

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



Superintendent's Message from Dr. Tom Sharp

Many organizational duties are being addressed. Bookkeeping/financial standards are being tweaked to provide maximum utilization of budget demands. A new superintendent has been officially hired and will assist me in interviewing 2020-2021 staffing needs: one of which is K-12 principal due to the leaving of Principal Scott Harrington who will be principal at Adam Central next school year. Mr. Harrington has done a remarkable job especially during the transition period during October and November. Scott continues to perform admirably as a genuine educational leader and advocate for school children.

A special shout-out to the post-prom parents for organizing the silent auction fundraiser. The variety and quality of the auctioned items was impressive as is their goal to provide a safe and memorable prom experience for our deserving juniors and seniors. I recently talked to a group of our high ability learners about the responsibility of keeping each other safe.

One Saturday night at 10:45 pm when I was 16 years old, a schoolmate came by the junkyard and told me he needed help. He had been to a keg party, and he had a strict 11:00 pm curfew – strict enough that he was scared to miss it, fearing physical consequences for his mom and himself.

I asked how I could help. Why didn't he just go home on time? My classmate pointed to the back seat of his car where a passenger lay in an alcoholic stupor. The passenger was a 14 year old eighth grade girl who also had attended the keg party and hooked up with my schoolmate. Now he faced the problem of what to do with the girl. So he came to me. Why me? Because I had demonstrated to my classmates that I had accepted the responsibility of using my cognitive abilities to teach others, to help the less fortunate, to be kind to the uncertain, to be aware of what needed to be done, and to have a good supply of common sense. Now, when faced with a dilemma of facing enraged parents, both his and hers, he didn't continue his irresponsibility, thank God. He asked for help.

The only considering factor to me was to keep both of them safe, even at the risk I knew that I would have to take. I sent my classmate home and took possession of the girl. I placed her, still mostly unconscious, in the family tow truck because it was an emergency vehicle, and this was an emergency. I drove the intoxicated girl to her home and basically carried her to her front door. She reeked from alcoholic sickness and her clothes were in disarray. Her mother met me at the front door: I assume she had been worried and had been peering out looking for her daughter. I handed her over to her mother as her father came running.

Before any words were exchanged, I spoke out. "My name is Tom Sharp. My father is Roy Sharp. We own the tow service. Your daughter has been to a keg party where she drank things she shouldn't have drunk, and she did things she shouldn't have done. I have brought her home to keep her safe."

The parents thanked me, and I left. They saved their questions for their daughter to answer later. They did not grill me for answers. They didn't call the police. They cared for their daughter's immediate needs.

I never heard another word about the incident. My classmate never mentioned it. My intervention was a service to help others. I only got the chance to help because I had earned the trust of others. Developing a servant's heart is the ultimate learning experience for all students. Every student has giftedness in some area, and using this gift to enrich the lives of others perfects the gift and blesses the servant.



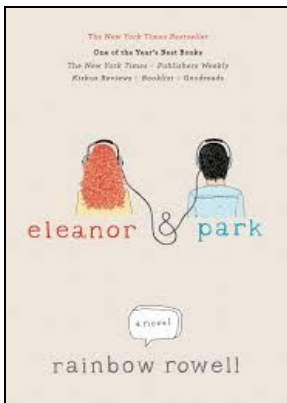
PURCHASE YOUR SPS
"STARS OF THE CENTURY" YEARBOOK
BY MARCH 31ST FOR \$45!
PRICE INCREASES AFTER THAT...



From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Scott Harrington

There is an event happening over in Syracuse this month that I wanted to share. The Southeast Nebraska Family Resource Fair will take place on March 24, 2020, from 6:30-8:00 at Syracuse Middle School. This is an opportunity to discover resources and services that are available for your child and family. This event is put on by the Syracuse Partners in Learning and will feature door prizes and multiple local agencies that provide services to families. Agencies that will be attending the fair include the Early Development Network, Assistive Technology Partnership, Vocational Rehab, Autism Network, and the Nebraska Family Helpline. Region V Systems will also be in attendance which provides social/emotional, mental, and behavioral health support. If you would like more information or have questions please let me know.

And 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!**



Book of the Month - Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

It's not every day that a New York Times Best Seller comes from a **Nebraska author!** Rainbow Rowell's story of two star-crossed misfits takes place over the school year in 1986 as the two meet on the bus and strike up an unlikely romance over comic books. This quick read, for grades 9-12, almost feels like a countdown for a pair of outcasts whose romance was never meant to last.

"*Eleanor & Park* reminded me not just what it's like to be young and in love with a girl, but also what it's like to be young and in love with a book." - John Green, The

New York Times Book Review

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK
MARCH 2-6, 2020

Monday - Pajama Day!

Tuesday - Hat Day!

Wednesday - WACKY WEDNESDAY!

Thursday - Sterling or College Gear Day!

Friday - Crazy Sock Day!

BOOK DROP OFF

Have some extra books laying around that you wouldn't mind donating?
BRING 'EM TO SCHOOL!

We'll be collecting books at ALL the Spring Concerts.

HS Pops - April 7
HS - April 27
ELEM - May 11

Sterling Public Schools Annual District Report Card January 2020

District Leadership

Dr. Tom Sharp, Superintendent
Scott Harrington, Principal

Board of Education Members

John Harms Mark Horstman
Stan Karr Kevin McAuliffe
Rick Vollman Cheri Wirthele



Our Vision:

All Sterling Public Schools students will achieve their full potential.

Our Mission:

Sterling Public Schools will education students to excel, prepare to compete, inspire to serve, and challenge to lead.

School Improvement Goals:

1. All students K-6th will improve their reading comprehension.
2. All students K-12th will improve their writing skills.
3. All students 7th-12th will use technology on a daily basis for extended learning opportunities.

Financial Information

<u>Year</u>	<u>State Aid</u>	<u>Gen. Fund Tax Requests</u>	<u>Total General Fund Disbursements</u>	<u>Mill Levy</u>	<u>Valuation</u>
19-20	\$26,053	\$2,830,303	\$3,249,995	1.01649	\$311,176,067
18-19	\$18,123	\$2,693,939	\$3,285,722	1.00965	\$309,898,129
17-18	\$20,199	\$2,656,990	\$3,107,184	1.01296	\$305,126,717



Together We Transform Lives

We currently have 21 matches and are always looking for more!
Please contact the school if interested!

AQueSTT Dept. of Ed Ratings

Sterling Elementary	Good
Sterling Secondary	Great
Sterling School District	Great

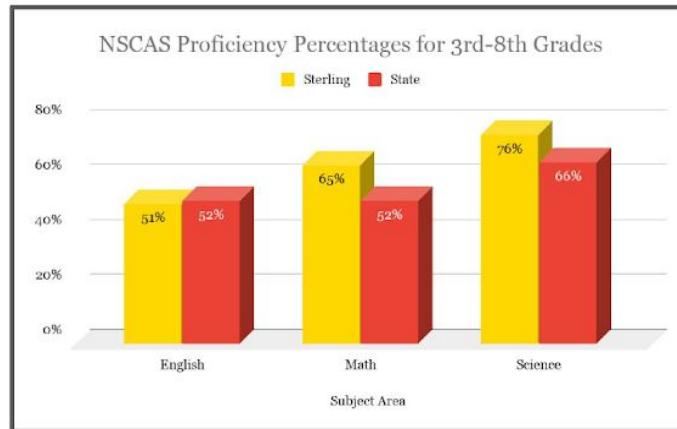
Teacher Information

<u>Demographic</u>	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
Teachers w/ Higher Degrees	52%	56%
Average Salary	\$49,983	\$54,601
Average Years of Experience	7.24	14.01

Student Achievement & Demographics

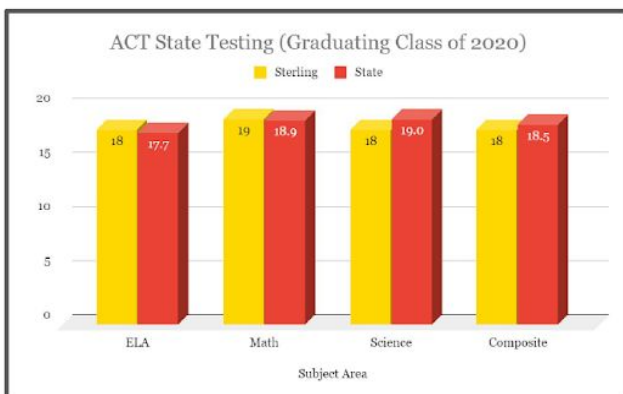
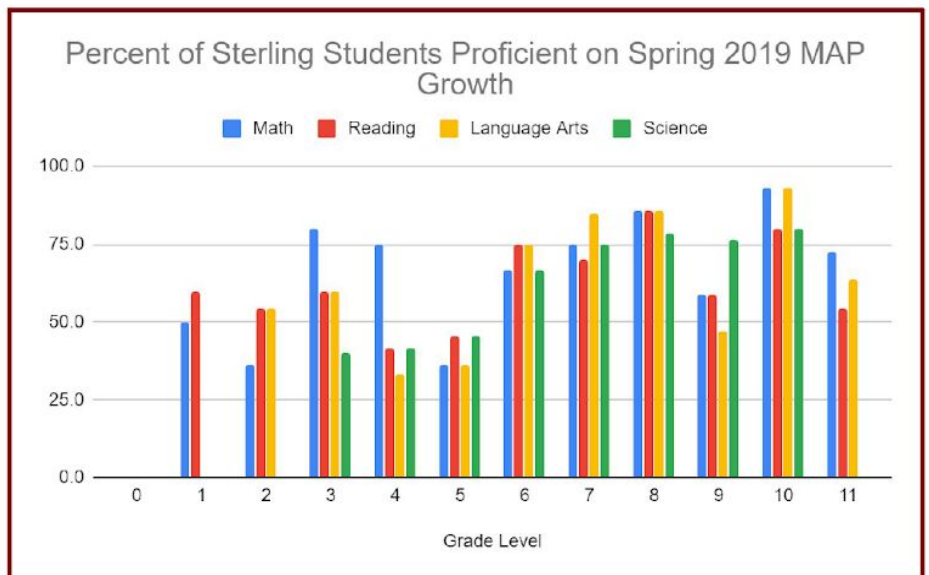
Current PK-12 Enrollment

Preschool	32
Kindergarten	16
1st Grade	17
2nd Grade	11
3rd Grade	11
4th Grade	12
5th Grade	12
6th Grade	9
7th Grade	14
8th Grade	19
9th Grade	14
10th Grade	15
11th Grade	17
12th Grade	11
PK-12 Totals	210



PK-12 Total Enrollment Trends

19-20	210
18-19	216
17-18	202
16-17	200



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

Learning Through Play in Pre-K

by Jenna Sedivy and Katie Marshall

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

-Mr. Rogers

In our preschool we are working to prepare our students to be successful in a way that inspires a love of learning. We utilize play-based, hands-on learning activities and create well-thought-out, intentional spaces in our classrooms. The play that takes place develops and strengthens many skills

that children will need all throughout their life. Academic skills can be learned best after the foundations have been set.



Children who play freely are working on their:
Communication skills
Language development
Gross and Fine motor skills
Cognitive skills

Running, hopping, dancing, and climbing are examples of activities that foster muscle development and improve motor skills. Children also develop their mental and emotional muscles as they create elaborate, imaginative scenarios that require taking turns, problem solving, reasoning, etc.

As you might guess, at this age, children experience progressive development of their hands. They require development of postural control grasp, fine motor skills, upper and core body strength, proprioceptor control and visual motor integration prior to, and during, the development of writing skills. Playdough, painting, building blocks, threading beads, balancing on logs, and many other play activities develop these skills.

Good oral language skills are essential for a child to be successful, especially at school. Language development is more than just saying words or sentences. It encompasses skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, cause and effect, spatial concepts, etc. Our

dramatic play area is the perfect place for our students to build their language skills, among many others.

These are just a few examples of how our pre-k program is helping to engage children’s learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time allowing for individual differences in learning styles and encouraging creativity through a variety of play based experiences.



2020 Jet Track and Field Outlook by Coach Luke Boldt

It's that time of year again. Although the weather may not show it yet, we are indeed getting closer and closer to spring. And with spring comes track and field. As the boys and girls head coach, I am excited for another year of watching our athletes train and compete to become the best they can be. I hope the kids are as excited as I am.

This will be my 16th year as the Track Coach at Sterling and I've enjoyed them all. I work with the sprinters, sprint relays, and high jumpers. I am a former Jet myself and I've truly enjoyed teaching and coaching in my hometown.

Dave Vermeer will be back as our Throwers Coach. Dave is an SHS Alumni who has been coaching track at Sterling for over 25 years and has coached a lot of great throwers. He is a past record holder in the shot put at Sterling and continues to have successful throwers year after year.

Jake Davenport is back as our Distance/Long-Triple Jump Coach. Coach Davenport ran and jumped at The University of Nebraska - Kearney and has been a great addition to our coaching staff at Sterling over the last few years. His expertise in the long and triple jump, as well as training the distance runners is top notch.

Melissa Boldt is a volunteer coach who has been volunteering her coaching talents at Sterling for over 10 years. She also ran track in college for Kearney State. She ran the 400 meter hurdles in college and has been a huge part of our hurdlers' success over the years. She is a motivator and very goal oriented.

Our goals have always been to win every meet, place in the top 3 at Districts and Conference Meets, and to qualify as many kids as we can for the State Meet. We had a very successful 2019 season with the Girls Team getting State Runner-Up at the Nebraska State Track Meet!! Congratulations Girls!! We also had a few of our school records broken last year as well.

Here is a list of our 2019 State Meet Participants and the results of the meet:

-Girls (Girls State Runner-Up)

Discus: Emily Agena; 99-07, NP
Shot Put: Colby Thies; 37-02.25, 4th
100m: Nicole Harms; 12.85, 2nd
100m Hurdles: Nicole Harms; 15.31, 1st
300m Hurdles: Nicole Harms; 45.58, 1st
Long Jump: Nicole Harms; 17-00.25, 3rd
Overall Points: 39
Overall Place: 2nd

-Boys

Long Jump: Joel Rathe - 19-2.25 NP
3200m Relay: Sam Boldt, Trace Dirks, Diego Sterkel, Logan Jasa; 9:09.3, NP
800m Run: Logan Jasa; 2:10.07, NP
400m Relay: Cameron VanGroningen, Caleb Dolbow, Derek Buss, Tristan Dirks; 45.59, 6th
3200m Run: Logan Jasa; 11:07.4, NP Diego Sterkel; 11:21.7, NP
1600m Run: Logan Jasa; 4:49.82, NP
400m Dash: Caleb Dolbow; 51.29, 5th Tristan Dirks; 51.46, 6th
1600m Relay: Derek Buss, Sam Boldt, Caleb Dolbow, Tristan Dirks; 1st, 3:30.25
Triple Jump: Sam Boldt; 42-2.5; 8th
Overall Points: 21
Overall Place: 7th

GIRLS

-2019 Track Members Lettering

Seniors: Malayna Wingert, Nicole Harms, Emily Agena, Morgan Haner, Sydney Huls, Carly Wenzl

Juniors: Colby Thies

Sophomores: Kaitlyn Wusk, Belle Haner, Jessie Klein

Freshman: Ella Wingert, Kaylee Lafferty, Dani Janssen

-200 Point Club

Nicole Harms (276.25)

-2019 Team Accomplishments

1st Place: Mustang Invite, Irish Invite, PC Invite, Freeman Invite

2nd Place: Pioneer Conference Indoor, Pioneer Conference Outdoor

3rd Place: Mudecas (One Class)

BOYS

-2019 Track Members Lettering

Seniors: Ryan Lairmore, Logan Jasa, Tristan Dirks, Cameron VanGroningen, Trace Dirks, Caleb Dolbow

Juniors: Diego Sterkel, Joel Rathe

Sophomores: Sam Boldt, Derek Buss

Freshmen: Andrew Richardson, Garrett Hier, Sam Agena

-2019 Boys Track Team Accomplishments

1st Place: Mustang Invite, Lewiston Invite, Irish Invite, PC Invite, Pioneer Conference Outdoor

2nd Place: Pioneer Conference Indoor, Mudecas (One Class), Freeman Invite

3rd Place: Wilber Clatonia Invite

Placed in the top 3 teams at every meet

2019 NEW SCHOOL RECORDS

Nicole Harms 15.30 2019 100 Meter Hurdles

Derek Buss 3:30.25 2019 1600 Meter Relay

Sam Boldt

Caleb Dolbow

Tristan Dirks

We have a great group of kids again this year and I think we can do well in almost all of the events, girls and boys. We have strong leaders throughout the entire team and it will be exciting to watch them grow. The kids always seem to find ways to win, break records, and make it to the state track meet. I appreciate all the kids on the team. Sterling has always had teams loaded with good character and kids who work hard. Keep it up!!

Please come support our track team this year in any way you can. Our schedule is on the school website: www.sterlingjets.org. Districts will be May 13th and the Nebraska State Meet is May 22nd and 23rd.

Thanks again and Go Jets!

NO SCHOOL (PREK-12): MARCH 12 & 13

APRIL 1
SCHOOL IN SESSION

APRIL 8
NO SCHOOL (PreK-12)



PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



We still have some open spots in our Preschool Program for 3 & 4 year olds. If you are interested in signing your child up, please contact the office: 402-866-4761!

MARCH 2020 MENUS

BREAKFAST

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Yogurt Parfait	3 Pancakes	4 Breakfast Bar	5 Cereal	6 Donut
9 Cereal	10 Pancakes	11 Tornados	12 NO SCHOOL	13 NO SCHOOL
16 Pancakes	17 Cereal	18 Oatmeal	19 Omelet	20 French Toast Sticks
23 Toaster Pastry	24 Biscuits & Gravy	25 Cereal	26 Frudel	27 Pancakes
30 Strawberry & Cream Cheese Filled Bagels	31 Empanada			

A variety of fruits and vegetables are offered with every meal. ----- Milk is served with every meal.
 USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ----- **MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**
 Alternate Entree Offered Daily: Meat/Cheese Sandwich, PB&J, or Chef Salad

LUNCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Hamburger FF and/or Swt FF	3 Chili Cinnamon Roll	4 Chicken Teriyaki Rice	5 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes	6 Mac n Cheese Peas
9 Potato Bake	10 Burrito Rice	11 Sloppy Joe Broccoli	12 NO SCHOOL	13 NO SCHOOL
16 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Beans	17 Taco Soup	18 Chicken Tenders Waffles	19 Lasagna Green Beans	20 Fish Broccoli & Cheese
23 Spaghetti Coleslaw	24 Tacos	25 Sub Sandwich Chips	26 Chicken Alfredo Broccoli	27 Cheese Pizza Green Beans
30 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes	31 Mexican Lasagna Black Beans			

**MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE:
 MARCH 16-20, 2020**

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
March 1	2 SCC Milford/Lincoln College Visit B103 Quiz Bowl - 8:30AM Johnson-Brock JH GBB Tournament - 4PM 1st Day of Track Practice READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK	3 FFA District CDE @ SCC -Beatrice Heart Challenge Kick-Off	4 JH GBB vs. Neb. City Lourdes - HOME - 2:30PM	5	6	7	
8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SPRING FORWARD	9 Pioneer Conference Speech Contest @ Neb. City Lourdes	10 5th Grade Field Trip to Peru State College	11 End of 3rd Quarter 5th Grade Field Trip to Peru State College Freeman HS Quiz Bowl - 5PM	12 NO SCHOOL TEACHER INSERVICE	13 NO SCHOOL	14	
15	16 District Speech Contest @ Deshler SCHOOL BOARD MTG - 7PM	17 NW Missouri State Rep - 8:30AM	18	19 Pioneer Conference HS Quiz Bowl @ Johnson-Brock	20 Peru State Math Competition	21 Alumni BB Tournament	
22	23 Pioneer Conference JH Quiz Bowl @ Lewiston	24 MUDECAS Music Contest @ Pawnee City	25 Pioneer Conference Indoor Track Meet @ Doane (Crete)	MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE			28 Prom @ Hartman's
29	30 NHS Blood Drive in the Gym	31 HS Turkey Creek Relays @ Friend - 10AM	April 1	2 STATE FFA CONVENTION @ LINCOLN	3 STATE FFA CONVENTION @ LINCOLN	4 ACT Test Date	
STATE FBIA CONVENTION @ KEARNEY			STATE FFA CONVENTION @ LINCOLN			SKILLSUSA STATE CONFERENCE @ GRAND ISLAND	

Calendar is subject to change. Please check the Weekly Bulletin, Facebook, or Google Calendar on the school website: www.sterlingjets.org for the most up-to-date info. Thank you!

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

250 MAIN STREET

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Thomas Sharp

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Scott Harrington

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Brent Heusman

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Addie Heusman

