

Wayne Community Schools

Wayne Elementary School | 312 North Douglas Street | 402-375-3854

Wayne Jr./Sr. High School | 611 West 7th Street | 402-375-3150

Early Learning Center | 803 Providence Road | 402-833-1450

www.wayneschools.org



Learning for Life – Every Student, Every Day!



December, 2021

From the Desk of Superintendent, Dr. Mark Lenihan

Dear Parents, Patrons, and Supporters of Wayne Community Schools:

We are in the midst of a fantastic school year and want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of our school district. Our mission, "Learning for Life, Every Student, Every Day" is embraced by all of us here at Wayne Community Schools as we strive to do the best job we can in educating our students. The community of Wayne provides wonderful support to our schools and for that we are extremely grateful! I hope to see many of you at our upcoming games, concerts, fine arts and school events, your support is much appreciated.

Strategic Planning. The Wayne Community Schools Board of Education and Administration have been working this fall on a long-range strategic plan for our district. One of the most important components of the planning process is seeking feedback from all of our patrons of the school district. Surveys have been completed by students, staff, parents, community members, and business leaders, and engagement meetings have occurred in Carroll and Wayne. We should have a draft of our needs assessment from the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) in January, and from there will continue the process of developing strategies and timelines for our comprehensive plan. The goal is to have the plan completed by the end of the 2021-22 school year. We look forward to having a new long-range plan that will set the course and direction for our school district for the next several years, and we appreciate all of the feedback and community engagement we have received!

Sportsmanship matters. Wayne Community Schools enjoyed an excellent fall in athletic and activity competitions! Our students performed incredibly in all of the activities, and our coaches and sponsors did a great job leading and guiding the students. We also enjoyed incredible support from our parents and community. Something I hear over and over again, from administrators and staff at other schools, is how much they enjoy when the Wayne Blue Devils roll into their town for a game or a conference activity. They are always impressed with the amount of people who follow and support our kids, and how our kids act with class and dignity. Those are always conversations I feel very good about, and appreciate the manner in which our school repre-

sents itself.

One area the Nebraska School Activities Association has asked all schools to improve upon is the manner in which athletic officials are treated during competitions. The NSAA has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of officials that are available, and it is starting to become a problem having enough officials to work competitions. From the NSAA research, the main reason officials are leaving the profession has more to do with the way they are treated by fans during games than other factors such as pay, age, or burn-out. I have always believed it is important for all the adults in a school community to be great role models for our students, and I feel it is important, as winter activities begin, to please consider the manner in which we react to officials' calls during games. As an administrator and fan of the Blue Devil athletes, I understand frustration if calls don't go our way. However, I think it is more important for us to keep ourselves in check with any reaction that is negative toward the officials. I firmly believe that most people who officiate do so because they want to have a positive impact on high school athletics and the student athletes.

Please take some time before winter sports be-

gin to think about reactions when calls are made, and refrain from negative or demeaning comments. The impact may have an outcome of the amount and quality of officials to work our games in the future. Even in the junior high or club basketball settings, I believe it is important to treat officials in a respectful way. Just as the elementary and junior high students are getting their start playing competitive sports, most of the officials that work those games also may aspire to be a high school official. Officiating is not easy, but it is a very important part of the competitions that take place. Most of the time calls that go against one team or the other even out, and they very rarely have an impact on the outcome of a ballgame. More importantly, however, let's all think about the bigger picture and the example we can set for our students regarding respect, dignity, and kindness! Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this important issue!

We have had a tremendous start to the 2021-2022 school year! Our staff continues to work very hard with your students in achieving their academic success. Thank you all for your continued support of Wayne Community Schools and, as always, please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Calendar Web-Site:

The monthly school calendar can be accessed by logging into midstatenebraska.org.

Log-in and click on the Wayne Jr/Sr High link. You can select the monthly calendar for the day, week, or month. You can also print off the calendar to have. Check out the "Notify Me!" option to receive texts or email notifications for any activity you check off. Just follow the instructions on the page. You may also "Subscribe" by following the directions posted on the page. All of the instructions work on your smart phone, too!



The current Wayne Community Schools Board Agenda can be found at:

www.wayneschools.org.

It will be posted on Friday before the Board Meetings, which is the second Monday of each month.



The pots along Main Street look festive thanks to the FFA members and Plant Science students!



Many thanks to the Quilt Shop Quilters, from Wakefield, for presenting the handmade "Quilts of Valor" to Wayne Area Veterans at our Wayne Community Schools Veterans Day Program! Listed below are the military veterans who received a Quilt of Valor from the Veterans Day Program at Wayne Community Schools on November 11. Our own, Ben Promes, is currently serving in the National Guard. Jerry Junck, Robert Woehler, Steve Glassmeyer, Alvin Anderson, Brad Wieland, Dennis Rhode, Terry Roberts, Ben Promes, and Richard Siefken



Mrs. Trenhaile's class bought items for Good Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child!



On Friday, November 12th, the ELC went to the National Guard Armory to learn about the military gear, equipment, and exercise drills. We would like to thank Chris Woehler, Keith Jorgensen, and Katie Kramer for this opportunity.



VAPING HAZARDS

Vape Lung is spreading and the CDC is warning people not to use vaping products while they are investigating the cause. In a media briefing, the public health agency said that some 450 people are now thought to be affected, and as many as five have died.

E-cigarettes are devices that heat a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. The liquid usually has nicotine and flavoring in it, and other additives. The nicotine in e-cigarettes and regular cigarettes is addictive. E-cigarettes are considered tobacco products because most of them contain, nicotine, which comes from tobacco.

Besides nicotine, e-cigarettes can contain harmful

and potentially harmful ingredients, including:

- ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs
- flavorants such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease
- volatile organic compounds
- heavy metal, such as nickel, tin, and lead

Adolescent years are times of important brain development. Brain development begins during the growth of the fetus in the womb and continues through childhood and to about age 25. Nicotine exposure during adolescence and young adulthood can cause addiction and harm the developing brain.

E-cigarettes are very popular with young people. Current e-cigarette uses among high school student increased and alarming 78% between 2017 and 2018. The Office of the Surgeon General issued an advisory in December 2018 categorizing youth e-cigarette use an epidemic, and stressed the importance of protecting children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and related health risks.

The following link has more information for you to look at and tips for talking to your children about this matter.

<https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/>



The Wayne Elementary third grade class participated in Socktober again this year! Socks are the most needed, but the least donated item for those in need. The students gathered over 552 pairs of socks! The socks were donated to Micah's Closet and the Wayne Coat Closet to be distributed to anyone who needs them, for free. The socks donated were of all sizes from infant to adult. A special thank you to the students and their families for all of the donations this year! An extra special thank you goes out to third grader, Harper Hanson, who encouraged her Methodist Church family to donate as well!

Online Challenges

The quick and easy access of smart phones with continued improvements and updates of recording features, paired with the widespread use of social media apps and sites such as Tik Tok and/or Facebook, has led to the "online challenge craze". Kids as well as adults over the last few years have been completing a variety of these challenges and posting them online.

An online challenge generally involves a person recording themselves completing a challenge and posting the video on a social media site. Different challenges are created almost daily, and some of them go viral.

Many of these challenges are fun and light-hearted, such as the Ice Bucket Challenge or the Mannequin Challenge.

However, some of the challenges are extremely dangerous and life threatening, such as the Tide-Pod Challenge and Planking. These challenges have led to serious injuries and even death for some participating in the challenge.

More recently, we have heard about challenges such as the Slap a Teacher Challenge or the Devious Lick Challenge. Kids might find these challenges to be funny but they are criminal in nature and have led to serious criminal charges and arrests of students. And while it seems rather overtly obvious to many of us that some of the challenges are extremely dangerous, risky or just plain inappropriate, kids don't necessarily make that connection in the same way adults do. We need to remind ourselves that kid's brains are not fully developed and fully wired like an adult's brain.

As we know, research shows us that adult and teen brains operate differently. Most adults think with our prefrontal cortex, the brain's rational part. This part of the brain helps us with judgment by thinking through long-term consequences and helping us with impulse control. Teens process information with the amygdala. This is the emotional part of the brain. The prefrontal cortex is one of the last parts of the brain to mature for teens.

So, What Can You Do?

Quite simply, talk with your kids/students. While adult brains and teen brains operate differently, that does not mean kids/teens don't know right from wrong and/or recognize what is dangerous. Many times, just talking about things going on in their lives, especially on social-media sites/apps, is one of the best ways to get to know what interests them and if they are being safe and using good judgment. It also gives them the opportunity to think about situations more deeply and all the different consequences and risks involved to themselves and others. Furthermore, discussing possible consequences of their actions can actually help teens' brains develop by producing and making

connections in their prefrontal cortex which helps wire their brains to make these connections more often.

Let them know what the expectations and rules are when it comes to phone and social media use and make it known there are consequences when they don't comply with your expectations and rules. Likewise, they should also know they could face legal/criminal consequences that go well beyond any of the consequences you have outlined for them.

In addition to all the above, make sure when it comes to sharing warnings about online challenges, that you look into them first. Sometimes we have a knee jerk reaction to things we hear and inadvertently spread panic about challenges which turn out to be hoaxes. And make sure to check the factual basis of any harmful online challenge using a known, reliable source.

<https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/adolescent-brain-development>

<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/how-to-respond-to-dangerous-online-challenges/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/viral-youtube-challenges-internet-stunts-popular-with-kids>

Discrimination Notice

Wayne Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, citizenship status or economic status in its programs, activities, and employment.



FBLA students volunteered preparing and serving at The Soup Kitchen in Sioux City, IA. It was a great experience!

TeamMates Mentors Wanted!

The Wayne TeamMates Chapter is growing! We currently have several students who are anxiously waiting to be matched with a mentor. For more information or to apply to become a mentor visit teammates.org or contact the Wayne TeamMates Coordinator, Shalee Hoffman at shaleehoffman@yahoo.com.



Elementary News

At Wayne Elementary we are moving into a very busy time of the year. The end of the 2nd quarter and the beginning of the 3rd quarter contain many events. Please remember that you are always welcome to attend our events!

During the month of December our students will be participating in a Christmas Concert on December 14th. We are not able to go out to the normal places we carol this year due to Covid. Therefore, the Kindergarten through 4th grade students will be performing the songs they typically sing in the community on this night at the elementary. This will be a short performance and your student will be dismissed once they are done. The 5th and 6th grade students will put on a vocal and band concert after the younger students are completed. This all will be followed by a Radio-Sing-Along that will happen on December 21st at the elementary during school. You will be able to hear this on the radio at a later date.

This is also dance season at Wayne Elementary. The annual Father-Daughter dance will be held on December 10th. This dance will be followed by the Mother-Son dance on February 4th. Both of these evenings will have a Western theme. We look forward to a big crowd on both of these evenings! These memorable events are put on by Wayne Elementary Boosters.

Finally, we have our second set of Parent-Teacher Conference on January 28th. During the month of January we will be sending home slips for families to fill out regarding their students. We always have a great turn out and we look forward to collaborating with our families to best serve our students. Thank you for all you do and we look forward to seeing all of our families in the building!

Sincerely, Mr. Plager



Winter Weather Starting

With winter weather upon us, PLEASE listen to KTCH or watch TV news for any postponements and cancellations. If you are not receiving phone calls or texts from the school on these things, please contact the school and we will make sure your phone number is in the system. If your number has changed, PLEASE make sure the school has your new number.

Early Learning Center **WILL NOT HAVE** school on 10:00 weather late start days.

There will also be **NO BREAKFAST** served on any 10:00 late starts.



Be sure and "LIKE" our school's

FaceBook page!

www.facebook.com/Wayne-Community-Schools

Wayne-Community-Schools

You can also follow us on

Twitter!

Wayne Blue Devils

@WayneSchools.

Upcoming events,

current happenings,

fun things can be found there!



Thank you to the Keating family for the donation of \$8,100 to the Wayne Foundation. The money was raised from the Bob Keating Iron Man Golf Tournament held in June.



Varsity Band does well

This Fall, The Pride of the Blue Devils Marching Band took Superior ratings in four marching contests and one Excellent rating. High school band students meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:30 a.m. to give them more time to prepare for their marching season. Students in marching band are required to memorize music and their place on the field as they march, all while learning specific marching techniques to perfect their show. In addition to morning practices, band students are at all home sporting events playing pep band or marching on the field, and they travel for competitions. A lot of hard work goes into preparing for each performance that will only last between eight and twelve minutes, but the results are worth it. Mr. Wieland is so proud with the progress that the band has shown this year. The Pride of the Blue Devils started their season with the Wayne State College Band Day/Homecoming Parade and Wayne Marching Band Festival, both on the same day. At the parade, the band won 1st place in their classification. Along with that award, the band was given a scholarship of

\$200 for a senior that will attend WSC in the Fall of 2022 and is involved with the band! We hosted the Wayne Marching Band Festival at Kern Track and Field after the parade where we came away with another Superior rating. The following week kept the band busy with the Pierce Marching Contest. It was at this contest that the band took home their third Superior by continuing to improve their playing and marching. After a week off from competitions, the band had a visit by Mr. Rex Barker from Midland University. Mr. Barker got the band moving with some fun morning warm-ups and gave the band things to improve upon after watching their show. The band's fourth competition took them to Ashland for the Oxbow Marching Band Invitational where the band received their fourth Superior rating! To finish out the year, the band went to Kearney for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association State Marching Festival. It was at this festival that the band received an Excellent rating. Please help Mr. Wieland by congratulating any band student that you see for their hard work and dedication.

Lunch Room News

Wayne Community Schools will provide meals at no cost to all enrolled students for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year, but the students must get a complete meal for this to be free. If they only get a milk or a fruit they will be charged ala carte pricing. This will be charged to the student's account. At the Jr-Sr High if they buy an extra ala cart item this will be charged to the student's account. Adult meals will still be charged.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

1. Any balance that was not paid by the end of the 20-21 school year, still needs to be paid!

2. Any ala carte/extra items purchased are owed. FOR EXAMPLE: If your student brings a cold lunch and gets milk, the milk is charged to the stu-

dent's account.

Any questions, please contact Judy or Diane at the High School. 402-375-3150 or email: jupoeh11@waynebluedevils.org

dipeter1@waynebluedevils.org

Phone messages

If you are not receiving phone messages or texts from the school, please contact the school. We will get your number on the list!

