



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WELTE

FEBRUARY

2024

Tri County Public Schools Mission, Vision & Beliefs

The 2023 year included a spring external accreditation visit with commendations for the district's continuous improvement efforts and recommendations for keeping those efforts moving forward into a new 5-year cycle. Based on that feedback, the district's steering team members and Board started this school year by revisiting the district's strategic plan goals, including its mission, vision and beliefs. Steps were taken throughout the summer and fall semester to involve staff, stakeholder representatives and board members in reviewing previous strategic planning documents and various perception survey feedback results in order to draft a document to drive decision-making for the district moving forward. After considering the steps taken and resulting draft, the Board approved a new mission, vision and belief statement document along with 4 strategic goals and initial action steps at the January meeting that will guide continuous improvement efforts for the next five years.

Snow Day/Weather Cancellations

Regarding snow days and weather cancellations, we advise you to follow TC on Facebook and X for updates when the time comes. You can also tune into KWBE or watch 1011 for updates as well.

Snow Days - School Calendar

Huge thanks go to all of our TC Community for your patience and flexibility with our recent weather delays, cancellations, rescheduling, and bus route adjustment efforts! Safety is always at the forefront of our minds as we make decisions using the resources we have available to us through the weather service, 511, and various communication threads. To date, we have had 7 days called off due to weather plus an added day ahead on March 11 for hosting the district speech. Based on our required hours of attendance our K-12 students are cutting it close and may need to use the weather make-up days that are designated on our calendar, March 8 & April 1. Please keep those dates in mind should we have additional weather days in the weeks ahead - it is only January and this is Nebraska! Unfortunately, our PK students are short of their required attendance hours and will need to make up 3 days. Mr. Gronemeyer will send additional communication to families to confirm, but tentatively plan on pre-kindergarten classes taking place on Wednesday, February 14; Wednesday, March 6; and Wednesday, March 13.



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Tri County Mission Statement

Tri County Public Schools takes PRIDE in growing a community of high-character learners equipped to lead and serve.

Tri County Vision Statement

Small school PRIDE cultivating BIG Opportunities

Tri County Belief Statements

We believe that TCPS is in partnership to create a safe, secure and nurturing environment where all students, staff and community members display PRIDE in our school system.

Demonstrate **Problem Solving** through critical thinking.

Model **Respect** for self and others in a diverse world.

Exhibit **Integrity** and character.

Exemplify **Dependability** and responsibility.

Put forth maximum **Effort** in the pursuit of excellence.

Tri County Strategic Plan Goals

1. Continuous Improvement Processes - Implement action plans that provide multi-tiered systems of support leading to students' learning, earning and living success.
2. Facilities Planning - Partner with stakeholders to provide safe, effective learning environments that prepare students for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers.
3. Stakeholder Relationships - Foster transparent partnerships with students, staff, families and patrons, along with local, regional and national organizations that grow commitment to the district's mission.
4. Resource Management - Ensure systems and practices align to responsibly steward district human and financial resources in order to meet students' needs.

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School Board Appreciation

January 21 - 27 was School Board Appreciation Week in Nebraska, but we definitely appreciate our elected volunteers all year! At the organization meeting in January the following officers and committees were established for 2024:

President, Brian Quackenbush - also serving the 2nd year of his term representing Region 15 on the Nebraska School Board Association's Legislative Committee

Vice-President, Brian Scherling

Secretary, Annette Weise

American Civics Committee Members: Annette Weise & Dustin Gronemeyer

Building & Grounds Committee Members: Brian Quackenbush, Derrick Damrow & Tom Koch

Negotiations Committee Members: Brian Quackenbush, Brian Scherling & Tom Koch

Safety Committee Representatives: Brian Scherling & Dustin Gronemeyer

TC Educational Foundation Representative: Annette Weise





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Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in person on Thursday, February 15th, from 2:30 to 7:30 pm in the High School Gymnasium.

Upon arrival, please check in near the entrance of the gym. You will receive a copy of your student's current schedule and grades any student fees that may be owed and a preliminary draft of your student's schedule for the 23-24 school year. You will be able to meet with teachers in the gym. We are looking forward to the opportunity to visit with you about your student!

Student Fees

A good opportunity to make payments if your student has unpaid student fees will be during parent-teacher conferences on February 9th. To locate your student's balance, please reference PowerSchool. We will also have the fee balances available on the night of parent-teacher conferences. We accept checks or cash (exact change please). E-Funds (online payment) through PowerSchool are also available for your convenience.

ACT Prep

Our teachers and 11th grade students have been putting in a great deal of work this year preparing for the NSCAS-ACT scheduled for March 27th. To help prep the students for the ACT, the teachers are using the On to College ACT prep materials. The students experience many helpful engaging videos, practice items, and test managing techniques. These strategies are proven to increase success on the ACT test. John Baylor (the voice of Nebraska Volleyball) is a major contributor to the On to College test prep organization. John Baylor will be visiting Tri County in March to give our students one last test prep session in person!

Interested in Substitute Teaching?

We need additional substitute teachers in the secondary. If you are interested in substituting, please contact Hilary Conway in the district office. She can provide you with information...it's an easy process and a great opportunity to work with great teachers and students!

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Therapy Dog at TC

We are thrilled to introduce the latest addition to our school family - Jude, the therapy dog! Jude is a friendly and gentle companion and has undergone extensive training to ensure she provides comfort and support to our students and staff.

In March of 2023, Jude became Canine Good Citizen certified. This certification demonstrates her good manners and obedience, making her a reliable and well-behaved presence. In November, Jude and I became a certified Therapy Dog Team through Healing Hearts Therapy Dogs Inc. of Crete, Nebraska. As a Therapy Dog Team, our mission is to bring joy, comfort, and companionship to those who may benefit from the unique connection with a loving canine friend.

Jude comes to Tri County 2-3 times per week, her presence at school aims to enhance the overall well-being of our students and staff. Research has shown that interactions with therapy dogs can reduce stress, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness. Moreover, therapy dogs contribute to a positive and inclusive school environment, creating a sense of community and connection.



If you ever have a question, please don't hesitate to call or email:



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FROM THE DESK OF MR. GRONEMEYER

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Dear Tri County Families and Patrons,

Welcome to our latest edition of the elementary school newsletter! As we dive into the happenings around our school, it's impossible not to acknowledge the recent weather rollercoaster. From chilly mornings, and crazy amounts of snowfall, to unexpected rain showers, the weather has certainly kept us on our toes! Despite the unpredictable conditions, our students have been resilient and adaptive, making the most of each day.

A special shout-out is for Mr. Drews, who deserves a round of applause for his outstanding work at the recent December elementary vocal concerts. His dedication and passion for music have left an incredible mark on our young performers. Thank you, Mr. Drews, for making each concert a delightful and memorable experience for all involved!

Now, get ready for a touch of magic coming our way! We are thrilled to announce that the renowned magician, David Casas, will be visiting our school soon. This promises to be an enchanting experience for our students, filled with wonder and amazement. We extend our gratitude to the Elementary PTO for not only organizing this magical event but also for their ongoing efforts to enhance our students' school experience. The final date is not in stone so stay tuned!

Speaking of the Elementary PTO, we want to express our sincere thanks for their fantastic work in both funding and organizing the recent nacho bar on January 26th. It was a delicious and enjoyable event that brought our school community together. Your support is invaluable, and we appreciate all that you do!

As we look forward to more exciting events on the horizon, we remain grateful for the wonderful community spirit that defines our school. As always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns....Thank you Mr. Gronemeyer!



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FROM THE DESK OF MR. ARMSTRONG

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Winter sports and activities are in full swing and have seen a lot of Trojan success! Junior high wrestling and Junior High Girls Basketball finished up successful seasons and junior high boys basketball is finally underway after a delay by mother nature. The choir and Band continue to rehearse and prepare for upcoming conference and district competitions. Our extracurricular organizations have been busy as well with fundraising, community service, and competitions. See below for additional updates regarding activities at Tri County.

Special Congratulations to the following students who earned Academic All-State this Fall:

Boys Cross Country: Ethan Rosenthal

Girls Cross Country: Abbie Drewes & Isabelle Peters

Football: Dustin Kapke & Kaden VanWinkle

Volleyball: Ella Clark & Meila Gronemeyer

Play Production: Payton Smidt & McKenzie Smith



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Notes & Reminders:

- rSchool is our primary calendar for activities and athletics. This can be found on the Tri County website under "Activities Calendar." Please check the calendar frequently and sign up for notifications, especially with all of the cancellations and reschedules due to weather.
(<https://www.pioneerconference.org/public/genie/460/school/682/>).
- A shout-out to our custodial staff for their hard work during the winter sports seasons. Thank you for all your efforts in setting up and tearing down games, sanitation efforts, and keeping our facilities looking great.
- Varsity winter sports teams are nearing district competitions. The wrestling team will travel to Thayer Central on February 10th, Girls basketball will begin on February 12th, while the Boys basketball team will begin on February 19th. Locations for Basketball districts are TBD.
- Speech Districts will be hosted at Tri County on March 11th.
- MUDECAS Music competition will take place on Tuesday, March 19th at Diller-Odell. District Music will take place on April 18th and 19th at Fairbury.
- Youth teams and other outside groups wanting to use facilities for practices or other events need to use the Facilities Scheduler that integrates with our Activities Calendar. A reminder that High School and JH sports teams have priority when it comes to booking times and dates. Contact Mr. Armstrong if you have questions about setting up an account.
- Another thank you to all those who helped at the various fall athletic events as scorebook, scoreboard/clock, gate workers, concessions, and officials. These competitions cannot occur without the help of these individuals--thanks everyone!



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FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WOLLENBURG

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Class Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

It's hard to believe, but sometime this month we will start registering for classes for next year with our current 6th -11th graders. Prior to registering for classes, I would suggest that parents look at our course catalog with their students. The online course catalog is easy to use. To find it go to the Jr/Sr High School tab on the school website. It is listed at the bottom of the dropdown list. For upperclassmen, there are prerequisites and grade requirements for some classes. Please look at this with your student and help them select classes best suited for their abilities and ambitions after High School. A pre-registration sheet will be sent home with each student and emailed to parents as well. This sheet shows required classes, classes already completed, and the remaining credits needed for graduation. Students should have this sheet filled out when they come to register for classes.

Mrs.Wollenburg will be available during Parent Teacher conferences to answer any questions you may have.

SCC - SENCAP Dual Credit

Juniors and Seniors may take courses through SENCAP, (Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Program). If students are interested in a future in Health, Information Technology, Business, Criminal Justice, Human Services, Construction, Agriculture, or Academic Transfer they can take online courses from SCC. They will receive SCC College Credit for those courses. If they receive a grade of "C" or higher these classes are at no cost to the student! There is also a portfolio portion of the course with career information and preparation as well as field trips and job shadows. Students can talk to Mrs. Wollenburg for more information.



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Doane Dual Credit

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors can now take dual credit classes through Doane. The main one that I would like to highlight is the Educator Pipeline (EPiC) Pathway. The EPiC pathway prepares future teachers and educators with the skills, resources, and confidence to lead a classroom. Students begin their journey toward a career as an education professional, earn credit toward their bachelor's degree in education, complete practicum hours in the classroom, and network with fellow future educators. EPiC Pathway students from Tri County will have 100% tuition for education courses covered by the EPiC grant. Mr. Simpson teaches the education courses onsite here at Tri County.

Doane is also offering an Exercise Science Pathway. A degree in Exercise Science can lead to a career in Personal Training, Corporate Wellness, Strength and Conditioning, or preparation to be admitted into a pre-professional graduate program in Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, or Occupational Therapy. In addition, Doane is offering 33 credit hours of general requirements under their Doane Core. If you would like more information on this opportunity please contact Mrs. Wollenburg.

Peru Dual Credit

Juniors and Seniors in Peru State Dual Credit Courses (English and Statistics) are finalizing the application process for the second semester. There is an online Parent Authorization form that parents need to fill out. Please check your email for instructions! Students and parents both need to be aware that Peru State will take payments online on the MyPSC website. Remember to pay for the class by April 1st.



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Eighth Grade Students

Mrs. Wollenburg will be meeting with the eighth grade class to discuss planning for the future. This includes talking about high school courses, learning about colleges, taking interest inventories, etc. One of the first assignments will be building a 4-year plan detailing the courses they will take in High School. It's not a final contract on their high school career, but it is good for them to take the time to think about what's important to them and realize that the choices they make will make a difference in their future.

Seniors

Seniors should be busy filling out scholarship applications. There is a long list of scholarships with upcoming deadlines in the Scholarship spreadsheet that Mrs. Wollenburg has shared with the seniors. Another good resource for scholarships is www.scholarshipquest.org which is a part of Education Quest. Seniors have made their accounts/profiles for this service that matches the student with scholarships that fit their criteria.

Coming Soon: Parchment Transcript Service for Tri County Alumni and Current Students!

In the near future, Tri County will be introducing the Parchment Transcript Service, an innovative platform designed to simplify and expedite the process of accessing and sending academic transcripts for both our alumni and current students. A link for requesting transcripts will be accessible on the Tri County website. As we approach the launch date, be on the lookout for detailed instructions on how to start using this service.

Important Dates

FAFSA Completion Day at Tri County - February 5th

ACT in Beatrice - February 10th

Parent Teacher Conferences - Feb. 15th



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF FFA SECRETARY JORDAN ZULAUF


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We just returned from Christmas and are returning to the swing of things. Before Christmas break, we attended LDE'S in York NE. We had 21 members attend. In Ag Literacy Speaking, Ashlee Erichsen received a Blue Ribbon. In Creed Speaking, Garrett Smidt received a Red Ribbon. In Junior Public Speaking, Henry Holtmeier got 1st, received a purple ribbon, and was a State Qualifier. Also in Junior Public Speaking, Sydney Brauer received a Purple Ribbon. In Senior Public Speaking, Avery Schultis received a Blue Ribbon. In Cooperative Speaking, Jacob Wollenburg got 1st and received a Purple ribbon and is also a State Qualifier. In Extemporaneous Speaking, Alex Paxton received a Blue Ribbon and Parker Person received a Red Ribbon. The CCM Team consisting of Garrett Smidt, Henry Holtmeier, Damyn Weichel, Ashlee Erichsen, Waylon Overbeck, Devon Rasmussen, and Owen Lewandowski earned 3rd receiving a Purple ribbon and is also a State Qualifier. We had 2 Parli Pro teams this year. The first team consisted of Avery Schlutis, Kaden VanWinkle, Dusty Kapke, Alex Paxton, Evan Quackenbush, and John Wehrman they earned 3rd and received a Purple ribbon. They also qualified for state. The second Parli Pro team consisting of Jacob Wollenburg, Syd Brauer, Isabelle Peters, Parker Person, Jordyn Zulauf, and Rylee McCune received a Red Ribbon. In Natural Resources, Cooper Stokebrand received a Blue Ribbon. We are excited for everyone who participated in LDE events along with those who qualified for state. Coming up next includes:

- Proficiency Reviews/State Degree Interviews - February 7th at TC (applications due by 3:45pm February 6th)
- Poultry & Welding Contest - February 14th in York
- CDE's - February 27th at Cenntennial.
- Discovery, Greenhand and Chapter Degrees will be rolled out at our January Chapter Meeting and are due by 3:45pm March 1st

February 2024—Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		All Menu's Include: Salad Bar Fruits & Vegetables Milk Choice of a Sandwich		1 Baked Potato Bar Corn Roll	2 Rib Sandwich Baked Beans French Fries	3 Menu is subject to change!!!
4	5 Pizza Green Beans Garlic Bread	6 Chicken Crispito Carrots Roll	7 Sub Sandwich Sunchips Sherbet	8 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Peanut Butter Brownie	9 Walking Taco Spanish Rice Corn	10
11	12 Chicken Tenders French Fries Green Beans	13 Pork Cutlet Mash Potato/Gravy Roll	14 Hamburger F2F Cheesy Potato Baked Beans Cookie	15 Hot Dog Chips Fruit Cup	16 No School	17
18	19 No School	20 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Beans French Fries	21 Chicken Drumstick Mash Potato/Gravy Roll	22 Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Bread	23 Chicken Fajita Corn Monster Bar	24 
25	26 Chicken Sandwich French Fries Carrots	27 Hot Ham Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Pudding	28 Salisbury Steak Mash Potato/Gravy Roll	29 Corn Dog Baked Beans French Fries		Sandwiches Mon - Salami Tue - Turkey Wed - Ham Thurs - Club Friday—PB & J

February 2024- Breakfast Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Breakfast Includes Fruit, Juice, & Milk				1 Strawberry Bagel Fruit/Juice Milk	2 Breakfast Casserole Fruit/Juice Milk	3
4	5 Pancake on a Stick Fruit/Juice Milk	6 Ham/Sausage Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	7 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	8 Breakfast Burrito Fruit/Juice Milk	9 Breakfast Pizza Fruit/Juice Milk	10
11	12 French Toast Fruit/Juice Milk	13 Ham/Sausage Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	14 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	15 Cook's Choice	16 No School	17 
18	19 No School	20 Ham/Sausage Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	21 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	22 Breakfast Burrito Fruit/Juice Milk	23 Breakfast Pizza Fruit/Juice Milk	24
25	26 Pancake on a Stick Fruit/Juice Milk	27 Ham/Sausage Sandwich Fruit/Juice Milk	28 Donut & Yogurt Fruit/Juice Milk	29 Strawberry Bagel Fruit/Juice Milk		