

# Mitchell Public Schools

Mitchell Public Schools, in partnership with the community, will empower students to become lifelong learners and respectful, responsible citizens.

December 2018



**Mitchell Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools are accredited by the State of Nebraska and also hold NCA-AdvancEd Regional Accreditation (North Central Association)**

## Inside this issue:

MPS School Information & Nebraska Education Profile	1-4
From the Administration	5-8
District News	9-11
High School News	12-18
Elementary News	19-23

**MPS  
Staff and Students  
Recite the  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Each Morning at the  
Beginning of School**



## News from the Cafeteria

Mitchell Public Schools lunch prices for the 2018-19 year are \$2.50 for elementary students and \$2.75 for junior and senior high students. Breakfast prices are \$1.75 for elementary students and \$2.00 for junior and senior high students.

Breakfast is now available at the Jr./Sr. High building. Breakfast bags are delivered each morning at 7:30.

Adults and community members are welcome. The cost for adults is \$4.00 for lunch and \$2.50 for breakfast.

**NO CHARGING IS ALLOWED.** Your family account (includes all children in your household) **MUST** be current at all times or your child/children will not be served.

If your family account shows a negative balance your child/children will not be allowed to eat a meal served by the cafeteria. Please send a sack lunch or

make other arrangements for your child's/ children's meals. Once a deposit has been received your child/children will be served.

Cafeteria bills are distributed Monday-Thursday at both school buildings (once a family account becomes negative). Families also receive balance notifications on their MPS Infinite Campus accounts

Please ask your child/children if they have received a bill. **It is your family's responsibility to make sure your account is current daily.**

If your household income or size has changed, please complete an application for free or reduced priced meals.

**Susan Craig, Cafeteria Manager**  
**308-623-1945**

## Total District Enrollment (as of 12/20/18)

Pre-School.....	39	7.....	46
K.....	47	8.....	53
1.....	42	9.....	54
2.....	49	10.....	56
3.....	54	11.....	54
4.....	47	12.....	52
5.....	58		
6.....	61		

# MPS — Staff

## Administration

Katherine Urbanek — Superintendent  
 Heath Peters — JH/HS Principal  
 Kirk Kuxhausen — Elementary Principal  
 Jennifer Splichal- Special Serv Director

Jimmie Rhodes — Activities Director  
 Glen Eberspecher — Tech Coordinator  
 John Bevins - Bus/Custodial Supervisor  
 Loren Braman — JH/HS Counselor

## Administrative Assistants

Kristi Meyer — District Bookkeeper  
 Rama Debus — JH/HS Secretary

Shelley Hoff — Elementary Secretary  
 Ronda Reuter — Elementary Secretary

## JH/HS Staff

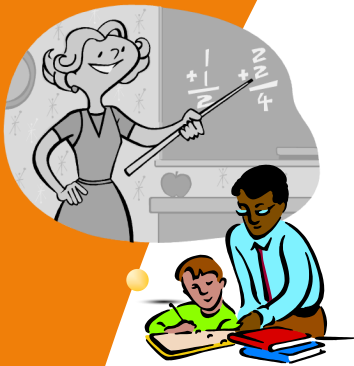
Michael Belgum — Science  
 Vicki Clark — Science  
 Jeremy Powell — Science  
 Dave Rada — Social Studies  
 Anthony Chancellor — Social Studies  
 Joe Yauney — Social Studies  
 Matt Chrisman — Math  
 Russ Hamer — Math  
 Mike Harriger — Math  
 Michelle Peters — Math  
 Jordan Gonzales — English  
 Karin Law — English  
 Kaiya West — English  
 Brittnei Chancellor — Reading  
 Sue Marsh — Special Education  
 Kim Cantrell — Art / Web Design  
 Walker Dobry — Industrial Arts

Nick Kuxhausen — Physical Education  
 Maria Gillen — Business  
 Tanner Long — Business  
 Cassandra Wiegel — Family/Cons Science  
 Nikki Bunnell — Vocal Music  
 Austin Sailors — Instrumental Music  
 Liliana Rada — Spanish  
 Allison Harder — Library  
 Vickie Pieper — Library Para-educator  
 Kim Thomas — Nurse  
 Anja Knepper — Para-ed. /Distance Learning  
 Chrissy Blackstone — Para-educator  
 Peggy Welsch — Para-educator  
 Denise Yauney — Para-educator  
 Bryan Hazzard — Custodian/Bus Driver  
 Rick Rein — Custodian/Bus Driver

## Elementary Staff

Julia Jacobs — Preschool  
 Julie Fegler — PS Para-educator  
 Marcie Ramirez — PS Para-educator  
 Courtney Bellairs — Kindergarten  
 Leslie Hughes — Kindergarten  
 Kammie Wilson — Kindergarten  
 Ashley Robbins — Kdg Para-educator  
 Tonya Heimboch — Kdg Para-educator  
 Bonnie Hutchinson — Kdg Para-educator  
 Shawn Hoffmann — 1st Grade  
 Miranda King — 1st Grade  
 Becky Osmera — 1st Grade  
 Tina Cheek — 2nd Grade  
 Amie Hessler — 2nd Grade  
 Katie Scott — 2nd Grade  
 Vanessa Cardona — 3rd Grade  
 Michelle Engstrom — 3rd Grade  
 Jayson Gregory — 3rd Grade  
 Kelli Clarke — 4th Grade  
 Kaci Kearns — 4th Grade  
 Jenny Bohl — 5th Grade  
 Kris Keener — 5th Grade  
 Jami Schaffer — 5th Grade  
 Kaitlin Luikens — 6th Grade  
 Erin Reisig — 6th Grade  
 Val Wadhams — 6th Grade  
 Kristin Pankonin — Special Education  
 Kylie Soule — Special Education

Ashley Dobry — Title I  
 Dillon Broussard — Physical Education  
 Nikki Bunnell — Vocal Music  
 Austin Sailors — Vocal Music/Instr. Music  
 Kim Thomas — Nurse  
 Allison Harder — Library  
 Vickie Pieper — Library Para-educator  
 Stacey Kahl — Para-educator  
 Nancy Schmidt — Para-educator  
 Kaitlynn Hessler — Para-educator  
 Jeanie Young — Para-educator  
 Mindy Fillingham — Para-educator  
 Vanessa Hernandez — Para-educator  
 Lindsey Middendorf — Para-educator  
 Laurie Weimer — Para-educator  
 Laura Hubbard — Para-educator  
 Felecia Ivey — Para-educator  
 Tarah Riley — Para-educator  
 Jacquelynn Barnes — Para-educator  
 Vicki Keener — Para-educator  
 Julie Carrier — Para-educator  
 Silas Cheek — Custodian/Bus Driver  
 Tom Hernandez — Custodian/Bus Driver  
 Sue Craig — Food Service Supervisor  
 Susan Wurdeman — Food Service  
 Laura Jacobsen — Food Service  
 Michelle Buckley — Food Service  
 Cindy Garcia — Grandmother Aide  
 Helen Weinmaster — Grandmother Aide



**“42.6% of Mitchell Public School’s Staff hold a Master’s Degree”**

**“The average number of years of teaching experience for MPS teachers is 13.35 years.”**



Mitchell Public Schools  
current goals for School  
Improvement are...

**All students will improve  
Language Arts skills.**

And

**All staff and students will utilize  
technology to enhance student  
learning.**

We host accreditation reviews of  
our goals every five years.

All staff are included in School  
Improvement meetings and  
activities.

It takes everyone to make our

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

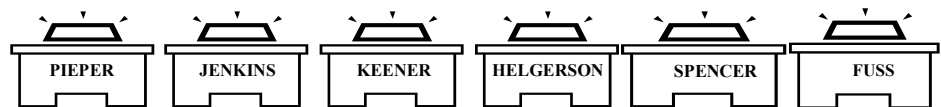
Mitchell Public Schools is governed by a six-member Board of Education elected by patrons of the district to serve four-year terms.

Edu-

**The current Board of Education is:**

Jeff Jenkins...President  
Brad Helgerson...Vice President  
Doug Keener...Secretary  
Paul Pieper...Board Member  
Mark Spencer...Board Member  
Shawn Fuss...Board Member  
Caleb Koranda...Student Representative

**We Do What's Best for Kids!**



## Annual Report to the District

Nebraska Department of Education, Rule 10 requires that each school district prepare and distribute annually a report to the people of the district. The material included has been compiled and distributed to establish a two-way communication between the Mitchell School System and the people it serves. The Mitchell School District is legally described as School District 31 Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. Mitchell is a Class III school organized as Pre-School, K-6 Elementary, and a 7-12 secondary school, serving students in portions of Scotts Bluff and Sioux counties.

The October Student enrollment count for the Department of Education was 674 students, K-12. The district covers approximately 154 square miles. The current valuation of the district is \$303,394.025. The official estimated total property tax levy for 2018-19 is \$1.03 with a general fund levy of \$0.94, and a building fund of \$0.09.

## NWEA Spring 2018 Scores

**NWEA Testing  
March 19th**

**Nebraska State  
Testing (NSCAS)  
April 9-18**

Grade Level	Math Average		Reading Average		General Science Average	
	Mitchell	National	Mitchell	National	Mitchell	National
1	182	181	180	178		
2	190	193	192	189		
3	207	204	204	199		
4	219	214	213	206		
5	228	222	218	212	217	206
6	229	226	218	216	214	209
7	235	229	224	219	218	211
8	237	231	227	221	219	214
9	240	234	228	222	222	215
10	243	233	228	222	223	215
11	249	235	232	223	225	—

All of the tests developed by NWEA use the RIT(Rasch Unit) scale to describe student achievement and student growth. The RIT score relates directly to the curriculum scale in each subject area. It is an equal-interval score, like feet and inches, so scores can be added together to calculate accurate class or school averages. RIT scores range from 100-300. Students typically start at the 160-190 level in the second grade and progress to the 220-240 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's growth from year to year.

The Nebraska Education Profile is based on information gathered from students during the 2017-18 school year.

## Nebraska Education Profile

### Student Characteristics

Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch  
Moving in or out during School Year  
Learning the English Language  
Receiving Special Education Services

### State Average

45.83%  
94.3%  
6.87%  
15.12%

### District Average

44.66%  
95.12%  
0.47%  
7.59%

### K-12 Enrollment by Years

2007-2008.....620  
2008-2009.....644  
2009-2010.....627  
2010-2011.....654  
2011-2012.....652  
2012-2013.....697  
2013-2014.....695  
2014-2015.....698  
2015-2016.....628  
2016-2017.....604  
2017-2018.....630  
2018-2019.....673

### Attendance Rate

2007-2008  
2008-2009  
2009-2010  
2010-2011  
2011-2012  
2012-2013  
2013-2014  
2014-2015  
2015-2016  
2016-2017  
2017-2018

### State

94.71  
94.83  
94.76  
95.18  
95.55  
95.30  
95.18  
95.17  
94.89  
94.59  
94.3

### District

95.71  
95.91  
95.27  
95.48  
94.78  
95.12  
94.78  
94.38  
94.6  
95.01  
95.12

### High School Teachers Endorsed in Subject area they Teach

96%

### Students Eligible for Free/ Reduced Priced Meals

2010-2011  
2011-2012  
2012-2013  
2013-2014  
2014-2015  
2015-2016  
2016-2017  
2017-2018

### State Average

42.58  
43.79  
44.18  
44.93  
44.17  
44.12  
44.65  
45.83

### District Average

49.86  
52.66  
50.37  
46.04  
41.98  
42.17  
42.88  
44.66

To View the Nebraska Educational Profile

Go to the Following Web Address...

<http://www.nep.education.ne.gov/>

### HS Graduation Rate

2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018

### State

89.65  
91.10  
88.49  
89.68  
88.89  
89.27  
89.11

### District

91.30  
91.38  
88.89  
97.92  
94.83  
95.24  
95.45

### 2017-18 Receipts

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Percents</u>
Local	\$2,798,190.00	32.50%
County	\$ 40,814.00	0.47%
State	\$5,382,214.00	62.62%
Federal	\$ 334,540.00	3.89%
Other	\$ 43,039.00	0.52%

### 2017-18 Expenditures

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Percents</u>
All Instruction	\$4,761,993.00	63.20%
Federal	\$ 466,375.00	6.19%
General Administration	\$ 273,041.00	3.62%
Maintenance & Operation	\$ 728,595.00	9.66%
Office of the Principal	\$ 430,571.00	5.71%
Other	\$ 55,000.00	0.73%
State Categorical Programs	\$ 3,991.00	0.05%
Support Services - Business	\$ 88,143.00	1.17%
Support Services - Pupils	\$ 484,268.00	6.42%
Support Serv. - Pupils Trans.	\$ 104,040.00	1.38%
Support Services - Staff	\$ 143,135.00	1.90%
Total Expenditures	\$7,539,152.00	100%

## We Are Mitchell!



**Ms. Urbanek**  
**Superintendent of**  
**Schools**

In the blink of an eye the first semester is over and the holiday break is upon us. While it seems like it was merely a week ago that I was preparing to welcome back the teachers, staff and students for the start of the year, there has also been a great deal that has been accomplished this first semester of school. I'd like to take a moment to update our patrons on some of the projects we have begun, and to thank the people that have made these projects possible.

First, you will notice our elementary playground will be undergoing a dramatic facelift. Thanks to the efforts of the parent group (PET), the children will have new playground equipment to enjoy for many years to come. Weather permitting, installation is to begin in December and may actually be completed by the time this newsletter hits your kitchen table. The PET was able to raise the funds for this project through several different fundraisers. I would like to thank not only the parents that successfully completed this generous project, but also the community members that donated to this cause. There are not many sounds sweeter than children laughing while playing, and I can hardly wait to hear that sound when they get to enjoy this amazing gift.

At the high school building, a new greenhouse to be used for the Science and Agriculture departments will also be under construction as weather permits. This addition will allow classes to study plant growth and development, genetics, and other curriculum in a hands on way. This project would not have been possible without the organization and design of the High Ability students and the generous contributions of parents and community members. The Monsanto corporation provided grant money for this project, and it truly has been a collaborative effort both within and outside of the school.

If you have not had the opportunity to spend some time in your child's (or grandchild's) school or classroom, I invite you to come in and spend some time. There are many ways you can volunteer or simply spend some time watching the learning that takes place every day. I truly believe you will be in awe of the abilities of our students, and I dare say you will leave feeling refreshed and energized. (Caution: If you volunteer, you may also leave exhausted. But you will enjoy every minute of it!)

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the Nebraska state reporting system called AQUESTT, which is a catchy acronym for Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow. Results will be released to patrons beginning on December 21<sup>st</sup> at [www.aquestt.com](http://www.aquestt.com). Mitchell Public Schools is pleased to report that we have received an Excellent rating, which speaks volumes to our high quality staff and students. The Department of Education stated that only 10% of the schools in the state receive this rating. While we are not interested in comparisons, rankings or bragging, this provides us with the opportunity to be thankful for the quality educators we have in our district. No matter their role in our district, Mitchell is blessed to have caring, nurturing, thoughtful educators who are committed to providing the very best opportunities for students.

In closing, as you spend time with your children, grandchildren, and extended families this holiday season, please enjoy every minute you have with your young people. I hope you will take the time to be thankful for the wonderful contributions they make to our families and community. I also hope you give yourself a little pat on the back for all the things you do to develop the children of Mitchell Public Schools into such amazing young people.

Seasons' Greetings and Have a Safe, Wonderful Break,  
Katherine Urbanek, Superintendent

### Notice of Non-Discrimination

This school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education or employment program or activity may file a grievance using the district's grievance procedures.

Any person having inquiries concerning this school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Katherine Urbanek in writing at 1814 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Mitchell, NE 69357 or by telephone at (308)623-1707. For further assistance, you may also contact Office for Civil Rights (Kansas City Office), FAX: 816-268-0599; Email: [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov).





Mr. Peters  
JH/HS Principal

## PARENTS–PLEASE COMMUNICATE ATTENDANCE WITH THE SCHOOL

The Principal's office would like to remind/inform parents to call the office secretary (623-2235), in the event that their child is ill. This call should occur the morning of the absence by 9:00 A.M. If the school is not contacted within 24 hours, the absence becomes unexcused. Any absence that is not verified by a parent may be viewed as a truancy issue.

**The strongest factor for success is self-esteem:  
Believing you can do it, Believing you deserve it, Believing you will get it.**

### How to Increase Confidence

As we send our children off to school and eventually out into the real world, we are optimistic about the impact of their school experience. We often think about their learning, their participation in activities and their relationships with friends, classmates and teachers and how these experiences will assist them in their future. Often, we as parents overlook our role to assist our children in developing their self confidence which is vital when considering the major transitions that our children will encounter. Feeling confident can pave the way for a student's future success, both in and out of the classroom and in their careers and relationships. Here are some ways that we can assist our children with their self confidence.

### Limit access to gaming, social media and online activity.

Unfortunately, the opportunity for our youth to over-indulge in gaming and social media which has a direct correlation of lack of adequate sleep/rest. Lack of sleep/rest can be linked to performance which has a direct correlation to self confidence.

Instead, spend some time talking. Fifteen minutes may not seem like much, but research shows spending that amount of time each day talking with your teen can keep your lines of communication open. Chat with your teen when you are both relaxed and in a good mood. Watch for cues that your teen wants to talk. Doing an activity together lends to great discussion opportunity.

### Stay upbeat.

Encourage your teen with positive statements like "I know you'll rock your presentation today!" Also, share what gives you confidence. "I was a little nervous about my presentation at work, but I felt good because I had backed up my points with solid information."

### Give him/her responsibility.

Put your teenager in charge of home projects like replacing a water filter or a printer cartridge. Accomplishing tasks successfully, and seeing family members benefit from her efforts, will boost her confidence.

### Focus on what your teen can do.

Shine the spotlight on what your child is good at. Say he/she has a knack for explaining complicated ideas in simple language. Ask him/her to help his/her younger brother/sister with fractions homework or to teach the whole family how to play a challenging board game.



**ACT TEST will be ADMINISTERED to ALL Juniors  
Tuesday, April 2nd  
8:00 am—1:30 pm**

## Elementary Principal News

We live in a real challenging time for kids, parents, and educators. New technology that has made life more convenient has also brought on a new set of challenges for families and educators. Smartphone addiction and the continual connection to information and communication creates havoc in our lives. It really bothers me when I sit in a restaurant and look at families gathered at a table and all are attached to their cell phones with little to no verbal communication. The problems these devices cause are numerous. Students are coming to school more anxious and depressed. Depression and anxiety in children were unheard of in the 60's & 70's. It is a parent's responsibility to monitor and make the decisions of their children until they are of an age where they are responsible enough and that is generally once they leave the nest. If you rely on companies that create and distribute apps to look out for your child, that is being irresponsible. The problems created by technology carry into schools and disrupt the learning of children. Technology is a great tool if used correctly, but **MUST** be monitored by parents. Parents have to make decisions for kids on what to allow as far as technology and technology usage.

An article written by Amanda Morgan recently caught my eye. *"Your Child's Social Skills in Kindergarten are More Important than Their Academics"* describes five important social competencies that parents can foster in their children.

- ⇒ How to play well with others.  
Children need plenty of time engaging in unstructured play with other children.
- ⇒ How to problem solve.  
The next time your child has a problem, let them take the initiative to problem solve.  
Don't solve *every problem for your child*.
- ⇒ How to label and recognize feelings.  
Children must get plenty of time playing and interacting face to face as opposed to excessive screen time.
- ⇒ How to be helpful.  
Children must look beyond themselves and recognize the needs of others.
- ⇒ How to control their impulses.  
Delay gratification - children can wait.

Morgan concludes her article by saying "Our fast-paced society may give you the impression that your child needs to learn more academic skills- and sooner than ever before. However, the reality is that soft social skills they gain in early childhood - through the slow, simple processes of playing and interacting, engaging with their families, and paying attention to the world around them - will serve them much better and for much longer." I highly recommend this article to all parents!



**Mr. Kuxhausen**  
Elementary Principal

We have a busy second semester planned at MES. We put out a great deal of information through our office and is shared through personal notes, MES Facebook page, and my website on mpstigers.com. Some of the major events and calendar days of note are as follows:

### January:

4 Teacher In-service  
**7 Students 1st Day of School - Start of 2nd Semester**  
**30 12:30 Dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences**

### February:

**1 No School**  
**4 12:30 Dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences**  
 5 Puppy Love Assembly 3:00 pm - Please donate dog & cat food during the month of February for Skipper's Cupboard  
 11 School Improvement Visit  
 12 School Improvement Visit  
**18 NO School for Students - Teacher In-service**  
 28 6th Grade to Midwest Theater @ 1:00 pm

### March:

1 Puppy Love Concludes  
 2 PET Penny Carnival 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
 7 K-6 School Assembly @ 2:30 pm - BMX Bikes  
**8 No School - Spring Break**  
 19 NWEA Testing for Grades 1-6  
 21 K-6 Pics - All School, Staff, Classroom, Spring Ind.  
 21 Assembly @ 2:30 pm - Laser Science

### April:

**4 Kindergarten & 6th Grade Graduation Pictures**  
**9 NSCAS RMS (State Testing) Begins**  
**19 No School Easter Break**  
**22 No School Easter Break**  
**24 6th Grade Denver Trip**

### May:

**1 Elementary Track Meet - Grades 1-6**  
**3 Kindergarten Field Day**  
**10 Breakfast for Mother's @ 7:15 am**  
**16 Kindergarten Graduation @ 2:00 pm;**  
**6th Grade Graduation 7:00 pm**  
**17 Last Day of School - 12:40 pm Dismissal;**  
**End of 2nd Semester**

**Special Services**  
Jennifer Splichal - Special Services Director



**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Special Education Department, serving students with disabilities, is staffed by Elementary Special Education teachers Mrs. Kylie Soule and Mrs. Kristin Pankonin and High School Special Education teacher Ms. Sue Marsh. These highly-qualified teachers provide excellent leadership in delivering specially-designed instruction for students with disabilities and improving access to the curriculum for all students within the special education program.

**PARAEDUCATORS**

Mitchell Public Schools would like to recognize the dedication and expertise of the paraeducators in each building that work hard every day to support the students they serve. Paraeducators play a key instructional role for students' learning and are a trusted partner for all teachers. The impact of these paraeducators on student learning is indispensable.

**HIGH ABILITY LEARNING**

The Elementary High Ability Learning (HAL) program, under the direction of Jennifer Splichal and parent volunteer Chelsea Sauer, is getting ready to compete in the First Lego League Robotics Program for the 3rd year. Last year's team won the Core Values Award at the regional competition- an award given to a team that shows exceptional teamwork and sportsmanship. First Lego League invites students to use Lego Mindstorm kits to design a robot and solve a challenge issued worldwide. This year's challenge involves solving problems humans encounter during extended time spent in space.

The High School HAL program was awarded a \$10,000 grant from America's Farmers Grow Rural Education through the Monsanto Company to construct a greenhouse at the High School. We look forward to having the greenhouse up and ready for students and plants this spring.

**MITCHELL TIGER CUB PRESCHOOL**

The Mitchell Tiger Cub Preschool has the ability to serve up to 40 students with 20 students attending each session- morning and afternoon. The program is currently at capacity, but openings do happen throughout the year. The preschool is in operation four days a week for three and one-half hours each session. Mrs. Julia Jacobs is in her 4th year serving as the head preschool teacher, and she has two paraeducators working under her direction, Ms. Julie Fegler and Ms. Marcie Ramirez. The Mitchell Tiger Cub Preschool serves three- and four-year-old students who turn three or four prior to or on July 31. Applications for the program are available in the Elementary School office.

**INFORMATION REGARDING SECTION 504**

Section 504 is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving federal assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who

- Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working);
- Has a record of such impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such impairment.

In order to fulfill the school district's obligation under Section 504, the school district recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding personnel, students, and parents. No discrimination against any person solely due to his or her disability will knowingly be permitted in any programs or practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act. This includes the responsibility to identify and evaluate a child suspected of having a disability under the Act. When the child is determined to have a current disability and is eligible under Section 504, the school district must afford access to appropriate educational programs.

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he or she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

**FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives a parent, guardian or eligible student the right to: 1) inspect and review the child's educational records; 2) make copies of these records; 3) receive a list of all persons having access to those records; 4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is misleading, inaccurate, or violates the child's rights; and 6) request a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

Questions regarding any of these programs may be directed to Jennifer Splichal, Special Services Director at 308-623-2828 or [jennifer.splichal@mpstigers.com](mailto:jennifer.splichal@mpstigers.com)

Do you have concerns about the growth and development of an infant or toddler?  
If so, contact us to see if the child is eligible for Early Development Network (EDN) Services.  
Children, birth to age three, may qualify for services if they are not developing typically, or have been diagnosed with a health condition that affects their development.  
Call 635-3696.





## Nebraska Department of Education Releases Key Information to Parents

Mrs. Peters -- Assessment/Curriculum Director

NDE Letter to Parents (December 2018)—NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System):

### Dear Parents/Guardians:

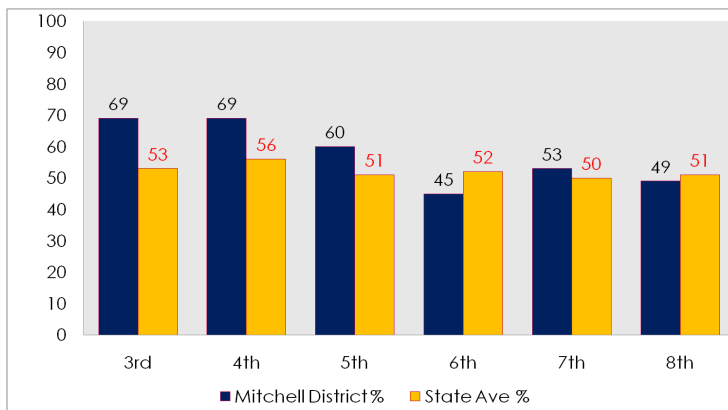
- ◆ A variety of factors influence student achievement, and no single test is able to measure all of those factors. NSCAS scores are used, however, to help identify areas of academic strength as well as areas that students, schools, and the district can improve. These results provide one piece of evidence about your student's academic progress. Your student's teachers, school, and district has additional evidence that can help provide you with a more complete picture of your student's progress.
- ◆ **Nebraska Adopts More Rigorous Standards**  
Spring of 2017, the English Language Arts portion of the statewide assessment transitioned from Legacy standards to the more rigorous CCR standards. The Mathematics assessment made this transition during the spring of 2018. Science will make the transition to CCR standards in the spring of 2021.
- ◆ At the onset, a test that measures more rigorous standards typically results in fewer students being proficient. Lower proficiency rates have happened in other states where tests have transitioned to more rigorous standards. As schools and districts adjust curriculum and instruction it is common for proficiency rates to improve.

To view our Nebraska Education Profile / Compare us to other Districts...  
Log on to the following site... [www.nep.education.ne.gov/](http://www.nep.education.ne.gov/)

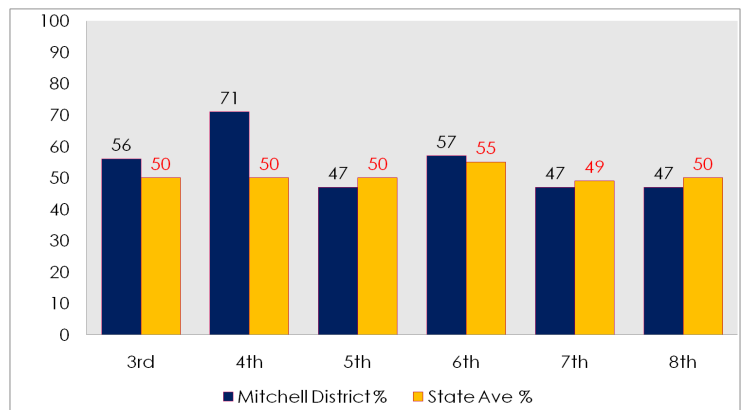


## Nebraska State Assessments: Mitchell Public Schools Spring '18

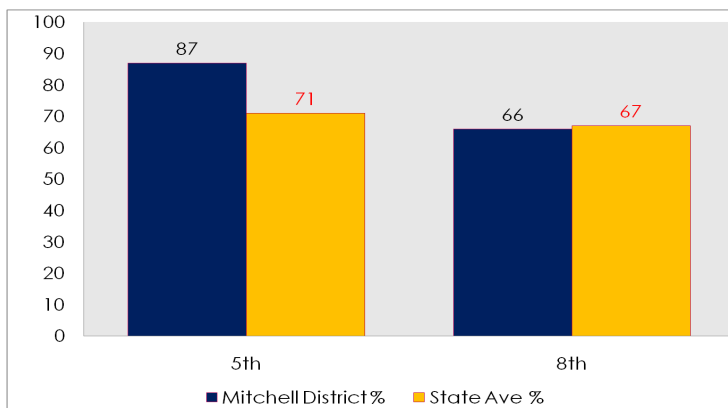
**NSCAS Reading Proficiency**  
% of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards



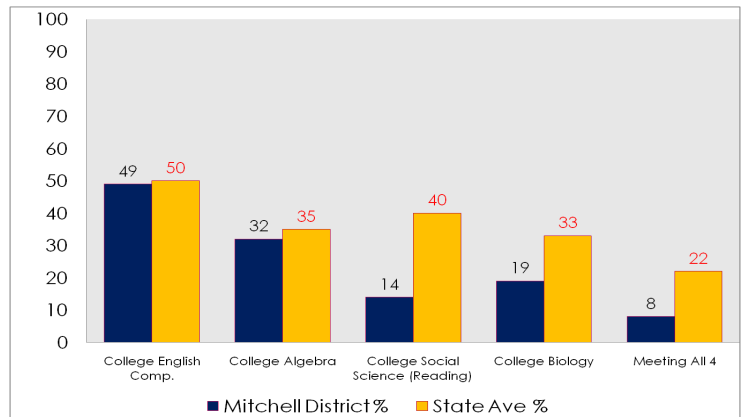
**NSCAS Math Proficiency**  
% of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards



**NSCAS Science Proficiency**  
% of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards



**11th Grade ACT Spring 2018**  
% of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks





**Mr. Braman — HS Counselor**  
**308 623-2235**  
**email-lbraman@mpstigers.com**

# Be Prepared!!!

Michelle Rada 2018-2019 ACT Test Dates

**www.actstudent.org**

SCHOOL CODE: 281-530

## Admission Standards to UNL, UNK, UNO

- Math 4 years (Algebra I, II, geometry, and one additional class that builds on geometry or algebra background)
- English 4 years
- Social Studies 4 years (including, Geography, World History, American History, and American Government.
- Natural Sciences 3 years (One class must include a lab)
- Foreign Language 2 years (Second unit must build off of first)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Required</u>
------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019	January 18, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 25, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 20, 2019

## 2018-2019 Time Table for Seniors

### September

Meet with Guidance Counselor to make sure graduation requirements are in order.  
 Check registration deadline for the –October 27, 2018 ACT Test (September 28, 2018)  
 Visit with the Guidance Counselor about careers and colleges.  
 Visit web sites for applications, deadlines, and financial aid information, for the colleges you are interested in.  
 WNCC College Fair—September 10, 2018  
 Attend college visits at Mitchell High School when announced. Most college visits are at 1:30pm in the auditorium.  
 Take the John Baylor ACT prep course in your regular Math, Science, and English Classes.  
 If you are looking at the Military, verify you took the ASVAB and get in contact with Military recruiters.  
 Jostens will be here in September to pick out your announcements design and take orders.  
 Create an educational resume (Should have been completed in Mr. Long's Class as a Junior.  
 Make a list of teachers, coaches, spiritual leaders, and community members that you can ask for reference letters.  
 RHOP (Rural Health Opportunities Program) application deadline for Chadron State College is on November 15th.

### October

Take the ACT. (Test date- October 27, 2018)  
 Check registration deadline for the December 8, 2018 ACT test (November 2, 2018).  
 Continue to visit with college representatives and research colleges you are interested in.  
 Consider conducting a job shadowing activity.  
 Consider taking some college visits.  
 Conduct scholarship searches on the internet.  
 Conduct senior interviews with Mr. Braman  
 You can complete your financial aid application online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).  
 RLOP (Rural Law Opportunities Program) application deadline for Chadron State College is January 16th.

### November

If you are serious about a college, make an application. Major universities have early application deadlines. Check the College website for your college's application deadlines.  
 RHOP application deadline for Chadron State College is November 15th.  
 Continue looking at on-campus visits. This should be completed between October and April.

*Seniors are allowed 2 College Days for visits. See Mr. Braman for College visit form and advanced make-up slip.*

ACT Deadline for December 8, 2018 test is November 2, 2018.  
 Check Scholarship Board outside Mr. Yauney's room and webpage for scholarship listings.

### December

Freshmen Scholarship application to UNL, UNO, UNK, is due January 15 (Complete application and activities resume must be received by this date).  
 Check to make sure graduation requirements are in order.  
 Make second semester schedule changes if necessary.  
 Take ACT (December 8, 2018).

### January

Check colleges of your choice for application deadlines, scholarship deadlines, and financial aid deadlines.  
 Conduct second semester senior interview with Mr. Braman.  
 Deadline for February 9, 2019 ACT is January 11, 2019.  
 Scholarship Deadline at Uni. of Nebraska –Jan 15. (All students that have filed an application will be considered for the Regents, Nebraska's Top Scholar, David Distinguished Scholars Award and the James Canfield Award).  
 Check Scholarship postings inside Mr. Rada's room and webpage's for scholarship listings.

### February

Applications for admission should be complete. Financial aid applications are due at most universities.  
 If you apply for freshmen scholarships at UNL, UNK, or UNO, you must apply for admission by Feb. 1, and the financial aid form is due at UNL on March 1.  
 ACT Test- February 9, 2019.  
 Deadline for February ACT-January 11, 2019.  
 Check Scholarship postings inside Mr. Rada's room and webpage's for scholarship listings.  
 Local Scholarships applications begin.

### March

Deadline for University Honors program (spring application) (Uni. of Nebraska).  
 Check Scholarship postings outside Mr. Yauney's room and webpage's for scholarship listings.  
 Complete Scholarship applications.  
 Deadline for April ACT-March 8, 2019.  
**All Community Service, Job Shadowing, & Internships must be submitted by**

### March 1, 2019.

**April**  
 Most local scholarships are due this month. Most colleges will notify you this month if you have been awarded a scholarship.  
 ACT Test- April 13, 2019.  
 Return any supplementary materials requested by colleges, i.e. housing contracts, medical forms, deposits, roommate preference.  
 Check Scholarship postings inside Mr. Rada's room and webpage's for scholarship listings.  
 New student enrollment information on college web site for paid enrollment deposits (University of Neb.).

### May

Maintain your grades and appropriate behavior! Your acceptance to a college and the awarding of scholarships is provisional based on completing high school at your present grade point average, maintaining appropriate behavior, and graduating in good standing.  
 Schedule freshman orientation visit.  
**GRADUATION!!!! MAY 11, 2019.**

**HAPPY GRADUATION !**  
**MAY 11, 2019 @ 2:00.**





**WE ARE MITCHELL!**

Library News – Ms. Harder

**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**

Happy Holidays! The Mitchell Elementary Library has been up to some really fun stuff so far this year. At the beginning of the year we got new bookshelves (THANK YOU P.E.T.!) for our picture books. We did a little rearranging so that books are a lot easier to find according to AR level. This makes it so much easier for the little ones to find a book that is just right. We also got a nice new comfy reading rug to use during story time and this one is big enough for everyone to fit on! The first month of library we revisited library procedures in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, made our library sticks that we use for checkout, and checked out all of the new books we got over the summer. Our new friends in Kindergarten learned all about how to care for their library books, rules in the library, and got to check out their FIRST library book. At the beginning of September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade got to have a little fun by putting on 4 different reader's theatre plays. These were super fun and the kids loved them! We plan on doing more after Christmas and hopefully have a bigger audience this time. For about 8 weeks there was a new face in the library, Mrs. Murphy. She was nice enough to take Ms. Harder's spot while she was gone on maternity leave. During these 8 weeks the kids did a novel study. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade read Ramona and Beezus and the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders read Restart.

We have a lot of exciting things planned for next year as well. In the middle of January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking part in the You CAN Do the Rubik's Cube Lending Program. They will be given 100 3x3 cubes for 6 weeks to follow a solution guide to create a mosaic of Sitting Bull. I am positive this will be a great experience for all. We will also begin book club after school the week of January 14<sup>th</sup> (exact date to be determined) for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Let Ms. Harder know if you want to sign up!

Dates to remember:

BOGO Book Fair – Wednesday January 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-7  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Book Club starts the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>



### New Health Career Classes Offered at High School Kim Thomas RN,BSN —School Nurse

Following a year of preparation and state approval, two new classes are offered at the Mitchell High School. Students are now able to jump start a career in health care by completing a Basic Nursing Assistant and Medication Aide class.

Both classes are offered by MHS and partnership with the College NOW Program at WNCC. Both classes are taught by Mitchell's School Nurse, Mrs. Thomas. The classes are dual credit so students receive credit towards high school graduation as well as a college degree. Students pay half-tuition while receiving full credit college hours. Prerequisites and core requisites include at least 16 years of age, ability to speak and understand English, no prior conviction of crimes involving moral turpitude, and successful completion of the required hours of training approved by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The Basic Nursing Assistant class includes topics such as anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, legal issues, nutrition, vital signs, infection control, safety and emergencies, communication skills, and resident rights. The first class began in August and students will complete the required 80 hours in mid-January. Students are required to pass with a 70% or better in order to receive high school credit and 4.5 college credit hours. Following successful completion, the students will have the opportunity to take a state exam which includes a written and hands on clinical skills test. All students passing the state exam will be placed on the Nebraska State Registry and be eligible for employment as a Basic Nursing Assistant.

Students who successfully complete the Basic Nursing Assistant class have the opportunity to take the Medication Aide class. The Medication Aide class requires 40 hours of classroom and clinical training and offers 3.5 college credits. The Medication Aide course requires 70% passing as well as a state exam. At the end of the course students should have a thorough understanding of the role and scope of work required of a Nebraska Certified Medication Aide.

Students interested in a possible career in health care should stop by the new classroom and visit with Mrs. Thomas or speak with Mr. Braman while registering for classes. It's been a very exciting semester while students pursue new challenges in health care. The two new classes are a great addition to Mitchell High School's curriculum.



**MPS Activities**

Jimmie Rhodes— Activities Director

Follow the TIGERS!

Striv.tv  
OR  
MPS Facebook Page

I am proud to be in my fourth year as the Activities Director at Mitchell Public Schools (MPS). We are fortunate to be a part of a community that values the Care, High Standards, and Dedication that surrounds our school. It's awesome to work in an environment that encourages academic and athletic accomplishment while embracing Excellence, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

MPS is a proud member of the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) and fields boys and girls athletic programs, in 7 different sports. Among its many clubs MPS also provides students opportunities in Tigers Committed, Cheerleading, One Act, Speech, FBLA, FFA, Quiz Bowl, Band, Vocal Music, Striv.tv, and Yearbook. Overall student participation and support in MPS activities is something to be proud of.

The MPS mission focuses on empowering our students to become respectful, responsible citizens, and I have *always been a firm believer that interscholastic activities is a huge part of excelling in the classroom. Mitchell students strive for excellence in all their activities. They work hard to fulfill their potential in the classroom and in competition. They have become leaders and role models within our school community and beyond. Our Administrators, Faculty, and Staff are committed to getting the most out of our students.*

I work with a winning team in the activities department, from the coaches, to the sponsors, to the office staff. Mitchell Public Schools has been working towards a tradition of success. We have had one of our most successful overall experience in competition, student participation and fan support over the last year.

Our coaches, sponsors, and I are always happy to talk with you about our programs and answer any questions you may have.

Jimmie Rhodes  
GO TIGERS!

## 7—12 Health / Physical Ed / Weights

### Mr. Kuxhausen



The first semester of the 2018-2019 school year is winding down and things are off to a great start in the Physical Education Department. My classes currently consist of 9<sup>th</sup> grade PE and Health, Lifetime Activities, Weight Training, and Jr. High PE. The students have been working really hard in all of my classes. In 9<sup>th</sup> Grade PE and Health students are working very hard in the weight room and starting to see

great results. Students are currently concluding a nutrition unit in health. They are logging their food intake and learning what a proper diet consists of. The Lifetime Activities class has completed units in flag football, Frisbee golf, ultimate Frisbee, handball, volleyball, and beginning a new unit on basketball. The students are doing a great job at learning new activities they can do the rest of their lives. The

students in Weight Training have been doing a great job improving their strength, conditioning, and agility. The work they are putting in will pay off for each one of them. The first semester has had a very positive start in physical education department and I look forward to working with our students the rest of the year.

## Band News

### Mr. Sailors

The Mitchell Bands have had a wonderful year so far. The 6th grade students started playing their instruments starting in the beginning of October, and it has been exciting to see their progress! They were given practice logs beginning in December, so hopefully you have heard your 6th graders practicing their instruments at home. Woodwinds and Percussion meet Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday, and Brass meets Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Friday. I am excited to see them progress throughout the year! The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands have been working hard this semester, and it has been great to have so many of these students be willing to spend extra

time in the band room after school to improve as musicians. Jr. High Jazz Band is meeting Tuesday mornings at 7:15 a.m. and Friday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The high school band has been working hard throughout the fall semester with many performances to prepare for. Our high school band spent first quarter working on our parade music, participating in the Scottsbluff County Fair Parade, Homecoming Parade, Ogallala Marching Festival, Old West Parade, and performed for Red Ribbon Week. The marching band received superiors for all of their performances this fall. For our second quarter,

we prepared for honor band auditions, the Veteran's Day program, and our Winter concert in December. Looking ahead, we are hosting the WTC Honor Band this year on March 5th, so please come out and support our hardworking students. I am very proud of the hard work the students in each group are putting in this year. Encourage your students to take instruments home to perform the music they are working on!

### Upcoming Spring Semester Concerts

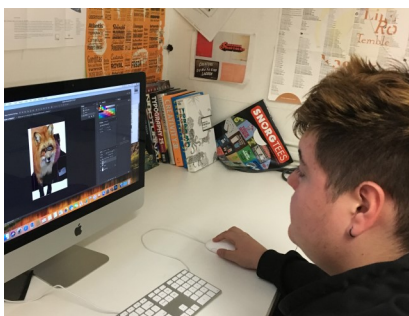
- ◆ Oregon Trail Honor Band- January 7th (by audition)
- ◆ UNK Honor Band- January 28th (by audition)
- ◆ WTC Honor Band- March 5th (by audition)
- ◆ District Music Contest- April 18th (High School Band and Jazz Band)
- ◆ Jr. and Sr. High Band Concert- April 25th (Junior High and High School Band and Jazz Bands)
- ◆ Graduation- May 11th (High School Band and select Jr. High Students)
- ◆ 6th Grade Graduation- May 16th (6th grade band only)





## ART DEPARTMENT

### Mrs. Cantrell



Visionaries 2018 is a student art show sponsored by the West Nebraska Arts Center. The exhibit is open to students attending Grades 6 through 12. Twelve schools were represented this year. Judge Charlotte Ingram selected 25 awards from 123 entries created by 102 artists. An Outstanding Artwork Award was earned by Makenzie Middledorf for her ink *Self Portrait*.

"Student artwork is top notch. These art students have stepped it up with their artwork. Fabulous! We are excited to be able to dedicate one full month to student artwork in the Panhandle and surrounding areas." says Maria Lena Soto, Program Manager for WNAC.

WTC Art Day was hosted by Chadron State College on November 5th. Seven of our students attended where they each participated in three out of eight different workshops throughout the day creating art with students from Western Nebraska and South Dakota.

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT—"Continuing to be Active and Investigate"



Mr. Powell's Physical Science class continues to learn how the world around us works. From learning the elements to figuring out how Newton's Laws work. The Life science class has continued to learn about how living organism function and the different key aspects to life. They will also get into learning about the different body systems and how the life cycle works. He is also inspiring their minds during Exploratory Science with experiments and new ideas. Currently his physical science classes are learning about motion and momentum and his life science classes are learning about heredity and DNA.

Mr. Belgum is still working hard with the High School Science Quiz bowl team, as well as the Jr. High team. The robotics class is always working on a project. Mr. Belgum's chemistry classes have busy with their atom models and reports. They have also been working on chemical equations and reaction types. The physics class started out with the egg drop from the top of the building this resulted in every egg getting

broken. They are currently working on paper rocket design and launching the goal is to reach 100 yards the record so far is 63 yards. They will be wrapping this up soon and will be moving on to circular motion and working with gyroscopes. The Earth science classes have finished their unit on chemistry and are now working on astronomy with their planet reports and presentations. They will soon be working on their constellation stories.

Miss Clark's Biology has been working with the basic cells of life, macromolecules, organelles and their functions. They will soon be working with genetics. The Animal Science class researched and presented natural disasters and then human caused disaster; how they occur and what causes them to happen, the amount of destruction, and other effects of the disaster. They will be now working with water quality and pollution. They will be researching a specific water requirements for municipal water quality and they will be testing various drinking water in the area. HALS - We have received the

Monsanto Grant for the greenhouse. This has been very exciting for the Mitchell Public Schools. We now have the greenhouse here, we are waiting on the weather to allow us to continue with the project. Meanwhile they are working on designing a board game. The Anatomy class continues to learn medical terminology as they learn the bones of the skeleton; the functions and how they articulate with each other. weather to allow us to continue with the project.

## MUSIC NEWS

### Miss Bunnell

This first semester has been exciting! The Fall concert, Honor Choirs, Old west Fest, and the Christmas Concerts have kept the students and I busy. This year Mitchell had thirteen talented students attend Western Trails Honor Choir and five students attend the 2018 Nebraska All-State Chorus. The Mitchell High School Show Choir competed in Old West Choir Festival and received a Silver Award for their performance and the Class Act Award for displaying impressive and stylish excellence in the face of challenges during the day. It was a fun day and the judges gave positive and helpful feedback. We are excited to compete in Chase County in February.

The Jr. High Students were given a challenge when I selected Die Nachtigall for the concert. The students rose to the challenge and through persistence and hard work really came through! I look forward to continuing to work with these promising students and will continue to look for opportunities for students to perform, create, and respond to music.

The elementary students have kept me on my toes! I adore these bright, inquisitive students and am delighted to spend time with them as they learn about the basics of music. Next semester will be busy with a concert for every grade K-4!

From kindergarten to seniors this school has a lot of talent and I am excited for the spring semester. I am delighted to be a part of this school system and am looking forward to the events coming up next semester!

## CONGRATS!



Western Trails Honor Choir - Kyleigh Adkins, Rylan Aguallo, Lexie Jackson, Katelyn Newton, John Plasencio, Alicia Sanchez, Riley Sandoz, Alaina Schmidt, Jaden Schumacher, Jillian Stephens, Kiayah Taylor, Sabrina Vizcaino.

2018 Nebraska All-State Chorus - Kyleigh Adkins, Lexie Jackson, Alicia Sanchez, Kiayah Taylor, Sabrina Vizcaino



## Social Studies Mr. Chancellor



### Geography:

The students, thus far this year, have learned about Geography basics including how to read a map, latitude and longitude, GPS, and GIS systems. We finished our unit on the United States and Canada. Currently, are tracking our way through the Middle East.

### American History:

The students began with the American Industrial Revolution beginning around 1870. Since then, we have covered the Spanish American War, WWI, and the Roaring 20s. We are currently studying the Great Depression, followed by WWII which will take us to Christmas break. Upon returning from Christmas break, we will cover WWII recovery up until the United States today.

## Social Studies Mr. Yaune

The 7th grade students are studying Geography, World History, and American History.

During the first nine weeks, a review of American History and US Geography was completed. During the second nine weeks, the students are learning about Hearst Cultures.

The 8th grade students are studying American Government and current event issues. Recently, the students are learning about the three branches of Government.

The Nebraska History nine week course emphasizes early Nebraska History and society.



## Social Studies

“Spanning the globe in search of a constant variety of social studies!!”  
**Mr. Rada**



### 12th Grade Government

2018 is off to a great start and my Seniors are working hard and enjoying the final year of their High School career. We have studied the early foundations of American History, key documents, and important figures in the development of the United States. We examined the Bill of Rights, the formation of the American Constitution, and the Three Branches of government. We just finished sharing powerpoint presentations on businesses around the world. Students examined the origin and founders of the business, products sold, economic trends in their business, how their business has performed on the New York Stock Exchange, and possible career options in regards to this business. We are also studying a number of life skill concepts such as insurance, taxes and various tax forms, loans, and business stocks. I have really enjoyed teaching Senior government this year and I hope they enjoy the rest of their Senior year.

### 10th Grade World History

My Sophomores are digging into the ancient past and studying the timeline of World History. We started with early recorded history (early humans), and we have worked our way toward the present by examining early civilizations such as the Sumerians, Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, and now as they say “when in Rome” we are studying the Ancient Romans. We also have examined the major religions of the world and what role they have played in the development of every civilization throughout history up to the present day. We have been doing hands-on history projects and creating technology presentations to supplement the material we have been studying so far. We have only begun to scratch the surface of the history we need to study in my class, and we look forward to an exciting rest of the year.

## Family and Consumer Science Class News

### The FACS of Life!

#### Ms. Wiegel

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a wonderful start in the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom. Students have completed a variety of activities and projects including the MHS version of “The Great Food Truck Race”, which was a huge success, and “Cupcake Wars”, an annual tradition amongst the Jr. High Students. Students have also explored areas of Family and Consumer Sciences including, but not limited to, food science dietetics, food production management, nutrition, family structures and management, and hospitality and tourism. Most recently MHS FACS students have been working on a series of baking projects. FACS I recently baked over 24 dozen cookies for the PET’s annual school store event at the elementary. This was a great project for the students as it shows them the importance of giving back and doing for others. In addition, FACS II students have spent several weeks researching different family traditions and cultural traditions of various countries. From their research they have been busy making dishes from other countries and areas of the world.

As always, we love input and volunteers from the community, if anyone would be interested in volunteering we would love to have you. If you are interested in sharing about your business, skill, history or culture or if you simply have a life skill you would like to share, please contact me at [cassie.wiegel@mpstigers.com](mailto:cassie.wiegel@mpstigers.com).

## ENGLISH

### Ms. West



Dear Mitchell Students & Families,

So far, it has been a semester packed with changes in the English world at Mitchell Jr./Sr. High School. With some schedule changes and our department receiving a \$3,500 writing grant, our course loads and resources are changing and improving to better serve you!

Sophomore English students are enjoying new *College and Career Readiness Writing* textbooks, which has already increased rigor in expectations, and my students have risen to the occasion, producing impressive pieces of writing. World literature students have been exposed to a variety of texts, both classical and contemporary. Through short stories, nonfiction readings, epic poetry and novels, students are broadening their horizons and learning the complexities of cultures all over the globe.

Senior students are also experiencing some changes. I now get the opportunity to teach both British Literature and Senior Writing, and I couldn't be more excited about it. Senior Writing students are engaging in a new textbook, *Technical Writing for Success*, which surveys the plethora of technical writing forms. Seniors have generated cover letters and resumes, career-based reports, comparative analyses, and a formal proposal presentation on a school or community issue. Seniors are also learning to write for web-based forums and gaining practice with both MLA and APA formatted writing required at the college level. They have been busy! British literature has remained the most consistent of my class offerings, but so valuable, as students learn the complex history and development of our language through writing. An additional note to seniors and parents – if you or your child need any assistance with scholarship or college-entrance essays or application material, I would be happy to help!

I am thrilled with how the first semester has gone. I am enjoying all of you immensely. I look forward to the rest of the year and the continued growth and learning that will happen in my classroom.

## 7th & 8th Grade Reading

### Mrs. Chancellor

We have immersed ourselves in various types of literature as well as strategies that good readers use when studying literature. In both 7th and 8th grade reading we have studied various types of genres, delved into a character study, and we are now analyzing themes and life lessons that we can derive from the pieces that we read. We are taking this study to deeper levels with rich classroom discussion in our student-led literature circles. We are spending time deepening our knowledge of our own metacognition, how we think about our thinking and how our brain works when we read. 7th graders had the opportunity to research various versions of the *Cinderella* story told around the world. They enjoyed this and did a great job of analyzing common patterns, or motifs, as well as themes and life lessons in these stories. In 7th grade we are currently participating in a reader's theatre from the Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*, I'm so proud of my students for getting into character and stepping out of their comfort zones to present this in class, the excitement level is through the roof. In 8th grade we are reading *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak, this is a historical fiction piece set in Nazi Germany and is one of my all time favorites. We also just finished four non-fictions selections that discuss the challenges people face when arriving to a new country. 8th graders are currently researching a country of their choice and preparing a visual presentation for their chosen country.

Another large area of focus in reading class is Vocabulary. We complete a word of the day to help expand our vocabulary development. Vocabulary is such an important part of reading and we will continue to work on not only understanding word meanings, but also how words can be broken down to determine meaning and various other parts of vocabulary development such as finding synonyms and antonyms of words. Another important part of vocabulary is learning and understanding literary terms. Some literary terms we have discussed so far this year are: alliteration, personification, similes, metaphors, and motifs just to name a few. Keep looking for these things outside of text and try to point out and recognize figurative language when you see or hear it. Doing this will transfer into our reading and further develop these skills.

I cannot encourage you enough to have your child read, read, read at home. Finding something to read for enjoyment is one of the most difficult things at this level. Encourage your child to find something they enjoy so reading is not seen as a punishment. Keep talking with your child about what they are reading. Talking about literature with peers and adults is so important to development as a reader. Research supports that independent reading is the single most important thing for developing readers to do and this is where they will learn critical thinking skills necessary for reading success.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with your children. If you have any great reads that would be worth sharing feel free to email me anytime. I will send out book orders throughout the year so check them out to see if you and your child find anything that may spark their interests.

## 7th & 8th Grade English

### Mrs. Law

Seventh Graders have been studying figurative language for an introduction to poetry and to enhance their narrative and descriptive writing. For writing, students have written various essays including a descriptive personal narrative, instructions, and informational research-based reports. This class emphasizes the use of google documents and slides. In the upcoming months, the class will participate in a novel study, write about the piece of literature in a text-dependent analysis, and various creative writings. In addition to the major writing units, seventh graders also participate in grade-appropriate grammar study.

Eighth graders have been writing in the areas of research, movie reviews, and narrative essays. This class has emphasized the use of google documents and research requirements for academic writing. In the upcoming months, the class will participate in a world view novel study, write about the piece of literature in a text-dependent analysis, and various creative writings. Eighth graders will also participate in grade-appropriate grammar study with an emphasis on self-editing skills using technology.

**Attention: Senior Parents**

- ◆ Please remember to submit baby pictures by December 14, 2018 to Mrs. Law.
- ◆ Senior photos need to be submitted by February 15, 2019 in order to be in the yearbook, wall composite, and newspapers.
- ◆ These photographs need to be portrait in orientation and can be submitted via email or as a high-quality hard copy.
- ◆ Please contact Mrs. Law with any questions.

**English  
Mrs. Gonzales**

This year we were fortunate to get some new books for our 9th grade novels class, first semester we read several books including: The Alchemist, The Giver, Anthem, and Scorpions. Hopefully before the end of the year the freshman will get the chance to also read our newest book Speak. This has been a fun year in this class with the addition of our new books.

The 9th grade speech class is just finishing their presentations of their persuasive speeches. These are the longest speeches they do all year with a time limit of 7-10 minutes. They also have visual aids done on Google slides in addition to their speech. This group has done great and we have had some really creative and interesting speeches. Before this students

worked on presenting television advertisements of products that they created and we will end the semester with some short impromptu speaking exercises.

In 11th grade composition and grammar, we are finishing up a unit on persuasive writing. Students have written several persuasive papers and are now gearing up for their ACT in the spring with some ACT writing prep. Students will complete a mock ACT writing test for their final for the semester. They will have 40 minutes to receive and read their prompt, plan their essay, write their essay, and edit their essay. This has been a fun challenge for them that will definitely pay off when they take their ACT in the spring.

11th grade American literature is in the middle of reading The Great Gatsby. This is a new addition to our curriculum and has been a longer, more fun text for our class. After reading this novel, the class will complete a final paper over the novel before they switch gears and move on to composition next semester.

**Business Department / FBLA News  
Mrs. Gillen and Mr. Long**

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Mitchell High School FBLA held their members and officer installation. The officers are: Adeline Hobbs, President; Anabelle Gillen, Vice President; Jessica Cotant, Secretary; Kelynn Ewert, Treasurer; Trinity Penn, Reporter; Makena Chambers, Historian; and Keyana Wilfred, Parliamentarian. 81 members were installed. Many of our members helped with the Halloween Safety at the Mitchell Elementary. A Fall Fun night for FBLA Members was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018. Many members brought food and played volleyball. Some members have also been earning school service points by helping at Parent/Teacher conferences. Members will also be preparing for the State Leadership Conference in Omaha this coming April.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Keyboarding application students are currently working on a Microsoft Power point Project based on a State; this project includes online research as well as presentation with colors and pictures. They are also learning all of the special features associated with the Microsoft Word Program. Many lessons include formatting documents, inserting pictures, and typing skills. They will also be introduced to Microsoft Publisher throughout the year.

The Business Information Technology Applications I and II classes are currently working on the more advanced features in Microsoft Excel; which includes formulas and functions. They just finished creating business cards, letterheads, flyers, and brochures in Microsoft Publisher and their own website for this business. They are also being introduced to Coding and Photoshop.

The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Independent Study Accounting students are learning about journalizing and posting to General Ledgers. Soon they will be doing the books for a business using a manual simulation project. QuickBooks for Accounting will be introduced after the Winter break.

Personal Finance classes are studying the dangers of debt. They have explored credit card terms and conditions while learning the hidden costs of using a credit card. The students have also researched the dangers of cash advance companies and learned that borrowing for emergencies only leads to a cycle of debt. We have also discussed budgeting and how to keep track of their spending. The classes have also been participating in the Stock Market Game with other students throughout the state of Nebraska. This is teaching students about the stock market and how to manage a financial portfolio.

8th Grade Career Exploration is a year-long class that will explore the 16 career clusters that follow the Nebraska Career Education Model. The purpose of this class is to introduce students to a vast assortment of careers. Looking at all the different types of careers will allow students to make more informed decisions as they transition to high school and start picking their elective classes. We have been researching careers, listening to guest speakers, and doing virtual tours of companies within the state of Nebraska.

Media Design and Production will explore careers in the Media and Production fields. We will also be producing short stories of the happenings that go on during our school year which include interviews, announcements, and pictures. We will then use these short stories to enhance our broadcasts of events by playing them during activity broadcasts or posting them on our social media accounts. The students in the class have been learning a lot and having fun while creating content. In addition, we are also live streaming home and some away events using the Striv TV platform. Things that we will be streaming this year are athletic events, concerts, and graduation. This allows grandparents, parents, and alumni from near and far to stay connected with Mitchell Jr/Sr High School and allow our students to share our story! You can catch everything that we do on our channel page at [striv.tv/Mitchell](http://striv.tv/Mitchell). You can also follow the Tiger Vision twitter account (@mpstigervision) or Instagram account (@mpstigervision) for schedules, updates, and photos.

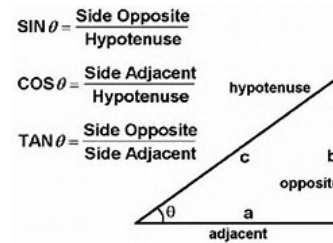


**Math Department****Mr. Hamer, Mr. Harriger, Mr. Chrisman, Mrs. Peters**

“Change” is the key word in the Jr./Sr. High Math department this year. Mrs. Peters has joined us this year and has been a great help in developing a strong foundation for our incoming 7th graders. Both the 7th and 8th grade classes have a new set of textbooks as well. With the addition of Saxon Math at the 7th grade level, it has been an overall smooth transition for our 7th graders. We continue to work on Numerical and Algebraic Relations & Applications, Measurement, Geometry, and Probability. We have Chromebooks and the use of IXL and Schoology for our 8th graders this year. They are adapting to all of these new technology pieces very well.

The high school has less change. We are still striving

to improve ACT scores and are adapting to the new OnTocollege materials. Dual-credit College Algebra and Applied Statistics numbers are holding steady. A Consumer Math course was added, giving seniors the opportunity to take a math class that is more related to everyday living. We feel more comfortable with the new state standards and expect even better results this year. We are truly excited about the state of our program and look to continue to make it better.

**Chess Club**

The Chess Club is filling the library and then some.

**MATHCOUNTS**

MATHCOUNTS is bigger and better as they prepare for a run at qualifying for state.



Mitchell Public Schools has adopted the John Baylor ACT Test Prep curriculum. This program has proven to raise ACT test scores among high school students across Nebraska. At MPS students will be involved in this program this spring prior to ACT test opportunities.

**Industrial Technology**  
**Mr. Dobry**

This year has been quite a change for the Industrial Technology department. We have added Agricultural Education and created an FFA co-op with Morrill to include Mitchell in the name. The woods classes have currently doubled in size. This shows that the program continues to head in the right direction. We have added many different Ag ED classes such as: Intro to Agriculture, Plant Science, Farm and Range Management, Welding, Wildlife Management and Natural Resources, and Small Engines. Each of these classes has had an exceptional showing in numbers and we continue to look for them to grow in the future. One big thing we are going to be doing in Wildlife Management and Natural Resources is growing trout from eggs and then releasing them. This will be a project that we hope to incorporate the entire district. From field trips to students in that class explaining what is taking place to elementary classes that come to see the fish and eggs. I look forward to a good year.

## News From JH/HS Special Education Department

### Mrs. Sue Marsh



The Mitchell High School Special Education department has geared up for another productive year. This department helps students verified with a disability to be successful members of the Mitchell school system and also to become productive members of any community. The special education department is headed by Sue Marsh, with the invaluable help of the paras, Mrs. Welsch, Mrs. Yauney, Ms. Blackstone, and Mrs. Knepper.

The paras work with the students in the general education classes as well as in the resource room. They work hard to develop positive working relationships with all students.

Some of the classes taught in the resource room include Individualized Math, English, and Reading classes, as well as Vocation, Transition and Applied Studies classes. We are also responsible for intervention classes that include general education students need extra instruction to experience success with

concepts taught in general education classes. When a student has a need we work hard to meet that educational need to ensure success for all students.

The special education students continue to do great things for our school. The Vocation classes continue the tradition of taking on the responsibility of ordering, taking inventory of the stock and helping with general maintenance of the concessions stand. This is a big responsibility, but the skills being taught far outweigh the extra work. This year we received a new popcorn popper which has taken some time to learn how to use and clean. This type of hands-on learning cannot be duplicated in a traditional classroom. The class appreciates the opportunity to be able to help our school and at the same time, we are learning valuable life skills.

Vocation students are also given the opportunity to research jobs, colleges, and careers that may interest them in their futures.

Planning is an important step in preparing the student for adulthood and we work hard to help them in this process. Students fill out interest inventories, take formal and informal assessments that aid in the planning of their futures and then use those assessments to help determine areas of interest and need. We also attend conferences that expose them to activities focusing on careers, colleges, and their future. So if you see us out and about in the community, please know that we are working hard to give all students the opportunity to become lifelong learners and respectful responsible citizens.

## Foreign Language News

Señora Rada

¡Hola! ¿Qué tal? Bienvenidos to Spanish class! This year we have many things to share about our Spanish class. We are continuously expanding our vocabulary, focusing on communicating so much more and celebrating our cultural differences!

The beginning of the school year has been filled with review of past vocabulary and adding a variety of new vocabulary. Students are working on communicating more. Students have begun to dig deeper into grammar and form sentences or work on their sentence structure. Throughout the year students will be building on their communicating skills and cultural projects. Like every year, we learn about and celebrate, "The Day of the Dead," "Día

De Los Muertos," which has become one of the student's favorite tradition. Our classes will be doing various speaking projects, begin to read novels and getting ready for some Christmas projects. Students will also be learning about different countries and cultures, weekly.

Another piece of thrilling news is that we took our second cultural trip to Costa Rica. It was truly a fantastic trip that the students and chaperones continue to talk about! The 24 travelers fell in love with the experience of travel, the people, the culture, and Costa Rica. Thank you to everyone that has supported our students and has made these experiences possible.

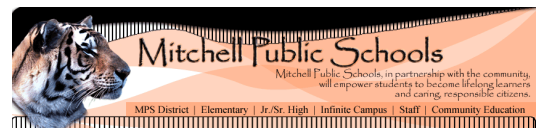
This summer our students are excited to take a trip to Spain. We have 13 students signed up and a parent that will be joining our adventure. We are all truly excited about all the great things that are taking place in and out of the Spanish classroom!



- School Calendars
- Lunch Menus
- Activities Schedules
- Staff Information
- Class Information
- Infinite Campus Access (Student grades/Attendance)
- Board of Education Minutes

Check it out!

Mitchell Public Schools' Website  
<http://www.mps.tigers.com/>





## Elementary Office News

Mrs. Reuter & Mrs. Hoff

Please utilize the phone system when calling to let us know your child is absent. The office personnel check the phone messages upon arrival each morning. For best results, please leave attendance messages on Mrs. Reuter's phone. If no one answers, after dialing, her extension is number '1' on your phone.

When calling before or after school hours, other extensions are listed below. If calling during regular school hours, please ask Mrs. Reuter or Mrs. Hoff to transfer you to the appropriate person, or they would be happy to take a message for you.

Thank You!

The Elementary Phone Number is 308-623-2828.

After Hours...

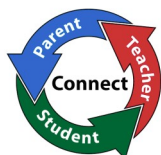
Mr. Kuxhausen — Principal Messages — Dial 0

Mrs. Reuter — Attendance or Office Messages — Dial 1

Mrs. Hoff — School or Office Messages — Dial 6

Mrs. Thomas — School Nurse/Medical Issues — Dial 4

The School Cafeteria has a direct line. For messages regarding lunch money or other cafeteria issues, please dial 308-623-1945.



**Just over 97% of our Elementary Parents  
Attended  
Parent-Teacher Conferences this Fall.**



**PLEASE HELP !!!**



**Please save Box Tops to help our school this year.**

**BOX TOPS for Education**

~YOUR SUPPORT CONTINUES TO HELP OUR STUDENTS ENJOY ACADEMIC & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES~



**Thank you for helping our students!**

**Mitchell Elementary School**

## Nebraska Child Passenger Safety Law Update

- Children ride rear-facing up to age two or until they reach the upper weight or height limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.
- All children up to age eight must ride correctly secured in a federally approved child safety seat/belt positioning booster.
- Children up to age eight must ride in the back seat, as long as there is a back seat equipped with a seat belt and not occupied by other children under eight years of age.
- Children ages eight to eighteen must ride secured in a seat belt or child safety seat (belt positioning booster).



*Violation carries a \$25 fine plus associated court costs and 1 point may be assessed against the operator's driving record.  
(Statute # 60-6, 267)*



**Toward  
Zero  
Deaths**



**SAFE  
KIDS  
NEBRASKA**

## Kindergarten News

**Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bellairs, Mrs. Hughes**

We are off to a great start in kindergarten. In reading, we began the year learning and reviewing our letter and letter sounds. We practiced rhyming words and we recited nursery rhymes. We have quickly moved on to blending sounds together and working with word families. We have a long list of high frequency words that we practice each day that helps us become fluent readers. We are learning our new reading program, Wonders.

In math, we began the year learning

and reviewing our numbers and counting. We are looking forward to a pizza party if we all can count to 100 by the end of the year! We are now writing number sentences, placing items on a graph, and identifying more and less.

We also began the year studying about ourselves, friendships and the community. Next, we studied apples, pumpkins, and the season Fall. After our Thanksgiving break, we began

preparing for Christmas! We have been busy making Christmas gifts for our families. This is also the time we begin our daily kindness acts and learn that Christmas is not for just receiving.

Thank you for all your parent support in kindergarten. We work hard at learning and are excited to share our skills with you.

**Kindergarten Field Day  
Tentatively  
Friday, May 3,  
2019**



## 1st Grade News

**Mrs. Osmera, Mrs. King, Ms. Hoffmann**

First grade is full of Superheroes this year! For many of our first graders, there are new, exciting things for them: desks, homework, spelling tests, Accelerated Reader! Despite all of these "firsts", they are acclimating well.

Our students are reading at various levels. We help the students best by leveling our classes and tailoring our instruction to fit their needs. Even though the content may be different, each of us is assisting students to build and solidify their reading foundation. We do this through blending sounds to make words, reading connected text, explore vocabulary

words, and various comprehension strategies.

The first graders are becoming quite the mathematicians! They are digging deep into the number world. The students have been learning about number placement, place value, what numbers come before and after, and learning rules for adding and subtracting. Also, the students have been busy counting dimes and pennies and telling time.

Our social studies standards are allowing our students to visit holiday traditions around the world. We discussed how our traditions are similar and different to other countries. We

found it fascinating that Australians believe Santa comes in on six white boomers (kangaroos) forgoing his usual attire for something more summer friendly!

Continue to read with your child every day, practice math facts, discover patterns around you, and encourage your children to ask why to promote learning and discovery! Thank you for all of your support!

## 2nd Grade News

**Mrs. Cheek, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Hessler**

Second grade has gotten off to a great start! We are very excited about our new Reading curriculum. Both the students and teachers have been enjoying the stories and the interactive aspects of this program. By Christmas we will be through the first three units.

In Math, we currently just finished our addition facts for mastery, we have started our subtraction facts and we continue to practice counting money and telling time.

For science, we started the year learning about how scientists work and think. Now we have been learning about animals and plants.

In Social Studies we have learned the states and capitals for the western part of the United States. Students learned about our community of Mitchell, past and present. We went on a tour of our town and also had a special guest visit with us about our community. Thank you Mrs. Shields!! We loved learning from you! We learned

many different map skills, the different Native American tribes found in the United States and now are talking about immigration and all the different cultures found in our country.

In the second semester of school we will be learning how to do research reports, continue our cursive writing, and memorizing the rest of the 50 states and capitals.



**Tentative Elementary  
Track Meet Date  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

## 3rd Grade News

**Ms. Cardona, Mrs. Engstrom, Mr. Gregory**

We have had a busy year so far in Mrs. Engstrom's, Ms. Cardona's and Mr. Gregory's Third Grade Classes. We have classrooms with 54 unique students. We are learning responsibility each day by turning in homework on time and by reading Accelerated Reader books.

We are switching classrooms to work on Science, Social Studies, and writing skills. In Social Studies, we have been studying different cultures and traditions of Mexico and the Caribbean. In Language we

have been using our Chrome books to research spiders and write reports on them. In Science we have been learning about plant and animal adaptations. We have been working on grammar, and writing skills. We have also been working on writing good paragraphs. We also visited the Pumpkin Patch for a fun day of learning.



## 4th Grade News

Ms. Clarke, Mrs. Kearns

Our year started off with a trip back in time visiting Flowerfield School in Harrisburg, Nebraska. Students and teachers experienced a school day back in 1888. Students dressed in pioneer clothing, brought lunches appropriate for the time, and participated in everyday school activities. 4<sup>th</sup> grade also attended activities at the Farm and Ranch Museum. Then we went to the Scottsbluff County Fair Grounds to learn about farm safety. Thanks to all the volunteers that help to organize and fun all these amazing events!

We are diving into many new adventures in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Wonders is our new reading program, which is working to develop and build on our reading skills. Fastt Math is a program that all 4<sup>th</sup> graders are participating in. This computer

based program targets multiplication and division fact practice. Students are working towards mastery of these facts. We are beginning to learn all about Nebraska history, developing our writing skills, continuing to work on reading comprehension, and A.R. We are looking forward to experiencing all that 4<sup>th</sup> grade has to offer.



## 5th and 6th Grade News

Mrs. Bohl, Mrs. Keener, Mrs. Schaffer, Miss Luikens, Mrs. Reisig, Mrs. Wadhams

There are 116 fifth and sixth graders this year in the Mitchell Elementary. The core subjects are departmentalized with the following teachers: Jenny Bohl- Language Arts and fifth grade homeroom, Kris Keener-Science and fifth grade homeroom, Kaitlin Luikens-Math and sixth grade homeroom, Jami Schaffer-Social Studies and fifth grade homeroom, Valerie Wadhams-Reading and sixth grade homeroom, and Erin Reisig- Reading Intervention and sixth grade homeroom.

This fall the students were able to take in a variety of field trips. The sixth graders took advantage of the Midwest Theater performing arts program for the area schools by attending "The Hunts". This was a folk music group of siblings from Virginia and the students really enjoyed the program. We plan on attending a program in February featuring a dance troop. The fifth graders learned all about our water resources at the "Project Wet" field day held at the YMCA camp, and visited Agate Fossil Beds. Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. We participated in the Red Ribbon Olympics and the Red Ribbon Parade. We are "Proud to be Drug Free!"

We were fortunate enough to have Mikayla Kreider from Chadron State College as a student teacher the second quarter.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

The 5th graders have been learning about the Scientific Method and Problem Solving using science. This was very popular due to the number of hands on experiments they got to experience. They are now working on learning Newton's 3 Laws of Motion and all about gravitation, magnetism and friction.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade also started out with a review of Scientific Method and moved on to Technology and Engineering. They also enjoyed a number of challenging hands on experiments and designs. We are now studying the human body and will be going through all eight systems.

This year we will also hold our Science Fair on January 24th. Be watching for more information coming home after the first of the new year!

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been very busy! So far this year we have learned about ancient cultures such as the Olmec, Maya, Aztec, and Inca and early Native American groups. We have also learned about European explorers and the impact they had on the Native Americans. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are now studying the colonization of America and will soon be starting a unit on the Revolutionary War.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade started out learning about Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion. Currently, 6<sup>th</sup> grade is learning about the Civil War, important people, major battles, and different perspectives of the war.

Both grade levels are also working on memorizing states and capitals of the United States.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

We have had a great start to the new school year! 5<sup>th</sup> grade has been busy solving word problems, distinguishing between parallel and intersecting lines, identifying the different classifications of angles, identifying fractions, listing factors of whole numbers, adding/subtracting, multiplying/dividing whole numbers and decimals, adding fractions, finding averages, solving for elapsed time in years, finding divisibility rules for certain numbers, classifying triangles and quadrilaterals, and reducing fractions.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have worked on reducing fractions and percents, finding area and perimeters, identifying standard notation and expanded notation, solving fractional parts of whole groups in word problems, identifying measurements, adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. They have also been measuring and drawing angles, identifying place value of decimal numbers, working with elapsed time in hours and minutes, renaming fractions, finding unknown numbers in addition/ subtraction/ multiplication/ division, and finding circumference.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

The core reading looks a little different this

year with our new reading series. We have new books with new stories but still have an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary, and structural analysis. We do more digital instruction, practice, and testing on the Chromebooks. Our intervention reading uses the level readers that the Wonders series provides with each unit. They also read novels and work on increasing their reading fluency. We encourage reading outside the classroom by using our Accelerated Reader program as we have in the past.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language

Our new core reading program also includes language arts, which is great because the spelling words and short writing passages refer to the same stories that they are reading in the books. In the Language Arts classroom we focus on spelling/phonics, grammar, and writing. Each day of the week we work on a different skill, starting out Monday with our new spelling list. We have added an interactive notebook to our grammar instruction so that all skills are in one easy to follow journal. The back of the journal is used for short writing assignments as well as daily sentences. Through the daily sentences and short writing passages, we focus on proofreading and editing. We have written personal narratives in both 5th and 6th grade and will soon begin some opinion writing and a research project.

## Title I Reading Mrs. Dobry

Title I Reading is a program that allows our district to aid students in need of additional instruction. As an all Title school, we offer our support to all children. Based on testing and evaluations, we place and implement several interventions to assist our at-risk students. These programs are designed to give instruction in one or more of the 5 key areas that have been identified by the National Reading Panel as key components of

successful reading programs: phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, fluency and vocabulary. We also assist with math instruction in the classroom, as well as individual help in small groups. Experienced members of the Title I staff returning to the department this year are Stacey Kahl, Mindy Fillingham, Jeanie Young, and Nancy Schmidt. Welcomed additions to our department are Kaitlynn Hessler and

Tarah Riley. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and caring individuals that are eager to help all needs. Dedication to the success of students of Mitchell Elementary is our focus in the Title I program.

## Physical Education News Mr. Broussard

Here at Mitchell Elementary we find physical education to be a very important subject. This class is designed to help the kids live an active and healthy lifestyle. The goal for Mitchell Elementary physical education class is to introduce the kids to a wide variety of different sports or activities. Our expectations of the students isn't to have them master all the skills in a couple sports/activities, it is to have the students feel competent in several. If kids learn the basic skills and rules to games and feel comfortable playing them, they are more likely to continue to participate in those activities outside of school and for the rest of their lives and become lifelong movers.

While kids engage in different types of games or activities we teach them about good sportsmanship and how to compete the proper way. They know that it is okay to be competitive but they have to understand how to act when they win and understand how to act when they lose. As it says in our mission statement "Mitchell Public Schools, in partnership with the

community, will empower students to become lifelong learners and **respectful, responsible** citizens." This mission statement goes hand in hand with our physical education classes here at Mitchell.

This year we have been focusing a little more on fitness and fitness concepts. We learn proper terminology for the workouts they have been performing. We also talk about the different muscle groups that are being activated during specific exercises. We feel it is very beneficial to teach the kids the proper way to workout. We hope to teach them that working out and exercising isn't a punishment, it is actually a benefit for their bodies and overall health. We want fitness to be fun for them.

Our physical education program has been working on making P.E. class a fun and educational environment. Thanks to the P.E.T. and our school we have installed a projector that we use to watch and learn correct skill cues for specific skills, to watch how to properly play a game, and to interactively take quizzes

using plicker cards. We hope to continue to find different ways to utilize technology in a positive way for the years to come. We also want to keep working on doing new things and we wouldn't be able to do this without the support of the parents and the help from the P.E.T., so I would like to thank everyone personally for your support.

This year has been great so far and great participation by the students. Your son or daughter would love to share what they have learned in physical education class up to this point in the year, so when you get a chance just ask them. We would like to thank the parents for helping us keep our gym floor in good shape by supplying their kids with gym shoes!

Thanks again!

## NO SCHOOL

**December 21-31**

**January 1-4**

**February 1**

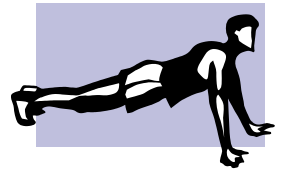
**February 18**

**March 8**

**April 19-22**

**Last Day of School..**

**May 17**



**1, 2, 3 & 4**



## Elementary Music Miss Bunnell, Mr. Sailors

### What Really Happens in a Music Classroom???

Believe it or not there is much more going on in a music classroom than just music. Yes, we sing and play instruments, but through those activities there is much more happening. Music involves using many different brain functions including: motor control, imagination, hearing, sight, and memory. Music inspires and evokes emotions in a healthy way. It teaches how to create, evaluate, analyze, understand and remember. Music involves math, science, history and foreign language. There is much more that goes on in a music classroom besides music.







### Counseling News Mrs. Maser

The 2018- 2019 school year has gotten off to a great start. I have enjoyed getting to know students, staff and parents at Mitchell Public Schools. As a school counselor, my most important job is to help students succeed in school both socially and academically. My goal is to teach your child skills that they will practice here at school and take with them wherever they go. When Father Edward Flanagan started Boys Town, his mission was to give boys a safe place to call home while giving them the skills needed to become productive citizens. A major part of accomplishing this goal was teaching and modeling the character traits the boys in his care would need to be accepted by society and become productive members of the work force. Like any academic knowledge; skills like greeting someone new, having a conversation or disagreeing in an appropriate manner are skills students must be taught. I will be incorporating Boys Town Social Skills into my counseling classes. I meet with every class for 30 minutes a week. This year I am also incorporating The 7 Habits of

Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey into the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. For the younger grades, K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I am incorporating the 7 Habits of Happy Kids. In every grade, these concepts are taught to students using language and examples they can relate to. Using the metaphor of a healthy tree, Habits 1-3 focus on developing a strong “personal root system,” building character and becoming more independent. Habits 4-6 teach skills of working well with others, and becoming more interdependent. Habit 7 is about taking care of oneself. Many of the skills and strategies taught in counseling focus on school improvement through the use of social skills. These skills not only reduce behavior problems in the classroom, but lead to increased academic success.

**“TODAY I will do what others won’t,  
so TOMORROW I can do what others can’t.”**

### Elementary Special Education Mrs. Soule and Mrs. Pankonin

The Mitchell Elementary Special Education staff and students continue to work on students' individual learning goals. At this time, the Mitchell Elementary Special Education staff consists of Special Services Director Jennifer Splichal and two classroom teachers, Kristin Pankonin (grades 4-6) and Kylie Soule (grades K-3), along with eight paraprofessionals: Jaci Barnes, Vanessa Hernandez, Laura Hubbard, Felecia Ivey, Vicki Keener, Lindsey Middledorf, Tara Riley and Laurie Weimer.

Mitchell Elementary service providers are Michelle Weimer – Physical Therapist, Jamie Selzer – Occupational Therapist and Jean Wegelin – Speech Language Pathologist.

We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year!

### Tiger Cub Preschool News Mrs. Jacobs

We have been off to a busy start in Pre-K this year! We are working our way through the alphabet learning to recognize a new letter and sound each week. In addition to letters, we have been working on recognizing our numbers, shapes, and colors. We have been identifying rhyming words, counting syllables in our name, and learning to write our names. We are practicing our social skills with Second Step curriculum, learning to take turns, share, and work with our friends. We have invited guests into

our classroom and are preparing to take field trips to businesses in Mitchell. Our special helpers include Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Fegler.



### Elementary Talent Show

(Held in the Elementary Gym)

**May 2nd — 1:00pm**







[mpstigers.com](http://mpstigers.com)



NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PD  
69357  
PERMIT #220

MITCHELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
1819 19TH AVENUE  
MITCHELL NE 69357