projects to explore environmental science in depth.



CIP News From Mrs. Klein

What is CIP?

CIP stands for
Continuous
Improvement
Process

Why CIP?

To maintain accreditation, Nebraska schools are required to develop and implement a continuous school improvement process. Through this process, educators work to provide quality learning for all students.

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Our CIP Goal

All K-12 students will improve mathematical skills across the curriculum.

MTSS is Part of CIP

MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. MTSS is not a special program, class or intervention. Rather, it is a way of organizing instruction and intervention to help all students and promote early identification of students needing additional academic or behavioral support to be successful.

Notes

With guidance from our MTSS team, teachers have been working to create school-wide positive behavior expectations. We plan to implement them at the beginning of our next school year. This will allow us to teach and reinforce positive behaviors in all areas of our school.

AHPS JH Band

MARCH EDITION

Marching Season

The Warrior JH Band began the year by jumping straight into marching season. Students focused on learning the fundamentals of marching and playing, expanding their pep band repertoire, and preparing their parade performance. In addition to performing in the Homecoming and Halloween parades, the band participated in the annual Minden Bandfest. Their hard work paid off, as the Warrior JH Band earned a Division I Superior rating for their parade performance.

JH Warming Up at Minden Bandfest

Concert Season

After the conclusion of marching season, the Warrior Junior High Band shifted its focus to strengthening all aspects of musicianship. As part of their daily routine, students practice major scales, rhythmic patterns, and chorales. With the start of the second semester, they have added chromatic scales and patterns to further develop their technical skills. The band has also been balancing time between preparing concert music, expanding their pep band repertoire, and selecting solos for upcoming performances/contests.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 5-8 Music Concert @ 7PM
- Friday, March 27, 2026 - JH Music Contest @ Cambridge

Parents/Guardians - Join us on Sports You!

JH Computers
Ms. Pettis

Welcome to Junior High Computers. This is a quarter class so I have gotten to see almost all of the junior high students so far. We have not done a ton of computer based work, but we have done a lot of typing and letter writing. We start out by learning how to properly format a professional letter and address envelopes.

Once we have that mastered, they choose a business and write them a letter and mail it to them. Some of our students have received feedback, which is always exciting. Scooters in Holdrege delivered drinks to one of the classes, which was a huge hit and very expected. I look forward to reading their letters before they send them out and seeing their excitement when they get return mail. Overall, it has been a great learning experience for all.

4TH GRADE WITH MRS. SCHUTZ

MARCH 2026

Look What We Have Learned

SOCIAL STUDIES

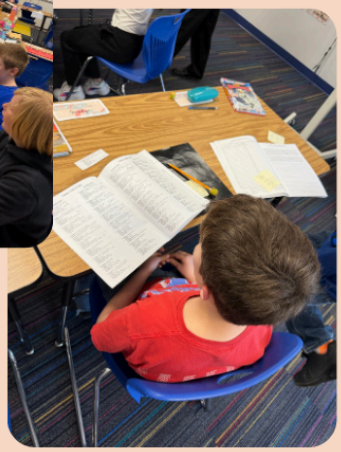
Did you know that the Oregon Trail was about 2,170 miles long? The 4th Grade class has been working on loading their wagons with all their necessary items to head out west! We recently started a fun unit called the "Hacker Trail". Mr. Ellis has been joining us for Social Studies as we learn about what life was like for the Pioneers on the Oregon Trail.

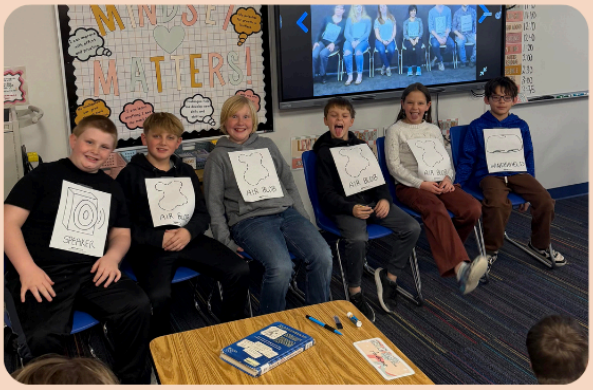
SCIENCE

We are working on finishing up our study of the waves of sound. The 4th graders have become quite the experts on the role air plays in enabling a sound vibration to travel. A few students got to help us model the travel of sound vibration from a car speaker to a windshield.

MATH

Students have been working hard on learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and simplify fractions. It's been so fun to see them gain confidence and enjoy math!





1st Grade
Mrs. Schutz

The first graders have been learning about life long ago and how it has changed throughout history. Schools long ago may have had just one room and one teacher, where today we have large school buildings with many classes.

Changes in technology have made a big difference in how students learn today. It has changed the way we communicate, or share information with not only our students, but with one other. Technology has made life easier in many ways, from our appliances, vehicles, and computers to how we work, cook, and communicate. How will life change in another 50 years?

Ask a first grader what they think life will be like.

Technology
Mr. Stagemeyer

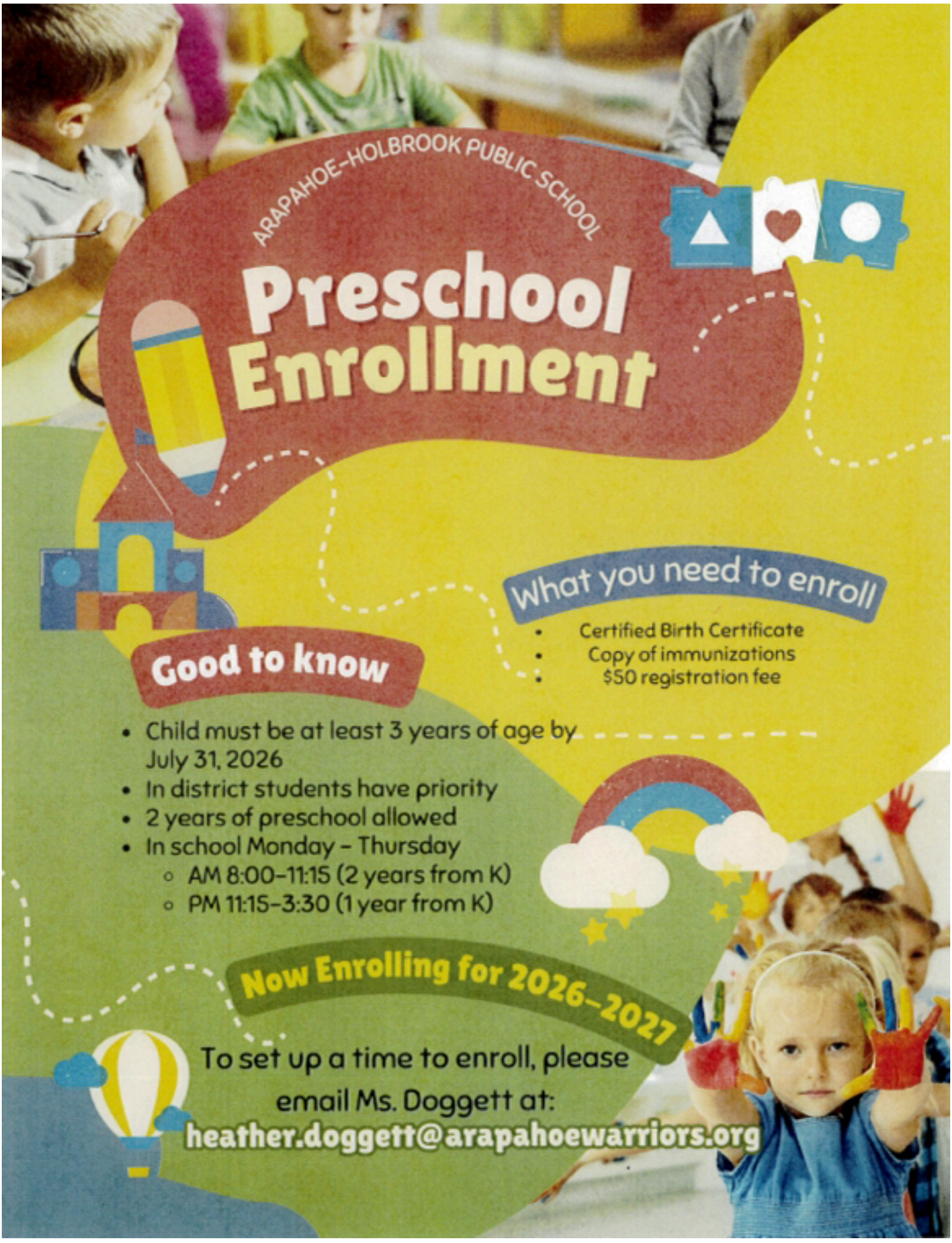
Spring is almost upon us, and with that planning for next year is starting already. We are hoping to get a few new Mimio Boards for next year as we keep phasing out the old Smartboards that are 10-15 years old. We are also planning on replacing the KG & 1st Grade iPads which are 6-7 years old as well and won't be able to receive OS updates next year.

Computer Apps II - We are getting various laser-engraved items ready to start selling (coasters, lighted acrylic bases, cutting boards, etc.)

Computer Apps I - We are finishing up formatted spreadsheets and documents. We do regular activity designs that you see on Social Media as well. Next quarter, we will be focusing more on coding, drones, robots, etc.

Intro to Media/Digital Design - We are finishing up our group videos right now and have several groups doing stop motion, silent movies, and news broadcasts

Robotics - We've been doing some command line programming for Linux (Bash) while learning how to format and configure our Raspberry Pi mini-computers. We also learned how to remotely copy files and control the device remotely using Real VNC. We also did some more advanced Python function definitions and are now getting back into our VexBots that we can program to accomplish different tasks.


ARAPAHOE-HOLBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL
Preschool Enrollment
What you need to enroll
Certified Birth Certificate
Copy of immunizations
$50 registration fee
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)
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:
    - 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-JCrpEAEAAa95GnI_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.

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DOWNLOAD
OUR APP TODAY!

Visit **arapahoewarriors.org** to learn more about our school.

School Hours:

8am - 3:40pm M-Th

8am - 2:30pm Fridays

Sign up at

schoolbeacon.com

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

Breakfast is served daily from

7:30am - 7:50am

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**.