Competing in a global economy: Norris students at the head of the class

The State of Schools report from the Nebraska Department of Education issues performance accountability information on school districts throughout our state. The Norris district continues to be a beacon of excellence pointing the way for best practices in K-12 education in our state, with culminating experiences at the high school level that prepare our students well for the rigors of college education.

For example:
* Norris students rank amongst the very best when it comes to graduation rate, with 99% of our four-year cohort graduating. This is an excellent indication that when your child comes to Norris, your child matters. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to make good on our guarantee of quality learning experiences to assure your student thrives, actualizing our mission statement.
* Norris students have amongst the highest performance indices for college-readiness benchmarks on the ACT, in particular in English/Language Arts. This key area is a great measure of students possessing the communication skills necessary to negotiate and collaborate in a competitive workplace environment.
* Norris students have a wide variety of advanced career and technical training opportunities available to them, which means that we are not attempting to issue a cookie-cutter high school experience but instead are interested in tailoring an educational program to meet the needs of your student, whether that includes advanced Technology experiences through graphic design and the use of our programmable plasma cutter or working in the health sciences area taking a rigorous course like medical terminology to later pursue a career in the health industry.
* Despite the above, know that we are continually focused on improvement. We genuinely want to do more, and offer it in an even better way to help ensure student success. To that end, the district is participating in a “ReVision” grant-awarded process through the Nebraska Department of Education to review career and technical education alignment with college and career areas. Dr. Kristyn Harms and her colleagues are forging the way for us in this important work. The goal of this is equipping students with the skills necessary to get in key high-wage, highly-skilled, highly in-demand jobs. The reality is that the economic security of our children in today’s global marketplace is far from a given, and we must do everything we can together to prepare students to compete against (and also work effectively with!) not just fellow Nebraskans, or just our fellow Americans, but citizens of the world.

Titans Facilities Fund: Why field turf is not frivolous: Norris in bottom quartile of Class B’s

Out of the 32 Class B districts, Norris is in the remaining one-fourth who do not yet have access to an artificial turf/synthetic turf field surface for our students to compete on. While this reflects a yawning disparity in surface-play standards, this is more important and about so much more than just “keeping up with the Joneses.” *(Or for that matter the Beatrices, Auroras, etc.)* It is not just about NSAA sports, it’s also about the ability of the school district to support its players, parents, families and students.

Some of the abundant advantages of a synthetic turf field over natural grass:
* Despite best efforts of groundskeepers, Nebraska weather is what it is: inclement. Late–season conditions of our field can create problems for footing due to major deterioration of the surface from moisture and repeated use. The deteriorated conditions thereby increase the possibility that safety of players and consistency of playability are compromised.
* The field is a classroom space, when it can be used as such. Physical education classes and others can use an artificial turf surface repeatedly and consistently, creating better opportunities for kids throughout the day: it’s not just about the Friday night lights, it’s about weekday mornings, mid-day class activities, and Saturday marching contests.
* The field is a performance space, not only a gridiron clash for our youthful gladiators. Currently, our stellar marching band only has the opportunity to rehearse on the actual competition field one time weekly to avoid overuse of the space. We want our band to have the same advantages in terms of field space markings, and getting their step-offs down just as most other schools do. Synthetic/artificial turf can help us get there.
* The field is a soccer pitch in addition to a football field. The level of play, including speed of game and accuracy of passing is substantially increased on synthetic surfaces that most districts in our cohort group have become accustomed to. Soccer has become a marquee sport in the district with varsity teams flourishing in competition in recent years, and a major pipeline of youth talent coming up through the ranks.
* Increased player safety: studies have demonstrated that synthetic field turf as an artificial turf system is correlated with a reduced frequency of concussions and other injuries when compared to natural grass surfaces. While no playing surface can remove the omnipresent threat of injury, with all of the mounting concerns and accumulating evidence around player safety in collision/contact sports like football and soccer, it is very prudent for the district to consider installation of a synthetic field service. You can learn more about the vision for future facilities development, including our desire to build a baseball diamond and tennis courts to support all our students, and how you can have a role in helping out by going to titansfacilitiesfund.com or contacting Athletic Director Greg Hardin for additional information.
From the Assistant Superintendent’s Desk …
Brian Maschmann

2014 will be here before you know it. It’s hard to believe the first semester of school is almost over. Looking back at the first half of the school year, the Norris School District has accomplished a great deal.

- The opening of a new Intermediate building for third through fifth grade students. This building created additional space in every existing building on campus to prepare for the student growth of the Norris District.
- Relocation of busing and parent pick up and drop off. Transportation of our students is continuing to expand to add more buses and routes. The location of the new bus tarmac is able to accommodate over 30 buses. The parent pick-up and drop off area has created a safe area for students to load and unload at their buildings.
- High school expansion for band, industrial tech and welding. Many of our programs have seen an increase in student participation. The addition to this high school has created more space and given the district the ability to expand these programs.
- High school weight room remodel. The number of students and classes that utilize the weight room continues to grow. The new weight room is almost three times the size of the old weight room and has great visual lines for supervision of students. The old weight room will still be used for student learning and as our safe room.
- District security: All buildings will be secure during the school day. Parents and visitors will have access into all buildings by way of an intercom and video panel located at the main entrances of each building.

These projects could have not been accomplished without the foresight from the Norris School Board and the commitment from our patrons.

Parent Information:

Winter weather is here, please remember to check your cell phone number on the PowerSchool website. We will utilize the information in PowerSchool for text alerts and phone messages for any late starts and school cancellations. Norris will also utilize TV and local radio stations to broadcast all decisions on school closings. The 2013-14 calendar was built to include four snow days. The additional days for in climate weather will either be deleted from the end of the school year, if we do not use all the snow days or could extend the school year if we go over the allotted days. We hope Mother Nature will be kind to us this winter.

The Norris School District was honored by the Governor at this fall's Governor's Workplace Wellness Award. We all know that healthy employees are more productive ones. We also know that people who take care of themselves by being active and watching what foods they consume are less likely to have to miss work due to preventable illnesses. This fall, many of our employees received flu shots here on site thanks to Linda Lindersmith's efforts to schedule and arrange this for our team members. This spring, our employees have the chance to get comprehensive health screenings as a pilot district for a new Blue Cross Blue Shield program through Educators Health Alliance. This is free for Norris teachers because of the district's initiative.

The point of all this is that we want our staff members to be healthy role models for your children and we know parents want professionals who have the health and vitality to get a physically demanding job like teaching done in a great way day in and day out.

Congratulations to Norris Coordinated School Health Council chair Jane Hansmeyer and thanks to the team for promoting a safe and healthy workplace environment!

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

National Event Winners - Farm Business Management 2013
Norris, Nebraska Team Silver
Individual Silver: Brandon Deunk, Ben Rice, and Travis Tekolste
Individual Bronze: Taylon Lienemann

National Event Winners - Floriculture 2013
Norris, Nebraska Team Silver
Individual Silver: Kelli Doeschot, Mary Kate Ganow, Jessica Lingenfelter, and Hope Weckle

National Event Winners - Horse Evaluation 2013
Norris FFA, Nebraska Team Silver
Individual Gold: Ashley Anderson
Individual Silver: Spencer Peters
Individual Bronze: Michael Anderson and Bailey Vogler

The Farm Management Team was coached by Doug Malone.
The Floriculture Team was coached by Dr. Harms.
The Horse Evaluation Team was coached by Kathy Anderson.

In addition, Norris received a National Chapter Award and a 3-Star ranking!

Congratulations NORRIS FFA!
From the High School Principal...Ryan Ruhl and Asst Principal...Charlie Hutzler

Student Achievement: “A couple of helpful hints”

Time-Management Tips

Good time management can help students reduce stress, optimize brain power and cultivate their wellness. Students should have a multi-view perspective of their time. The broadest view -- an academic year or semester -- can include dates of assignments, exams, projects and social engagements along with any obligations that take more than four hours. A weekly calendar includes times for class, work, meeting, sleeping, eating and exercising. Students should schedule several 30 to 50-minute intense study sessions in between classes to optimize their brain performance. Using effective study strategies can assist students in learning more information in a shorter period of time, which increases productivity. Creating daily task lists can help students keep track of assignments, readings, chores and errands. Using technology such as online calendars and Smartphone task lists can make managing time more convenient.

Wellness

Healthy students learn better. However, the definition of health is multidimensional, as it includes social, emotional, intellectual, physical, spiritual and occupational wellness aspects. Students should use a comprehensive time-management plan that enables them to cater to several areas of their well-being. A balanced schedule should include time for studying, hanging with friends, visiting family, volunteering, attending church, reflecting and exercising. Students can use the wellness dimensions to prioritize their time to eliminate those things that put their health and happiness in jeopardy. Combining activities is key to creating balance in a schedule. For example, a study group combines social interactions with intellectual stimulation, while yoga fulfills the spiritual and physical wellness requirements.


Smokeless Tobacco

A disturbing trend is the availability and use of smokeless tobacco in new forms. You may have seen e-cigarette shops popping up around Lincoln, but are you familiar with the products they offer? For your awareness, Norris High School will treat e-cigarette and tobacco possession and use the same, in terms of consequences. Details for consequences can be found in the Student-Parent Handbook and also in the Activity Conduct Code for activity participants.

The information below was shared with Norris High School, courtesy of our School Community Intervention & Prevention (SCIP) newsletter. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with these new products.

E-cigarettes -- officially named electronic cigarettes -- are growing in popularity and use among students. The National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that the percentage of high school students who reported ever using an e-cigarette rose from 4.7 percent in 2011 to 10.0 percent in 2012.

Electronic cigarettes look a lot like real cigarettes, are battery powered and often (but not always) contain liquid nicotine either from tobacco plants or a synthetic version.

Spitless Tobacco -- marketed as a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes -- is fast becoming an appealing product to teens. It is being sold as a complementary product to cigarettes, sending the message that you can get your nicotine fix whether smoking is allowed or not.

With the increase in smoking restrictions, tobacco companies are looking for alternative products to reach smokers. Many of these products are enticing young smokers by hiding addictive products behind candy flavors.

This is just a sample of the information from the full articles. To see more information, including images, look online at http://goo.gl/cYlqgf. Also provided there is a brief look at Nebraska law concerning these smokeless tobacco products.

Thank you for all you do for your children at home to promote a healthy lifestyle and academic success!

NORRIS
ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. John Skretta, Superintendent 791-0000
Brian Maschmann Assistant Superintendent 791-0000
Ryan Ruhl, High School Principal 791-0010
Charlie Hutzler, HS Asst. Principal 791-0010
Greg Hardin, Athletic Director 791-0010
Mary Jo Rupert, MS Principal 791-0020
Dr. Brenda Tracy, ES Principal/Sp. Ed Admin 791-0030
Dr. Robert Brandt, Intermediate Principal 791-0040
Matt Rice, Assistant MS Principal 791-0020

COLOR GUARD MINI CLINIC
December 2-7

Our morning coaching sessions begin December 2nd at 7:30 AM. We practice in the HS North Gym until 8:20 AM Monday-Friday. On the afternoon of Saturday, December 7th we will perform at half-time of the Boys JV Basketball game in the MS Gym.

Parents should arrive at 2:30 PM to be sure to catch the half-time performance. Spectators will need to pay admission to the basketball game. Cost for the clinic is $30 and includes a t-shirt.
From The Athletic Director’s Office ... Greg Hardin

EMC Academic All Conference Selections for 2013 Fall Sports
(Junior or Senior with a cumulative 3.5 GPA or higher)

Football: CJ Adamson, Grant Albers, Jacob Bornschlegel, Nolan Graham, Cody Grusing, Josh Gutzmer, Ryan Hurt, Michael Johnson, Jakson Reetz, Jared Tetreck, and Kyler Urbanovsky

Softball: Korri Baird, Monica Doolittle, Danielle Pelini, Michaella Woodward, Janelle Adams, Madison Behrends, Cassie Dauber, Hannah Evans, Maddie Gloe, Hallie Hayhurst, Makaela Oltman, Cortney Prange, Paige Reimers, and Haley Zabel

Volleyball: Mackenzie Allen, Kasey Hohlen, Andrea Jameson, Kylie Hohlen, Adanna Paden, and Payton Ruhl

Cross Country: Autumnne Berndt, Trent Buhr, Logan Clevenger, Brandon Deunk, Skylar Evans, Rosten From, Harrison Gourlay, LeeAnn Hedrick, Kason Jurgena, Drew Marolf, Carter Monson, Draken Parks, Ethan Rathjen, Alex Riensche, Michael Sieffert, Katie Trapp, Melissa Trapp, Amber Weyers, and Nick Wieskamp

Girl’s Golf: Jessica Lingenfelter, Madison Gabel, and Sophia Kisling

FALL SPORTS SEASON TEAM/INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOOTBALL: (Varsity 6-4, JV 5-2, and 9th grade 6-2, District Champions and State Qualifier)
EMC Honorable Mention – AJ Flodman, Alex Thimm, Seth Martin, Nolan Graham, Dakota Anderson, Ryan Bellinghausen, Jason Holm, Ryley Lavene, Jacob Bornschlegel, CJ Adamson, Byron Hood, Halston Hartley, Jacob Green, Ryan Hurt, Rylie Kentfield, and Bryton Bell

VOLLEYBALL: (Varsity 26-8, JV 7-8, and Reserve 3-12, EMC Tournament Runner-Up, District Champions, and STATE CHAMPIONS)
EMC All Conference – Kasey Hohlen and Kylie Hohlen
EMC Honorable Mention – Marissa Moseman, Mackenzie Allen, Andrea Jameson, Maddy Bruder, Payton Ruhl, and Jordyn Clauss

SOFTWARE: (Varsity 23-8/JV 8-5, District Champions, State Tournament Qualifier, and final season ranking of 6th)
EMC All Conference – Michaella Woodward, Danielle Pelini, and Dania Meierhenry
EMC Honorable Mention – Hannah Evans and Kaili Jorgens

CROSS COUNTRY: (2 state Qualifiers-Rosten From 15th and Katie Trapp 34th)
EMC All Conference – Rosten From 3rd
EMC Honorable Mention – Katie Trapp 8th
District Meet – Rosten From 4th, Katie Trapp 11th

GIRLS GOLF: (EMC Tournament 5th out of 9 teams)

GREAT JOB FALL SEASON ATHLETES/TEAMS—GO TITANS!

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.
Anthony J. D’Angelo

YOUR 2013 STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS!

Middle row: Reagan Tekolste, Kylie Hohlen, Payton Ruhl, Hannah Bellinghausen
Front row: Emma Lee, Jordyn Clauss, Madeline Bruder, Marisa Moseman

NORRIS ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS!
Student Council has been busy as always! We are happy to announce that we have raised over 4,200 pounds of canned food for the Lincoln Student Hunger Drive! Student Council members went out into the communities and collected food cans door to door, went to stores and companies and asked for donations, and encouraged students to bring food cans to school. The Student Hunger drive goes into benefiting the needy in the greater Lincoln area, as well as Norris's very own Backpack Program.

We are happy that our efforts will make such an impact in our community. FFA was integral as we combined forces and worked at getting more canned goods. We thank Sandhills Publishing for the huge donation in taking us 'over the top'. They were instrumental in helping us to collect the most food of all the smaller schools in the area.

Recently we elected 6 Freshmen class representatives which we are happy to have with us, as well as officers. In the next few months, we plan on putting on a basketball tournament, a winter dance, and some other fun things for the student body, as well as some other projects that will benefit the community.

WE R NORRIS!

NORRIS TEAMMATES PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!
Can you change a child’s life by donating an hour a week?

For more information contact MaryAnn Franken at 401-791-0040 or maryann.franken@nsdtitans.org or go to teammates.org

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

This is the time of year when we conduct the various health screenings required by the NE Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS). In October, we completed the initial screenings which included height, weight, hearing, and vision. Oral screenings were done in November. Notification was sent out to parents/guardians prior to the winter holiday break regarding those students whose screening results indicate further testing may warranted. Please note these are basic screenings and do not take the place of an actual exam by a qualified practitioner. The screenings do not satisfy the physical examination and/or visual evaluation required by the State of NE for students entering Kindergarten (or beginning grade), 7th grade, or transferring from out of state.

FREE Health Care - Clinic with a Heart is a free health care clinic which provides such services as Medical, Dental, Physical Therapy, Mental Health Assessments, Chiropractic, Vision, and Hearing Screenings. It is located at 1701 So. 17th Street, Lower Level (Lincoln). Phone number: (402) 421-2924. For additional information visit their website at http://www.clinicwithaheart.org Please contact any of the Norris School health offices for a copy of their monthly schedule of services.

FREE Dental Care - When: February 7, 2014 Where: UNMC College of Dentistry “Give Kids a Smile - Dental Day XXV” is offered to public school-age children with limited access to dental care. Children with commercial dental insurance are not accepted for this free service. This is a one day event that includes lunch and educational games, as well as a cleaning and needed dental work. Children should be screened prior to attending this event. Peoples’ Health Care in Lincoln or Clinic With a Heart are recommended for the required screening. However, if this is not possible, they can be screened at the event with a parent/guardian present.

You MUST register ahead of time for this event by calling 402-472-1341. (If the event has to be cancelled due to weather, the alternate date is February 28th.) If you have any questions regarding Dental Day, please call the number provided rather than Norris as we have no other information about the event.
National Honor Society

For parents of students interested in membership in Norris’ National Honor Society, this is the criteria established by the governing body of the National Honor Society for selection of candidates for membership. The selection process will begin after first semester grades have been issued and grade point averages are updated. All qualifying students’ names will be posted in the high school office.

Selection Process for Norris’ National Honor Society

The purpose of National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.

1. Any junior or senior with a grade point average of 3.50 or above and who has attended Norris continually for a school calendar year is eligible to attend a meeting about the goals of National Honor society and to receive the Student Information Activity Form to be filled out by the candidate before a time specified by the NHS sponsor.

2. After the Activity Form (which is supplied by national and will be posted on the Norris webpage) is submitted to the National Honor Society sponsor, the names of the candidates are submitted to the faculty on the Teacher Evaluation Form. Teachers are to evaluate only candidates they know well enough to make an informed judgment about.

3. Candidates are evaluated on the other three areas NHS considers important for members to possess. These areas are character, service and leadership.

   - Examples of character are: exemplifies desirable qualities, upholds principles of ethics and morality, demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
   - Examples of service are: does committee and staff work without complaint, participates in some activity outside of school, cheerfully renders any requested service to the school
   - Examples of leadership are: demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities, exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively; demonstrates reliability and dependability, and is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

4. After the faculty fills out the Teacher Evaluation Form, the points are tallied.

5. Then, the Faculty Council (a rotating board of high school teachers) reviews the Student Activity Form and the Teacher Evaluation Form. The teacher evaluation forms are used as input to help the Faculty Council in the decision making process. Any teacher ranking a student below three is required to include a comment on the form indicating the reason for the less than satisfactory ranking. All Faculty Evaluation forms are used in confidence during the selection process. In addition, the Faculty Council is allowed access to all administrative disciplinary files during deliberations.

6. The Faculty Council votes on the candidates and extends invitations for membership. The candidate is selected by majority vote. Candidates are formally installed at the Norris Honors Convocation.

7. The selection process will start in February.

Finally, the organization sponsor sits as a non-voting member of the Faculty Council, and the principal functions as the arbitrator for questions about non-selection. If patrons wish further information, contact Mr. Ryan Ruhl, Principal, or Mrs. Becky O’Connor, National Honor Society sponsor, during school hours at 791-0010.

Plant a SEED and watch learning grow: The Norris Foundation

The Norris Educational Foundation is a charitable organization established specifically to enhance the programs and services of our school district. One such program is the SEED program which is designed to enhance and encourage teachers creative flair for innovative projects which reflect their ingenuity and the interest of their students. Through the years, SEED grants have encouraged innovative inquiry-based classroom experiments in science and assisted instituting iPads in numerous classrooms.

This program is just one means by which patrons can offer an additional margin of support that helps to sustain the culture of excellence in the Norris school district. Many thousands of dollars annually are disbursed through the Foundation coffers to Norris graduates so they may pursue their post-secondary dreams. Another program the Foundation sponsors has now helped 12 students over the last few years attain needs-based scholarships through the SCC Learn to Dream program, which provides complementary funding from our District Foundation sources and the post secondary partnering institution of Southeast Community College.

Your tax-deductible gift to the Norris Education Foundation is as simple as writing a check and sending it to the Foundation in care of the district office. Your support provides vital resources through dollars to our young scholars or the resources for a teacher’s creative classroom project!
**SPRING SOCCER Announcements!**
High School GIRLS interested in going out for soccer in the spring of 2014 should report for an informational meeting on January 14th from 3:45-4:45 PM.

Athletes are to meet in room E-4 at 3:45 PM. The meeting will address winter conditioning, open gym workouts, and season information. At this meeting, you will be able to order t-shirts and warm ups for the upcoming season.

If you have any questions, please contact Coach Rice at scott.rice@nsdtitans.org or Coach Dornbos at katy.dornbos@nsdtitans.org

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**Norris Tennis News**

*REQUIRED tennis sign-up**
Coach Koening’s room
February 3rd-7th

*Pre-season conditioning*
February 10th-28th

*Pre-season meeting*
February 17th @ 3:35 PM
OR
February 18th @ 8:00 AM

*Tryouts and practice begins*
March 3rd

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**Norris Tennis News**

Acceptance and giving through sports is what GameOn1125 are all about. We provide sports equipment – new and like-new to those in need. We are now accepting monetary contributions (checks made out to Norris Foundation with GameON1125 in the memo) as well as donations of new or gently used sports equipment to give to youth and families in need.

Drop off spots will be: High School- Jen Faz, Middle School- Jason Cullison, Intermediate School- Dylan Kendall, Elementary School- Gary Pence.

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**ELEMENTARY CARNIVAL**
Friday, April 4, 2014
5:30-8:30 PM

Carnival meetings:
Monday, December 2nd
Monday, January 13th
Monday, February 3rd
Monday, March 3rd

All meetings are immediately following scheduled PTO meetings

For more information contact:
Susan VanBrocklin
798-0400 or
gvanbrocklin@windstream.net

Kathy Kohler
794-4364 or
Rkkohler@diodecom.net

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**~BLOOD DRIVE~**
Mark you calendars and support the Nebraska Community Blood Bank and the Norris Scholarship program at upcoming Blood Drives. $10 from each donation goes into a scholarship fund for Norris students who are blood donors, awarded at Honor’s Convocation in May.

**Upcoming dates:**
Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 10:30 AM-4 PM (blood mobile)
Tuesday, April 22 from 10:30 AM-4 PM (north HS gym)

All donations made at any of the local NCBB locations the week prior or the week following the Norris drive count for Norris, just complete a “Count Me In” at the time of your donation.

Contact Becky O’Connor at 402-791-0010 or by email at becky.oconnor@nsdtitans.org to schedule a time to donate.

Photo ID required.

Thanks for being the TYPE that gives!

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**Attention Athletes:**
Optional work-outs are being offered five days a week after school for any athlete in grades 7-12

Time: 3:35-4:30

Where: Meet by the HS office ready to go.
In the fall of 2012, students in grades six and eight participated in the Nebraska Student Health and Risk Prevention Factor (SHARP) Surveillance System Survey. This biannual survey is conducted by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and the many risks and protective factors predicting adolescent problem behavior. The following is a snapshot of this data, comparing local, state and national generated responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Substance Use</th>
<th>6th GRADE</th>
<th>8th GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>11.7%; 10%</td>
<td>20.3%; 23.5%; 29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>4.8%; 3.1%</td>
<td>8.3%; 24.6%; 27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>1.9%; 0.9%</td>
<td>5.6%; 5.9%; 15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants</td>
<td>4.9%; 4.5%</td>
<td>4.9%; 5.0%; 11.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past 30 Day Substance Use</th>
<th>6th GRADE</th>
<th>8th GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>0.0%; 1.9%</td>
<td>10.5%; 6.3%; 11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>0.0%; 0.5%</td>
<td>0.7%; 3.3%; 4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>1.0%; 0.4%</td>
<td>2.1%; 2.3%; 6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants</td>
<td>3.9%; 1.6%</td>
<td>1.4%; 1.7%; 2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gambled Last 12 months
Gambled for money or valuables: 13.7% 16.0%
Bet on Sports: 73.9% 71.3%

Bullied Last 12 months
At school: 43.3% 29.5%
At home: 32.7% 23.8%
On Electronic Devices: 13.7% 12.6%

The SHARP survey also collected data on protective factors; factors that exert a positive influence against negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that a student will engage in problem behaviors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Involvement</th>
<th>6th GRADE</th>
<th>8th GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.2%; 94.6%</td>
<td>89.4%; 91.9%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belief in a Moral Order</th>
<th>6th GRADE</th>
<th>8th GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77.7%; 83.7%</td>
<td>81.5%; 81.8%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro-social Peer Relationships</th>
<th>6th GRADE</th>
<th>8th GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.1%; 65.2%</td>
<td>67.8%; 65.4%</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

This data assisted us in examining how we address programs and curriculum related to these risk behaviors, in particular, gambling and the use of inhalants, and continuing to address bullying. More importantly, we want our students to recognize that the majority of NMS students are not engaging in risk behaviors, are active in their communities and enjoy pro-social peer relationships.

Mr. Rosenau’s HAL class is compiling the SHARP data for this purpose. Class members Stephanie Stratton, Samantha Palermo, Hadley Susie, Katie Hansen, Shelbi Roberson, Laila Nelson and Lauren Dunn were challenged with developing a format in which to communicate this information to their peers. They decided on posters, designing two dozen draft posters, then selecting three for development, tweaking the layout to communicate this data in an interesting and creative manner.

THREE SIMPLE STRATEGIES CAN BOOST READING COMPREHENSION

As your child gets older, he will be expected to read and understand more complex text. He will transition from learning to read to reading to learn. You can help by sharing these three reading comprehension strategies with your child:

1. **See the big picture.** Before starting to read an assignment, have your child think about what he will be reading. What is the title of the chapter or assignment? Does it offer any clues about the reading? Look for other clues, such as subheadings, words in boldface or italics, pictures or graphs.

2. **Take notes.** Most good students take notes on what they read. Taking notes while reading will make it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It will also make reading active and engaging. Your child should write down the most important ideas in the reading assignment. He should also write down any words he doesn’t know and the answers to the questions at the end of the chapter.

3. **Make connections.** The best way to remember new information is by relating it to something you have already learned. When your child finishes a reading assignment, have him answer questions such as: How is this topic similar to something else I have learned? What key ideas did I already know? What new information did I learn?
Dr. Bob Brandt, Intermediate School Principal

FOOD BACKPACKS FOR FAMILIES
Norris School is a distribution site for weekend food backpacks and thirty-five backpacks are funded this year. Organizations and individuals are welcome to donate to this cause. Most menus include cereal, fruit, vegetables, and ingredients for a main dish. Bread and egg vouchers are a part of some menus.

You can make a charitable contribution to the Lincoln Food Bank for any amount at any time of the year. Each backpack can be funded with $200.00 for the entire school year. This may be a way your family can share and contribute to help a needy family.

A DECEMBER “TO DO LIST”
December is a month of sharing and caring. Families can find many ways to share and show concern that does not require great expense. Consider this “Top 10 List” for activities families can do during December:

1. Volunteer to assist with a project or cause.
2. Visit the library, check out and read books OR write in a journal or to a friend.
3. Offer to care for a neighbor - young or elderly person.
4. Put together a large puzzle or play board games at home.
5. Send a letter and a picture you have drawn to a friend or relative.
6. Contact your school, church, or an organization to see how you may help.
7. Do extra home chores.
8. Take walks around your neighborhood -- share what you see.
9. Complete a home project as a family.
10. Help prepare a favorite meal with your parents.

Have fun!

GRADE 5 SCIENCE CLASSES CONCLUDE TERRARIUM PROJECT
Each of Mr. Kendall’s 6 classes was responsible for 4 terrariums. Grass, lima beans, soil, water, and earthworms were included in the containers. Some students caught crickets, grasshoppers and spiders to add to their terrarium. This was a great hands-on activity which students checked on frequently. This project was part of an ecosystem study of living and nonliving things being together. Students had the opportunity to monitor their project that remained outdoors during September and October.

METAL JUICE CAN LIDS are needed for a project the 3rd grade will be doing in December. Please send them with your student to be collected in the office. Thank you!

Henry Cole Author Visit a Success!
Library books written and illustrated by Henry Cole are a hot item at Norris Intermediate and Elementary Schools!
Mr. Cole's presentations were entertaining and informative. Students and staff were amazed with the stories he told about his experiences growing up on a dairy farm with his older siblings.
Mr. Cole is a gifted artist who expresses his love of science and nature in both words and pictures. He visited Norris Elementary and Intermediate Schools on October 10 & 11.
WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Kindergarten is a very special place to be. This is the year of making friends and having many new experiences. Students are discovering, listening, sharing, and making many new connections daily. This is one of the most important experiences in a child’s development, as it provides the foundation for all of his/her other learning experiences.

We have an enrollment of two hundred Kindergarten students this year! We have grown to nine classrooms, varying in size from 21-22 students each. We are teaching the various skills that the state requires, while allowing the freedom to incorporate numerous theme days, along with the time to play, into our day.

Our days are very busy. We spend our mornings with Calendar activities, reading and language arts instruction, as well as various writing activities. We spend part of our morning in large and small group instruction time. Our reading skills focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, conventions, and fluency. Our students also have time each day to work at learning centers. Formal and informal assessments allow us to evaluate each child’s progress. We share these results with parents through progress reports, conferences, and frequent communication.

We use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting program. We encourage and use temporary spelling in these early stages of authorship. Weekly journals, class books, dictionaries, writing centers, and class books are just a few ways that we encourage daily writing for our students.

Our main focus for the afternoon is Math. We are using the Saxon Math series. This program incorporates a variety of skills that include a foundation in counting, number writing, sorting, patterning, graphing, identifying shapes, measuring, telling time to the hour, identifying and counting money, and using a calendar. These concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced on a daily basis and connect to everyday life, science, and social studies activities. Students use hands-on activities to problem solve and engage in mathematical conversations. Frequent assessments allow the teachers to monitor each child’s progress and provide new opportunities for continual academic growth.

Our science, health, and social studies curriculum are integrated into our kindergarten program through our learning centers, literature, and units of study. We currently subscribe to Scholastic News. This is an excellent source for current events, social studies, and science awareness.

Parental involvement plays a tremendous role in a child’s education. After all, the parent is the first and most important teacher a child will ever have. The parent’s involvement will have much to do with how well his/her child will succeed in school and later in life. It is our goal to work together with families to help all children become the best person they can be: socially, emotionally, and intellectually. We believe in the magic of childhood and seek to make it as meaningful and enriching as we can!

2014-2015 Kindergarten Registration

Families of incoming kindergarten students for the 2014-15 school year, may now register their child at the Kindergarten registration website: www.norris160.org/registration. You may also call the Norris Elementary School at 791-0030 if you do not have Internet access.

Parent Orientation Night is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the High School auditorium.

NORRIS FFA CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP IS JANUARY 3, 2014!

Norris FFA members will be collecting discarded, real Christmas trees the morning of January 3rd from 9-11 AM. Place your trees by the curb prior to 9:00 AM on January 3, 2014. Pick up will occur in Firth, Cortland, Panama, Holland, Roca, and Hickman.

Alternate snow date:
Norris Girls Basketball Youth League

Girls’ Basketball Youth League will be offered for girls currently in grades K-5. The focus of the youth league will be to teach the basic fundamentals of the game with some time set aside for contests and games. The varsity coaching staff, along with current high school girls’ basketball players will be coaching during each session.

The registration fee is $30 and includes a T-Shirt. Registration forms will be sent home via Thursday folders in December or you may contact Coach Hagerman at 791-0020.

Time Schedule:
Grades K–5 (10:00–11:30)

Youth League Dates:
January 11th, January 25th, and February 1st and 8th

Title I Reading and Math Program

Title I is a federally funded, supplemental program designed to improve educational opportunities for students who meet their school district’s guidelines for participation in the local Title I program. At Norris, Title I reading and Title I math programs are provided for grades 1-3. The purpose of Title I is to provide additional instruction to complement the regular classroom reading or math curriculum. Students still receive instruction from their classroom and receive Title I instruction in addition to what they already receive.

Students are recommended for participation through an assessment process. Students who are in the Title I program receive an additional 30 minutes of instruction in math and/or reading each day. Parent involvement is a key component of a child’s success and one of the focuses of the Title I program. Both the reading and math programs have materials sent home to help parents work with their child to improve their skills.

Title I reading students work in small groups on specific skills. Curriculum SRA Early Interventions in Reading, is being used with all Title I reading groups. We focus on reading skills, new words for vocabulary and meaning, fluency and comprehension. At the present time, students in grades 2 and 3 involved in the Title I reading program bring home a newsletter “The Reading Link”. This is a link to connect school with the home. Parents along with their child select activities from the newsletter to complete.

In Title I math, students work in small groups to receive additional instruction and support. This year we are using the SRA Number Worlds curriculum with all Title I math groups. We focus on developing number sense, computation, problem solving and using data. Students in Title I math also will bring home family math backpacks and other games to facilitate parent involvement.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all parents for participating in the family activities and encouraging their child. Your support helps to make our program successful.

Mrs. Teri Drury, Title I Teacher
Ms. Linda Weyers, Para educator

Norris Preschool Information

Norris Preschool will be taking applications for next year until JANUARY 15, 2014. This is a change from past years. If you are interested in having your child attend Norris Preschool, please have applications in by JAN. 15, 2014. Application can be found on the Norris website under resources, forms, preschool application. Any questions please call Kathleen Gustin at 791-0030.
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<td>Var. Girls/Boys BB @ Lincoln Southeast - 6:00/7:45 (Hall-of-Fame Exhibition Game)</td>
<td>Financial Aid Night - Auditorium - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>8th Boys BB - Home - PLATTSMOUTH - 4:15</td>
<td>9th Boys BB - Home - NEBR. CITY - 4:15</td>
<td>JV-V Girls/Boys BB @ Plattsmouth - 6:00/Girls &amp; Boys JV 7:45/Boys Varsity</td>
<td>JV-V Girls/Boys BB @ Plattsmouth - 6:00/Girls &amp; Boys JV 7:45/Boys Varsity</td>
<td>NORTWEST 2:15 Girls &amp; Boys JV 4:00 Girls Varsity</td>
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<td>7th Boys BB @ Home - GRETNA - 4:15</td>
<td>7th Girls/Boys BB @ Home - GRETNA - 6:30</td>
<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Lincoln East - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>8th Boys BB @ Gretna - 4:15</td>
<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Seward - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Middle School Band Concert - Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>JH Wrestling @ Nebraska City Invite - 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>9th Girls/Boys BB @ Plus X - 4:30</td>
<td>High School Band/Choir Holiday Concert - Auditorium - 7:00</td>
<td>JV-V Girls/Boys BB @ Home - BLAIR - 4:30/Girls &amp; Boys JV 6:00-Girls Varsity 7:45-Boys Varsity</td>
<td>EMC Academic Decathlon @ Elkhorn South</td>
<td>9th Girls/Boys BB @ Home - 6:30</td>
<td>End of 2nd Quarter</td>
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<td>7th Boys BB @ Home - WAVERLY - 4:15</td>
<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Home - RALSTON - 6:30</td>
<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Gretna - 6:30</td>
<td>Show Choir Mini-Clinic - 3:30-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>JV-V WRESTLING - HOME - SYRACUSE - 7:00</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<td>Var. Girls/Boys BB @ Waverly Holiday Tournament - TBA</td>
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<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Sevad – 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>JV-V Girls/Boys BB @ Beatrice – 4:00 Girls &amp; Boys JV 5:30 Girls Varsity 7:00 Boys Varsity</td>
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<td>9th GIRLS/BOYS BB – HOME – NEBR CITY – 6:30</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>JV-V Girls/Boys BB @ Waverly – 4:30 Girls &amp; Boys JV 6:00 Girls Varsity 7:15 Boys Varsity School Board Meeting</td>
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<td>EMC Wrestling Duals @ Waverly – 3:00</td>
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<td>EMC Wrestling Duals @ Waverly – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Gretna Show Choir Contest</td>
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<td>Swim Meet vs. Elkhorn @ Beatrice – 4:30</td>
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<td>9th Girls/Boys BB @ Waverly – 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>JV-V Wrestling @ Tri-County – 7:00</td>
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<td>8th GIRLS BB – HOME – LIN CHRISTIAN – 4:15</td>
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<td>RESERVE BOYS BB – HOME – WAWERLY – 6:30</td>
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<td>Swim Meet @ South Sioux City – 4:00</td>
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<td>9th Girls/Boys BB @ Crete:5:00/6:30</td>
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<td>7th Girls BB @ Lincoln Christian – 4:15</td>
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<td>NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Reserve Boys BB @ Gretna – 6:30</td>
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<td>9th Girls/Boys BB @ Blair – 6:30</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>JV-V Wrestling @ Elkhorn Invite – 4:00 PM</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>RESERVE BOYS BB – HOME – LINCOLN HIGH – 6:30</td>
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<td>Swim Meet @ Columbus – 4:30 PM</td>
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<td>8th GIRLS/BOYS BB – HOME – LINCOLN HIGH – 6:30</td>
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<td>9th Girls/Boys BB – HOME – FAIRBURY – 6:30</td>
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<td>8th Girls BB @ Elkhorn – 4:15</td>
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<td>7th Girls BB – HOME – BLAIR – 4:15</td>
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<td>8th Girls BB @ Blair – 4:15</td>
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<td>JV-V Wrestling @ Freeman Invite – 3:00</td>
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EMC Girls/Boys Basketball Tournament
## Norris School Breakfast and Lunch Menu
### December 2013

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<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheese Omelet with Toast</td>
<td>Homemade Muffin Lunch</td>
<td>Pancakes Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Meatball Sub</td>
<td>Sausage Biscuit Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Pizza with a Breadstick</td>
<td>Coffee Cake with Yogurt Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Mac &amp; Cheese with Smokies MS Chicken Quesadilla</td>
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<td>Pancakes</td>
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<td>Sausage Links</td>
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<td><strong>Breakfast</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bagel with Egg &amp; Cheese Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Shredded BBQ Pork</td>
<td>Homemade Muffin Lunch ES/IS Grilled Cheese with Veggie MS/HS Baked Potato Bar</td>
<td>French Toast Sticks with Sausage Lunch ES Chicken Quesadilla IS/MS/HS Chicken Alfredo</td>
<td>Breakfast Wrap Lunch ES/HS Chili and Cinnamon Roll Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Hot Dog with Potato Wedges</td>
<td>Cinnamon Roll Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Salisbury Steak with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy</td>
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<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pancake/Sausage on a Stick Lunch ES/HS Hot Dog with Potato Wedges IS/MS Chili with Cinnamon Roll</td>
<td>Scrambled Eggs with Toast Lunch ES/IS/MS/HS Chicken Nuggets with Vegetable IS/MS Spaghetti with Breadstick</td>
<td>Apple Frudel with Cheese Cubes ES/IS Hamburger on Bun MS/HS Enchiladas</td>
<td>Waffles ES/IS/MS/HS Holiday Meal!</td>
<td>Canadian Bacon &amp; Cheese Biscuit ES/HS Spaghetti with Breadstick IS/MS Chicken Nuggets with Vegetable</td>
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Check your account balance on the Norris website. Here’s how:
- Go to HYPERLINK “http://www.norris163.org” WWW.norris163.org
- Click on:
  - **RESOURCES, MEAL SERVICES, and ACCOUNT BALANCE.**
- You can also make online payments to your account.
  - Go to the Norris website and click on **RESOURCES, MEAL SERVICES, and ONLINE PAYMENT.**

***Fruits, Vegetables, Protein, and Milk will be available every day and cold sandwiches are also a lunch option.***

### Meal Prices for 2013-14
- **Breakfast** K-12 $1.35, Adult $1.75
- **Lunch** K-5 $2.15, 6-12 $2.30, Adult $3.10
- **Milk** $0.30
Norris School Breakfast and Lunch Menu  
January 2014

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<tr>
<td>Canadian Bacon &amp; Cheese Biscuit</td>
<td>Homemade Muffin with Yogurt</td>
<td>Biscuits &amp; Gravy Lunch</td>
<td>Cheese Omelet and Lunch</td>
<td>Breakfast Pizza</td>
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<td>Pizza with a Breadstick</td>
<td>BBQ Chicken with Scalloped Potatoes</td>
<td>Nacho Bar</td>
<td>Sub Sandwich and Chips</td>
<td>Minestrone with a Breadstick</td>
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<td>Bagel with Egg and Cheese</td>
<td>Homemade Muffin with Cheese Cubes</td>
<td>Pancakes Lunch</td>
<td>Breakfast Wrap Lunch</td>
<td>Cinnamon Roll</td>
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<td>Chicken Fajita</td>
<td>Goulash</td>
<td>French Toast Sticks with Sausage</td>
<td>Hamburger on Bun with Baked Beans</td>
<td>Country Fried Steak with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granola Bar &amp; Yogurt</td>
<td>Waffles ES/IS/MS/HS</td>
<td>Biscuits &amp; Gravy Toast</td>
<td>Cinnamon Roll</td>
<td>Soft Pretzel with Cheese</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ES/IS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ES/IS/MS/HS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ES/IS/MS/HS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ES/IS/MS/HS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ES/IS/MS/HS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINI CORN DOGS</td>
<td>MINI CORN DOGS</td>
<td>MINI CORN DOGS</td>
<td>MINI CORN DOGS</td>
<td>MINI CORN DOGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Veggie</td>
<td>with Veggie</td>
<td>with Veggie</td>
<td>with Veggie</td>
<td>with Veggie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS/HS</td>
<td>MS/HS</td>
<td>MS/HS</td>
<td>MS/HS</td>
<td>MS/HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Dog with Veggie</td>
<td>Burrito</td>
<td>BBQ Rib on Bun</td>
<td>Chicken Drumstick with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEAL PRICES:**

**Breakfast:** $1.35, **Lunch:** Grades K-5: $2.15 Grades 6-12: $2.30, **Adult:** $3.10, **Milk:** $0.30

Note: Make an online payment to your lunch account by going to the Norris website. Select the **RESOURCES** tab, **MEAL SERVICE**, and **ON-LINE PAYMENT**.
The VOICE NEWS is looking for Santa’s helpers...67 to be exact! Add some joy to Christmas by practicing the gift of giving.

The VOICE NEWS has partnered with Christian Heritage Home to provide Christmas gifts for 67 foster children in Lincoln and southeast Nebraska homes. We appreciate the giving community we live and work in and we are reaching out to our readers to help make gifts for 67 children possible this Christmas. Please consider a stop at the VOICE in Hickman or Bennet and pick up a stocking with a child’s name and their wish list. Purchase a gift on their list ($15-$25 range), put it in a gift bag and bring it back to the VOICE in Hickman or Bennet with their stocking with their name on the package. Christian Heritage staff will pick up wrapped packages Mon Dec. 16!

Christian Heritage began working with Health and Human Services in 1987 to provide foster homes for some of these children. What began in one family home has now become a multi-city outreach with over 150 children in foster care across Nebraska. Today we are looking for additional families with hearts of compassion who are willing to open their homes to children and families in need.

Voice News
Proudly serving 23 communities in five counties since 1978.
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402-792-2255