

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

April is the time for annual state testing to meet our annual NDE requirements. This year the state has gone from NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) to NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) for our testing. The NSCAS test is being created from NWEA which is the same company that provides our MAPS testing. The NSCAS testing window opens on March 19th and runs through April 27th. The week of April 30th through May 4th serves as a make-up week for students who were absent during the original testing window.

The tests are given in grades 3rd-8th in the areas of English/Language (ELA) and Math, with 5th and 8th grades having an additional test in Science. The schedule for each NSCAS test is listed below and has been added to the calendar on the school's website. It is important to make sure your children get a good night's sleep and are prepared for the testing. The individual teachers will communicate with the students and discussing the importance of the testing and how it benefits Clarkson Public Schools.

The NSCAS has all the juniors taking the ACT in the morning on Tuesday, April 3rd. They have been going through prep work with Mrs. Kappel using John Baylor's ACT test prep. This is the second year of the ACT being given to all juniors as part of state testing plan.

3rd grade-	ELA- Monday, April 23rd & Tuesday, April 24th
	Math- Monday, April 23rd & Tuesday, April 24th
4th Grade-	ELA- Thursday, April 12th & Friday, April 13th
	Math- Tuesday, April 17th & Wednesday, April 18th
5th Grade-	ELA- Wednesday, April 11th & Thursday, April 12th
	Math- Tuesday, April 17th & Wednesday, April 18th
	Science- Wednesday, April 25th
6th Grade-	ELA- Wednesday, April 11th
	Math- Tuesday, April 17th & Wednesday, April 18th
7th Grade-	ELA- Monday, April 9th & Tuesday, April 10th
	Math- Tuesday, April 24th & Wednesday, April 25th
8th Grade-	ELA- Monday, April 9th
	Math- Tuesday, April 24th & Wednesday, April 25th
	Science- Wednesday, April 11th & Friday, April 13th
11th Grade-	ACT- Tuesday, April 3rd

In addition to finishing the current year on a strong note, we are also working on the 2018-2019 school year. We are currently adjusting upcoming athletic schedules and preparing for incoming students at the preschool and kindergarten levels. At this time we are starting the process of preschool

and kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Letters will be sent out to parents of children who are eligible for the programs according to our census. We have included information in this month's and next month's newsletter. Our preschool program has a morning class for three-year olds and our afternoon class is for four-year olds. If you have any questions please call us at school at 402-892-3454. We will be scheduling a preschool open house and kindergarten round up soon. Those date dates will be on the calendar. It is a Great Day to be a Patriot!!

From the Principal's Desk

By Lee Schneider

Happy Spring! I can't believe that I am writing this letter as we are officially entering into the final stretch of the 2017-2018 school year. It has gone by extremely fast and seems like a blur. We have had a lot of success and accomplishments this year through many sports and activities. I highly suggest trying to attend our sports banquet, academic night, and our graduation to help celebrate the school year with our students.

The students are preparing for NSCAS testing and are doing a great job in doing their best. Please, make sure to look for any notes, emails or calls home about possible changes or upcoming events. As the end of the school year gets here, we are constantly teaching and working with the students. We want to make a strong push into May!

I would also like to give a shout out to the students that participated in our "Walk up" movement held on March 14th. We gave our students the opportunity to reach out and connect with other students that they may not normally see in a given day. The goal is to promote healthy communication and to help build meaningful and positive relationships amongst our students and staff. It was a great moment to be a part of, and I'm extremely proud of our students!


Go PATS!

The Red Review is a monthly publication of the
Clarkson Public Schools,
PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

The Board of Education

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Order Your YEARbook



It's time to pre-order your 2017-2018 yearbook: *In the Spotlight*.

There will be a LIMITED quantity of books ordered this year. Yearbooks are \$47 through April 13. The price goes up to \$52 on April 14. Checks should be brought to Mrs. Morfeld before or after school and written out to Clarkson Public Schools.

A few copies of the 2016-2017 yearbook (*Branch Out*) are still available for \$52.



Summer Ball Letters

We sent home a sign up sheet for T-Ball, softball, and baseball.

Please check your child's book bags.

All forms and \$10.00 are due back to the school office by April 6th.

Thank you!



2nd Annual Literacy Night

Theme: Earth Day

When: Monday, April 23rd

From: 5:00 pm-7:30 pm

Where: Clarkson New Gym

Please come and join us for our 2nd annual literacy night. We are celebrating the Earth and Earth Day with fun upcycling activities, book giveaways, and more. Food will be served before activities begin.



By: Steph Rolf

Exciting news has been delivered to the Clarkson Public Preschool Classroom from our Early Childhood State Representative, Catie Limbach. Once in the fall and once in the spring this school year, our preschool classroom was observed and rated using the ECERS-3 rating scale. ECERS-3 (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale Third Edition) is used by the State of Nebraska as a tool to assess the quality of programs serving children ages three to five years old. The levels of quality are (1) inadequate, (3) minimal, (5) good, and (7) excellent. The scale consists of 35 items that have been organized into 6 subscales. The six subscales are space and furnishings, personal care routines, language and literacy, learning activities, interaction, and program structure. All six subscales have items that pertain to them and are rated during a 3-hour observation. After all subscales have been scored, they are then used to calculate our overall program score.

The exciting news that was delivered was that our preschool program's overall score is a 6.1! With a great program overall score, Clarkson Public School's Preschool program has been asked by our Early Childhood State Representative to be listed as a program to be observed by other schools and programs.

Tropical Oasis

JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM OF 2018

APRIL 14TH, 2018
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM
GRAND MARCH AT 7:45 PM
LEIGH FAIRGROUNDS

Go Big Red!

By: Tami Sayers and the 6th graders

The doors closed, the room darkened, the tour guide said, "I'll let you out later," with a smile on his face. The lights flashed from the three projectors. "Welcome to the UNL Heisman Trophy Room!" it boomed.



After hearing about Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers, his performance stats, and recorded footage, the room became quiet. "One wall

tile rotated 180 degrees on a central axis, and the Heisman Trophy from 1972 appeared," Isaac Baumert described. Next, they learned about Mike Rozier, the 1983 Heisman winner, and the latest winner from 2001 Eric Crouch. All three trophies were displayed from behind the wall.

This was just a small portion of the field trip to Lincoln, but it was one of their favorite parts. The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders of Clarkson Public Schools spend Monday, March 19th, touring the UNL Memorial Stadium. They spent their afternoon with a tour of the Nebraska State Capitol building.



"We started in the Osborne Lobby where the glass footballs of the national championship trophies cost \$35,000 a piece!" said Mason Albers. After that they walked through the Major Award hallway, with pictures of every football captain in UNL history. "We went to the Hawks indoor practice field where they had huge banners! The banner they were most proud of was that every game was sold out since 1962," Alyssa Gurnsey told. Troy Graybill remembers, "We got to touch the lucky horseshoe that all the Husker football players hit before their games." "We ran out on the red carpet that all the players run on for the tunnel walk," Christian Hamernik said. The tour guide pumped the group up, and they ran across the field! "The field was turf; it felt softer," said Joey Steffensmeier. "The tour guide showed us where Larry the Cable Guy's box seat was located. But he

moved it because the bathroom was too far, even though it was across the hall. Fans swarmed him, so he requested a box seat with a bathroom," Jordyn Graybill said smiling.



After lunch, the students went to the State Capitol. They walked through the halls and learned about all the art on the walls, ceiling, and floor. "All of the painting on the ceilings and walls were cool," Garrett Stodola said. "The sun chandelier was really cool! It had metal feather arrows," Hailey Knapp said. The tour

guide had them lay on the floor in a circle to look closely at the art on the ceiling. "There was a painting of the worst snow storm recorded in Nebraska. The roof of the school blew off and the teacher tied all the students together to go somewhere for safety," Teagan Baumert told. "The arches had all the animals that are native to Nebraska," Korbin Lemburg added. "There were huge marble columns holding up the ceiling inside," Jerzzi Mapel said. "Each of the counties were written, bordering the top of the building," Nathaly Pinonez told. "My favorite part was finding Grant county written on the Capitol building and taking a picture of it," said Grant Hanel.



When asked what their favorite part was, Rylee Balzer said, "Memorial Stadium was the best part. It's huge, the seats were 12 stories high!" Rosie Guillen said, "I liked running on the football field." "The 40 foot waterfall in the Osborne Lobby was my favorite part," Cadence Indra added. "The Heisman Trophy room was my favorite part," Kendall Schneider said. Sophie Morfeld added, "The trophies magically turned around!"

Even though it was a dark room, the Heisman Trophy room was a fan favorite with the students. UNL's tour inspired the students to think red. They could see themselves walking the halls in 8 years. Go Big Red!



By Matt Murren

Spring is here and the weather isn't necessarily cooperating yet! But that doesn't stop us from rockin' and rollin' in the business department.

I would like to start by giving a huge congratulations to senior, Korbin Kudara, who placed 1st place in Accounting and 3rd place in Personal Finance at the Northeast Community College Academic Contest Day! The Accounting department now holds back-to-back 1st place winners from the contest

with Korbin this year and John Langhorst last year!

Please continue to check the school's YouTube page for videos created in Multimedia and Jr. High Computers. Students are doing a great job using different means to create projects; and they are turning out great. Multimedia I is currently working on creating the highlight video to be played at the Athletic Awards Banquet on April 27th. Multimedia II just finished up a video on Clarkson Bank that is entered in a contest with the opportunity to win scholarships and even a MacBook Air. Junior High Computers created infomercials to start the trimester, and it was great to see some of the students come out of their shells in the creation of these videos! They did a great job.

Accounting I and Accounting II are flying through content and mastering skills. Accounting I just completed the payroll section, so if you need some payroll completed just let them know! They learned about Federal Income Tax, Social Security, and Medicare Tax withholding. They input all the information into their payroll register and completed the paychecks. Accounting II is working with departmental accounting and making sure to place all transactions with the correct department! It takes a little longer at times distinguishing

departments, but it will make it easier in the long run for tracking purposes.

Personal Finance is working with the credit and loans section. It is such an important part of the class content, and students are currently working on ways to present the information to one another. We cover credit cards, credit applications, loans, and everything else in between! We are also working together with Mrs. Kappel in this course in building career skills by job shadowing and working interview skills! As always, It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!



NECC High School Scholastic Contest

By Jennifer Kappel

Northeast Community College was the host of the annual Academic Contest for northeast Nebraska students on Wednesday, March 28th. Clarkson was able to compete in 27 academic contests including American History, Spanish, Biology, Construction, Calculus, Psychology, and Welding to mention a few. Students were selected based upon teacher recommendations and their performance in the classroom. Clarkson also had students represented in the Quiz Bowl competition. Many of our students finished in the top 10 of their respective tests; however, only the top 3 earn medals. Congratulations to Korbin Kudara for earning first place in the Accounting I exam and third place in Personal Finance. Way to represent!

Junior High Participate in Real World Money

By Jennifer Kappel

Clarkson's 7th and 8th graders participated in an interactive financial management program designed to help students become better prepared to make financial decisions as young adults on Friday, March 30th. Students experienced a real life simulation that utilized limited financial resources helping them learn the impact on their future decisions. They were able to explore careers and resources, understand how to make wise credit choices, get a better understanding of family finances and realize the limits of financial resources

within a family and as a young adult. All of these lessons were accomplished through interactive and collaborative learning activities.

This event was developed and presented by the University of Nebraska 4-H extension staff on the NECC campus. Extension agents, including Colfax County's Julie Kreikemeier, presented throughout the day and facilitated the simulation. Presenters were extremely complimentary of Clarkson's students! Nice job, 7th and 8th graders!

Freshmen Participate in College Visit

By Jennifer Kappel

On Thursday, March 29th, members of the freshmen class embarked on a full day of touring college campuses, getting a feel for opportunities following graduation. They began their day at Wayne State College with a welcome activity, comparing life in high school with life in college. Although, many of the comparisons were facts that adults take for granted, there were some real eye-openers for the 9th graders to help them realize how different college will be.

Students were given small group tours of the dorms and departments on campus based upon their unique interests. Lunch was also enjoyed at the WSC cafeteria.

Freshmen then spent their afternoon at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. The visit began with a tour of some of the highlights on campus, especially the new dorm, Path Hall, and Hawks Point. Students then participated in a student panel question and answer session in which Clarkson's Shelby Paprocki, current NECC student, helped present. At the conclusion of the afternoon, Clarkson students were given a special tour of the Nursing College, getting the opportunity to meet and visit with current nursing students as they were practicing skills on life-like mannequins and also a look at the Diesel Technology facility.

This experience will hopefully build upon the learning that these students are having in looking to their future. There are so many post high school educational opportunities at our fingertips!

Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

Seniors...It's decision time!

Here's how to make your final college decision. Compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications, and campus visit notes. List the pros and cons of each school using the following criteria:

Location – Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

Cost – Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in student and parent loans will you need to borrow to cover expenses?

Academic program – Which college offers the degree program that best fits your career interests? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other degree programs that interest you?

Student life – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Make your final decision by May 1 and then notify the colleges you're rejecting so they can offer your spot and financial aid to another student.

Juniors... these questions will help you narrow your college choices. By narrowing your college choices now, you'll be better prepared to apply for financial aid and college admission early next fall. Start by answering these questions.

What do you want to study?

Explore your career interests and then research colleges that offer programs in areas you may want to pursue. Use college selection tools like College Profiles at EducationQuest.org.

What kind of school do you want to attend?

Do you prefer a large university or a small college? Are you interested in a community college? What kind of student/teacher ratio do you want?

Where do you want to go to college?

Do you want to live close to home or far away? Do you want to be in a major city or a small town? How big of a factor is out-of-state or private school tuition? If you want to go out of state, investigate programs like the Midwest Student Exchange Program which may provide discounted tuition.

What can you afford?

Consider overall costs: tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and personal expenses.

(See "About Nebraska Colleges" for costs.)

Determine what you and your parents can afford to pay out-of-pocket and plan to apply for financial aid to help make up the difference. Calculate the loan debt you and your parents may need to incur to pay for your college education.

For more details, see "Selecting a College" at EducationQuest.org.

April "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Continue applying for scholarships.
- ___ Make your final college decision.
- ___ Start purchasing dorm essentials.
- ___ Start looking for a summer job.

Juniors

- ___ Schedule campus visits while colleges are still in session.
- ___ Register by April 6 for the May 5 SAT.
- ___ Register by May 4 for the June 9 ACT.
- ___ Start looking for scholarships.



It is Round-up time!

Friday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

By Wes Pokorny

I want to make this as smooth as possible. If your child attends 4 year-old pre-school at Clarkson Public School, they will be picked up at 9:45. If your child does not attend pre-school at Clarkson Public School you may drop your child off in the Kindergarten room at 10:00. They may be picked up between 12:45 and 1:00. Children will eat hot lunch at school, and the cost of hot lunch is \$2.55. It may be taken from an older siblings account or paid by cash.

Who is eligible for kindergarten? Anyone who fits the age requirements - 5 years of age by July 31st, 2018.

Please check your mail sometime in the second week of April. I will send all forms needed to enroll your student at Clarkson Public Schools. I will also enclose a cover letter of additional information. I like to send these forms out before you bring your

kids to Round-up. This way I can better answer your questions and make that first day of school a great experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at school, 892-3454. If you need transportation to school for round-up, please contact the school.

We will need a copy of an official copy of the student's birth certificate when the 2018-2019 school year begins. This is a Nebraska state law.

To receive a birth certificate by mail, send a \$17.00 check or money order (credit cards are not accepted) and the following information:

- * Full name at birth. If adopted, list adoptive name and state "adopted".
 - * Month/day/year of birth
 - * City or town of birth/County of birth
 - * Father's full name, if adopted, list the adopted father's name.
 - * Mother's full maiden name, if adopted, list adoptive mother's name.
 - * Purpose for the record?
 - * If not your record, how are you related?
 - * Requestor's Photo Identification is Required, i.e. drivers license
- Send your check along with the needed

information to:

Vital Records

PO Box 95065

Lincoln NE 68509-5065

I am anxious to meet all the prospective kindergarten students on the 27th! See you then!



Clarkson Public School Happenings

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Monday, April 2nd – NO school (Easter Break)

Tuesday, April 3rd – JH track 3:00 at Wisner

Juniors ACT testing

Wednesday, April 4th – Saturday, April 7th – State FFA Convention in Lincoln

Thursday, April 5th – Saturday, April 7th – State FBLA Convention

Thursday, April 5th – HS track 2:00 at Aquinas in David City

Sunday, April 8th – Tuesday, April 10th – State FCCLA Convention in Lincoln

Monday, April 9th – Golf dual 4:00 at Leigh

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 10th – HS track 10:00 at Lyons Decatur NE

Wednesday, April 11th – Golf tournament 9:00 at Leigh

Thursday, April 12th – PreK-12th grade teacher's meeting at 7:45 am

JH Track 3:45 at Madison

Friday, April 13th – PreK-6th grade Spring Music Concert 7:00 pm at Clarkson

Saturday, April 14th – PROM (Grand March 7:45 at Leigh Fairgrounds)

Monday, April 16th – 7th-12th grade Spring Music Concert 7:30 pm in Leigh

Tuesday, April 17th – JH track 11:00 at Battle Creek

HS track invite 11:00 at Madison

Golf triangular 4:00 at Leigh

Thursday, April 19th – PreK-12th grade assembly, NECC show choir 8:15am

JH Track 1:30 at Lyons-Decatur

Friday, April 20th – District Music Contest at CCC

Saturday, April 21st – Golf invite 9:00 am at Pender

District Music Contest at CCC

Sunday, April 22nd – Elite Dance tryouts 4:00-8:00 pm in Clarkson

Monday, April 23rd – FCCLA highway clean up

2nd Annual Family Literacy Night 5:00 -7:30 pm.

Tuesday, April 24th – HS track Patriot invite 9:00 in Madison

Golf dual 1:30 at Madison

Thursday, April 26th – Golf invite 10:00 at Humphrey

Newsletter article deadline

Friday, April 27th – Kindergarten Round-up

Sports banquet 6:30 pm at Colfax Co. Fairgrounds

Saturday, April 28th – Golf invite 9:00 at Pierce

HS Conference Track at West Point-Beemer, TBA

Monday, April 30th – JH track 3:00 at Wisner

April 2018

Clarkson Public School

LUNCH



Menus are subject to change.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Nutrition Tip: Practice stealth health - sneak veggies into favorite foods. Go light on the meat and top your pizza with vegetables like tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, mushrooms, zucchini, and artichoke hearts.



Monday

Type your text here

2

Breakfast – bkf pizza

Lunch – fiestada pizza

3

Breakfast – sausage egg biscuit

Lunch – hamburgers

9

Breakfast – combos

Lunch – quesadilla

16

Breakfast – bacon scramble pizza

Lunch – pork patty sandwich

23

Breakfast – pancake sausage stick

Lunch – BBQ pork sandwich



Tuesday

Breakfast – bkf pizza

Lunch – fiestada pizza

3

Breakfast – flatbread sandwich

Lunch – corn dogs

10

Breakfast – homemade burrito

Lunch – sub sandwich

17

Breakfast – biscuits & gravy

Lunch – chicken fried steak

24

Wednesday

Breakfast – ham egg croissant

Lunch – fried chicken

4

Breakfast – French toast

Lunch – chicken & gravy

11

Breakfast – ham egg bagel

Lunch – chicken nuggets

18

Breakfast – hot pockets

Lunch – spaghetti

25



Thursday

Breakfast – bagel & cream cheese

Lunch – flatbread sandwich

5

Breakfast – mini bagels

Lunch – tacos

12

Breakfast – bkf tornado

Lunch – salisbury steak

19

Breakfast – bkf pizza

Lunch – chicken fajita

26

Friday

Breakfast – bkf bosco

Lunch – chicken tenders

6

Breakfast – yogurt cups

Lunch – chicken patty sandwich

13

Breakfast – Clarkson Bakery rolls

Lunch – pizza

20

Breakfast – sausage egg English muffin

Lunch – Philly steak sandwich

27



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/Zip _____
 Phone _____

Camp- June 13th – June 14th
 Youth S M L S M L XL
 Adult
 T-shirt Size
 Circle one

What grade will you be in next school year?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 Circle one

Entry Deadline is Friday, May 18th please send to:
Coach Matt Murren
 Clarkson High School
 649 Cherry Street
 Clarkson, NE 68629
 402-892-3454
Coach Jeff Bachman
 Leigh High School
 310 Short Street
 Leigh, NE 68643
 402-487-2228

Please include the \$25.00 fee with your registration and make check payable to Clarkson-Leigh Girls Basketball

I give my permission for my son/daughter, _____, to participate in the 2018 Lil Pats Basketball Camp and acknowledge that he/she is physically able to participate in camp activities. I further acknowledge that as with any physical activity there is a risk of injury. I will not hold the coaching staff or Clarkson/Leigh High School liable in the case of an accident or an injury.

 Parent Signature

LIL PATS PATRIOTS!
 (participation optional)

Wednesday
 Crazy Sock, Head/Arm Band Day
 Favorite Team Jersey Day

Thursday
 Patriots Day (Red/White/Blue)
 Or
 Camp T-Shirt Day



Keys to Success
 P A T H L E T E
 A T R I O T

Shirts cannot be guaranteed if you don't pre-register your child by May 18th!

Next Year's Grade

2nd-3rd-4th-5th grade – W-Th 9:00am-11:00am

6th-7th-8th grade – W-Th 11:30am-1:30pm

Coach Matt Murren
Phone: 402-892-3454
Email: mmurren@clarkson.esu7.org
 Coach Jeff Bachman
Phone: 402-487-2228
Email: jbachman@leigh.esu7.org



2018 Lil Pats Basketball Camp

June 13th – June 14th

Clarkson High School
 Clarkson, NE



Middle School Parents[®]

April 2018
Vol. 21, No. 8

Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7

still make the difference!



Three skills help students prepare for college & career

Your middle schooler may not know what he wants to do after he graduates from high school. That's years away! However, there are some skills he can start building now that will help him be successful—whatever his future plans may be. They include:

1. **Communication.** From factory floors to hospital operating rooms, on-the-job success depends on communication. You can help your child strengthen his speaking and listening skills at home. If he wants you to rethink a rule, have him build a case and present it to you. Why does he want to stay out later next Friday? How has he shown he is responsible enough for this change?
2. **Critical thinking and problem solving.** Middle schoolers often see things they'd like to change.

There's a school policy that doesn't seem fair. Their team needs new uniforms, but the school lacks the budget. Instead of just listening to your child complain, help him think about how *he* could help solve the problem. Perhaps he can share his idea with the principal.

3. **Decision making.** Suppose your child is wondering if he should sign up for an honors math class next year. To help him think through the choice, make a T chart. Have him put the reasons *for* on one side and the reasons *against* on the other. When he sees the pros and cons, he can make a more informed choice.

Source: B. Cook, "College and Career Ready: What It Means for Middle School Students: Helping students develop the skills they know they need to succeed," Association for Middle Level Education, nslwc.com/mid_skills.

Set reasonable expectations for your child



It's important to set expectations for your middle schooler's academic success, but it's equally

important to make sure those expectations are reasonable.

To determine whether you're setting the bar at the right level for your child, ask yourself if your expectations:

- **Are flexible.** Have you read parenting books telling you what your child "should be" doing, thinking or feeling at this age? Then you may have lost sight of the fact that most of that information is based on *averages*. It doesn't relate specifically to what any one individual should be doing (or achieving). Keep that in mind if you find yourself setting a goal for your child just because "all the other sixth graders" seem to be meeting it.
- **Reflect who she really is.** Do you see your child clearly when you're thinking about what she should achieve? If she has been a reluctant reader since preschool, pushing her to take honors English may not make sense. Work together with her teachers to set your child up for success.

It Matters: Building Respect

Self-respect is critical for your child's success



Self-respect is essential for middle schoolers.

A child with self-respect believes in himself as a worthy

person. He knows he deserves to be treated fairly and kindly. And he knows it would be out of character for him to treat others differently.

To foster your child's sense of self-respect:

- **Help him fight negative peer pressure.** Talk about ways your child can avoid situations he knows are not right for him.
- **Keep a positive attitude.** Everyone experiences bumps in the road. These are temporary. Encourage your child to make a fresh start after a setback.
- **Point out his strengths** and explain that people have different strengths and weaknesses. This awareness can help your child control feelings of jealousy. The ability to be happy for others, rather than jealous of them, is an important part of self-respect.
- **Take a firm stance** against substance abuse. Tell your child that self-respect includes respect for his personal safety and health.
- **Model self-respect.** Remember to speak positively about yourself. Be honest and follow-through with commitments. Forgive yourself when you make mistakes. Take good care of your health and relationships.

Source: Sean Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Fireside.

Help your middle schooler develop a sense of respect

You make a point of respecting your child, but do you insist that she show you respect, too? If not, now is the time to start.

To develop your child's sense of respect for you, herself and others:

- **Don't let her run the show.** Does your home life revolve around her activities, achievements and desires? It shouldn't. If her needs always come first, she may not learn to respect the notion that other people have needs, too.
- **Hold your applause.** It's fine to congratulate your child when she does well, but don't gush over every accomplishment. Instead, save your highest praise for when your child works hard.
- **Allow her to experience disappointment.** You can't spare your child from all of life's troubles, nor



should you. Whether it's being cut from the volleyball team or failing to earn an A in math, she needs to learn to take her lumps. Besides, they're hers—not yours. So give her a hug and let her move past it. She'll likely respect herself for bouncing back—and respect you for showing her she could.

Pay attention to how you speak to your middle schooler



You probably speak to your friends and colleagues with respect. But how do you speak to your child?

It's natural for family members to let their guards down around one another and speak in a more casual way than they do with others. But if that crosses into disrespect, you are doing your child and yourself a disservice.

If you speak disrespectfully to your child, he won't learn how to speak respectfully—to you or anyone else. Here are some tips:

- **Set a positive tone.** Saying "Hi, honey" or simply "Good morning" is an easy way to start.
- **Consider feelings.** If you know your child has had a bad day at school, don't scold him about not making his bed. Discuss issues when your child is feeling better.
- **Be attentive.** Take your eyes off your phone when your child speaks to you. Look him in the eye. If you are driving, you obviously have to watch the road. Encourage your child to speak to you anyway. A lot of great parent-child communication happens in the car.

Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
Clarkson NE 68629

The Clarkson Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age or disabilities in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

