



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF DR. WELTE

DECEMBER

2023

2023-2024 School Calendar Notes

Please note that December 20 was inadvertently mislabeled as an 8:00 am start time on the district calendar. Wednesday, December 20 is a Wednesday late start with classes beginning at 9:00 am.

Tri County Public Schools was invited to host District Speech competitions on Monday, March 11, so the board graciously approved a change to the calendar to dismiss students from attendance for the day. Students were already scheduled to be on break on Friday, March 8, so that break will be extended to include Monday, March 11!

New Look and Feel in the Cafeteria

If you've visited the building already this year, you have undoubtedly noticed a change in the cafeteria - one of the walls has disappeared to open and brighten the space. It's continuing to take shape as some of our long-awaited furniture has finally been delivered! Special thanks to our building and grounds team for getting the new tables assembled and placed quickly once they arrived. The remaining tables have been promised to arrive much more quickly, so keep an eye out for the transformation to be here in time for our many activities and fundraising events taking place this winter.

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.



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NSCAS Assessment Results & AQuESTT Classification

The latest Nebraska Education Profile, highlighting schools' spring 2023 assessment results and accountability classifications was recently released. The results serve as a testament to the pride and perseverance shared among our Tri County students, staff, and families. While there is much to celebrate, it is important to remember that part of the purpose of our state's assessment and accountability system is to help schools identify opportunities to continually improve outcomes for students, empower stakeholders with data to inform planning and decision-making, help evaluate current programs, and prioritize resources accordingly. With that in mind, we have a few celebrations and areas for improvement that we would like to highlight from the results: Tri County students in grades 3 - 8 increased overall proficiency rates on all 3 of the state's content area tests from 2022 to 2023. English Language Arts performance went from 64% proficient to 67%; Math increased from 65% proficient to 74%; and Science rose from 78% to 86% proficient.

The class of 2023 scored higher than the state average on all 3 of their junior-year ACT subtests. TC students earned an average of 20.8 on the English Language Arts subtests compared to the 16.7 state average; Math was 22.1 compared to 17.9; and Science was 21.4 compared to 18.3.

AQuESTT classifications place Tri County Schools among the top 40% in the state. Based on a scale of Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Support to Improve, the District and Middle School were classified as Excellent, while the Elementary and High School were classified as Great. These ratings begin based on assessment results and increase or decrease based on multiple factors such as chronic absenteeism, student achievement growth, graduation rate, etc.

The Elementary School had an additional designation as an "ATSI" (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) school based on special education students' achievement results and growth over time. These data will help inform collaboration and intervention efforts as part of our continuous improvement planning.

For more details about Tri County's results and overall school profiles, visit the Nebraska Education Profile at <https://nep.education.ne.gov/>. As always, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Welte, Mr. Clark, and/or Mr. Gronemeyer with any questions.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. CLARK

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Veterans Day

Tri County had the privilege to hear from TC alum class of 1989 and retired veteran Lieutenant Colonel Scott Schmidt who served in the US Army for over 20 years.. Lt. Col Scott Schmidt gave an inspiring speech to the students, staff, and community members. The TC band also performed an outstanding mix of the Armed Forces songs from the Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guards!





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rSchool Activities Calendar: Tri County Jr.Sr High utilizes rSchool as the official calendar for events, activities, and athletics. To find the calendar, go to the TC homepage, and click on the “Activities Calendar” on the right side of the main page. This will take you to a page with the next five days’ scheduled activities. You also have the option to view a month’s worth of events. We do our best to include specifics such as location, dismissal times for the students involved, order of games, etc. However, if a detail is missing, it could be due to the fact that we simply don’t have the information available to post. Oftentimes, other schools have limited numbers of students, and specifics about the event are in flux. We do our best to make sure the many events, activities, and athletic events/practices are up to date. If you see something that needs to be addressed on the rSchool Activities calendar, please reach out to the secondary office.

Growth Assessments: Students in grades 7-10 will be taking the winter NWEA MAP growth assessment starting the week of December 4th. Parents can help by ensuring their student gets adequate sleep in the days leading up to the test, promoting alertness and cognitive function. Additionally, providing a balanced and nutritious diet, particularly on test days, can contribute to sustained energy levels and optimal brain performance, positively impacting their students' testing experience.



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Wrapping up the First Semester: The secondary will be using a regular class schedule the week of December 18th this year to wrap up the first semester. During this week, teachers will be giving end-of-semester or unit exams or projects in their classrooms. Please take the opportunity to access PowerSchool and visit with your students about any loose ends they may have before the semester. Grades will be finalized at the end of the school day on December 21st (1 pm Dismissal).

School resumes (the start of the second semester) on January 3rd at 9 am (Late Start). There will be no School for students on January 5th, as we host our annual wrestling tournament.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF MR. GRONEMEYER

DECEMBER

2023

Is the 1st semester seriously just about completed? It seems as if every year it just goes faster and faster!! After looking back at the first half of the 2023-2024 school year, we have so much to be proud of from our students, teachers, parents, and patrons. Everyone has worked so hard and accomplished so much! I am looking forward to another great semester after the first of the year! Please see below for some acknowledgments and upcoming events to finish out the semester.

Sing Around Nebraska - Several of our elementary students qualified to participate in the Sing Around Nebraska Program.

Over 200 students from the state get together in Fremont during the month of January. They plan all day for a program to show off their skills. The following students qualified:

4th Grade: Mary Holtmeier, Charlotte Gronemeyer

5th Grade: Sophia Vazquez, Anahlia Velazquez, Brody Fort
and Chloe Oltmans

6th Grade: Ava Kreikemier, Stella Morrissey, Bailey Morgan,
Aiden Kaelin, Maggie White, Kheri Pfingston

Cookie Dough Fundraiser: A BIG thanks to our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) for organizing the annual cookie dough fundraiser. It was another successful fundraiser that raised money to support our awesome elementary school. Thank you again PTO members!

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. GRONEMEYER

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Elementary Christmas Concert: The annual elementary Christmas concert will be on the evening of December 12th. The k-3 concert begins at 7 PM and the 4-6 concert will begin at approximately 8 PM. We hope to see you all there!

Preschool Christmas Party: Preschool will celebrate Christmas with their annual party in the lunchroom on December 19th at 9 AM. The students are super excited because Santa will make an appearance. Parents come hungry as breakfast will be provided.

Important upcoming dates:

December 21st - Last day of 1st Semester (1 PM Dismissal)

All elementary movies at Beatrice Cinema Centre @ 8:45 AM

January 3rd - First day of 2nd Semester (9 AM start time)

I would like to wish all the families of Tri County Public Schools a very happy holiday season. I hope you all find much time to spend with your family and friends.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF MR. ARMSTRONG

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Winter sports and activities have begun their seasons and are off to a great start. Junior high wrestling and junior high girls basketball have already had several competitions, and high school athletics started practice on November 13th. One-Act, choir, and band continue to rehearse and prepare for performances and upcoming competitions and our extracurricular organizations have been busy as well. See below for additional updates regarding activities at Tri County.

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

A shout-out to our custodial staff for their hard work during the fall sports season. Thank you for all your efforts in setting up and tearing down games, sanitation efforts, and keeping our facilities looking great.

Another thank you to all those who helped at the various fall athletic events as scorebook, scoreboard/clock, chain gang, lines, 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 MR. ARMSTRONG

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Winter Music Concerts are scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th (K-6) and Tuesday, December 18th (7-12). Both begin at 7:00 p.m. so please make plans to come out and support our students' musical talents.

The first competitions for our varsity winter sports teams start on November 30th. The wrestling team will travel to Palmyra for a dual tournament while the boys and girls basketball teams travel to Wilber-Clatonia.

TCEA will have its annual BBQ during the boy's and girls' basketball games against Pawnee City on Tuesday, December 5th. Come out and support TCEA and the fundraising for scholarships.

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. Contact Mr. Armstrong if you have questions about setting up an account.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WOLLENBURG

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2023

SCC SENCAP Classes

SENCAP Dual Credit Classes end on December 15th. If your student is enrolled in one of these classes and their final grade is below a C, they will need to pay the tuition and book cost back to Tri County.

Registration for Spring 2024 SENCAP classes is still open. If your student is interested in taking a dual credit course and is not already signed up to take one of these classes please have them stop by my office as soon as possible.

FAFSA Completion Day

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024-25 academic year will open by December 31st. I have set up a FAFSA completion day with EducationQuest on Feb. 5th. For FAFSA completion day, students/parents will sign up for hour-long meetings throughout the day. Appointments will start at 9am and the last one will be at 4pm. Please use this link to sign up for an appointment. Prior to your appointment both the student and the parent/guardian will need to get a FSA ID at least a week in advance to allow verification of their SSN. This is something that you can do now by going to studentaid.gov.



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FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WOLLENBURG

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Student Schedule Changes for Spring Semester

Starting during the first week of December I will be going through students' schedules for next semester.

If there is anything that your student would like to change please have them stop by my office to pick up a Schedule Change Request Form. Students will need to get teacher signatures and parent/guardian signatures before schedule changes will be made. I would like to have all changes made before Christmas break.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF MRS SMITH

DECEMBER

2023



At the Central Valley/Central City One-Act Festival today:

Outstanding Actor Honors went to Sydney Brauer, Ethan Rosenthal, Evan Quackenbush, Meila Gronemeyer, Pierce Damrow, Brooke Boyce, Emma Sullivan and McKenzie Smith



Also, a huge congratulations to Emma Sullivan who was awarded Best Actress & to Evan Quackenbush who was awarded Best Actor!!!! Swept the Acting Awards!:-)



Outstanding Pioneer Conference Acting Awards:
Evan Quackenbush, Addison Paxton, Meila Gronemeyer, Pierce Damrow, McKenzie Smith, Payton Smidt, Jordyn Zulauf, Emma Sullivan, & Ethan Rosenthal

Superior Tech Award
Ashlynn Brown, Hailey Lauenstein, (not pictured Cameron Reynolds & Drew Siems)



December 2023 Breakfast Menu



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Every Breakfast
Includes Fruit,
Juice, & Milk!



All Menu's are
Subject to Change!!

3

4 Pancakes & Sausage
Fruit/Juice
Milk

5

Ham/Sausage Sandwich
Fruit/Juice
Milk

6

Donuts & Yogurt
Fruit/Juice
Milk

7

Breakfast Burrito
Fruit/Juice
Milk

8

Breakfast Bar
Fruit/Juice
Milk

9

10

11 Strawberry Bagel
Fruit/Juice
Milk

12

Ham/Sausage Sandwich
Fruit/Juice
Milk

13

Donuts & Yogurt
Fruit/Juice
Milk

14

Oatmeal Cookie Bar
Fruit/Juice
Milk

15

Breakfast Pizza
Fruit/Juice
Milk

16

17

18 Pancakes on a Stick
Fruit/Juice
Milk

19

*Preschool Christmas
French Toast
Bacon & Eggs
Fruit/Juice/Milk

20

Donuts & Yogurt
Fruit/Juice
Milk

21

Cook's Choice
Fruit/Juice
Milk

22

No School

23

24



25

26

27

28

29



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

December 2023 Lunch Menu



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

All Menu's Include:

Fresh Salad Greens
Fruits & Vegetables
Low Fat & Skim Milk
Choice of a Sandwich

**All Menu's are
Subject to Change!!**

Daily Sandwiches
Mon - Salami
Tue - Turkey
Wed - Ham
Thurs - Club
Friday—PB & J

3

4

Chicken Nuggets
Mash Potato/Gravy
Roll

10

11 Chicken Fried Steak
Mash Potato/Gravy
Roll

17

18 Chicken Sandwich
French Fries
Winter Blend

24

25

19 Taco
Carrots
Monster Bar

26

27

20 Salisbury Steak
Mash Potato/Gravy
Roll

28

21 Hot Dogs
Chips
Fruit/Vegetables

22

23 No School

30

29

15 Pizza
Corn
Brownie

16

23

8

9 Corn Dog
French Fries
Green Beans

9

1

Smokies
Mac n cheese
Peas
Cornbread

7 Spaghetti
Corn
Garlic Bread

15

16

13 French Toast
Eggs & Bacon
Potato Patty

14

15

16 Hamburger F2F
Cheesy Potato
Baked Beans

21

22

23

29

30

31



**USDA IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER
AND EMPLOYER**

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF THE FFA SECRETARY

DECEMBER

2023

The FFA has been busy. We have had our Annual FFA Fundraiser. We have turned the forms in. We had 6 members attend the National Convention in Indianapolis. At range judging we had some participants go. The results for the senior divisions were John Wehrman - 3rd overall/ red ribbon, Dusty Kapke - 17th overall/green ribbon, and Kaden VanWinkle - 18th overall/green ribbon. For the Junior division, the results were Jason Wehrman - 1st overall/purple ribbon, Jacob Wollenburg - 7th overall/green ribbon, Henry Kapke - 21st overall/green ribbon, and Garrett Smidt - 24th overall/green ribbon. The junior division team of Jason, Jacob, Henry & Garrett placed 2nd overall qualified for state, and competed on Wednesday, 9/27. At State Range Judging the team of Jason Wehrman, Jacob Wollenburg, Garrett Smidt, and Henry Kapke competed. Out of 216 junior contestants, Jason placed 27th and Jacob placed 38th - both earning a green ribbon.

Some of our upcoming events:

Wednesday, December 13th: District Leadership Development Events (7-12 members)

Wednesday, December 20th: December FFA Meeting/Christmas Party.



WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

TCEA BBQ

BRISKET SANDWICH - CHIPS -
DRINK - DESSERT

Join us for our annual BBQ meal during the
Girls and Boys Basketball game vs. Pawnee
City.



TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

In the Cafeteria



5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Or until we run out



\$10 PER MEAL

**All proceeds go toward the
TCEA Scholarship fund.**



2023 Trojan Football Players Earn Honors

-Coach Brett Scheiding

A strong number of Trojans were again recognized by the coaches of Class C2 District 1 and the Pioneer Conference after their performances this fall. This year saw four Trojans earn All-District Honors and five more receiving Honorable Mention Accolades. In addition, seven Trojans were selected by the coaches of the Pioneer Conference. This is always a unique honor, as coaches cannot vote for their own players and those awards are based specifically on positions played. It was nice to see them recognize our kids, as we are currently the only 11-man school in the Pioneer Conference. Huge congratulations to these young men and to their teammates for making this possible.

C2-1 All-District Team Selections:

1st Team

Ibrahim Castillo
Pierce Damrow
Dustin Kapke
Cael Washburn

Honorable Mention

Tayden Gronemeyer
Jackson Kirchoff
Evan Quackenbush
Cole Spahr
Cooper Stokebrand

Pioneer All-Conference Team:

1st Team

Cole Spahr (P & Return Specialist)

2nd Team

Ibrahim Castillo (LB)
Tayden Gronemeyer (DB)
Dustin Kapke (QB)
Jackson Kirchoff (OL)
Cooper Stokebrand (DL)

Honorable Mention

Cael Washburn (RB)



Ibrahim Castillo



Pierce Damrow



Tayden Gronemeyer



Cael Washburn



Cooper Stokebrand



Cole Spahr



Dustin Kapke



Jackson Kirchoff



Evan Quackenbush



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions

that

can be performed during an incident. When communicating

these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is

then

followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is

performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the

following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

Hold

"In Your Classroom or Area"

- **Students** are trained to:
 - Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
 - Do business as usual
- **Adults and staff** are trained to:
 - Close and lock the door
 - Account for students and adults
 - Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. lock outside doors"

- **Students** are trained to:
 - Return to inside of building
 - Do business as usual
- **Adults and staff** are trained to:
 - Bring everyone indoors
 - Lock the outside doors
 - Increase situational awareness
 - Account for students and adults
 - Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"locks, lights, out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

Move away from sight

Maintain silence

Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible

Lock the classroom door

Turn out the lights

Move away from sight

Maintain silence

Do not open the door

Prepare to evade or defend

•



EVACUATE

"To a location"

Students are trained to:

• Leave stuff behind if required to

• If possible, bring their phone

• Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

• Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)

• Lead students to Evacuation location

• Account for students and adults

• Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Gr Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

• Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

• Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

• Accounting for students and adults

• Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Gr Card method.





RESPONSE PROTOCOL

PARENT GUIDANCE

In the event of a live incident, parents may have questions about their role.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A SECURE EVENT?

Probably not. Every effort is made to conduct classes as normal during a secure event. Additionally, parents may be asked to stay outside during a Secure event.

WHAT IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR STUDENT?

Depending on the situation, it may not be safe to release the student. As the situation evolves, Secure might change to a Monitored Entry and/or Controlled Release.

WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN A SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a secure event is brief or the hazard is non-violent, like a wild animal on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place.

With longer or more dangerous events, the school should notify parents that the school has increased their security.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A LOCKDOWN?

The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. Understandable, but perhaps problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or even the campus. If parents are already in the school, they will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

SHOULD PARENTS TEXT THEIR STUDENTS?

The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis.

In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for a student-parent reunification.

WHAT ABOUT UNANNOUNCED DRILLS?

The school may conduct unscheduled drills, however it is highly discouraged to conduct one without announcing that it as a drill. That's called an unannounced drill and can cause undue concern and stress.

Parents should recognize that the

NO SE PERMITE LA ENTRADA
the school will always inform students that it is a drill during the initial an Drill in Progress between a

drill and an exercise. A drill is used to create the "Muscle Memory" associated with a practiced action. There is no simulation of an event; this is simply performing the action. An exercise simulates an actual event to test the capacity of personnel and equipment.

CAN PARENTS observe or PARTICIPATE IN THE DRILLS?

The school welcomes parents who wish to observe or participate in drills.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 5 - TCEA BBQ
Dec 12- Elementary Music
Concert @ 7 pm
Dec 18 - 7-12 Music Concert
@ 7:00 pm
Dec 20 - Early Dismissal @ 1:00
Dec 21 - Jan 2 - Holiday Break
Dec 23 - Dec 27 - Moritorium

Please check rSchool Activities Calendar
for more activities and information!

*Wishing you a
joyous holiday
season!*



Tri County Public Schools
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