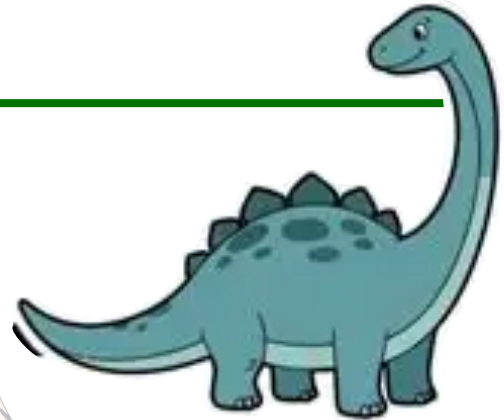
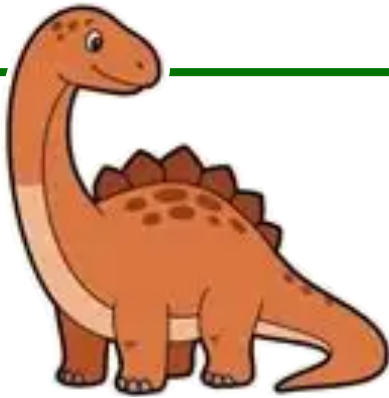




**HEARTLAND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

# **HUSKIE LEADER**

**May 2026**



## **Summer Reading Program June 9th - July 16th**

The Summer Reading Program at Heartland will start on June 9th from 9:00AM - 12:00PM in the Elementary Library. The theme is *UNEARTH A STORY*.

The Library will be open on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Henderson from 9:00AM - 12:00PM for 6 weeks. Weekly prizes will be awarded for every 100 minutes read. Children reading 5 out of the 6 weeks will be rewarded with a grand prize trip.

All preschool and elementary students are welcome to come to participate in the program. Reading packets will be sent home with the students at the end of the school year. Packets may also be picked up at the office.

Children who spend part of their summer reading or being read to are more likely to read well when they return to school in the fall. The Summer Reading Program gives children the chance to read at their leisure and develop a wider appreciation of books.



***EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE - Every Student, Every Day***



## ***Mr. Jeremy Klein, Superintendent***

### **Graduation**

Heartland High School will hold its 28th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 10th . The ceremony will be held in the north gym and will begin at 2 PM. The Class of 2026 will include 30 graduates who will have successfully completed their K-12 education. This year's graduating class is an outstanding group of young men and women. Over these past years, they've demonstrated a wide range of talents, and they've given us many occasions to be proud of them. Congratulations to all our graduates and to their families.

### **Last Day Of School**

We are rapidly approaching the conclusion of a successful 25-26 school year here at Heartland Community Schools. The final day of the 25-26 school year will be Wednesday, May 20th . There will be an early dismissal at 11:30 AM on that final day of school.

### **K-6 Playground Renovation**

We continue to move forward with our K-6 playground renovation project. The renovation will include approximately 13,000 square feet of renovated space lying just to the east of the existing concrete play area. The renovated area is largely broken into three separate areas. The renovated space will include a playground area to the south, adjacent to the PK playground. The new playground area will include approximately 5,000 square feet of space with new play equipment spanning a variety of ages and modalities. The new playground area will have a protective, synthetic turf surface under all of the play equipment. The middle space of the renovated area we will include a new basketball court. This will provide an excellent play area while also allowing us to free up space for free-play in the existing concrete area. At the north end of the renovated area will be a green space for free-play. The green space will approximately 80 ft by 50 ft and will be surfaced with synthetic turf.

Water drainage has been a long-standing issue in our playground area, so our renovation will include the addition of subsurface drainage. The use of all synthetic surfaces will reduce the need for turf maintenance and will provide a consistently clean and dry surface for our students to play on. The use of uniform and synthetic surfaces will also improve universal accessibility to the entire space.

The project is currently out for bid and the bid solicitation process should be completed by mid-May. Our goal is to reach substantial completion of the project just prior to the start of school in August. The project will be paid for out of the Special Building Fund. No levy increase is needed to fund the project as the cost of the project can be covered by interest we have earned on construction funds.

# HEARTLAND NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

## Newly Inducted NHS Members



Front row, l to r: Ashlyn Friesen, Katelyn Farrall, Kate Haidle, Julia Tessman, Ashlyn Rotter  
Back row, l to r: Adrik Friesen, Waylon Tessman, Brian Bearinger, Brooks Burgess, Rigs Newton, Daniel Vasquez

**T**he Heartland Community Schools National Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony on Monday, April 20th in the Heartland theater. The ceremony began with the current officers reviewing the four pillars on which NHS is based and conducting the candle lighting ceremony. Those pillars are Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. The eleven new inductees then repeated the pledge and received their certificates. The new officer team was introduced and announced the future plans of each graduating senior member. The seniors were also awarded their gold honor cords by the NHS sponsor, Heidi Ruhl. Group pictures were taken in the gym and everyone was invited to enjoy cookies in the cafeteria.

## 2025-2026 NHS Members



## HEARTLAND FBLA ATTENDS THE NEBRASKA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Twenty-six Heartland FBLA members attended the Nebraska State Leadership Conference in Kearney on April 16-18. Five students won seven awards during the three-day conference.

Students attending the conference along with adviser Karma Yantzie and parent chaperone Jenny Goertzen were: (Seniors) Samuel Friesen, Josh Goertzen, Mia Hiebner, Brayden Ogorzolka, Will Regier, Laura Splinter, Holden Switzer, Hallie Tessman; (Juniors) Tara Buzek and Maddox Regier; (Sophomores) Kali Barta, Brooks Burgess, Ashlyn Friesen, River Glinmann, Kate Haidle, Sophie Minary, Cadence Swim, Julia Tessman, Ben Thomas, Daniel Vasquez; (Freshmen) Madison Barta, Aiden Bartek, Isabelle Buller, Jack Goertzen, Hayden Perez, and Heston Switzer.

Our Heartland FBLA Chapter President Tara Buzek ran for the Office of Nebraska State FBLA Secretary and ran a strong campaign coming in as one of the top two candidates for the State Secretary position. Despite the election results not going in her favor, we're incredibly proud of Tara for seizing the opportunity to represent our Chapter and Community during his campaign.

The keynote speaker of the opening session was Timmy the Dreamer, a keynote speaker and entrepreneur. He is focused on helping young people achieve their dreams to the fullest of their potential. The leadership conference was filled with testing, speaking, presenting, and job interviewing. The group also enjoyed the amenities offered by the Younes Conference Center location including playing golf and pickleball at the new DropZone complex. The top eight winners in each event were announced at the awards program on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

The students who placed in the top of each event will represent Nebraska at the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas this summer. The following students won top eight awards:

- **Tara Buzek**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Advanced Accounting
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Business Communication
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Place Public Speaking (Final)
- **Kate Haidle**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Accounting
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Place Intro to Business Communication
- **Brooks Burgess**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Intro. to Retail and Management
- **Kali Barta and Sophie Minary**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Place Graphic Design

The following students won Honorable Mention awards which recognized those who placed in the top 4% of each competitive event:

- **Tara Buzek**
  - Personal Finance
- **Mia Hiebner**
  - Advanced Accounting

Tara Buzek earned Who's Who in Nebraska FBLA for our chapter.

Congratulations to all members for a great conference!







## FFA STATE CONVENTION

From March 25th through March 27th, the blue corduroy jackets stormed the Lincoln, Nebraska Haymarket. The Heartland FFA Chapter took 40 members over those three days for sessions, workshops, and competitions. On Wednesday night, 12 Heartland seniors received their FFA State Degree. The recipients are as follows: Lexi Inglsbee, Faith Hiebner, Landon Mierau, Lane Farrall, Mary Dente, Grace Splinter, Riley Quiring, Weston Panko, Kaleb Ostrander, Andrew Onnen, Trenton Goertzen, and Braden Janzen. Also on Wednesday, Emma Ott competed in the Senior Public Speaking division and received silver.

On Thursday, the Heartland FFA Chapter was recognized as a superior chapter and as a Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Champion during the convention.

Along with all of these awards and accomplishments, Heartland member Braden Janzen participated in the honor choir, and five teams competed at the state level.

The welding team placed 29th out of 60 teams receiving a white team ribbon, and two received ribbons individually. Brian Beringer received a red ribbon for OA welding, and Landon Mierau placed 6th in the state for MIG welding and received a purple ribbon. Weston Panko and David Hiebner also competed.

The Ag Mechanics team placed 33rd out of 60 teams and also received two ribbons individually. Lane Farrall received a blue ribbon, and Landon Mierau received a red ribbon. Jake Mierau and Waylon Tessman also competed.

The Ag Science team placed 17th out of 141 teams, and received a blue ribbon. Individually, Sydney Rempel and Luke Janzen both received purple ribbons, Brinley Mierau received a blue ribbon, and Jagger Regier received a red ribbon.

The Farm Management team placed 50th out of 60 teams, and Jagger Regier received a white ribbon individually. Luke Janzen, Carter Peters, and Wyatt Friesen also competed.

The Food Science Team placed 6th out of 36 teams, and received a blue ribbon. They were only 35 points away from winning first place. Individually, Emma Ott placed 9th in the state competition and received a purple ribbon. Kinsley Friesen received a blue ribbon, and Faith Hiebner received a white ribbon. Lexi Inglsbee also competed.

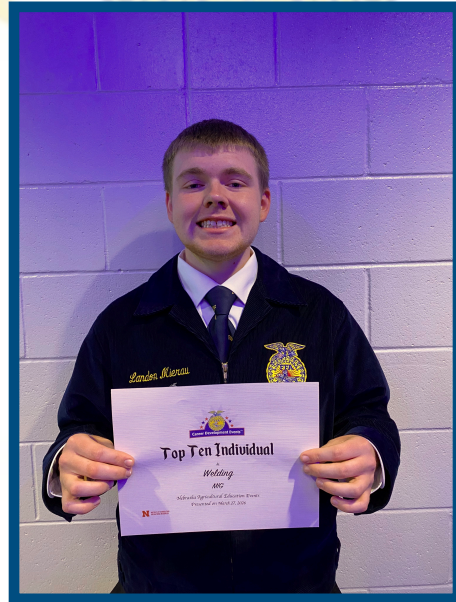
The 98th Nebraska FFA State Convention was very successful for the Heartland FFA Chapter, and the members can't wait to see what the next year holds.



Emma Ott received a silver medal in Sr. Public Speaking



Emma Ott received 9th place in Food Science



Landon Mierau placed 6th in MIG welding



12 seniors received the highest honor a state can bestow on its members: the State Degree. L to R: Lane Farrall, Riley Quiring, Weston Panko, Kaleb Ostrander, Braden Janzen, Andrew Onnen, Landon Mierau, Mary Dente, Trenton Goertzen, Faith Hiebner, Lexi Inglsbee, and Grace Splinter.

## 6TH GRADE ZOO FIELD TRIP



## 2ND GRADE FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Blase's 2nd grade participated in the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day at the York County Fairgrounds. The kids learned about different and resources to make farm, ranch, and rural life safer and healthier.





Girls on the Run is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1996 with the mission of inspiring girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. The Girls on the Run program has made a meaningful impact on 3rd-5th grade girls in Henderson, Nebraska for the past 12 years. This program promotes confidence, healthy lifestyles, and leadership skills, through a combination of physical activity, teamwork, and life-skill development, the program helps participants grow both mentally and physically while building lasting friendships.

At Heartland Community Schools, Girls on the Run met twice a week after school from the beginning of March until the middle of April. Girls participated in games, group challenges, and discussions that encourage inclusion and kindness. The noncompetitive environment allows every participant—regardless of athletic ability—to feel successful and supported.

Each practice, the girls gradually train for a celebratory 5K run or walk held at the end of the program. The event is not focused on competition but rather on personal achievement and teamwork. Crossing the finish line represents months of effort, growth, and perseverance. The 5K celebration provides girls with a tangible sense of accomplishment while reinforcing the message that they are capable of achieving goals both on and off the course. Many families and community members attend to cheer on participants, strengthening community pride and support for local youth programs. The 5K was held in Lincoln, NE at the Air Park on April 19.

Part of the program every year, the girls are tasked with creating a Community Impact Project. The girls reflect on various aspects of their community and look to see how small acts can make huge impacts. For the 2026 season, the girls decided to celebrate and thank the work that the Heartland Community Staff gives to our students and community, by decorating the teacher work room.

This year's participants were Tynslee Ogorzolka, Jacinta Wall, Rylan Nunnenkamp, Emmie Schlautman, and Kieran Wall. They were "coached" by Steph Miller, Abby Siebert, and Lexi Inglsbee.

## 3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP





**H**earland third grade field trip to the Hastings Museum:

- Learned about ecosystems, seed dispersal, and the importance of pollination
- Saw the new Kool-Aid exhibit and made our own Kool-Aid for home
- Lots of Lego building and exploring
- Ended the day with a planetarium show about the Earth, Moon, and Sun

## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 4TH - 8TH



# Heartland Community Schools May 2026

					<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Cinnamon Roll</b></p> <p>BBQ Pork Sandwich French Fries Ice Cream</p>	<p>All grains are whole grain rich.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Mini Pancake</b></p> <p>Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Gravy Dinner Roll</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Long John</b></p> <p>Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Tri Tater</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Pancake Wrap</b></p> <p>Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli French Bread</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast Pizza</b></p> <p>Tacos Long John Corn</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Waffles</b></p> <p>Max Cheese Sticks Marinara Sauce Peas Pudding</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Biscuit</b></p> <p>Sloppy Joe French Fries Ice Cream</p>	<p>A variety of fruit and juice is offered daily with breakfast.</p> <p>A variety of low-fat and fat-free milk is offered daily with breakfast and lunch.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Biscuit</b></p> <p>Sloppy Joe French Fries Ice Cream</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Tornado</b></p> <p>Pizza Burgers Corn Jello</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Chocolate Chip French Toast</b></p> <p>Chicken Patty Sandwich French Fries Steamed Peas</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Strawberry Bagel</b></p> <p>French Toast Sticks Egg &amp; Sausage Patty 100% Juice Tri Tater</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Coffee Cake</b></p> <p>Grilled Hotdog Baked Beans Steamed Broccoli</p>	<p>Menu is subject to change without notice.</p>	<p>All beef is donated and locally raised.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast Pizza</b></p> <p>Crispitos Nachos Green Beans</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Freezer Clean Out</b></p> <p>Deli Sandwich Cookie Chips</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Breakfast:</b> (Freezer clean out)</p> <p><b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b> <b>11:30 DISMISSAL</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>Have a Great Summer!</p> 
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>		

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 9:00AM H&H HS Track CINW invite 10:00AM H&H JH Track @ Hebron	28 9:30AM H&H Boys Golf @ Red Cloud 7:00PM Awards Night	29 12:00PM Elementary Field Day	30 2:00PM H&H JH Track @ Fillmore	1 2:00PM H&H JV Golf @ Hebron	2 10:00AM H&H HS SNC Track @ David City
3	4 Teacher Appreciation Week 10:00AM H&H JH Track @ Sutton	5 Cinco de Mayo 9:00AM H&H Boys Golf @ Sutton 12:00PM Elementary Field Day (Main Day) 7:30PM 9-12 Vocal/Band Concert	6 Underclassmen Quiz Bowl	7 9:30AM H&H Boys SNC Golf @ Hebron 10:00AM H&H HS Track @ Cross County	8 10:00AM H&H JH SNC Track @ Heartland	9
10 Mother's Day 2:00PM Graduation	11 9:00AM FBLA Blood Drive 7:00PM School Board Meeting	12	13 9:30AM H&H Boys Golf @ Hebron	14 H&H HS District Track 3:00PM H&H JV Boys Golf @ Galaway Creek	15 1:00PM JH (6-9) Spring Sing / Band Blast 3:00PM K-5 Awards / Spring Sing 7:00PM H&H Athletic Awards	16 11:00AM JH State Track @ Gothenburg
17	18 H&H Boys District Golf	19	20 Last Day of School dismissal @ 11:30AM	21	22 H&H State Track Me...aha Burke Stadium	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27 H&H Boys State Golf Bid al-Adha	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



# HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS GRADUATION CEREMONY

*The Heartland Community Schools Commencement Exercises will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the north gym.*

*Congratulations to all 2026 Heartland Graduates!*



## IMPORTANT DATES

### May 5

12:00 PM Elementary Field Day (make-up date)

7:30 PM Spring Vocal & Band Concert (9th-12th)

### May 10

2:00 PM Graduation

### May 11

7:00 School Board Meeting

### May 15

1:00 JH Spring Sing/Band Blast (6th-8th)

2:00 Elementary Spring Sing Awards

7:00 Athletic Awards

### May 20

Last Day of School dismiss @ 11:30

### June 9 - July 16

Summer Reading Program



Office of the Superintendent  
Heartland Community Schools  
1501 Front Street  
Henderson, NE 68371

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