

January 2020

# Superintendent's Note

*Hay Springs  
Public Schools  
Monthly Newsletter*

Wow! The year 2019 is history and we look forward to the second semester of 2019-20 with eager students and a busy schedule of school activities. I would like to wish each of you a very Blessed, Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2020. I continue to feel blessed to be a part of this community and have the privilege to work with a very dedicated staff, board of education and your wonderful children. As we begin the final semester of the school year I want to remind all staff, parents and students that by working together we can all accomplish more. It is imperative that as we dedicate ourselves to the improvement of education for our children that we all work very hard to keep the lines of communication open. Parents please communicate with your child's teachers and coaches if you have concerns. It is impossible for our staff to respond to student and parent concerns if we are not all willing to communicate directly and honestly with each other. As the administrator, my door is nearly always open and never hesitate to give me a phone call. I am always willing to listen to your concerns, however our policy dictates that the first order in the resolution of a problem is direct communication between parent and/or the student with the teacher and/or coach about your concerns. If we are going to hold true to our mission, vision, and goals for the district we truly have to continually work together in this effort.

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of Hay Springs Schools in cooperation with families and community, is to empower students within an emotionally supportive and physically safe environment with the academic, social, physical and technological skills to achieve success as responsible, self-disciplined citizens of a global society.

## **Vision Statement**

**"Empower Students to Achieve Lifelong Success."**

## **Hay Springs Goal**

**80% of Hay Springs School students will meet projected growth and/or 80% of students will be proficient on NWEA MAP assessments in Math, Reading, Language Arts and Science.**

- G/B BB Holiday Tournament - January 3rd and 4th
- HS G/B BB hm. vs. Oelrichs - Thursday, January 9th
- HS G/B BB @ Leyton - Saturday, January 11th
- HS WR @ Garden County - Saturday, January 11th
- JH B/BB home vs. Cody-Kilgore - Monday, January 13th
- Oregon Trail Honor Band - Monday, January 13th

*Mark Your Calendar!*

As we return from our Christmas and New Year's break and time with family and friends I am reminded of how so blessed as Americans we are to have the diverse educational opportunities we provide for our children. As an adult when I reflect on the educational system that served me well in my youth, I readily realize that the education of today must be much more and continue to improve and challenge our students. With the advancement of technology, and the social changes that have taken place in our country our educational systems continue to play an increasingly important role in the lives of our children. Please know that the employees at Hay Springs are very dedicated to providing your children with the best possible opportunities to learn. If we do not have some struggling students, then we clearly do not have the bar high enough. It is my hope that the majority of our students are academically challenged on a daily basis. With challenges comes the additional need for encouragement and support from staff and parents.

As our students move through our educational system and move on to additional educational opportunities or the world of work, they will continue to deal with challenges in their life. How we confront our challenges in life has a great effect on the quality of life we will enjoy. We have a choice every day, to appreciate the opportunities we have in life or to dwell on our challenges. If we can get in the habit of choosing to look at our blessings and opportunities, we will be amazed at how we begin to see many more positive things around us. The reality is things around us don't change, we are the ones who will change and when we look for good, we find it. It continues to be one of my goals to help our entire staff and student population focus on the many blessings we have in life and support each other in positive ways as we work together to pursue our Mission, Vision and Goals at Hay Springs School. The continuation of the NPBIS (Nebraska Positive Behavior Intervention Support) program at Hay Springs School is an effort to identify the positive behaviors of our students. By doing so, we encourage an increase in positive behavior by staff and students as we move into the final semester of 2019-20.

The Hay Springs January board meeting is set for January 13<sup>th</sup> and will be our re-organizational meeting for the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our current Board of Education members, Brenda Johnson, Marilyn Reed, Miriam Kearns, Shavona Henry, Greg Heiting and David Russell for their dedicated service to our community. Serving on the Board of Education is a very, very important position in all communities. It can be rewarding but is also a thankless position, so if you get the opportunity, please, thank these individuals for serving your community. I also want to remind board members and other patrons of the district that it's the time of year to file for the upcoming election to the Board of Education. If you have an interest in being a member of the Hay Springs Board of Education, visit with a current board member or stop into the office to discuss commitment and responsibilities of Board Members.



In closing I thought I would update you on some of my family blessings over the past year. Sue and I will celebrate our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary over the break with family back in Boyd County. My mother passed away in February so will be celebrating our first Christmas without any of our parents living. Our youngest daughter following graduation for UNK is employed at a Montessori School in Lavista. We been busy attending and enjoying our nineteen grandchildren events throughout the year and are eagerly awaiting our twentieth grandchild this spring. We continue to feel appreciated and supported by the wonderful community of Hay Springs, so it is evident that we are truly richly blessed on a daily basis. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our Hay Springs educational system.

Mr. Lechtenberg  
Superintendent/ Ag Science Instructor



## Principal's Playbook

Welcome back students, staff and families. After a refreshing break, the staff and I begin the second semester with new energy and inspiration to make the second half of the school year better than the first. Wishing all Hay Springs School community members, a year full of hope, love and joy. Happy New Year friends.

Mark J. Hagge

## Cafeteria News

The magic Plate winners in December were Larry Nelson, Jaron Dahlgren and Mya Turman. A Very Special Thank You to Pete & Mary Vannatta with S&V Livestock and Art & Carolyn Lipps for the very generous donation of beef this month and to E.J. and Teresa Frink for the donation of pork! It is such a tremendous donation and words just can't explain how grateful we are to have such high quality Beef and Pork to feed our kids! This community is AMAZING! Thank You!

Our Super Bowl Dinner will be January 30th. Please feel welcome to join your child for dinner but please do RSVP to the office by the morning of Monday the 27th! Thank you for your cooperation!

Happy & Healthy New Year!!



On November 20, the Hay Springs FFA Chapter took 14 members to the District XII competition, the results are as follows:

**Individual Events:**

Jett Rasmussen Creed Speaking – Purple

RyLee Wolken Senior Public Speaking – Blue

Jaiden Anderson Cooperative Speaking – Blue

Hannah Hoos Employment Skills Interview – Blue

Colter Meeks Extemporaneous Speaking – Red

Toby Scherbarth Junior Public Speaking – Red

**Senior Parliamentary Procedure Team:**

Blue – Logan D, RyLee W, Jaiden A, Hannah H, Jazlyn S, Laney S

Red – Braydon B, Jett R, Augustus S, Elissa R, Owen R, Blair H

Also, on December 16, the chapter held a meeting where we decided to cater the desserts for the Dueling Pianos performance which will be held at the Hay Springs Community Hall on New Years Eve. At the meeting, the chapter also held a gift exchange and enjoyed pizza.

# PBIS

January Newsletter PBIS:

November Monthly HAWK Buck winners:

K-2: Emery Moxon

3rd-5th: Kooper Scott

6th-8th: Abbey Russell

If you see these students make sure to congratulate them on their positive behavior, and maybe ask what they chose to do as their reward!

Upcoming dates:

2nd Quarter Assembly - Tuesday, January 14th

@ 10:15am

3rd Quarter Assembly - Monday, March 23rd @

2:05pm



Congratulations to the following students for being selected into Oregon Trail Honor Band held on January 13th at Alliance High School:

Flute-Ashley Tobiasson

Alto Sax-Sam Hindman

Tenor Sax-Angelica Volquardson

Baritone-Jocelyn Varvel

Tuba-Gabriel Varvel

# Locker Decorating Contest

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The First and Second level decided to call war on locker decorating. The winners will be declared with a prize. Here are some of the lockers that were decorated.



# Lion King Movie Night



Family night was very small but it was fun watching the Lion King they did crafts before and they had an awesome night.

# Congrats to Ava!

Every year the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors an essay contest titled, "Patriot's Pen." The contest is open to middle school students nationwide. Each year the students are given a writing prompt and are required to write 200-300 words to qualify for the contest. This year's prompt was titled, "What makes America great?" It is up to each writer to interpret and write what the prompt means to them.

This year Hay Springs' 8th grader Ava McKillip was chosen to be the local VFW winner. From there, her essay was entered into the District competition. Again, Ava's essay placed first. Her essay is currently being considered in the Nebraska state competition. If Ava's essay receives first prize again she will be entered into the national competition. Ava would also receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C.

I think everyone associated with Hay Springs can be proud of the accomplishments of Ava. We are blessed to live in the United States and Ava's essay demonstrates how our young people do not take that gift for granted. Good luck Ava. Hay Springs is proud of you!



# Hay Springs Hawks NHS Induction

The new inductees are Ashley  
Tobiasson and Sam Hindman





# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

January 2020

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## Winter break: a good time for college prep!

Here are a few things you can do:

### Seniors, complete your FAFSA

If you haven't already, complete your [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Need help? Use our [FAFSA Tools](#) or call us to make an appointment for free help: Omaha - 888.357.6300; Lincoln - 800.303.3745; Kearney - 800.666.3721; or Scottsbluff - 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

### Juniors, prepare for the ACT

All Nebraska high school juniors will take the ACT Test this spring. Ask your school counselor about test-prep options at your school. These [resources](#) are also available.

### Search for scholarships

Use our free [ScholarshipQuest](#) tool to find Nebraska-based awards. You'll also find links to national scholarship sites.

### Update your Activities Resume

Our free [Activities Resume](#) is an easy way to track your extracurricular activities, accomplishments, volunteer work, and part-time jobs. The information is then readily available when you apply for scholarships and employment.

### Volunteer

In addition to giving back to your community, your volunteer work can lead to scholarship opportunities. Make sure you track your involvement on your [Activities Resume](#).

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## January "To Do" List

### Seniors:

- If you haven't already, complete the [FAFSA](#).
- Apply for scholarships; see [ScholarshipQuest](#) for Nebraska-based awards.
- Update your [Activities Resume](#).
- Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

### Juniors:

- Update your [Activities Resume](#).
  - Register by January 10 for the February 8 ACT.
  - Register by February 14 for the March 14 SAT.
  - Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).
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# JANUARY 2020

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

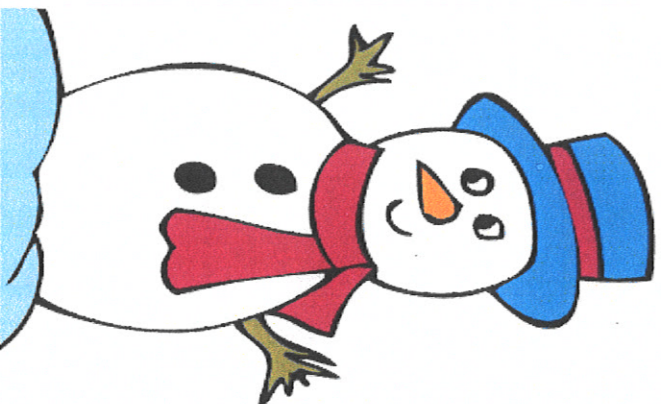
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b><u>"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider."</u></b>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Hamburger Gravy/Biscuits	Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Chicken Fajita/Corn	Breakfast: Omelet/Toast Lunch: Turkey Subs/Chips	Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick Lunch: Tater Tot Casserole/Green Beans	Breakfast: Biscuits&Gravy Lunch: BTS Burger/Chips	Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Beef Patty/Mashed Potatoes	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Breakfast: Tornados Lunch: Chili/Cinnamon Roll	Breakfast: Sliders Lunch: Sloppy Joes/Chips	Breakfast: Breakfast Casserole Lunch: Chicken Sand/Baked Beans	Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Beef Patty/Mashed Potatoes			
19	20 *	21	22	23	24	25
Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Lasagna/Bread Stick	Breakfast: Omelet/Sausage Lunch: Burritos/Corn	Breakfast: Breakfast Casserole Lunch: Chicken Sand/Baked Beans	Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Beef Patty/Mashed Potatoes			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Breakfast: Tornado Lunch: Variety of Soup/Breadstick	Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Chicken Strips/Nuggets/Mac-N-Cheese	Breakfast: Omelet/Toast Lunch: Ham/Hashbrown Casserole	Breakfast: Biscuits&Gravy Lunch: Loaded Nachos/Corn			

NOTES:

A Very Special Thank You to Pete & Mary Vannatta with S&V Livestock & Art & Carolyn Lipps for the very generous donation of Beef this month and to E.J. & Teresa Frink for the donation of pork! It is such a tremendous donation and words just can't explain how grateful we are to have such high quality Beef and Pork to feed our kids! This community is AMAZING!

## Hay Springs School Cafeteria

- \*Prek-12 Breakfast & Lunch Menus
- \*All Meals are served with 3 choices of milk and 4 choices of 100% Juice. Water is always available in the cafeteria area.
- \*Fruit and Veggie Bar is offered with every meal.
- \*There are 3 main meal choices offered every lunch.
- \*Menus are subject to change without notice.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
			NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	1	NO SCHOOL	2	G/B BB @ Sioux County TBA – (2 day) Holiday Tournament	3	G/B BB @ Sioux County TBA Holiday Tourney 4H Robotics Mock Competition G/B BB @ Leyton 1pm	4	
5	RETURN TO SCHOOL	6	District Ag Ed Contest @ WNCC	7	*G/B BB hm. vs. Oelrichs 3pm	8	9	10	HS WR @ Garden County 10 am	11	
12	*JH B/BB hm. vs. Cody- Kilgore 4pm Oregon Trail Honor Band @ Alliance	13	G/BB @ Gordon/Rush 4pm	14	"Hawk Talk"	15	G/B BB @ Cody-Kilgore 3pm	16	17	*G/BB hm. vs. Potter-Dix 1pm *JH B/BB hm. vs. Hemingford 10 am HS WR @ Bennett County 9am	18
19	G/B BB PANCO 1/20-1/21 Bunny Brackets TBA	20	G/B BB PANCO 1/20-1/21 Bunny Brackets TBA	21	22	*JH B/BB hm. vs. Gordon/Rush 3:30 pm	23	G/B BB PANCO – FINALS @ Edgemont 1/24-1/25	24	Rec. League Ball HS WR @ Chadron 10am Bridgeport Speech Meet	25
26		27	*JH/B BB hm. vs. Olerichs 3pm *V & JV B/BB (only) hm. vs. Oelrichs 5pm	28	FBLA Business Competition @ CSC	29	G/B BB @ Sioux County 4pm JH B/BB @ Sioux County 3pm Super Bowl Lunch	30	*G/B BB hm vs. Edgemont 3pm "SENIOR NIGHT"	31	

# JANUARY

2020



• HAPPY NEW YEAR •

## NOTES:

RSVP to the office by Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to eat

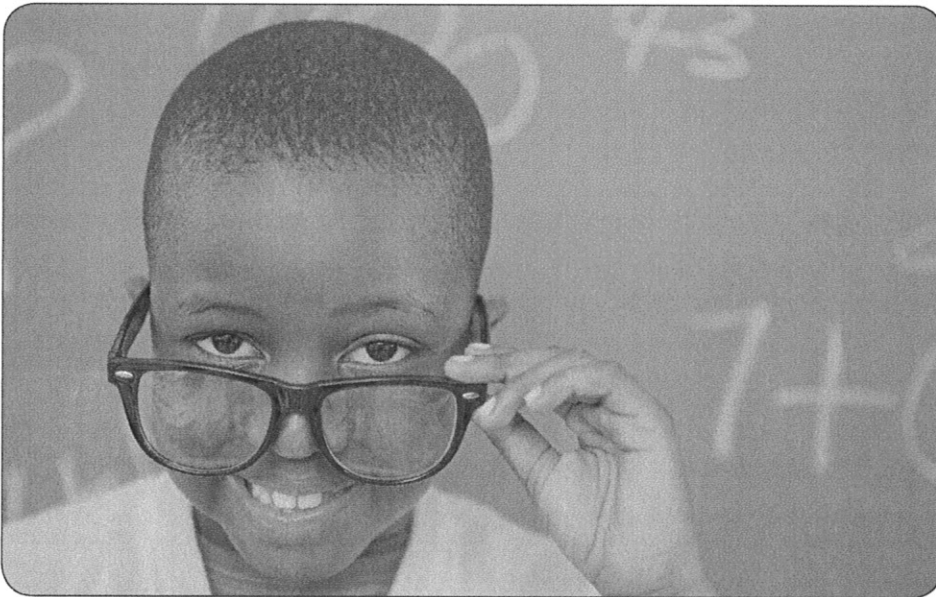
SUPER BOWL LUNCH with us.

# Elementary School Parents<sup>®</sup>

January 2020  
Vol. 31, No. 5

Hay Springs Public Schools

*make the difference!*



## Asking questions can boost your child's thinking skills

Talking with your child is an effective way to build thinking skills—especially if you ask certain kinds of questions. Experts recognize six categories of thinking skills. Ask your child questions that help him:

1. **Recall knowledge.** Ask about facts your child knows. “Who is the president?” “What is the capital of Virginia?” Words that will help with this include *who*, *when*, *what*, *where* and even *list*.
2. **Understand.** When your child learns about things, check the depth of his comprehension. “Can you explain one cause of the Civil War?”
3. **Apply knowledge.** In real-life situations, how will your child use what he knows? “What has

our country learned from the Civil War? How can we apply it to life today?”

4. **Analyze.** Many things can be divided into groups, such as types of animals. Have your child compare and contrast groups of things. “How are fish and humans different? How are they alike?”
5. **Evaluate.** Ask your child what he thinks about things. “How have smartphones changed our lives?”
6. **Create.** Ask your child to design his own way to solve a problem. Use words such as *invent* and *what if*.

Source: P. Armstrong, “Bloom’s Taxonomy,” Vanderbilt University, The Center for Teaching, [nswc.com/element\\_bloom](http://nswc.com/element_bloom).

## Help your child build intrinsic motivation



Most parents have used rewards to motivate their kids at one time or another.

And there’s no question that reward systems work.

But when the rewards stop, the motivation sometimes stops, too. Researchers have found that students who are motivated *only* by the desire to get a good grade rarely do more than the minimum they need to get by.

However, when students are motivated by an inner reward, they are more likely to stick with a task. Students with *intrinsic motivation* learn because they’re curious. They retain what they have learned longer, and they earn higher grades.

To foster intrinsic motivation:

- **Have your child think** about what she wants to learn before she starts an assignment.
- **Help your child see progress** as she works on a big task.
- **Give your child opportunities** to share what she’s learning.
- **Offer positive feedback** and encourage her to praise herself for a job well done.

Source: K. Cherry, “Intrinsic Motivation: Why You Do Things,” Verywell Mind, [nswc.com/element\\_intrinsic](http://nswc.com/element_intrinsic).

## When elementary students miss school, they miss out on a lot



If your child misses just one day a week of school, he'll have missed more than two and a half years of class time before he graduates! Even missing one day a month quickly adds up.

Frequent absences result in lost learning time in critical subjects like math and reading, as well as class discussions and demonstrations. Even doing extra homework will not make up for the things your child misses when he's out of school.

So what can you do to make sure your child's attendance is regular?

- **Prep the night before.** Teach your child not to leave for tomorrow what he can finish tonight! That means his backpack is loaded and waiting at the door. His clothes are laid out.

His lunch is packed. The less scrambling he has to do, the less likely he'll be to miss the bus.

- **Enforce a sensible bedtime.** Your child needs sleep to function, so be sure he gets enough. Occasionally staying up late to finish an assignment isn't a crisis, but it shouldn't become a habit.
- **Stick to a morning routine.** Have your child wake up at the same time each day, so he has enough time to get ready without rushing.

**"The habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather they make all the difference."**

—Aristotle

## Teach your child to follow four steps to achieve any goal



January is a time for taking stock and setting goals. Many adults make some type of New Year's resolutions. Then two weeks later, most realize that they haven't followed through. Kids are no different.

Why not make this the year that your child learns how to achieve the goals she sets for herself? When your child sets a goal, encourage her to choose one she can reach in a short time frame. Then, help her follow four steps for achieving the goal:

1. **State the goal.** "My goal is to learn my multiplication facts." She should write it down and post it where she will see it.
2. **Plan how to meet the goal.** "I will make flash cards and study them

for 15 minutes every night. I will ask Dad to quiz me on Fridays."

3. **Talk about the goal with others.** This builds commitment to the goal. Your child should tell her teacher what she plans to do.
4. **Do each step in the plan, one at a time.** If problems come up, talk about possible solutions. Perhaps she is too tired after doing her homework each night to review her flash cards. Maybe she could study them in the mornings while she eats breakfast instead.

Don't forget to praise your child for her effort each step of the way. "I am proud of you for studying your multiplication facts this morning." And when she achieves her goal, celebrate the way her hard work paid off!

## Do you encourage your child to work independently?



"Mom, I can't do it. I need help!" Every child makes that plea once in a while. But if your child says it every day, you may need to help her become more independent.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out if you are fostering self-reliance:

\_\_\_ 1. **Do you tell your child that you believe she can do it?**

\_\_\_ 2. **Do you help your child break big projects down into smaller pieces that are easier to finish?**

\_\_\_ 3. **Do you remind your child of the importance of persistence?** "You couldn't ride a bike the first time you tried. But you kept at it. You'll learn this, too, if you keep at it."

\_\_\_ 4. **Do you ask questions when your child gets stuck?** "What did you learn when you read the chapter?"

\_\_\_ 5. **Do you compliment your child when she finishes work on her own?**

**How well are you doing?**

If most of your answers are *yes*, you are helping your child learn how to work on her own. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Elementary School  
**Parents**  
make the difference!

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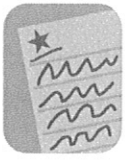
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# Bring geography to life with fun and educational activities



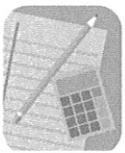
Learning about geography can make the entire world more relevant to your child. To get him thinking a little bit more about geography, have your child:

- **Draw a map** of how to get from your house to school, the grocery store or a friend's house. Then follow the map together.
- **Walk outside** and identify *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*, as well as *northeast*, *northwest*, *southeast* and *southwest*. Challenge him to describe where things in your town are located. "My school is *northeast* of my house." "The library is *south* of the fire station."
- **Go through your house** and talk about where various items came from. Look for labels to see where things were made. A calculator may have come from Taiwan.

A box of cereal may have a Battle Creek, Michigan or Chicago, Illinois address. Locate them on a map.

- **Look for street patterns.** In some towns, streets run north and south, while avenues run east and west. Or, street names may be alphabetical. Help your child recognize the patterns.
- **Start a collection** of objects from countries around the world. Stamps, postcards and coins are all easy items to collect, categorize and store.
- **Learn more about** where his ancestors came from. Find these places on a map. If possible, help him learn about the routes his ancestors traveled when they came to this country. Where do your relatives live now? Again, check the map.

# Ways you can support your child during homework time



There's no question that today's students have more homework than students did in the past. And it can be quite a challenge to fit homework into busy family schedules.

But homework is a fact of life. To make the most of homework time:

- **Help your child** manage her time. Set a regular time for homework each day. Don't let homework be the last thing your child does before going to bed.
- **Help your child** decide which homework to complete first. Some kids prefer to start with the easier work, while others like to get the toughest work out of the way first.

Have your child experiment to see which works best for her.

- **Offer help**, but don't do the assignment for her. Doing homework helps your child learn to be independent. If you do the work, your child won't learn that lesson.
- **Have your child** read aloud to you every night. As you are reading together, stop and ask questions.
- **Stay in touch** with the teacher. Be sure to let the teacher know if your child seems to struggle with homework often. Ask what you can do at home to support your child.
- **Remain positive.** Your attitude will affect your child.

**Q:** My eight-year-old son has tantrums when he gets angry or frustrated. He's acting the same way in school, and his teacher has asked for my help in getting him to control himself. What can I do?

## Questions & Answers

**A:** Elementary-age children have more stress in their lives than most parents realize. When they don't have the skills to cope with stress, they may resort to toddler-style outbursts and crying fits.

However, your child's success in school and with other children depends on his learning how to control his behavior.

To minimize temper tantrums, first try to figure out what triggers them. Keep a record of your child's behavior for one week. What happens just before a tantrum begins? Do you notice patterns? Then, help him avoid some of the situations that lead to stress.

Next, give your child tools to manage his behavior. When he has a meltdown at home, suggest that he:

- **Take time out.** Have him remove himself from the situation for a five-minute breather. Let him return when he feels composed enough to talk calmly.
- **Use calming techniques.** Teach him to breathe deeply, while slowly counting to 10. Have him dribble a ball, pet an animal, or tell himself, "I can work through this."
- **Throw it out.** Have him write or draw his angry feelings on paper. Then have him wad the paper up and toss it away.
- **Talk it out.** Help your child become more self-aware. Notice when he's having a bad day. Help him name his feelings.

# It Matters: Reading

## Help your child discover the joy of reading



Some kids seem to have their noses constantly in a book. But others haven't found the joy of reading yet.

To encourage your child to read:

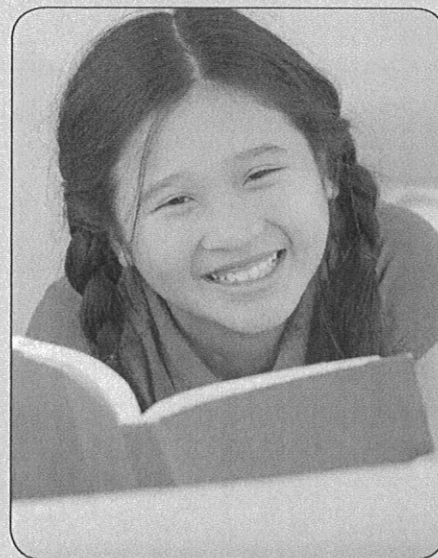
- **Ask your librarian** to recommend high-interest books. There are books that appeal to almost every child. Kids who enjoy adventure may find that they love the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Those who like to laugh may enjoy the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.
- **Make a library scavenger hunt.** The next time you're in the library, make up a list of questions that require your child to use different reference books. Make these fun—the batting average of a famous baseball player, the average temperature at Disney World.
- **Keep track** of how many books your child reads. Paste a sticker on a chart for each book he completes. Or, encourage him to make a paper chain—one link for each book. Challenge him to make a chain long enough to stretch around his room.
- **Suggest audiobooks.** There are wonderful recordings of favorite books—many may be available from your public library. Sometimes just hearing the words in a book can encourage a child to go back and read it later.
- **Read aloud.** It's one of the most traditional ways to get kids to read—and it really works! Choose a book you both enjoy, set aside 15 minutes for reading and invite your child to snuggle up with you.

## Reading opens the door to information and enjoyment

It's important to help your child understand the value of reading and how it connects to so many things in her life and in the world.

Reading is essential for:

- **Obtaining information.** People learn about rules, directions, facts and more. Have your child read a recipe to you as you cook. Read a manual aloud that explains how to put something together. Challenge her to read to find answers to questions, such as "How can I get a grass stain out of your shirt?"
- **Communication.** Talk with your child about the ways reading and writing help you communicate with others—through mail, email, texts and notes. Then suggest that your child exchange letters with a friend. Or she could write an email to a local politician about an issue that's important to her.



- **Pleasure.** Help your child plan a relaxing end-of-the-day reading routine. And be sure to help her find books that will give her a good laugh or take her on an exciting adventure.

## Set some family reading goals for the new calendar year



The new calendar year offers the opportunity to think about the past and set goals for the future.

This should include

family reading goals!

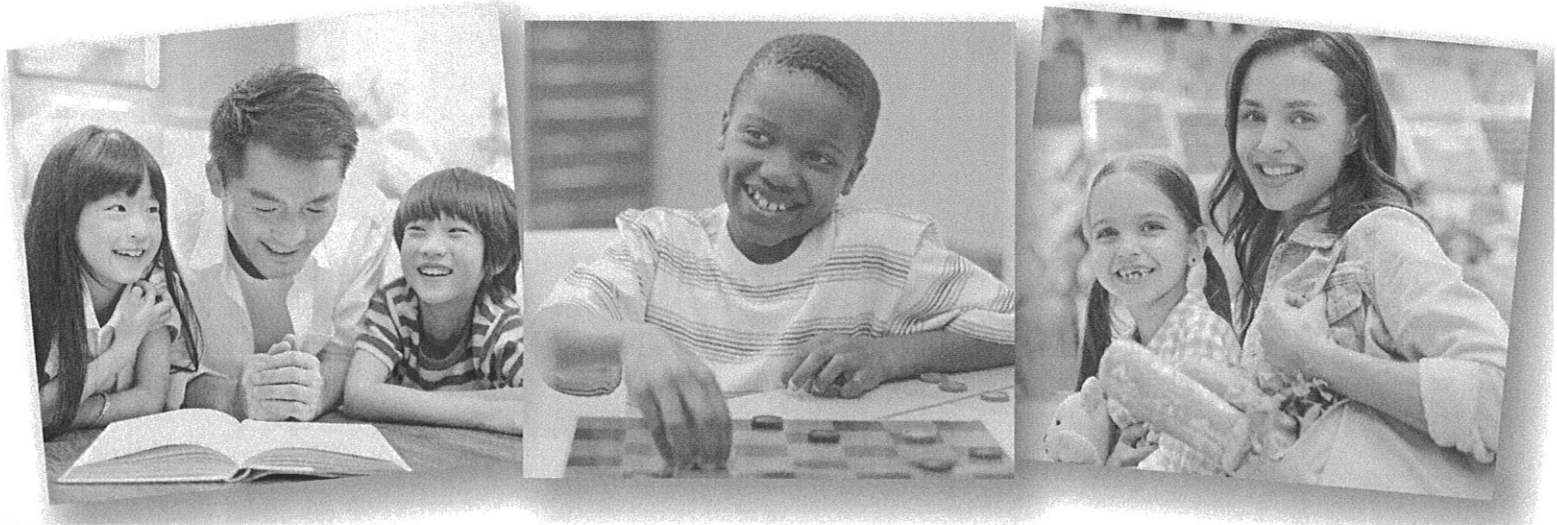
Take time with your child to:

- **Review favorite books** or stories from the past year. If the books are nearby, look through them together. Have your child choose his three favorites. Ask, "What was the best part of this story? Why?" Or, "What is your favorite picture in this book?"
- **Discuss future reading plans.** How much time are family members spending on reading for pleasure? Are there ways you and your child can improve your reading habits? Together, write any ideas or goals you may have. Post them in a place where you will see them often.
- **Plan to read new things.** In addition to books, suggest your child read magazines, newspapers, cookbooks, catalogs—anything and everything he can get his hands on!

# Parent & Child Activity Calendar

## Elementary School

Hay Springs Public Schools



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

### Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School Parents make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2020</b>			<b>1</b> Help your child set a goal and write a plan to achieve it this year.	<b>2</b> Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then let your child pick a word.	<b>3</b> Make a list of the best times you had with your child last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do them again this year.	<b>4</b> Give your child a notebook and encourage him to keep a journal. He should try to write in it daily.
<b>5</b> When your child is unsuccessful, ask, "How would you do it differently next time?"	<b>6</b> Have your child estimate how many bowls of cereal she can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.	<b>7</b> Think of an inspirational saying or quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.	<b>8</b> Good report card? High grade on a test? Reward your child with a favorite meal or one-on-one time with you.	<b>9</b> Tonight at dinner, put a "price" on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the total cost of the meal.	<b>10</b> School absences add up. Make sure your child is attending school every day—unless he is sick.	<b>11</b> Ask your child to write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.
<b>12</b> Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes picking up the house. Many hands make light work.	<b>13</b> Write an encouraging note and tuck it in your child's lunch box or in a school book.	<b>14</b> Talk to your child about people she admires. Ask her why she admires them.	<b>15</b> Have your child close his eyes and tell you everything he hears.	<b>16</b> Have each family member make a list of his or her strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.	<b>17</b> Make tonight another screen-free night. Let your child choose alternative activities.	<b>18</b> Take your whole family to the library. Be sure everyone gets some books.
<b>19</b> Show your child photos of people and have her write silly captions.	<b>20</b> Ask your child to give you a news report about what went on at school today. What's the "lead story"?	<b>21</b> Can your child think of a different ending to his favorite story? What would he do if he met the characters?	<b>22</b> Talk with your child about mistakes. How can people learn from their mistakes?	<b>23</b> Name a city, state or river. Can your child locate it on a map or globe?	<b>24</b> At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.	<b>25</b> Have a 20-minute DEAR time today (Drop Everything And Read).
<b>26</b> Today, have your child keep track of everything she eats. What one change would make her diet more nutritious?	<b>27</b> Teach your child how to take his pulse. Then have him jump up and down 50 times and take it again.	<b>28</b> At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the best buy?	<b>29</b> Talk about things you are thankful for. Tell your child she's at the top of the list.	<b>30</b> Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.	<b>31</b> Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.	



# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

## Don't forget about reading when making family New Year's resolutions

A new calendar year offers an opportunity to think about the past and set goals for the future. This includes family reading goals.

Take time to talk with your child about books or stories you've enjoyed together in the past year. If the books are nearby, look through them. Have your child choose his three favorites. Ask, "What was the best part of this story? Why?" Or, "What is your favorite picture in this book?"

Next, discuss future reading plans. Are there ways you can refresh or improve your reading habits? Could you read more often? Could you read new things together, such as children's magazines? Could you listen to some audiobooks in the car?

Build daily reading time into your family's schedule and make 2020 your family's best year ever for reading exciting materials!



*"Reading brings us unknown friends."*

—Honoré de Balzac

## Take time to talk about prefixes and suffixes with your child

Help your child learn to look for easily recognizable parts of a word. Teach her that when a word starts with a certain prefix or ends with a particular suffix, she will get a clue to the word's meaning.

- **A prefix is at the beginning** of the word. Adding a prefix to a word changes its meaning. Common prefixes are *bi-*, *hemi-*, *un-* and *in-*. Together, learn what they mean.
- **A suffix is found at the end** of the word. It often tells the part of speech, which will help your child understand how that word is being used. Common suffixes are *-tion*, *-ize*, *-able* and *-er*.

## Read and write about science experiments

Hands-on learning is a fun way for your child to strengthen his reading and writing skills.

Look online for simple science experiments you and your child can do at home. Then, read the directions, gather materials, write predictions and conduct the experiment together. Have your child take notes on the outcome.



## Encourage your child to use a dictionary

When your child isn't sure of what a word means or how to spell it, help her look it up! She can use a dictionary online or one in book form.

Show your child how the dictionary includes the word's definitions, its part of speech and other forms of the word.



## Enjoy the benefits of the library as a family

Libraries are wonderful places for children to learn. To enjoy everything the library has to offer:

- **Help your child** get his own library card.
- **Schedule regular visits.** Try to go at least once every two weeks.
- **Explore a new section** of the library each time you visit.
- **Sign up** for fun children's activities.



## Thinking aloud improves comprehension

One major factor in understanding what you read is *thinking* about what you read. When your child thinks as he reads, he's more likely to connect the story to other things he knows.

Help your child strengthen his comprehension skills by modeling these "think-aloud" strategies:

- **Discuss the book.** Connect it to an experience your child understands. "This story reminds me of the time when ... ."
- **Talk about books** with similar settings, characters or themes. "What other books that we've read does this story remind you of?"
- **Help your child** make a connection between the story and something similar that may be happening in the real world. By talking about your thoughts on the book, you're helping your child learn to make these important connections himself.



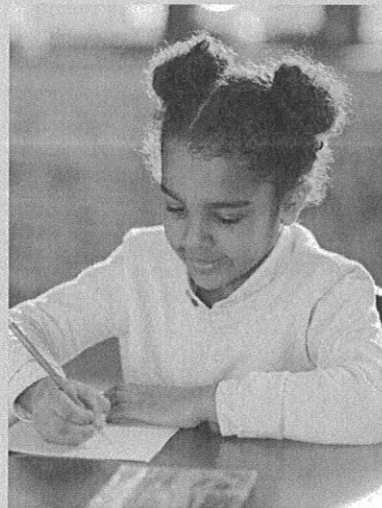
## Challenge your child to be a book critic

Suggest that your child keep a list of all the books that she has read. She should include the title of each book and its author. She can also create a rating system. Encourage her to write a short review of each book, as well.

Offer your child sentence starters to help with her reviews, such as:

- **I really liked this book** because ... .
- **My favorite part** of this story was ... .
- **I wish the author** would have ... .

Help your child compile her reviews into a "Book Reviews" notebook. Keeping track of completed books will give your child a sense of accomplishment.



**Q:** My child gets frustrated when he struggles to read a word. How can I help?

**A:** Suggest that he become a reading detective. He can look for clues, such as chunks of the word that he recognizes or nearby pictures. You can also discuss similar words he knows. Sometimes it helps to reread

the sentence or to skip the troublesome word and keep reading. Then say, "What word would make sense there?"

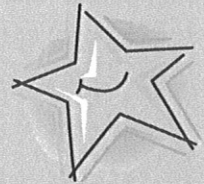
## Use magazines to create poems

Encourage your child to create a collage poem. Follow these steps:

1. **Help her cut** out a variety of words and phrases from old magazines.

2. **Have her arrange** the words into a poem and glue them onto a piece of construction paper.

Remind her that poems don't always need to rhyme.



## For lower elementary readers:

• **Stalling** by Alan Katz. Even though it's time for bed, Dan has plenty of things to do. He devises several ways to stall bedtime for just a few more minutes.

• **Stars** by Mary Lyn Ray. It's easy to forget the beauty of stars. But this book inspires readers to imagine and appreciate them.



## For upper elementary readers:

• **Moon Runner** by Carolyn Marsden. Mina is nervous when she must start track at school, until she discovers that she loves it—and excels.

• **Stars in the Shadows** by Charles R. Smith, Jr. In 1934, the Negro League's All-Star East-West Game was played. This book provides all the fascinating details.

### Building Readers®

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