

# The Red Review

2024/2025 January Vol. 5

clarksonpublicschools.org

## From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

After the bond passed in November, I promised to keep everyone updated on the building project for Clarkson Public Schools. As we start off 2025, I wanted to give the first update of many to everyone on the Clarkson Public Schools building project.

The next step in the process will be CWP, our architects, having additional pre-design meetings with staff members to finalize identifying wants and needs for the building, playground, etc. During this time, we will also have a couple of studies done on soil, existing structures, power, etc. to aid in analyzing for the schematic design phase of the project. Once we get into February, CWP will start to move into the design development phase of the project and they will work with BD, our builders, on building and structural plans for building.

Construction will be done in phases starting with the new elementary school beside the old gym and followed soon by the new entrance on the east side of the building. The last phase will be the construction of the CTE wing and some remodeling to the initial 1952 building. CTW and BD will be up for our March, 2025 Board Meeting to update the Board and the Bond Committee on the process.

I will end on my annual parent reminder for this time of year, 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

As we enter the new year, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our students and staff! A new year is a fresh start, and I'm excited about the opportunities and experiences that await our students! It is hard to believe that 2024 has come and gone, but we are pumped to make the most of 2025!!

We have an exciting calendar of events and activities for the remainder of the school year. Please make sure that you take a look at the school calendar or Facebook page, as dates and times are subject to change. We will also start our MAP testing at the end of January, which is an excellent opportunity to help assess our students' growth and prepare them for our spring NSCAS testing.

Reflecting on the previous year, I want to share my appreciation and respect for all our staff, students, and stakeholders. I am incredibly grateful for the daily opportunity to work and represent our incredible school. There are not enough words to describe it, but I'm beyond excited to take full advantage of 2025 and continue this incredible journey with everyone!

GO PATS!

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

### The Board of Education

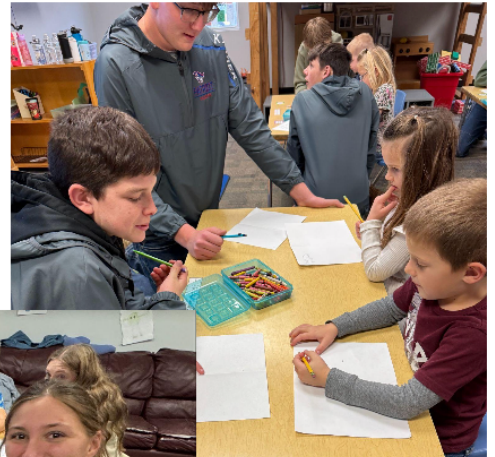
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Rich Lemburg, Superintendent/Elem. Principal	Shelby Kudera, Member
Lee Schneider, JH/HS Principal	Rhonda Hanel, Member

**Winter Break - No School**  
**Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> -**  
**Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

## Kindergarten News

Breanna Ruwe

Wow, the first semester is already behind us—where did the time go? December was bustling with exciting activities, especially in kindergarten. Our young learners put their skills to the test—literally—during their Winter MAPS Tests, showcasing all the incredible progress they've made this year. They did an amazing job! Their enthusiasm and drive for learning are truly inspiring. A highlight of the month was a special collaboration with Mrs. Morfeld's freshman study hall class. Together, the older and younger students created and decorated Christmas cards for residents at the local nursing home. It was heartwarming to see the "big kids" and "little kids" working side by side to bring joy to others. As we head into the second semester, we're excited to keep the momentum going. We hope everyone has an amazing holiday break!





# News from the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Room

Hello 2025! As the new year begins, I would like to share some important reminders and highlights from our classroom. With the colder weather upon us, our students being bundled up in hats, gloves, scarves, and coats, we want to keep their winter gear clean and fresh. I recommend washing hats and gloves regularly, especially after snowy or wet days.

Winter days are also a wonderful opportunity to continue fostering a love for reading. Set aside 15-20 minutes each day for your child to read or be read to, explore holiday-themed books, or revisit favorite stories. Keeping a reading log can make this time even more exciting and helps students share their progress when they return to school.

As we prepare for the second half of the school year, we're proud of the creativity and kindness your children have shown. From festive crafts and math games to acts of kindness, they've been spreading cheer and growing every day. Thank you for your support in making our classroom a positive environment. We wish you a warm, joyful, and restful holiday season!

Warm regards,  
Mrs. Karly Gall



## Third Graders Get Creative with Gingerbread Houses! 🍪🏠

This week, our talented third graders turned into little architects and artists as they created *gingerbread houses* using graham crackers, milk cartons, and a whole lot of imagination!

The classroom was filled with excitement and holiday cheer as students worked together to transform simple materials into magical winter wonderlands. Using graham crackers as the foundation, milk cartons as sturdy frames, and powdered sugar as the "glue," the kids built their miniature masterpieces. They added colorful candy decorations—gumdrops, sprinkles, and peppermints—to give each house its own unique style.

This fun and festive project not only brought out the students' creativity but also encouraged problem-solving and a bit of engineering as they learned to balance and build their structures.

A huge *thank you* to our amazing parents who helped make this activity a sweet success! Be sure to check out the photos of their delicious designs—each house is a true holiday work of art.

I'm so proud of our third graders for their hard work, creativity, and holiday spirit. Great job, everyone! 🍪🏠

*Mrs. Gall*



## A Sweet Gift of Giving

6th graders at Clarkson Public Schools and I want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who participated in our recent service-learning project! Your generosity and enthusiasm have made it a huge success! The 6th graders sold a record breaking 878 gift tags in 7 days! On Wednesday, each gift tag was then delivered with 3 donut holes to students and staff at Clarkson Public Schools and St. John Neumann. It was a teamwork effort to sort the tags, count the donut holes, and deliver them to everyone in the schools. With holiday music playing, our 6th grade elves, packaged donut holes with a smile on their faces and were able to deliver the sweet treat to all!

From the students who purchased delicious donut holes to the staff members who made generous donations, your support is helping to spread holiday cheer. To our staff, thank you for always willing to dig into your pockets to give a sweet treat and a smile to our students. The donations, big and small, are going to families that we care about, thank you for being a part of this difference.

A big shoutout to Kim Scott and the staff members of The Clarkson Bakery for your time and efforts to make 2,600 donut holes. Without your time and donation of the donut holes we would not be able to make as much of a difference for our families. Thanks to all of these contributions, we are able to provide Christmas presents and beyond for Clarkson families. From utilities to grocery gift cards, and shoes to coats, you are ensuring that this season is a joyful one for all!

This effort truly demonstrates the kindness and unity of our school community, and we are so grateful for each and every one of you. The season of giving is evident in our hallways as Clarkson Public Schools continue to stand out!

If your family is in need of a little extra support, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Sayers or Mrs. Kappel. We can discreetly help accommodate some financial needs while maintaining confidentiality.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season,

Mrs. Sayers





# JAG – CLARKSON NEWSLETTER



**JAG|NE**

JOBS for AMERICA'S GRADUATES NEBRASKA  
In Association with United Way of the Midlands

December

2024

## What is JAG Nebraska?

In 2019, Nebraska became one of 39 states affiliated with the national organization Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Supported by United Way of the Midlands in collaboration with state agencies and participating school districts, JAG Nebraska helps students overcome challenges to achieve personal and career success after high school.

## What have JAG students been up to?

### -December Highlights-

JAG students have finished up unit 4 on goal setting, learning to set SMART goals and then setting some academic, work, and personal goals for themselves. They spent time discussing various JAG contest events and began working on those events for district competition that will be held in January. Students were able to visit Gregg Young Chevrolet and Toyota in Columbus, learning about all the various positions needed to make a dealership run smoothly. Civic engagement continues as students attended two Clarkson Future Fund meetings this month. To end the month, a lot of time was used to work on service learning. Junior JAG students partnered with the Clarkson Community Club to help hang the lights in the Bohemian Gardens for their Hometown Christmas celebration and the whole JAG chapter accomplished making 20 tie blankets that will be donated to the Foster Care Closet of Nebraska.

**Clarkson Future Fund**



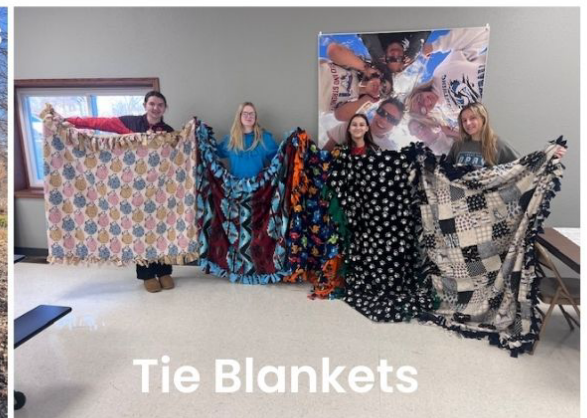
**Clarkson Future Fund**



**Gregg Young**



**Christmas Lights**



**Tie Blankets**



## FFA News

By Anna Ready

FFA finished a busy first semester, and the next few months look equally as exciting! Our Livestock Judging team of Hayley Podany, Cash Fehringer, Beau Baumert, and Mackenna Kudera qualified for State Livestock Judging in April. We are excited to see their success! The month of January will bring a livestock judging clinic and our first round of Career Development Event Contests. Teams have been practicing in contests such as Ag Mechanics, Floriculture, Natural Resources, Agronomy, Food Science, and Livestock Management. I appreciate all of the hard work and time our FFA members have put in over the last few weeks.

February FFA week is just around the corner! The Clarkson FFA Officers want to be sure we extend our invitation to the Labor Auction and Dinner on February 22nd, 2025 at the Opera House. There will be a dinner of dumplings, goulash, sausage, and more for a free will donation. Labor sales will consist of a service that the students provide. These services depend on the interests of the FFA member and will range from automotive care, farm work, baking, and so much more! We are excited about this event and hope that our community will come to support the Clarkson FFA Chapter!

## KINDNESS — CLUB —

By Jennifer Kappel

The Kindness Club is a new group in the elementary school started by a highly motivated group of 4th graders. For the month of December, members wrote meaningful Christmas cards for the residents at the Clarkson Community Care Center.





# Preschooler's Dear Santa Letters

Dear Santa,

My Name is Paige Janousek, I am 4 years old, I live in a brown brick home. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like Mermaid socks and a unicorn piggy bank.

Love, Paige

Dear Santa,

My Name is Leyton Gall, I am 4 years old, and I live at my home. This year I have been both **nice**. For Christmas I would like a real dinosaur that goes stomp stomp roar roar yum yum and a pencil squishmallow.

Love, Leyton

Dear Santa,

My Name is Finley Sayers, I am 4 years old, and I live with Simba. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a farm set and a new bed for my baby.

Love, Finley

Dear Santa,

My Name is Katherina Ehlers, I am 4 years old, and I live in Nebraska. This year I have been **nice, sometimes I have been naughty**. For Christmas I would like a dolly, a bracelet, and a necklace.

Love, Katherine

Dear Santa,

My Name is Franklen, I am 4 years old, and I live in Clarkson. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a big combine, a tractor, a trailer, and a silo.

Love, Franklen

Dear Santa,

My Name is JR Koehn, I am 4 years old, and I live at this town. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a green tractor, white truck with a trailer, and a corn head.

Love, JR

Dear Santa,

My Name is Freddy Lee, I am 4 years old, and I live in Clarkson. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a Mack water truck, a toy ball for Cal, and a toy bull for my dad.

Love, Freddy

Dear Santa,

My Name is Ella Rolf, I am 5 years old, and I live in Stanton. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a mermaid cry baby, a RC car, and a flower pillow..

Love, Ella

Dear Santa,

My Name is Mazey Sortino, I am 5 years old, and I live out in the country. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a Barbie dream house, slime, and a toy mouse to trick my mommy .

Love, Mazey

Dear Santa,

My Name is Zane Crosley, I am 5 years old, and I live in the country in Nebraska. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a stuffy puppy, a remote control drone, and a stuffy turkey.

Love, Zane

Dear Santa,

My Name is Scarlett Bos, I am 4 years old, and I live in a house. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a duck stuffy, a baby horsey, and a toy baby.

Love, Scarlett

Dear Santa,

My Name is Jalen Kahlo, I am 5 years old, and I live so far. This year I have been **nice**. For Christmas I would like a Paw Patrol lookout, a Paw Patrol vehicle with small wheels, and a toy mailbox.

Love, Jalen

Dear Santa,

My Name is Tate Stoklasa, I am 4 years old, and I live in Nebraska. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a new bed, a buddy toy, and a toy Christmas tree.

Love, Tate

Dear Santa,

My Name is Tucker, I am 5 years old, and I live in Nebraska. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a dinosaur, a toy hammer, and playdough.

Love, Katherine

Dear Santa,

My Name is Benjamin Miller, I am 4 years old, and I live in Clarkson. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a light that turns different colors, Christmas scissors for my mom and dad, and a toy Christmas tree.

Love, Ben

Dear Santa,

My Name is Oliver Kudara, I am 4 years old, and I live south of the gravel road. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like new boots, a costume for a concert, and a doctor set.

Love, Oliver

Dear Santa,

My Name is Westin Koehn, I am 4 years old, and I live outside of Clarkson. This year I have been nice and naughty. For Christmas I would like a bat toy who can fly, a bat car, and a toy Christmas Tree.

Love, Westin

Dear Santa,

My Name is Carson Bahns, I am 5 years old, and I live in Nebraska. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a turkey mask, a toy tractor, and a mop.

Love, Carson

Dear Santa,

My Name is Otis Ross, I am 4 years old, and I live in Clarkson, Nebraska. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a drum set, a blue jeep car with a controller, and Lightning McQueen.

Love, Otis

Dear Santa,

My Name is Landon Urbanek, I am 5 years old, and I live in a house. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a new combine, new tractor, and new blocks.

Love, Landon

Dear Santa,

My Name is Charlotte Mundil, I am 4 years old, and I live far away now at another house. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like unicorn and flower shoes, a doctor set, and a kitchen set.

Love, Charlotte

Dear Santa,

My Name is Katheryn Delgado, I am 4 years old, and I live in my house. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a Nintendo Switch, nail polish, and a Bluey stuffed animal.

Love, Katheryn

## On To College ACT Test Preparation

This fall several juniors participated in the On To College John Baylor ACT Test Prep program. All juniors in the state of Nebraska will complete the ACT in March which serves as Nebraska's state assessment.

### Why should you care about the ACT assessment?

1. The ACT is a predictor of college and career readiness. The ACT National Career Readiness Certification is used to measure each student's foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations. Visit [www.act.org/NCRC-indicator](http://www.act.org/NCRC-indicator) to learn more.
2. Provide information about student learning and direction for future instruction. Identifying collective areas of strengths and weaknesses can help direct future improvement goals.
3. Evaluating school and district achievement in comparison to state and national averages.
4. ACT scores are used to gain entrance into specific college courses such as math and English for early entry courses during high school and upon college enrollment. Scores are sometimes a requirement for entry into particular college programs of study.
5. Specific colleges may use scores to determine merit-based scholarships such as Board of Governors, Board of Regents, or other types of scholarships.

Fifteen students initially expressed an interest in attending the On To College test prep sessions, offered during lunch and Patriot Period. We began meeting in October and concluded the second week of December. Twelve students completed the sessions with eight taking a full-length practice test.

The junior class in its entirety will again participate in the On To College test prep sessions in the spring during their core course instruction, leading up to the March 25th test date.

Great job Patriots!!





## **Breakfast**

## **Lunch**

January 6 <sup>th</sup>	NO School	
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	breakfast sandwich	hamburger on a bun
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	muffin	Italian pasta casserole
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	yogurt parfaits	chicken patty on a bun
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	French toast & ham	pizza crunchers
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	cereal bar	BBQ pork sandwich
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	grape Uncrustable	breakfast sandwich
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	chocolate round	sub sandwich
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	breakfast pizza	scalloped potatoes & ham
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Clarkson Bakery rolls	fish sticks
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	cheese omelet & sausage	hot dog on a bun
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	cereal bar	soft tacos
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	tornados	pepperoni pizza
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	breakfast sandwich	Oriental chicken
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	muffin	shrimp poppers
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	biscuits & gravy	chicken nuggets
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	pancake on a stick	hot ham & cheese
January 29 <sup>st</sup>	breakfast burrito	chicken fried steak
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	donut	meatball sub
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	ham combos	tuna salad sandwich or Uncrustable

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



CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL  
IS LOOKING FOR THOSE  
INTERESTED IN BEING A

# sub cook

TO HELP WITH BREAKFAST AND  
LUNCH WHEN NEEDED



IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT SARAH  
SKOLIHA@CLARKSON.ESU7.ORG  
402-892-3454

# Clarkson Public School Happenings

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – No school – Winter Break

Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – No school – Winter Break

Marathon BB vs Battle Creek at Leigh 4:30 pm

Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – No school – Winter Break

Marathon BB at Columbus Lakeview 4:30 pm

Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – NO school – Teacher In-service

Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – School Resumes

Marathon BB at David City Aquinas Catholic (5:45 JV boys, 6:00 Varsity girls, 7:30 JV girls, 7:30 Varsity boys)

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Marathon BB vs North Bend Central at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – HS Wrestling invite at Burwell 11:00 am

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – Speech meet at Twin River

HS Wrestling invite at Amherst 9:30 am

Marathon BB vs. Tekamah-Herman at Tekamah 1:00 pm

Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – School Board Meeting in school library 6:00 pm

HS Wrestling invite at Oakland-Craig 4:00 pm

Girls JH BB at Stanton 6:00 pm

Girls & Boys C team at Columbus Scotus 6:30/7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Boys JH BB at Columbus Lakeview 4:30 pm

FFA Chapter meeting

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – FFA Livestock Judging contest at Madison 9:00 am

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Girls JH BB vs. Shelby-RC at Leigh 4:30 pm (2 qtrs. of B team, followed by A team)

Boys JH BB vs. Shelby-RC at Leigh 4:30 pm

Boys C team vs. Columbus Lakeview at Clarkson-Leigh 6:30 pm

Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – FCCLA District STAR in Schuyler

JH Girls BB vs. Humphrey Archangels in Leigh 2:30 pm

Marathon BB vs. Humphrey Archangels at Leigh 4:30 pm

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – HS Wrestling invite at Cross County 9:00 am

Girl's JH BB vs Howells-Dodge at Clarkson 9:00 am

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

Marathon BB at Pender 1:00 pm

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – Boys JH BB vs LHNE at Leigh 5:00 pm (B team followed by A team)

Girls C team at Boone Central 5:30 pm

Girls & Boys C team at Howells-Dodge 6:30/7:30 pm

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Boys JH BB vs Columbus Scotus at Leigh 4:30 pm

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – Speech meet at North Bend Central

HS Wrestling at Neligh-Oakdale 10:00 am

Marathon BB vs Wakefield at Clarkson 1:00 pm

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Boys JH BB vs Howells-Dodge at Howells 6:00 pm

Girls & Boys C Team at West Point 6:00/7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Marathon BB vs Wisner-Pilger at Clarkson 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Speech meet at Howells-Dodge

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – FFA District Career Development

Boys JH BB at David City 4:30 pm

Girls C team at Wayne 5:30 pm

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Girls BB Conference Tourney, TBA





**January 13, 2025**



**6:00 pm–7:30pm**



**Clarkson Public Schools  
Meal Provided: ??**



# Highway 91 Parent & Student FAFSA Completion Night

Did you know that Seniors in Nebraska are now  
required to complete the FAFSA as a state graduation  
requirement?

## WHAT TO BRING:

- ✓ **Social Security number for both student & parent/guardian**
- ✓ **FSA ID completed by student & parent/guardian in advance [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)**
- ✓ **Student and Parent/guardian federal income tax return & W-2s for 2023**

**\*Laptops will be provided**

Get personalized assistance from EducationQuest and Northeast community college to navigate the application process, ensuring you maximize your financial aid opportunities for college. This event will be available to all Highway 91 senior parents to answer questions regarding the 2025-2026 FAFSA application!

Please reach out to your school counselor if you have any questions.

Jordan Brabec 402-986-1621  
Jennifer Kappel 402-892-3454  
Cami Oelsligle 402-923-1230  
Maddie Gall 402-487-2228

Please RSVP if planning to attend by January 7th



Clarkson Public Schools  
PO Box 140  
Clarkson NE 68629



**We will see everyone back at school  
when school resumes on Tuesday,  
January 7<sup>th</sup>.  
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.