

CALLAWAY



Superintendent Corner

Newsletter

December's message is a little different than the last two months. First, I want to express my deep appreciation for our communities support of our school. We are in the process of re-introducing our school beef program. We have our first beef donation and processing expenses covered. The school would like to use 3-ish critters per school year that are locally sourced. Donating beef to our school lunch program is one of the most impactful ways you can support our students. If you, your family, or your business would like to be involved in the school beef program, please reach out to me at the school 308-836-2272, by cell 308-870-2824, or email

jdfurrow@callawaypublicschools.org. Along with the rebirth of our school beef program, Mr. Birkel has put together an advertising campaign for local business's that will generate funds for our athletic facilities improvements. You, our community have been more than generous with financial support for our kids. I am excited to see the improvements we can make because of your willingness to give. We are hoping to have advertising placards up in the gym for basketball and wrestling season. The advertising cycle for both the football field and the gym will begin in August of 2025. Gym placards are \$500 per year for a 5-year commitment (\$2500) and football field placards are \$333 per year for a 3-year commitment (\$1000). Our hope is to generate a consistent revenue sources that will allow us to enhance our athletic facilities without putting extra tax pressure on our patrons. As I have said before, one of the biggest factors in having a great school is for your community to believe your school is great. The generous support we are receiving from you is a great demonstration of your pride in your school. We are doing some great things at CPS and we have you to thank for that. THANK YOU!!

Now...

I have had the opportunity to work with a NRCSA group to brainstorm solutions to the statewide teacher shortage. This work has been very rewarding and I have been able to help 3 young professionals transition into teaching positions and I hope for many more. HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A TEACHER? I want to share some information that I don't think a lot of people know about the teaching profession and how you can become certified in Nebraska.

1. The average teacher in Nebraska makes approximately \$80,000 per year in salary and benefits. This isn't bad for a 9 month per year job. You also have holidays off, and you get to be on the same schedule as your children.
2. You get to make a DIFFERENCE! Governor Pillen makes a great claim when he speaks about the importance education. He says if you ask every Nebraskan to name 3 or 4 of the most influential people in their life almost everyone will list a former teacher or coach.
3. The department of education has created pathways to certification that make it possible for you to get into the classroom. In some cases, immediately.
4. In the state of Nebraska alone there were approximately 900 teaching positions that went unfilled for this school year and they expect that number to rise in the coming years. It is a little scary to picture 900 classrooms full of kids with no teacher at the front of the room. For anyone who reads this newsletter, if you have even a small interest in teaching or if you know someone who would make a great teacher please get in touch with me. I would be more than happy to set down and map out your pathway to the classroom. It is great opportunity for you, it is great for your community, and it is great for our state.

CALLAWAY



Bobcats of the Month

Newsletter



Kamron Johnson

Kamron has shown tremendous growth in his study habits. This has led to completing assignments on time and asking for help. Kamron has learned to separate himself from those that distract him and is exhibiting leadership qualities. With encouragement and support, Kamron is proving that he can perform to his potential and abilities. - Mrs. Leibhart

Jozi Edgington

Jozi is such a talented student and a hard worker. She's currently in an independent self-paced class and Theater Arts. I can always count on her! She does an excellent job with time management. She's been a joy to have in my class for four years! - Mrs. Campbell

Parker Hickenbottom

Parker does a wonderful job in my class. She comes in every day excited to create. She is a talented student who loves to try new things! She's always eager to share with me the exciting art projects she's doing outside of the classroom too. She's a joy to have in class and sets a great example! - Mrs. Campbell

Upcoming Events

- 6:00pm Elementary Holiday Concert - Dec 10th
- 7:00pm 7-12 Holiday Concert - Dec 12th
- No School - Dec 23rd-31st



From The Principal: Mrs. Jesseph

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the month of December. The school year seems to be flying by. We have been keeping busy in the elementary.

In November, our monthly skill was Gratitude. We set a challenge to collect 70 boxes of cereal to donate to the local food pantry. If these boxes were collected they earned the chance to set up and knock down a cereal box domino maze and have a movie party. I am happy to report that we not only met the 70 box challenge but surpassed it with collecting 98 boxes!

We also had a lunch room challenge called the Golden Spatula. Each day grades K-3 competed for the Golden Spatula award. It was awarded to whichever grade demonstrated manners, cleanliness, respect, and appropriate behavior/voice tone. Whichever grade level had the most spatulas collected by the end of the month won a pizza party. It was a close race! The 1st grade class pulled away with 6 spatulas. Students in grades 4-6 worked as one team. They had a goal to receive 13 golden spatulas in the month. They were able to collect their 13 spatulas and will celebrate with a pizza party, too.

December also brings up our winter testing window. Students in grades 3-8 will be taking their NSCAS Growth assessment and grades K-2 will be taking the MAP Growth assessment. The dates of these assessments are unique to each grade level. Your student's classroom teacher will be sending out these dates and times for you. In addition, during the week of December 9th students in grades K-6 will be taking their Acadience DIBELS assessment. This is the assessment we use to track students' ability to read. Ways you can assist your student in receiving their best score is to ensure they get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast that morning. We are so excited and proud of our students and cannot wait to see them shine on these assessments!

In December we get to hold our PK-6 grade music concert. They have been busy practicing to get you in the holiday spirit. The concert will be held on the evening of December 10th starting at 6:00 PM. Students will meet in their designated location and return to their designated location after they perform to be picked up by their adult. Notes were sent home this past month but another one will be coming the week prior to the concert. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to myself or Mr. Beavers.

We really have been blessed this fall with nice weather. However, as we know this will not last forever. The mornings are getting colder and we will be experiencing the brutal cold before we know it. Please be sure to send your student with a coat, gloves, hat, boots, and snowgear (when appropriate). Students are expected to go outside if the windchill temperature is 20 degrees or above. In addition, our doors do not unlock until 7:30. If students are here before 7:30 without prior arrangements for meeting with teachers they will have to wait outside until the doors unlock. Please do not send your students to school prior to 7:30 am. We do not have appropriate supervision which then results in a safety concern.

The 2024-2025 school year so far has been fantastic! A huge part of the success is due to you as parents/guardians valuing your children's education. Attendance is so crucial to the success of students. Our newsletter does include some surprising stats on absences. Please continue to send your child to school regularly. We have made great gains in the past couple of years on our attendance rates. We have great students and supportive families here at CPS.

Thank you for all your support,

Brittany Jesseph
Elementary Principal/Learning Coordinator/SPED Director
bjesseph@callawaypublicschools.org

90%
OF
SUCCESS
IS
SHOWING
UP

IT ALL
STARTS
WITH
ATTENDANCE

Callaway Public Schools

Tue Dec 3, 2024

8am District One Act @ Holdrege

12:40pm FCCLA Officer Meeting

■ 1pm JH Wrestling @ Dunning

Wed Dec 4, 2024

8am Freshman Connecting the Dots @ Ord

12:40pm FCCLA Chapter Meeting

Fri Dec 6, 2024

8am Elementary Bear Bank

■ 10am Wrestling @ Elwood

■ 2pm Girls Wrestling @ Cozad

■ 4pm Basketball @ Callaway vs Twin Loup

Sat Dec 7, 2024

■ 1pm Basketball @ Callaway vs Amherst

Mon Dec 9, 2024

■ 10am JH Wrestling @ Merna

Tue Dec 10, 2024

6pm Elementary Holiday Concert

Wed Dec 11, 2024

2pm Teammate Cookie Decorating

Thu Dec 12, 2024

7pm 7-12th Holiday Concert

Fri Dec 13, 2024

12am 7-12th Holiday Concert

■ 11am Wrestling @ Sargent

■ 4:30pm Basketball @ Cambridge

Sat Dec 14, 2024

■ 10am Girls Wrestling @ Stapleton

■ 10am Wrestling @ AM

Callaway Public Schools

 2pm Basketball @ Pleasanton

Tue Dec 17, 2024

 4:30pm Girls Basketball @ Callaway vs SEM

Thu Dec 19, 2024

 5pm Wrestling Quad @ Ansley

Fri Dec 20, 2024

All day End of Quarter 2

8am Elementary Bear Bank

 1pm Wrestling @ Burwell

 4pm Basketball @ Medicine Valley

Mon Dec 23, 2024

All day No School

Tue Dec 24, 2024

All day No School

Wed Dec 25, 2024

All day No School

Thu Dec 26, 2024

All day No School

Fri Dec 27, 2024

 All day Maxwell Holiday Tournament

All day No School

Sat Dec 28, 2024

 All day Maxwell Holiday Tournament

Mon Dec 30, 2024

All day No School

Tue Dec 31, 2024

All day No School

Helping Children Learn[®]

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Title I-Educational Service Unit 10



December 2024

Practice skills that help students in the upper grades and beyond

In the upper grades of elementary school, students are learning and developing the skills that will help them handle more challenging content and the responsibility for learning it. To reinforce these skills at home, help your child learn to:

- **Manage time.** Recommend productive ways to use small amounts of time. In the 10 minutes before dinner is ready, your child could practice recalling multiplication facts. On the drive to basketball practice, your child could make a supply list for a project.
- **Stay organized.** Emphasize the importance of writing school assignments and events, such as Spirit Week, in a planner, and reviewing it every day. Suggest ways to organize school papers so your child can find them easily, then schedule a weekly school bag and study space tidy-up.
- **Take notes.** Your student can practice this while reading at home. Have your child identify and write down key words and information, then summarize the essential points in the chapter or passage.
- **Think ahead.** Help your child plan and schedule time to complete projects and study for tests. Start by having your child brainstorm lists of everything that will need to be completed. Then together, mark times on the calendar when your child will complete each task.



Exercise strengthens learning ability

Making sure your child gets plenty of daily exercise is important to support learning as well as health. Studies show that adding daily aerobic activities can improve children's impulse control, working memory and mental flexibility. These cognitive abilities all boost school performance.

To raise your child's activity level:

- **Exercise together.** Bundle up and head to the park for a brisk walk on a Sunday afternoon. Or, pretend to be mountaineers and reach and climb on the stairs.
- **Suggest active games** when your child's friends come to play, such as tag, jumping rope, Simon Says or Red Light, Green Light.
- **Pause screen time.** Have your child take fitness breaks when watching TV or videos. How many sit-ups can your child do while an ad plays?
- **Let your child see** that you also exercise daily to stay fit.

Source: T. Ishihara and others, "Baseline Cognitive Performance Moderates the Effects of Physical Activity on Executive Functions in Children," *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, MDPI.

Rally cooperation at home

To foster a willingness to cooperate in your child, try these strategies teachers use to keep a class full of students on task:

- **Add excitement** to ordinary tasks. Put on some music and clean up to the beat.
- **Use silent signals.** Flick the lights on an off to give a five-minute warning before bedtime.
- **Ask your child** to do meaningful tasks that benefit your family.

Make a game of research

Elementary schoolers may be comfortable with computers, but they still need help developing online research skills. Here's a family contest that can make it fun:



- **Choose a famous** person or event from history.
- **Brainstorm key words** together that could make searching for information about the person or event more effective.
- **Give everyone** 15 minutes to search online for interesting facts.
- **Share what you each learned** and vote on the fact that surprised, fascinated or intrigued family members the most.

Unlock geography's secrets

No subject is more "real-world relevant" than geography. To begin to orient your child in geography, talk about direction. Take a local map outside together. Use it to show your child which way is *north, south, east and west*, as well as *northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest*. Then, take turns describing where things in your town are in relation to other things. "The library is *southeast* of the fire station." "My school is *north* of my house."



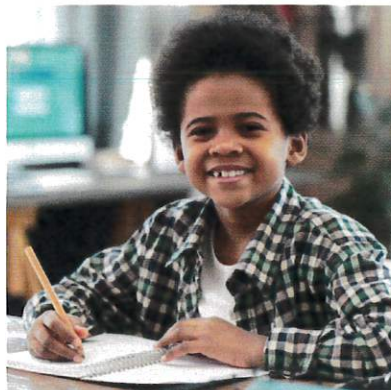


How much help should I be giving with schoolwork?

Q: My child asks me so many questions whenever there's schoolwork to do at home. I'm worried that I help too much. Where should I draw the line?

A: Whether the topic is ancient Greece or the times tables, your child is not only learning facts, but is also learning *how* to learn. To promote both kinds of learning:

- **Make a rule** that your elementary schooler has to *try* every assignment question before asking you questions. Suggest starting with the easiest ones first to boost your child's confidence.
- **Let your child ask for help** when really stuck. Then, keep this goal in mind: Students don't simply need correct answers. They need to learn *how* to figure out what the answers should be.
- **Offer guidance** instead of solutions whenever possible. For example, if your child asks how to spell something, suggest getting out a dictionary. Show your child how to look words up.
- **Review your child's work** together. Don't let your student just hand it to you and walk away. Praise progress and correct work, then address trouble spots by asking questions. "Can you see anything in question four that needs to be fixed?"
- **Contact the teacher** to ask about other ways to support and encourage independent learning.



Are you staying in touch with the school?

Two-way communication between families and schools strengthens the teamwork that helps students succeed. Are you communicating in ways that support your child's learning? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ **1. Have you met** with your child's teacher at least once this year?
- ___ **2. Do you read** the information that the school sends home and ask questions if anything is unclear?
- ___ **3. Do you talk** with your child each day about school and what the class is doing?
- ___ **4. Do you ask** for the teacher's point of view if something your child says concerns you?
- ___ **5. Do you review** your child's schoolwork? If your student

is struggling, do you ask the teacher how to help?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are working with the school to help your child learn. For each no, try that idea.

"In many ways, effective communication begins with mutual respect, communication that inspires, encourages others to do their best."
—Zig Ziglar

Clowning isn't really funny

Constantly disrupting class with jokes, silliness and body sounds can negatively affect students' learning and relationships with classmates. If your child is clowning around:

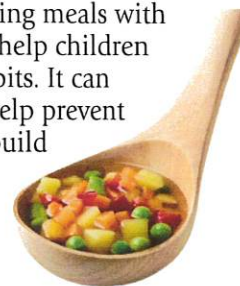
- **Look for the reason.** Sometimes kids want attention or to impress other kids. Or, they may want to cover up academic shortcomings.
- **Talk with the teacher** about what may help. A child who needs help settling down after recess might be assigned to hand out worksheets, for example.
- **Talk with your child** about when it's OK to be silly and when being funny is actually being disrespectful.

Source: L.A. Barnett, "The Education of Playful Boys: Class Clowns in the Classroom," *Frontiers in Psychology*, Frontiers.

Family meals feed success

Research shows that eating meals with family does more than help children learn healthy eating habits. It can also relieve stress and help prevent mental disorders, and build communication skills.

To maximize results, turn off distracting digital devices. Include your child in mealtime conversation and avoid arguing or criticizing. It's OK to be flexible about which meals to enjoy together, but try to gather around the table at least a few times a week.



Source: E.J. Curran, "Science-Based Benefits of Family Mealtime," *Parents*.

Offer a daily morale boost

Children who succeed in school believe in themselves. They know their families believe in them, too. Each day, praise at least one thing your child has done well. Talk about what your elementary schooler did to achieve a positive outcome. And try to forget at least one of your child's mistakes.

Helping Children Learn®

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DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Breakfast Burritos Pulled Pork Nachos	3 Biscuits & Gravy Popcorn Chicken Bowls	4 Bacon & Eggs Pizza	5 Pancake on a Stick Taverns	6 Grab & Go Tacos	7
8	9 Tornados Sliders	10 Breakfast Bars Beef & Noodles	11 Long Johns Pig in a blanket	12 French Toast Sticks Spaghetti	13 Grab & Go Fajitas	14
15	16 Sausage Tri-tators Chicken Strips	17 Breakfast Sandwich Chili	18 Breakfast Pizza Meatballs	19 Tornados Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta	20 Grab & Go Walking Tacos	21
22	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School
29	30 No School	31 No School				

BREAKFAST
INCLUDES:
MILK, JUICE, OR
FRUIT AND MAIN
BREAKFAST ITEM.
BREAKFAST WILL
NOT BE SERVED
ON 10:00
STARTS.

Breakfast: \$2.40
Lunch: \$2.85
7-12: \$3.00
Adults: \$4.15
Extra Milk: \$.40
Seconds: \$.75
Extra Juice: \$.35

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Lunch Includes: Veggie/Fruit Bar and Milk

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOXHOLDER
The Bobcat
Callaway Public Schools
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101 N. Needham
Callaway, NE 68825
Phone: 308-836-2273

Website: callawaypublicschools.org

Beef Donations

Elementary Bear's Bank

Dates

12/6	1/31	3/21
12/20	2/21	4/4
1/17	3/7	4/25

Help us keep REAL BEEF in our school! We are looking for local donations of beef for our school lunch program. Can you help? If so, please contact the school office for more information. We also accept monetary donations to help pay for processing cost for the animals that are donated. All donations, no matter how big or small, are welcomed and appreciated!!