

CALLAWAY



Superintendent Corner

Newsletter

February is the shortest month for almost every profession in the world, but in education February can seem to drag on forever. I actually heard someone say the other day that it was January 45th. Schools have sickness circulating, activities keep kids scrambling to stay caught up, and the lovely Nebraska weather can lead to seasonal depression. During this time of the year, more than any other, it is imperative to look for the good in the world around you.

So I would call the month's message "Why Callaway?" With current legislation giving parents more and more control over their child's education and school choice, I think "Why Callaway?" may be the most important question.

I love small schools for many reasons, but the most important reason is our ability to serve individual student needs and cater the educational experience. We serve a wide spectrum of students with varying abilities and strengths. An example of what happens at Callaway that you won't find at most schools...around Thanksgiving I had a couple of our strongest students come to me and ask if they could take an advanced science course. They are both going into science related fields when they go to college and wanted to strengthen their foundation. We discussed which options they would be interested in. It came down to astronomy and robotics and the kids chose robotics. We got the necessary supplies for them to put together a VEX V5 robot and they are now working with some engineering and simple programming. The kids are excited every day to try a new sensor or to program a new task. In many schools challenging your top end kids is hard. They are so successful at your regular tract that you don't realize the need. But, at Callaway, we want to give our best and brightest kids a unique experience that challenges them. It is our goal that when they leave here they feel like graduating from Callaway is special and different than anywhere else.

Another example of what makes Callaway school so amazing...I have heard the expression "slip through the cracks" when talking about a student's school experience. At Callaway we don't have kids slip through the cracks because our teachers make sure there are no cracks to slip through. I realize this is a bold statement and many of the people who read this may disagree, but I think this example proves my point. Teachers connecting with their students, building relationships with their students, and truly knowing who their students are is the key. Recently, we had a young man who is obsessed with hockey. He tracks his favorite teams and players and his teacher encourages him to share his passion. Our teacher took it upon herself to line up the ultimate hockey experience for her student. She got tickets to a game in Kearney which is great, but only the tip of the iceberg. She also reached out to the team coach and they planned a special evening. Our student got to meet the players, he got a jersey with his name on it. He got gloves, a stick, and a couple pucks. Upon returning to school he said, "It was the best day of my life." To see a teacher literally breathe life into her students is awesome, and I don't mean the oh wow I just poured out three of my favorite flavor of skittles kind of awesome, I mean the clouds break free and the angels sing kind of awesome.

So, "Why Callaway," it's just different, it's just better. It should be no shock that a community with caring generous people would have a teaching staff of caring generous people. I couldn't be prouder of the work I see our teachers putting in or the young men and women we are producing here in Callaway.

That's "Why Callaway!"

CALLAWAY



Bobcats of the Month

Newsletter



Lane Hogg

I would like to nominate Lane Hogg for bobcat of the month. Lane is always enthusiastic in class and works hard to do his best. Everytime I ask Lane to do something he volunteers immediately without question. - Mr. Ellis

Erin Fitzgerald

Erin is always willing to help other students when needed. She always works hard and does her best. - Miss Mowrey

Roakker Morrison

Roakker is having a great year. I am so proud of him and all of his hard work at preschool. - Mrs. Hickenbottom

MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Tornados Hamburger Potato Casserole	4 Breakfast Burrito Pizza Burger	5 Cinnamon Roll Fish Sticks	6 Breakfast Bars Popcorn Chicken	7 Grab & Go Potato Bar	8
9	10 Cinni Minni Cavatini	11 Breakfast Sandwich Sweet & Sour Chicken	12 Grab & Go Hamburgers	13 No School	14 No School	15
16	17 Sausage & Tritators Reuben Sandwich	18 Long Johns Pig in a blanket	19 Biscuits & Gravy BBQ Chicken legs	20 Tornados Breakfast for lunch	21 Grab & Go Tuna Noodle Casserole	22
23	24 French Toast Sticks Beef & Cheddar	25 Pancake Sandwich Popcorn Chicken Bowls	26 Grab & Go Tacos	27 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Alfredo	28 Grab & Go Pizza	29
30	31 Breakfast Bars Chicken Fajitas	1 Long Johns Meatballs	2 Breakfast Sandwich Chicken Sandwich	3 Breakfast Burritos Taverns	4 Grab & Go Nacho Bar	5

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

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Helping Students Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

Title I-Educational Service Unit 10

HIGH SCHOOL



April 2025

Reinforce the value of learning and help your teen apply skills

Doing assignments reinforces subject matter in your teen's mind. In the same way, regularly engaging in learning activities at home reinforces that learning is important, useful and can be done anywhere!

To create frequent learning opportunities for your teen:

- **Show interest** in what your teen is learning in school. Ask to hear more about a concept, or have your teen show you how to solve a math or science problem.
- **Ask your teen to research** and explore. For example, whenever questions come up during family conversations, have your teen look up answers in credible sources. Or, ask your student to collect information about interesting places within driving distance for your family to visit.
- **Discuss the jobs** people do in businesses you visit together. Talk about the education needed for those jobs, but keep the conversation casual.
- **Choose some projects** to do as a family that involve math skills, such as building bookshelves, planting a garden or painting a room. Have your teen figure out how much wood, mulch or paint you'll need.
- **Talk about current events.** Many teens have strong opinions about what's going on in the world. Ask, "What do you think, and what makes you think that?" Listen respectfully and thank your teen for sharing—whether you agree or not.



Promote math and science

Many teens avoid taking the high school science and math classes necessary to prepare for jobs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. But taking these classes can increase your teen's future options. Discuss these facts together:

- **STEM job numbers are increasing** faster than jobs in other areas.
- **People in STEM careers** have higher employment rates than other people.
- **More than half** of people in STEM jobs got them without a bachelor's degree.

Source: "The STEM Labor Force: Scientists, Engineers, and Skilled Technical Workers," National Science Foundation, National Science Board.

Suggest self-talk to relax

High school students face many potentially stressful situations—taking a test that counts for a big part of a class grade, guarding the goal in an important game, etc. To help your teen take these events in stride, suggest inwardly repeating positive phrases like, "I've practiced this hundreds of times. I know how to do it."



Put spare minutes to work

One key to managing time effectively is to use it all—even the few spare minutes between other activities that teens often spend scrolling online. Remind your teen that 10 minutes is enough time to:

- **Skim a chapter** of assigned reading.
- **Solve a math** problem or two.
- **Make flash cards** of terms to know in the next science unit.
- **Find a source** for an upcoming paper or project.
- **Review today's class notes** and write down questions to ask the teacher.



Overcome common homework hurdles

If your teen is struggling with homework, you may both be frustrated. But doing the work yourself or letting your student skip it isn't the answer.

Instead, address common homework obstacles. If your student:

- **Is not completing** or turning in assignments, make it clear that isn't OK. Then, review organization strategies like using a planner and making daily to-do lists.
- **Doesn't care** about schoolwork, point out the connections between what your teen is learning and the world outside school.
- **Also, say that schoolwork must come before other activities.**
- **Doesn't understand** the directions, encourage your teen to review assignments before leaving class and clarify with the teacher.
- **Has too much work,** ask how your teen is doing in class. If your teen is doing fine, the workload is probably right. If not, your teen should ask the teacher for help.



My teen never tells me anything. What should I do?

Q: I want to be the one my 11th grader turns to with questions and problems. But I feel shut out. I know junior year can be challenging, and so can growing up. How can I get my teen to open up?

A: It's common for teens to want to keep their parents at a distance. But you are right that open communication between you will help you know what your teen is dealing with so you can offer effective support.

To encourage two-way communication:

- **Start with questions.** Ask your teen: "Do you feel you can talk to me about topics that are important to you?" If the answer is *no*, ask, "How can I change that?"
- **Bring up a topic.** You might say, "I'd like to talk with you about _____. Can we talk tonight?" This gives your teen a chance to prepare or suggest another time that would feel more comfortable.
- **Concentrate on listening.** Allow your teen plenty of time to express thoughts and opinions. Ask open-ended questions. "What helps when things aren't going well?" If what you hear upsets you, delay responding until you are calm.
- **Brainstorm together** about how to address issues. Show your teen that talking to you can make life easier.



Are you reducing peer pressure's power?

Fitting in with peers is important to teens—and it can sometimes cloud their judgment. Are you preparing your teen to resist negative peer pressure? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

___ **1. Do you encourage** your teen to take pride in personal traits and achievements?

___ **2. Do you reinforce** your teen's individuality, and avoid speaking for your teen?

___ **3. Do you emphasize** that your teen is worthy of both self-respect and respect from others?

___ **4. Do you suggest** positive activities where your teen can meet peers with shared interests?

___ **5. Do you role-play** ways your teen can say *no*?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your teen stand strong against peer pressure. For each no, try that idea.

"Your self-worth is determined by you. You don't have to depend on someone to tell you who you are."

—Beyoncé

Talk about what you expect

The expectations you express for your teen's academic achievement matter. Research shows that:

- **Teens strive to reach** their families' high (but still realistic) expectations.
- **Teens' expectations** for themselves begin to match their families' expectations, whether positive or negative.

Express your expectation that your teen will work hard in school, do well and graduate. Ask about your teen's expectations, and talk about the paths for achieving them.

Source: J.M. Froiland and M.L. Davison, "Parental expectations and school relationships as contributors to adolescents' positive outcomes," *Social Psychology of Education*, Springer.

Offer tips for group projects

Group projects teach students how to work as part of a team—a valuable workplace skill. Share these success tips:



- **Divide tasks** according to people's strengths. Members will be better able to explain their part to the rest of the group.
- **Be professional.** Schedule meetings and due dates—and stick to them.

Ask your teen to think

Real learning happens when students think about the material. To encourage this, ask your teen questions that require thought. Here are some to ask about these subjects:

- **History:** *Who or what put these events in motion? Do the events remind you of anything happening today?*
- **Math and science:** *What was new to you in this unit? How does it relate to what you already know?*
- **Literature:** *What motivates the main characters? What would you do in a similar situation?*

Helping Students Learn®

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Callaway Public Schools

Sat Mar 1, 2025

8am Speech @ Holdrege

Tue Mar 4, 2025

12:40pm FCCLA Officer Meeting

5:30pm Family Engagement Night

Thu Mar 6, 2025

8am FCCLA Pizza Sales

10:30am Donuts with Dudes - Preschool

12:15pm Donuts with Dudes - Preschool

12:40pm FCCLA Chapter Meeting

Fri Mar 7, 2025

8am Elementary Bear Bank

Sat Mar 8, 2025

8am Speech @ Maxwell

Mon Mar 10, 2025

8am MNAC Speech @ Dunning

Tue Mar 11, 2025

6:30pm Night of Speech

Wed Mar 12, 2025

All day End of Quarter 3

2:40pm Dismissal

Thu Mar 13, 2025

All day No School

Fri Mar 14, 2025

All day No School

Tue Mar 18, 2025

8am District Speech @ Grand Island Central Catholic

Thu Mar 20, 2025

8am 11 grades College Visit - Hastings

Callaway Public Schools

Fri Mar 21, 2025

8am Elementary Bear Bank

8am MNAC Quiz Bowl @ Tryon

Sat Mar 22, 2025

11am UNK Indoor Track Meet

Mon Mar 24, 2025

8am ESU HS Quiz Bow @ Kearney

Tue Mar 25, 2025

8am ACT and PreACT

1:10pm Guest Speaker - Mandy Munson

Wed Mar 26, 2025

10:15am Spanish II - Literacy Test

2:40pm Dismissal - PD

Thu Mar 27, 2025

11am Track @ Loup City

Fri Mar 28, 2025

8am State Speech @ UNK

Sat Mar 29, 2025

All day Prom

Mon Mar 31, 2025

10am JV Golf @ Stapleton

BOXHOLDER
The Bobcat
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Upcoming Events

Elementary Bear's Bank

Dates

3/7	3/21
4/4	4/25

- **March 12 - 2:40 Dismissal**
- **March 13 - No School**
- **March 14 - No School**
- **March 26 - 2:40 Dismissal**