

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Mr. Rich Lemburg

As Clarkson Public Schools adjusts to life outside of the coop, our first priority has been providing support and encouragement to our students and staff as they navigate the emotional impact of this transition. Doing what is best for our students, staff, and community will always remain at the top of our list.

We have begun the work of rebranding our mascot, uniforms, and facilities in a cost-effective manner, and we are committed to involving the community throughout the process. As we move forward, we have developed a thorough and inclusive plan for selecting our new mascot.

This process will include opportunities for both students and community members to share input. We will keep everyone informed and updated to ensure broad involvement.

Athletic schedules for our varsity programs are complete, and we are putting the finishing touches on junior high activities. We have also been collaborating with parents to organize and support our youth activities.

The support from the community has been outstanding and very much appreciated. There is a great deal of excitement about what lies ahead for the school and the community of Clarkson.

The Power of Red



Notes from the Principal

By Dr. Lee Schneider

Hello everyone, and Happy Winter! As we reflect on the first semester of the 2025–26 school year, our students have enjoyed a fall filled with activities and experiences across all grades. There have been many college campus tours, individual visits, job shadows, internships, field trips, guest speakers, and assemblies! We are so proud of the opportunities our students pursue and how they represent our school and community!

As temperatures keep dropping, please make sure your child wears proper winter clothes—coats, hats, and gloves—especially for morning arrival and recess. Remember that school doors open at 7:40 a.m., so students should avoid arriving too early to prevent waiting outside in the cold. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe and comfortable.

Winter sports are now underway, and our student-athletes are preparing for an exciting and full season. Please watch the activity calendar, as start times and event locations may change throughout the winter. As schedules become busier and the weather gets colder, students might feel more tired. If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please inform the school. And don't forget—Christmas break is just around the corner, providing a well-earned rest for our students, staff, and families. Go Pats!

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PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

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Spanish News

By Mrs. Vicky Miller

I have been so impressed by the 7th graders since they started Spanish at the beginning of 2nd quarter! They are attentive learners and great detectives, looking for cognates (words that look and/or sound alike in Spanish and English), using context clues to make a guess about unknown words, and relying on non-verbal clues like gestures, pictures, and facial expressions to help them decipher the meaning of new words. Our first unit was *Frutas Tropicales* (Tropical Fruits). Besides learning the names of the fruits, students learned how to describe them, give their opinion of them, tell where they come from, say different ways to eat fruit, and talk about the health benefits of fruit. I have been so proud of what a good start this group has gotten off to! Shout out to our para, Mrs. Jackie Hanel; she knows a lot of Spanish and has been a big help to us!!

Spanish 1 recently completed a *Día de los muertos* (Day of the Dead) unit. They looked at what *Día de los muertos* celebrates and explored the foods, decorations and other items associated with the holiday. They got to make their own *Lotería* game boards themed for *Día de los muertos*, and of course, if you make a game, you have to play it! Finally, they debunked the misnomer of “the Spanish Halloween”. While at a glance it does seem like the two holidays share a lot of similarities, there are actually big fundamental differences between them. Also, they have been working hard on conjugating present tense verbs. This is a grammatical skill that helps bring clarity to their messages and builds skills that they will need to be able to move from novice into intermediate proficiency range next semester!

Spanish 3 also recently completed a *Día de los muertos* unit that mirrors the Spanish 1 unit but dives much deeper. Students didn't just look at what *Día de los muertos* is, they investigated the history about how it came to be the holiday we know it as today. They didn't just see what foods are popular for the holiday, they read recipes and watched videos to see how those foods are made. They didn't just learn to name the items used on an *ofrenda*, they could tell what each of them represents. And so on. This group has also been focusing a lot more on communicating in a variety of tenses. They've been especially using past tenses (like narrating the history of *Día de los muertos*) and commands (like giving directions in a recipe).

Spanish 2 just finished up a unit about Comparando casas y otros hogares (Comparing houses and other homes). They have looked at some really unique homes such as chozas, homes made out of reeds that float on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia or Spanish castles. They compared features like outlets, mailboxes, toilets, fridges and light switches from a variety of countries and were surprised at how much more similar than different most of them were. They investigated azulejos, little hand-made tiles used to decorate homes and other buildings and made azulejo designs of their own. They compared the mansions of four famous Hispanics. They even looked at several housing problems and creative solutions such as a neighborhood in Medellin, Colombia where they installed escalators so that the mountainside homes are more accessible. Their culminating project was to try their hand at being real estate agents by designing ads to reach Spanish-speaking clientele and finding the perfect home for their assigned client. Projects like this mimic ways that Spanish is used in real jobs and give students the opportunity to see ways they may be able to use Spanish in their future careers!



No School:

Monday, December 22nd thru
Monday, January 5th

Classes resume on Tuesday,
January 6th

1st Grade News

Mrs. Karly Gall

As we head into winter break, here are a few quick reminders. With the colder weather, please wash and label your child's hats, gloves, and other winter gear to help keep everything clean and easy to find.

Over break, spending just 15-20 minutes a day reading or enjoying a story together will help your child return confident and ready for the new year.

Your children have shown wonderful growth, creativity, and kindness so far, and I'm so proud of the classroom community they're building. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season!



Elementary students color Thanksgiving placemats for CCC residents.

Our 1st-3rd graders spent time creating colorful, heartfelt placemats for the residents at the nursing home for Thanksgiving and got to hand-deliver them!

Students walked up to the nursing home, shared their artwork, and spent time visiting with the residents. The smiles, conversations, and connections made it such a special morning.

We even got to help celebrate one resident's birthday while we were there!



Fire Prevention Week

A huge THANK YOU to The Clarkson Fire and Rescue Department for visiting and teaching our students all about fire prevention and safety! 🚒🔥 We appreciate the time you took to share such important information in such a fun, hands-on way.

And a big shoutout to St. John Neumann for joining us it was great to learn and explore together!



Pumpkin Jack Science Experiment

By Mrs. Steph Rolf

Our preschool class is doing a fun science project called **Pumpkin Jack**! After reading the story, we put our own pumpkin in a clear container so we can watch what happens to it over time. Each week, the children look closely, talk about what they see, and how he has changed.

At first, Pumpkin Jack looked just like a regular pumpkin. But little by little, he softens, gets squishy, and even gets a little fuzzy as he begins to decompose. The children are learning that pumpkins—and all plants—change over time with help from air, moisture, and tiny living things.

The pictures included were taken on October 17 and November 17. We're excited to keep watching Pumpkin Jack as he slowly transforms!



By Mrs. Abby Gall

November has been a month filled with curiosity, creativity, and engaging discussions in our third-grade classroom! Students have been learning how animals use camouflage to survive in their environments. Students loved discovering how animals “trick” predators to stay safe.

Our class has been fascinated by the story of the Titanic. We've learned about the ship's design and what life was like for passengers in different classes. Did you know a passenger of the Titanic moved to Fremont, NE after surviving the tragedy? We have also been diving into historical fiction and learning how authors blend real historical events with made-up characters and plots. Students practiced identifying which parts of a story are factual and which parts come from the author's imagination.

In writing, we have been learning how to write friendly letters using the correct parts: heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature. They even wrote a letter to a classmate who moved away! November has been a crazy month of learning, but they continue to amaze me.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every night. I cannot wait to start the excitement of Christmas in December.

Spotlight on Music

By Mrs. Liz Kowalski

It is the most wonderful time of the year! The time where we get to hear the joy of Christmas through the Pk-12 students and their music!! This year's winter music program will be on December 12! The Elementary will start at 6:00pm and will end around 6:45pm. Then there will be a 15 minute intermission to set up for the JH/HS concert that will start at 7:00pm. If you have Elementary students please have them there by 5:45pm. JH/HS students need to arrive at 6:45pm.

Elementary students: please wear nice clothes, no shorts or sweatpants

- Other accessories will be provided at the concert

JH/HS students: Please look for a Christmas sweater to wear for the concert with nice pants

- You can find some at Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc.
- If unable to find a Christmas sweater, wear holiday colors

If you have any questions or if your child is sick on that day please let me know! Happy Holidays!

Kindergarten News

By Ms. Breanna Ruwe

The kindergarten class has been buzzing with activity this November! As the school year progresses, our young learners are making incredible strides in their development. A primary focus this month has been on building reading confidence. It's inspiring to see their excitement as they tackle new words and stories! Alongside reading, we've also been working hard on our math skills, particularly addition and subtraction. The growth in their problem-solving abilities has been wonderful to watch. Our classroom is always a lively place, filled with creativity and joy. During free play and crafting time, their imaginations truly shine, especially during our turkey art projects (which, I might add, are some of the best-looking turkeys around!). November also brought special guests to our classroom. The students were thrilled to have guest readers visit, adding an extra layer of excitement to our days. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and curiosity make every day an adventure. I can't wait to see what the next month of kindergarten has in store!



Clarkson Public School Happenings

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Please visit clarksonpublicschools.org for most up to date information.

Monday, December 1st - District One Act at Wausa

BB Jamboree at Wynot 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 2nd - JH Girls BB at Aquinas David City

JH (Boys) Wrestling invite at Battle Creek 3:00 pm

Wednesday, December 3rd - 10:00 late start - Teacher In-Service

Thursday, December 4th - JH Girls BB Columbus Lakeview at Leigh 4:30 pm

Friday, December 5th - Marathon BB vs Humphrey-Lindsay at Leigh 4:30 pm

Saturday, December 6th - JH Wrestling invite at Schuyler 8:30 am

HS Wrestling invite at Howells 9:30 am

JH Girls BB vs Humphrey-Lindsay at Leigh 9:00 am (B team then A team)

Marathon BB at Madison 1:00 pm

Monday, December 8th - FFA District LDE's at Leigh

JH Girls BB at Humphrey Archangels 2:30 pm

C team BB vs. Humphrey-Lindsay at Leigh 6:15 pm

Tuesday, December 9th - Marathon BB vs Oakland-Craig at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Wednesday, December 10th - One Act play Championships begin in Norfolk

School Board Meeting in school library 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 11th - JH Girls BB at Howells-Dodge 6:30 pm

Marathon BB at Bancroft-Rosalie at Bancroft 4:00 pm

Friday, December 12th - Winter Activity Pictures with Digital Solutions

Winter Music Concerts (Elementary 6:00 pm, JH/HS 7:00 pm)

Saturday, December 13th - HS Wrestling Invite at Osceola 9:00 am

Marathon BB at Battle Creek 1:00 pm

Monday, December 15th - C team BB at Wisner-Pilger 6:00 pm

Miss Nebraska Makinzie Gregory student assembly

Tuesday, December 16th - JH Girls BB vs Schuyler at Clarkson 4:30 pm

FFA Christmas Party 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 17th - FCCLA Christmas party during Patriot Period

Thursday, December 18th - 1:00 pm Dismissal, Finals for JH/HS

JH Girls BB at Madison 3:00 pm

Marathon BB vs West Point-Beemer at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Friday, December 19th - NO Elementary Classes

1:00 pm Dismissal, Finals for JH/HS (End of Semester 1)

Saturday, December 20th - HS Wrestling invite at Wisner-Pilger 10:00 am

Marathon BB at Howells-Dodge (Howells) 2:00 pm

Monday, December 22nd - Marathon BB vs Columbus Lakeview at Leigh 4:30 pm

Monday, December 22nd - Monday, January 5th - NO School - Winter Break

Wednesday, December 24th - Sunday, December 28th - NSAA Moratorium

Tuesday, December 30th - HS Wrestling invite at Newman Grove 10:00 am

BB Holiday Tournament at Columbus Scotus, TBD

Wednesday, December 31st - BB Holiday Tournament at Columbus Scotus, TBD

Monday, January 5th - C team BB at Norfolk Catholic 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 6th - Classes Resume

Marathon BB vs Aquinas Catholic at Clarkson 4:30 pm



	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Monday, December 1 st	biscuits & gravy	baked chicken
Tuesday, December 2 nd	pancakes & ham	hot ham & cheese
Wednesday, December 3 rd	no breakfast – late start	meatloaf
Thursday, December 4 th	breakfast sandwich	corn dog
Friday, December 5 th	muffins	pizza
Monday, December 8 th	tornado	cheeseburger
Tuesday, December 9 th	French toast & sausage	pasta & meat sauce
Wednesday, December 10 th	burrito	BBQ rib sandwich
Thursday, December 11 th	breakfast sandwich	pork sandwich
Friday, December 12 th	omelet & hashbrown	grilled cheese
Monday, December 15 th	Uncrustable	pizza
Tuesday, December 16 th	waffles & meat	fish sticks
Wednesday, December 17 th	donut	nachos
Thursday, December 18 th	breakfast sandwich	scalloped potatoes & ham
Friday, December 19 th	cereal or poptart	deli sandwich

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Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
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