TROJAN TALK

November 2026

A Message from our Superintendent

~Mr. Rottinghaus

With the calendar now in November and the fall semester moving quickly toward the holiday season, there is a great deal happening around Tri County Public Schools. This month, I want to share how we handle winter weather notifications, provide a brief update on our bond construction progress, and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our fall athletic teams.

Winter Weather & School Cancellation Procedures.

As we prepare ourselves for colder weather and the eventual arrival of the winter season, the potential will exist over the coming months for late starts, early dismissals, or school closures due to inclement weather and hazardous travel conditions. Whenever winter weather moves into our area, please know that our decisions will always be made with student, parent, and staff safety as our top priority, while also doing everything we can to ensure maximum learning opportunities and keep students in the classroom whenever safely possible.

Our goal will always be to make an informed decision as early as reasonably possible in order to provide parents, students, and staff with as much advance notice as we can. When we need to communicate a weather-related late start, postponement, or cancellation, our primary method of notifying families will be via text message and email through our Thrillshare messaging system. Those alerts are sent directly to the cell phone numbers and email addresses listed for parents and emergency contacts in PowerSchool. Notifications will also be sent out as push notifications through the district's Thrillshare mobile app. Additionally, weather-related postponements and cancellations will be shared with local media outlets, specifically News Channel Nebraska (NCN) and 10/11 News. Because our Thrillshare messages rely on accurate records, we ask that you please keep the school office up to date with any changes to your phone numbers or email addresses in PowerSchool so you do not miss important announcements.

Bond Construction Progress

Around campus, work on our bond-financed facilities project continues to move into a much more visible phase. Although we have incurred several weather-related delay days due to heavy rainfall this fall, overall construction remains on schedule and comfortably within our project budget. With colder temperatures approaching, we are hopeful to get our new structural additions enclosed as quickly as possible so crews can transition into interior construction work through the winter months.

Progress on the exterior footprints is moving along nicely. The masonry walls for the new Preschool addition are now finished and have passed all required inspections. Next, a crane will install the precast roof planks on the preschool structure, which will be followed by roofing and interior underground plumbing. On the south end of the building, foundation work for the new Career & Technical Education (CTE) wing is nearly complete on the north side, with crews pouring stem walls and footings before shifting over to the new gym foundations. Of particular excitement, we expect to begin seeing the major structures going up for both the new gym and the CTE wing around mid-December, when the precast walls are tentatively scheduled to arrive.

In the meantime, a few minor campus adjustments are taking place to prepare for the next phases of work. Our art classes have vacated the back ceramics and kiln space to allow footings for the south lobby to be installed, while continuing regular instruction in the main north art room. Outside, crews are trenching storm drainage in the east lot in sections to keep access open, and temporary parking lot lighting and striping improvements are underway. Additionally, elementary power relocation is scheduled for November 25th, which is a scheduled no-school day. This will temporarily shut off power to the elementary wing while leaving the main gym powered for athletic practices.

Celebrating Fall Extracurricular Success

Finally, as the fall sports season comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches for a remarkable fall campaign. First, congratulations to our boys' cross-country and girls' volleyball teams for their exceptional performances at the state competitions!

We are proud of our volleyball team for earning a third-place finish at the Class D-1 State Championship tournament! Throughout the fall, the team played an incredibly tough regular-season schedule against high-caliber Southern Nebraska Conference foes, and that battle-tested preparation truly paid off during their postseason run. We are also proud of our boys' and girls' cross-country teams for their outstanding performances at the State Championship meet. In particular, congratulations to our boys' cross-country team on earning a second-place team standing as the Class D State Runner-Up! Altogether, two girls and five boys qualified for the state meet as individuals, in addition to the boys' team qualifying as a whole. Furthermore, congratulations to our football team and coaches on a strong, hard-fought winning season, finishing the year with a 6-3 record. We are also proud of our girls' golf team for their efforts and growth this fall. Our girls showed encouraging improvement in their scores and made meaningful progress throughout the season.

In a hardworking community like ours, we recognize that results and growth like this do not happen by chance—they are the result of daily discipline, grit, and dedication. While academics always remain our core mission and the most important responsibility we have as a school, the rising tide of work ethic, teamwork, confidence, and pride our students build through activities carries right back into our classrooms and elevates our entire school culture.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued patience, flexibility, and support of our students, staff, families, and community as we work together toward another great school year. As always, if you ever have questions or things you'd like to discuss, please don't hesitate to reach out. I can be contacted in my office in person, by phone at (402) 683-2015, or by email at brian.rottinghaus@tricountyschools.org.

Small School PRIDE Cultivating BIG Opportunities

A Message from our MS/HS Principal

~Mr. Clark

Veteran's Day Convocation

We are proud to host our annual Veterans Day Convocation on Tuesday, November 11, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tri County Auditorium. This year's program will feature Air Force 403 Crew Chief Brian Grove as our guest speaker. The Tri County band will perform an Armed Forces medley, and the choir will share a patriotic selection in tribute to those who have served. All local veterans are invited to join TC staff and the high school student council for a Veterans Reception with coffee and rolls at 8:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. Please share this invitation with any veterans who may wish to attend.

If you would like to honor a veteran on our digital Wall of Honor displayed in the cafeteria, please email a digital photo and the veteran's name to ryan.clark@tricountyschools by November 6th.

Chronic Absenteeism

Thank you, families, for helping make strong attendance a priority at Tri County. Across Nebraska, about 36,000 students (roughly 11% statewide) are chronically absent each year.

In Nebraska, students are considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of school days (about 18.5 days), which can affect both academic progress and our school's classification in the Nebraska Department of Education's accountability system. The Department reviews three years of attendance data when assigning school ratings, so maintaining excellent attendance helps keep Tri County strong. Thank you for continuing to ensure your students are here and engaged every day!

Families can help keep their students in good standing by scheduling appointments around the school calendar, developing healthy routines at home such as good rest and nutrition, and establishing strong routines that set students up for success in getting to school on time.

FFA Chapter Excels at District Livestock Judging Competition

On Wednesday, October 28th, our FFA chapter sent 43 FFA students to represent our school at the District Livestock Judging Competition. Facing strong competition from across the district, our students demonstrated impressive knowledge and evaluation skills across multiple species categories.

Junior High Division: Team Scores: 3rd in Sheep and Goats, 5th in Beef Individual Top 10: Charity Schnuelle: 2nd Place
Junior Division: Team Scores: 5th Place overall Individual Top 10: Wyatt Mote: 5th Place
Senior Division: Team Scores: 2nd Place overall, Qualified for State Competition

Congratulations to all 43 participants for their hard work and outstanding representation of our FFA chapter! Good luck to our Senior team as they prepare for the state competition!

Tune in to Trojan Talk

Looking to stay connected with what's happening around Tri County? Be sure to check out the latest episode of "Trojan Talk", our very own student-run podcast! Each week, our student hosts bring you stories, interviews, and insights from across the school district.

Here is what's featured on the latest episode:

- In the Classroom with Mrs. Heinz: We welcome back Mrs. Heinz, a proud Tri County alum who has returned to TC after years of teaching in Beatrice. Tune in to find out why explosions are her absolute favorite part of teaching science!
- Trojan Football Recap: Mr. Armstrong drops by to give an exclusive football recap as the Trojans prepare to take the field for their final home game of the season.
- Elementary Highlights: Third grader Navy Esau joins the show to share all the excitement about hatching chicks in class and creating self-portraits.

You can listen to Trojan Talk anytime on Spotify and now on Apple Podcasts. Don't forget to subscribe so you never miss an episode!

Tri County STUCO

FOOD DRIVE

Please donate all non-perishable food items. This is a class competition; the class winner in the elementary and secondary schools will receive a prize. All food will be donated to the local food shelter.



A Message from our Elementary Principal

~Mr. Gronemeyer

Celebrating Success, Building Relationships, and Looking Ahead!

Dear Tri County Families,
What an exciting time it has been at Tri County Elementary! Our students continue to make us proud through their accomplishments, positive choices, and enthusiasm for learning. From earning special honors to celebrating Halloween together, we have had plenty of reasons to smile! Here are a few highlights from our recent activities and a look ahead at what is coming up.

Tri County Students Continue to Shine!

Our students continue to earn honors and represent Tri County with pride! Congratulations to Spenser Morrissey, who was selected to represent Tri County Elementary in the Middle Level All-State Choir in Lincoln on November 18! This is a wonderful accomplishment, and we are excited to see Spenser represent our school at this special event. Great job, Spenser! We are proud of you!

Red Ribbon Week: Making Healthy Choices!

Tri County Elementary students celebrated Red Ribbon Week from October 26–29! Throughout the week, students participated in fun activities designed to emphasize the importance of making healthy choices and living a drug-free life.



Red Ribbon Week provides an excellent opportunity to remind our students that the choices they make today can help shape their futures. We are proud of our students for participating and learning about the importance of taking care of themselves and making positive decisions!

HALLOWEEN FUN AT TRI COUNTY!

Our students worked hard to meet their goals, and every grade level earned all 70 of its High Five Awards! Because of their hard work and positive choices, students earned the opportunity to wear their Halloween costumes to school on October 29!

Students kicked off the celebration with our traditional Halloween parade through the high school before heading to the auditorium for our much-anticipated "Let's Make a Deal" game show! These two traditions are always a highlight for our students, and this year was no exception. It was wonderful to see everyone having fun, celebrating their accomplishments, and making great memories together. Thank you to our students and staff for making this such a fun and successful day!

PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser is Back!

If you haven't already, be sure to find an elementary student and order some of Eileen's Cookie Dough!

That's right! Our PTO is once again selling cookie dough as its biggest fundraiser of the year. This is a great opportunity to support our PTO while stocking up on some delicious treats for the upcoming holiday season.

Don't miss out! If you haven't placed an order yet, just find an elementary student for more information about the fundraiser and how to order. Thank you for supporting our PTO and helping provide wonderful opportunities for our students!

A Special Opportunity with Jeff Kinney!

On Tuesday, October 27, 25 lucky Tri County students had the opportunity to attend a special presentation featuring author Jeff Kinney, the creator of the popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid book series!
The presentation took place at Freeman Public Schools, and our students had a fantastic time participating in this exciting experience. Opportunities like these help bring learning to life and encourage students to continue exploring their interests in reading and writing.
We would like to extend a sincere thank-you to Freeman Public Schools for inviting our students to be part of this wonderful opportunity. We appreciate their generosity in helping create memorable learning experiences for our kids!

Looking Ahead to November!

It is hard to believe that November is already here and Thanksgiving is just around the corner! As we head into the final months of the first semester, we encourage all of our students to keep working hard, giving their best effort, and making positive choices each day.
The final stretch of the semester is an important time to continue building strong academic habits and celebrating the progress students have made since the beginning of the school year.
Families, thank you for your continued support and for partnering with us to help our students succeed. We are grateful to be part of such a wonderful school community!
Let's make November another great month at Tri County Elementary!

Go Trojans! TC Pride!



Jesse Gronemeyer, Elementary Principal



Important Dates:

November 25th-27th - No School, Thanksgiving Break
November 30th - No school
December 1st - K-6 Winter Concert @ 7:00 p.m.

A Message from our Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

~Mr. Armstrong

Congratulations to all of our Fall Sports and Activities on a successful season. This fall was a fun time at Tri County and we had several athletes/teams with impressive regular season results, which led to several opportunities to compete in the postseason. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication this Fall.

Special Congratulations to our Cross Country teams who sent seven to the state meet. The Boys team finished as State Runner Up in Class D for the second straight year led by Sammy Holsing finishing 3rd individually and running a school record time at the state meet!

Another shout out to our Volleyball team who qualified for the State Volleyball Tournament for the first time since 2009! The girls will play their first round Matchup on Thursday at 3:00 PM at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Winter sports are on the horizon and will be starting soon. Please be on the lookout for communication from our coaches regarding practice schedules, parent meetings, etc. We look forward to seeing you come out and support our students in their various activities as fall ends and winter begins. Thank you!

Caleb Armstrong
Activities Director
caleb.armstrong@tricountyschools.org

Notes & Reminders

- **BOUND continues to be our primary calendar for activities and athletics. This can be found on the Tri County website ("Activities Calendar" button). The calendar is very fluid week to week, so please check the calendar frequently and sign up for notifications.**
- **JH winter sports practices have already started and their first competitions will begin in the next few weeks. The first JH Wrestling competition is on Monday, November 9th and the first JH Girls Basketball games are on Thursday, November 12th.**
- **HS winter sports practices start on Monday, November 16th. If your child did not participate in a fall sport, please confirm that physical and NSAA forms have been filled out on Final Forms, and activity fees are paid.**
- **One Act has started their preparations for their upcoming performances. Conference One-Act is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th. District One Act is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at Centennial at 9:30 AM.**
- **Great job to our band and choir students and Mr. Morrissey on a successful fall concert performance. Also shoutout to our Pep Band. Mr.Morrissey and our kids are second to none and have done a great job through the fall season!**

A Message from our Special Education Director

~Mr. Lockyer

Travis Lockyer
Director of Student Servies
& MTSS Coordinator
travis.lockyer@tricountyschools.org

Student Services Update:

Making Sense of Your Child's Reading Results

As we wrap up the first quarter, it's a good time to look back at how the year has started and ahead to what comes next. At parent-teacher conferences in early October, families received two important items: the Title I School-Parent Compact and a parent handout explaining your child's fall DIBELS results. This month, I want to help you get the most out of both.

What DIBELS tells us:

DIBELS is a set of short, one-minute reading checks that every K–8 student takes three times a year: fall, winter, and spring. Depending on grade level, it looks at skills like naming letters, hearing the sounds in words, reading made-up words to check phonics, and reading a passage aloud. Each check works like a quick temperature reading. It doesn't measure everything your child knows, but it tells us early whether a student is on track or may need extra help.

Report Cards, DIBELS & MAP:

First quarter report cards are coming home soon, and you may notice that your child's reading grade, DIBELS results, and NWEA MAP scores don't all tell exactly the same story. That's normal, because each one measures something different. A report card grade reflects classwork, assignments, and effort over the whole quarter. DIBELS is a quick check of specific foundational reading skills, like phonics and fluency, on a single day. MAP is a computer-based test that adjusts to your child's answers, getting harder or easier as they go, to measure broader skills in reading and math and track growth over the year. Each piece is useful on its own, and looking at all three together gives the fullest picture of how your child is doing.

What happens with the results?

Our teams use DIBELS to decide which students would benefit from additional small-group reading support. This is part of our MTSS framework, which simply means we provide layers of support so that every student gets what they need. The next full screening happens in December, and you'll receive updated results afterward.

What is progress monitoring?

Students who receive extra reading support also take short progress monitoring checks, either weekly or every other week depending on the level of support they need. These are brief, one-minute probes similar to the fall screening, focused on the specific skill a student is working on. Tracking these scores over time shows us whether the support is helping a student close the gap. If progress is strong, a student may need less support; if progress is slower than we'd like, the team adjusts the plan. If your child receives extra support and you'd like to see how their progress monitoring is going, just ask their teacher.

Where the compact comes in.

The Title I compact describes how school, family, and students share responsibility for learning. One of the most powerful things you can do at home is read with your child for 15–20 minutes a day. Let them read to you, read to them, and talk about the story together. Consistent practice at home makes a real difference in the skills DIBELS checks.

If you have questions about your child's report card, DIBELS results, or the support they'rereceiving, please reach out to your child's teacher or contact me directly.

November 2026 Breakfast Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	2 French Toast Sausage Link Fruit/Juice Milk	3 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	4 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	5 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit/Juice Milk	6 Breakfast Pizza Fruit/Juice Milk	7
8	9 Pancake Sausage Link Fruit/Juice Milk	10 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	11 Donut & Parfait Fruit/Juice Milk	12 Omelet & Muffin Fruit/Juice Milk	13 Breakfast Bar Fruit/Juice Milk	14
15 	16 French Toast Sausage Link Fruit/Juice Milk	17 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	18 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	19 Breakfast Casserole Fruit/Juice Milk	20 Breakfast Pizza Fruit/Juice Milk	21
22	23 Pancake Sausage Link Fruit/Juice Milk	24 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	25 No School	26 	27	28
29	30 No School					Optional main entrée of a Cereal, Cereal Bars, or Poptarts

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

November 2026  Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE** 8	2 Popcorn Chicken Mash Potato /Gravy Roll	3 Crispito Green Beans Monster Bar	4 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Vegetable	5 Walking Taco Spanish Rice Corn	6 Meatball Sub Peas Jello	7
	9 Corn Dog Mac N Cheese Green Beans	10 Rice Bowl MixedVegetables	11 Chicken Fried Steak Mash Potato/Gravy Roll	12 Sloppy Joe French Fries Baked Beans	13 Cheese Pizza Corn Cookie	14 
15	16 Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potato Muffin	17 Goulash Tortilla Chips Green Beans Garlic Bread	18 Grilled Pork Burger Potato Salad Baked Beans	19 Pulled Pork Nachos Spanish Rice Corn	20 Roasted Turkey Mash Potato/Gravy Roll Pumpkin Dessert	21
22	23 Chicken Noodle/Chili MixedVegetables Cinnamon Roll	24 Hot Dog Chips Sorbet	25	26	27 	28
29	30 No School	All Menu's Include: Salad Bar Fruits & Vegetables Milk Choice of a Sandwich				Sandwiches Mon - Turkey Wrap Tue - Ham Wed - Turkey Thurs - Club Friday—PB & J



Tri County Public Schools
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