

The Sterling Jet Brief is designed to provide our community with a clear and concise summary of the key discussions and decisions made at each Sterling School Board meeting. Our goal is to keep you informed about the progress of our schools and to foster an open dialogue between the board and the public.

Next Meeting

Date: June 15, 2026
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Sterling Public Schools Library

The Public is welcome to attend

Our Guiding Principles

Our Mission

Sterling Public Schools will educate students to excel, prepare to compete, inspire to serve, and challenge to learn.

Our Vision

All Sterling Public Schools Students will achieve their full potential.

Sterling Board of Education

Mark Horstman, President
 Julie Saathoff, Vice President
 McKenzie Saathoff, Secretary
 Russ Trauernicht, Treasurer

Rick Vollman, Board Member
 Lauren Weyers, Board Member

Board Goals

Goal I: Organizational and Cultural Leadership

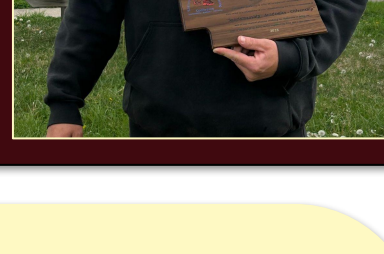
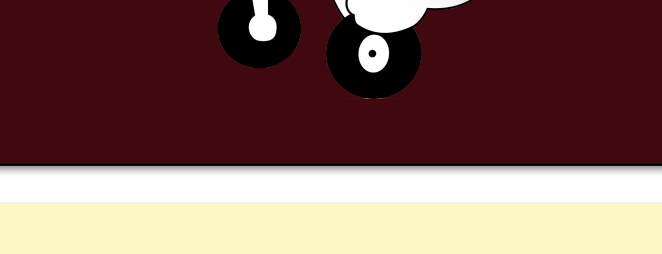
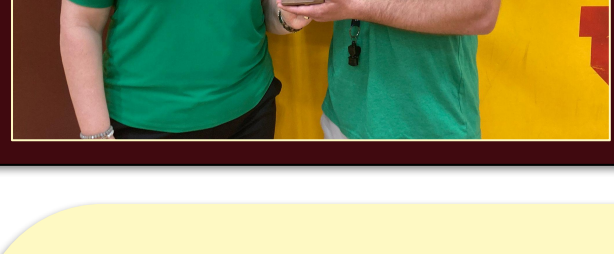
Objective: To foster a culture of academic excellence, opportunity, and innovation to support high-quality instruction, and staff development to ensure the success of all students.

Strategy I. Lead initiatives to enhance student success, staff development, and operational efficiency to support the long-term success of the district.

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A month in review at Sterling

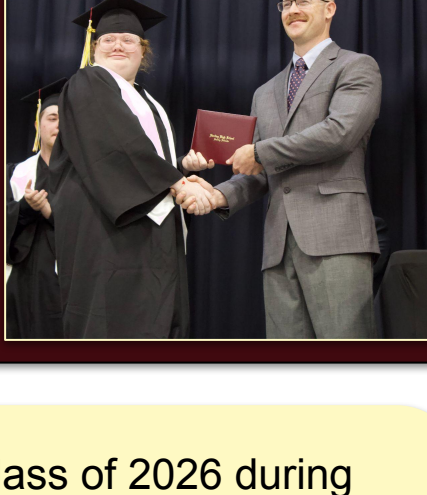
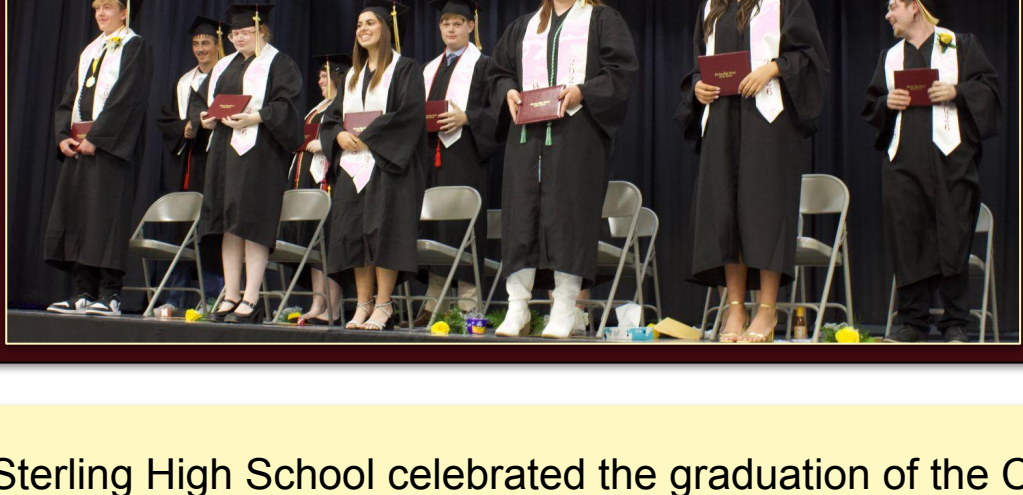


Sterling staff members recognized: Mr. A was recently honored with the Golden Apple Award, an outstanding teaching recognition presented monthly by 10/11 News and Doane University. Through his commitment and care for students, Coach A makes a lasting impact on the Sterling community every day. His small gestures often have the greatest influence, helping students feel valued. We are incredibly proud of this well-deserved recognition and grateful for the positive difference he makes in the lives of our students.

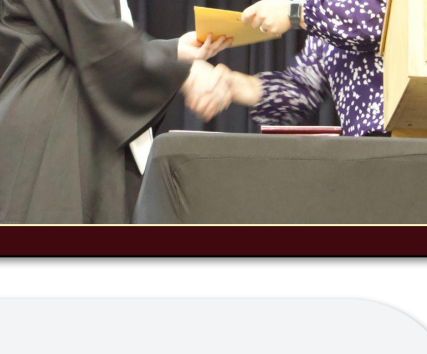
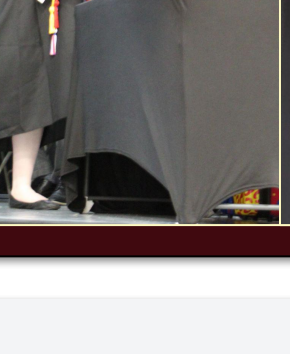
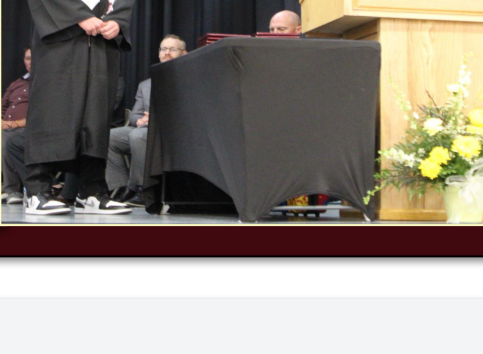
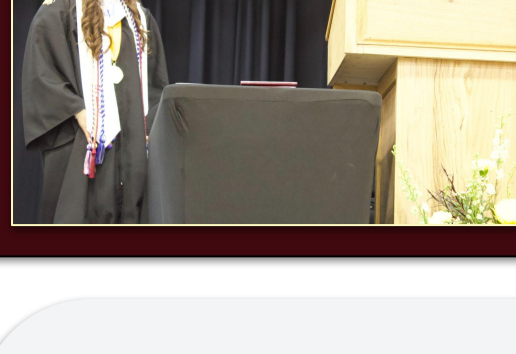
Each year, the Eastern Cornhusker Trapshooting Conference (ECTC) recognizes its Coach of the Year award recipients at the conclusion of the spring season. This year, Sterling's own Andrew Thomsen was named the senior division Coach of the Year. Congratulations, Coach Thomsen, on this well-deserved achievement!



Arbor Day: Sterling Elementary students gathered at the park to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree. As part of the activity, students learned about the importance of trees and gained hands-on experience in proper tree planting and care. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for students to connect with nature while helping beautify the community.



Graduation: Sterling High School celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 during commencement ceremonies May 9. The graduating class consisted of 11 seniors who were recognized for their academic accomplishments, extracurricular involvement, and contributions to the school and community. Family, friends, staff, and community members gathered to honor the graduates as they marked this important milestone and prepared for the next chapter of their lives.



Sterling Foundation: Four Sterling graduates were awarded scholarships through the Sterling Public Schools Foundation. This year's recipients were: the H. Dale Parks Scholarship, Jubilee Matkins; the Velma Boden Scholarship, Brody Horstman; the Elenga-Hazen Scholarship, Chloe Smith; and the Sterling Foundation Scholarship, Brooklyn Dunn.

The Sterling Public Schools Foundation continues to support students pursuing higher education through scholarship opportunities. Individuals, families, graduating classes, etc. interested in supporting the Foundation are encouraged to make a donation. These contributions help provide scholarships to eligible Sterling seniors as they prepare for their future educational endeavors. For more information please reach out to Jill McAuliffe.



State Track: The Sterling Jets Track and Field team was represented by two athletes at the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships in Omaha. Junior Beau Kaster qualified and competed in the boys' 110-meter hurdles, while sophomore Jocelyn Rathe represented Sterling in the girls' 100-meter dash. Congratulations Beau and Jocelyn on their hard work and successful season.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: The superintendent's report included several summer maintenance and facility improvement projects, including painting, flooring updates, restroom repairs, HVAC maintenance, roof leak repairs, and exterior building improvements. Additional work is planned in the science room, art room, gymnasium, and custodial areas to help maintain safe learning environments for students and staff.

The report also included an update from a recent MUDECAS meeting. MUDECAS music contests and junior high/high school track meets were successfully hosted. Updates were shared regarding Quiz Bowl competitions, including a return to hallmark questions for the high school division. Several MUDECAS leadership positions were confirmed for the 2026–27 school year.

MUDECAS members also approved constitution changes and admission price increases, setting event admission at \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. The 2026 MUDECAS volleyball and basketball tournaments will use the same facilities for the upcoming seasons with considerations of adding the auditorium as a volleyball venue in the future. Members continued discussions regarding event broadcasting and pay-per-view options, although Hudl will remain the primary platform for basketball coverage. Additional discussion focused on establishing minimum throw distances for discus and shot put events to improve the efficiency of future middle school track meets.

Principal's Report: The principal's report included the results of the 25-26 student MAP test results. The results that were discussed are linked below.

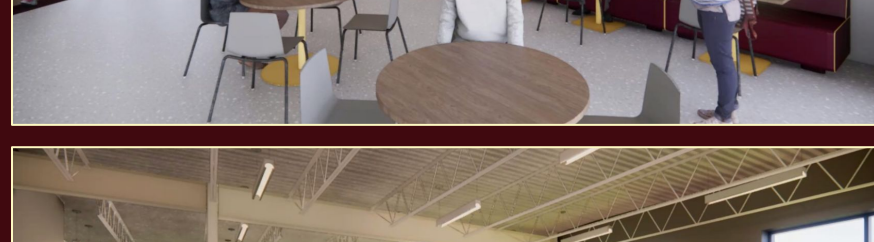
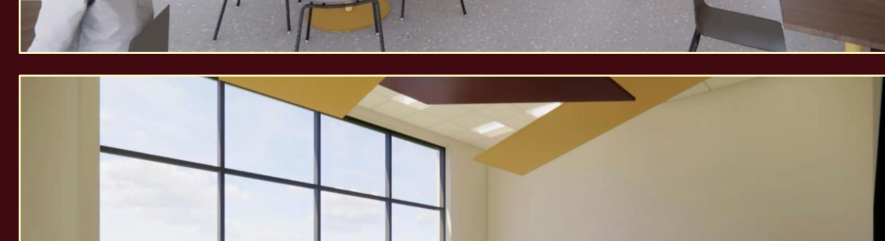
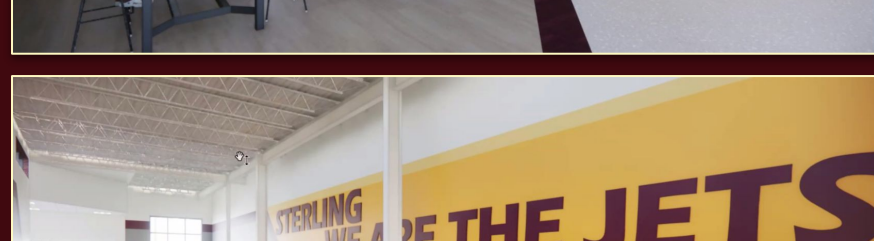
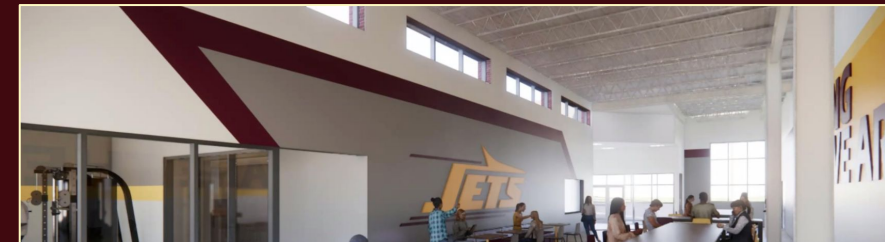
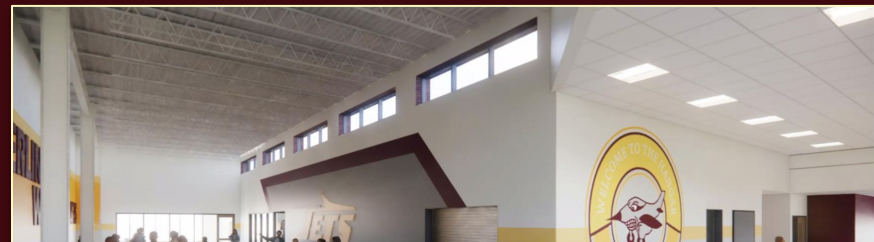
The district's after-school program will not be offered during the summer months. Summer school is scheduled for June 22–26 and August 3–7, with 20 students currently enrolled. District administrators will also participate in several professional development opportunities, including the District Leadership Retreat on May 19, the ESU 4 Leadership Retreat on May 28, and the ESU 4 Data Retreat on June 2–3. These trainings will focus on leadership development, data analysis, and planning for the upcoming school year.

[Sterling 25-26 MAP Data](#)

AD/Transportation Report: The transportation/AD report included information on required and activity inspections for the upcoming school year. A second round of required 80-day vehicle inspections will begin later this month, and a transportation committee meeting is being planned prior to the June Board meeting.

A few more updates from the recent MUDECAS meeting were also shared. Beginning next spring, field events at the MUDECAS Track Meet will start at 8:30 a.m. Conference schools also reviewed the 2027 spring activities schedule, as Easter will occur in March, creating scheduling considerations for music, speech, and track events.

The district's 2026–27 activities calendar has been completed and shared, and summer weights and conditioning will begin June 1. In addition to three sessions for secondary students, a fourth session has been added for elementary students during the month of June. Other upcoming summer activities include the high school band trip, driver's education, and summer basketball camps.



Building and Grounds: The building and grounds committee met with CMBA architects in April to discuss the kitchen and athletic commons portions of the bond project. Initial renderings of the commons project were provided in the committee meeting.

Student Report: Student, Joie Janssen, addressed the school board regarding its recent vote to replace Valedictorian and Salutatorian recognition with a Cum Laude honors system. She acknowledged the potential benefits of the new approach but argued the timing unfairly affects current students who spent years working toward the previous system. She asked the board to consider delaying implementation or recognizing both systems for the current senior class.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: The next scheduled board meeting will be regular June meeting on June 15, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Sterling High School Library.

