



HEARTLAND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HUSKIE LEADER

Dec 2025/Jan 2026



THE GREAT AMERICAN COLLEGE TOUR

BY CARRIE MCWETHY (MCCROSSEN) AND IAN MCWETHY

Calvin and Olive's parents insist they see a number of colleges (even though Calvin and Olive already know where they want to go). They visit some of the most extreme examples of American higher education including a wilderson university, a school that definitely is NOT a cult, and a big ten school. Go Trucks. It is quirky and fun!



IMPORTANT DATES

December 1

Winter Sports Tip Off Pep Rally
6:00PM Food Available
7:00PM Pep Rally Begins

December 8

7:00PM School Board Mtg

December 8 - 18

NHS, FFA, FBLA Food Drive

December 11

2:30PM / 7:00PM
K-6 Christmas Concert

December 15

7:30PM Bradshaw Christmas
Concert (9th - 12th)

December 18

7:30PM JH/HS Christmas Concert
Vocal (7th - 12th)
Instrumental (6th - 12th)

December 19

Early Dismissal @ 1:30PM

December 22 - January 6

No School

January 5 & 6

No School
Professional Development Days

January 7

Classes Resume

January 12

7:00PM School Board Mtg

January 16

No School - Mid Winter Break

January 30

6:00PM JH Choral Concert



Mr. Jeremy Klein, Superintendent

WINTER WEATHER

As the calendar turns to December, we will begin to prepare ourselves for colder weather and the eventual arrival of the winter season. Over the coming months the potential will exist for us to have late starts or school closures due to weather and hazardous, travel conditions. Weather-related decisions regarding late starts and school closings will always be made with the highest regard for the safety our students, parents, and staff.

Information related to late starts or school closures will be shared in a variety of ways to help ensure that you have access to this information in an accurate, timely, and reliable manner. This information will also be provided via phone and email our automated messaging service, School Messenger. Through social media, this information will be shared on the Heartland Facebook and Twitter pages – you can follow these accounts or find them on the homepage of our website. This information will also be provided to the following media outlets: KAWL (1370 AM), KHAS, KLKN, NTV, and KOLN.

Our goal will be to make decisions as early as reasonably possible in order to provide parents, students, and staff with as much advance notice as is possible. If decisions can be made the night before a late start or a cancellation, we'll communicate that information no later than 10 PM. If closure decisions cannot be made the night before, our goal regarding early-morning decisions will be to communicate with you between 6:00 AM - 6:30 AM.

We ask that you keep the school up to date with your contact information (i.e. phone and email) to ensure that our School Messenger broadcasts are delivered to you. You can verify or update your contact information by contacting the school office at 402-723-4434.

OUR MISSION

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE - Every Student, Every Day

SUPERINTENDENT

JEREMY KLEIN

Superintendent

jklein@heartlandschools.net

ELEMENTARY

DANA REINKE

Elementary Principal

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HIGH SCHOOL

TIM CARR

Secondary Principal

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

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Secondary Administrative

Assistant

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TAMMY OTT

Superintendent's Administrative

Assistant

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JANET MAY

Business Manager

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www.heartlandschools.org



Heartland Community Schools
Henderson/Bradshaw



[@hcsdogpound](https://twitter.com/hcsdogpound)

CONTACT US

NHS, FFA, FBLA HEARTLAND HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS

MANY WAYS TO DONATE!



**MONETARY DONATIONS OR FOOD DONATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED**

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES! We are unable to distribute expired items. *Any item can be donated on any day!!!

MONDAY Dec 8: SOUP AND CRACKERS

TUESDAY Dec 9: PASTA

WEDNESDAY Dec 10: CANNED VEGETABLES

THURSDAY Dec 11: BREAKFAST

FRIDAY Dec 12: CLEANING SUPPLIES

MONDAY Dec. 15: PAPER AND PERSONAL

TUESDAY Dec. 16: PROTEIN OR CONDIMENTS

WEDNESDAY Dec 17: DESSERTS AND CHRISTMAS FOODS

THURSDAY Dec 18: CANNED FRUITS OR FRESH FRUIT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NHS, FFA and FBLA students and sponsors

If you know a family that is in need of this gift or if you have any questions, please call Mrs. Ruhl at the school or email her at hruhl@heartlandschools.net.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Merry Christmas

K - 6th Christmas Concert December 11th

There will be an elementary
Christmas concert on Thursday,
December 11th

There will be two performances in the
Theater, 2:30pm and 7:00pm

Come and enjoy the special
Christmas Music.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 6TH - 12TH GRADE

*Thursday, December 18th
7:30PM*

*6th - 12th grade Instrumental
and
7th - 12th grade Vocal*

BRADSHAW CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Bradshaw Community Center
Monday, December 15th at 7:30pm

Grades 9-12 Small Ensemble, High
School Choir, Brass Choir, Soloists and
other small groups



Heartland elementary students must be
accompanied by an adult at all Heartland activities
and sporting events.

Elementary students are asked to sit beside the
adult throughout the activity to ensure everyone's
safety and enjoyment of the event.



D.A.R.E. Graduation

Congratulations to the fifth graders in Mrs. Maltsberger's class for completing the DARE program! At their graduation, each student shared what they had learned about substances, decision-making, peer pressure, and friendship.

We extend a special thanks to Captain Gillespie from the York County Sheriff's Office for providing the program at Heartland. He does a fantastic job educating and interacting with the students.



DO YOU HAVE INTEREST IN HELPING IN THE CLASSROOMS?

Need something to do that is not only rewarding but would help those in need?

Consider becoming a substitute teacher or substitute paraprofessional! We are running short of available personnel in these areas.

Duties of the paraprofessional substitute would include assisting the teacher in the education of students including management of student behavior, record keeping, instructional assistance and interaction and communication with students, support staff, and faculty. NO formal training is required.

Substitute teachers are also needed, but require a minimum number of hours toward a 4-year degree and board approval.

Please reach out to the school office if you are interested!

Four Heartland FFA members competed in the Nebraska State Land Judging Competition: Faith Hiebner (12), Riley Quiring (12), Lane Farrall (12), Madalyn Janzen (11), and David Hiebner (11, alternate).

The Heartland FFA Land Judging team qualified for the State Competition in Polk County, where the team placed second. On October 22nd, the team traveled to Lake Wanahoo in Wahoo, Nebraska to compete in the State Competition.

Each of the four competitors from each chapter are split up into four groups, where they individually evaluate soil and land characteristics like slope, texture, and depth to determine its capability for different uses.

After the competition was complete, the team traveled to the Saunders County Fairgrounds to hear the results. Riley Quiring placed 12th, Lane Farrall placed 14th, Maddie Janzen placed 30th, and Faith Hiebner placed 83rd. Overall, the team placed second and qualified for the National Competition in Oklahoma, which will take place from May 5th to May 7th.



Heartland FFA members competed in District Livestock Judging

Members have been studying for the contest over the course of the last month with study session trips to Kim Siebert's for cattle, Emma Ott's for swine, as well as Sarah and Makaelyn Goertzen bringing in sheep. Participants judged classes of breeding gilts, breeding ewes, market lambs, breeding does, market goats, bulls, market cattle, and keep/cull heifers. The district competition is split into a junior division and a senior division. The junior division is composed of freshmen and sophomores. The senior division is made up of juniors and seniors. Heartland's Junior team placed 6th out of 15 teams, and 181 participants. They were just 24 points from qualifying for the state competitions. The top four junior scores were Willabelle Panko (17th), Katy Farrall (18), Kayleigh Frisbie (39), and Ashlyn Rotter (50). Heartland's senior team placed 9th, with a total of 111 competitors. This team was just 50 points from making state. The top four senior scores were David Hiebner (11), Emma Ott (26), Colby Frisbie (41), and Lexi Ingsbee (61).



The National FFA Convention was held from October 28th to November 1st in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tours were attended while heading to the convention, as well as tours in the area. The group toured Northwest Missouri State University, Trans Ova Genetics, Brock Angus Farm, Ozark Fisheries, and Hunters Honey during the trip. The group attends these tours to broaden their knowledge on agricultural industries in other states and other agriculture pathways.

Seven Heartland FFA members attended the Convention, as well as two advisors: Braden Janzen (12), Madalyn Janzen (11), Weston Panko (12), Grace Splinter (12), Lane Farrall (12), Riley Quiring (12), Trenton Goertzen (12), Stephanie Miller (advisor), and Allison Engelman (advisor).

All sessions for the convention were held in Lucas Oil Stadium, where 71,000 students gathered to hear opening ceremonies, demonstrations, speeches from the National Officer Team, and keynote speeches. The Heartland FFA group attended two sessions, one being the American Degree Ceremony, where Benjamin Janzen received his American FFA Degree. (Grace Regier also received her American degree but was not present for the ceremony.) The group also went to the Expo Center, where there are countless booths of agricultural businesses scattered throughout the building, as well as the FFA shopping mall. The students all had a great time and learned a lot at the 98th National FFA Convention.



5th Grade



The fifth graders recently read their poems at the classroom "Poetry Cafe" complete with treats!

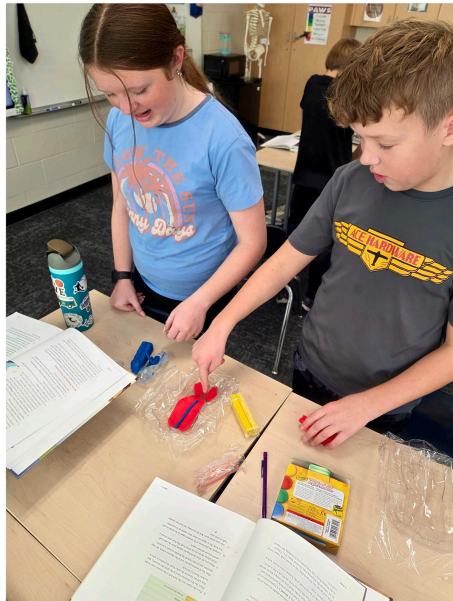
Elementary Winter Testing Schedule

K	December 9	DIBELS
1st	December 9	DIBELS
2nd	November 18 & 19 December 2 & 3 December 4	MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
3rd	November 18 & 19 December 2 & 3 December 10	MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
4th	November 19 & 20 December 2 & 3 December 10	MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS
5th	November 19 & 20 December 2 & 3 December 4 & 5 December 8	MAP Reading MAP Math MAP Science DIBELS
6th	November 19 & 20 December 2 & 3 December 4	MAP Reading MAP Math DIBELS

Please avoid scheduling appointments on these important dates.

MAP & DIBELS - District Testing

6th Grade



By using colored clay in science class, the sixth graders were able to effectively map out the placement and interconnectedness of organs in the human body.

Veterans Day Program

The 13th Annual Heartland Community Schools Veterans Day Program was held on Tuesday, November 11.

National Honor Society students facilitated the program.

A welcome was given by Emma Ott followed by the singing of the national anthem by the high school choir.

Elementary essay winners then presented to the audience.

- McKinley Hiebner (3rd place)
- Levi Haidle (2nd place)
- James Janzen (1st place)

Following the elementary essays, the third and fourth graders performed the song, "For the Good of the Many."

Maddie Janzen announced the elementary coloring contest winners from each grade level.

The audience then had the opportunity to hear from the secondary essay winners.

- Maylie Friensen (3rd place)
- Ryker Stebbing (2nd place)
- Tori Thieszen (1st place)

To recognize the veterans in attendance, Tara Buzek and Mia Hiebner had the veteran stand, and their service record was read.

Each year, the FFA creates and distributes a number of metal "Veteran" yard signs. Receiving theirs this year was: Tommy Carr, Jerome Chvatal, Jeff Dunsmoor, Joe Pankratz, and Mike Sabell.

Abby Nolan and Kate Franz led the audience in a singing of, "God Bless America."

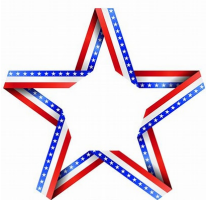
This year's guest speaker was former Heartland superintendent, Brad Best. He opened by acting as a family member who had received a letter from their loved one in the service. It was a meaningful illustration. In his speech, he shared about the variety of roles military personnel can have, the sacrifice of the entire family, and how ongoing freedom must be earned.

Mr. Best was also the one who started the Veterans Day Program at Heartland in 2012. In recognition of this, he was awarded a plaque.

Following a closing by Haley Beck and the playing of "Taps," refreshments were served to the veterans and their families.

Thanks to the Heartland National Honor Society and Mrs. Ruhl for facilitating the program. We appreciate Henderson State Bank sponsoring the essay contest by providing monetary prizes for the students.

Thank you veterans!



Left to Right: James Janzen, Levi Haidle, McKinley Hiebner



Left to Right: Tori Thieszen, Ryker Stebbing, Maylie Friesen





The FBLA students worked the annual Halloweenie Roast on October 31st. The students assisted with serving hotdogs, chips, and water to the members of Henderson.



FBLA & FFA THANKSGIVING DINNER



Heartland FBLA Brings Joy to Legacy Residents

The Heartland FBLA Chapter spent an evening with the residents of Legacy, hosting a Bingo Night of fun and laughter. FBLA members and residents enjoyed several rounds of bingo and sharing conversations. The event offered students an opportunity to connect across generations and give back to the community in a fun, personal way. It was a great evening together.



Heartland High School Students Attend President's Summit

Heartland students Tara Buzek and Emma Ott attended the inaugural **President's Summit**, an event bringing together executive student leaders from Nebraska's **Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), Student Councils, Scouts, and 4-H**.

This inaugural summit served as a unique opportunity for these leaders to network, learn, and grow through a series of engaging workshops focused on **leadership development, collaboration, and effective team communication**. Throughout the event, participants explored practical strategies for leading with purpose, worked through interactive team-building exercises, and networked with peers from across Nebraska who share their passion for making a difference.

The goal of the President's Summit was simple yet impactful: to create a space where young leaders could learn from one another, share their visions, and develop the skills necessary to lead with confidence and purpose in their schools and communities.

The Leadership Center continues to serve as Nebraska's home for leadership development—hosting conferences, retreats, and programs that inspire individuals of all ages to lead with integrity and vision.

Maile Ilac Boeder, Executive Director, said, "We are incredibly thankful to the students, advisors, and organizations who joined us for this groundbreaking event. Together, we're building the next generation of Nebraska leaders."

At **The Leadership Center**, they believe leadership is learned by doing—through hands-on experiences, collaboration, and connection. They look forward to making the President's Summit an annual tradition that continues to empower and unite Nebraska's youth leaders.





Heartland Community Schools

December 2025



1	Chocolate Chip French Toast French Toast Sticks Egg & Sausage Patty 100% Juice Tri Tater	2	Egg & Cheese Biscuit Sloppy Joe French Fries Pudding	3	Breakfast Pizza Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy French Bread	4	Cherry Frudel Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll	5	Tornado Pizza Steamed Corn Jello	All grains are whole grain rich.
8	Strawberry Bagel Sweet & Sour Chicken Steamed Broccoli Rice Egg Roll	9	Pancake Wrap Grilled Chicken Sandwich Mac & Cheese Peas	10	Coffee Cake Tacos Long John Corn	11	Pancake Wrap Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll	12	Sausage & Biscuit Pancake Day Sausage Link Tri Tater	
15	Blueberry Waffles Crispitos Nachos Steamed Broccoli Cake	16	Breakfast Pizza Spaghetti Corn Garlic Bread	17	Chocolate Chip French Toast Mini Corndogs Baked Beans Steamed Broccoli	18	Apple Frudel Chicken Tenders French Fries Dinner Roll Peas	19	Chicken & Biscuit Deli Sandwich Cookie Chips	A variety of fruit and juice is offered daily with breakfast.
22	NO SCHOOL	23	NO SCHOOL	24	NO SCHOOL	25	Merry Christmas NO SCHOOL	26	NO SCHOOL	
29	NO SCHOOL	30	NO SCHOOL	31	NO SCHOOL				Menu is subject to change without notice.	
									All beef is donated and locally raised.	

Heartland Community Schools is an equal opportunity provider.



Heartland Community Schools

January 2026



			1	2	
5	NO SCHOOL	6	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	
12	Pancake Wrap French Toast Sticks Egg & Sausage Patty 100% Juice Tri Tater	13	Cherry Frudel Deli Sandwich Chips Cookie	14	Egg & Cheese Biscuit BBQ Pork Sandwich French Fries Ice Cream
19	Cereal  Chili OR Chicken Noodle Soup Cinnamon Roll Saltines	20	Breakfast Pizza Max Cheese Sticks Marinara Sauce Peas Pudding	21	Chicken & Biscuit Chicken Patty Sandwich French Fries Green Beans
26	Apple Frudel  Tacos Long John Steamed Corn	27	Tornado Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli Dinner Roll	28	Pancake Wrap Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Tri Tater
		29	Cinnamon Breadstick  Pizza Burgers Corn Jello	30	Long John Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll
		8	Sausage & Biscuit Sloppy Joe French Fries Jello 	9	Blueberry Waffles Sweet & Sour Chicken Steamed Broccoli Brown Rice Egg Roll
		15	Chocolate Chip French Toast Burrito Bowl (Rice, Pulled Pork) Seasoned Black Beans Corn Cake	16	NO SCHOOL
		22	Cinnamon Roll Spaghetti Corn Garlic Bread 	23	Strawberry Bagel Crispito Nachos Steamed Broccoli Churro
		7	Long John Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll		

All grains are whole grain rich.

Fresh fruit and vegetable bar is offered daily with lunch.

A variety of fruit and juice is offered daily with breakfast.

A variety of low-fat milk is offered daily with breakfast and lunch.

Menu is subject to change without notice.

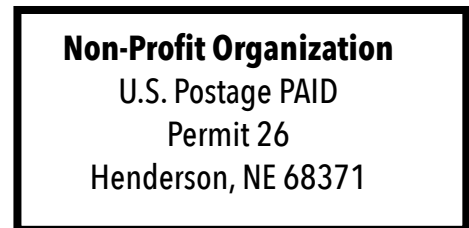
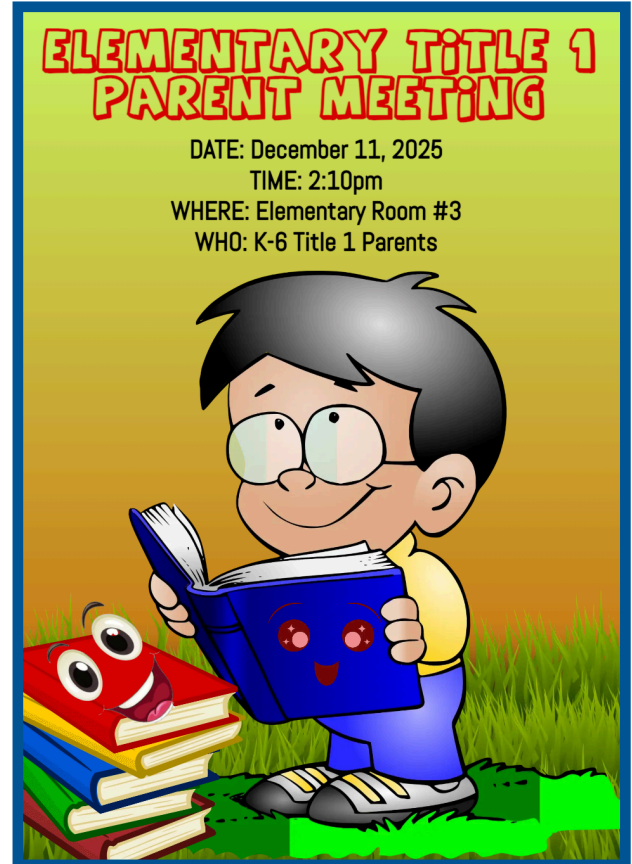
All beef is donated and locally raised.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 ■ 4:30PM JH Girls Basketball @ Sandy Creek ■ 7:00PM Winter Sports Tip Off	2 ■ 4:30PM JH Girls Basketball vs Shelby-Rising City @ Hampton	3 ■ Play Production Districts @ Cross County	4 ■ 4:30PM HS Basketball vs Fairbury @ Heartland	5 ■ 4:30PM HS Basketball @ Wilber Catoonia	6 ■ HS Robotics ■ 9:00AM Freshmen Boys Basketball @ Crete
7	8 ■ NHS/FFA/FBLA Food Drive ■ 4:00PM JH Girls Basketball @ Sutton ■ 5:00PM Reserve Boys Basketball @ Harvard ■ 6:00PM Freshmen Boys Basketball @ NE Lutheran ■ 7:00PM School Board Meeting	9 ■ 4:30PM H&H HS Basketball vs Sutton @ Heartland	10	11 ■ 2:30PM Elementary Christmas Program ■ 7:00PM Elementary Christmas Program	12 ■ 2:00PM HS Basketball vs Twin River @ Hampton	13
14	15 ■ NHS/FFA/FBLA Food Drive ■ Hanukkah (1st day) ■ 7:30PM Bradshaw Holiday Concert (9-12)	16 ■ 5:15PM HS Basketball @ David City	17	18 ■ 7:30PM Holiday Band & Vocal Concert	19 ■ Early Dismissal @ 1:30 ■ 4:30PM HS Basketball vs Thayer Central @ Heartland ■ 4:30PM JH Girls Basketball vs Fullerton @ Hampton	20 ■ 2:00PM HS Basketball @ Cross County
21	22 ■ No School - Holiday Break	23	24	25	26	27
			■ NSAA Moratorium ■ Christmas Eve	■ Christmas Day	■ Kwanzaa	
28	29 ■ No School - Holiday Break	30	31 ■ New Year's Eve	1 ■ New Year's Day	2 ■ 3:30PM HS Basketball @ Gilmer	3 ■ 2:00PM HS Basketball vs McCool @ Hampton

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 NSAA Moratorium	29 No School - Holiday Break	30 New Year's Eve	31 New Year's Day	1 3:30PM HS Basketball @ Giltner	2 2:00PM HS Basketball vs McCool @ Hampton	3
4	5 No School - Professional Development Day	6 6:00PM HS Reserve Basketball @ Centennial	7 Classes Resume	8	9 4:30PM HS Basketball vs Fullerton @ Hampton	10 10:00AM JH Boys Basketball vs Shelby-Riding City @ Heartland 2:00PM High School Basketball @ Cross County
11	12 Nebraska Christian Quiz Bowl 4:30PM JH Boys Basketball vs Cross County @ Heartland 6:00PM HS Reserve Basketball @ McCool	13 4:30PM HS Basketball vs Superior @ Heartland	14	15 4:30PM HS Basketball @ Fillmore Central 4:30PM JH Boys Basketball vs Thayer Central @ Heartland	16 No School - Mid-Winter Break	17 9:30AM HS Reserve Basketball vs Giltner/Harvard @ Hampton
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 4:00PM JH Basketball @ Sandy Creek 6:00PM HS Reserve Basketball @ Kearney 7:30PM Freshmen Boys Basketball @ Kearney	20 4:30PM HS Basketball @ Centura	21	22	23 4:30PM HS Basketball vs Sandy Creek @ Hampton	24 9:00AM HS Robotics 10:00AM Reserve BS Triangular @ Hampton
25	26 6:00PM HS Reserve Basketball @ York	27 4:30PM HS Basketball @ Nebraska Christian	28 JH Quiz Bowl @ Thayer Central	29 4:30PM HS Basketball vs EMF @ Heartland	30 6:00PM JH Vocal Concert	31 HS Robotics 10:00AM JH Basketball @ High Plains



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