



EAGLE UPDATE

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Elgin Public School
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Volume XXVIII, Issue 3

October, 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER



Oct. 10
 School Board
 Mtg. In ITV
 room 7:30 p.m.



Oct. 12
 Homecoming
 Coronation
 7:30 p.m.



Oct. 17
 Late Start
 10:00 a.m.



Oct. 19
 End of 1st
 Quarter



Oct. 31
 HALLOWEEN



Elgin Elementary -- National Blue Ribbon School



The Elgin Elementary School is proud to announce its recent recognition as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff. The elementary school students met or exceeded their grade level standards in reading and mathematics as reported by the state wide Nebraska State Accountability Assessments (NeSA).

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. The program is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program sets a standard of excellence for all schools striving for the highest level of achievement. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Using standards of excellence evidenced by student achievement measures and the characteristics known from research to exemplify school quality, the Department celebrates outstanding schools from states across the country.

For many schools, attaining the National Blue Ribbon School award and recognition is a realization of a long-held dream. There is much excitement in the school community and the local media eagerly profiles schools that have attained the recognition. The schools are honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, DC, where each Blue Ribbon School receives a plaque and flag to signify its National Blue Ribbon School status. These schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation and details of their achievements are shared on the U.S. Department of Education's website.

Elgin Public School continues to strive for excellence in all grade levels and on all local, state, and national tests. We would like to thank the Board of Education and the community for their support.

*Check our website for the most current news
 and calendar:
www.elgineagles.org*





"Note"able News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

Autumn is a busy time in the music department. **Deli International** sales will begin on October 15th. There are many delicious food items to choose from. If that is not your cup of tea, we offer a catalog of gift items just in time for Christmas! If you do NOT get approached by a band member, please contact Mrs. Jones (843-2455) and she will see that you get what you want to order. To all those who order product from us – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

The marching Eagles band will be in two parades this year. The first one was the Lion's Club Parade in Norfolk on September 22. There were 10 bands in Class D along with others from classes AA - C. We will also be marching in the annual Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island on Saturday, October 6. It is a great parade to watch with many bands and floats to entertain people of all ages. It is also televised on the Kearney station, so if you can't be there, watch it on TV. Hope for great weather and a good time!

ALL STATE CHOIR

October 13th is an anxious day for some of us in the music department. Lisa Dohmen, Juliana Dunn and Mrs. Jones will travel to Norfolk for auditions for the Nebraska All State Choir. This is the first year for Lisa, so she really doesn't know what to expect when she steps into that audition room with only the judge. This is the second time for Juliana so she has a little bit of experience. However, knowing there are many talented vocalists vying for the same spots doesn't calm your nerves any!

Waiting 10 days for results doesn't help either! Each year, over 3000 students all over the state audition for a spot in the choir, band or orchestra from schools in all classifications. So the small schools go up against the big schools in this competition. 450 voices will be chosen for the choir. That makes the acceptance really special! We hope someone from Elgin Public Schools will be among them.

MUSIC BOOSTERS – JOIN US!

We will have a music booster meeting on Thursday, October 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the lunch room. **Note the change in time.** We hope to have more parents attend this way.



Smile..It's Contagious!

Babies Can't Wait

Babies can't wait! Babies grow and learn rapidly from the minute they are born. If a baby is not learning or growing appropriately he can't wait for help. If you have concerns about your baby or another child's development, the Early Development Network can help.



The Early Development Network helps children birth to 3 years of age and their families access services and supports. If a child's development is delayed or if he has been diagnosed with a health condition that will affect his development, the Early Development Network will help his family access an evaluation of his skills in five areas of development: cognitive, motor, speech and language, social-emotional, and adaptive behavior. The evaluation is conducted in the child's home with trained professionals and is provided at no cost to the family.

After the evaluation is completed, the family and the services coordinator meet with the person or persons who conducted the evaluation and a representative of the local school district to discuss the results and to determine what services the child needs. This team works with the family to develop an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP). The services are provided in the child's home or other setting natural to the child so that learning happens in a setting best suited to the child. The Early Development Network can also help families identify areas of need and assist with accessing services and supports such as respite care and financial assistance for medical treatment.

Early childhood services help babies and children to learn and grow. Research has shown that the earlier children with delays receive instruction and/or therapy, the more likely they are to learn to communicate, to move independently, and to learn to interact with others appropriately.

Babies Can't Wait! If you have concerns about your baby or toddler's development, contact the Early Development Network today. Call 1-800-531-9316 or 402-336-2270 ext 22 to contact an Early Development Network services coordinator.



Thank you to all who supported EPS magazine sales this year. Your magazine purchases help fund many of our class activities.

Thank you for your contributions!



Have you ordered your picture folder for 2013? Single students are \$20 and families are \$25. Send Mrs.

Heithoff an email to order yours.
rheithof@esu8.org

Third Graders Cook Up Recipe for a Successful Year!



In Guidance, the third graders cooked up a great recipe to have a successful year in the classroom. They put a picture or symbol on their giant recipe card to help them remember all of the traits of a successful student.

1. Keep eyes on the speaker. (picture of man with eyes)
2. Listen carefully. (ear)
3. Stop and think about what you are suppose to be doing. (STOP sign)
4. Raise your hand and

wait to be called on. (hand)

5. Relax or "chill out" when things do not go your way. (ice cubes)

6. Ask questions when you do not understand. (student with question mark)

7. Remember to tune out distractions. (earmuffs)

8. Keep assignments organized so you know what needs to be done for homework. (pencil with planner) 9. Do homework in an appropriate place such as a desk or the kitchen table. (girl in desk)

10. Use time wisely. (stopwatch)

11. Tune into your teacher or pretend your teacher is a radio station that you need to listen to. (headphones)

12. Keep homework organized in your bag and remember to bring materials to school. (backpack)

13. Study or practice what you are learning in school. (flashcards)

The giant recipe card is displayed in our classroom to help us remember all of the traits to being a successful third grader!
Mrs. Eisenhauer

YEARBOOK ADS



Have you sponsored an ad in the yearbook yet? What a terrific way to support our school. Besides the advertisement for your business in the yearbook, your name is also listed in the winter sporting event programs. If you would like to sponsor an ad, please contact Mrs. Rita Heithoff 843-2455.

GAVINS POINT DAM TOUR



Technology students visit Gavin's Point Power Plant

PRESERVING OUR PAST

The yearbook class has started a new project this year to preserve some of EHS's history by updating the class composites in the gym. The students will be taking down the composites, photographing them, repairing any loose photos and re-hanging the composites. The photographs will be touched up if needed and posted to the school webpage www.elgineagles.org.

We have the Class of 1915 completed and posted to the Alumni section of the webpage. Classes will be added as time permits. This project could take a couple of years since there are over 100 years of composites to photograph, retouch and post. The 1915 class took over two hours to complete. Now multiply that by 100, you can see the time adding up.

We feel it's an important task as some of the composites are getting in bad condition. And if something ever happens to the building itself, we will have the photographs on the webpage. In addition with the pictures on the webpage you can view the alumni no matter where you live in the country. So if you notice some of the composites missing, it means we're working on them.

Mrs. Heithoff and 2013 Yearbook Staff
Angela Richart, Stephanie Bode, Allison Koenig, Tera Henkenius, Sharla Schindler, Hayley Stamp and Katie Polk

Wonderful World of Water



Alois, Sharla, and Tanner examine macroinvertebrates they found in the pond.

The Wonderful World of Water was, once again, wonderful. Ten freshmen and sophomore attended this annual event hosted by the Upper and Lower Elkhorn NRD. Its goal is to teach students an appreciation for their freshwater sources as well as information regarding water so students can make more informed decisions regarding our limited water supplies. Students attended sessions about topics including water and the body, tilled vs. no tilled soils, wetlands, and how macroinvertebrates can be indicators of stream health.

A new session this year was about owls; a handler brought a great horned owl and a western screech owl and told about the differences and their lifestyles.

Both teams also brought along a rocket for the water rocket competition. Though they did not place first in height, they were a close second!

Movie Night Here We Come . . .



This summer a reading and writing activity packet was sent to all the first and second graders. There were different activities for them to do during the summer months. The top prize for completing these activities was a night at the movies. Pictured are the students that participated and won a night at the movies. They are Blake Henn, Keyera Eisenhauer, Jamie Dozler, Violet Schwager, Baylee Busteded, Isaac Walsh, Dane Kilday, and William Heilhecker. Congratulations!

Junior High Students Attend Courage Retreat



August 23rd junior high students from Elgin Public and seven other Northern Tier schools came together for a “Courage Retreat” at West Boyd Public School. This is one of several retreats delivered by *Youth Frontiers* a nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, MN.

The vision and goal of the Youth Frontier facilitators is to change the way young people treat each other in the hallways, lunch lines and classrooms in every school in America. The Courage Retreat helps and encourages students to learn how to use moral courage to stand up for their values, take positive risks and follow their hearts instead of following the crowd. Students spend the day playing games, participating in activities and working in small groups with high school facilitators identifying some of the social fears and peer pressures that get in the way of responsible decision making.

High school leaders attending from Elgin were Ivy Prater, Madison Voborny, Hunter Thrasher, Steph Bode and Angela Richart. These leaders will work with the students throughout the year to reinforce the ideas learned from the Youth Frontiers Cour-

age Retreat. To get a peek at what a retreat looks like go to the following link: http://www.youthfrontiers.org/programs/courage-retreat-1/?utm_expid=1158800-1&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youthfrontiers.org%2Fprograms%2F

Magazine Sales Successful



This year our magazine sales met our goal (>350) with 330 orders sold. These sales included orders sold on the internet. Since this is the only major fund-raising event for the classes, it was very important!

Top salesperson was Allison Koenig with 32 orders! Orders sold: Seniors: 64; Juniors: 72; Sophomores: 76; Freshmen: 73. Students who sold magazines will be encouraged to sign up for prizes. This marks the 35 year in which I have sponsored magazine sales.

The magazines have changed, the companies have changed (and they did this year) but the benefits for EHS continue. Thank you for supporting us!

Miss J

2012 Elgin Public yearbooks are still available for \$30.00 Make checks payable to "Elgin Public Schools".

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder that we are still collecting Box Tops For Education. That money is used for misc. items in the elementary and field trip fees. Please keep saving those Box Tops and send them to school with your student or drop them off in the office. Thanks for your help!

Check out their website <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> to sign up your e-mail and receive great coupons and savings for products that have the box tops on them. Plus you can sign up daily for sweepstakes to win more money for the school.

DREAM BIG



Mykil Copeland attended DREAM BIG Academy.

UNL's College of Business Administration hosted the inaugural DREAM BIG Academy July 8-11, which brought soon-to-be high school seniors from across the state to Lincoln to explore college life and business concepts first-hand. The academy emphasized diversity by showing students how their unique qualities benefit them in a positive way. DREAM BIG is an acronym for many of those strengths: Develop, Risk, Empower, Achieve, Maximize, Build, Innovate and Grow.

The 38 students in the academy lived in the residence halls and completed hands-on assignments by visiting businesses, working on group projects, listening to CBA alumni relate their career experiences and learning from UNL professors.

In addition to the team projects, students also attended college preview courses in accountancy, finance, economics, marketing and management taught by CBA faculty. The new supply chain management option being offered at CBA was particularly intriguing to many of the students.

Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

Click on Schoolmaster under "Quick Links" and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

7th Grade Students "Soaring" With Study Skills



This semester the 7th grade students are being introduced to a new study skills program. The S.O.A.R. Study Skills program is designed to be a simple and efficient system for earning better grades in less time.

In these first few weeks of school we have focused on: Multiple Intelligences, Setting goals, Establishing Priorities and homework tips. The 7th graders have decided to take a team approach giving themselves the name "Team Nike" and using the theme "Just Do It". As the semester progresses we will not just learn the skills but also apply them, thus the theme "JUST DO IT". Come check out the 7th grade room for motivating posters and slogans.

Barb Bode, Guidance Counselor

REMEMBERING THE 6th Grade A TEAM Class of 2018

The results are in and last year's 6th Grade Class better known as the A-TEAM achieved great success on the NSEA STATE READING test they took last spring. The

A TEAM posted a **150** average score while the State

Average score was **113. WOW!** That's some reading and applying those skills we learned.

All of the students Met or Exceeded the Standards.
Yes, that's right **100% of the class.**
CONGRATULATIONS!

What an accomplishment! I knew you could do it.

From: Mrs. Thorberg

P.S. I challenge each of you to continue to improve your score from last year.

5th Grade Rocks!

The 5th graders have been busy in Science working with minerals. One of the latest things they have worked on is the rock cycle and how each of the 3 rocks can be changed into another rock. The three groups of rocks that they worked on were sedimentary rocks, metamorphic rocks, and igneous rocks. Check our website for some photos of the students with their rock cycle diagram that they created in class.

4th Grade Newspaper

The fourth graders have written about what they are learning in each class. This is a part of their newspaper, *The Paw Print*, which will be on the webpage soon! Enjoy!



In P.E. we are playing Capture the Flag. We play boys against girls. In Music we are talking about steps, leaps, and repeats. Steps go up or down on the staff. Leaps jump far down or up. Repeats stay the same. It does not change! In English we are learning plural and singular nouns. If you have the letter s at the end of a word it's plural. Without an s at the end it's singular. In Math we are learning how to order fractions. A number line starts with a zero at the left and one whole at the right. In Social Studies we are learning states, capitals, and cities. Did you know that the capital of Idaho is Boise?

By Claire and Lilly

This year is a new year for Art. Us fourth graders are zentangling. Our zentanglings are 3-D, confusing but beautiful. Zentanglings can calm you down. Sometimes they make you want to jump around and say, "I love zentangling!" Just don't jump, that's against the law in the art room.

It's raining,

It's pouring,

Precipitation's falling.

A cold front is coming into our area. I'm just joking with you. It's just science. Science is hard, but it's also fun. When we learned about a barometer, we made one. When we learned about clouds, we made clouds.

In Reading, we read tons of different stories. Our first story was Akiak. I bet you're wondering who Akiak is. He is a sled dog who loved Iditarod races and lives in Alaska. Our second story was Grandfather's Journey. I guess you're wondering what it's about. It's about a grandfather who crossed the Pacific and went from Japan to the new world. His grandson did the same thing. I wonder what our next story will be.

Kindness, trustworthiness, caring, respect, fairness, and responsibility are how we work like a team. Guidance is how we show our character traits. Are you a good character?

By Skylar and Jasmine

TRAP SHOOT WINNERS



Tyler Childers of Elgin, Lane Dunbar, and Alex Grosserode of Elgin were the top three in the Sr. Division.

The Elgin FFA held their annual Trap Shoot on Sunday, Sept. 9th in Neligh. Trey Baum of Elgin, Brandon Peitzmeier of Neligh, and Blake Heithoff of Neligh were the top three in the Jr. Division. Blake won the division, Brandon was 2nd and Trey was 3rd.

Tyler Childers of Elgin, Lane Dunbar, and Alex Grosserode of Elgin were the top three in the Sr. Division. Alex won the division, Lane was 2nd, and Tyler was 3rd.

Marty Siems, John Eichelburger, and Bruce Pfeil were the top three in the Sr. Adult division. Winning the division was Marty, placing 2nd was John, and 3rd place went to Bruce.

The Elgin FFA would like to send a huge thank you to Rick Fangman and Duane Childers for setting up the event!



SIGN-UP FOR NEWS UPDATE

You won't want to be left out in the cold!

Sign up for News Update on our website, www.elgineagles.org. On the left side of the front page of our website, click on "Sign up for the News Update". Put in your e-mail address and you will be sent an e-mail. **You must reply to that e-mail in order to be placed on our e-mail list.**

News Update will be used to draw attention to new items on our webpage so periodically you will receive an e-mail with headline news in it. (We promise not to flood your e-mail inbox and we won't give out your e-mail address to anyone!)

Sign up today and be sure to tell your friends!



Constitution Day

On Monday, September 17th, students of Elgin Public Schools gathered around the American flag to take time to honor the United States Constitution. This was an opportunity for students to reflect on the document that has guided the United States for the last 225 years.

The ceremony began with a reading by members of the 11th grade American Government class. They read a choral reading by Lorainne Griffith concerning the Preamble to the Constitution. The American Government students then spoke on the need for recognizing the importance of the constitution. To conclude the ceremony, the entire student body recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

We feel it is important to take time to develop awareness for the important documents that have served our country and to develop a greater appreciation for them.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?

If you haven't done so already, visit your top colleges *soon* to narrow your choices. Application deadlines will start hitting later this fall! Follow these tips for a successful visit:

Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor, and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you.

Check out the college website before your visit. Most college sites have a section for prospective students where you can learn about the admissions process, types of majors, student services, and employment opportunities. You might even be able to schedule your visit online.

Visit while school is in session. You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

Ask LOTS of questions. See this [Go.Visit.College! handout](#) for good questions to ask.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- ◆ **Don't pay for scholarship searches!** Use free search sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [My.EducationQuest.org](#) where you'll find over 2,000 state and local awards. Scholarship resources are also available at your local library and at Education-Quest offices in Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.
- ◆ **Visit your guidance office** for information about local scholarships.
- ◆ **Get organized.** Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local and college-specific scholarships deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.
- ◆ **Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at [My.EducationQuest.org](#).
- ◆ **Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- ◆ **Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.
- ◆ **Pay close attention to grammar and spelling.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

October "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during October.

Juniors and Seniors:

___ Attend the [College Fair](#) or [Educational Planning Program](#) in your area.

Seniors:

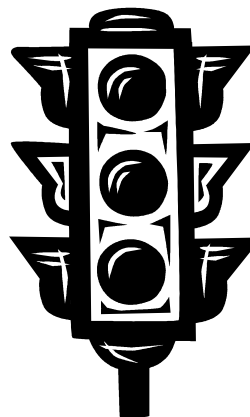
- ___ Schedule campus visits.
- ___ Narrow your college choices and be aware of application deadlines and criteria.
- ___ [Register](#) by September 21 for the October 27 ACT.
- ___ [Register](#) by October 4 for the November 3 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by November 1 for the December 1 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by November 2 for the December 8 ACT.

Las Noticias del Mundo Español

There has been a lot of activity in the Spanish classroom over the last month. Students have been diligently reviewing verbs and vocabulary, as well as learning some new information. All three levels of Spanish have taken their first test, and have begun a new chapter.



The Spanish Club has elected their officers for the 2012-2013 school year. They are: Juliana Dunn, secretary; Andrew Heithoff, president; Nick Heithoff, vice president; and Ashlyn DeWald, treasurer.



Step-Up to Writing!

Green means Go, Yellow slow down and red means stop, but what does this have to do with Junior High Language Arts? Using the components of Step-Up to

Writing the 7th & 8th Graders have been highlighting paragraphs and using the techniques to make them become better writers. Green means go with the topic; this is the main idea of our essay. Yellow means we are going to slow down and use a transition to state our important ideas. Then we need to stop (red) and give lots of examples, explanations, or evidence to support our ideas. The last sentence or paragraph of the essay is also green, because we conclude by "going" back to our topic sentence and restating what our essay is all about. By using the stoplight colors the students can see if they are writing a good, organized essay.

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dan Polk
dpolk@esu8.org



It is REALLY hard to believe but it is already a few months into the school year!!! As I continue to get to know the kids, parents and community of Elgin I cannot tell you how happy I am to have made the decision to be the Elgin Public Schools Superintendent. You really have a jewel of a community and despite disagreements, conflicts, and issues occasionally; it seems all work hard together to try and get along and do things productive for the kids, schools and town. It is a pleasure to work for the public school and I am becoming more proud every month to say I am from Elgin. Please remember if you have any questions or concerns about events or issues at/or with the Elgin Public Schools we are just a phone call away. Mr. Patrick or myself would be more than willing to visit with you about any concerns or issues you may have. Or if you just want to make sure you have the facts of something you have "heard" please feel free to call. Open honest communication is never a bad thing and something we want to perpetuate. Have a great fall season and a safe harvest!



First-Time Authors Share Creations

by Mrs. Shoe

In addition to toning their writing muscles daily, students in Creative Writing have recently become published authors. After a brief discussion of children's stories, class members partnered up and logged onto Storybird.com. This website allowed them to pen original stories and then choose from a variety of illustrations to accompany them.

Once completed, the students published their stories electronically and then obtained printable downloads. Following a quick binding by Mrs. Jensen, it was official, they were authors. The next logical step, of course, was testing their creations.

On Thursday, September 20, the Creative Writing students shared their stories with members of the kindergarten and first grade classes. The young students seemed to enjoy the stories and asked a number of questions related to them.

For a future project the Creative Writing students will be working with the kindergarten and 1st graders in order to create stories of their own.



Kao Takaya & Truman Copeland share their story with the Kindergarteners.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 12, 2012
11:00 P.M.
EPS GYMNASIUM

Please join the local veterans organizations, school students, and the Elgin community as we pay tribute to our present military personnel and the veterans who have served in past years.

Hope to see you there!

Input Requested on District's Mission Statement

In an effort to update the district's mission statement, Elgin Public Schools request input from parents, students, and the community about a revised statement. Please vote on our website (www.elgineagles.org) for the statement that you prefer. We ask that you vote only once. The results will be given to the School Board for final selection and approval at the next Board meeting on October 10th. Thank you for your support and input!

F

rom the Principal's desk . . .

by Adam Patrick
apatrick@esu8.org



The 2012 Nebraska State Accountability Assessment results were recently released to the public. Elgin Public Schools would like to recognize some outstanding student accomplishments. Blake A., Mykil C., Elianne H., Nicklaus H., Miranda P., Kaitlyn P., Alois W., Kira W., all scored in the 90th percentile or above on the Math portion of the assessment. Zoey B., Shelby D., Theanna D., Elianne H., Liam H., Nicklaus H., Jamie H., Angela R., Carter S., Emily W., Luke W., Alois W., Kira W., all scored in the 90th percentile or above on the Reading portion of the assessment. Mykil C., Nicklaus H., Mateo K., Angela R., Tiarra T., Alois W., Dylan W., all scored in the 90th percentile or above on the Science portion of the assessment.

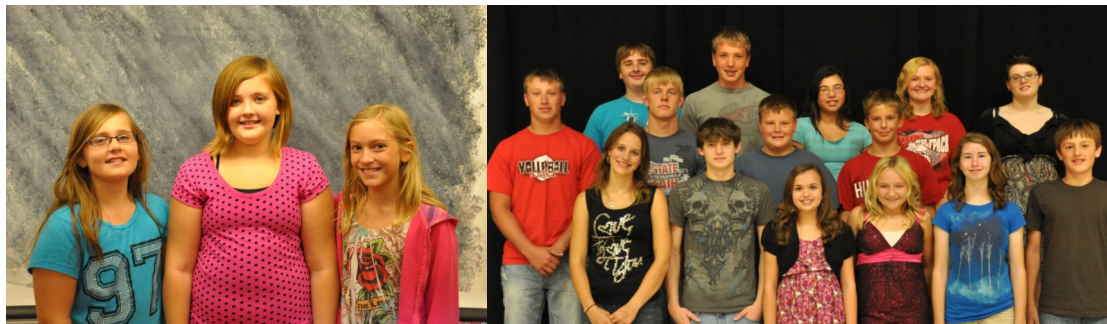
To score in the 90th percentile means the student scored as well as or better than 90% of student in their grade on that assessment. In other words these students' scores are in the top 10% of students in their grade. I would also like to commend the 6th grade as 100% of the class met or exceeded the standard in reading. Also, the 11th grade as 100% of the junior class met or exceeded the standard in science. We are proud of all of these students as we continue to strive for excellence in all grade levels and on all local, state, and national tests.



100% of last year's Junior class met or exceeded the standard in science.



100% of last year's 6th grade class met or exceeded the standard in reading.



These students scored in the top 10% of students in their grade level.

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NEWSLETTER
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