16-17 April Vol. 8

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

#### From the Superintendent's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

April is the time for annual NeSA Testing we do to meet our NDE state requirements. The NeSA window opens on March 20<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 5<sup>th</sup>. The week in May is typically used for kids who were sick and missed the original testing date. The tests are given in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in English/Language (ELA) and Math, with 5th and 8th grades having an additional test in Science. Each NeSA test will take the kids two class periods to finish and the dates listed below have been added to the calendar on the school's website. It is important to make sure your children get a good night's sleep and are prepared for the NeSA. The individual teachers will communicate with the students and discuss the importance of the testing and how it benefits Clarkson Public School.

This year is the first year where Juniors will be taking the ACT instead of doing the NeSA testing. They will be taking the test in the morning on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The class has been going through prep work with Mrs. Kappel using John Baylor ACT test prep.

April is also the time where besides working to finish the 2016-2017 school year out strong we are also working on preparing for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. At this time we are starting the process of Pre-School and Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Letters will be sent out to parents of children who are eligible for the programs according to our census. We have included information in this month's and next month's newsletter. Our Pre-school program has a morning class for three year-olds and our afternoon class is four year-olds. If you have any questions please call us at school at 402-892-3454. Kindergarten Round-up will be on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, if you have a child who is planning on coming to Kindergarten next year please make sure to contact the school to make sure you are on the list to receive information about the Round-up.

Besides finalizing the 2017-2018 calendar, this is also the time of the year were we adjust and update upcoming athletic schedules. We will make sure those calendar items are up as soon as we can during the summer.

The NeSA and ACT test dates are as followed:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

ELA-Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Math-Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

#### 4th Grade

ELA-Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Math-Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA-Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Math-Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> & Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Science-Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA-Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Math-Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> & Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA-Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Math-Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA-Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Math-Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Science-Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

#### 11th Grade

ACT-Wednesday, April 19th

The Red Review is a monthly publication of the Clarkson Public Schools, PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

#### The Board of Education

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#### "WALK FOR THE CURE"

to be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Clarkson High School.

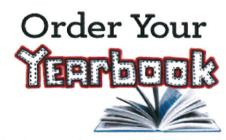
#### From the Principal's Desk

By Lee Schneider

Happy Spring! I can't believe it is already that time of the year but it means that the end of the school year is quickly approaching and we have plenty of things to get through before May! Spring is always exciting because of the weather change, new sports and of course TESTING! At the end of April students will begin their NeSA testing, which will be followed by our MAP testing in May. With all of this testing that is going to be happening, hopefully the sick bug will finally go away and allow the students time at school. If you know that your child is going to be gone for an extended period of time please let us know in advance so that the teachers can plan accordingly, if it were to interfere with their pre-scheduled testing.

Our winter activities have winded down and ended with our Speech team winning the D-2 District! The speech kids did an amazing job all year in practicing and getting better and better throughout! Our spring sports will be starting soon with Boys Golf and Track. We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather and great performances!

Also please be watching, as we will soon have our class schedule out for next year. We have made a few adjustments like every year and we hope that we have provided more opportunities for the students. Mrs. Kappel does a fantastic job every year in providing the most for our students! If you see her make sure to say Good Job! As always, please feel free to stop in or give a call if there are any questions or concerns! Go Pats!



It's time to pre-order your 2016-2017 yearbook: BRANCH OUT.

There will be a LIMITED quantity of books ordered this year.

Yearbooks are \$47 through April 13. The price goes up to \$52 on April 14.

Checks should be brought to Mrs. Morfeld before or after school and wrote out to Clarkson Public Schools.



Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. By Wes Pokorny

It is round-up time! I want to make this as smooth as possible. If your child attends 4 year-old pre-school at Clarkson Public School they will be picked up at 9:45. If your child does not attend pre-school at Clarkson Public School you may drop your child off in the Kindergarten room at 10:00. They may be picked up between 12:45 and 1:00. Children will eat hot lunch at school and the cost of hot lunch is \$2.45. It may be taken from an older siblings account or paid by cash.

Who is eligible for kindergarten? Anyone who fits the age requirements – 5 years of age by July 31st, 2017.

Please check your mail sometime in the second week of April. I will send all forms needed to enroll your student at Clarkson Public Schools. I will also enclose a cover letter of additional information. I like to send these forms out before you bring your kids to Round-up. This way I can better answer your questions and make that first day of school a great experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at school, 892-3454. If you need transportation to school for Round-up please contact the school.

We will need a copy of an official copy of the student's birth certificate when the 2017-2018 school year begins. This is a Nebraska state law.

To receive a birth certificate by mail, send a \$17.00 check or money order (credit cards are not accepted) and the following information:

- \* Full name at birth. If adopted, list adoptive name and state "adopted".
- \* Month/day/year of birth
- \* City or town of birth/County of birth
- \* Father's full name, if adopted, list adopted father's name.
- \* Mother's full maiden name, if adopted, list adoptive mother's name.
- \* Purpose for the record?
- \* If not your record, how are you related?
- \* Requestor's Photo Identification is Required, i.e. drivers license

Send your check along with the needed information to:

Vital Records PO Box 95065 Lincoln NE 68509-5065

I am anxious to meet all the prospective kindergarten students on the 28th! See you then!



#### **Summer Ball Letters**

We sent home a sign up sheet for T-Ball, Softball, and Baseball.
Please check your child book bags.
All forms are due back to the school office by April 7th.
Thank you!



By Jim Clarkson

Hello! Patriot Nation! Spring has arrived if not in the weather at least on the calendar so embrace the start of a new season. First thing out of the huddle this month is a GIGANTIC shout out to Tiffany Baumert for coming into our Lifetime Activities class and teaching some dance moves for a week. I heard it paid off with some Prom night flash. She did a great job of teaching some classics like the Waltz and Foxtrot, to more upbeat country moves like the Pretzel and some Line Dances.

Also in the past month we had wrapped up the Jump Rope for Heart, thank you again to all that donated and once again a big shout out to Chelsea Brabec who was our top fundraiser for the

Thanks again Tiffany, what a great dance teacher!

Brabec who was our top fundraiser for the American Heart Association. She did a fantastic job!

I know it is tough to get to track meets as most happen during the day but if you get the chance to come out to a Patriot track meet. I hope you jump at the chance, no pun intended Haha. In all seriousness, we will have an exciting team lead by one of the best sprinters in the state, Brad Bunner. Our boy's team is low on numbers but we have a low number of boys in general. The boys we do have are some hard working cats so they will be fun to watch. On the girl's side it is opposite. We have a lot of girls and our girl's teams should be in the mix for the team title at just about every meet. So if the weather is nice and you can get away for a few hours come and check these hard working athletes out. Have a great Spring and stay healthy.

Go Pats!!!!



#### Clarkson Elementary School's First Family Literacy Night

By Mrs. Cropp, Title I Teacher On Wednesday, April 26, 2017, Clarkson Elementary will be holding its first family literacy night. It will be from 5pm-7pm in the new gym. We will be serving food and drinks to start off the evening. There will be activities for you to enjoy with your children, book raffles and great stories.

Please wear comfy clothes or pj's, your cutest slippers, bring a blanket, your family and their favorite bedtime stories. Come and join the activities and help promote the importance of literacy. Hope to see you all there!



By Ryan Dusso

I would like to thank everyone who came to the High School Spring Concert on Tuesday March 21st. The students and myself really appreciate all the support you have shown and continue to show! The Music Departments next adventure is <u>Tuesday April 11th</u> with the Pre-K-8th grade Music Concert at <u>6:30pm</u> in the New Gym here in Clarkson. We have had an amazing school year thus far, and I am very excited to see what the last few months has in store!

#### 4th grade parents!

Your students will be learning about different band instruments in the coming weeks. We will have Schmitt Music here in April for instrument selection for 5th grade band next year. Your students will be getting more information in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for it. I ask that you talk your students what instruments they would like to try and play and help get them excited about band! Hope you have a wonderful day!





By Jennifer Kappel

Seniors...Important FAFSA information for you and your parents The IRS recently took down its Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) due to security concerns. The DRT allows students and parents to transfer income tax information into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you already filed your 2017-18 FAFSA and used the DRT to input your tax information, this outage should not affect you. If you and your parents have NOT completed your 2017-18 FAFSA, follow these steps:

- 1. Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. If you get an error message when you try IRS Data Retrieval ("page not found" or "access denied"), manually input your 2015 tax data.
- 2. Request an official tax return transcript of your 2015 income tax data from the IRS. You will need the transcript if the college(s) you list on the FAFSA request verification of your tax data.
- 3. Respond to verification requests as soon as possible and send all requested documents to the college. Colleges will not award financial aid until the verification process is complete.

For free help with the FAFSA or verification process, contact EducationQuest to make an appointment. See locations and phone numbers at the bottom of this bulletin. You may also submit questions via Facebook and Twitter. We will quickly respond!

Seniors...It's decision time!

Here's how to decide on the college that's the right fit for you. Compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications, and campus visit notes. List the pros and cons of each school using the following criteria:

Location – Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

Cost – Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How

much in student and parent loans will you need to cover expenses?

Academic program – Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other programs that interest you?

Student life – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Make your final decision by May 1 – and then notify the colleges you're rejecting so they can offer your spot, and any financial aid, to another student.

April "To Do" List

Tipin To Bo Eist
Seniors
Continue applying for scholarships.
Make your final college decision.
Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid
sticker shock in August.
Start looking for a summer job.
Juniors
Schedule campus visits while colleges are still
in session.
Register by April 7 for the May 6 SAT.
Register by May 5 for the June 10 ACT.
Start looking for scholarships.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:
Omaha 402-391-4033 888-375-6300
Lincoln 402-475-5222 800-303-3745
Kearney 308-234-6310 800-666-3721
Scottsbluff 800-303- 3745 ext. 6654

#### NECC Academic Contest Held

Clarkson High School students participated in the annual academic contest in Norfolk on Wednesday, March 22nd. More than twenty students participated from Clarkson, leaving at 7:30am. Students were signed up to participate in the Quiz Bowl contest and in individual content tests.

tests.
The following students placed:
MaGyver Brabec – 1st in Building Construction
Tanner Stanley – 1st in Personal Finance
John Langhorst – 1st in Accounting I
Korbin Kudera – 2nd in American Government
Libby Crecco – 2nd in Art History
Due to the tremendous success of these students,
Clarkson just missed third place as a team against other D2 schools.

#### 8th Graders Attend Career Fair at CCC

Central Community College in Columbus hosted a Career Opportunity Fair on Wednesday, March 22nd. Clarkson's 8th grade students began the day with sessions they could choose from including: College Essentials, Social Media, Interviewing, Dress for Success Men, Dress for Success Women, Applications and Career Assessment. Students were given a tour of the campus including the new dorms, the Education Building, Ag and Industrial Technology and the weight room. Students also had the opportunity to visit with several businesses from the Columbus area that set up booths and activities for students in the gym.



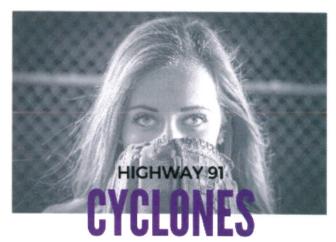
By Darrell Bailey

Well, the year is winding down and we still have lots to do in our shop classes. Presently we are making cabinet doors and drawer fronts for some apartments in Norfolk. It started out really good but recently not so much. We have gone through 3 thickness planers and several saw blades because we have to plane the wood down to 3/4" thick before we cut the wood to size. The students have done really a good job but I didn't realize how much work it was. With only 45 minutes a class and student absences it tries your patience. We have several done and they look really good but need a miracle to get the rest done and ready to install.

Right now we need some HELP!! That is if anyone wants to assist us with some cabinet doors and drawer fronts it would be greatly appreciated. If interested give the school a call (402-892-3454) or Mr. Bailey (402-640-1791). I usually don't have to do this but this is pretty much a necessity. If not, that's okay also.

I can tell you one thing for sure some of our students have taken great advantage of our technology. They have designed & created some awesome projects. Hopefully you will get to see them on Awards night in May. It is fun to see what these kids can do because when they think outside the box great things take place. I got the 8<sup>th</sup> graders this last 12 weeks in our tri-semester classes and

there are lots of them, fifteen to be exact. I came up with 2 projects this year that they could make which didn't break the bank for the parents and yet they would enjoy. The first one we have been doing is an Obstacle Avoiding /Line Tracking Robot. They have done an awesome job with this project. They also made up team shirts for a robot competition we will have later in the year. Project 2 is a Word Desktop Clock that uses LED's for words to light up the time. The entire project consists of clock terms spelled out on the front panel, which were cut out with a laser cutter. They will be cutting the lights for the back panel and learn how to wire the lights up. The clock uses an Arduino UNO board & a RTC clock chip to keep the time of the clock. I think it will be a great experience for these young kids. So there you have it. Some exciting things going on in shop classes this year. If you ever want to see what your child is doing please stop by any time.



#### SOFTBALL CLUB

12 & Under - must be 12 by 1.1.17 14 & Under- must be 14 by 1.1.17 16/18 - must be 16 by 1.1.17

> 1-3 practices per week Games start in May \$50 player fee

Contact: Coach Adam Indra aindra@clarkson.esu7.org - (402)649-1503

Teamwork makes the dream work.

## Discover ways to build family time into your daily schedule



To reach their full potential in school and in life, kids need frequent, meaningful, undivided attention

from parents. But finding quality time to spend together can be challenging.

Here are some ways to build more family time into your busy schedule:

- Turn off the TV. Simply limiting TV time can result in several hours of free time each week.
- Volunteer. If your child is involved in a club, team or other group activity, offer to help out. This is a great opportunity to spend time together.
- Get moving. It's important to squeeze exercise into your

routine. Be active as a family-

- Write it on the calendar. Treat family time like an appointment. If you can, schedule some oneon-one activities that appeal to each child.
- Gather for dinner. Sit-down meals help kids and parents connect and can lead to great conversations. Strive to have at least one family meal every day.

"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."

-Garrison Keillor

## go for walks, play tag or kick a soccer ball.

### How well are you listening to your child?



Communication between you and your child is very important. You want him to know that he can talk to you

about school problems or difficult situations he may be facing. But when your child talks, are you really listening? Answer yes or no to the questions below to find out:

- 1. Do you give your child some uninterrupted listening time every day, like when he comes home from school or at bedtime?
- 2. Do you avoid interrupting your child when he is speaking to you?
- 3. Do you tell your child if you are unable to listen that you want to hear what he has to say, then set a time when he can have your full attention?
- 4. Do you ask questions if you don't understand what your child is saving?
- \_5. Do you sometimes rephrase what your child has said to make sure you understand?

How well are you doing? If most of your answers are yes, you have strong listening skills. For no answers, try those ideas.

## Celebrate the month of April with these fun learning activities



April may bring showers-but it also brings many days of learning opportunities. Here are some fun things

you can plan to do with your child:

- April 2 is International Children's Book Day and Hans Christian Andersen's birthday. This day is designed to inspire a love of reading. Head to the library and grab some books!
- April 13 is the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. Go online to learn more about this president. Take a virtual tour of his home Monticello at explorer.monticello.org.
- April 17 is income tax deadline day. Talk about the purpose of taxes. Practice calculating percentages with your child.

- April 22 is Earth Day. As a family, think of something you can do to protect the earth. Perhaps you could plant a tree or set up a recycling station at home.
- April 23 is the day Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated. Ask your child to write a scene for a play and act it out with friends or family members.
- April 26 is the birthday of John James Audubon, who was known for his studies, drawings and paintings of North American birds. Encourage your child to draw pictures of the birds she sees.
- April 30 is International Jazz Day. Find a radio station that plays jazz and listen to it with your child. Then each of you can describe how the music makes you feel.

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## **It Matters: Motivation**

# Motivation can keep your middle schooler focused



Middle schoolers can fall into the "Why work hard?" trap any time, especially near the end of the school year.

Don't let your child!

Keep your middle schooler focused until the final bell rings by reinforcing what he learns and encouraging him to stay on task. Here's how:

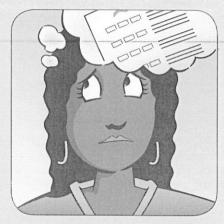
- Make connections. Your child may not want to bother with schoolwork because he can't see why it's important. Talk to him about it. Does he love video games? Can he imagine working with computers someday? Remind him that solid math skills could be his ticket into that field.
- Praise your child's efforts. When he works hard on a test or paper, let him know how proud you are. Middle schoolers may act like they don't want your approval, but they really do. There's no motivator like a pat on the back from Mom or Dad.
- Celebrate success. Did he earn
  a B on that tough history test?
  Prepare a special dinner! Or
  take everyone out for ice cream.
  Celebrating his hard work could
  be just the boost your child
  needs to keep buckling down.
- Encourage him to challenge himself. It's too late to take a new class this year, but what does he think about choosing tougher courses next year? The idea just might inspire him to keep learning all summer.

# Don't let your middle schooler develop 'learned helplessness'

A student who has had several failures in a row is at risk of refusing to try a new or challenging task. This fear of failure is often referred to as *learned helplessness*—in which a child's first decision is to avoid a task because she believes it will be impossible for her.

To help your child guard against learned helplessness, have her:

- Focus on being positive. If she believes she can be successful and decides to give a task or assignment her best effort, she is more likely to succeed.
- Try easier work first. Students are often told to do harder work first, to get it out of the way. But some kids gain self-confidence by finishing an easy task.
- Try new learning strategies.
   Does she need to move around?



Does making pictures or graphs help her understand material better? Does her comprehension improve if she records herself reading and plays it back?

Be sure to watch what you say to your child, too. Sarcasm and labels such as *lazy* don't motivate your child—they hurt her.

# Keep your child on track as the calendar turns toward spring



Motivation has a way of decreasing as the outdoor temperature starts increasing, especially for middle schoolers.

Your child may need more encouragement and structure as he copes with an increased number of projects, papers and tests during the final months of the school year.

To support your child:

 Make sure he has a set place for homework. You probably did this at the beginning of the year. Still, many families find that kids starts to spread out their work all over the house as the year goes on.

- Have him write down his homework schedule and post it where he can easily see it.
- Encourage him to make lists.
   He should list the assignments he needs to complete, the materials he needs for projects and the dates for upcoming tests.
- Offer to help. You should never do homework for your child, but you can help in other ways. For example, you could stop by the library on your lunch hour and pick up a book he needs.

# Clarkson Public School

	• • •				
Friday	Breakfast – muffin Lunch – grilled cheese or tuna sandwich	NO SCHOOL	21 Breakfast – Clarkson bakery rolls Lunch – stromboli	Breakfast – pancake sausage stick Lunch – hotdog	
Thursday	Breakfast – bacon pizza Lunch – meatball sub	Breakfast – breakfast pizza Lunch – popcorn chicken	Breakfast – combos Lunch – sub sandwich	Breakfast – tornado Lunch – chicken and gravy	
Wednesday	Breakfast – omelet, sausage and toast Lunch – turkey slice	Breakfast – bacon toast Lunch – BBQ pork sandwich	Breakfast – sausage egg biscuit Lunch – chicken fajita	26 Breakfast – homemade burrito Lunch – chicken fried steak	
Tuesday	Breakfast – biscuits and gravy Lunch – hamburgers	Breakfast – ham egg crossiant Lunch – Philly steak sandwich	<b>18</b> Breakfast – hot pocket Lunch – pork steak sandwich	Breakfast – bagel egg ham sandwich Lunch – taco salad	
Monday	Breakfast – ham egg English muffin Lunch – chicken nuggets	Breakfast – pancake and sausage Lunch – chicken patty	NO SCHOOL	Breakfast – breakfast sausage Lunch – spaghetti and meatballs	
				, .	•

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.





# **Clarkson Public School Happenings**

Saturday, April 1st – Alumni Volleyball and Basketball

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>-Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lincoln

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dance Team Tryouts 3:00 in Clarkson

Tuesday, April 4th – Boys Golf Invite 9:00 at Indian Trails CC

HS Track 2:00 at Aquinas in David City

JH Track 3:00 at Wisner

Wednesday, April 5th - Friday, April 7th - State FFA Conference in Lincoln

Saturday, April 8th - ACT test date

Sunday, April 9th - Football Leadership meeting 3:00 in Leigh

Monday, April 10th - 9th graders to college fair at WSC and NECC

Boys Golf Dual 4:00 at Humphrey

School Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 11th - HS Track 10:00 at Lyons-Decatur NE

PreK-8th grade Spring Music Concert 6:30 pm in the new gym

Wednesday, April 12th - Boys Golf Invite 9:00 in Leigh

Thursday, April 13th - PreK - 12th grade teacher's meeting 7:45 am

JH Track Invite 3:45 at Madison

**PSAT** testing for Juniors

Friday, April 14th & Monday, April 17th - NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

Tuesday, April 18th - HS Track Invite 11:00 at Madison

JH Track 11:00 at Battle Creek

Boys Golf Triangular 1:30 at Leigh

Wednesday, April 19th – Juniors ACT

Thursday, April 20th - JH Track 1:30 at Lyons-Decatur

FFA Parent/Member Banquet 7:00 in Leigh

Friday, April 21st - Saturday, April 22nd - District Music Contest at CCC

Sunday, April  $23^{rd}$  – Football Leadership meeting 3:00 in Leigh

Monday, April  $24^{th}$  – FCCLA Highway clean-up 4:00 with meeting at 6:30 in Leigh

Tuesday, April 25th – HS Track Patriot Invite 9:00 in Madison

Boys Golf 1:30 vs. Madison in Leigh

Thursday, April 27th – Boys Golf HSF Invite 10:00 at Humphrey

NE Nebraska Classic in Norfolk

Friday, April 28th - Kindergarten Round-up 10:00-1:00

Saturday, April 29th - Boys Golf Invite 9:00 in Pierce

HS Track Conference Meet 10:00 at Twin River (Genoa)

Walk for the Cure

Clarkson Public Schools PO Box 140 Clarkson NE 68629

The Clarkson Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age or disabilities in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, it's programs or activities.



No School-Easter Break Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>