

Callaway Public Schools

"Creating Positive Stories"

PO Box 280
101 N Needham
Callaway, NE 68825

Phone: 308-836-2272
Fax: 308-836-2771
www.callawaypublicschools.org

August 26, 2025

Superintendent's Corner

It is almost "Game Time!" By the time you read this article we will have already had a couple of varsity contests to start the year. In this month's Superintendent's Corner I am going to share a little bit of my philosophy about being an interscholastic activity fan. I have been a lover of sports for as long as I can remember and I have had the opportunity to play, coach, and cheer for both winning and losing teams. If you have read this far I am sure you are thinking that we are going to retrace every ra-ra talk about sportsmanship you have ever heard. While I do think sportsmanship is very important that is not the direction I am really heading.

Being involved in activities and specifically sports activities has been touted as the way to learn confidence, teamwork, work ethic, humility, grit, etc. The list truly goes on and on. Unfortunately, I have seen in too many cases that this isn't an automatic with team sports. I think there are as many kids who have negative sports experiences as there are with positive ones. So what are the essentials to having this transformational sports experience. You might be surprised but it isn't winning that is the deciding factor. No one is going to argue that winning is more fun than losing, but there are plenty of kids on winning teams that struggle to learn the essential lessons sports is supposed to be teaching them.

There are a couple of foundational tenants that are essential to the sports experience. The first is the kids level of care. A student athlete must be emotionally invested in the sport they are participating in. Two essential emotions to building character are only truly felt if you care. True joy and real pain. Pain can come in many forms. Missing the big shot, not having your name announced as a starter, not getting your varsity uniform after all of your hard work, etc. When you are truly invested these experiences hurt badly. As parents we want to come to the rescue, but sometimes our intervention actually hinders the growth opportunity. How a student responds in tough situations now are the building blocks for how they will handle adversity down the road. We have to let kids feel the pain, handle the pain, and grow from the pain. It is incredibly hard as a parent to support without solving and care for without defending. Just remember that we can either make our kids stronger or we can protect them longer. The other foundational emotion is true joy. Kids have to experience the rush of the winning goal. The pride of being chosen. This feeling is the fuel that motivates student athletes to put forth their best efforts. All the lessons of sport are based on the contestant trying their absolute hardest in pursuit of the goal. As I have said I have been on the winning and losing end of games in Memorial stadium, I have held the ladder for kids to cut down the nets at conference or district basketball, but the same joy you see at the pinnacle of success you see in the faces and celebrations of the team that wins its first game of the season at the end of said season. Joy is there to capture in every team and in every sport.

The next foundational tenant for kids to learn the lessons that sport has to offer is trusted, invested, capable adults who truly understand that relationship building is the keystone to transformational experience. There is a coaching theory called 4-D coaching that explains the role of a coach very well. In the first dimension, when there is no relationship between the

Callaway Public Schools

"Creating Positive Stories"

PO Box 280
101 N Needham
Callaway, NE 68825

Phone: 308-836-2272
Fax: 308-836-2771
www.callawaypublicschools.org

athlete and the coach the coach focuses on teaching conditioning. Physical condition is like the foundation for the house and must be established for the next levels. As you work through the different dimensions of coaching the relationship of the athlete and coach continue to evolve. In the second level the coach teaches the athlete the skills of the sport. The competitor must have the fundamentals of their sport in order to be successful, but it is only the second step in the pursuit of potential. Dimension three is for the coach to teach the athletes brain. The athlete should understand the why's of scheme and play design. They should understand game and time situations, they should understand the strengths and weaknesses of their teammates, and they should understand their own limitations. Most coaches are usually stuck at one of the first three levels of 4-D coaching and we feel pretty lucky if our kids have a coach who is operating in level three. What we actually desire is the coach in level 4 who is coaching the soul/spirit of the athlete. Every now and then we get to work with or for a coach who truly helps to mold the character of a young athlete. They teach virtue, work ethic, leadership, and most importantly they teach the athlete how to maximize the impact they have in the world around them. As a high school athlete I was incredibly lucky to have a couple of coaches who epitomized the four dimensions of coaching and I believe I am who I am today because of them.

So, as we buckle up for a great year of Bobcat activities what part do we play in our kids' experience? We should celebrate the joys as they happen. We should suffer with them without rushing to minimize or eliminate the pain. And we should be thankful for the adults who coach and care deeply for our kids and their experiences. Even when they have to make decisions that we don't agree with.



Bobcats of the Month



Cruz Mason

I nominated Cruz because I needed help to lead us for the parade at the State Fair. I asked him to switch instruments. He did and has been a great show of character in our group. I am very proud of him. - Mr. Beavers

Fiona Trout

Fiona has worked hard and been a kind classmate. Her reading has taken off and she is up for any task! - Mrs. Brogan



Freyja Nicholas

Freyja has been an awesome addition to second grade. She is willing to work hard at all times. Freyja is willing to ask questions when she does not know the answer. Way to work hard! - Mrs. Anderson





Principal Update

All Callaway Public School personnel are interested in having good public relations with the residents of our school district. We are willing to visit with people whenever they contact us with questions because we want everyone to have correct information. The only exception to patrons receiving complete answers would be when there are confidentiality concerns or comments might be injurious to someone's reputation, in which case we would have to decline to comment on that situation.

When you have questions, comments, concerns or complaints, please contact the people at the school who are responsible for those areas. By doing this as events occur, the question will be answered without becoming a large problem that is more difficult to solve. You will be treated in a courteous manner whenever you make an inquiry. The reception will be pleasant and the discussion will be conducted in a professional way, even if there is a disagreement.

Questions

1. Your child's school work
2. Discipline
3. Bus Routes/Bus Times
4. Class Schedules
5. Athletics
6. Health Problems
7. School Regulations
8. School Board Policies
9. School Absences
10. Lunch Account/Bills
11. Other Bills

People to Contact

1. Teacher and then the Counselor or Principal
2. Teacher and then the Principal
3. Secretary then the Transportation Director
4. Counselor then Principal
5. Coach and then A.D.
6. Counselor and then the Principal
7. Principal
8. Superintendent
9. Secretary then the Principal
10. Secretary
11. Bookkeeper then the Superintendent

Happy September!

The summer has come and gone, and we are starting the new school year. With the new year, we have quite a few new faces. We extend a warm welcome to you and your families! Thank you for joining our CPS family! Here are a few things to know about our school community:

- We strive to work as a team. There are many students and teachers willing to help whenever a need arises. If you need anything, feel free to ask!
- We are small, but mighty. There may not be many of us, but we hold our own and we leave our mark.
- CPS: Creating Positive Stories. At Callaway Public Schools, the stories that we create are important to us. If they can be made anything, we work to make it **positive**. School is where most students spend their time from August to May. What we do as a school and community is important to the well being of our students.
- We strive for excellence. Of course, not everything is perfect but we try to be the best that we can be for our students and our community.
- Callaway is a place that you can call home. We are welcoming to all students no matter their background. We want to make everyone feel welcome and like they belong.
- There is always room for improvement. We are constantly learning and improving how we teach our students.

As a new teacher myself, I have had the room to both fail and grow in teaching. This is a place that accepts the unknown and builds from the familiar. There are teachers and students from many different backgrounds that come together to create a unique environment for our students.

We are so happy to have you here and look forward to the future!

Welcome back and we are up and running. We had a very busy summer. We had many projects to help make the school more NCO (Neat.Clean.Organized). Some of the projects that were tackled by our amazing summer staff. Here is a list of some of the projects that were accomplished over the summer. The area behind the learning center was organized and cleaned out of items that were not being used or would be used. The awards were relocated to areas that fit the content area they were won. The new banners were created for the gym and Learning Center. Along with the back stage, the bus barn was cleaned out and organized to make the space easier to use. The halls outside of the locker rooms had their flooring replaced and are no longer carpet but a new flooring. The Pre-K bathroom and kitchen also had their flooring upgraded. Mr. Hrupek took many hours cleaning and repainting his room to give it a clean aesthetic. Lastly, the kitchen and the percussion studio had new racks for storage installed to make the spaces easier to access and to better use the space. We are very thankful for our summer staff who helped make the school shine and ready for our learners this year.

Sincerely,
Newsletter Staff

September

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

1 No School	2 B - Waffles L - Pigs in a Blanket	3 B - Biscuits & Gravy L - Sweet & Sour Chicken	4 B - French Toast Sticks L - Hamburger Potato Casserole	5 B - Grab & Go L - Meatball Subs
8 B - Sausage & Tritator L - Beef & Cheddars	9 B - Breakfast Sandwich L - Barbecue Weenie Hot Dogs	10 B - Cinnamon Rolls L - Taverns	11 B - Tornadoes L - Lasagna	12 B - Grab & Go L - Chicken Nuggets
15 B - Breakfast Bars L - Pizza Burger	16 B - Breakfast Pigs in a Blanket L - Chicken Wings	17 B - Grab & Go L - Sack Lunch	18 B - Long Johns L - Cavatini	19 B - Grab & Go L - Potato Bar
22 B - Breakfast Burrito L - Mini Corn Dogs	23 B - Tornadoes L - Stromboli	24 B - Pancake on A Stick L - Chicken Strips	25 B - Grab & Go L - Tortellini	26 No School
29 B - Bacon & Eggs L - Pizza Sticks	30 B - Long Johns L - Enchiladas	1 B - Breakfast Sandwich L - Chicken & Grave on a Biscuit	2 B - Biscuits & Gravy L - Popcorn Chicken	3 B - Grab & Go L - Nacho Bar

Breakfast Includes: Milk, Juice,

OR Fruit and main Breakfast

Item Breakfast will not be served on 10:00am Starts

Extra Milk: \$.45

Seconds: \$.80

Extra Juice: \$.40

Breakfast: \$2.50

Lunch: \$2.95

7-12: \$3.10

Adults: \$4.25

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Lunch Includes: Veggies/Fruit Bar and Milk

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

September Calendar at a Glance

Monday Sep 1, 2025 All Day No School Labor Day
Tuesday Sep 2, 2025 12:41 PM FCCLA Officer Meeting @ Lunch
Tuesday Sep 2, 2025 5:30PM Volleyball @ Arnold Vs. Mullen/AM
Thursday Sep 4, 2025 12:41 PM FCCLA Officer Meeting @ Lunch
Thursday Sep 4, 2025 9AM SH & JH Cross Country @ Cozad
Friday Sep 5, 2025 8AM Bear Bank
Friday Sep 5, 2025 2:30 PM Football @ Callaway Vs. Hi-Line
Friday Sep 5, 2025 4PM Volleyball @ Callaway Vs. Hi-Line
Monday Sep 8, 2025 6PM Volleyball @ Arnold Vs. Ainsworth
Wednesday Sep 10, 2025 8AM FFA @ Husker Harvest Days
Thursday Sep 11, 2025 8AM Senior College Fair @ North Platte
Thursday Sep 11, 2025 6PM Volleyball @ Gothenburg
Friday Sep 12, 2025 3:30PM Football @ Grant Vs. Perkins County
Saturday Sep 13, 2025 9AM SH & JH Cross Country @ Broken Bow
Saturday Sep 13, 2025 9:30 AM Seven Valley Volleyball Tournament
Monday Sep 15, 2025 2:30PM JH Volleyball @ Merna
Monday Sep 15, 2025 4:30PM JH Football @ Merna
Monday Sep 15, 2025 4:30PM JV Volleyball @ Merna
Tuesday Sep 16, 2025 6PM Volleyball @ Callaway Vs. Bertrand/Brady
Wednesday Sep 17, 2025 1:30PM Dismissal
Thursday Sep 18, 2025 4PM Cross Country @ Ravenna
Friday Sep 19, 2025 Homecoming
Friday Sep 19, 2025 8AM Bear Band
Friday Sep 19, 2025 7PM Football @ Arnold Vs. Sandhills Valley
Monday Sep 22, 2025 4:30PM JH Football @ Callaway Vs. Ravenna
Monday Sep 22, 2025 6PM JV Football @ Callaway Vs. Ravenna
Tuesday Sep 23, 2025 6PM Volleyball @ Merna Vs. AM/Elm Creek
Thursday Sep 25, 2025 1:30PM Dismissal
Thursday Sep 25, 2025 2PM Parent Teacher Conferences
Thursday Sep 25, 2025 6PM Financial Aid Night - Parents/Seniors
Friday Sep 26, 2025 No School
Friday Sep 26, 2025 2PM Football @ Arnold Vs. West Holt
Saturday Sep 27, 2025 10 AM Volleyball Tournament @ Sutherland
Monday Sep 29, 2025 2:30PM Cross Country @ UNK
Monday Sep 29, 2025 2:30PM JH Volleyball @ Sargent
Monday Sep 29, 2025 4:30PM JH Football @ Sargent Vs. Twin Loup
Monday Sep 29, 2025 4:30PM JV Volleyball @ Sargent Vs. Twin Loup
Monday Sep 29, 2025 6PM JV Football @ Sargent Vs. Twin Loup
Tuesday Sep 30, 2025 12:41PM FCCLA Officer Meeting @ Lunch
Tuesday Sep 30, 2025 8:10AM 10th-11th Grade Merryman Performance Center
Tuesday Sep 30, 2025 Volleyball @ Callaway Vs. Ansley-Litchfield



YEARBOOK

**You can still order past years and pre order
this years.**

2023- 2024

2024-2025



2025-2026



RESPECT

Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL
People

Respect Overview

This month's focus is Respect. One way to think about Respect is "seeing value in all people and things & treating them with care." Many people feel Respected in different ways. We hope this month inspires discussions with your family about what Respect means to you and how you can practice it together!

Respect is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Kind**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

Conversation Starters

- Can you share or show what Respect means?
- What is 1 way you have practiced Respect lately?

PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Respect. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

#1

A fun way to remind students to show Respect to others is to create a non-verbal cue. As a family, come up with a non-verbal way to cue your student to remember to show Respect to others. An example of this would be anytime you raise the "Respect Rooster" on your hand by closing the middle 2 fingers and bringing your pointer finger and pinky finger up, your student would be reminded to practice living out Respect.

#2

Review Respect as a family! In our lessons we are teaching that Respect means to see value in people and things and treat them with care. Agree as a family to set aside a certain time each day this week to unplug from devices and plug into family time. It shows Respect to practice being present in the moment without the distractions that can come from technology. Debrief and discuss this challenge afterward. Consider to embracing this practice at least 1 day each week!



Dear Family,

We are thankful for you being part of our school community! The world is changing quickly and we want to do everything we can to help students be successful in school and life.

We are excited to tell you that we will be using a program called PurposeFull People this year. This program teaches skills that will help students be successful in school and in life.

We believe that students should have safe, predictable places to learn where they feel included. Students should have healthy and helpful connections with teachers and classmates. They should also experience learning that will help them tackle challenges inside and outside of school. PurposeFullPeople is more than a set of lessons - it is a partnership between schools and families to create a place where students feel like they belong and learn skills that will help them be the best they can be!

Purposefull People has three main goals for students: Be Kind, Be Strong, and Be Well.

- **Be Kind:** Social skills like listening, friendship, solving conflicts, and leadership.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Empathy, Respect, & Cooperation**
- **Be Strong:** Skills that help students focus, stay organized, and set goals.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Responsibility, Courage, & Perseverance**
- **Be Well:** Skills that help students handle their emotions and deal with stress.
 - These skills are taught alongside **Gratitude, Honesty, & Creativity**

This year, you'll be invited to join the fun! We will send letters home about the skills and strengths being taught each month. Each letter will include some ways to build these skills at home, discussion starters, and fun challenges you can try with your family.

The path forward is full of growth! We cannot wait to partner with you in this work...

- To teach students how to build strong friendships
- To work together to solve problems, big and small
- To grow skills for life
- To become PurposeFull People

With Gratitude,

Karen Weverka





BOOSTER CLUB



CALLAWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Callaway Booster Club is a nonprofit organization, consisting of parents, grandparents, alumni, community members, businesses, and school personnel. The Booster Club has been supporting our students for over 25 years.

Our Booster Club Supports all aspect of our Callaway students through raising funds and coordinating events.

The Booster Club is dedicated to fundraising, to support all Callaway Students Pre-K through 12th grade. We need your support, so the Booster Club can continue to make financial contributions to our Callaway Students. Please join today!! Your membership is valid for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please fill out the following and return with money!! Thanks for your support!!
Callaway Booster Club, PO Box 281, Callaway, NE 68825

- *FIELD TRIPS
- *BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT
- *TEACHER APPRECIATION
- *YOUTH BASKETBALL,
WRESTLING & VOLLEYBALL
- *TRUNK OR TREAT
- *HOMECOMING FOOD
- *FUND GRADUATION DECORATIONS
- *ICE CREAM MACHINE AT SCHOOL
- *ONE ACT STAGE
- *WEIGHT ROOM
- EQUIPMENT & PROTEIN SNACKS
- *STUDENT SNACKS FOR DISTRICT &
STATE EVENTS
- *SPONSORED KIDS ON
WASHINGTON DC & FCCLA NATIONAL
TRIPS
- *SPONSORED AUTHOR
VISIT AT SCHOOL
- *BAND ROOM INSTRUMENTS
- *Comfort dog Laney, in the 2024/2025
school year as a student support
initiative
- *2025 Elementary Inflatable Day,
celebrating improved test scores

Membership Levels

\$15-49- Bronze Booster Member

\$50-99- Silver Booster Member

\$100-up- Gold Booster Member

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

Board members are:

President: Rhonda Pandorf, 308.325.4493

Vice President: MaKayla Doggett, 308.636.8595

Secretary: Roni Boeser, 308.636.8947

Treasurer: Erin Reiff, 308.289.3060

School Representative: Jenn Hickenbottom

Helping Students Learn®

HIGH SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

Title I-Educational Service Unit 10



September 2025

Talk about school in ways that promote meaningful learning

Grades are one measure of how your teen is doing in school. But when it comes to preparing for life after graduation, it is the learning your student is doing that really matters. Encourage your teen to put effort into learning this year by showing interest in the topics and concepts your teen is studying.

Ask your high schooler about:

- **Reading assignments.** What questions do they raise? Can your teen think of ways the reading connects to previously learned material? Can your student relate to the fictional characters or the issues they face?
- **Successes.** How did your teen handle the most difficult problem on the recent math assignment? How did it feel to finish all the steps involved in that big history presentation?
- **Thoughts about tests.** Was a recent test an effective way to measure how much your teen has learned? Would your teen do anything differently to prepare for the next test?
- **Experiences** that have added to your teen's understanding of a complex situation. How has new information shaped your teen's perspective?

Questions like these show what your teen is learning and thinking is important to you—and that education is about more than test scores and grades.



Discuss responsible learning

Does your teen know what taking responsibility for learning involves? To make it clear:

- **Talk about the link** between *effort* and *outcome*. Your teen's best effort will lead to longer term learning than an easy A.
- **Have your teen create** routines for completing schoolwork. Express confidence in your student's ability to get things done independently.

Suggest a quality review

Doing a quick review before turning in assignments can help your student improve work quality. Suggest that your teen ask and answer these five questions:



1. **Does this meet** all the expectations my teacher laid out?
2. **Is there anything** I can improve?
3. **Have I checked** for careless errors?
4. **Have I given credit** to my sources?
5. **What have I learned** from this assignment? Is it reflected in my work?

Offer reading motivation

Helping teens find interesting books to choose from can go a long way toward motivating them to read. Help your teen:



- **Consider mood.** A sad novel may not appeal if your teen needs a good laugh.
- **Look at book lists.** Many bookstores and literacy organizations compile lists of books that are popular among teens.
- **Build on winners.** A teen who has enjoyed a book could look for other works by the same author. One book on history may lead your student to a book with a different point of view.



Have an answer for attendance excuses

For generations, students have been full of excuses for why they should be allowed to stay home from school. But regular attendance—in every class, every day—drives academic achievement.

Here's how to respond if your teen serves up one of these common excuses for getting out of school:

- **"I feel sick."** Ask your teen to describe the symptoms, and then follow school health protocols. If the symptoms are vague, invisible and your teen does not have a fever, it's time for school.
- **"My grade has the day off today."** If this could be possible, call the school to make sure.

- **"I have a project due** this afternoon that I need to finish." Tell your teen that it is not OK to skip classes to do work for another class. Then, help your student plan time to complete future projects ahead of schedule.
- **"I need to rest** before the big game." Classes come before sports. Big events are no exception.

Source: L. Bauer, "School attendance: A building block of student achievement," Brookings.

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help students
do well in school*

Title I-Educational Service Unit 10



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September 2025

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Students Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- ☐ 1. Give your child a calendar to use to keep track of assignment due dates, activities and school events.
- ☐ 2. Help your child decide how to organize notebooks and folders to make finding handouts, schoolwork and tests easier.
- ☐ 3. School attendance is important. Let your child stay home only in cases of illness or emergency.
- ☐ 4. Help your child find an extracurricular activity at school. Participating increases students' feelings of belonging.
- ☐ 5. Ask who your child sees as role models, and why.
- ☐ 6. Start a file to keep important information the school sends home.
- ☐ 7. Establish a schoolbag clean out time on Sundays. Your child will start the week organized.
- ☐ 8. Tell your child, "I care more that you *do* your best than that you *be* the best."
- ☐ 9. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps your student will take to reach it and post the plan in a visible spot.
- ☐ 10. Share an article, comic or meme you think your child will enjoy.
- ☐ 11. Talk with your middle schooler about a time when your values helped you make a decision.
- ☐ 12. Help your child set priorities when doing schoolwork. Which assignment is most important? Due first? Most difficult?
- ☐ 13. Enjoy a fitness activity with your child today.
- ☐ 14. Bake cookies together. Review math skills by doubling the recipe.
- ☐ 15. Ask your child to tell you about one of this year's teachers.
- ☐ 16. Notice and talk about the positive qualities of your child's friends.
- ☐ 17. Set a minimum study time for your child on weeknights. This can prevent rushing through assignments.
- ☐ 18. Encourage your child to review class notes every day while the material is still fresh in mind.
- ☐ 19. Plan a weekend family activity. Let your child invite a friend.
- ☐ 20. Is your child's room messy? Set the timer for a 15-minute pickup blitz before weekend activities begin.
- ☐ 21. Establish a routine of weekly family meetings. Talk about family news, challenges and goals. Celebrate successes.
- ☐ 22. Talk to your child about ways to stop bullying. Kids who are bullied and those who bully are at risk for poor school performance.
- ☐ 23. Go for a walk as a family and look for seasonal changes.
- ☐ 24. Call out some words from the dictionary during dinner. Challenge family members to spell them.
- ☐ 25. Talk with your child about honesty and why it is important, in school and in life. Discuss examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- ☐ 26. Be sure your child knows that your rules apply even when your child is at a friend's house.
- ☐ 27. Ask how your child would handle peer pressure to do something that's against the rules or that feels wrong. Role-play scenarios together.
- ☐ 28. Charge digital devices out of your child's bedroom at night. Kids should be sleeping, not texting or checking social media.
- ☐ 29. Help your child make a planning sheet for a large school project. List tasks and assign deadlines for each.
- ☐ 30. Dig out a favorite children's book and read it together. There are still lessons to be learned.

BOXHOLDER
The Bobcat
Callaway Public Schools

P.O. Box 280

101 N. Needham

Callaway, NE 68825

Phone: 308-836-2273

Website: callawaypublicschools.org

