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MARCH 2026

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From the Superintendent's Desk

Submitted by Frank Jesse, Chambers Public School Superintendent

In the next couple of weeks, you will receive our Annual School Report. It contains a summary of our achievements during the 2025-2026 school year, including reviews of our academic performance, district financials, and other general information concerning the district. We are very proud to have received the highest rating possible, Excellent, from the Nebraska Department of Education. This information can be found on the school website, www.chamberspublic.org and on the Department of Education's website, https://nep.education.ne.gov/#/.

Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Thursday, February 19. Even with the threat of winter weather, parent attendance remained high. Parental involvement is always a contributing factor in a healthy school environment. Another opportunity for parental involvement is the parent meeting scheduled for March 26 from 5:30-6:30 PM in Room 1. This meeting will aid in shaping the 2026-2027 school year. Specifically, we will be seeking input on building the course schedule, daily schedules, and reviewing the student handbook. We will share current information about potential recommendations to the Board of Education that impact each of those specific areas. If you are unable to attend, please contact Mr. Firley or Mr. Jesse with any ideas, suggestions, or questions.

The elementary building is nearly 100 years old, and the junior high / high school building is nearly 60 years old. Several major components of the school such as the roof, boilers, water heater, and exterior brick have met or exceeded life expectancy. To be proactive in ensuring our facilities are safe, updated, and meet the needs of our students, the Board of Education is planning a work session later in the spring to discuss potential needs and projects for the district. This meeting will not just be informational but will be a hands-on walking tour of the facilities to fully grasp the magnitude of the infrastructure. Your input is vital to the future planning of the district. Once a date and time have been set by the Board of Education, it will be posted on our website, social media platforms, and print publications.

We are excited to host literacy night for our K-6 students on March 5 from 6:00-7:30 PM. The event will be divided into two 45-minute sessions. One session will be a literacy escape room for students and parents, and the other session will feature a presentation from Miss Nebraska Makinzie Gregory. We hope everyone can attend and be part of this special evening.

The third quarter comes to an end on March 12. School will be dismissed at 1:00 PM and there is no school on March 13. The fourth quarter is always a hectic rush to finish the year academically and has

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a wide array of activities taking place.

Spring is also the time that we complete the required academic testing for the Nebraska Department of Education for students in grades 3-8 and 11. Students in grade 11 will take the State ACT test in March. Students in grades K-2 will take the MAP assessments in April, students in grades 3-8 will take the NSCAS test, and students in grades 9-10 will take the pre-ACT test. As those dates get closer, more information will be sent home with students and posted on the school website. Some general reminders to ensure your son/daughter is prepared to do their best; encourage them to get a good night's rest prior to the test date and eat a healthy breakfast the day of the test.

From the Desk of Mr. Brady Firley

Submitted by Brady Firley, Chambers Public School 7-12 Principal

ACADEMIC FOCUS FOR MARCH

- Finishing the 3rd Quarter Strong: March is an important stretch as we approach the end of the third quarter. Students are encouraged to stay focused, complete assignments on time, and seek help when needed.
- Spring Assessment Preparation: Teachers are continuing to prepare students for upcoming state and local assessments while maintaining strong instructional engagement and rigor.
- Academic Accountability: This is a great time for students to reflect on their progress and make adjustments before the final quarter begins. Families are encouraged to review grades in JMC and communicate with teachers as needed.
- Planning for 2026–2027: Course registration and scheduling discussions will begin for next school year, helping students map out academic pathways and career interests.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 2 – Spring Sports Practice Begin
- March 5 – Literacy Night
- March 12 – 1:00 PM Early Dismissal - End of 3rd Quarter
- March 13 – No School (Spring Break)
- March 25-27 – State FFA
- March 28 – State Speech
- March 29-31 – State FCCLA

Please continue to check the school calendar and website for updates on events, activities, and weather-related changes.

ACTIVITIES & STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Basketball Postseason: Congratulations to our boys' and girls' basketball teams on their hard work throughout the season. We are proud of the growth, sportsmanship, and dedication shown by our student-athletes.
- Speech: Students continue to represent Chambers in speech competitions. We appreciate the time and effort these students dedicate outside of the school day.
- Music Program: Students are preparing for spring concerts and district music contests.
- FFA & FCCLA: Members are gearing up for district and state-level competitions and continuing community involvement efforts.

"Mr. Firley" Continued on Page 3

"Mr. Firley" Continued from Page 2

We encourage families and community members to attend upcoming events and continue supporting our students.

PARENT TIPS

- Stay Engaged: The spring semester can get busy. Make sure to continue to ask your student about their learning and activities.
- Monitor Academic Progress: Check JMC regularly and reach out early if concerns arise.
- Encourage Healthy Habits: Consistent sleep, attendance, and organization are key as we enter the final stretch of the school year.
- Plan Ahead: Help students balance academics, activities, and spring commitments.

FINAL THOUGHTS

March brings both momentum and transition. As we head toward the final quarter of the school year, our focus remains on academic growth, student engagement, and continued participation in activities that enrich the student experience. Thank you for your continued support of Chambers Public School and for partnering with us to ensure student success.

Let's make it a productive and positive month!

Mr. O'Malley's Classroom

Submitted by Mr. O'Malley

It has been a busy second semester in the classroom with the students working hard as we move toward the end of the year. All classes have worked on papers and presented them to the whole class. This has helped many of them work on getting in front of people and being able to stay composed and give their presentation (a good skill for real life). I am proud of how hard the students worked on the papers and presentations.

In American Government we have been looking at government and in particular county government and its importance to us in Chambers. The students went to County Government Day in October this year, and really enjoyed the experience. When we completed this chapter, the students wrote a paper on the importance of county government in their lives. The students did a nice job talking about its importance to them individually.

The American History 8th and 9th grade students have been studying Manifest Destiny and World War II. We have spent time learning about what led to these tough times in history and the effects these periods had on American society before, during, and after they occurred. The students have enjoyed learning about these important time periods and asked a lot of questions.

The 7th grade World History class has been studying the Renaissance and Reformation period following the Dark Ages in Europe and looking at how this shaped many ideas that would come over with the first American colonists. We spent a couple days looking at the Declaration of Independence and Constitution and then having the students journal about the importance of these documents to them personally. These students did a great job on this activity!

Finally, the World History 10 students have been looking at the Middle Ages in China and Japan and we will finish the year up going over this time period in Europe. These students did a paper on Chinese inventions and presented them to the class. I was really impressed with the quality of the papers and their presentations.

It's hard to believe the year is almost complete but I have enjoyed being able to teach each of your students in this year.

Counselor's Corner

Submitted by Mrs. Pospichal, School Counselor

It's hard to believe that March is here and that state testing is right around the corner. The juniors will take the Nebraska State ACT test on Wednesday, April 8. Students in grades K-8 will take the MAP assessments and NSCAS assessments the weeks of April 13-24. Grades 9 and 10 will take the Pre-Act test during that time. There are many events during that time, a specific dates and times will be arranged when we know more details about the events.

It is important that students strive to do their best on these tests so I urge parents to encourage their students to be well rested, well fed, and well prepared the day of the assessments.

Many high school students will be competing in the Northeast Community College Scholastic Contest. It will be held on Wednesday, April 1.

Seniors are encouraged to continue to apply for scholarships as many scholarship deadlines are in March and April. Also, just a friendly reminder that the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is open. Just a reminder that LB 705 now requires FAFSA completion as a graduation requirement. EducationQuest is available for assistance. call 308-234-6310 for more information.

Juniors interested in a future career in health care or law are encouraged to complete a job shadow if they plan on applying for the RHOP or RLOP scholarship next fall. I can help them arrange a job shadow if they are interested.

If you have any questions about these updates or opportunities, feel free to reach out to me at 402-482-5233 or email me at gpospichal@chamberspublic.org.

9th Grade Poetry

Submitted by Mrs. Jesse

This year, the 9th grade English Language Arts class has spent some time learning about different types of poetry and then writing their own poems. They started with acrostic poems which are poems where the first letter of each new line spells out the topic or theme of the poem. An ode is a poem that praises or celebrates something that the poet loves or cares about deeply. A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem that consists of only three lines with a pattern of 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the third line. A limerick is a humorous poem that consists of 5 lines that follow a specific rhyme scheme of AABBA. Blackout poetry is a form of poetry where the poet blacks out or erases words from an existing text to create a new poem from the words that remain. Finally, free verse poetry is a form of poetry that does not follow any specific rules for theme, rhythm, rhyme scheme, or pattern. Please enjoy some examples of the amazing and creative work the freshman class has produced.

WINTER (an acrostic poem)
By Maggie Hansen

Why are you so long?
I only like when you bring Christmas around.
Negative temperatures make me shiver inside and out.
The seasonal depression you carry is never easy.
Every basketball season is always overstretched.
Ready for summer the second December is over.

Ole Christmas Tree (a limerick)
By Grace Hoffman

There once was a glorious tree
Instead of just letting it be
I chopped it down
dressed it up like a clown
poor darn old thing will never be free

Basketball (a free verse poem)
By: Ashly Schaaf

I ride the bench most games
Counting the knots in the wood
Cheering loud
Till my vocal cords give out
waiting till the last two minutes
That's my time to shine
We watched from the bench
I hope to learn the game
We all have a buddy some have one on the court
and some are with you on the bench
Now with three weeks left we push harder
than we ever have
We all want to learn
Some learn from watching,
Some learn from doing
We have each other's support
No matter what
We are a team

Stranded (a free verse poem)
By Draeger Scott

Stranded on a desert island,
Like "Lord of the Flies", but it is just me
Out here, it is very lonely.
But just surviving, with all this sand,
Is so much work, but I manage.
Hunting and gathering,
Even building some shelter in this summer swelter.
Hopefully a plane flies over,
Maybe a boat sails by,
Either way, I want to be rescued from this dry desert island.

Grass (a haiku)
By Trevor Timmerman

Can be tall and green
What deer eat during the day
While mice hide away

Friendship (a haiku)
By Ashly Schaaf

Paths split and rejoin
They whisper where we once were
Still you walk with me

Water in a stream (a haiku)
By Claire Walters

Water in a stream
Flowing like a calm rhythm
A cool blue color

My Best Friend (a limerick)
By Ashley Schaaf

Whenever I'm feeling upset,
She's the one I can't forget.
With jokes and good cheer,
She keeps my path clear
The best friend I'll ever have met.

November (an ode)
By Trevor Timmerman

November, the greatest time of the year.
I love getting up early to hunt deer.
Delightful cold days when you can see your breath
The rush of seeing deer run by and
watching bucks fight for a doe.

After an early morning hunt, going inside
to watch the intense Bowl games.
With thrilling hits and excitement of the last
2 minutes trying their hardest to punch one more in.

November is the best time when leaves have fallen
and corn has been harvested.
Then Thanksgiving comes around.
The holiday of thanks, eating, and seeing family.
You never know if you will be sledding
or if you will be treading through mud

There is so much to do, from hunting deer.
to branding calves.
You never know what you will be doing.
But in November whatever you do will be fun.

The love that holds us together/ the love that never leaves (a free verse poem)
By: Brinly Schaaf

The love of family feels warm and true,
like a light that shines when days feel blue.
It's found in laughter around the table,
in support when things aren't stable.
Family knows us, flaws and all,
they help us stand when we start to fall.
Through every change, highs and lows,
their love is steady and always grows.
Friends are the people we choose each day,
who walk beside us along the way.
They share our dreams, jokes, and fears,
and turn the hard moments into easy years.
Family and friends remind us who we are,
they help us heal every scar.
Their love is a gift, strong and true,
a bond that's lasts our whole life through.

Outside the Classroom Window (a free verse poem)
By: Grace Hoffman

Outside the classroom window
There are a variety of vehicles
Black or white
Gray or blue
The cars have nothing to do
While class is taking place
Different or alike
Small or big
It depends on your rig
Dodge or jeep
Chevy or Ford
They are something not everyone can afford
Quiet or loud
Crooked or straight
I hope Trevor's tires don't deflate
Pickup or car
Close or far
Other's driving may bring me fear
But they bring us here

My Siblings (a free verse poem)
By Ansley Waldo

I have siblings.
Plural.
Which already tells you my life is loud.
One of them eats my snacks and swears they were "saving them for me."
But by that time the only thing they are doing is saving it in their stomach.
Another one borrows my stuff
without asking, then asks,
"Why are you mad?"
while wearing my hoodie.
They argue over the TV
like it's the last screen on Earth.
Volume on max.
Peace?
Never heard of her.
They know exactly
how to annoy me
breathing too loud or even standing too close.
So yeah,
they drive me crazy.
They steal my food.
They steal my stuff.
They steal my patience.
But I guess I'll keep them.
Because as much as I hate to say it, life without siblings
would be way too quiet.
And honestly,
kind of boring.

My Kidnapped Balloons (a free verse poem)
By: Xander Wolinski

My new balloon I just blew up
Has gotten kidnapped by my English teacher
It sat sadly all by itself until
My teacher kidnapped another one
But now the two balloons sit by themselves
And they lived happily ever after

An Ode to Books
By Claire Walters

Every book is a new journey
an escape from reality
a movie in my mind

The color of your beautiful cover
Calming and comforting
Fun to display

I love all genres
novel and novellas
fantasy, mystery, romance and more

Finishing a book feels like losing a friend
thinking back to you all day
until I open a new book and do it all over again

Into the Woods (a free verse poem)
Maggie Hansen

Cold rainy and dark nights.
Running through the woods,
not for health but for your life.
Running faster and faster into the dark trees.
You don't know where they are,
but you know they are close.
Every stick breaking or bush rustling,
More fear enters your mind further.
You're running out of trees to hide in.
You see the light, but you don't know whether it's the end of the forest
or the end of your life.
Then BANG you've been struck in the shoulder.
Going down you try to crawl,
you try to keep going,
but you can't.
It's over.
They got you.
It's the end.

List of Counseling Providers

Below is a list of service providers in Holt County. This list was compiled by ESU 8 and may not include all providers.

Ally Counseling Services, LLC
614 N 4th St. Suite 108
O'Neill, NE 68763
402-3396-1306

Avera St. Anthony's Outreach Behavioral Health Clinic
300 N. 2nd St.
O'Neill, NE 68763
402-336-2900

Counseling and Enrichment Center/Building Blocks
118 N 5th St.
O'Neill, NE 68763
402-336-4841

Heartland Counseling
221 West Douglas St.
O'Neill, NE 68736
402-336-2800

Hampton Behavioral Health and Family Services
116 West Douglas St. Suite B
O'Neill, NE 68763
402-336-3200

CHAMBERS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Education of Chambers Public Schools was convened in open and public session on February 16, 2026, in Room 1 at Chambers Public Schools, 201 S. A Street, Chambers, Nebraska. The roll was called, and the following Board members were present: Jamie Tomjack, Terry Kamphaus, Monte Metschke, Amy Scott, Brady Dexter, and Jon Sladek. Also present was Frank Jesse, Superintendent.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication on the Chambers Public School's website on February 9, 2026, and thereafter in the Holt County Independent and Sandhills Ties on February 11, 2026. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice, and a current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Tomjack at 7:00p.m.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting
At the beginning of this meeting, the Chair announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall of Room 1.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Terry Kamphaus, seconded by Brady Dexter, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

Visitors were invited to share public comment.
- No visitor comment.

Consent Agenda
Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Jon Sladek, to approve all items on the consent agenda as provided. After discussion and roll call vote the motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS: $41,970.44
HOT LUNCH CLAIMS: $3,298.48
PAYROLL: $196,715.70

Student Council Report
Mr. Jesse gave the Student Council Report.

Teacher Report
Mrs. Thornburg Elementary Report. No JH/HS Report.

Counselor Report
Mrs. Pospichal gave the Counselor Report.

Principal/Activity Report
Mr. Firley gave the principal/activity report.

Superintendent Report and Recommendations
Mr. Jesse gave the superintendent report.
- Legislative Update
- Strategic Plan

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- Annual Report
- Equal Access Act - 1984

Board of Education Development
Board President Jamie Tomjack assigned the 2026 Board Committees

- Negotiations: Jamie Tomjack, Brady Dexter, Monte Metschke
- American Civics: Monte Metschke, Jon Sladek, Amy Scott
- Transportation/Facilities: Brady Dexter, Terry Kamphaus, Jon Sladek
- Budget: Jamie Tomjack, Terry Kamphaus, Monte Metschke
- Administrative Review: Amy Scott, Brady Dexter
- CWC Sub-Committee: Jamie Tomjack, Jon Sladek, Terry Kamphaus
- Crisis/Safety: Amy Scott, Brady Dexter
- School Improvement: Jamie Tomjack, Jon Sladek, Terry Kamphaus

New Business

Executive Session – Negotiation Strategy 2026-2027 Classified Staff

The Board President recommended the Negotiation Strategy discussion by held in closed session to protect the public interest. The Board Presidents moved that the board enter closed session for Negotiation Strategy session.

a) Motion by Jamie Tomjack, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to enter Executive Session for Negotiation Strategy session at 8:16pm. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

b) Motion by Monte Metschke, seconded by Brady Dexter to invite Mr. Jesse to Executive Session at 8:17pm. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

c) Motion by Brady Dexter, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to return to open session at 8:44pm. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

A. Motion by Amy Scott, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to approve 2026-2027 Classified Negotiations. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

B. Reviewed and discussed the Rule 10 Safety visit.

C. Motion by Brady Dexter, seconded by Terry Kamphaus to approve Policy 5417 (School Wellness Policy update. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0.

Topics for Next Month's Agenda: Teacher Contracts, Non-Athletic Extra Duty Contracts, K-6 Science Curriculum, Assessment Data.

Adjournment
Motion was made by Amy Scott, seconded by Brady Dexter to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm on February 16, 2026. Motion carried, 6-0. Aye: Dexter, Kamphaus, Metschke, Scott, Sladek, Tomjack. Nay: 0. The meeting was duly adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting: March 16, 2026 @ 8:00pm.

_____, Secretary
Amy Scott

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Pigs in a Blanket, Smiley Fries, Baked Beans, Salad Bar, Milk	3 Ravioli with Meat Sauce, Breadstick, Salad Bar, Milk	4 Chicken Quesadillas, Salad Bar, Milk	5 Meatball Subs, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Milk	6 Broccoli Cheddar Soup, Bosco Stick, Salad Bar, Milk	7
8	9 Fiestadas, Oreo Fluff, Salad Bar, Milk	10 Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Dinner Roll, Salad Bar, Milk	11 Turkey Sub Sandwiches, Chips, Salad Bar, Milk	12 Chicken Crispitos, Salad Bar, Milk	13 No School	14
15	16 Chicken Nuggets, Peas, Smiley Fries, Salad Bar, Milk	17 Meatballs, Cheesy Hashbrown Casserole, Salad Bar, Milk	18 Pulled Pork Nachos, Salad Bar, Milk	19 Walking Tacos, Salad Bar, Milk	20 Mac & Cheese, Salad Bar, Milk	21
22	23 Cheeseburgers, French Fires, Baked Beans, Salad Bar, Milk	24 Chicken Alfredo, Breadstick, Broccoli, Salad Bar, Milk	25 Pepperoni Pizza, Salad Bar, Milk	26 Tater Tot Casserole, Dinner Roll, Milk	27 Egg & Cheese on a Biscuit, Salad Bar, Milk	28
29	30 Philly Cheese Steak, Tator Tots, Salad Bar, Milk	31 Pizza Crunchers with Marinara, Salad Bar, Milk				

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SALAD BAR AND MILK OFFERED DAILY. USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 **Conference Speech @ Pope John** **Track Practice Starts**	3 **District FFA CDE'S @ Sargent** **Hwy 20 Middle School Quiz Bowl**	4	5 **Early College for Sophomores Literacy Night @ 6:00 p.m.**	6	7 **Speech @ Creighton**
8 **Daylight Savings Time-Spring Forward**	9 **Speech @ Cedar Rapids**	10 **CWC Spring Pictures @ Chambers**	11 **NECC Rep Here @ 10:00am**	12 **End of 3rd Qtr-1pm Dismissal**	13 **NO SCHOOL-Spring Break**	14
15	16 **Board of Education Meeting @ 8:00pm**	17	18	19 **UNK Track Invite @ 11:00am** **Miles of Smiles**	20 **WSC High Brass Visit** **Spring Chum Party 3:30pm-5:00pm** **CWC Spring Pictures @ Chambers Backup date**	21 **Class D All State Band @ Kearney** **District Speech @ Litchfield**
22	23 **NVC Band @ Chambers 10:00am**	24 **Track @ Anslemo Merna 11:00am**	25 **State FFA @ Lincoln**	26 **State FFA @ Lincoln**	27 **State FFA @ Lincoln**	28 **State Speech @ Kearney**
29 **State FCCLA**	30 **State FCCLA**	31 **State FCCLA**				