

The Red Review

18-19 December Vol. 4

clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Superintendent's Desk

By: Rich Lemburg

As we start the month of December I would like to thank everyone for a great first semester. The semester has flown by, it just seems that we were just starting the school year and now we have only three weeks until Christmas break.

Later this month you will be getting your child's NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) scores from the 2017-18 school year. This past year's state test was the first with our vendor and they have gone to extensive work to set cut scores and verify students scores which has caused in a long delay in the school and parents getting the final results.

In November's newsletter we talked about late starts and school cancellations; this month I want to remind parents about making sure your kids are properly dressed for winter months. It is important to make sure your children especially your younger ones have a warm coat and gloves for the winter months. This is not only a major need especially for the students who live in town and walk to school but also students who ride the bus or ride to school with siblings. To help working parents we have it set up so the students are able to get into school at 7:30 on an everyday basis. Please make sure if you are dropping off your children on your way to work please make sure you don't drop them off before 7:30 as they won't be able to get into school.

The coat and gloves will also come in handy for the days where the students are able to go outside for recess or when we get some snow and our teachers are able to take the students sledding during winter. Usually on the sledding days the teachers work with the parents and students to make sure they have the correct gear in school. Have a great Holiday Season!!!

Notes from the Principal

By: Lee Schneider

Hello everyone and Happy Winter! I'm proud to acknowledge some great things that have happened recently. One would be Karen Haase, who came and presented to our students about the dos and don'ts of social media. Also, would like to point out the incredible "movies" that our multimedia class has been producing! Finally, I would ask everyone to take a peek at the Clarkson Public Schools Lip Dub!! It is located on our homepage and Facebook page! It is a perfect look into the culture and learning environment that we are creating for our kids. I'm so proud of the students in how they participated and had a blast doing it as well! It was a lot of fun!

I would like to remind everyone to please make sure your child has proper clothing, hats, gloves as we get deeper into the winter months. I also, want to remind you that the school doors do not open until 7:30 am. So please, make sure your child is not getting here too early and then having to wait outside in the cold weather!

With the winter sports season starting, our schedules get ramped up again and our student athletes will get very busy. Please, make a note to keep an eye on the calendar as start times can always adjust as we get into the season as well as location of events. Kids get tired and wore down and that is when we start to see sickness increase. If your child is going to be gone from school due to illness please call the school and let us know. We appreciate it a lot! Go PATS!



Winter Break

**December 24
thru
January 7th**

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Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA:

The FAFSA opened October 1, so many of you have already completed and submitted your form.

Here's what happens next:

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR). You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA.

Colleges who receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

Watch for verification requests. The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office.

Watch for financial aid award notifications. The colleges you were accepted to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at FAFSA.gov. Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need them to access and sign the form.

For free help with the FAFSA, watch these FAFSA Demo videos, use our free FAFSA Tools, or call EducationQuest to make an appointment:

Omaha – 888.357.6300

Lincoln – 800.303.3745

Winning the scholarship game.

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't ever pay for scholarship searches! Use free resources such as ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships, or free national sites like Cappex, GoodCall, and Chegg.

Visit your school counselor often for information about local scholarships.

Focus on local and college-specific scholarships because you're more likely to earn them.

Update your activities, honors, community service or paid jobs using the Activities Resume at EducationQuest.org.

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.

Tailor your essay to the scholarship. Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

December "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college-planning track.

Seniors:

__ If you haven't already, submit college applications and the FAFSA.

__ Continue to apply for scholarships.

__ Use this College Timeline to stay on track to college.

__ Follow EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship.

Juniors:

__ Take an ACT prep course.

__ Set up a ScholarshipQuest profile and start searching for Nebraska-based scholarships.

__ Use this College Timeline to stay on track to college.

__ Follow EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship.

SENIOR PARENTS

Senior pictures for the yearbook and newspapers must be submitted to Mrs. Morfeld before

Christmas break:

- Vertical headshot (yearbook, Colfax County Press, Columbus Telegram)

- Baby picture (yearbook)

- Optional Baby Ad (baby picture, message, & \$20)

Contact Mrs. Morfeld with any questions (lmorfeld@clarkson.esu7.org)

Senior Scholarship Project

The Senior Class of 2019 just completed their practice scholarship project. Each senior was required to select two local scholarships and complete the applications ahead of the deadline. Mrs. Morfeld, Mr. Murren and Mrs. Kappel have volunteered to critique the applications and give the students feedback, with the hope that seniors will make some changes to better their applications prior to the actual due date. Great job seniors in putting effort into your scholarship applications!

Christmas For the Troops Huge Success!

Members of the Clarkson community, schools and National Honor Society collected goods to be given to troops stationed away from home this holiday season. Mrs. Kappel's vehicle was packed full of the donations that were then taken to Pinnacle Bank in Columbus to be packaged up for troops. Monetary donations were also given to help with shipping costs - the Senior class donated \$300! Thank you so much for your generosity!



Here's a thank you from Keri Schnell, Vice President at Pinnacle Bank:

Thank you Clarkson Public Schools for helping us with our care package project again this year!!

Your students always do an amazing job with the donations that you collect for us. This year we were able to ship 304 boxes. We took them to the post office on November 5th (4 pickup loads) and I'm excited to say that we have been hearing from some of the military members that they are starting to receive them already. Thanks again for all of your support!

Sophomores Complete John Baylor Sessions

Members of the sophomore class completed the ACT prep John Baylor Fundamentals sessions during the month of November. Students watched instructional videos during their English, science, history and Spanish classes and completed homework that coincided with their sessions. Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT test at the end of their John Baylor sessions during the school day. This will give them an idea of what the ACT is going to be like. All Juniors are required to take the ACT as Nebraska's state testing so this serves as preparation for the next school year. The ACT is used for acceptance into colleges and also as a tool to measure merit-based scholarships.

Spanish News

By Vicky Miller

¡Hola! All classes took a little time to observe Día de los muertos. First, we debunked a few common myths about the Day of the Dead. It is a Mexican holiday that celebrates and remembers deceased loved ones. Though Día de los muertos falls the same time of year as Halloween and the popular candy skulls and Catrina costumes do resemble some of our Halloween traditions, it is not a Spanish version of Halloween; it is much more comparable to Memorial Day. The freshmen learn about the holiday and its festivities through reading the children's book *Mi abuela ya no está* (My grandma's not here anymore), watching the movie *La leyenda de la Nahuala* (The legend of the Nahuala), and singing along to the popular children's song "Chumbalaca" and writing some verses of their own!

Each class makes a different type of decoration to celebrate the day. The freshmen make faux papel picado, while the seniors try their hand at the real deal. Papel picado is brightly colored tissue paper with intricate designs cut into it (usually themed to the holiday, so ours had skeletons performing activities like dancing or eating). These are often hung up with several on a string like a banner. The sophomores make Catrina skulls; these are the happy skeletons painted especially on faces and often the person also wears a fancy old-fashioned dress and hat. The juniors make

rather elaborate ofrendas for one of their own deceased loved ones. Junior Libby Crecco even made her own pan de muerto (bread of the dead) to place on her ofrenda! These resemble a shrine, remembering the deceased loved one and their favorite things, along with some essential items to guide the spirit of the deceased loved one home for el Día de los muertos and make them comfortable here during their stay. Día de los muertos offered us some fun mini-lessons on Mexican products, practices and perspectives!

7th grade English

By Tami Sayers

The 7th grade English class wrote expository essays about something they would like to change about our school. They found websites with supportive information about their topic. Here are a few examples to share with you!

Homework Free Holidays

By: Chloe Hanel

Where is James, why isn't he eating with us? He is doing homework that his teacher assigned him to do over holiday break. Tell him to come and join his family at the table. I think students should not have homework on holidays. This is important because students should spend time with their family while they can, some students are busy traveling, and students deserve a break from school.

"Family time is important" according to study.com. I think family time is more important than homework. If students don't have homework on holidays then they can socialize with their family more. Students that spend more time with their family will show more achievement, better behavior, and better academic scores. Family time is important to child development because it reassures the student that they have someone to count on and can talk to. Students always say how schoolwork stresses them out, so they deserve a break from homework. Before holiday breaks take place parents are at work and students are at school so they spend a great amount of time separated. So when they are all home at once they deserve to be together instead of drawn apart due to homework.

"Many families travel during holidays" according to study.com. Some families travel on holidays so they can see others that they don't see very often. When they travel they can experience new things and they can see new things they don't usually see. But if kids are stuck doing homework in a car then they would be focused on that and they

could miss seeing something new or fascinating. When your family is visiting someone you don't see often your homework could interfere with interacting and socializing with them. Kids don't want to haul loads of books on road trips knowing they will be stuck doing that while everyone else is enjoying their break. When you don't see someone for a while you are excited to see them because you miss them and when you find out you have something that is going to interfere with that, it makes you upset. Not only would kids be upset knowing they have homework but some parents might be too because they don't want their kids being drawn a part from seeing their family because of schoolwork.

"Kids need rest!" according to InformED. I think students should have a break from schoolwork because they get their time in school before holiday break start. Students are usually very busy during holidays traveling and spending time with family. Giving students a break can relieve them of stress from school. Kids can catch up on things like sleep during holiday breaks. When students are always busy they have less time to do homework. If students don't have homework over holidays then they will come back eager and energized. Students deserve a break from homework, and holiday breaks are perfect for that. They give students time off and time to come prepared and energized for when they go back.

I think it is important for students to not have homework on holidays because then they can enjoy spending time with their family. Having homework on holidays is a problem because then kids are drawn a part from seeing people they don't see often. Overall students and parents do not like doing homework over holidays. I hope that someday students won't have to do homework on holidays. As Lily Tomlin once said, "I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework." This quote applies to this because some students would rather go home and think about how grateful they are for their family rather than their homework.

Healthy Vending Machines

By: Jordin Graybill

I am hungry and my parents forgot to pay my lunch bill. I have only \$2.50 and I can't get anything that will make me full. When we buy snacks they won't get me full and some of them aren't even healthy. Sometimes I am running late and I forgot to eat breakfast before school and breakfast is over at school. Kids need vending machines that make it cheap to eat food.

Kids don't have a lot of money for their lunches. Kid's parents might not have a lot of money to pay for their kid's food. If the parents don't pay for the kid's lunch, the kids would have to eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. What if kids don't like peanut butter and jelly, then they would have to bring lunch to school but the parents don't have a lot of time or money to buy the lunch. If kids don't like what the school makes they might just eat the fruit and dessert or just not eat so when they get home they just eat there. Some kids might also miss breakfast and don't have time to get some at school. When children are not done eating and have to go to class they might still be hungry and try to finish their food but miss a little bit of class. According to David's Vending it says, "Kids don't have a lot of money, and where children are underprivileged, every child has access to the same snacks to buy in the machine, priced affordably."

By having a snack or beverage machine around, a child with a few dollars can still get something to eat to last the day. If kids forget their lunch and don't like the main food, they might just be hungry the whole day. If there was a food machine kids could have food to last them the whole day. In the machine there would be sandwiches or anything healthy for the kids to eat. If there was a food machine, kids could eat something that doesn't cost a lot of money. According to David's Vending it says, "By having a snack or beverage machine around, a child with a few dollars can still get something to eat to last the day." The machine will help stop kids from being hungry during class. If the teachers are okay with eating in their class, you could eat a healthy snack for breakfast if you forgot to eat breakfast.

During school at lunchtime some kids go to the store for food. Sometimes they won't come back to school or just get back to school later. If there were food machines they won't have to leave school grounds. Sometime kids don't have time to go to the store. When the kids were planning on going to the store they might have a test to finish, then they won't have time to go to the store. If the students have a ride to the store they won't take so long getting there and back. If the kids walk to the store they might have to start walking right back because of how long it takes to get there by walking. According to David's Vending it says, "A problem is when kids leave school grounds with the excuse that they're going to the store to buy something. This can make supervision an issue, especially when some kids don't return after the lunch break, or come back late."

I woke up late and missed breakfast but I can just go to the vending machine at school. My

parents still haven't paid the lunch bill, but since we have a vending machine will help the kids that have to pay their bill eat. Even though I only have \$2.50 I can get something to eat at the vending machine so I can eat. Know I won't have to buy any unhealthy snacks for just \$1 for something small to eat. And with vending machines you just have to spend a couple of cents for something to get you through the day.

Homework Should be Banned!

By: Mason Albers

"Dang, more homework from Mr. John's class, I'm stacked on homework," said Ken. So that day Ken went home to do all his homework. His bedtime is 8:00. Well, he stayed up until 11:00 doing homework. That next morning he was late to the bus because of his homework. When he got to school he was late and he had no time to hand in homework because it was late so he got a zero percent in the grade book. Ken and all the other kids in the schools would love it if there where no homework. Ken thinks schools should not give homework because there's no academic benefit, you can replace homework with reading, and your child needs plenty of sleep.

I believe that there is no academic benefit of homework because what if you need help from a teacher and they are not there. Instead of doing this homework stuff you could be spending time with family. If there is school, then why should you do it at home? You should get it done at school. If you are at home and if you need help and your parent does not know what it is and your at home without a teacher. People say that homework helps you. I think it does but it could put too much pressure on the child. According to the Fatherly Guide Of Homework it says, "We consulted teachers, education experts, homework reform advocates, and more about what your kids should be getting out of homework, even if you have trouble helping them with it." "Some people say to their kids to not do there homework because they believe there is no academic benefit because of stress on their kids." according to the Fatherly Guide Of Homework. People don't like homework because they believe that it stresses their kids.

There is a Florida school that replaced homework with reading. They did it because they thought homework wasted their time at home. They had a little sheet the teachers gave the students and their parents signed and wrote down how long they read. I think this school should do that because it will help certain people learn how to read better and speak. "The teachers in the Florida thought that was a good idea to because most of the students there did

not enjoy homework,” says the Florida school district. I think this school should have those little notes to send home to a parent to sign how long they read. People in this school may or may not enjoy the little slips given to them but a lot of people like reading in this school so I think they would like it. The article I read says this about homework: “This isn’t to say, of course, that all homework is bad, however.” I agree with that last sentence but I still think that reading is way better than homework.

When there is homework how will your child get plenty of sleep? You need sleep to get your energy back and if you are doing homework that means that you could lose some of your sleep you need. Even your brain needs sleep so when you do homework you have plenty of energy to comprehend the homework. If you did not get enough sleep you may fall asleep in class and then forget some of the stuff you did in class. Even if you get home with a lot of homework and you didn't get enough sleep, then when you get home you would want to sleep even more and then you would not have time to do homework. The Kids Health site says, “Though no one is exactly sure what work the brain does when you're sleeping, some scientists think that the brain sorts through and stores information, replaces chemicals, and solves problems while you snooze.” You and your kids need plenty of sleep so if you are staying up late helping your child, you and your child would miss out on plenty of your sleep. So if you do not get enough sleep you may not feel healthy and energized.

A few days go by Ken had a talk with his parents and teachers and they all agreed that if anyone has five or more pages of homework they could stay after school if it is ok by their parents. Ken has been getting his homework done and has been getting enough sleep. He even hasn't missed the bus ever since that talk. The school has even been talking about banning homework because a lot of students still are not getting homework done. The school may replace homework with reading instead of banning homework.

Finland's Better Education System

By: Samuel Zuniga-Pocasangre

“Hei.” Sorry, that is Finnish for hello. You might be wondering why I am trying to speak Finnish. That is because Finland has one of the best education systems in the world. Finland also seems like a student's dream. Finland is a student's dream because it starts school at a later age, gives out no homework, and they make students take fewer tests. I am just saying, that Finland should be a role model for the education of other countries.

Finland is at the top of the educational chart, yet we say we are number one. Did you know that in the U.S., kids start school before the age of six. I mean sure, in Finland kids go to preschool from ages three to six. But really, that is just preschool. In Finland they start school once they are seven years old. According to the World Health Organization, “...this can positively impact life.” Probably because kids can't really take in that much information. Did you know the Japanese are also pretty high in the education chart? They start school start at age six, but just a bit later.

Something else we can change that many people will agree to is no homework. I just want to say that homework can cause a lot of stress. I personally dislike homework because I know I am going to be distracted or not have time. Also, homework can encourage a sedentary lifestyle. If you don't know what sedentary means, it means a lot of sitting. Like I said before, somebody might not have time, causing them to stay up late. Also just in case you don't like cheaters, I'll tell you, homework, when under stress, can cause people to cheat.

No homework and fewer tests, now that would be amazing! Oh wait, that is already a thing, in Finland. Do you know why students dislike taking tests? It can cause a lack of confidence in a student. Say you get a lot of homework and you do amazing, you would get a lot of confidence. Next, you have a test and you do pretty bad; bye-bye confidence. Why do you do bad? The pressure! The test then shows false information. Sure not all tests do, but a few do. Did you know, in Finland, only one standardized test is taken, and it is at the age sixteen.

Making these changes would not only make students happier, it would also make our education better. Sure it would be one school at a time. It would be, as they say, slowly but surely. Like I said earlier Finland should be a role model. Farewell, as they say in Finland, “Jäähyväiset.”

An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away

By: Ryan Brichacek

Why is Mason going up for a third ice cream bar? What are school cafeterias feeding us? Have you ever wondered if school cafeterias serve healthy food? What's inside the food that the cafeteria gives us? I want school lunches to be healthier. This is important because school cafeterias are failing us, how healthy food benefits kids, and how to get healthy food in schools.

Cafeterias are failing us by giving high saturated fats and processed packaged food to the kids. These unhealthy foods can make kids not focus. When I eat unhealthy foods it gives me a

headache and I zone out from my work. These foods are keeping kids hungry and when food is too strict kids go downtown to the convenient store.

According to Raising Rippers, “The food is edible but unhealthy.” There are some unhealthy foods that can make you fat or overweight. I think that if the schools are serving healthy foods then not as many kids will be overweight for their age. According to Raising Rippers, “50% of 7th graders are overweight or have a risk of being overweight.”

Healthy foods benefit kids by helping us focus on all of our work. Foods like protein, whole grains, fruits, whole or low fat milk are healthy options. As a student I can concentrate better when I have healthy foods like garden club salads with kale, spinach and other greens. According to the PEW, “There was a 67% drop in behavior problems when students ate healthy foods like the ones listed above.” Kids were in school more and do better on schoolwork and tests. It could also help with their sports career by helping them so then we do not get broken bones. Healthy foods also help boost your metabolism so then your teammates do not get sick on a game day. As you can see healthy foods have a lot of benefits to them but getting them in your school may be more difficult than you think.

Getting healthy food in schools is a really important thing because, how are the kids supposed to get the healthy foods in their bodies if they do not have it all in school? They spend a lot of time at school too. From Real Mom Nutrition, “Children spend 35-plus-hours at school every week, eating up to two meals (and maybe even a snack) there.” You can do a community thing so then you all can help get the food. You can also get a thing started in the school like a school garden. You can also work concessions and give it back to the school. You can start a backpack program or you can also get a fruit tray. There are a lot of ideas that you can use but there are always more. You can also do a food drive to get money. But remember to go over it with your principal before you do it.

If you get healthier food you don't have to worry for what is in the food. You also don't need to worry if your kid is getting a healthy food diet. I am not eating as much and I also am paying more attention in class. My grades are also going up. Mason and Cadin are both doing better too.

Active Living

By: Isaac Baumert

Have you ever pondered a way for your kid to have better time management? Extracurricular activities could help with that. They can also help with a wider social circle and broader interest circle. There are two ways for kids to have to do this the

school can make a kid go out for at least one extracurricular activity or the parent can make the kid do extracurricular activities.

Kids should have to do at least one extracurricular activity. Research backs this up by saying that extracurricular activities encourage better time management. Mountain heights academy says that students are less likely to “procrastinate during downtimes” resulting in the students learning not to waste time on anything that does not matter at that moment. They also go on to say that extracurricular activities have the effect of “recharging the brain after a long day of rigorous school work, allowing students to return to homework assignments with a refreshed mind.” Referring back to the stopping procrastinating. It makes students plan out their down time. We could all used better time management skills so you might as well make them learn while they are still teenagers.

Kids that do extracurricular activities are more likely to have better friends. Their friends will be easier to talk to. Crimson education says, “Each extracurricular you engage in provides you with another opportunity to expand your social network”. Then, maybe your extracurricular activity was community service with your school and you found a friend. You are more likely to start your own group of community service. Crimson education agrees with me when it later says “...for example, if you make a few friends doing community service at school you might decide start a volunteer club together and really make an impact in your community.” It will also cause you to have a deeper interest in whatever you are doing. That would cause someone to make sure all their homework is done and they are not failing any classes.

Kids that explore extracurricular activities will have a wider circle of what they have a interest in. I mean it makes sense why extracurricular activities make a bigger interest circle. A wider interest circle allows a kid to find what they like to do. Mountain Heights Academy states, “Students can also use these activities to explore interests they've never encountered. Exposing students to a more diverse range of interests in students.” We could all use a wider range of interest, it would help kids find things as hobbies or as a pass time. Mountain Heights Academy says, “A student with a flair for mathematics, for example, might become a member of the school's math honor society program.” Mountain Heights Academy continues on to say, “This decision could help them decide if math will be something to pursue in higher education.”

I hope that this helps parents decide If they want their kids to go out for any extracurricular

activities. There are more reasons you have to just have to know how to find them. On the plus side, extracurricular activities usually go until after school. Meaning that parents can have more time without kids. Kiernan said, "I made most of my friends through extracurricular activities."

Shorter Work Day

By: Christian Hamernik

My teacher today had bags under her eyes and half the class, including me, fell asleep during class today, why? This is important to think about, because if your teacher looks tired, and so does your class, then something is wrong. If we have shorter school days, this won't happen. This is important because then students could focus on other activities, students could get more rest, and teachers would be healthier. If schools don't change their hours, this will continue to happen and this will cause grades to go down.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "the U.S. ranked 15th in reading literacy, 25th in mathematics and 21st in sciences globally." To boost these scores people are thinking longer school days and shorter summers. Though there are educational advantages to longer school days but there are drawbacks too. A shorter school day can bring physical, social and emotional benefits to students. The average school day is about seven hours and many of the students do extracurricular activities after school. Although academic work is vital, these extracurricular activities are also significant for students because they learn responsibility and teamwork. In fact most schools require a wide variety of activities for students. But these activities are often squeezed out from school and homework.

In addition to students having more time to focus on important activities, a shorter school day would give them more time to rest. If students get enough sleep they will be energized enough to go to school and be ready to take on what comes at them, but if they don't get enough sleep they will fail tests, do bad and be tired during extracurricular activities. According to WebMD, "children between the ages of 12 to 18 need at least eight hours of sleep each night, sometimes even nine. The average amount of sleep that teenagers get is between 7 and 7.5 hours." In addition, schools begin very early in the day, as early as 7:30 or 8:00. To get that amount of sleep students may have to go to bed around 9 to 10 p.m. The reality, though, is between time in school and time doing homework, students don't have the time to spend on other activities, friends and fun, let alone getting the sleep they desperately need. A later start

would help students receive the rest that doctors recommend.

Teachers are often overworked and under appreciated. Even though they get summers off they usually have to go above and beyond the call of duty during the school year. With grading and programs outside of school and their everyday lives, they don't have much time to do anything. If they worked shorter hours during the day they could focus on their students and their own lives. They also would have more time to do grading and lesson planning. Instead of staying up until two o'clock in the morning they could get their work done much earlier. Students would also be much healthier if they had shorter school hours. Students are often treated like employees and are expected to work the same amount of hours as adults. When in school, sometimes the teachers and students are tired. What would cause students to not be treated like employees, and be expected to work the same amount as adults?

I hope someday that all of my classmates will be lively, our teacher will love their job and that students can have time to hangout with their friends and other activities. That is why I think school hours should be shorter. Teachers would be healthier. They would get more sleep and would get more work done. Students will have time to hangout with their friends and do other activities if schools have shorter hours. Students that get more sleep will be ready to go in the morning for school. This can all happen if school hours become shorter.

How to Get Your Grades Up

By: Troy Graybill

I think that we should have class competition. Why do I have such bad grades? I wish we had something so that I have something to motivate me so I can get my grades up. I think that if I do a report on class competition and turn it into Mr. Lemburg and Mr. Schneider and they see it, they might approve of it for a motivator for the kids that don't do sports. If you are tired of having bad grades, make a report on class competition and give it to your principal and ask him/her if you can have class competitions in your school.

Schools should have class competition so that when kids have good grades, they can participate in the class competition. It would help encourage students to get their homework done and turned in on time. This will also help students get their homework done because if they want to do class competition this would be a good motivator to get their grades up. The students would get graded on how well they listen and if they listen really good then they would get graded on listening and the

grade would go toward the class competition grade. They will also get graded on helping others and that will go towards class competition. They will also get graded on how well their task completion is. If the students encourage others to push themselves, like in sports, that grade will go toward class competition.

If you are getting homework done and turned in on time then you can compete in class competition. That would motivate people to get their homework done and their grades up so they can compete in class competition. The kids that have good grades would be able to compete in it. The kids that have bad grades would have to get their grades up to be able to compete in it. The kids that have ok grades will be able to be in class competition but will be able to do some of the topic for that month. The kids that have good grades will be able to vote on the topic for that month. The class competition would be kind of like PEP but instead it will be class competition. Class competition is for the kids that want to do it and have good grades. According to EducationNext, "The kids that want to do it but they have bad grades can be in it but when it is the period for class competition the kids with bad grades will be doing their homework or something to get their grades up instead."

When you help at your schools sports games your points will go up for class competition.

When there is a football game you could help either cooking, filming the game, and giving the football players water. When there is a home volleyball or basketball game you can cook the food for the people who come and watch/ support the team. When the game is over you could also stay and clean up so that it is ready for the next game. If the game gets out late you could also help clean up from the game the next day before school starts or when you have a study hall. When there is a football game you could help get the water bottles and other stuff ready for the game. You could also help get water bottles ready for volleyball games and basketball games. According to EducationNext, "If it is the weekend and there is a volleyball or basketball game you could ask the principal or the coach if they need help with the games."

Why do I have such bad grades? I think it's because I don't have anything to motivate me to get my work done. Some kids get tired of having bad grades so they just guess and hope that they get it right. When kids do sports it helps motivate them to get their work done and the kids that don't do sports don't have a motivator and get most of their work done before their class that they still have work to do in is done or it isn't done. If you want class competition to become a thing then hand it into your principal and see what he or she thinks about it for the kids that don't have a motivator.

Clarkson Public School Happenings

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Saturday, December 1st – JH Wrestling tournament at Schuyler 8:30 am

Varsity Wrestling tournament at Howells 9:30 am

Marathon BB vs. Madison at Clarkson 2:00 pm

Sunday, December 2nd – Elite Dance Team practice 5:00-7:00 pm in Leigh

Monday, December 3rd – Elite Dance Team practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

FFA District LDE at Lakeview

JH Girls BB vs. Battle Creek 5:00 pm in Leigh

Girls/Boys C team BB vs. Humphrey-LHF 6:00/7:30 pm at Humphrey

Tuesday, December 4th – Marathon BB at Oakland-Craig (new gym) 4:30 pm

Wednesday, December 5th – State One Act in Norfolk

Thursday, December 6th – 10th Grade Career Workshop at CCC 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

JH Girls BB at Madison 4:00 pm

Marathon BB vs. Winside at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Friday, December 7th – NO Morning Preschool

Marathon BB vs. BRLD at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Saturday, December 8th – ACT Test Date
Varsity Wrestling tournament at Osceola 8:30 am

Sunday, December 9th – UNO Dance Competition
FCCLA Family Christmas meeting in Leigh

Monday, December 10th – Elite Dance Team practice 6:00 am
Girls/Boys C team BB 6:00/7:00 pm at Humphrey St. Francis
School Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 11th – JH Girls BB at Schuyler Middle school 4:30 pm
Varsity Wrestling Quad at Fremont Archbishop Bergan 6:00 pm
JV/Varsity Girls BB vs. David City at Clarkson 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 12th – Winter Activity Pictures 1:30 pm

Thursday, December 13th – JH Girls BB at St. Edward 2:30 pm

Friday, December 14th – PreK-12th Grade Teacher's meeting at 7:45 am
PreK – 6th Grade Winter Concert

Saturday, December 15th – Varsity Wrestling at Wayne 9:00 am
Marathon BB vs. Howells-Dodge at Clarkson 3:00 pm (Game to broadcast live on 93.5 The Hawk and on mycentralnebraska.com.)

Monday, December 17th – JH Girls BB vs. Humphrey St. Francis at Leigh 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 18th – Marathon BB at Columbus Lakeview 6:15 pm
Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, December 20th – 1:00 Dismissal – JH/HS Semester Finals
JH & HS Winter Concert

Friday, December 21st – NO Elementary and Preschool
1:00 Dismissal – JH/HS Semester Finals
End of Quarter 1 and Semester 1
JV Wrestling tournament 3:00 pm at Wisner-Pilger
FBLA Feed Nebraska Ribbon

Saturday, December 22nd – Wednesday, December 26th – NSAA 5 day practice/competition moratorium

Monday, December 24th – Monday, January 7th – NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK

Thursday, December 27th – Varsity BB Holiday Tournament at Shelby (Girls to play at 2:00 pm, Boys to play at 3:45 pm)

Friday, December 28th – Varsity BB Holiday Tournament at Shelby

Saturday, December 29th – Varsity Wrestling Tournament at Pierce 10:00 am

Friday, January 4th – Regular Dance Team practice 9:00-11:00 am
JV/Varsity Girls BB vs. East Butler at Clarkson 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 5th – Varsity Wrestling tournament at Wisner-Pilger 10:00 am
Marathon BB at Tekamah-Herman 2:00 pm

Monday, January 7th – Teacher In-Service – NO School
Dance Camp for PreK-Grade School 1:00-4:00 pm in Clarkson
JV Wrestling invite 4:00 pm at Oakland-Craig
Girls/Boys C team BB vs. David City at Clarkson 6:00/7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 8th – Classes Resume
FLBA Officer meeting 6:30 pm



Menus are subject to change.

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
December 3	breakfast sausage	taco salad
December 4	egg, ham, cheese/English muffin	biscuits and gravy for lunch
December 5	pancake and sausage	hamburger casserole
December 6	mini bagels	Philly steak sandwich
December 7	donut	hamburgers
December 10	breakfast bagel	rib b que on a bun
December 11	homemade burrito	crunchers
December 12	omelet and sausage	pork patty on a bun
December 13	apple strudel bar	Holiday dinner
December 14	oatmeal	fried chicken
December 17	French toast and sausage	BBQ pork sandwich
December 18	breakfast scramble pizza	grilled cheese or tuna salad sandwich
December 19	breakfast hot pocket	cavatina
December 20	tornados	beef sticks
December 21	Clarkson Bakery roll	pizza

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Winter Break

Monday, December 24 - Monday, January 7th (Teacher In-Service)

Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
Clarkson NE 68629

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