

The Red Review

15-16 April Vol. 8

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

On February 24, 2016, Clarkson Public Schools hosted our External Visitation Team for our School Improvement visit. Nebraska public schools are mandated to have a School Improvement plan in place and meet continually to look at data, seek improvements and track action on their work once every five years. During this improvement cycle our School Improvement Team chose the area of Math Computation as our school goal. Math computation is performing the basic mathematical operations of multiplication, division, subtraction and addition. We should be getting our visit report back during the month of April and we will be posting it on our school website.

At this time we are starting the process of Pre-School and Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-17 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 Pre-School Program is for three year olds and four year olds in the afternoon. If you have any questions please call the school at 402-892-3454.

Kindergarten Roundup will be on April 29th. If you have a child that is eligible for kindergarten next year, please contact the school to make sure you are on the list to receive information for the roundup.

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PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

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Clarkson Teacher Receives Educator Award

CLARKSON—Wes Pokorny, kindergarten teacher in Clarkson, Neb., received the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum “Educator Award” for outstanding contributions toward advancing the knowledge and appreciation of plants among their students.



“This may be the first time this award has gone to a kindergarten teacher,” said NSA Executive Director in giving the award, “but with the enthusiasm Pokorny brings to his indoor and outdoor classrooms, we think his teaching and legacy will extend far into the future.”

Pokorny's kindergarteners know how to germinate seeds, climb trees and identify birds. Though they learn a lot about nature and plants, the learning extends into math and reading as well. Wes has created multiple outdoor classrooms—a vegetable and cut flower space adjacent to his classroom and Harlan's Hill, a natural outdoor classroom which he improved through NSA's Sustainable Schoolyard Program. He tweets his student's outdoor interactions to get parents and the whole community involved.

“Pokorny's use of outdoor learning can serve as a wonderful model for other schools and teachers wanting to get their students excited and knowledgeable about the natural world,” Hoyt said.

For more information about the award winners, reception or the statewide network of public landscapes modeling and promoting “sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities,” call 402-472-2971 or visit arboretum.unl.edu.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Friday, April 29th
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

By Wes Pokorny

It is round-up time! I want to make this as smooth as possible. We will have all-day pre-school on the 29th of April. If your child attends pre-school at Clarkson Public School they will be picked up in the morning. They will attend pre-school until 10:00 and then they will join us in the Kindergarten room. If you do not attend pre-school at CPS 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, the cost of hot lunch is \$2.40. 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, 2015.

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 2016-2017 school year begins. This is a Nebraska state law.

To receive a birth certificate by mail, send a \$12.00 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 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 29th! See you then!

Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

Spring is anew. It is a crazy time of year if you are in the school biz. There is a lot going on and with the warmer weather the kids get a little more nuts. That is not all bad however a little burst of energy is good for anyone. As we move forward into our spring curriculum, I hope that we can get some outdoor work in. Indoors we will be doing a lot of ultimate Frisbee, floor hockey and Wiffle ball over the next month or so. All awesome activities that do require some skill work to go along with some spirited play. I hope that everyone gets a chance to get some exercise in and have a positive attitude despite the yoyo weather pattern we are in. Some cool news regarding our weight room, it is in the plans to give our weight room outside access and add a piece or two of cardio equipment, so that we can open it up to the public. Hopefully if this does come to fruition we will let the public know. Have a great spring!

NHS Travels to Midland

Clarkson National Honor Society members attended a presentation at Midland University February 23rd. Members were able to listen to Temple Grandin speak about her experiences in the field of agriculture. She was diagnosed with autism at the age of 2 years old. Temple Grandin is a leading advocate for autistic communities, and is a noted animal expert that has worked in the agriculture industry all of her life.



Jessi Sayers, Bradley Bunner, Camille Koehn, MaGyver Brabec, Colby Becker, Marissa Heins

8th Graders Attend CCC Career Fair

The 8th grade class traveled to Central Community College in Columbus on Wednesday, March 23rd to participate in the annual career fair. Students listened to speakers present about job applications, job interviewing, appropriate dress for males and females, college preparedness and career interests.

The second half of the program involved students traveling to booths in the college gym visiting with volunteers from area businesses. Over twenty-five businesses were represented with volunteers giving explanations and hands-on experiences to explain different aspects of their jobs. CCC always does a great job of putting on this program and Clarkson's 8th grade class represented well!



Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

Seniors . . . it's decision time!

Follow this advice to decide on the college that's the right fit for you.

First, compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Write down pros and cons for each school you're considering 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 cover expenses?

Academic program – Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other 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 any financial aid, to another student.

Juniors . . . start looking for scholarships

Start searching! Check in often with the school counselor, and visit free sites including Scholarship Quest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships.

Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service – a critical component for many scholarships. Track your involvement using the Activities Resume at EducationQuest.org.

Do your best to get good grades in school and good scores on ACT/SAT exams. These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.

Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships by completing the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.

Learn about scholarships and tuition assistance programs offered by colleges that interest you. Programs such as Collegebound Nebraska at the University of Nebraska, NSCS Advantage offered by the Nebraska State College System, and Access NWU at Nebraska Wesleyan University, cover the cost of tuition if you meet income and academic criteria.

Scholarship warning . . .

If you receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services, investigate them if they charge a fee.

EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free scholarship resources. To learn more, talk to your school counselor or contact EducationQuest.

April "To Do" List

Seniors:

Continue applying for scholarships.

Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August.

Start looking for a summer job.

Juniors:

Register by April 8th for the May 7th SAT.

Register by May 6th for the June 11 ACT.

Schedule campus visits while colleges are still in session.

Start looking for scholarships.

EducationQuest office phone numbers:

Omaha 888-357-6300

Lincoln 800-303-3745

Kearney 800-666-3721

Scottsbluff 800-303-3745, ext. 6654



Business/Technology News

By Matt Murren

How quickly time flies, cannot believe we are already into April. What a fantastic school year it has been in the business world and at Clarkson Schools.

The Accounting I classes have learned and mastered many Accounting principles while dealing with both a sole proprietorship and corporation. We have completely gone full circle in the business world from determining to journalizing transactions, posting into ledger accounts, and creating financial statements. I've received tremendous effort throughout the year on Application and Mastery problems, which has been great!

Business Math covered topics and math skills from the banking world to investments and into probability. It has been fun to work with the class and watch not only their business knowledge improve but as well as math skills involving the knowledge.

Junior High Computers completed a variety of projects from commercials, to infomercials, how to videos, and a short film. They also learned about Microsoft Excel, photo editing, and stop motion animation videos. If you ever want to check out their productions, go to the school YouTube page on YouTube. The school username is clarksonpublicschool.

Web Design has done a great job of keeping the website updated throughout the semester and making sure it looks good. They've worked with some HTML coding for web production as well as looked at some design software. They were working on gaming software also.

Personal Finance covered numerous topics throughout this school year. We started off the year learning on how to make money, how to pick a career, and how to begin to save. We've covered the tax system and how it works. They filled out an individual income tax return from start to finish and created a video to show their understanding. The Health and Auto insurance section was a success this year capped off by a debate about health care. Students broke down the Credit/Loan section and did a great job with presentations.

With this being the 2nd full year of being a 1:1 school, technology around the school has continued to improve and update. Constantly monitoring access points for Internet connection has been key for Internet and computer use. As we continue down the path of being 1:1, technology in and around the school will continue to improve. It's always nice to know that when Internet is down, I'm the 1st to hear!

As before, it's been another great year here at Clarkson and we look to finish it out strong. Don't forget. It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!



Caps and gowns came in for the seniors for graduation. Pictured below are the seniors trying on their gowns!

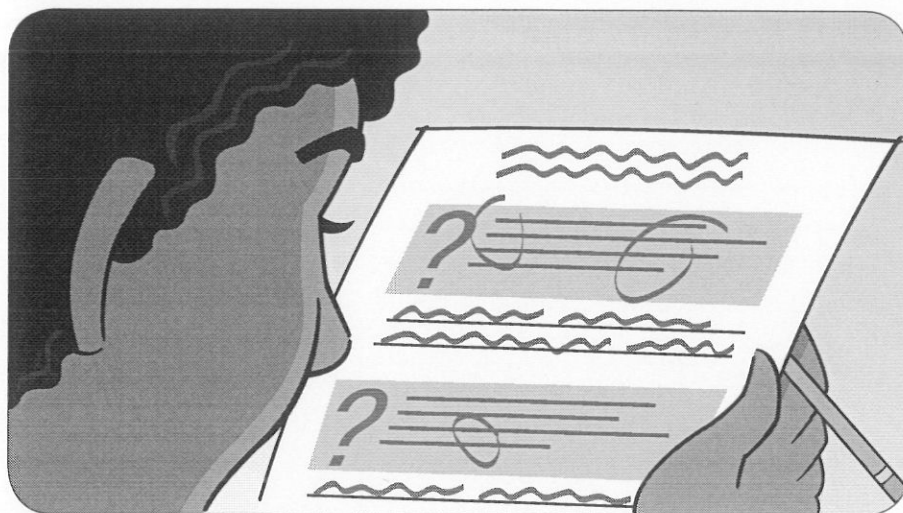


Middle School Parents[®]

April 2016
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Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7

still make the difference!



Share test-taking strategies with your middle schooler

Standardized tests are part of your child's life, and they can have a big effect on his future education. So the next time one of these exams looms, prepare your child by teaching him a few test-taking strategies. He should:

- **Read the whole question.** If he's being timed, your child may be tempted to race through the test. Remind him to slow down and read the entire question before he jumps to finding its answer.
- **Pick out key words.** As he reads each question, your child should note key words like *including*, *except* and *compare*. They go to the heart of what's being asked.
- **Consider each available answer.** Even if your child feels certain that the first answer he sees is correct,

he should look through the rest. It's possible that another answer is stronger.

- **Answer the easiest questions first**—if the test allows your child to answer questions in any order. Once he gets past the easy questions, he can use the remaining minutes to revisit the tricky ones.
- **Make an informed guess.** If your child has no clue about a certain answer, he should guess (assuming there's no penalty for doing so). To make a solid guess, he should eliminate answers that are obviously wrong and then choose from the remaining options.

Source: G.E. Tompkins, "Preparing for Standardized Tests," Education.com, niswc.com/mid_standardized.

Are your child's after-school hours packed?



Like you, your child needs downtime to unwind. But if her schedule is packed, she won't have that downtime. To determine whether your child's after-school hours are overscheduled, ask yourself:

- **Is she frequently irritable or tired?** If she has too many things on her to-do list, she may not be getting the proper amount of rest. Experts recommend preteens get nine to 10 hours of sleep per night.
- **Does she struggle to finish her homework?** If she's taking appropriate classes but can't seem to get her work done, it may be because she has too many other things on her plate.
- **Do "mystery illnesses" keep her from participating?** If she often gets a stomachache right before soccer practice, it could be a clue that she's doing too much.

Once you've thought about your answers to these questions, talk with your child. "You seem super busy and stressed lately. How can we adjust your schedule so you get to do your favorite activities and have time to relax, too?"

Learning how to say *no* is an important skill for all children



Most kids face peer pressure when they get to middle or high school. But did you know that even in elementary school, children can feel pressure to fit in and to do what everyone else is doing?

Sometimes, that means going along with teasing or bullying on the playground. Other times, it means watching a movie at a friend's house that they would never be allowed to watch at home.

Now is the time to teach your child how to handle peer pressure. Help him learn to say *no* to things that don't fit with your family's discipline rules or values.

Here are some sentences your child should repeat to himself:

- I can say *no* to things that would put me in danger.
- I can make good choices for myself.
- I can say, "You're my friend, but I don't choose to do that."
- It's OK if I make choices that are not the same as the choices my friends make.

Source: D. Bloch, *The Power of Positive Talk: Words to Help Every Child Succeed*, FreeSpirit Publishers.

"We need to learn the slow yes and the quick no."

—Tom Friel

Five simple strategies help you encourage respectful behavior



There are days that parents and teachers feel like Aretha Franklin. All they're asking for is a little R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

But in today's society, where disrespect is common, it can be even more of a challenge to raise respectful kids. Fortunately, there are still some things that work.

Here are five ways to encourage respect in your child:

1. **Be a good role model.** Respect, like most values, is *caught*, not *taught*. When your child sees you treating everyone with respect—from his teacher at school to the homeless person on the street—he'll learn that that's the way to behave.
2. **Name it when you see it.** When you see other people behaving in respectful ways, make a positive

comment. "Did you see how that man on the bus gave up his seat so that elderly woman could sit down? What a respectful thing to do." No lecture is necessary. Your child will get the message.

3. **Praise it when he demonstrates it.** "Cole, I felt very proud of your respectful behavior when you held the door for Mrs. Jones. I know she appreciated that gesture."
4. **Correct it.** If your child slips up, help him make a course correction. "Remember when we talked about how to greet guests?"
5. **Report what you hear.** If a teacher or neighbor tells you your child greeted her politely, let your child know how proud you are of his respectful behavior.

Source: R.J.A. Silverman, "10 Tips on Teaching Respect to Children: You can't get it if you don't give it!" niswc.com/elem_respect.

Are you reducing your child's test anxiety?



Some kids get butterflies in their stomachs before tests. But others go into full-blown panic. Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if you are helping your child overcome test anxiety:

- ___ 1. **Do you help** your child create a study plan to prepare for the test?
- ___ 2. **Have you talked** with your child about *your* expectations? Remind her that your love for her does not depend on a test score.
- ___ 3. **Have you shared** calming techniques with your child? Deep breathing, counting backwards from 100—find things that work for her.
- ___ 4. **Do you encourage** your child to talk to her teacher? If she is especially nervous, her teacher may be able to reassure her that she is, indeed, well-prepared.
- ___ 5. **Do you encourage** positive self-talk? When your child gets stuck during a test, she can say, "I know this. The answer will come to me."

How well are you doing?

Mostly *yes* answers mean you are helping your child reduce test anxiety. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

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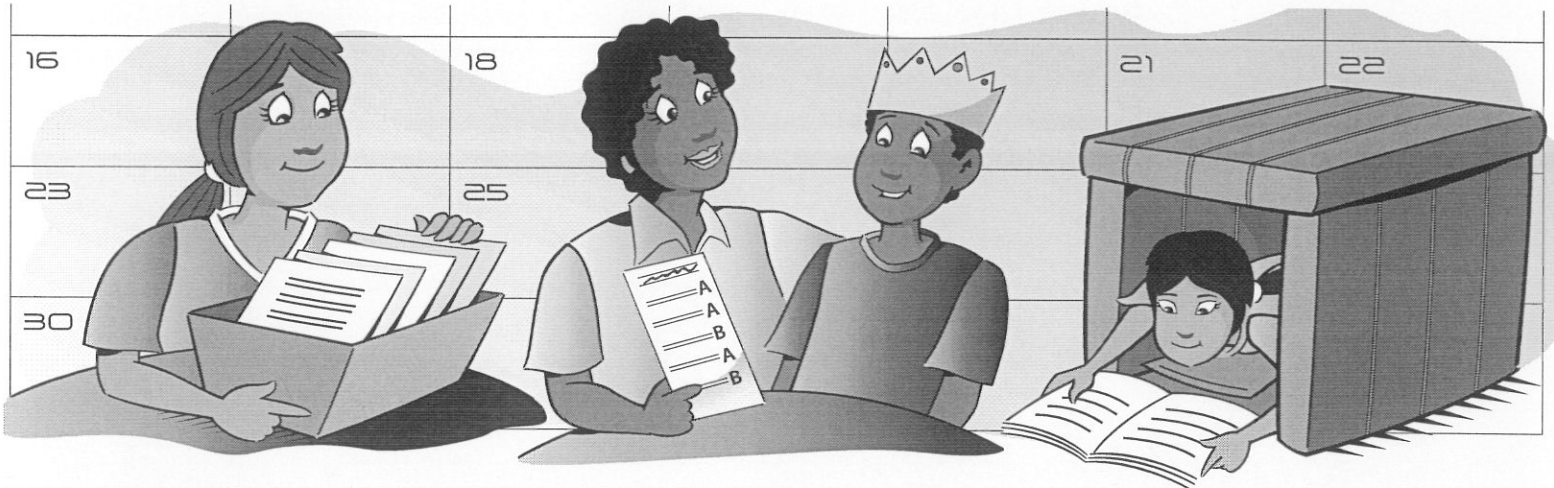
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Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School

Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2016					1 April is Mathematics Awareness Month. Take time to review math with your child each day this month.	2 This is also National Poetry Month. Go to the library with your child and check out a few books of poetry.
3 Encourage your child to sort her books by subject. She can use the library's system or invent her own.	4 Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help him make a plan to raise them before the school year ends.	5 Ask your child to imagine life 150 years ago. How about 150 years in the future?	6 April is Stress Awareness Month. Talk with your child about ways to handle stress. She could exercise or talk to a friend.	7 Ask your child what people make up a family (mother, aunt, child.) Tell him there are many kinds of families.	8 Have a music-sharing night. Share your favorite music with each other. Talk about how it makes you feel.	9 As you do errands, help your child talk with people about the jobs they do.
10 Using permanent marker, mark off inches on the side of a clear jar. Set outside. See how many inches of rain you get in one week.	11 Good report card? High grade on a test? Make your achiever "King or Queen for a Day."	12 Talk about fire safety today. What should your child do in case of a fire? Teach her an escape route from her bedroom.	13 Play math "Jeopardy" as a family. Give a number. Who can come up with a problem for which it is the answer?	14 Have your child draw an upside-down picture today.	15 Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.	16 Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
17 Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Work on math problems outside together.	18 Find a new way to say "I love you"—in sign language or in secret code.	19 Teach your child a favorite song from when you were his age.	20 Brainstorm ways your family could help beautify your neighborhood.	21 Look through magazines with your child for pictures containing 90-degree angles. Create a collage of these angles.	22 Choose a TV show to watch together. Then, ask your child what she thought about the show you watched.	23 Are you taking a car trip? Take along some audio books.
24 Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.	25 Practice division. Ask your child, "How many of your lifetimes has Grandma lived? Aunt Sue?"	26 Use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice or milk to write a message to your child. To decipher, hold the paper up to a light bulb.	27 It's the birthday of Samuel Morse. Have family members send messages to each other in Morse Code.	28 Make puppets with your child by drawing faces on the bottom flaps of small paper bags.	29 Send your child something through the mail. She will be thrilled.	30 Take a fraction walk with your child and record your findings: 3/6 of cars are blue; 4/5 of houses have gray roofs.

Calendar Events April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
3 State FCCLA Conference in Lincoln	4 State FCCLA Conference in Lincoln	5 HS Track 2:00 Aquinas at David City JH Track Invite 3:00 at Wisner State FCCLA Conference in Lincoln	6 State FFA Convention and State Ag Contests in Lincoln	7 State FFA Convention and State Ag Contests in Lincoln Boys Golf 9:00 West Point/Beemer Invite	1 HS Track 9:00 at Osceola Elementary Teacher Meeting 7:45 a.m. Alumni Volleyball and Basketball	2 Jr/Sr PROM at Leigh Alumni Volleyball and Basketball
10	11 Boys Golf Dual 4:00 at Humphrey FCCLA meeting 6:30 p.m. in Clarkson School Board Meeting	12 HS Track Cougar Relays 10:00 at Lyons PreK-8th grade Spring Music concert 6:30 p.m.	13 Boys Golf Patriot Invite 9:00 in Leigh	14 Dance Team Banquet 6:00 pm JH Track Invite 3:15 at Madison	15 PreK-12 teacher meeting 7:45 a.m.	16
17	18 9-12 grade Contest Concert at Leigh HS	19 Boys Golf Triangular 4:30 at North Bend Central HS Track Invite 1:30 at Madison JH Track Invite 11:00 at Battle Creek	20 Fire Drill	21 FFA Parent/Member Banquet 7:00 in Leigh JH Track 1:30 at Lyons-Deatur	22 FCCLA Chapter Officer Applications Due District Music Contest at CCC	23 District Music Contest at CCC
24	25	26 Boys Golf Dual 1:30 at Madison Newsletter article deadline HS Track Clarkson-Leigh Invite 9:00 in Madison	27 FCCLA Highway Clean-up Joslyn Art Field Trip	28 Boys Golf Invite 10:00 at Humphrey Kindergarten - 2nd grade Field Trip Norfolk Classic Track Meet	29 Kindergarten Round-up	30 Conference Track Meet at Wisner-Pfizer Boys Golf 9:00 Pierce Invite

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Easter	28	29	30	31	1 April Fool's Day	2
					Breakfast - Clarkson Bakery rolls Lunch - Chicken Strips	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Breakfast - Chicken Patty Lunch - Hamburgers/ Bun	Breakfast-Ham Egg Croissant Lunch - Chicken & Gravy	Breakfast - Muffin Lunch - Spaghetti	Breakfast -Egg Sausage Biscuit Lunch - Tacos	Breakfast - Combo Lunch - Pizza	
10	11	12	13	14	15 Taxes Due	16
	Breakfast - Pizza Lunch - Quesadilla	Breakfast -Biscuit & Gravy Lunch - Sub Sandwich	Breakfast -Hot Pockets Lunch-Cheeseburger Casserole	Breakfast-French Toast and Sausage Lunch-Chicken Fried Steak	Breakfast-Clarkson Bakery Lunch-Chicken Fajita	
17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Passover
	Breakfast - Pizza Bagel Lunch - Pizza	Breakfast-Sausage Egg Bagel Lunch - Sloppy Joe	Breakfast - Roller Dogs Lunch-Chicken Casserole	Breakfast-Homemade Burrito Lunch - Meatball Sub	Breakfast - Tornado Lunch - Pork Steak	
24	25	26	27 Admin Assist Day	28	29	30
	Breakfast - Combo Lunch - Chicken Nuggets	Breakfast - Pizza Lunch - Ribique	Breakfast - Pancake Sausage Stick Lunch - Taco Salad	Breakfast - Sausage Egg Croissant Lunch - Chicken Patty	Lunch-Clarkson Bakery Lunch - Hot Dogs/ Bun	
1	2	March 2016 S M T W T F S 1 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 30 31		May 2016 S M T W T F S 1 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 30 31		

<http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/printable-calendars.html>

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 Printable Calendars

2016 Templates

2017 Templates

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Clarkson NE 68629

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