

The Red Review

2023/2024 January Vol. 5

clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As we start the 2nd semester, I hope everyone's 2024 is off to a great start. Hopefully everyone had a great holiday break and was able to spend quality time with their families.

As we continue our transition from a traditional grade-based system to an Equitable Grading based grading system I wanted to update everyone with the progress being made during the first semester. We have shared information on the new grading policy and how late work is being handled, to help parents understand how graded practice (formally known as homework) and how it is being handled. We have asked our teachers to pick their "priority standards" for one class as we start the process. The goal is to prioritize our learning and make sure the students are learning and concentrating on the most important standards in each class. By the end of the year the teachers will start to work on priority standards for a 2nd class. As we continue through our process, we will continue to keep parents updated with flyers and other information so everyone can be on the same page.

With the changes we have noticed an increased rigor in the classroom. We are also seeing a truer grade for students as now you can't get bonus points, participation points and also are not punished academically for behaviors in the classroom. Our goal is to make sure that our student's grades give a true reflection of their learning.

Our plan for the full transition to Equitable Grading is a five year process as we want to make sure that it doesn't overwhelm students, staff and parents. As we go through our process, we are being aided by staff developers at ESU 7 as we are one of four schools who are making the transition in the ESU 7 with more to be followed soon. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out and get clarification on any questions or concerns you may have on the process.

Please remember that January and February are very hectic months as we head into the back part of the winter sports/activity season. Between Youth, Jr. Hi, C Team, JV and Varsity contests and then throw in Speech meets and Ag Contests the months of January and February really keep everyone hopping. This doesn't include the joy of dealing with the weather and dealing with postponements and rescheduling of activities. Please make sure you are communicating with your kids and make sure they are keeping up with their work.

It is a Great Day to be a Patriot!!

Notes from the Principal

By: Lee Schneider

Happy 2024!! What a phenomenal first half of the school year, and how excited we all are for the second semester. We can only hope that it can go as smoothly as the first semester. The speed and success of the school year to date are a testament to our amazing students in the building. I am very proud of the work being accomplished and our staff's continuous support and dedication to their students. With the new year starting, it is a great time to reflect and appreciate our school, community, and stakeholders that have made 2023 memorable and will carry that into 2024!

What is fun with January is that there is no slow build-up as we jump right back in with school, basketball, wrestling, and speech. The calendar is full and is always subject to change. We will update our website and social media pages as often as possible. It is great to see the support our student-athletes receive and our students active in FFA, FCCLA, and FBLA.

Starting the new year, I want to reinforce that our doors and phone lines are always open. There are a lot of exciting new adventures and things to come from Clarkson Public Schools, and we want to make sure that everyone gets to be a part of it and enjoy it to the fullest. If you have questions or want to visit to hear first-hand or collect information for yourself, please don't hesitate to reach out!!

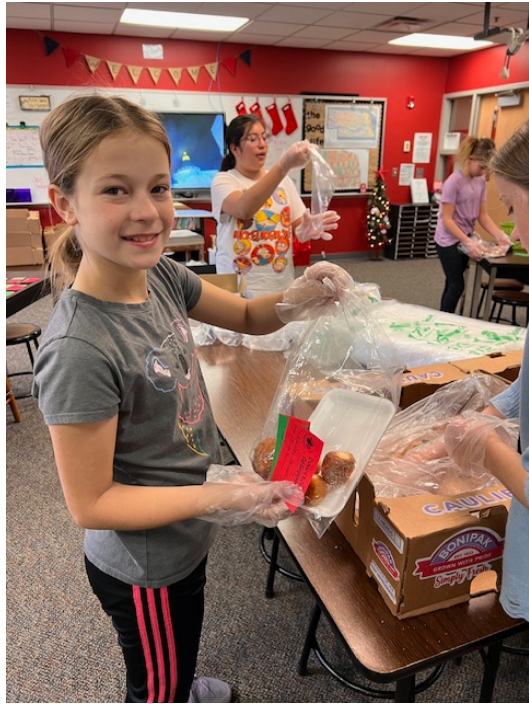
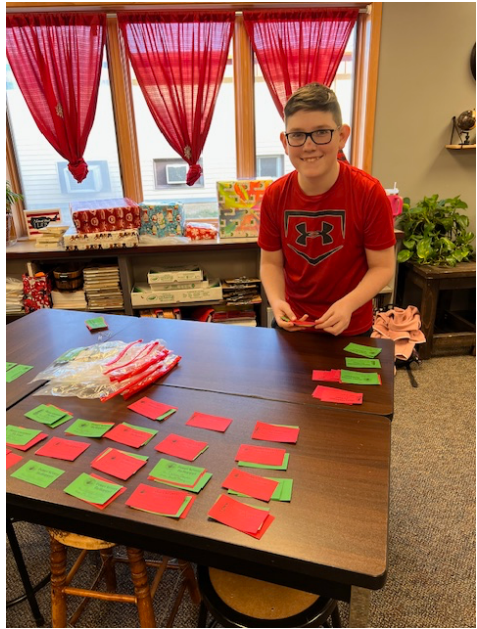
GO PATS!

Winter Break - No School
Monday, December 25th -
Wednesday, January 3rd

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

The Board of Education

Rob Brabec, President	Tiffany Baumert, Sec./Treas.
Sheryl Langdon, Vice President	Spenser Kudera, Member
Rich Lemburg, Superintendent/Elem. Principal	Melissa Baumert, Member
Lee Schneider, JH/HS Principal	Rhonda Hanel, Member



🎄❄️🎄 The festive spirit is alive and thriving in our Child Development class as our first graders dove into the holiday season with hands-on creativity every Friday throughout December.

The Sophomores were paired with a first grader to create these Christmas gifts, infusing joy and cheer into their creations. From button Christmas tree ornaments to heartwarming clay Santa handprint keepsakes, our little ones have channeled their Christmas spirits to produce gifts for their families.

These groups have been working together this season to learn as the children eagerly engage in these craft sessions, honing their fine motor skills and experiencing the joy of giving. This experience has brought joy through painting, hands-on activities, and smiles as our students made these personalized gifts. 🎄❄️🎄

Merry Christmas, everyone, and have a happy holiday season! Mrs. Karly Gall and Mrs. Kabes



English Notes

Mrs. Lynn Morfeld

Remember the days when your first grader came home with a folder of LOOK WHAT I ACCOMPLISHED each Friday? (Senior parents - don't imagine this too hard. No crying; it's not May yet.) I would sit down with my daughter and applaud the smiley faces and try to figure out why the X's didn't make sense to her. Wait, who am I kidding? That never happened. "Oh that's nice! Great job!" (and quietly push the papers to the recycling bin so I could have a clean counter for supper prep). #momoftheyear

More than likely, your high school student isn't bringing home assignments to show you anymore (actually, they may not say ANYTHING about school anymore), but YOU can start that conversation if you are utilizing JMC, Clarkson's online grading platform. "I thought you hated math? Your average says otherwise! Nice work!" Or, "That English grade is starting to dip. What's going on?"

Students and parents can access Clarkson's online grade book 24/7 (contact Amy Gurnsey if you need your login information). On JMC, you can see your student's average, attendance record, and lunch bill. As a teacher I not only use JMC to enter grades that make up student averages, but I also use the grade book to communicate what students are (or are not) turning in.

With the changes in our grading policies, not all assignments are entered as grades. Practice work (done both in and out of class) receives feedback in class, but it may not be a part of the student's average. Regardless, I do record on JMC whether or not a student has turned in the assignment as well as a self-assessment of the work. If you see "HI" and a smiley face next to an assignment, that means it was handed in and the student felt successful with the concepts. A :-/ face means they have some confusion, and :-(means they are totally lost OR they didn't have the assignment complete. If you see an "M," that means the student did not turn in the practice assignment. A missing practice assignment doesn't affect their grade immediately, but it could have implications for future quizzes and tests. If they didn't complete the assignment for feedback, they may not know if they understood the concepts by the time the graded assessment comes around, leading to lower test scores.

Parents can set up alerts through JMC for missing assignments or if a grade dips below a certain percentage. Please take the time to log in to review not only your student's average but to also get a peek at their work ethic in English class.



Join the Clarkson Patriot 3-6 Grade Honor Choir!

Kids will learn 2 part songs, sing in different languages, work together as an ensemble, and learn more about musicality! Music will be provided and each student will be sent home a cd to practice their songs.

**Begins January 8
3:40pm-4:30pm**

**Please email Mrs. Kowalski
if your child would like to participate**



Clarkson-Leigh Post Prom Burger Bash

\$6.00 for a hamburger, chips, bar, and water

JANUARY 2ND, 2024
4:00PM TO HALF TIME OF BOYS VARSITY

Clarkson High School During The David City Aquinas Basketball game

College Testing Information

ACT Basics

Standardized tests are an important part of the college admissions process. Standardized tests like the ACT are important, not just for college admissions, but also to minimize future college debt by increasing the scholarships and financial aid you earn. Colleges use the ACT to make admissions and scholarship decisions and assess college readiness. In Nebraska, all juniors are required to take the ACT in the spring (at no cost to the student) as the state accountability testing requirement. Students are encouraged to take the ACT additional times to improve their performance. Currently, the test is \$68 however if students are on a federal free and reduced lunch program, they can receive a fee waiver from the counselor. ACT is also currently offering a 2-for-1 charge for students that want to sign up for testing. For more information, please go to www.act.org.

PreACT

Sophomores completed the PreACT this fall. The PreACT is a short, multiple-choice assessment with results predicting performance on the ACT. The PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects: English, Math, reading, and science. This test provides early ACT practice and includes an interest inventory and predicted ACT score ranges which align with the ACT 1-36 scale.

The test was taken on November 17th and students received their test results at the beginning of December. An extra copy of each student's results is kept on file in the guidance office.

John Baylor OnToCollege

Clarkson Public School uses John Baylor test prep for the ACT this year. Juniors have accounts created that they can access to independently work on specific topics in preparation for ACT testing. Underclassmen can access this information if interested, visit with Mrs. Kappel. OnToCollege Test Prep includes at-home access for students, ACT Prep and refresher, study skills, and test-taking strategies. Students were invited to participate in lunch sessions with Mrs. Kappel this fall if they were interested and sessions will also be scheduled in the spring prior to state testing during core instruction. State testing will be on Tuesday, March 26th.

5 Ways to Prepare for the FAFSA

EducationQuest

The 2024–25 FAFSA is about to be unveiled for college-bound students and families! With the anticipation of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opening in December, here are five things you can do now so you're prepared to complete the form as soon as possible.

1. Set up a personal e-mail.

There are changes to the FAFSA that will require the student and parent(s) to have personal email addresses. Students should never use their high school email address for college and FAFSA-related purposes. If the student and/or parent do not have a personal email address, establish one now. There are many free or low-cost email services available.

2. Create FSA IDs.

Both you and at least one parent must create FSA IDs at studentaid.gov. Do this at least three days before completing the FAFSA to allow the Social Security Administration to verify your identity. FSA IDs are used to access the FAFSA, populate tax information onto the form, sign the FAFSA, and apply for direct student loans or Parent PLUS loans. Parents: if you already have an FSA ID from a prior college student, you will use it for the new student's FAFSA as well.

3. Gather all required documents.

Completing the 2024–25 FAFSA will be much easier if you gather all required documents in advance, including your 2022 Federal Income Tax Returns and corresponding schedules. Review our [FAFSA Checklist](#) for a list of required information.

4. Know the current value of your assets.

Although the FAFSA will access your 2022 tax return, you will report the current values of your assets as of the day you complete the FAFSA, excluding your primary home and retirement accounts. New this year: The net worth of your farming operation and any businesses you own will now be included in the FAFSA calculation.

5. Apply for college admission.

The colleges you list on the FAFSA will receive your results and use that information to award financial aid. You must apply for admission and be accepted to the college(s) you list on the FAFSA to receive a Financial Aid Offer. Admissions forms can be found on each college's website, so get them filled out and submitted.

Finally, the FAFSA is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. Apply before the colleges' priority filing dates to get the best financial aid package you qualify for, and plan to renew the FAFSA every year you will be in college. Complete the form at studentaid.gov. If you're apprehensive about the FAFSA process, contact the [EducationQuest](#) office nearest you to ask questions or to schedule an appointment to get help completing the FAFSA. Remember, our services are completely **FREE!**

Clarkson Public School Happenings

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Monday, January 1st – No school – Winter Break

Tuesday, January 2nd – No school – Winter Break

Marathon BB vs David City Aquinas at Clarkson 4:30 pm (PEP Band to play and Elite dance team to perform.)

Wednesday, January 3rd – No school – Winter Break - Teacher In- Service Day

Thursday, January 4th – School Resumes

Elite dance practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

Marathon BB at North Bend Central 4:30 pm

Friday, January 5th – Wrestling invite at Burwell 11:30 am

Saturday, January 6th – Speech meet at Twin River

Wrestling invite at Amherst 10:00 am

Marathon BB at Tekamah-Herman at Clarkson 1:00 pm (Elite dance team to perform)

Sunday, January 7th – Cyclones Softball Camp at Clarkson 12:00-6:00 pm

Monday, January 8th – Performance dance team practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

JV Wrestling invite at Oakland-Craig 4:00 pm

Girls & Boys C team BB vs Columbus Scotus at Leigh 5:30/6:30 pm

JH GBB at Stanton 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 9th – Elite dance team practice 6:30 am in Leigh

FCCLA office meeting during Patriot Period

Wednesday, January 10th – Performance dance team practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

School Board meeting 6:00 pm in school library

Thursday, January 11th – Elite dance practice 6:30 am in Leigh

JH Girls & Boys BB at Shelby-Rising City 4:30 pm

Girls & Boys C team BB at Columbus Lakeview 6:30/7:45 pm

Friday, January 12th – Marathon BB vs Humphrey St. Francis at Humphrey 4:00 pm

Saturday, January 13th – Wrestling invite at Cross County 9:00 am

JH Girls BB vs Howells-Dodge at Dodge 9:00 am

JH Boys BB vs Humphrey-LHF at Leigh 9:00 am

Marathon BB vs Pender at Clarkson 1:00 pm (Elite & performance dance team to perform)

Monday, January 15th – JH Boys BB at Lutheran High NE 5:00 pm

Girls C team BB vs Boone Central at Clarkson 5:30 pm

Girls & Boys C team BB vs Howells-Dodge at Clarkson 6:30 (Pep band to play)

Tuesday, January 16th – Elite dance practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

JH FCCLA meeting during Patriot Period

Wrestling double dual at Scribner-Snyder 5:30 pm

Marathon BB vs Lutheran High NE at Norfolk 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 17th – Speech meet in Howells

Performance dance team practice at 6:30 am in Leigh

Thursday, January 18th – Elite dance team practice 6:30 am in Clarkson

JH Boys BB at Columbus Scotus 4:30 pm

Marathon BB vs Twin River at Leigh 4:30 pm

Saturday, January 20th – Speech meet at North Bend

Wrestling invite at Neligh-Oakdale 10:00 am

4th grade Girls BB practice in Clarkson 8:30-10:00 am

Monday, January 22nd – JH Boys BB vs Howells-Dodge at Leigh 6:00 pm

Girls & Boys C team BB vs West Point-Beemer at Clarkson 6:00/7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 23rd - Elite dance team practice 6:30 am in Leigh
 Marathon BB at Wisner-Pilger 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 24th – Performance dance team practice at 6:30 am in Leigh
 FCCLA district STAR in Madison

Thursday, January 25th - Elite dance team practice 6:30 am in Leigh
 FFA District CDE at CCC in Columbus
 JH Boys BB vs David City at Leigh 4:30 pm
 Girls C team BB at Wayne 5:30 pm

Friday, January 26th – Girls BB Conference tournament, TBA

Saturday, January 27th – Speech meet at Logan View
 Wrestling Conference tournament at Madison 9:00 am
 Boys BB Conference tournament, TBA

Monday, January 29th – Girls BB Conference tournament, TBA

Tuesday, January 30th – JH Boys BB vs Schuyler at Clarkson 4:30 pm
 Boys BB Conference tournament, TBA

Wednesday, January 31st - Performance dance team practice at 6:30 am in Leigh



	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
January 4 th	strawberry pancake	hamburger
January 5 th	Clarkson Bakery	BBQ pork sandwich
January 8 th	egg, sausage, & cheese on a Clarkson Bakery Croissant	hotdog on a bun
January 9 th	homemade pizza	grilled cheese or chicken salad sandwich
January 10 th	sausage combos	meatloaf
January 11 th	cereal	sub sandwich
January 12 th	yogurt parfait	taco salad
January 15 th	breakfast round	cheese crunchers
January 16 th	PB&J	pasta & meat sauce
January 17 th	egg, sausage, & cheese on an English muffin	corn dog
January 18 th	bagel & cream cheese	popcorn chicken
January 19 th	French toast & sausage	calzone
January 22 nd	omelet & tritator	chicken fried steak sandwich
January 23 rd	breakfast sausage on a bun	Oriental chicken
January 24 th	breakfast pizza	meatball sub
January 25 th	muffin	breakfast for lunch
January 26 th	oatmeal	salisbury steak
January 29 th	biscuits & gravy	pork steak sandwich
January 30 th	tornados	fajita casserole
January 31 st	waffles & sausage	grilled chicken sandwich

This institution is an equal opportunity employer. Menus are subject to change.

Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
Clarkson NE 68629



**We will see everyone back at school
when school resumes on Thursday,
January 4th.
Have a wonderful winter break!**

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, it's programs or activities.