

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!

May, 2025



From the Desk of Superintendent, Dr. Mark Lenihan

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

We have enjoyed another outstanding school year at Wayne Community Schools! As always, the school year goes by very quickly with this year being no exception. There are many accomplishments our students and staff have achieved this year, too many to mention in a brief article. I encourage all of you to take the opportunity to join all the end of year celebrations that take place near the end of the school year. Also, for those of you who are parents of students at Wayne Community Schools, take time to celebrate another great year with your kids! Our students and staff have successfully accomplished a fantastic school year, and we know hard work, dedication, and commitment are all keys to their success. The support of parents and community members is key to providing a high-quality education, and for that support we are grateful! We are proud of our students and staff at Wayne Community Schools!

Speaking of celebrations, one of my favorite celebrations each year is graduation, as it represents many years of hard work, commitment, and dedication on behalf of our students, teachers, parents,

and community members. It is a time we look at our graduates and know they are a finished product prepared for the next phase of their lives. The Class of 2025 has been a very special group of young women and men, ladies and gentlemen, and scholars, who have had a tremendous impact on our school. We are also very grateful for the support parents of our graduates have given to their children and to our school. Certainly, the Class of 2025 has earned the distinction of "The Class with Class"! We wish all of our graduates the very best in their future endeavors!

At our graduation ceremony, we will honor three of our staff members who, with the close of the 2024-25 school year, will retire from Wayne Community Schools. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Colleen Janke, Mr. Brendan Dorsey, and Mrs. Judy Poehlman. Combined, these outstanding individuals have contributed close to 100 years of service at Wayne Community Schools. Needless to say, they will be missed and we wish them all the very best in this next phase of their lives.

This summer, we will wrap up the construction project that has been taking place over the past two school years! Literally hundreds of people have been involved in making sure the building project stays on time, on budget, and produces a high-quality finished product! As you all know, the renovations and additions at the high school were completed last fall, and we have been able to enjoy the new facilities during the 2024-25 school year. Next fall when school begins on August 14th, we will officially open the new Wayne Early Learning Center, which will house grades preschool – 2nd. As our enrollment continues to grow, this expansion has occurred at a very good time for our district, as we will be able to vacate the current elementary school with grades kindergarten – 2nd, add a very important section to our preschool, and allow the current elementary school to focus on grades 3rd-6th. I know change is

challenging, and our staff is doing a great job with planning and preparations so we can begin next fall with as smooth of a transition as possible. As with any new building, there will be a need to make sure we are flexible and ready to adapt. However, seeing the progress almost completed, I know the new Early Learning Center will be a vibrant, fun, and wonderful facility to educate our youngest students in the district. This focus on early learning will allow our staff to provide our students with an outstanding foundation for their education, and it will pay dividends as they continue to move through the district in their educational process!

I mentioned the first day of school being Thursday, August 14th, however I want to provide some information on a few other key dates as we prepare for the 2025-26 school year. On Friday, August 1,

2025, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in conjunction with the Wayne Area Economic Development Chamber Coffee at 10:00 AM at the new Early Learning Center. Following this ceremony, the new building will be open for community members to see from 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM. We hope all of you get a chance to swing by and see first hand our new facility! Regardless of whether community members have students attending the Early Learning Center or not, we invite all patrons of the district to attend, and we are grateful for the support our community provided to expand our facilities!

Kindergarten round-up will take place on Monday, August 4, 2025, and more information will be sent home to parents as the date draws near. Also, we will have our regular district-wide open

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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.

Calendar Website:

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!



Congratulations to Mrs. Anderson, the cast and crew, and all who were involved in The Fiddler on the Roof Spring Musical! Awesome performance by all!



CONGRATULATIONS to Ceilus Ibarra and Nora Armstrong for being crowned 2025 Prom King and Queen. King candidates included Calvin Ankeny, Colson Nelson, Kaden Keller, and Zander Liston. Queen candidates included Taytem Ellis, Rylin Hall, Olivia Mrsny, and Amelia Legler.

Please pay any outstanding lunch bills as soon as possible.

- 1. Any charges made during the year are owed.
 - 2. Any ala carte or extra items purchased are owed.
 - *For example:
 - *If your student brought a cold lunch and got a milk, the milk is charged to the student's account.
 - *If your student took extras, the extras were charged to the student's account.
 - *If your student did not take a full meal, the meal was charged to the student's account.
- Any questions, please contact the school. Thank you!

Cafeteria

THANK YOU for letting us feed your student this year in our cafeterias. It has been a great year with menus planned and served with Farm to School, scratch and speed scratch cooking, trying new items sprinkled in with the tried and true. We would like to thank all the local farm to school people that work with us. A big thank you to the Beef to School team that work to find beef for us. We processed 17 local beef this year.

We ask that you please pay your students meal bills, so your lunch debt doesn't await you next fall.

I want to say "THANK YOU" for letting me be your Wayne Community Schools lunch lady for 42 years. This was not the career path I thought I was on, but it was the BEST career path I could have asked for. Working with meal staff who taught me so much when I was hired, taking over as Manager when Eva Nelson retired. I know I am turning it over to capable staff and Teresa Tiedtke as manager.

This job allowed me the best of both worlds, Full time mom in the summer months and working full time with my boys' school hours. IT is a GREAT job and if you think this might be for you, fill out an application. We work hard, but we have fun in the kitchen.

**Judy Poehlman
and the Wayne Kitchen crew**



Thank you, F&M Bank, for the yard signs for our graduates!

MANY THANKS to Main Street Garage for supplying the staff at Wayne Community Schools with treats throughout the year! We have thoroughly enjoyed them!!



Power Drive Team

The Power Drive team had another great day of competition at the State Championships, held here in Wayne.

Car A107

- Maneuverability - 1st place
- Design & Construction - 1st place
- Documentation - 1st place
- Endurance - 1st place 14 Lap lead / 3.22 miles
- 1st Place Overall / Advanced Class State Champion
- This is the 3rd straight year car 107 has won state

Car E22

- Endurance - 1st Place / Exhibition Class State Champion

Best Paint

- This is the fourth Championship car 22 has won

Car E39

- Endurance - 3rd Place
- Season Highest Mileage - 126.96 miles (2nd place was E22 with 126.33 miles)
- This is the third time car 39 has won the highest mileage award since it began in 2019

Our cars were the only cars all season

not to pit for mechanical issues. We had a perfect season mechanically.

Big THANK YOU to:

- Morgan Reynolds - Design Judge / misc help / letting her husband be an assistant coach
- Tracy Anderson - PA system setup / tear down
- Adrienne Anderson - Singing of the National Anthem
- Diana Davis - Shade Tent
- Anyone and everyone I missed that has helped our students cross the finish line



Second grade went to the Haskell Ag. Lab on April 24th, to attend the event - Tree-rific Trees. Students completed hands-on activities pertaining to trees. They learned about bark textures, kinds of roots, animals that live in trees, tree identification, tree needs, kinds of fruit, and Arbor Day. They also were able to take home their very own tree to plant! It was a Tree-rific experience for all!

REMINDER:

If your high school aged child(ren) want to join FFA, they have to be in at least one semester of ag class!



Angel Fund

The Wayne State College Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals (AFCSP) raised \$123 for the Wayne Community Schools Angel Fund during their Valentine's Day bake sale. AFCSP is a non-profit organization that provides its members with opportunities for outreach both on campus and in the community, focusing on topics related to Family and Consumer Sciences.

The decision to donate the bake sale proceeds to the Angel Fund was made in response to the fund's support for students facing negative lunch balances within the Wayne community. The check was presented to Judy Poehlman, the food service manager at Wayne Community Schools, by former Wayne graduate Alondra Vega.



The preschool students studied Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We would like to thank Waste Connections for coming to talk to us. The students get excited when they see the garbage truck every day outside our school, and they were excited to get the opportunity to see it up close.

Students Save Big at In School Bank!

Elementary students had a great year of saving at the State Nebraska Bank & Trust. Blue Devil Branch. Students made nearly 2,503 deposits to save \$8,190 this year, a great year for the K-6 students at Wayne Elementary.

Students also earned many fun incentives, like bookmarks, coupons, and school supplies, provided by State Nebraska Bank & Trust. Close to 53% of the school's

population has a savings account at school. The 5th and 6th grade tellers who manage the Blue Devils Bank every Thursday morning do a great job of interacting with other students. They learn a handful of financial literacy skills which is great for their future and our community of Wayne.

This month, student tellers will travel to Omaha for a year-end celebration. The trip includes a tour of

the Omaha branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, and a presentation of certificates to the tellers, including the Stellar Teller award, given to the teller who provided the best customer service, showed up on time, promoted the Blue Devil Branch to others, and encouraged students to save. Bank CEO Matt Ley will also have lunch with the students who made a deposit 100% of the bank days open.

— High School News —

I want to take the time to thank everybody for a great school year! It is a lot of fun to work in a school district with such great students, parents, and staff members. We have an excellent school community that has supported the mission of our school district!

The end of the year is here and we are currently planning for the 2025-2026 school year. We are currently putting the final touches on the 2025-2026 master schedule. Our next step is to finalize student schedules for the year using student registration forms. We will be sending home the schedules at the end of the year for you to review. Please check the Friday Blast so that you know when they are coming home to sign and send back.

Next, I wanted to let you know that we will be having summer school/credit recovery this summer. The sessions will be on May 21st-23rd, May 27th-30th, June 2nd-6th, June 9th-13th, and June 16th-18th. Our students are invited to summer school based on school board policy and our new administrative regulation. Please call the school if you have any questions.

In addition, I wanted to send you out a few dates to get on your calendar for next year. The first day of school will be August 14th. This will be a noon dismissal. We will have our Open House on August 12th from 5:00-7:00 pm. We will once again provide an opportunity for students to learn more about the activities that we provide at Wayne High. We will have current students that are involved in these activities in the gym to give you more information. Our Home-

Desk

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house for all PreK-12th grade students and parents on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. This is an opportunity for all students and parents to come to school, meet their teachers, set-up their desks and lockers, and get a chance to get reacclimated and prepared for the 2025-26 school year. Summer will go fast, and I hope all of you have a wonderful summer, and are able to take time off from your busy schedules to spend time relaxing with family and friends. Please feel free to contact me with questions and concerns, and thank you for your continued support of Wayne Community Schools!

coming week this year will be the week of September 14th-20th. The dance will be on Saturday night. We have also scheduled Prom for March 21st next year.

Finally, I wanted to thank you for all of your support this year. This is an amazing place to work with great students, staff members, and parents. I am excited to continue to work with your students next year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Plager

Thank You!

A HUGE thank you to the sponsors for Spring Sprints:

Knights of Columbus

Rutenbeck Family

Scooters

Koenig Families

Ace Hardware

Bomgaars

Quality Foods

Elkhorn Valley Bank

Also, thank you to the numerous volunteers who organized the day, helped with events and concessions, and the teachers who brought their classes down to cheer on the athletes. It was a GREAT day had by all!

POWERSCHOOL

If you are having trouble setting up a Parent PowerSchool account, please contact Deb at the High School and she will get it set up. Due to PowerSchool updates, it is easier to have it set up through a PowerSchool administrator.

402-375-3150

dedaum1@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! If your number has changed, please make sure you contact the school with your new information.



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.



Congratulations to Mrs. Gubbels for being recognized as the 2025 Wayne Area Economic Development Educator of the Year!! Mrs. Gubbels was presented this award at the Annual Chamber Banquet in March. Mrs. Gubbels teaches Special Education in the Jr/Sr High School.

Alumni Tournament

Another successful WHS Alumni Tournament has been completed. Thank you to all our basketball, volleyball, and bowling participants. Before the final basketball game, the Foundation director, Rusty Parker, recognized Brendan Dorsey and Kevin Peterson for volunteering at all 15 Alumni Tournaments with a plaque as "Friends of the WHS Alumni Tournament and the Wayne Community Schools Foundation."

WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS | 2025-2026 CALENDAR



Wednesday 2:00 dismissals are for teacher development.

Days off for weather and state tournaments may be made up if necessary.

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	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						

1: ELC Ribbon Cutting
4: Kindergarten Round-Up
12: Open House – 5:00-7:00 pm
14: First Day of School – Noon Dismissal
18: First Day of PreK 3-4
20: 2:00 Dismissal
27: 2:00 Dismissal

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	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				

1: NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
3: 2:00 Dismissal
10: 2:00 Dismissal
17: 2:00 Dismissal
24: 2:00 Dismissal
29: P/T Conferences – 2:00 Dismissal 4:00-8:00 PM

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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	

1: P/T Conferences – 2:00 Dismissal 4:00-7:00 PM
3: P/T Conferences: NO SCHOOL
8: 2:00 Dismissal
15: 2:00 Dismissal
16: NO SCHOOL – Teacher Inservice
17: NO SCHOOL – Fall Break End
22: 2:00 Dismissal
29: 2:00 Dismissal

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	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						

5: 2:00 Dismissal
12: 2:00 Dismissal
19: 2:00 Dismissal
26-28: NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	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			

3: 2:00 Dismissal
10: 2:00 Dismissal
19: 2:00 Dismissal – End Q2/S1
22-1/2: NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
24-28: 5-day NSAA Moratorium

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

5: Teacher Work Day
6: School Resumes
7: 2:00 Dismissal
14: 2:00 Dismissal
21: 2:00 Dismissal
28: 2:00 Dismissal
30: NO SCHOOL – PK-6 P/T Conferences 7-12 In Session

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

4: 2:00 Dismissal
11: 2:00 Dismissal
18: 2:00 Dismissal
20: NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
25: 2:00 Dismissal

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	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				

4: 2:00 Dismissal
12: 2:00 Dismissal – End Q3
13: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
18: 2:00 Dismissal
25: 2:00 Dismissal

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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		

1: 2:00 Dismissal
3: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
6: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
8: 2:00 Dismissal
15: 2:00 Dismissal
22: 2:00 Dismissal
29: 2:00 Dismissal

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	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						

6: 2:00 Dismissal
13: 2:00 Dismissal
16: Graduation
19: Tentative Last Day of School

**WCS Moratorium – July 19-27
NO ACTIVITIES, CAMPS, or WEIGHTS**

178 – Student Days
186 – Teacher Days

Quarter 1 – 44 days
Quarter 2 – 42 days
Quarter 3 – 48 days
Quarter 4 – 44 days

The final day of school will be determined at the April 2026 Board of Education meeting.

Be sure and “LIKE” our school’s FaceBook page!
www.facebook.com/
Wayne-Community-Schools