

ARNOLD Life

April-May 2017

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Issue: 8

The Official Magazine of
Arnold Public Schools

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a school hallway, holding a baby. The man is wearing a blue polo shirt and jeans, and the woman is wearing a light blue cardigan over a white top and jeans. They are both smiling at the camera. The hallway has large windows on the left and a door on the right.

New Kindergarten Teacher!

With the year starting to wrap up, the question was asked: who will take over the position of Kindergarten teacher? Read about her inside!

New Kindergarten Teacher!!

By: Zoey Borah, Sophomore

There's a new kindergarten teacher!! Here's some things you should probably know about her.

Mrs. Kennedy grew up and went to school in Callaway, Nebraska. She participated in volleyball, basketball, track, and one acts.

She also went through college at Chadron State. She has taught 3 years of kindergarten at North Platte Saint Pat's. Also, she taught 2 years of kindergarten at Maywood Public Schools.

Her favorite way of teaching is hands on, active learning. The more movement in a lesson, or activity, the better, right??

She's looking forward to many things this upcoming year, including meeting her new students in Arnold.

Mrs. Kennedy also has three day-to-day family members. they include her husband, Bryson, her daughter, Ruby, and their boxer, Frankie.

She's also looking forward to things in her upcoming home life, also. Including Ruby's first birthday, and living closer to her family.

Her favorite thing to eat when she's stressed, is pizza and chocolate!



Approved Calendar 2017-2018

August 10	Teacher In-Service
August 14	1st Day of School K-12
August 17	Assessment Day- No School K-5
August 25	Homecoming @ Arnold
September 4	No School – Labor Day
September 21	12:00 Dismiss for Students Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-8:00
September 22	No School
September 27	1:30 Dismissal- Teacher Inservice
October 13	End 1st Quarter 42.5 days for students 44.5 days for staff
October 27	No School – Fall Break
November 8	1:30 Dismissal- Teacher Inservice
November 22	2:40 Dismiss for Thanksgiving
November 23-24	No School – Thanksgiving Break
December 21	2:00 Dismissal End of 2nd Quarter 45.5 days for students 45.5 days for staff End of 1st Semester 89 days for students - 91 days for staff
January 3	School resumes for students
January 19	No School – Winter Break
February 8	12:00 Dismiss for Students Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-8:00
February 9	No School
February 14	1:30 Dismissal- Teacher Inservice
March 7	End 3rd Quarter 43.5 days for students 44.5 days for staff
March 8 & 9	No School – Spring Break
March 21	1:30 Dismissal- Teacher Inservice
March 30	No School – Good Friday
April 2	No School – Easter Break
April 6	No School for students – Teacher Work Day
May 12	Graduation in Arnold
May 17	12:00 Dismissal End 4th Quarter 47.5 days for students 47.5 days for staff End of 2nd Semester 90 days for students 91 days for staff
Total days for the year - 179 days for students - 182 days for staff	



Front row: Cade Connell, Blake Schwarz, Leighton Dockweiler, Jace Connell, Spencer Johnson, Landon Furne, Grant Jones. Second row: Cody Erstrom, Isaac Stallbaumer, Leighton Bubak, Cooper Taylor, Logan Coleman, Blake Brown. Third row: Dawson Hanna-Miles, Spencer Bloomer, Jarret Buchholz, Matthew Corbin, Conner Rosfeld, Dylan Nelson, Cole Gracey.



Front row: Layken Wilkins, Shaylee Jones, Savannah Weverka, Olivia Paulsen, Sandy Oliver, Atlynn Witthuhn, Hannah Pearson. Second row: Jessie Sallach, Wryleigh Doyle, Natalie Trumball, Taylor Conroy, Addie Hild, Lucy Kimball, Brittany Trumball.

This is the 7th year cycle. They all got new shirts and shorts, but they're using the old windsuits and sweatsuits.

TOP AR POINT EARNERS HONORED

By Jasmine Nelson, Senior



Every year at the academic awards night/senior night, the top reader in grades K-12 are honored with a medal with the number of points they received over the course of the year on it. However, Librarian Debby Moninger wanted to a little something extra for these all stars.

Starting this year, School House Graphic Products will be making a plaque with the number of points and the students' name and grade on it. Instead of students taking it home, the plaque will be hanging in the hallway, similar to conference/district awards are displayed in our hallways.

Mrs. Moninger can go back to the '08-'09 year for AR points. Here is what she has for record AR points:

'08-'09: Morgan Eggleston 6th grade 332 points
'09-'10: Leighton Bubak 3rd grade 598 points

'10-'11: Jasmine Nelson 6th grade 362 points
'11-'12: Morgan Eggleston grade 8 474 points
'12-'13: Leighton Bubak grade 6 601 points
'13-'14: Leighton Bubak grade 7 502 points
'14-'15: Leighton Bubak grade 8 435 points
'15-'16: Silas Cool grade 5 345 points

Mrs. Moninger figured out these numbers because the teachers would like to recognize the AR reader of the year for all grades. This is based on points only and it is not according to how many books read.

For many, they worry that students in grades K-2 won't get enough recognition, as most of them are still reading .5 point picture books. To help settle this dispute, teachers in the lower grades do their own awards for number of picture books read each year. This will make sure everyone gets a medal no matter what.

PowerSchool Passwords

As in past years, the school will be using Power-School to share student grades with

their parents. If you already have the ability to login and check your child's grades, then nothing has changed. Simply login to <https://arnold.powerschool.com/public/>. If you don't have a log in, forgot your password, or would like some help, please contact Tami Smith in office, or by email at tami.smith@esu10.org, or call her at the school 308-848-2226.



Quarter 1 Honor Roll 2016-2017



6th Grade
Silas Cool – 6 A's
Devin Peterson – 4 A's, 2 B's
Halie Recoy – 6 A's
Annalee Starr – 3A's, 3B's

7th Grade
Reagan Cool – 6 A's
RayLee Downey – 4 A's, 1 B
Zane Kreikemeier – 2 A's, 3 B's
Stella Lewis – 5 A's, 1 B
Colbi Smith – 5 A's, 1 B

8th Grade
Sofia Atkins – 4 A's, 2 B's
Jadeyn Bubak – 5 A's
Landyn Cole – 5 A's
Samuel Cool – 4 A's, 1 B
Kirby Corfield – 4 A's, 2 B's
Kacee Dvorak – 5 A's, 1 B
Kylee Lehmkuhler – 5 A's, 1 B
Bailey Schwarz – 5 A's, 1 B

Addison Starr – 4 A's, 2 B's
9th Grade
Jace Connell – 4 A's, 3 B's
Kenna Rogers – 5 A's, 2 B's
Max Werner – 7 A's

10th Grade
Leighton Bubak – 7 A's
Jarret Buchholz – 5 A's, 2 B's
Lydia Connell – 6 A's, 2 B's
Cole Gracey – 3 A's, 4 B's
Alexx Starr – 4 A's, 3 B's

11th Grade
Cade Connell – 4 A's, 4 B's
Shaylee Jones – 4 A's, 3 B's
12th Grade
Jennifer Barraza – 4 A's, 2 B's
Jasmine Nelson – 7 A's
Arika Starr – 6 A's, 1 B
Elissa Tilford – 2 A's, 3 B's

Pop Tabs Collection

Mrs. Geiser and the second grade class will again be collecting aluminum pop tabs for classroom math assignments and projects. You can support our school by saving pop tabs and sending them with your student to the school. Thank you for your support.



Activity Passes



Activity Passes, which get you into all home games at Arnold and

Callaway, all year, will cost \$20.00 for students, \$40.00 for parents, and \$80.00 for a family. These passes will be good for all events except NSAA sponsored activities, and conference events. Everyone can get them at the office.

Cheer Tryouts Set

Practice dates for tryouts will be at 6:45 pm in Arnold on April 24th, 25th, and 27th with judging for try-outs on Friday the 28th at 7:00 in Callaway. Good luck to the 15 girls trying out for the 10 member squad.


Easter Egg Hunt

April 8th
11 a.m.
at the City Park

Hosted by:
National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and the Ministerial Association

Daily Announcements

The daily announcements can be found on the school web page announcement's tab every morning. Mr. Morgan updates those announcements with corrections, additions to the calendar, and reminders of upcoming events. Please check the school web page often for new information.



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Parents will meet at 9:00 a.m. while students get to participate in activities that include:

- Calendar
- Lunch
- Recess
- Math Activities
- Reading Activities
- Meet the faculty
- Craft

For more info contact: carissa.batenhorst@esu10.org

Age Requirements:

Minimum Age: Nebraska State Law LB1006 revised the age requirements for students entering kindergarten. The bill states: Children must reach the age of 5 years on or before July 31.

Any exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis. Specific guidelines and assessment results will apply.

The assessment request, a parent

questionnaire, and additional documents must be completed and returned to the District no later than May 1st of the spring before fall enrollment to allow timely assessment to be completed.


Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 848-2226 ext. 3.

Wednesday, April 5th, 2017 at 9:30 to 12:30 p.m.


Graduation Ceremony

The Class of 2017 requests your presence. Please join them on their special day. May 13th at the Arnold High School at 2 o'clock.



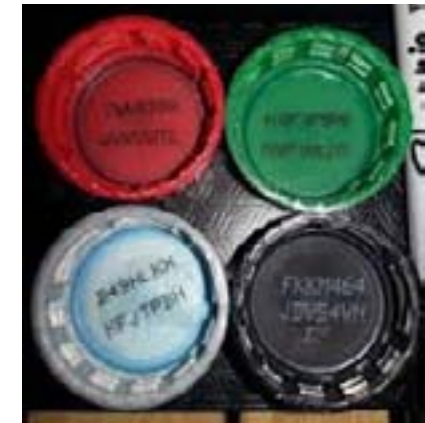
May 13th, 2017

Class of 2017



SENIOR NIGHT

Monday, May 8th at 7 PM



Coke Cap Collection

You can help our the school by collecting your Coke product bottle caps and numbers on the inside of Coke product boxes. We accept caps and cardboard cutouts from the products you get from convenience stores, the grocery stores, vending machines, at ball games, and other places may all have the promotional codes on them. Coca-cola committed itself to supporting education by enabling schools to collect donated points and then redeem them for a variety of school rewards including playground equipment, supplies, classroom materials, cameras, sound equipment, and more. You can send your Coke caps (and other Coke products) to the school office and they will redeem them. For more information, you can go to the <http://www.mycokerewards.com/schools>. Thank you for your support.



Bobcats Take All Conference Honors!

Girls Honors:

MNAC All-Conference:

- Jessie Sallach 2nd team
- Savannah Weverka Honorable Mention

Omaha World Herald Honorable Mention:

- Jessie Sallach
- Shaylee Jones
- Savannah Weverka
- Vayle Berger

Lincoln Journal Star All State Honorable Mention:

- Jessie Sallach
- Shaylee Jones

Boys Honors:

MNAC All-Conference:

- Cade Connell and Jack Rush
received 1st-Team

Kearney Hub All-Region

- Cade Connell - 2nd Team
- Jack Rush - 3rd Team
- Landon Fume - Honorable Mention

Omaha World Herald

- Cade Connell 2nd-team All-State
- Jack Rush Honorable-Mention

Lincoln Journal Star

- Cade Connell & Jack Rush,
Honorable Mention

School Lunch Bills

Reminder to all Parents:

All school lunch bills need to be paid to the office by the last day of school. Please send money with your elementary student.



Junior high and high school students won't be checked out during 8th hour if ALL bills are not paid.

After Prom 2017 April 29, 2017

All Junior and Senior Parents are welcome to come help with games, food and other activities at the Callaway Community Center. They will set up about about midnight.

Students need to be back
to the Community Center by **12:30
a.m.**

The Festivities will **end** about **4 a.m.**

One of the sponsors will contact parents if the students want to leave early.

Cinderella Stories!

By: Zoey Borah, Sophomore

In January, the 4th graders finished a unit on Cinderella. They had the opportunity to choose among 50 Cinderella versions that do have AR tests, although i own over 140 versions of Cinderella around the world.

The students would read and take an AR test on the books of their choice. They also had to compare two versions using a Venn Diagram. Another assignment in the Cinderella unit required them to search and record the traits that make it a "Cinderella" story.

They then authored and illustrated a Cinderella book of their own. Since the Read Across America speaker was cancelled, Mrs. Blowers and I thought that this would be a good opportunity for the 4th graders to read their version to a partner or partners.

It was amazing to hear the 1st graders take their turn at reading the books written by the

fourth grade students.



The 1st graders were very happy to hear the 4th graders stories.



The fourth graders try a hand at reading!

UPCOMING TENTATIVE GOLF MEETS 2017:

March 30...Amherst Invite @ Amherst

April 7...South Loup Invite @ Arnold

April 13...Hershey Invite @ Sutherland

April 20...Sandhills/Thedford @ Thedford

April 27...MNAC Conference @ Arnold

April 28...Overton Invite @ Overton

May 4...North Platte St. Pat's @ North Platte

May 10...Mullen Invite @ Mullen

May 15 District Invite...@ TBA

May 16...Atkinson West Holt Invite @ TBA



Puttin' NHS Makes A Difference!

By Jasmine Nelson, Senior

In our October issue, we told you about how five members of the National Honor Society (Juniors Avery Atkins, Madison Reed, Shaylee Jones, with Seniors Ashton Weinman and Jasmine Nelson) were participating in the Custer County Youth Leadership program for the year. The kids were to figure out a project that could benefit their school, community, youth, etc., and focus on doing it sometime in the spring of 2017. This issue is here to update you on their progress!

For the start of the year, the students had quite a bit of setbacks. Their mentor, YLCC founder Jenny Fox, had the task of helping them find a project that would suit the time schedules and needs of the Arnold community. There was a proposed plan to create a parking area at the school for games, but it was deemed too expensive and time consuming for the group of five to do, and they were stuck in a rut.

After doing their SWOT analysis of Arnold, the students realized that the golf course, used for competitions at every level, needed some work to do. So, for the project, the students decided to clean up and re-touch golf course during the annual Community Clean Up on April 24.

Alumni Celebration

May 27th

Serving starts at 5:00

Program follows

Community Clean-Up Day

Date: April 24th

Rain day May 8th

Time: TBA

Elementary Field Day May 15th

TEAMMATES™ MENTORING PROGRAM

The 4th annual Teammates Golf Tournament will be May 27th, 2017!! It's a four-person scramble starting at \$50 a person (meal included in price). Proceeds will cover costs of operating the program! Free will donation coffee/rolls will be served during registration from 8-9, with shotgun start at 9!



2017 SOUTH LOUP SPORTS NIGHT

**THE ANNUAL SPORTS
NIGHT FOR
ARNOLD AND CALLAWAY
ATHLETES WILL BE
MAY 11, 2017
IN CALLAWAY.**

Summer School

- June 6th - June 8th
- June 13-15
- June 20-22
- June 27-29
- July 11-13
- July 18-20
- Tuesdays - Thursdays
- From 9:00 a.m. - 12:00



Madison Smith - Our National American Miss!



By Jasmine Nelson, Senior

Throughout the years, Arnold has dawned many different beautiful girls to participate in pagants--the most famous being the National American Miss competition. This year was no different! Madison Smith, daughter of Tami Smith and fifth grader at Arnold Public Schools, competed at the event March 17-19.

This year, our shining star competed in the talent contest (in which she clog danced), gave a speech about a passion in her life, the "miss photogenic" contest, and gave an introduction to themselves. Each girl was judged on how well they carried themselves. When asked to wear formal wear, she sported a pink, beaded bodice with a satin skirt!

"Madison worked very hard preparing for the pagant, and she enjoyed competing in the available competitions, making some great friends in the process! I'm so excited for [Madison] because I think she's found something that she really enjoys," says

mother Tami, who took Madison to the event, which was held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Madison ended up third runner-up in the overall competition. The best part? She also walked away with an invitation to compete for National All-American pre-teen in Hollywood, California!

Miss Smith received first place in Talent with an invitation to compete at nationals, first place in Photogenic with invitation to compete at nationals. She also placed as third runner up in the "Top Model" photo shoot and in the SpokesModel competition with invitations to compete at nationals in both events.

This is a huge accomplishment for anyone, and only being in fifth grade makes it even better. No one in the school has advanced this far in the competition in recent years, and we commend Madison for making the school proud!

ATTN: New E-Mails For Teachers!

All teachers and faculty at Arnold Public Schools have now been given new e-mail addresses. It is now their first name, dot, followed by last name, then @arnold-publicschools.org instead of @esu10.org.



10th Grade Egg Drop Provides Egg-citing Fun!

By Jasmine Nelson, Senior and Toni Oberg, Sophomore

On March 7, 2017, Mr. Swingle and the sophomore class participated in one of the more exciting labs for their physical science class. This involved taking a raw egg and dropping it 590 centimeters from a water pool on the floor of the high school gym. From there, students would somehow attach a string to their egg (tape was a common method) and have Mr. Swingle see if the egg could splash the water and bounce back unharmed.

The sophomore class spent about a week and a half working on the project. First, they dropped different weights with the same bungee cord they used for their eggs. Next, the students measured how far down in the water each weight went, and recording it as such. Once they had the total length that would drop into the water, they created graphs for the percentage due to bounce.

There was another graph made which focused on stretching of the bungee cord due to hanging. They then took their eggs and calculated the mass of each one. Next, they found the numbers related to their numbers on the graphs. They plugged said numbers

into the formula: height of the jump = the length of the bungee cord + percentage due to bounce number



Above: Students prepare their egg-speriments for the drop!

check their equations over with one another to make sure everything was just perfect the day before.

"The goal was for the egg to hit the water in the pool, which was 15 centimeters high," says Toni Oberg, Sophomore.

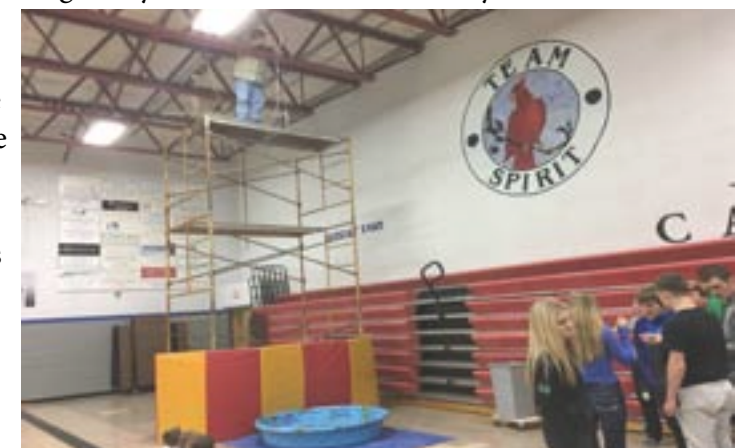
Then, the day came and the eggs were put to the test. There were six students that managed to create the perfect drop: Logan Coleman, Lydia Connell, Tatum Cool, Leighton Bubak, Jarrett Bu-

cholz, and Blake Brown (despite his being slightly broken just before the drop!)

For some students, however, their math wasn't quite what they expected it to be. Toni Oberg, Matthew Corbin, Cole Gracey, and Tayten Eggleston just missed the water and didn't get to create that perfect splash. However, none of the eggs were harmed in the making of this experiment.

Mr. Swingle commented, "This was one of the more successful egg drops that we've had." He credited the success on the fact that they used the Slow-Motion feature on his iPad to see how much the weights bounced in the beginning of the experiment.

For many students, the egg drop is a spectacular time in physical science their sophomore year. For the class of 2019, it will be no different. The students had a great time coming up with everything from the equations to the little decorations on their eggs! This experiment is definitely one to remember.



Mr. Swingle prepares to drop the first egg!

I Am Lucky Because...

**Although they may be little,
the kindergarten students have
plenty to be lucky for this year!
(All writing is their own words
and spellings.)**

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav mi forwelr.
I hav grampo and gramu.
I hav mi dad.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Dwayne Barraza



I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav my famle.
I hav my gramus.
I hav Miss Jesiku.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Kora Dailey

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav my legos.
I hav my bic.
I hav my blancet.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Donavon Larsen

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav mi mom.
I hav mi skwlmats.
I hav mi famle.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Jade Hunt



I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav my famule.
I hav mune.
I hav a haws.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Hudson Vickers

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav mi toys.
I hav mi bruthr.
I hav mune.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Jacob Myers

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I haiv mi dog.
I haiv mi bic.
I haiv mi famle.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Emmanuel Williams Oberg

I am lukee for three rezuns.

I hav my fefmle.
I hav fens.
I hav my scool.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Ryker Atkins

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav my chrofe.
I hav my dad.
I hav my mom.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Kale Kulhanek

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav my blidin.
I hav my dad.
I hav my mom.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Jett Morgan

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav Duglist.
I hav Miss Batinhors.
I hav my mome.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Claire Kulp

I am lukee for three rezuns.
I hav mi mom.
I hav mi granmu.
I hav mi granpo.
Clerle, I am lukee for three re-
zuns.
Ethan Jarmin

From the Principal's Desk



It's hard to believe that we are down to the last 7 weeks of the school year. It felt like it was just yesterday that we were welcoming students for the new school year. With only 7 weeks left, we have a lot of events scheduled and a lot of things we still plan to accomplish before the end of the school year. Please pay close attention to our calendar online as events are added. The online calendar is your best source for updated information regarding all events like track and golf meets, field trips, and especially NeSA Testing. With everything going on this time of year it is difficult to schedule these assessments. Please watch closely for these testing dates so you can help your kids be ready by getting a good night of sleep and a good nutritious breakfast to start the day off right. Please note that all juniors will taking the ACT on

Wednesday, April 19th.

It is almost that time of year where also say good-bye to our senior class. As they move forward to the next step in their lives, I would like to wish them good luck on their future endeavors. As they move on, we will welcome a new kindergarten class, a new class to our junior high, and a new freshman class to the high school. Transitions to the next step in life can be both scary and exciting, but we love to embrace the opportunities for new experiences

and to better ourselves everyday at Arnold Public Schools.

It has been a fun, exciting, and educational school year. I enjoy watching the progress our students make as we work diligently throughout the year. I would like to thank all the students, staff, parents, and community for all their hard work and playing a key part into our success here at school!!



Superintendent.. Dawn Lewis
Principal.....Joel Morgan
Editor-in-Chief.....
Nicole Badgley

The opinions and ideas expressed in the articles are solely those of the reporters. The articles don't necessarily reflect the opinions and ideas of Arnold Public Schools. Each article is edited by both students and their teachers prior to publication. Mistakes may appear, as students are learning. With this being a

student created newsletter, mistakes become teachable moments.

No advertising, other than school sponsored activities, may appear. Opinion pieces, future news items, comments, and suggestions may be submitted to nbadgley@esu10.org.

The newsletter is sent to all families and boxholders of District 89. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the school office at 308-848-2226 to add your name to the mailing list. You may also download the newsletter from the school website: <http://arnoldpublicschools.org>

School Calendar Subscription - NEW!

If you are interested in subscribing to the school calendar on your phone or computer, there is a new address to use. (Last year's calendar run's out very soon.)

Type in the following address, or copy and paste the address from the announcement tab on the school web page. http://ical.schedul-estar.com/iCal_NOW.cfm?i=12435EDA-BE50-E29D-644F86352E7C93E3

As the calendar is updated, your calendar should too!

Box Tops

Arnold Schools will again be collecting box tops for education with a goal of earning \$500 to purchase items for classrooms. In the past, a Smartboard was purchased and some other equipment. The Box Tops campaign is a school fundraising program started by General Mills in 1996. To date, Box Tops has raised over \$200 million to help purchase school supplies, playground equipment, technology items, and so much more. You can support our school by saving box tops and sending them with your student to the school, take them to Finch Memorial Library, or to Reed's Food Center. Thank you for your support.

Capri Sun Bags

Mrs. Crow is collecting Capri Sun bags again this year to help fund classroom projects. Please save those bags and send them to school with your student.

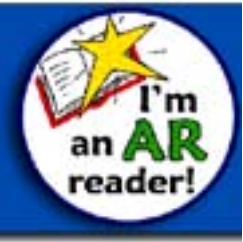


Renaissance Home Connect

Watch Your Child's Progress in AR and see their testing scores for STAR, Sign Up Now

Dear Parents,

Your student uses Accelerated Reader, also known as Renaissance Place, at school. This program has a new feature called Renaissance Home connect, which the student and the parent can access outside of class



with an Internet connection. Renaissance Home Connect is fun and easy to use. It allows the teacher, the parent and the student to share information about your student's progress in Accelerated Reader.

Be watching a letter to come home on the first day of school with instructions of how to login and how to use the program. You can also set up automatic emails when your student takes tests over books or takes the STAR test.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Nicole Badgley

From the Superintendent's Desk

Welcome Spring!

It has been an interesting legislative session, and as of right now, absolutely nothing has been done. However, the Farm Bureau and our school associations (NRCSA and NSEA) are working together under a new coalition. It is being called "Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform and Education" and they have identified two principles. The first is to provide adequate and sustainable funding of high quality K-12 education, which is imperative for the future of Nebraska. The second is Tax Reform, which reduces the over-

reliance on local property tax to ensure our system is fair to all Nebraska taxpayers. They have a plan to ensure that progress is being made toward both of these principles. We understand that the current school funding formula is not truly equitable for any of our schools; even those in more urban settings (aside from Lincoln and Omaha) are struggling with the funding formula and land valuations. It isn't much fun for any of us, and we want to work together to fix the system.

I recently attended our Nebraska Rural Community School Associa-



tion (NRCSA) spring conference. I was able to present an award to an outstanding educator as part of the conference due to my participation on the awards committee. This is a very gratifying role, because I was able to read many applications detailing the great the teachers, staff, and administrators across Nebraska. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on the great things about working in public education. If you would also like to see other amazing things happening in our Nebraska schools, visit the www.nelovesps.org website. Arnold SHGP was one of the first feature films they shot, and now there are many more. See what great things we are able to do for our kids!

PowerSchool App Available



In the App Store if you search for the Power-school app, you will find a quick and easy way to access your student's grades with your mobile phone.

Simply download the free app. It will ask you for your District Code (a 4 digit code) immediately. The code for Arnold Public School is: **SNPX**

Then you can use your regular username and password from last year.

If you are unable to remember your password, then please contact Amy at the school office either by phone, 308-848-2226 or by email tami.smith@esu10.org

End of Year Scholarships

April Deadline		Value:	\$300	Eligibility:	1. High school senior who best exemplifies good citizenship and high moral character
Arnold Booster Club Scholarship		-----			
Eligibility:	1. Graduating senior from Arnold High School	Custer County American Legion Auxiliary Educational Grant		Deadline:	April
Deadline:	April	Eligibility:	1. Senior girl graduating from a Custer County High School or living in Custer County	Value:	-----
Value:	2-yearly \$1000			Haven and Virginia Smith Scholarship	
-----		Deadline:	April	Eligibility:	1. Graduating high school senior
Arnold Education Association Scholarship		Value:	\$100	Deadline:	April
-----		-----			Value:
Eligibility:	1. Arnold high school graduate	Custer County Farm Bureau		-----	
	2. Must be working toward a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in Education	Eligibility:	1. Agriculture or agriculture related fields	Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska- Jim Hanna Memorial Scholarship	
	3. Must be preparing to student teach for the first time	Custer County	2. Resident of	Eligibility:	1. Child of any ICON member
Deadline:	April	Deadline:	April		2. Plans to attend college in the fall
-----		Value:	5- \$350		3. Any school and major of the students choice
Arnold County American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship		Custer Lodge #148 Masonic Scholarship			4. Must maintain a 2.5 GPA and be involved in extracurricular activities
Eligibility:	1. Senior girl graduating from a Custer County High school or living in Custer County	Eligibility:	1. Children, Grandchildren or relative of a Member of Custer Lodge #148 A.F. & A.M.	Deadline:	April
Deadline:	April		2. In case of no eligible qualified applicant the scholarship may be awarded at the discretion of the committee	Value:	\$500
Value:	\$100	-----			-----
Arnold Rotary Vocational Scholarship		Deadline:	April	International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta White Owl Scholarship	
Eligibility:	1. Plans to attend a 2-year academic college	Value:	\$500	Eligibility:	*Applicants are not obligated in any way to join the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta or any other fraternal organization at UNK, nor are winners selected based on their interest in Phi Gamma Delta. This opportunity is
Deadline:	April	-----			
		Eastern Star Scholarship			

End of Year Scholarships (cont.)

candidates in realizing their potential as university scholars.	intended to assist qualified	Eligibility:	1. Arnold	-----	Lincoln Builders Bureau Scholarship
		high school graduate or	Arnold United		
		Methodist member			Eligibility:
freshmen at UNK and enrolled in at least 12 credit hours in the fall semester	1. First year	Deadline:	April		
student	2. Male stu-	Value:	\$400 -If at- tending Nebraska Wesleyan University		2. Must be enrolled, or planning to enroll as an undergraduate in the upcoming year of an accredited college, university, or trade school with a focus on construction science
Deadline:	April		\$250- If at- tending a college besides Nebraska Wesleyan	-----	
Value:	\$250		Knights of Aksarben Community Col- lege Scholarship		

Johnny Baxter Carriage House Foun- dation		Eligibility:	1. Currently a graduating high school senior inter- ested in	Deadline:	April
Eligibility:	1. All seniors planning to attend a Nebraska Com- munity College		attending a Nebraska or western Iowa community college or a current student of a qualifying institution	Value:	\$750 www.buildersbureau.com
	2. Applicant must be planning to enroll in one of the automotive related courses of study		2. U.S. citizen and resident of Nebraska or western Iowa	-----	Maud J Witthuhn and Bill O. Wit- thuhn Scholarship
			3. Accepted for admissions or enrolled in an eli- gible community college	Eligibility:	1. Must be a graduating senior of Arnold or Staple- ton high school
Deadline:	April		4. Planning to be or is currently a full-time student according to institution's guidelines		2. Must be enrolled part or full-time (9 hours or more) in an accredited, tax-exempt school or insti- tution of higher learning
Value:	\$1,000				3. Must have abstained from drug or alcohol use
http://www.elgineagles.org/vimages/ shared/vnews/stories/47a8e6fedce1a/ Johnny%20Baxter%20Carriage%20 House%20Foundation.pdf		Deadline:	April		4. Must be ranked between 11th and 40th percen- tile in his/her graduating class

Jones Scholarship		Value:	\$1,000	-----	
Eligibility:	1. Arnold high school graduate or Arnold United Methodist member		Insuring Success Scholarship	Deadline:	April
		Eligibility:	1. Nebraska	Value:	\$500
Deadline:	April		2. One page essay	-----	Nebraska Coaches Association Schol- arship
Value:	\$400				

Kenneth Downing Scholarship		Deadline:	April	Eligibility:	1. Upper 25% of class or 3.75 cumulative GPA
		Value:	\$250		2. Must be

least a 2-year participant in 2 sports
3. Must have earned varsity letter in 2 sports
4. Must include at least one letter of recommendation from a high school coach
5. ACT minimum score of 24

Deadline: April

Value: \$500

Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation

Eligibility: 1. Sons/daughters of a parent/legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for the past five years

UNL students:
1. Must be accepted as a student in CASNR majoring in agribusiness or agricultural economics. 2. Incoming students must have demonstrated academic

excellence as determined by UNL from SAT/ACT scores

NCTA students: 1. Must be majoring in agribusiness or ag production systems. 2. First-year students must have demonstrated academic excellence as determined by NCTA from SAT/ACT scores

Deadline: April

Value: UNL- \$1,750
NCTA- \$1,000

Nebraskans for Peace Scholarship

Eligibility: 1. Graduating high school senior
2. Wish to further their education in an area consistent with the mission of Nebraskans for Peace: peace with justice through community building, education and political action.

Deadline: April

Value: 3- \$500
6- \$100

Nebraska Press Association Foundation Scholarship

Eligibility: Journalism student

Deadline: April

Value: \$2,000

Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter's Association Auxiliary Scholarship (N.S.V.F.A.A)

Eligibility: 1. Nebraska resident
2. Nebraska high school senior or college student
3. College enrollment applications submitted to a college or trade school prior to submitting scholarship application

4. Enrollment application does not have to be to a Nebraska school
5. GPA and copy of high school transcripts need not be included

Deadline: April

Value: \$500

Nellie Layton Twist-American Legion

Auxiliary Scholarship

Eligibility: 1. Accepted into a school of higher education
2. Be veteran connected

3. Two year resident of the Arnold trade area and/or their mother or themselves a member of ALA Unit 130 for the past two years

Deadline: April

Value: \$200

Sandhills Open Road Challenge Scholarship

Eligibility: 1. Arnold high school graduate
2. Attend any college that is accredited

Deadline: April

Value: 4- \$250

May Deadline

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Eligibility: 1. High school Junior who are direct descendant, i.e. child, grandchild, great-grandchild or a legally adopted child, of a U.S. Veteran who served during a period of war and is a delegate to either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program.

<http://www.legion.org>

Bobcat Golf Team

2017



From left to right. Bottom-Tate Eggleston,
manager Colby Smith, Dakota Neufeldt, Manager Stokely Lewis,
Back row- Grady Lashley, Dane Rynearson,

Quilt Gild Weaves Its Way To Arnold!

By Mrs. Crow, Fourth Grade Teacher

Arnold fourth graders spent 3 hours on St Patricks Day making a beautiful paper quilt. The class was guided by Deb Bryner, Jerri Ann Maxwell, and Teri Buhlman. These ladies are all members of “Custer’s Last Stitch Quilt Guild”, who get together monthly to share their talents. The students were enthralled by the many quilt examples the ladies showed throughout the presentation. Many of Deb’s quilts were award winners. Jerri Ann showed a quilt that had been sewn by her mother. It was made of many colored fabrics including cloth that was also used to make a maternity blouse that Jerri’s mother had worn when she was pregnant with Jerri Ann. She still owns that blouse and showed it to the students.

It was intriguing to hear the history that each quilt held. (Also helping with this project, was Raberta Starr, not pictured). Dee initially presented a very informative snapshot explaining every block on the quilt that the students would later color. Consisting of 26 blocks, many important facts about Nebraska were covered as Dee explained the importance of the coloring and the reason each block was included in the quilt. Each 4th grade class in Custer County has made a similar quilt. Arnold was the last class the ladies visited. They’ve asked each class to display their quilts in the Open Class at the Custer County Fair Friday, July 28th.



Maize Block

Maize is a Native American word for corn. Corn was the primary crop grown. Corn is still an important crop today. (Color as follows: #1 light blue for the sky, yellow for the corn (flowered section), #2 Light brown for the corn-husk, yellow on the dotted link)



Livestock Block

Many pictures of the early homesteaders show the family livestock posed with people by the sod house. It may be a team of horses or oxen, or a favorite cow and calf. The faithful animals provided transportation, power and sometimes food for the family. They named and treasured their animals. Choose an appropriate color for the cow, color the grass green, and the background (sky) blue.

The Local Church

One of the first buildings in the communities across Nebraska were churches. The church played an important role in the development of the state and it’s attitudes. The first church of a community usually reflected the faith and cultural origins of its earliest settlers.

Quilt Gild Weaves Its Way To Arnold! (Cont...)



Bison Block

Bison were useful to the early settlers who were very resourceful. The eye sockets and the horns were used as scoops. The ankle bone was used as a bead. The bladder was used as a water tight container. Brain tissue was a rubbing compound for softening hides.

Tools were also made from bison bones. Shoulder blades were used as garden hoes. A rib was used to straighten arrows.

The hide from the bison was used for shelter and warmth. Hair was used to make rope.

One of the most important things that bison provided to early settlers was food.

Use two shades of brown to color the bison. Color the grass green and the sky blue.



Flying Geese Block

The Flying Geese block can be constructed in many variations. This one is called wild goose chase or dutchman’s puzzle. You can change the way this block looks, depending on the placement of color in the triangles. (Color the #1 triangles one color, color the #2 triangles a different color.)



The Sandhills Crane

In early spring about one half million sandhills cranes arrive in Nebraska. They are on their migration flight from Mexico to Russia. They spend about six weeks in Nebraska feeding and resting. This four foot tall bird has a crown of red. Its feathers are shades of gray.

Golden Rod Block

The loosely branched goldenrod heads begin blooming in late July when the wild roses fade away. Through August and September great patches of golden blossoms, some up to six feet high, wave in the prairie winds.

Goldenrod was named as the official Nebraska State Flower on April 4, 1895.

How many different shapes do you see? (Please color as follows: 1 – light blue for the sky, 2- green for leaves, 3- shapes with little flowers in their yellow) After you are finished coloring, what design do you see from the green shapes?



Sod House Block

Those who settled in western Nebraska needed to find another material to build their homes, as there were few trees to build log cabins. Sod is soil with grass growing from it. The plow was used to cut the sod into blocks. The sod house and log cabins were both usually one-room homes. (Color as follows: #1 light blue for the sky, #2 brown for the sod house, #3 yellow for the window, and #4 green for the grass.)

Quilt Gild Weaves Its Way To Arnold! (Cont...)



Cottonwood Tree Block

Early explorers described the Nebraska territory as a “great treeless plain.” When the homesteaders came from the forested regions of Europe and the eastern states, they began to transplant saplings and cuttings. Millions of trees were planted in Nebraska in the 1870s and abundant rainfall encouraged their growth. Nebraska became known as the “tree planter state.”

The Nebraska Legislature had selected the American Elm in 1937 as the state tree. However, after a disease killed most of those elms In the 1960s, the cottonwood became the official state tree in 1972.

Color the triangles with the pattern in them green for leaves. Color the blank spaces blue for the sky.



Windmill Block

The windmill was used by ranchers and farmers for irrigation of crops and water for animals. Today, they still rely on the wind to turn the windmill for water.



The Western Meadowlark

The western meadowlark is the state bird of Nebraska, adopted by the Legislature in 1929. You find them in grassy fields, meadows and prairies. They have a distinctive black necktie around their throat, with bright yellow breast.

Halsey Forest Pine Block

Nebraska has a National Forest near Halsey, NE. The forest covers 20 thousand acres of man-planted trees. The trees are mostly Ponderosa Pine, Easter Red Cedar and Jack Pine. Cattle graze throughout the forest, generally from June through November. The forest was hand-planted, primarily by youth groups.



Nebraska Capitol Building and the Four Winds

The Nebraska Capitol Building in Lincoln is acclaimed as one of the modern architectural wonders of the world. The central tower is 400 feet high and is topped with a 27 foot high bronze sculpture of a pioneer farmer planting the prairie field (the sower). The cornerstone was laid on November 11, 1922 and state offices moved into it before the Nebraska Legislature met in 1925.

The arrows represent the wind. The arrows were inspired by the design of a Pawnee drum head. You never know what direction the wind may blow in Nebraska!

Quilt Gild Weaves Its Way To Arnold! (Cont...)



Log Cabin Block

The Log Cabin Quilt became popular after the Civil War, when there was renewed interest in settling the western frontier. Some say it was designed to celebrate the introduction of the sewing machine, because it is constructed using long straight seams. Log Cabin quilts came west in covered wagons and were made to temper the rigors of life on the treeless plains, where the log cabin itself was almost nonexistent. The log cabin became the usual family home, as the frontier was settled east of the Mississippi where wood was plentiful. Color the center of the square red. Color the number 1s lighter than the number 2s.



Little Red School House Block

Nebraskans have always prized education. They brought literacy with them from New England and from Europe, as Northern Europeans were generally well educated.

Did you know that many years ago most children who lived on farms did not go to school in town. About every mile or two out in the country there was a small school house and the children from the nearby farms went to school there. There were usually only a few children. They were called One Room School Houses. At one time there were 1,241 school districts, some with only one or two pupils. Most of these have been torn down and farm children go to school in nearby towns.

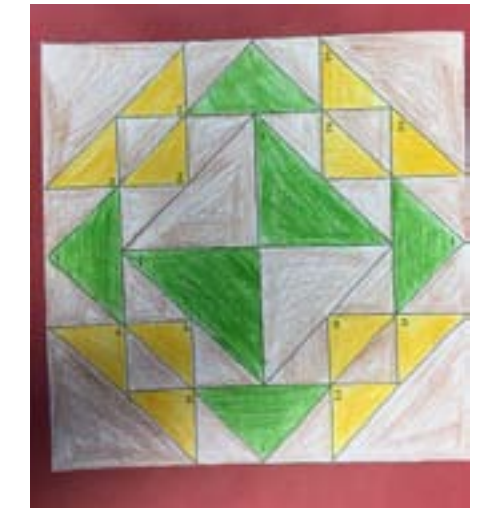


Arrowhead Star Block

The first people to live on Nebraska soil were Native American Indians. They roamed and settled our state for many years before the white man moved west.

The Indians used arrowheads for the tips of their arrows. Arrowheads have been found in many places in Nebraska. They fell in the soil from the Indian's bows as they hunted for food and they were turned up from the soil by the pioneer's plows as they planted their crops.

Color each arrowhead a different color and the outside section of the block blue. Make the shaft of the arrowhead black.



Corn and Beans Block

Agriculture is Nebraska's primary source of wealth and it's dominant industry. An estimated one-half of Nebraska workers depend on agriculture and related industries for employment.

The area planted for crops and used for hay totals almost 20 million acres per year. Corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and sorghum are the state's leading crops. The specialty crops of dry edible beans and sugar beets are produced in irrigated fields in western Nebraska.

(Color 1 –green, color – 2 yellow or gold, background – light brown)

Helping Students Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

Title I Cooperative

Educational Service Unit 10

Five steps help teens manage essay test questions

Essay questions frequently appear on final exams. But these questions don't have to be intimidating! For many teens, it helps to break an essay down into three parts: the introduction, the body (a few paragraphs) and the conclusion.

When your teen has to answer an essay question, encourage him to follow these five steps:

1. Read the question for key words. If it says:

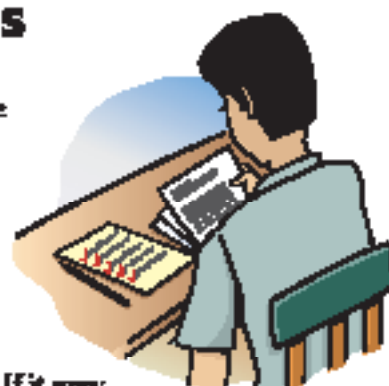
- **Discuss**—he should make factual observations about the topic.
- **Describe**—he should give specific details about the subject matter.
- **Show**—he should state his idea or opinion and support it with facts.
- **Explain**—he should offer fact-based causes or reasons for something.

2. Write a rough outline of his ideas about the topic.

3. Write the introduction. This should be a brief explanation of what the essay is about. Your teen should use the third person (he, she, it or they) unless he is instructed to use the first person (I).

4. Write the body of the essay. Each paragraph should answer a specific part of the question and should include a topic sentence stating the point, information supporting the topic sentence and a closing sentence.

5. Write the conclusion. This should be a summary of your teen's answer to the original question and how his points support his position.



HIGH SCHOOL

April 2017

Instill a sense of integrity

When we act with integrity, we act based on our beliefs about what is right and wrong. If your teen acts inappropriately, teach him about integrity by helping him think through his choice. Ask questions like:

- What got in the way of doing what you knew was right?
- Would you have acted differently if you had been with different people?

When your teen faces a tough decision, encourage him to ask himself: Will this action build up or hurt my integrity?

Source: M. Rios, Ph.D., *Shaping Character in Your Teenager*, Possum Books Camp.

A résumé helps get the job



Is your teen thinking about a summer job? Encourage her to write a résumé. Even teens who have never held a job have a lot to offer. Does your

teen know how to use a certain computer program? Has she volunteered? Have her look online for résumé writing guides. When she's written a draft, review it together.

Don't protect your teen from learning

If you try to save your teen from all pain and suffering, you can wind up preventing her from learning life skills she'll need as an adult. To avoid overprotecting your teen:

- **Don't rescue her from small problems.** If she left her geometry notebook at home, don't drive it to school. She'll have to figure something out.
- **Give her responsibilities at home.** Teach her how to make her own medical appointments, do her own laundry and follow a budget.

Source: J. Nelson and L. Lott, *Positive Discipline for Teenagers*, Three Rivers Press.



Helping Students Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

HIGH SCHOOL

April 2017



How can I encourage my teen to read more?

Q: My daughter doesn't like to read—for school or for pleasure. I know reading is important, but I don't know how to get her to do it. What can I do to motivate her?

A: You are right that reading is important. Reading is a foundation skill for learning. And like any skill, it gets better with practice. If you want your teen to read well, you have to encourage her to read a lot.

Here are some strategies to try:

- **Focus on quantity, not quality.** Any reading your teen does is good. So if she would rather read about her favorite pop star than open up a classic novel, don't worry. Just keep lots of reading material handy. Supply magazines, graphic novels or even how-to books on topics that might interest your teen.
- **Read with her.** Cut out or forward an article you think your teen might enjoy and then discuss it with her later. Offer to read the book she's reading for English and then talk about it.
- **Try nonfiction.** Look for books and articles she might find intriguing—on topics from deep-sea diving to space travel and anything in between.
- **Get her laughing.** Many teens enjoy reading things that are funny. Your teen's sense of humor may not be the same as yours, but if it motivates her to keep reading, humor can be a great thing!



Are you preparing your teen to stay safe on prom night?

Prom is a night for gowns, tuxes and dancing. But for many teens, it is also a night for underage drinking and other risky behaviors. Are you doing all you can to ensure your teen has a safe prom night? Answer yes or no below:

1. Do you know what your teen will do, with whom and where, on prom night?
2. Does your teen have a curfew for prom night?
3. Have you had a frank talk with your teen about sex and your family's values?
4. Have you talked with your teen about the dangers of underage drinking? Role-play ways he can say no to alcohol.
5. Will you or another parent be available to pick up teens in case something goes wrong?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean your teen will likely have a safe prom. For each no, try that idea from the quiz.

"We cannot protect our children from life. Therefore, it is essential to prepare them for it."
—Rudolf Dreikurs

Stay engaged for success

Research has shown that parent involvement has a positive effect on academic success. As the year winds down, it's important to keep up your involvement in your teen's education. Here are some ways:

- **Keep an eye on your teen's progress.** Contact her teachers if you have any questions or concerns.
- **Urge your teen to get help before final exams** if her grades start to slip.
- **Attend a meeting of the school parent organization.**

Show your teen that education matters!

Consistent consequences improve discipline

It's one of the contradictions of discipline: The more consistently you apply consequences, the less you have to do it.



If you enforce rules inconsistently, your teen learns that rules are more like suggestions. He's more likely to argue about them. But if you apply consequences every time, your teen knows what to expect if he breaks the rules. And he's more likely to follow them, at home and at school.

Learning is about more than just grades

When many parents ask their teens about school, what they really want to find out about is their grades. Grades matter, but remember that the learning process is just as critical. So ask your teen:

- **About the book she's reading.**
- **About her most recent test.** Does she think it was a good way to measure how well she knew the material?
- **If she's had any experiences that changed her way of thinking.**

Source: M. Rios, Ph.D., *Uncommon Sense for Parents with Teenagers*, Ten Speed Press.

Helping Students Learn

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Is it OK to let my child spend afternoons alone?

Q: I work full-time. My seventh grader is mature enough to stay by himself after school, but I worry about his being home alone every afternoon. Is it OK for kids this age to be alone so much? What should I do?

A: This situation may not call for an all or nothing decision. Since you feel your child is responsible enough to be alone for a few hours, it may be enough to limit the number of days he is at home alone each week. To find other options for some of his unsupervised time:

- **Check out after-school programs** at the school. Participating in a study hall or a club could offer your child a chance to hang out with other kids once or twice a week.
- **Research neighborhood options.** See what your local community center has to offer for middle schoolers. Does your town have an intramural sports program? Perhaps you can arrange a carpool to practices with other players' parents.

To help keep your child safe when he does come home alone, post a list of numbers he can call in an emergency, including a neighbor or trusted adult he can contact if he can't reach you. Make sure he understands your rules about things like checking in, answering the door, cooking and having friends over.



Are you insisting on attendance?

It may be getting warmer, but it's not summer yet. Your child needs to be in all her classes until the school year is over. Are you doing all you can to make sure your child is in school on time, every day? Answer yes or no:

1. Are you emphasizing that school attendance is your child's first priority?
2. Do you avoid taking your child out of school unless she is sick or it is an emergency?
3. Do you stress to your child that you will not tolerate her skipping class?
4. Do you encourage your child to create routines that will help her get to school on time, like setting an alarm?
5. Have you asked the school to notify you if your child is not in class?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are making the importance of attendance clear to your child. For each no, try that idea.

"In automobile terms, the child supplies the power but the parents have to do the steering."
—Benjamin Spock, M.D.

Keep your child in mind when setting expectations

When you make your expectations clear to your middle schooler, he's more likely to meet them. But it's important that your expectations be reasonable. When setting them, ask yourself:

- **Are my expectations flexible?** General information on what students this age "should" be doing is based on averages, not individuals. Your expectations should be appropriate for your child.
- **Are they realistic?** If your child has been a reluctant reader since preschool, expecting him to excel in honors English may not make sense.

Reading comprehension starts with questions

Your child will get more out of reading if she thinks before diving in. She should ask herself:

- What do I know about this subject already?
- Why am I reading this? What will I need to know after reading it?
- What can help me focus on reading? Should I sit up or change location?



Talking improves discipline

Questioning authority comes naturally to middle schoolers. They want a say in what happens to them, or at least to understand why it's happening. For effective discipline:

- **Explain the reasons for your rules.** Your child may not realize that a certain rule is to ensure his safety, for example.
- **Talk with your child often**—about more than just ways he could improve. Express interest in his opinions and his life. He's more likely to follow your rules when he knows you care about him.

Source: C. Pratt, "Middle School Discipline That Works," *EdChoice*, www.edchoice.com/discipline-works

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Title I Cooperative Educational Service Unit 10

Review test-success strategies that really make the grade

As the end of the year approaches, final exams appear on the horizon. If this is your child's first year in middle school, she may not have taken finals before. To help her succeed on these key tests, have your child:

- **Start preparing now.** End-of-year tests can come quickly, one after another. Your child may have four tests in one week. Studying all that material should begin weeks in advance, not days.
- **Schedule her time.** Have your child put her homework and study times on a calendar. For example: Monday—do math homework, study science for 30 minutes before dinner, study English for 30 minutes after dinner.
- **Get enough sleep.** The night before a test, your child should do a final review of the material. Then she should go to bed at a time that will allow her to get at least nine hours of sleep.
- **Skim before she starts.** If possible, your child should read over the entire test when she receives it. She should determine which questions she can answer easily and do those first. Then she can go back to the ones she isn't so sure about and give them some more thought.
- **Eliminate incorrect answers.** If the test is multiple choice, your child should cross out any answers she knows are not right. If she doesn't know the right answer, she'll have fewer options to choose from.



Take every chance to listen

Middle school students don't always share a lot of details about their lives with their parents. So when they do want to talk, it's important for parents to stop and listen.

If your child comes up and says, "The coolest thing happened today," don't miss a chance to communicate because you're busy checking your email. Give her your full attention—she just might open up again.

Help a tutor help your child

If homework has become a constant battle or if your child's grades are slipping, you may want to have a tutor provide some one-on-one learning support. To help your child get the most out of tutoring sessions:

- **Provide a distraction-free place** for the tutor to work with him.
- **Set reachable goals,** such as raising his grade a few percentage points per month.
- **Avoid "pitching in."** Save your comments and discuss them with the tutor after the session.



Source: J. Schuman, Ph.D., *How to Help Your Child with Homework*, Eric Spirit Publishing

Community service broadens understanding

Volunteering is a great way for your child to make a difference in the community—and learn valuable lessons. Volunteering can help your child:

- **Gain insight.** Providing assistance to disadvantaged people could help your child understand that they are people just like she is, deserving of respect.
- **Expand her world beyond school,** home and friends. Your child may gain a greater awareness of the issues that affect your community and the contribution she can make.



Middle schoolers need self-respect

Self-respect lets middle schoolers see themselves as people who deserve to be treated fairly and kindly. It also helps them understand that they should treat others the same way. To foster self-respect:

- **Point out your child's talents** and explain that other people have different strengths and weaknesses. The ability to be happy for others, rather than envious of their success, is an important part of self-respect.
- **Take a firm stand against substance abuse.** Tell your child that self-respect includes respect for his personal health and safety.
- **Promote a positive attitude.** Encourage your child to make a fresh start after a setback.
- **Help your child resist negative peer pressure.** Talk about ways he can avoid situations that aren't right for him.
- **Be a role model.** Treat your child and yourself with respect.

Source: A. Corey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Touchstone

Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Title I Cooperative
Educational Service Unit 10

Develop your child's social skills for success in school—and life

Your child needs more than academic skills to succeed in school. His social skills play a big part, too. Research shows that problems with social skills can interfere with learning. Your child will have an easier time in school if he is able to get along with his classmates.



- To reinforce your child's social skills:
- **Set an example.** Children watch how parents interact with others. So, introduce yourself to new people. Get together with friends. Support people you care about. Let your child see you being a good friend.
- **Read books about making and keeping friends.** Ask the librarian to help you find some kids' books about social interactions. After you read aloud, talk with your child about the story.
- **Role-play with your child.** Help him practice what to say when meeting new people. "Hi, I'm Tom. Nice to meet you." Act out situations that call for cooperation, sharing and kindness, too.
- **Provide opportunities to socialize.** Invite your child's friends to play. Visit playgrounds. Sign your child up for kids' programs at libraries, community centers and museums.

If you have concerns about your child's social skills, talk with his teacher and work together on solutions.

Source: V. Vega, "Social and Emotional Learning Research Review," Edutopia, www.edutopia.org/socialskills

Attendance counts all year long

You care about your child's education. But the weather is lovely and Grandma has been pleading for a visit. Would it really matter if you took your child out of school for a few days? After all, she's only in first grade.

Actually, it does matter. Young children don't have to miss much school before their learning suffers. In the early grades, students are mastering reading and basic math skills. Research has shown that these are the skills most affected when children miss school.

When she's absent, your child misses activities that can't be made up with extra homework—such as

a class discussion about a book or a science demonstration.

Your child will use the knowledge she is gaining now for the rest of her life. Being in school consistently is the only way she can develop the strong foundation she will need to support the rest of her learning.

Source: A. Gansberg and others, "Whereas Add Up: How School Attendance Influences Student Success," *Attendance Works*, www.attendanceworks.org



There's still plenty of time to connect to the school

Even though summer is around the corner, it isn't too late to get involved with school. Starting right now, you can:

- **Keep track of dates** of important tests and special class activities.
- **Attend school functions.** Get to know school staff and other families.
- **Volunteer.** Could you prepare items for a craft, chaperone a field trip or read to the class? Ask the teacher how you can help.
- **Find out what school tasks** the teacher would like you and your child to accomplish at home each day.



Concentrate on directions

It happens all the time: A child knows the answer to a test question but still gets it wrong. Maybe he misread something he should have circled. Or he chose the true answer instead of the one that was not true. To help your child learn the importance of following the directions *exactly*:

- **Follow a recipe together.** Discuss what would happen if you followed the steps in a different order.
- **Have him write step-by-step directions** for a task he knows how to do well. Follow them together. Was anything missing?

Source: C. Dusham, *Teaching Test-Taking Skills: Proven Techniques to Boost Your Students' Scores*, Rowman & Littlefield Education.

Brush up on the dress code

As the temperature rises, it's a great time to review the school dress code with your child.

Talk together about ways appropriate clothes express self-respect and respect for others. Avoid morning arguments by posting the rules.



Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 2017



Is there a 'right' time to give my child a cell phone?

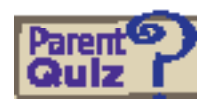
Q: My fourth grader wants a cell phone. A lot of her friends have them, and there are times when I'd like to be able to reach her. How can I tell if she is ready for a phone? What should I be thinking about before I give her one?

A: You are the only one who can decide whether or not your child is ready to handle a phone. Is she generally responsible about taking care of her belongings? She will probably be able to keep track of a phone. Does she usually follow your rules? She'll likely be able to abide by the limits you set on her phone use.

Before you give your child a phone, set up a parent-child contract that clearly outlines your cell phone rules. Your child should agree to:

- Follow school rules about using cell phones.
- Put homework time before phone time.
- Stick to the limits you set on talking, texting and downloading apps. (Check into parental controls available from service providers.) Make sure your child understands what is unsafe or otherwise not allowed, such as sending inappropriate photos or saying mean things about other people.
- Accept your right to look at any messages she sends or receives, and to take the phone away if you find she has used it inappropriately.

If you decide to give your child a phone, be sure to monitor her account to ensure she uses it appropriately.



Are you making reading appealing?

Some kids would rather do almost anything than read. Luckily, there are things parents can do to encourage children to pick up a book. Are you doing all you can to help your child enjoy reading? Answer yes or no below:

1. Do you read aloud to your child, even if he can read by himself?
2. Do you encourage your child to try books in a series? If he likes one, he may be more motivated to try others.
3. Do you look for books or magazines about the things that interest your child?
4. Do you let your child read comic books or graphic novels if he wants to?
5. Do you set limits on recreational screen time?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are finding ways to increase your child's desire to read. For each no, try that idea from the quiz.

"A parent's job is not so much to teach a child how to read, but to make him want to read." —Pricilla V.ett

Have fun with 'quick writes'

Quick writes are a fun way to help children practice writing. To do a quick write with your child, ask an intriguing question. Then set a timer for five minutes, and both of you write down everything you can on the topic. When the timer beeps, share what you each wrote. Here are some topic ideas:

- What superpower would you like to have? How would you use it?
- What laws would you make if you ran the country?
- Would it be good or bad if animals could talk? Why?

Source: L. Rief, *100 Quickwrite Prompts and Effective Prompting Strategies that Build Students' Confidence, Develop Their Process, and Bring Out the Writer in Every Student*, Scholastic.

Exercise boosts brainpower

Not every child wants to play team sports—and that's OK. There are other ways kids can get physical exercise each day. Encourage your child to:

- Go up and down the stairs many times.
- Take a brisk walk with you.
- Get moving to his favorite music.
- Play tag with siblings or friends.

Think about points of view

Elementary school students are learning to analyze and see things from different points of view. To reinforce this skill:

- Have your child sort small items—buttons, coins, toy cars—by size. Mix them up and have her sort them by color. This teaches her that things can be part of more than one group.
- Talk about points of view. What does your child think land looks like to a dolphin? Recognizing different points of view is an important reading and writing skill.



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