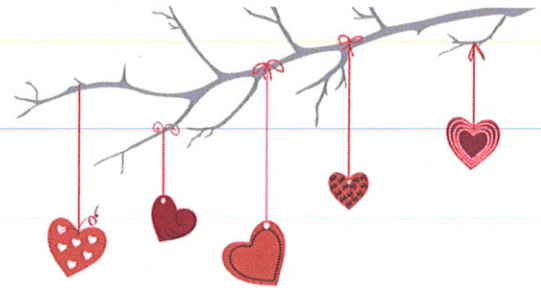


February 2020

Superintendent's News



As we move through our third nine weeks of academic instruction things continue to happen rapidly on a daily basis. Students are involved heavily in activities outside of the classroom as the sports seasons are winding up. Music is actively preparing for competition and our speech team begins competition this weekend. Our FBLA and FFA students are competing in district competition with hopes of qualifying for state. As we turn the corner toward the final home stretch for the academic year please encourage your students to kick it in and finish the third quarter and the academic year as strong as possible. Positive support from those who love and care for them can never be to extreme. Your support for them in their activities and academics helps them realize that you believe in them, and that what and how they do is very important. As we move forward we will soon be looking at student academic testing so we are in the final stages of pushing students towards total preparedness for academic success. I know that we have students with academic challenges and the staff at Hay Springs is willing to assist your students with additional support in any way we can, but the student is the one who must take advantage of this additional support. While visiting with your students about their challenges and successes, if they express concerns we can assist with at school, please contact their teacher, coach or the school administration. We are all here to support your student's success in any manner that we can.

As we look into February the basketball and wrestling season will be coming to the end and for our seniors the final time they will wear the Hay Springs Hawk green and gold uniforms. I would like to thank all of these athletes for the time and effort they have put into their respective seasons. I would in particular like to thank the senior members of our teams and their parents and guardians for their efforts, time, dedication and commitment to the Hay Springs activities program over the past four years. Your leadership will be greatly missed.

As the seniors near the completion of their high school academic career at Hay Springs High school I encourage them to finish strong and work toward completion of the best semester of their career during high school. As they go through the stress of college applications and visits and the financial aid process they need our understanding and support.

As I look ahead to February and March I realize that we have time for a lot of winter weather yet before spring. It is my hope that if we have the need for school delays or cancelations, that each of you have been getting the information in a timely manner. If you have not been receiving timely information, please contact the school office and let us know so we can rectify the problem.

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.

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.

It continues to be one of my goals to help our entire staff and student population focus on the many blessing we have in life and support each other in positive ways as we work together to pursue our Mis-

sion, Vision and Goals at Hay Springs School.

At the Hay Springs January board meeting we were blessed to have all the same board members returning for the upcoming year and the board voted to retain the same officer leadership team as we had for 2019.

I would like to give a special Shout Out to our Board of Education for their service to our community and our school district. This is a thankless position but truly one of the most important positions one can hold for the benefit of children and the future of our country. If you get the opportunity please take a moment to thank them for their service on the Board of Education.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of our educational system.

Hay Springs Student Council ~ Reaching New Heights



Jump Rope for Heart



Kids Heart Challenge..... Grades 2nd - 5th grade

Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart) We will be beginning Heart Challenge the whole month of February. So be looking out for Challenge packets to be coming your way. PLEASE, PLEASE read the packets, you can do it all ONLINE. No cash anymore. You just go to the website and sign up, very easy. I will be handing them out to 2nd-5th grade classes.

100th Day of School

By Kyli Heiting



Your're Invited!

Who: All KG—5th Grade Students; AM Pre-school

What: 100th Day Pancake Breakfast made by your teachers just for you!

When: Monday, February 24, 2020; 8:00 a.m.

Where: Cafeteria

Why: Because you have worked hard for 100 days and deserve to celebrate!

*Individual classroom teachers will decide on 100th day activities for their own classrooms.

PBIS

By Raima Varvel



January Monthly HAWK Buck winners:

K-2: Ileana Reimann

3rd-5th: Evan Smith

6th-8th: Jaelyn Rasmussen

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!

Quarter 2 Assembly: Hay Springs Public School students attended a PBIS assembly on Tuesday, January 14th at 10:15 AM. At the assembly, students were asked to gather near the first letter of their names which were posted around the auditorium. Students from Kindergarten through 12th grade were gathered in these groups and then asked to start conversations with other members of their group. Next the students were asked to give high fives to the members of their group, and finally various activities were started which led members of the group outside of their group and into other groups. After this community/culture building exercise, students who made the AB honor roll from each grade were recognized. Following that, PBIS Super Passes were awarded for the 2nd Quarter to Ava McKillip, James Scherbarth, Hannah Hoos, Bailey Scherbarth, Joce Varvel, and RyLee Wolken. The event concluded with the drawings for the Breakfast of Champions...there were 26 students drawn! Congratulations to all Hay Springs students for an awesome 2nd quarter, let's make the 3rd even better!

Upcoming dates:

3rd Quarter Assembly Monday, March 23rd @ 2:05pm

Breakfast of Champions Wednesday, March 25th 7:45-8:15 AUDITORIUM

FBLA

By Ms. Lein

Wednesday January 29th the Hay Springs Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) team traveled to Chadron to compete in the Best of the West Business Invitational hosted by Chadron State College and the Chadron State Center on Economic Education (CSCEE).

Our Students competed alongside six other schools and over a hundred other students. The tests taken that day included Accounting I, Business Calculations, Business Communications, Economics, Intro to Business, Intro to FBLA, Financial Math, Personal Finance, and Job Interview.

Hay Spring had members competing in Accounting I, Business Communications, Economics, Intro to Business, Intro to FBLA, and Personal Finance. The Hay Springs team included Ashley Burrows, Kate Agler, Jake Roberts, Hannah Hoos, and Ashley Tobiasson all of our members where dressed for success and did a great job competing!

Jake Roberts placed 1st place in the Business Communications test and Ashley Tobiasson placed 4th in the Intro to FBLA test and 5th in the Intro to Business test.

Great Job Hay Springs!!



Middle School/High School Quiz Bowl

By Mrs. Matthews

Quiz Bowl Season is here. This year we will be the host school for the Panhandle Conference Tournament on Friday, March 13th. Both High School and Middle Level will be competing in the competition. High School will have two teams and the Middle Level will have one team. The students will be preparing to compete with practices over the next two months.

However, with six teams in the conference and nine games going on at one time we will need many others to make this tournament a success. If you are willing to help as a reader, timer, or scorer contact Brad Bounous or Carole Matthews at school.

Speech News

By Coach Varvel

The Hay Springs speech team is heavy into getting events put together and performance ready. As of now, we have approximately 15 members and are looking to have a complete team! This is quite an accomplishment considering we are in our second year! Students will have practices on Friday's. Be on the look-out for speech updates as the season gets underway!

Tentative Speech Meet schedule:

Gordon-Rushville Meet Saturday, February 1st

Hay Springs Meet Saturday, February 15th

HAWK TALK Wednesday, March 11th

Hemingford/PANCO Meet Saturday, March 14th

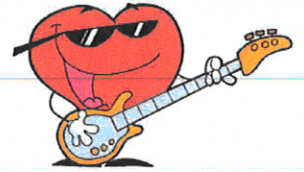
District Meet-Gering Monday, March 16th

State Speech-UNK Friday, March 27th



Music Notes

By Raima Varvel



Congratulations to Gabe Garcia, transfer junior from Gordon/Rushville, for being selected for High Plains Honor Choir held at Chadron State on Monday, February 3th & Tuesday, February 4th with a concert Tuesday evening.



Congratulations to the following students for being selected into Class D All State Band held in Kearney, NE at UNK on Saturday, March 28th: Angelica Volquardsen (Jazz Band); Jocelyn Varvel (Wind Ensemble); Gabriel Varvel (Wind Ensemble); Ashley Tobiasson (Symphonic Band) & Sam Hindman (Symphonic Band).

4th-6th Grade students will have a program on **Tuesday, March 24th at 7pm**. 4th & 5th graders will present a musical all about being a good friend that the high school performing arts class has written. The 6th graders will perform Musical Planet where they have researched different countries and perform songs from these countries. The 5th grade & 6th grade bands will also perform. Looking forward to sharing this with you all!

Please give a big Hay Springs Hawks welcome to Ms. Ghita Dykes who recently joined our music team as our new accompanist! We are very thankful to have her aboard! Ghita is working with our 7th/8th grade choir, our high school choir and solo's and small groups as well as our instrumental solo's! Keep an eye out for her at our middle level/high school Pre-Contest Concert!

Upcoming dates:

High Plains Honor Choir Monday/Tuesday Feb. 3rd & 4th

Little Caesars Sales Wednesday, February 5th-20th

Pep Band-Girls Varsity Game Tuesday, February 11th

Pep Band-Boys Varsity Game Thursday, February 13th

Little Caesars Delivery Wednesday, March 4th

4th-6th Grade Spring Concert Tuesday, March 24th

Class D All State-UNK Saturday, March 28th

PANCO Music Contest Monday, March 30th Edgemont

Contest Concert & Recital Tuesday, April 21st @ 7pm

District Music Contest Wednesday, April 22nd-Alliance High School

4H Workshops

By Melissa Mracek

Baking Basics

The Hay Springs February Baking Basics will be held on February 21st. At this workshop youth will prepare double crusted pies. The youth will also continue to work on their sewing projects. Participants will need to pack a lunch. The fee for this workshop is \$10. Please register by February 19th, by contacting the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office at (308) 327-2312. This event is open to anyone interested in baking and sewing projects.

Clover Buds

The Hay Springs Clover Bud workshop will be held on February 20th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Please register for this event with Erika Gaswick by February 18th. Clover Bud members are youth between the ages of 5 and 7 as of January 1st, 2020. These youth will experience teamwork, social interaction, and decision-making skills while participating in hands on activities. Upon participating in these workshops, youth will have Clover Bud projects to display at the 2020 Sheridan County Fair.

4-H Family Movie Night

It's Nebraska 4-H Month! And in celebration of our 4-Hers, there will be a showing of Spies in Disguise on February 16th at the Gordon Theater at 4:00pm! The 4-H Council is sponsoring the event and the first 50 kids get in free! Parents, Community Partners, and Youth are welcome!

County Wide Project – Design Your Space

The County Wide Project will be held on February 12th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. At this workshop, youth are invited to create a project for Design Your Space and enter at the 2020 Sheridan County Fair. Please register by February 10th, by contacting the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office at (308) 327-2312. This event is open to anyone interested in design projects.

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

Parents and Guardians entrust their children and their safety to schools every day. The Nebraska State Legislature recognized the importance of school safety and security by passing Nebraska State Statute 79-2,144(2). It required the commissioner of Education to appoint a School Safety Director who, among other duties, recommended minimum school security standards to the State Board of Education. Security standards were developed and adopted by the State Board of education for all school districts across Nebraska. The evening news is where they start by saying “good evening,” and proceed by telling you why it's not. The State Board of Education adopted the “I Love You Guys” foundation program called the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). This uniform protocol has been implemented in many schools in Nebraska. Here in Hay Springs we are in the process of implementing the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). We conducted a review of our buildings by NDE's safety review personnel and have implemented some of his recommendations to include the buzzer at the front door and the external numbering of all doors and windows. Our Safety and Crisis team has attended NDE trainings and workshops and this information has been presented to staff as part of our professional development training.

Attached is information about the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Please read this information and discuss it with your child. Familiarize yourself with the different protocols and symbols for Lockout, Lockdown, and Evacuate then Shelter. The school has begun training students and staff on the different protocols and how to correctly respond to each protocol.

Our students travel to many school districts across the state of Nebraska. With this Standard Response Protocol (SRP) our students will know how to respond to a student event, whether it is in Hay Springs or any school district in Nebraska. When this program is fully implemented in the state the response will be universal across the state.



STANDARD™ RESPONSE PROTOCOL EXTENDED

STUDENT SAFETY

A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP

Our school is expanding the safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol - Extended (SRPx). The SRPx is based on these five actions. Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter and Hold. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be called on the PA.

LOCKOUT - "Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors"

LOCKDOWN - "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

EVACUATE - "To the Announced Location"

SHELTER - "For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy"

TRAINING

Please take a moment to review these actions. Students and staff will be trained and the school will drill these actions over the course of the school year.

More information can be found at <http://iloveguys.org>

LOCKOUT

GET INSIDE. LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS

Lockout is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

TEACHERS

- Recover students and staff from outside building
- Increased situational awareness
- Do business as usual
- Take roll, account for students



LOCKDOWN LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT

Lockdown is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence

TEACHERS:

- Lock classroom door
- Lights out
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Wait for First Responders to open door
- Take roll, account for students



EVACUATE TO A LOCATION

Evacuate is called to move students and staff from one location to another.

STUDENTS:

- Bring your phone
- Leave your stuff behind
- Form a single file line
- Show your hands
- Be prepared for alternatives during response.

TEACHERS:

- Grab roll sheet if possible
- Lead students to Evacuation Location
- Take roll, account for students



SHELTER FOR A HAZARD USING SAFETY STRATEGY

Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary.

SAMPLE HAZARDS:

- Tornado
- Hazmat

SAMPLE SAFETY STRATEGIES:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room

STUDENTS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies

TEACHERS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies
- Take roll, account for students



HOLD IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Hold is called when the hallways need to be kept clear, even during class changes.

STUDENTS:

- Remain in your classroom
- Do business as usual.

TEACHERS:

- Recover students and staff from hallways
- Close and lock classroom door
- Take roll, account for students



OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE MANY FLAGS FLYING INSIDE OUR BUILDINGS!



Hay Springs School

is a

HAT FREE ZONE

Please, remove your hat when entering, Thank you!

JH Boys Basketball

By Coach Williams

This season has brought so much improvement from everyone. We have nine athletes out for this year 6 being 8th graders and 3 being 7th graders. It has definitely been an exciting few games so far coming up short of wins but at the game against Gordon-Rushville we did have a W which gave us just the boost we needed to continue for our games to come. This Thursday, we will be traveling to Sioux County for some basketball action with games starting at three. We will play 3 quarters of B team and then a whole game of A team. We hope to see you there showing some Hawk Pride and cheering us all on!



The 2020 Elders Wisdom

Who: Virginia Johnson and Doris Scott

When: April 09, 2020, at 6:30 pm.

Virginia Johnson was born in her grandmother's house outside of Hay Springs. She went on a honeymoon in the Black Hills with her husband, Jim. They picked up a hitch-hiker along the way and ended up stuck with her for the rest of their trip.

Doris Scott was born in Rushville, Nebraska on December 4, 1930. She lives South of Hay Springs. She lived through the blizzard of 1949. She enjoyed rock hunting when she was a child.



EducationQuest Foundation College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

February 2020

Seniors...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

If you haven't already, complete your 2020-21 FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) using 2018 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.

1. Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.

2. You might receive a verification notice from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.

Watch for financial aid award notifications. Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

What you need to know about scholarships

Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA.

Here's where to look for scholarships:

ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org houses over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria.

1. Your school counselor's office. Visit regularly to check on local and national awards.

2. The college you plan to attend. Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and the application procedures.

National search sites such as [College Board](https://collegeboard.org), [Peter-son's](https://peter-son.com), and [Chegg](https://chegg.com).

Other resources could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Two easy-to-apply-for scholarships from EducationQuest

Nebraska students in grades 9-12 are invited to pursue these \$500 scholarships from EducationQuest:

Get Social Scholarship – By following us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/educationquest), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/educationquest) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/educationquest), you can enter into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship each time we hit another 250 followers. [Click here](#) for details.

Scavenger Hunt Scholarship – Create a [ScholarshipQuest](https://www.educationquest.org) profile at EducationQuest.org and then scavenge around the EducationQuest website to find answers to questions on a survey. The deadline to apply is **March 31**. We'll draw two winners from those who answer all questions correctly. [Click here](#) for details.

Hay Springs Student Council is Reaching New Heights during the 2019/2020 School Year

The Hay Springs Student Council began their mission of reaching new heights in positively impacting school culture early last fall. They kicked off the school year with a fun homecoming week of school spirit activities and a high school dance. The group also sponsored concession stands, assisted with Salute the Troops, and decorated the school for the holidays which involved a student locker decorating competition and designing a gratitude wall for K-12 students and staff.

Another special on-going project of the Student Council involves coordinating the reading of a Sportsmanship Code before all home ballgames to promote positive conduct and school pride by student athletes and community supporters. During home ballgames, Student Council members volunteer to read the Code which states the following:

Hay Springs High School and the Nebraska School Activities Association promote good sportsmanship by students, athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Intimidating comments will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the facility. Hay Springs High School believes that SPORTSMANSHIP is pride in your school, your community, your team and yourself. SPORTSMANSHIP is respect for the sport and those who compete and officiate. We hope that you enjoy the game, we thank everyone in advance for making this a positive learning experience and opportunity for growth for all participants.

The Student Council celebrated the new year by hosting Reaching New Heights Days with guest artistic community developers, Becky Boesen and Petra Wahlqvist, of Blixt Locally Grown Consulting. During the two-day event, students explored their personal dreams to achieve their best lives, created shared visions for positive school culture, and learned strategies for team building and effective communication. Now students are acting on discoveries made during the all-school event by designing a student mentoring program that will

pair high school students with elementary students to build stronger relationships and connection. The group is also hosting a Winter Ball for junior high and high school students on February 15th. An emerging project includes exploring a random mandatory drug testing program.

Principal Mark Hagge commented, "I am extremely impressed by the willingness of our student council members to elevate their leadership presence within the school and community to forge stronger relationships, develop a shared vision, and enhance school culture." Mr. Hagge and his wife Dahn serve as co-sponsors of the Student Council this year.

BLIXT is a Nebraska-based arts organization that specializes in the development of new works, community building, and the stimulation of economic development through the integration of local arts and culture into all facets of life. BLIXT collaborates with communities to lift up hometown opportunities, and champions creatives as vital contributors and leaders in vibrant rural spaces.

The Student Council is made up of ninth through twelfth grade students including Ashley Burrows, Bailey Scherbarth, Jaiden Anderson, Hannah Hoos, Jocelyn Varvel, RyLee Wolken, Logan DeCoste, Gabe Varvel, Colter Meeks, Mia Skinner, Breely Smith and Samantha Toof.

Student council President Ashley Burrows commented "Reaching New Heights Days was very enriching. The opportunity to collaborate as a school community and explore new ideas was important to the student body. I very much look forward to the continued improvement efforts and growth of future classes with the help of Blixt and other great programs."

The Hay Springs Community can be very proud of these students as they use their gifts and talents to step up into leadership roles in their school and community. To learn more about the Student Council and support their school/community improvement efforts, please stop by the school.

Hawks' Library News

New Titles in the Library

Over forty new titles were added to the collection over the past month. They represent a variety of topics and interest levels.

Folklore

Rapunzel
Cinderella
Little Red Riding Hood
Puss in boots
Snow White
The Ugly Duckling
The Princess and the Pea

Historical and Biographical

Because They Marched : the people's campaign for voting rights that changed America
Buffalo Bird Girl : a Hidatsa story
Fatty Legs : a true story
Buffalo Song
Hiawatha and the Peacemaker

Non Fiction

How Science Works.
Investigating Seasons
The Hottest and the Coldest
The Way Things Work
We are Grateful : Otsaliheliga

Picture Books

Are You my Mother?
Big Dog-- Little Dog
Go, Dog. Go!
Sam and the Firefly
Whale Snow
I Love You, Baby!
Battle of the Power Ring
Let's go to the Hardware Store
At the Mountain's Base
First Laugh : Welcome, Baby!
The Biggest Kiss
The Perfect Hug
The Crossover. Graphic novel

Middle School /High School Fiction

Swing
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus
The Benefits of Being an Octopus
Talking Leaves
Not if I Save You First
Everything I know about You
Outlaw Red
In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
Dry
Hearts Unbroken

Upcoming Events

February 3-6 - Book Fair
6 - Parent Teacher Conferences
With Book Fair
March 13 - PANCO Quiz Bowl
Hosted at Hay Springs
If interested in helping contact Carole
Matthews or Brad Bounous

Quote of the Month

A book is a dream you hold in
your hands.

— Neil Gaiman



HAY SPRINGS

Winter Ball

**FOOD! GOOD MUSIC!
SMOOTH MOVES!**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2020 SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
MIDDLE SCHOOL - 6:30PM-9PM
HIGH SCHOOL- 9:30PM- 12AM
DRESSCODE: BUSINESS CASUAL**



**Send a Valentine's Day Candy Grams!
And help support your FBLA team!**

Have someone you want to say "Happy Valentine's Day" to? Or maybe you'd like to tell a staff member or faculty you appreciate their hard work.

If so, what better way is there than to send them a personalized candy gram on Valentine's Day! Each Candy Gram has TWO - THREE generous size suckers and your Valentine gram attached.

All money raised will help fund Hay Springs High School's FBLA.

On sale Monday January 28th through Tuesday February 12th

Cost: 3 Suckers \$3.00

2 Suckers \$2.00

Fill out Candy Gram Below

Return candy gram and payment to Ms. Lein or FBLA Team members: Ashley B, Jake R, Katie A, Clark O, Hannah H, and Ashley T.



Candy Gram

To: _____ Grade _____

From: _____

Message: _____

Cupcakes for CARE, Inc

Pre-sale Order Form

\$ 5

Looking for a "Tasty" Gift for that Special Valentine? Look no further! Surprise that Special Valentine and Support this Worthy Cause at the Same Time!

Large Decorated Cupcakes ~ Chocolate, White, Gluten Free White—Delivered (Gordon, Hay Springs or Rushville)



Person Ordering: _____

Phone: _____

Chocolate: _____ White: _____ G/F: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Delivery Address: _____

City: _____



**Parent Teacher Conferences—
Thursday, February 6th
4:15 pm—8:00 pm**

The Café'teria will be hosting a special day each month. On this day, students are encouraged to invite someone to eat lunch with them. Adult Lunch is \$4.00 which includes the meal and unlimited Fruit & Vegetable Bar.

February's Special Day is
Our Valentine's Day Lunch
On February 13th.

PreK Lunch—12:00 noon
Elementary Lunch—11:30 a.m.
Middle/High School Lunch—12:25 p.m.



Great Job! We Are Proud Of You!

Hay Springs Future Business
Leaders of America



Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

FIGHT FLU



CDC recommends three actions to fight flu.

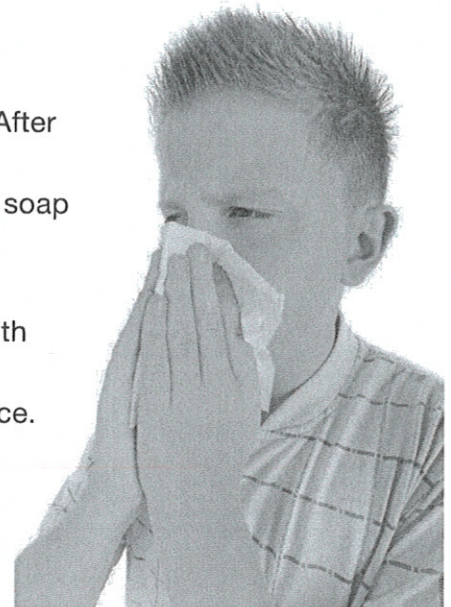
1. The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year.
2. If you get sick with flu, take prescription antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.
3. Take everyday preventive actions that may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. This flyer contains information about everyday preventive actions.

How does flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.



For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/flu
or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**



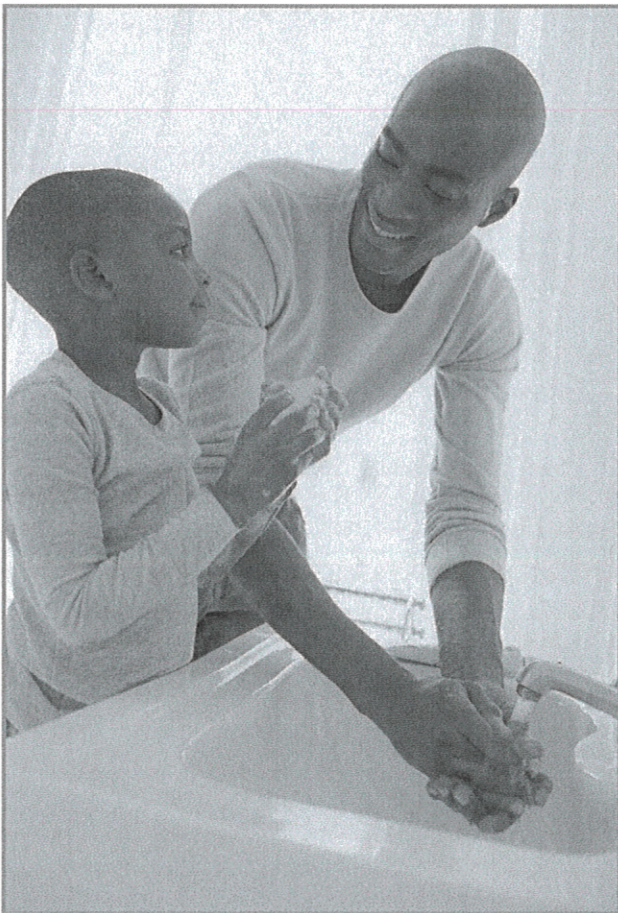
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Panhandle

Public Health District

What additional steps can I take at work to help stop the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.
- Train others on how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.
- If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.



What additional preventive actions can I take to protect my child from germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

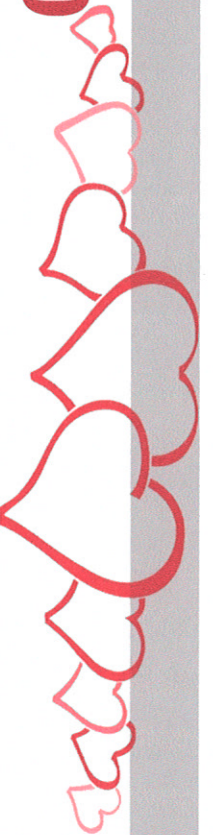
- Find out about plans your child's school, child care program, or college has if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Make sure your child's school, child care program, or college routinely cleans frequently touched objects and surfaces, and that they have a good supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes on-site.
- Ask how sick students and staff are separated from others and who will care for them until they can go home.

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection against flu.

Hay Springs Elementary February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5th Grade Library	4th Grade Library	2nd and 3rd Library	1st and Kindergarten Library
3 Book Fair Feb. 3-10 Kindness Challenge: Tell your teacher thank you for being awesome!	4 Kindness Challenge: say hello and smile at everyone	5 RSVP due for Valentines Dinner Kindness Challenge: collect coins for our deployed community military members a care package	6 Parent teacher conferences Kindness Challenge: Tell your principal thank you for all the hard work he does!
10 Kindness Challenge: read to someone	11 Kindness Challenge: hold the door open for someone	12 Kindness Challenge: leave happy notes around the classroom, school, or home for people to find	13 Valentine's Dinner Kindness Challenge: make something for someone and give it to them
17 Kindness Challenge: Have a complaint free day!	18 Kindness Challenge: share something with someone	19 Kindness Challenge: Hug a friend today!	20 Kindness Challenge: tell your lunch people thank you for always being so kind.
24 100th day of school Kindness Challenge: give the school secretary a high five for all her hard work.	25 Kindness Challenge: let someone go in front of you in line	26 Kindness Challenge: pick up a mess that isn't yours	27 Kindness Challenge: leave a kind note in a library book

FEBRUARY 2020



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider."

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Breakfast: Casserole Lunch: Chicken Fajita/Corn	Breakfast: Sliders Lunch: Hamburger Gravy&Biscuits/ Green Beans	Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Orange Chicken/Rice/ Fortune Cookie	Breakfast: Pancakes/Sausage Link Lunch: Hot Dog/Baked Beans	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert
Breakfast:Pizza Lunch: Turkey Subs/Chips	Breakfast: Omelet/Toast Lunch: Walking Taco/Corn	Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Breaded Beef/Mashed Potato & Gravy	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert
Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Chicken Noodle/Mashed Potato	Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick Lunch: Corn Dog/Baked Beans	Breakfast: Tornados Lunch: BTS Burger/Chips	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert
Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Fish Sticks/Macaroni & Cheese	Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Fish Sticks/Macaroni & Cheese	Breakfast: Omelet/Toast Lunch: Chicken Patty Sandwich/Chips	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert	Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Valentine's Day Dinner: Spaghetti/ Breadstick/Dessert

NOTES:
A Very Special Thank You Art & Carolyn Lipps for the very generous donation of Beef this month and to E.J. & Teresa Frink for the donation of pork! Also Thank You to Greg Heiting for the transportation! 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 & Veggie bar is offered with every meal.
- *There are 3 main meal choices offered every lunch.
- *Menus are subject to change without notice.
- BTS=Beef To School



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						FFA @ Alliance HS WR @ Mitchell 10 am Gordon/Rush Speech Meet 1
	JH B/BB PANCO @ Hemingford 11 am High Plains Honor Choir @ Chadron 2 Book Fair Starts	High Plains Honor Choir *G/B BB hm. vs. Hyannis 4 pm 3	FFA @ Gordon City Hall TBA 4	KCSR "Sound Off Program 8am PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES 4:15 – 8pm 5		G/B BB @ Bennett County 2pm HS WR @ Hill City, SD 9am 8
	JH B/BB @ Crawford 3pm 9	*G/B BB hm. vs. Minatare 4pm JH B/BB @ St. Agnes 5pm 10 11		Valentine's Dinner *G/B BB hm. vs. Crawford 4pm "Hoops for Cash" 12 13	G/B BB @ Garden County 3pm HS WR Districts @ North Platte 14	HS WR Districts @ North Platte Hay Springs Speech Meet 15
	G/BB Sub Districts 16		"Hawk Talk" 18	State Wrestling 19	State Wrestling 20	JH B/BB@ G/R 9am Tourney State Wrestling 21 22
	B BB Sub Districts 23				FFA Leadership Conference 27	FFA Leadership Conference 28 29

FEBRUARY



Happy
Valentine's
Day

NOTES:

RSVP for Valentine's Day Lunch by filling out the
signup sheet sent home with student's by Feb. 5th.

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School

Hay Springs Public Schools



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

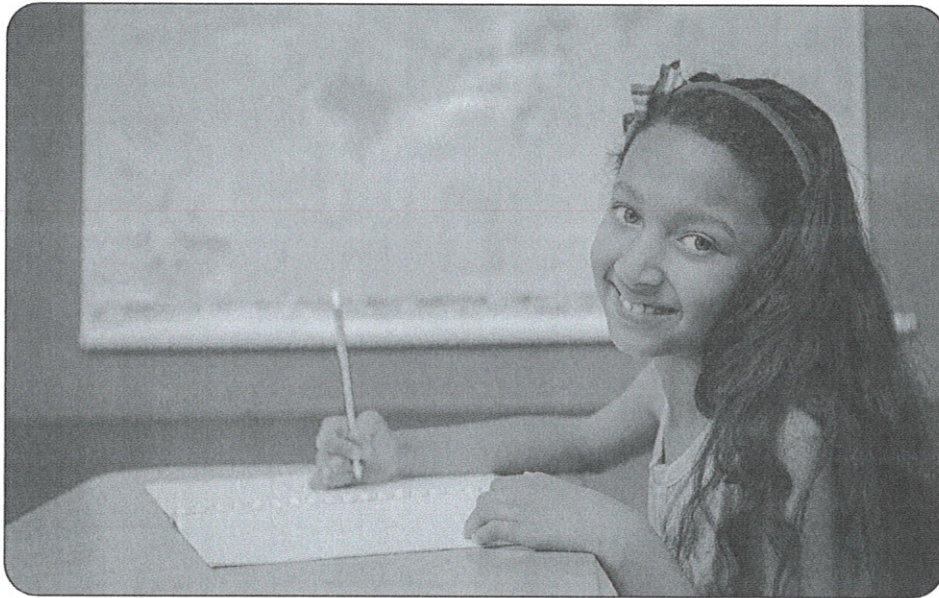
Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2020						1 Plan to get some exercise with your child every day this month.
2 Encourage your child to write a thank-you to a favorite teacher this month.	3 Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times. Try it and see if he's right.	4 When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.	5 Learn how to say "I love you" in at least three other languages. Share this with your child.	6 Have your child interview people in various careers that interest her. What would a typical day be like?	7 Ask your child to invent a word and write its definition as it would appear in the dictionary.	8 Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
9 Do a crossword puzzle with your child. It's a great way to learn new words.	10 Discuss the meaning of a dozen. What things are often sold in dozens?	11 Have your child go online to research events that occurred on the day he was born.	12 Make a design using five toothpicks. Let your child look at it, then cover it up. Can she recreate it from memory?	13 After your child goes to bed, leave a valentine where he'll see it first thing tomorrow morning.	14 Tell and show family members that you love them.	15 Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
16 Take a walk with your child and use all five senses to observe the world around you.	17 Have your child draw a picture for the author of a book. Send it to the author in care of the book's publisher.	18 Fold paper to make different types of airplanes. See which one flies the best.	19 Help your child practice division. Ask her, "How many of your lifetimes has Grandma lived?"	20 Teach your child to show empathy. Have him imagine how others might feel in certain situations.	21 When your child is working on something difficult, say "I know you can figure this out!"	22 Go to the library and check out two books with your child. Check out some books for yourself, too!
23 Let your child help with a household chore today. Remember to thank her when she finishes.	24 Learn the sign language alphabet with your child. Use it to spell words today.	25 Encourage your child to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.	26 Ask your child to complete this sentence: "If I had one wish, it would be ____."	27 Does your child need some new books? Plan a neighborhood book swap.	28 Does your child have homework to do over the weekend? Make sure he schedules time to complete it.	29 Today is Leap Day. Talk to your child about what makes February 29 a special day.

Elementary School Parents[®] make the difference!

February 2020
Vol. 31, No. 6

Hay Springs Public Schools



Offer support when your child has a writing assignment

A writing assignment can seem like a tough challenge for many students. Good writing involves everything from understanding a subject, to knowing how to organize thoughts, to checking spelling and punctuation.

To help your child with writing assignments:

- **Suggest that she “talk through”** some ideas before starting. Clear writing starts with clear thinking. Talking with you can help your child clarify her thoughts.
- **Encourage her** to take notes and make an outline before she starts to write. Organizing her thoughts will make her writing clearer.
- **Remind her** that first drafts don’t have to be perfect. Encourage her to focus on what she wants to say first. She can edit her paper for spelling and grammar later.
- **Offer plenty of praise.** Your praise can motivate your child to keep working. Be as specific as you can: “I really like the way you’ve described what led up to this event. I understand it better now.”
- **Don’t over criticize.** It’s helpful to point out errors now and then, but if your child thinks you are always looking for what’s wrong, she will be less likely to share her writing with you.
- **Be patient.** Good writing takes time. Your patience and support can help your child develop into a clear thinker and skilled writer.

Five ways to motivate your child to read



When children *like* to read, they do it more often—which boosts their reading skills and overall

school success.

To ignite your child’s love of reading:

1. **Celebrate.** Instead of simply checking out books at the library, make an event of it. Select interesting books, then choose a special place to enjoy reading together.
2. **Explore.** Help your child find an appealing book series. He may not be able to resist picking up the next book.
3. **Investigate.** If he doesn’t know what a word means, have your child take a guess. Look it up together and see if he is right.
4. **Play.** Turn something you just read together into a fun challenge: Ask your child to summarize the story using only three sentences. Or, ask him to use the characters from the story in a new story.
5. **Experiment.** Try new kinds of books with your child. If he’s used to reading fiction, have him try a biography or how-to book, for example.

Celebrate these famous February birthdays with some learning fun



February is filled with birthdays of notable people. Plan some fun activities to help your child learn about these heroes, writers, inventors, scientists and artists:

- **February 4**—Rosa Parks. Go online to learn more about this heroine of America's civil rights movement.
- **February 7**—Laura Ingalls Wilder. Read one of the books from the *Little House on the Prairie* series, which is based on Wilder's childhood in a family of settlers and pioneers.
- **February 8**—Jules Verne. Read one of his science fiction stories with your child.
- **February 11**—Thomas Edison. Ask your child what he would like to invent to improve daily life.
- **February 12**—Abraham Lincoln. Challenge your child to memorize the Gettysburg Address.

- **February 19**—Nicolaus Copernicus. Take a walk together and look at the stars.
- **February 21**—Nina Simone. Listen to some of her music with your child and learn more about her life.
- **February 22**—George Washington. Ask your child what she would do if she were president of the United States.
- **February 25**—Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Check out a book with reproductions of his paintings. Ask your child to paint one of her own.

“There's no excuse for the young people not knowing who the heroes and heroines are or were.”

—Nina Simone

Are you making the most of your report card talks?



Perhaps your child's report card is great. Or maybe it's worse than you feared. Whatever the report card says, it provides a valuable opportunity to talk with your child about school and his study habits.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if you are making the most of report card talks:

- ___ **1. Do you take your child's report card seriously and set aside time to review and discuss it together?**
- ___ **2. Do you ask your child if he agrees with the grades, and why or why not?**
- ___ **3. Do you remain calm and try not to make your child feel worse if he's already disappointed?**
- ___ **4. Do you help your child figure out a plan to improve or maintain his grades for the next grading period?**
- ___ **5. Do you contact the teacher if you have concerns or questions?**

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are *yes*, you're turning report card time into learning time. For each *no* answer, try that idea in the quiz.

High expectations can motivate your child to succeed in school



Don't just *hope* your child will succeed—*expect* him to succeed! If you express high, yet realistic, expectations for

your child, he's likely to meet them.

To help your elementary schooler succeed in the classroom and beyond:

- **Don't act surprised** when he does well. Did your child just bring home a B+ on a super-hard science test? Instead of acting shocked, act like you never doubted that he'd do well. "That's awesome! I knew all of your extra studying this week would pay off!"
- **Support him when he stumbles.** Never belittle your child when he messes up. Remind him that failure happens to everyone sometimes. Besides, plenty of other people in the world will be there to criticize him. That's why your constant love and acceptance are so vital. Always be your child's "safe place."
- **Discourage "victim mode."** When unfortunate things happen, don't chalk them up to bad luck or a mean teacher. That will make your child feel as if he's a victim and has no control over situations.

Instead, empower him to take action. When something goes wrong, ask him what he learned from it. Help him think about how he might handle similar situations in the future.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Practical Ideas for Parents to Help Their Children. ISSN: 1523-1275

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Fax: 1-800-216-3667.

Or visit: www.parent-institute.com.

Published monthly September through May.
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Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.
Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.
Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

Everyday tasks can strengthen your child's math skills



Most people read every day. They probably do math every day, too—although they may not realize it. Math is a vital part of life, so it's important to involve your child in everyday math when you:

- **Follow recipes.** When preparing meals, let your child help with weighing and measuring. Discuss sizes, shapes and fractions. Ask her questions such as, "How could we double this recipe?" and "When we add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, what do we get?"
- **Go shopping.** Help your child use a calculator to keep a running tally of purchases. Use coupons to inspire math problems. "If we use this coupon, will the item cost less than other brands?" "Which of these items is really the best deal per pound?"
- **Save money.** Ask your child to choose a goal, such as saving for a book. How much does she need to save each week? How long will it take her to reach the total? Help her track her progress on a chart. Then have fun shopping together!
- **Take a trip.** Before leaving, measure the air pressure in your car or bike tires. Calculate how many miles you'll go. If you are driving, how much gas will you use? As you travel, say a number between 1 and 10. Who can find a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?
- **Start a family project.** Planning to paint a bedroom? Involve your child in figuring out how much paint you will need to do the job.
- **Play games.** There are lots of fun math games you can play together. Try dominoes, Uno and Connect 4.

Help a disorganized child take responsibility for belongings



Your child has a special notebook where he is supposed to write down homework assignments—but he forgot to bring it home. Or he needs to turn in his math worksheet—but he left it sitting on his desk at home.

Some children never seem to know how to take responsibility for their schoolwork. Here's how you can help your child learn to be responsible:

- **Ask him** to help develop a plan. Talk with your child about what he needs to do to get more organized. You might say, "You're having trouble getting to school with all your homework and bringing home everything you need. What could you do that would help you remember? Why don't you think about it, and we'll discuss it at dinner."
- **Let your child** try to make his plan work—without jumping in to rescue him. If he leaves his homework at home, don't rush to school to take it to him. Let him face the consequences.
- **Suggest changes** he can make, but let him put them into action. "How about if we try placing a box here by the door? Then you can put everything that needs to go to school in the box. What do you think of that idea?"

Q: My fourth-grade daughter is very competitive in sports. Her teacher says she is competitive in the classroom, too. She rushes through assignments, hoping to be the first one finished. She doesn't take the time to be neat or to check her work. I know this hurts her grades. How can I help?

Questions & Answers

A: It sounds like your daughter has a habit of turning tasks into competitions—and she wants to be first across the finish line. But being first isn't what matters when it comes to schoolwork.

Start by talking with your child's teacher. Let her know you would like to work together on a plan to help your daughter focus more on *quality* work, not *speedy* work.

Then, talk to your child. Put her competitive nature to work by using a comparison from a sport, such as basketball. Explain that sometimes it is important for a player to get down the court as fast as she can. But when a player is shooting free throws, her accuracy is more important than her speed.

Doing schoolwork is more like shooting free throws. Tell your child that you're going to look over her homework each night to check her work for neatness and accuracy. If her work is not up to an appropriate standard, tell her you'll ask her to do it over.

In school, the teacher can try the same approach, looking over work before it's handed in.

Soon your child will figure out that when she slows down, she'll get the work right the first time—and that actually takes less time in the long run!

It Matters: Discipline

Take five steps to address school misbehavior



It's wonderful to have a good sense of humor. But it's no laughing matter when a student constantly disrupts

class with jokes and rude body sounds.

If your child is clowning around in school, take these steps:

1. **Look for what's behind the behavior.** Sometimes children need attention or want to impress their classmates. Often, they try to use humor to cover up academic shortcomings.
2. **Work with the teacher.** Together, try to identify when the problem behavior started and what might have triggered it. If your child tends to act up after recess, for example, she may need help settling down. The teacher might help by assigning her a high-profile task like handing out worksheets.
3. **Talk to your child.** She might not understand when it's OK to be silly and when it's not. Help her see there's a time when being funny and "clever" is actually being disrespectful.
4. **Establish clear guidelines.** With the teacher's help, explain to your child what type of behavior you both expect from her.
5. **Set consequences** that you and the teacher will enforce if your child breaks the rules.

By following these five steps, you and the teacher should be able to get your child's behavior back on track!

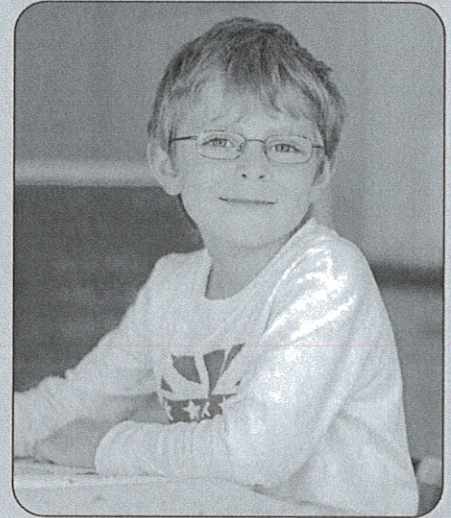
Source: K. Levine, *What To Do ... When Your Child Has Trouble at School*, Reader's Digest Books.

Improve behavior at home with effective teacher strategies

Can't get your child to complete homework? Pay attention? Respond to requests? Why not get help from those who get not just one child—but 20 or more kids—to do what's expected? Teachers!

Here's what they suggest:

- **Explain what you want** your child to do. Focus on the tasks you want to be routine—like putting his backpack by the front door.
- **Post a schedule.** Your child will know what to do and when to do it. And he'll feel more independent.
- **Avoid abrupt transitions.** Let your child know how many minutes he has left before he needs to switch gears and do something else.
- **Add excitement to ordinary tasks.** Don't just tell your child to pick up his room. Challenge him to do it in rhythm to music.
- **Use silent signals.** Use a gentle touch on your child's shoulder



to get his attention. Flick the lights off and on to give a five-minute warning before bedtime.

- **Provide meaningful things** for your child to do. Expect him to contribute by doing household chores. In the grocery store, put your child in charge of the list.

Positive discipline can help your child learn and grow



The first thing many people think of when they hear the word *discipline* is punishment.

But discipline actually means *to teach*. And it's most effective when it's delivered in a positive, calm and loving way.

When disciplining, focus on your:

- **Words.** Tell your child exactly what you expect. For example, "It's time to do your homework," is better than, "Aren't you supposed to be doing your homework?"
- **Tone of voice.** It's important not to sound too stern or too unsure. Try to find a happy medium, a tone that says, "I'm confident you will do as I say."
- **Facial expression.** A calm look will encourage your child to cooperate. You don't need to look angry or upset.
- **Body language.** If possible, face your child and look her in the eye. Avoid intimidating gestures such as shaking a finger or putting your hands on your hips.

BUILDING READERS®

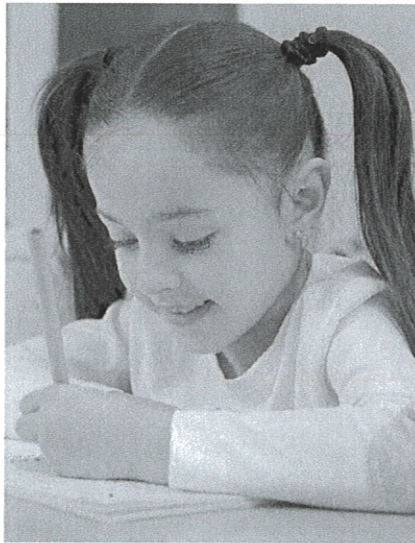
How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

Journaling can reinforce your child's reading and writing skills

Keeping a journal is an effective way to build reading and writing skills. But kids aren't always enthusiastic about journaling. Try giving your child a notebook, a pen and some irresistible entry starters. Here are some ideas to try:

- **Rewrite a favorite story.** Encourage your child to write something new about a character she loves.
- **Write a silly poem.** Challenge your child to craft a poem that uses fun combinations of words.
- **Pass notes** with your child. Write a silly question in her notebook for her to answer. Then she can write back and ask you something.
- **Write for TV.** Suggest that your child imagine a new episode of a favorite TV show. Read—and compliment—the story she writes!



"It is well to read everything of something, and something of everything."

—Lord Henry P. Brougham

Teach your child to tackle tough words

Sometimes words are hard to figure out, and that's why schools teach "word attack" skills. When your child approaches a challenging word, encourage him to:

- **Sound out the word**, making and blending letter sounds. Which sounds make the most sense?
- **Think of similar words.** What words look like the mystery word? For example, *freight* looks and sounds like *eight*.
- **Look carefully at pictures.** What people, things and actions are shown? Do they provide any clues?
- **Read more.** Reread the sentence—and the ones before and after it. Think about what words might fit. Give them a try!

Get some read-aloud assistance from famous actors!

Need a break from doing dramatic read-alouds for your child? Visit Storyline Online!

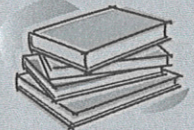
There, you'll find video recordings of popular stories read by members of the Screen Actors Guild. Check it out at www.storylineonline.net. Or, download the app on your tablet or smartphone.



Let reading inspire activities

Your child has to read a biography for school, and she's not excited about it. So plan some fun activities related to the book.

If she reads about Benjamin Franklin, for instance, she might learn that Franklin supported fire departments. As a family, you could visit a fire department in honor of Franklin's work.



Patience pays off when reading textbooks

Some children rush through reading assignments just to be finished quickly.

But when they do that, they miss out on learning. When reading a textbook, your child should:

- **Skim the text**, noticing main ideas.
- **Turn headings into questions**, and then answer them by reading the text.
- **Restate main ideas** after each section.
- **Pause and review** what he learned.



Suggest comic books for reluctant readers

Does your reader hesitate to pick up traditional chapter books but eagerly reads comic books? That's OK! Experts say that comic books are just another type of reading material. They provide many of the same benefits and opportunities to boost reading skills. In fact, picture books and graphic novels have adopted elements of comics, including motion lines and speech bubbles.



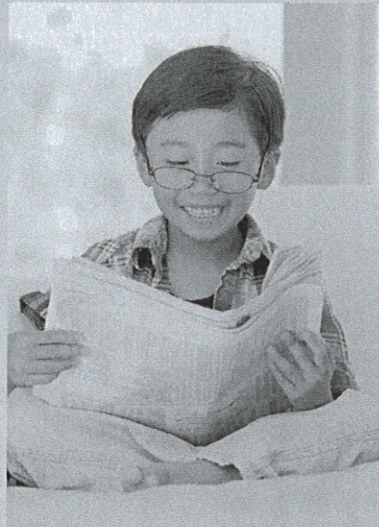
By reading comic books that you approve of, your child can learn how words and pictures come together to tell a story. She will also see the progression of a story from beginning to middle to end. So when your child says that she just doesn't want to read, suggest a comic book featuring some of her favorite characters—she may just change her mind!

Source: J. Vecchiarelli, "5 Ways Comic Books Can Improve Literacy Skills," ProLiteracy, niscw.com/br-es_comicbooks.

Integrate TV time and reading time

With a little planning, television can become an effective tool for learning. You can even use it to encourage your child to read. To use TV programs to promote reading:

- **Have your child read** reviews and descriptions of TV shows and movies. Decide together if you'll watch them.
- **Encourage your child** to look up new words that he hears on TV.
- **Watch the news** with your child (making sure that it's age-appropriate). Then, look in the paper or online to learn more about current events.
- **Look for books** and articles that relate to a TV show that interests your child.



Q: Is it normal for children to reverse letters? I'm worried that my daughter has dyslexia.

A: It's common for early readers to confuse similar-looking letters, such as *b* and *d*. As reading skills improve, however, this shouldn't happen often.

It's wonderful that you pay attention to your child's skills! But if you are worried about her reading, be sure to discuss your concerns with her teacher.

Try mnemonic devices

To help your child remember long lists of information, teach him how to use *mnemonic* devices.

A mnemonic device is a memory aid. If your child is learning the names of the Great Lakes, he can use the acronym HOMES to remember Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior!



For lower elementary readers:

- ***Because Amelia Smiled*** by David Ezra Stein. Because she saw Amelia smile, Mrs. Higgins smiled and baked some cookies. See what else happens in this chain of events started by a smile.



- ***Ish*** by Peter H. Reynolds. Ramon loves to draw, but he's discouraged when his brother says his drawing of a vase doesn't look realistic. That is, until his sister says that it looks vase-ish!

For upper elementary readers:

- ***Nuts*** by Kacy Cook. When Nell and her brothers find two baby squirrels in their yard, they figure out a way to take care of the animals.
- ***Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*** by the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. This is a beautiful collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction and poetry.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

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P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1533-3302

www.parent-institute.com

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

We Are Family by Patricia Hegarty (Tiger Tales). This detailed picture book with short rhyming text introduces young readers to different kinds of families who have one big thing in common: unconditional love. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Paper Wishes by Lois Sepahban (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). A young Japanese-American girl and her family are forced into an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. An engaging story about survival and love offers a personal perspective on American history. (*historical fiction, upper elementary*)

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez (Knopf Books for Young Readers). Dynamic illustrations and text tell the story of a pioneering female scientist and how she turned her passion for reptiles into a career. (*biography, lower elementary*)

The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (Greenwillow Books). Winner of multiple awards, this thrilling tale takes readers on a suspenseful medieval adventure, where nothing is quite what it seems. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

The Fox on the Swing by Evelina Daciutè (Thames & Hudson, Inc). Readers will encounter unexpected details and a satisfying surprise in an award-winning tale about happiness and friendship. (*fiction, lower elementary*)



Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina (Candlewick). Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal, this story follows a young girl as she enters sixth grade and experiences difficult challenges with her friends and family. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

All that Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff by Meghan

McCarthy (Simon & Schuster). Filled with comical illustrations and facts about recycling, this is the true story of a ship full of trash that traveled over 6,000 miles. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild by Catherine Thimmesh (HMH Books for Young Readers). In this award-winning book with stunning photos, readers get an up-close view of pandas and wildlife conservation. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

The Adventures of Otto: See Pip Flap by David Milgrim (Simon Spotlight). With

simple vocabulary and illustrations, this silly story about a robot who tries to teach his friend how to fly will entertain young readers. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson (Arthur A. Levine Books). A mystery takes readers on a journey through time and explores issues of race, bullying and identity. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Book List

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow (Salaam Reads). An award-winning book with colorful illustrations and lyrical text introduces readers to a young American Muslim girl who loves her mother's beautiful headscarves. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

Elvis Is King! by Jonah Winter (Schwartz & Wade). In this illustrated biography, readers will learn about music legend Elvis Presley's rise to fame. *(biography, upper elementary)*

Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing by Marilyn Singer (Dial Books). Celebrate music and styles of dance with this engaging picture book poetry collection. *(poetry, lower elementary)*

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems by Bob Raczka (Roaring Brook Press). This collection of clever poems gives readers a new and exciting way to experience poetry. Through arrangement and form, each poem becomes a "word painting." *(poetry, upper elementary)*

Say Something! by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books). This powerful picture book encourages children to speak up and speak out. Everyone can make a difference in the world—just by making their voice heard. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

Front Desk by Kelly Yang (Arthur A. Levine Books). Follow Mia and her parents as they work together in a motel. This award-winning book, loosely based on the author's childhood, examines issues of immigration and social justice. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

Benji, the Bad Day, and Me by Sally J. Pla (Lee & Low Books). When Sammy has a horrible day, his autistic brother knows just how to make him feel better. This is a beautifully illustrated, sweet story about feelings and family. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed (Nancy Paulsen Books). A young Pakistani girl dreams of continuing her education, but is forced into

indentured servitude. Find out how she overcomes her circumstances with strength and dignity. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom by Eric Walters (Tundra Books). A collection of wise African sayings and bold full-page illustrations will inspire readers of all ages. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

Road Trip with Max and His Mom by Linda Urban (HMH Books for Young Readers). Max goes on an exciting adventure with his mom after returning

from a weekend at his dad's house. This chapter book offers a loving look at family life after a divorce. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

Flow, Spin, Grow: Looking for Patterns in Nature by Patchen Barss (Owlkids). Clear illustrations and rhyming text introduce young readers to the world of patterns. *(nonfiction, lower elementary)*

National Parks of the USA by Kate Siber (Wide Eyed Editions). An award-winning science book, filled with fascinating facts and breathtaking illustrations, takes readers on a tour of America's national parks. *(nonfiction, upper elementary)*

