



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message from Mrs. Dottie Heusman

Let's start this month's message with a trivia question? When is the last time that the Sterling Lady Jets won the Mudecas Class A Championship? No peeking...

It was on Friday, January 11, 2019! The Lady Jets came into the tournament as the 6th seed and ended in First Place. They beat Bruning Davenport Shickley in the first round. Second round Falls City Sacred Heart fell to the Sterling Jets. The final game was against Exeter-Milligan and the Lady Jets overcame! Congratulations to Coach Pfeiffer, Coach Harlan, and the team. Well done!

Now more trivia...Prior to the 2019 Mudecas Class A Championship, when was the last time the Sterling Lady Jets won the Class A Championship? No peeking...That occurred in 2012. The Sterling Lady Jets have also been victorious in the B Division of Mudecas winning in 2005 and 2018!

In this month's newsletter you will find the District's Annual Report. This report includes information about student demographics, student performance, school finances, and school improvement goals. Take time to review this and call me if you have any questions.

Mother Nature has decided to play an interesting game of Winter with us this year. One snow day in November and two in January. Let's hope the Groundhog doesn't see his shadow! **Think Spring!!**

Board of Education News for January 2019

The Sterling Board of Education met twice during the month of January. The first meeting was a work session that was facilitated by a staff member from the Nebraska Association of School Boards. During this session the board focused on goal setting for next steps for the success of Sterling Public Schools.

One of the strategies that the board has decided to move forward with is to have a Community Engagement Session. The purpose of this session is to provide an opportunity for the community to provide input into current and future initiatives for our school district. The session is scheduled for the evening of Monday, March 4 from 7-8:30PM. If you'd like to attend this event, please call or email me 402-866-4761 x102 or dheusman@sterlingpublicschools.com

The regular board meeting was held on Monday, January 21. Agenda items included:

- New Board Members Stan Karr and Kevin McAuliffe took the Oath of Office.
- The following officers were elected: Cheri Wirthele-President, Rick Vollman-Vice President, John Harms-Secretary, Mark Horstman-Treasurer.
- Commendations were given to the Sterling Girl's Basketball Team for winning the Class A Mudecas Tournament.
- Teacher reports were given by Mrs. Laura Goracke in regards to a Grow Rural Grant she is applying for. Dr. Evi Wusk shared information with the board about the writing classes that she is teaching, how a lesson is structured, the professional development that teachers have received, and the growth she has seen in her writers this year.
- The board approved the First Bank of Nebraska as the depository for the district.
- The official newspapers for the District will continue to be the Tecumseh Chieftain and The Voice Newspaper.
- Superintendent Heusman was approved as the District's Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator.
- The negotiated agreement with the Sterling Education Association for the 2019-2020 school year was approved.
- In board policy work: Board Policy 5006 was approved on second reading. Board Policies 9300, 1002, 1040 and 1050 were reviewed on first reading. Board policies 2013 & 2013A were reviewed by all board members.
- The board was presented the first draft of the 2019-2020 calendar. It will be finalized this next month and approved at the February 18 meeting.
- The District Annual Report was shared. That is included in this Newsletter.
- The Board reviewed dates for the Community Engagement Meeting that will be held this winter.
- The Board decided to move the starting time for their regular monthly meetings to 7:00 p.m.



The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be Monday, February 18, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. The meeting is held in the Media Center at Sterling Public School.

From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Harrington

Staying Healthy...

Flu Season is here and has been in full force at Sterling. The last two weeks the elementary saw around 20% of children home sick. Please remember that school policy dictates that if a student has a temperature of 100° they are to be sent home until they have been 24 hours fever free. That means if they get sent home from school, they need to spend at least the entire next day at home. Fever free for 24 hours also means that no medicine, especially fever reducer, has been given in that 24-hour span. Tips to staying healthy:

- Promote proper and frequent hand washing at home
- Get good and plentiful sleep
- Disinfect high-touch areas in your home
- Keep up with the laundry, especially clothes, towels, and bedding
- Get some fresh air!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are on February 7th from 2:30-8:00. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to reach out to your student's teachers through email or a phone call. We hope to see you there! As always, you can follow all of the school happenings by liking the school's Facebook page and by following us on twitter at the handle @spsjetpride. If you have a question on anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school or talk to me at school events.

Go Jets!

BACKPACKS ARE AN IMPORTANT PROJECT

Greetings in a new year from the Backpack Program of Johnson County! This program provides 72 backpacks to families of Sterling, St. Andrews, and Johnson County Central. Students grades K-high school are eligible.

The items in the backpack are intended to supplement the family's meals over the weekends. The backpack helps families provide a little more on weekends when the students aren't eating breakfast and/or lunch or both at school during the week.

In some week's backpack, there is a bread or egg voucher included to be redeemed at Tecumseh Central Market in Tecumseh or at The Jet Stop in Sterling.

Thank you to all those individuals, businesses, organizations and Church groups who have donated toward this most important project. Please consider donating if possible. Please direct any questions toward Jon Rother at JCC, Nicole at SENCA at 402-335-2134 or Sally Hutt at 402-335-7343.

Each backpack costs \$250 a school year per family. If you are able to donate any amount toward a backpack, please **write your check to JCC Schools and on the memo line, write Child Hunger. Please mail donation to: Sally Hutt, Box 274, Tecumseh NE 68450.**

Thanks for your consideration!

Sally A. Hutt
Johnson County Backpack Coordinator



Sterling Public Schools Annual District Report Card January 2019

Enrollment Information

<u>PK-12 Enrollment for 2018-19</u>	
As of January 18, 2019	
Preschool	30
Kindergarten	18
1 st Grade	11
2 nd Grade	12
3 rd Grade	10
4 th Grade	12
5 th Grade	11
6 th Grade	13
7 th Grade	20
8 th Grade	14
9 th Grade	17
10 th Grade	16
11 th Grade	11
12 th Grade	21
Total PK-12	216

<u>PK-12 Enrollment Trends</u>	
2017-2018	202
2016-2017	200
2015-2016	206

<u>Preschool-12 Daily Attendance</u>	
	Sterling
2017-18	94.13%
2016-17	95.48%
2015-16	95.78%

Leadership Team

<u>Administration</u>	
Dottie Heusman, Superintendent	
Scott Harrington, Principal	
<u>Board of Education</u>	
John Harms	Mark Horstman
Stan Karr	Kevin McAuliffe
Rick Vollman	Cheri Wirthele

Financial Information

<u>State Aid and Gen. Fund Tax Request Data</u>			<u>Total General Fund Disbursements</u>	
State Aid	Property Tax Request			
2018-19	\$18,123	\$2,693,939	2017-18	\$3,285,722
2017-18	\$20,199	\$2,656,990	2016-17	\$3,107,184
2016-17	\$ 533	\$2,661,153	2015-16	\$3,090,408

<u>Mill Levy and Valuation Data</u>		
	Tax Levy	District
Valuation		
2018-19	1.00965	\$309,898,129
2017-18	1.01296	\$305,126,717
2016-17	1.03095	\$299,234,270

<u>Transportation Costs for 2017-2018</u>
\$179,297



Teacher Information

<u>Teachers with Master's Degree/Higher</u>		<u>Average Teacher Salary Data</u>		<u>Average Years of Teaching Experience</u>	
	Sterling		Sterling		Sterling
2017-18	32%	2017-18	\$50,229	2017-18	17.36
2016-17	33%	2016-17	\$48,879	2016-17	17.08
2015-16	35%	2015-16	\$47,708	2015-16	16.61



Student Demographics and Testing Results

NCSAS Overall Results

(State Testing)

Percent Proficient

3rd-8th Grade Testing

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>State</u>
English Lang Arts	57%	51%
Math	58%	51%
Science	83%	54%

ACT Composite Score Avg.

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>State</u>
<u>National</u>		
2018	20.5	20.8
2017	21.8	21.0
2016	21.0	21.0

Student Demographics/Characteristics 2017-18

Enrolled in Special Education	15%
Mobility Rate (moving in/out)	8%
Eligible for Free/Reduced meals	28%

Spring 2018 Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Standardized Test Composite - % above 50th percentile

	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>
Elementary (3 rd -6 th)	61%	58%
Middle Grades (7 th & 8 th)	78%	75%
High School (9 th -11 th)	82%	95%

2017-2018 Dual Credit Info

5 Students earned college credit
Total credits earned were 42

School Classifications by the State

Elementary	GREAT
Middle School	GREAT
High School	GOOD

Class of 2018 Data

Total Number of 2018 Sterling Graduates	8
Number of Graduates attending a 4-year college	5
Number of Graduates attending a 2-year college	3

School Improvement Goals

* All students K-6th will improve their reading comprehension. Progress: Daily 5 implementation, Guided Reading training and implementation, currently working on additional instruction in fluency, talking about reading, and reading comprehension strategies.

* All students K-6th will improve their writing skills. Progress: Implemented new Writing Materials and continual training, using writing rubrics, text dependent analysis additions, high frequency words for K-3, Handwriting Without Tears curriculum for K-3, and writing pacing guides being written.

* All students 7th-12th will improve their writing skills. Progress: Split 7th & 8th grade reading and writing into two classes, text dependent analysis additions, curriculum alignment, and district writing rubric is being developed and will be implemented.

* All students 7th-12th will use technology on a daily basis for extended learning opportunities. Progress: 1-to-1 Macbook Airs for all students 8th-12th, Bytespeeds for 7th, word processing class added for 6th & 7th grade students, Digital Citizenship class added for 6th grade, lesson plans in all content areas incorporate technology, and additional technology learning opportunities for staff throughout the year.



Contact us or stay informed by:

**Sterling website:

www.sterlingjets.org

**Twitter: @spsjetpride

**Facebook: Sterling Public Schools

**Call us at: 402-866-4761

Email staff members: first initial last name@sterlingpublicschools.com (no spaces)



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honor Roll of Distinction

Average of 93% and above. No grade below 90%

**Denotes both Quarter 2 and Semester 1 Honor Roll of Distinction*

12th Grade

Caleb Dolbow*
Morgan Haner*
Nicole Harms*
Sydney Huls*
Logan Jasa*
Ryan Lairmore*
Max Pfahl*
Hannah Thies – S1
Cameron VanGroningen*
Carly Wenzl*
Malayna Wingert*

11th Grade

Joel Rathe*
Colby Thies*

10th Grade

Bianca Gonzales*
Isabella Haner*
Emma Harms*
Jessie Klein*
Katie Little*
Madison Smith – S1
Tara Walters – S1
Kaitlyn Wusk*

9th Grade

Samuel Agena*
Garrett Hier*
Danielle Janssen*
Jacob Johnson*
Kaylee Lafferty*
Kylie Mathes-Riensch*
Tanner McDonald – S1
Andrew Richardson*
Abigail Thies*
Ella Wingert*

8th Grade

Katy Boldt – S1
Gracyn Dolbow*
Andrew Harms*
John Janssen*
Alexander Leonard*
Jack McAuliffe*
Trenton Peery*
Macy Richardson*
Kaylin Smith*
Noah Williams*

7th Grade

Jesus Gonzalez*
Sierra Goracke*
Dakota Haner*
Lauren Harms*
Amelia Kephart – Q2
Collin Kinney*
Cassie Klein*
Ellie Lafferty*
Harmony Mathes-Riensch*
Wyatt Rathe*
Hailey Truscott*
Chloe Waters*



Honor Roll

Average of 90% and above. No grade below 85%

**Denotes both Quarter 2 and Semester 1 Honor Roll*

12th Grade

Emily Agena*
Tristan Dirks*
Hannah Ties – Q2

11th Grade

Amanda Tallant – Q2

10th Grade

Sam Boldt*
Derek Buss*
Emma Mae Cambron – S1
Madison Smith – Q2
Tara Walters – Q2

9th Grade

Kody Goracke*
Tanner McDonald – Q2

8th Grade

Katy Boldt – Q2
Carson McAuliffe*

7th Grade

Maggie Harms*
Amelia Kephart – Q2



FEBRUARY 2019 MENUS

Alternate Entrée offered daily:
Cold Sandwich or Chef Salad

February 1	
Friday	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Ravioli, Green Beans, Breadsticks, Pears
February 4-8	
Monday	Pancakes, Sausage OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Baked Beans, Peaches
Tuesday	Apple or Cheery Frudel OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza Crunchers, Corn, Celery w/ PB, Mandarin Oranges
Wednesday	Sausage Gravy over WG Biscuits OR WG Cereal/WG Biscuit, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chili, Cinnamon Roll, Carrots w/ Ranch, Raspberry Applesauce
Thursday	Yogurt Parfait, Nutri-Grain Bar or Granola Bar OR WG Cereal/Nutri-Grain Bar or Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce or Bean Dip, Peas, Pineapple
Friday	NO SCHOOL
February 11-15	
Monday	Breakfast Pizza OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ WG Rice, Egg Roll, Fortune Cookie, Pears
Tuesday	Omelet, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Tomato Soup, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Cheese Sandwich, Peaches
Wednesday	French Toast Bites, Sausage OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges
Thursday	WG Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hot Dogs, FF and/or Swt. FF, Corn, Mixed Fruit, Valentine's Day Treat
Friday	WG Donut OR WG Cereal, Fruit/Juice, Milk Potato Bake, Ham Salad or Tuna Salad Sandwich, String Cheese, Pineapple Tidbits
February 18-22	
Monday	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	Breakfast Burrito OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Fish Nuggets, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Applesauce
Wednesday	Oatmeal, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hamburger, FF and/or Swt. FF, Corn, Pears
Thursday	Breakfast Bar OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza, Broccoli w/ Cheese, Mandarin Oranges
Friday	Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Sliders OR WG Cereal/Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Italian Dunkers, Peas, Cottage Cheese, Peaches
February 25-28	
Monday	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Spaghetti, Garlic Toast, Corn, Pineapple Tidbits
Tuesday	Pancakes, Sausage OR WG Cereal/Sausage, Fruit/Juice, Milk Mini Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Pears
Wednesday	Breakfast Tornado OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Noodle Soup, PB&J Sandwich, Applesauce
Thursday	WG Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Submarines, Green Beans, Gelatin, Mandarin Oranges

Menus are subject to change without notice.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A variety of fruits and vegetables are offered with every meal.
Milk served with every meal.

FEBRUARY 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28 JH GBB @ FCSSH - 4PM	29 District LDE/ JH Speaking Contest @ SCC-Beatrice - 8AM- 2PM	30	31	February 1	2 Johnson County Spelling Bee - 9AM
PIO CONF BB TOURN @ PAWNEE CITY/HTRS						
3	4 Sterling JH GBB Tournament - 1PM 9/10 BBB @ FCSSH - 7PM	5 10th & 11th Graders to UNO GBB @ Freeman - 6PM (J,V,V)	6 JH GBB @ Freeman - 1PM FFA State Degree Review & Proficiency Review 4:30-8:30PM	7 NO PRESCHOOL EARLY OUT 1:37PM PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 2:30-8PM	8 NO SCHOOL G/B BB @ Tri-County - 4PM (4 games)	9 ACT Test Date Lewiston JV G/B BB Tournament - 8AM
10	11 JH GBB vs. Lewiston - HOME - 1PM BBB @ Exeter-Milligan - 7PM (MUDECAS)	12 NAEP Testing - 4th Grade	13 Peru State Business Contest	14	15 BBB @ Freeman - 6:15PM (J,V,V)	16
GBB SUB-DISTRICTS @ AUBURN						
17	18 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 7:30PM	19 JH GBB vs. Diller-Odell - HOME - 1PM BBB SUB-DISTRICTS @ AUBURN	20 9th Grade Field Trip to Iowa Western & Metro CC	21 JH GBB @ HTRS - 2PM	22 NO PRESCHOOL	23
24	25 Johnson-Brock JH GBB Tournament - 4PM 1st Day of Track Practice	26	27 JH GBB @ Nebraska City Lourdes - 2:30PM	28	March 1	2 BBB DISTRICT FINALS (CI-D2)
PIO CONF BB TOURN @ PAWNEE CITY/HTRS (FINALS-LEWISTON)						
PIO CONF ART EXHIBIT @ LEWISTON						
GBB SUB-DISTRICT FINALS @ AUBURN						
BBB SUB-DISTRICT FINALS @ AUBURN						
BBB DISTRICT FINALS (CI-D2)						
GIRLS STATE BB TOURNAMENT @ LINCOLN						



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SUPERINTENDENT

Dottie Heusman

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Scott Harrington

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Brent Heusman

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Addie Heusman



Sterling Public Schools Community
Engagement Meeting
Monday, March 4 @ 7-8:30PM
Please contact Superintendent Heusman if
you'd like to attend.

Parents: Weather permitting, elementary students will be going outside for recess on days when the temperature and wind chill are above 20 degrees. Please help your child dress appropriately with layers as needed. Gloves or mittens, scarves, boots, hats, etc. should be sent to school each day. Thank you for your attention to this matter.