

SCRIBNER-SNYDER

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER

2023

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Patrons:

It is hard to believe we're at that time of the year when we're talking about the end of the school year activities. With spring comes a variety of events and it seems like our students spend about the same amount of time out of school as in the classroom.

The annual Senior Sneak Trip was held on February 28 – March 1-2-3. Mrs. Fischer and Angie Lange sponsored the trip this year. The seniors went to Wyoming for a skiing outing. Mrs. Fischer reported that the trip was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Poessnecker selected "Sister Act Jr." as this year's musical. Public performances were held on March 25 and March 26. Our staff and students enjoyed the matinee performance at school on March 24. We want to thank Mr. Poessnecker and the students for all their hard work and preparation to put on this production, job well done.

All juniors will again be required to take the ACT as mandated by state statute. This test took place on March 21. We'd like to thank Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Nemecek for all their work to get the testing materials ready for the spring NSCAS testing. We're confident our students did their best on these tests again this year. Once the test results become available we'll be sharing them with our parents and patrons.

Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd and our seniors will be graduating from SSCS on Saturday, May 6 starting at 2:00 p.m. in the gym. Please note the time change from years past. Please come and enjoy this special day with the Class 2023. The school year is set to end on May 17 and that day will be here before we know it.

On a personal note, I want to thank the school district, Board of Education, students, staff and community members during my tenure as principal for the past 12 years. Tina and I really enjoyed our time living in Scribner. We're looking forward to retirement and being able to spend more time with our family and friends.

As we head into the last part of the year we hope everyone has a safe and productive spring. We're looking forward to having a great end to the school year. Respectfully Submitted, Mr. Stithem

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Joe Peitzmeier

Wow! Summer is almost here. Yet, as I write this, Mother Nature has just brought us about seven inches of snow. Thank goodness that at this time of year that doesn't stay around for long.

As we near summer, we are working to finish up our to-do list. The administration and secretaries are working to finish up much of the state reporting that is necessary, and the custodial staff is gearing up for cleaning every inch of the buildings getting them ready for the return of kids in August.

I want to take a moment to thank the following three staff members for their dedication and commitment to our students, school, and communities. Their combined 29 years of service to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools will be sorely missed. I wish them all good luck as they pursue their future endeavors. Thank you: Brad Stithem (12 years at SSCS and 35 total); Trish Bell (15 years at SSCS and 50 total); and Casey Keene (2 years).

You may have seen that our staff has been working very hard to establish a new positive behavior system in our school called PBIS. We are excited to pilot this for the final semester of the year and start next year with high expectation of what it can bring for our students and staff next year and into the future.

PBIS is a system that uses positive reinforcement and proactive teaching techniques to improve learning environments. When it works, teachers spend more time teaching and less time managing behavior, and students show improved academic success. A major tenet of our program is to promote our school as a positive, safe environment.

School discipline traditionally focuses on reacting to misbehavior with punishments, such as detention or reproach. Research shows that doesn't work, especially without positive strategies. Modeling and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important part of a student's education. The purpose of school wide PBIS is to promote good behavior and create environments that support it.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. On a final note, "Please keep in mind that students who continue to read over the summer are more likely to gain ground educationally."

SSCS PBIS = Trojans will: Be safe. Be responsible. Be respectful



Ukrainian expert to present at SS

With increased interest in the country of Ukraine since its invasion by Russia in February 2022, the area Men in Mission group is sponsoring a special presentation of the

history of Ukraine on Wednesday, April 5 at 1 p.m. at Scribner-Snyder Community School. The program is open to the public and is free to attend.

Speaker will be Orest Lechnowsky, vice-president of the Ukrainian-American Association of Nebraska, Inc., a non-profit organization representing the interests of Ukrainian Americans in Nebraska for over 70 years. A resident of Omaha, Lechnowsky has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska, with coursework in the history of medieval Europe, geography of Europe and geography of the Soviet Union.

He will speak about Ukraine and neighboring countries from prehistoric times until the present. One area of interest will be the large number of Ukrainian villages that were settled by German and other European immigrants. Since February, 2022, a number of Ukrainian refugees have settled in Nebraska and the region because of the efforts of Lutheran Family Services and other organizations.

This is the eighth year that Men in Mission has presented a program at Scribner-Snyder and/or Logan View Public Schools. "We appreciate the willingness of the administration and staff of the schools to make these programs successful," said Men in Mission member, Jim Ebel.

"This is also an excellent opportunity for everyone in the communities to learn more about the history of Ukraine and our new neighbors in Nebraska. We hope to see a large turnout for this program." There is no cost to attend, and no registration is necessary.

For more information, please contact Jim Ebel at (402) 664-2459 or Ben Schole at (402) 654-2489.

1st Graders learning new skills

Carlie Loth, First Grade

The SSCS first-grade class has come a long way since we began school in August. The students have worked hard to learn new skills and strategies to help them solve whatever problems they may face. Below is a brief summary of what we have learned in each subject area.

In math we started out the year learning many strategies to help us find number partners within 10. The first graders have worked hard, and are now learning how to add 2-digit numbers with 1-digit numbers, and even adding decade numbers together!

Additionally, throughout the semester, we have been learning how to read a story and figure out the setting, characters, and plot of the selection. We are currently working on finding the details and sequencing the plot to better understand what we read.

So far this year we have learned to read and write 136 High Frequency Words! Many of these words are very tricky to learn, because you can't always relay on sounds to figure out how to read and spell them. We have also been working on learning spelling rules. We started of looking at words, and learning the short vowel sounds (cap), and have worked up to learning more challenging rules such as the sneaky "e" working with vowels to help them say their names (cape).

In science, we have learned a lot about the structures and functions of plants, as well as what they need in order to grow. We also just finished learning about how sound waves and vibrations make the sounds that we hear every day.

In social studies, we have spent a lot of time studying how everything can change over time. We learned to see how everyday things that we see and use now have changed from what they were like in the past. We also spent some time learning about a few important people and events in our history, and how we have many different holidays to celebrate and honor them.

The 2022-2023 first graders have worked incredibly hard to learn and grow this past semester. They should be proud of what they have accomplished. I am excited to see how much they will grow by the end of the school year.

Putting the Finishing Touches on Another Year

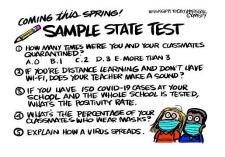
By: Ms. Rangeloff

This year has flown by very quickly and with less than 40 days left, I believe these last weeks will somehow fly by even faster.

As always towards the end of every year, we find ourselves preparing for the state reading and math tests. These tests will be taken in late April, so we have a few weeks to get ready. To help get ready for these tests, we still need to work on some geometry skills in math and some figurative language and author's purpose concepts in reading. I know with continued hard work each and every day this class will be prepared and successful on those state tests.

Along with the state test preparation, we will continue our Nebraska History Studies as we have been learning about Native American groups that once made their home in Nebraska. Finally, to finish out the year in science, we will be learning about using energy and the diverse types of energy.

So as we find ourselves putting the final touches on the end of the year, I expect our days will continue to fly by and learning will continue to blossom in our room as it has all year.





Dear Scribner-Snyder Community,

As my first year at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my experience thus far. One of the highlights of my time at Scribner-Snyder has been the opportunity to work with such wonderful students. I have been consistently impressed by their curiosity, passion, and drive to learn. It is a privilege to work with young minds that are so eager to explore new concepts and ideas.

As a special education teacher, my role is vital in ensuring that all students, regardless of their abilities, receive a highquality education that meets their individual needs. I work with students who may have a variety of special needs, including

learning disabilities, physical impairments, or other challenges that may impact their learning. My responsibilities involve identifying students who need extra support, developing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and collaborating with other teachers and staff to ensure that the school environment is inclusive and accessible to all students.

In addition to working with individual students, I also serve as an advocate for my students and their families. I attend meetings with parents and school administrators, provide information on special education laws and regulations, and work to ensure that students receive the accommodations and support they need to succeed. I build strong relationships with students and their families to ensure they feel supported and heard throughout their educational journey. My ultimate goal is to help all students reach their full potential and succeed in the classroom and beyond, by providing individualized support and advocating for accessibility and inclusion. By working together with other educators and staff, we can create an inclusive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy spending my free time hunting, fishing, and exploring the great outdoors with my family. In the summer, one of our favorite pastimes is watching my husband play baseball on the Scribner Hogs baseball team. There is something incredibly rewarding about spending time outdoors and disconnecting from the fast-paced digital world.

I am grateful to have found a community here at Scribner-Snyder that not only fosters my academic growth but also celebrates and encourages my passions outside of the classroom. I look forward to continuing to grow and learn here and am excited to see what the future holds. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Hanna Sedlacek, K-6 Special Education Teacher

The foreign language classes have been busy this

year learning the language and culture of Hispanic/European countries. Spanish I spent the first semester learning the basics like larger numbers, colors, weather, time, and conversational vocabulary. This semester they practiced family and house vocabulary by making family trees and drawing up plans of their houses. The rest of the year will be focused on school and food themes, used with basic sentence structures in present tense. Weather and time permitting, we always plan for a trip to a Mexican restaurant and bakery to put their skills to test in a real-life situation. Spanish II builds on the foundations learned in Spanish I, refining their grammar and expanding their vocabulary. We started off the year discussing things that they like to do in their free



time or on vacation- sports, concerts, movies, museums, going to the beach, etc. They were also introduced to the past tense and object pronouns so their sentences are becoming more advanced. We will finish out the year learning about future tense, using an airport, shopping for clothing and food, and daily routines.

Junior High rotation spends one quarter in Intro to Foreign Language. We split the time between Spanish and French so they can get a feel for which one they like and whether they would like to pursue foreign language in high school. It is not grammar orientated, focusing instead on simple vocabulary reinforced with songs and games, as well as study skills to help them throughout their high school careers. You may have heard the 8th graders singing the days of the week songs these last few weeks. We also learned family members and basic expressions like greetings and how to ask people how they are doing, their names, and ages, etc. The hallways will soon be filled with the alphabet songs and Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes as the 7th graders start their rotation. They will also spend some time learning the colors and numbers through ten.

Second quarter the K-6 elementary students added Spanish to their specials for about twenty minutes a week. We focused on the colors and numbers through ten. As with junior high, it was centered around songs and games such as Bingo, War, Go Fish, Candy Land, etc. Manipulatives were used for repetition counting, and we even got in

some physical activity by counting jumping jacks and pushups. They were exposed to some basic vocabulary like "hola," "adiós," and "amigos." The 5th and 6th graders also got in some arts and crafts time, making papel picado for Día de los Muertos.

As always, thank you for sharing your kiddos with me. I love sharing my passion for foreign languages with them and seeing the joy on their faces when they learn something new or the light bulbs going off when things finally click. Feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Danielle Schroetlin dschroetlin@sstrojans.org

IMPORTANT DATES

April 7 and 10—NO SCHOOL—Spring Break April 17—FCCLA Banquet April 21—District Music Contest April 22—Prom April 24—FFA Banquet April 26—Community Clean-up Day April 27—Jr/SR High Spring Concert May 2—Elementary Spring Concert May 6—Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony May 17—Last Day of School

Reflections from the Art Room

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the amazing experiences we've had together this year in art classes at Scribner Snyder. I couldn't have asked for a better group of creative and enthusiastic



individuals to work with. The students, staff and community have been nothing but warm and welcoming.

One of the highlights of our highlights of the year has undoubtedly

been the community pottery night. It was wonderful to see everyone so engaged and focused, creating unique and beautiful pieces

of art. The energy in the room was contagious, and I was so proud of the work that they produced. We are looking forward to another one next year.

Our field trip to the thrift store has been another unforgettable experience. It was fascinating to see the creative potential in everyday objects, and how something seemingly ordinary can become a work of art with a little imagination and skill. We found all sorts of treasures. Thank you to Pebble Creek Vintage Thrift



for not only loaning out objects for our still lifes, but also donating miscellaneous items we have needed throughout the year (plates for paint palettes and cups for candle making are just a couple examples).



More recently, the advanced art students went to an art show in Wakefield. It was the perfect way to showcase all of our hard work and talent. The students had an opportunity to see other schools' artwork and create a cereal box mosaic. Thank you to the parents that sent boxes in for their creation!

Finally, many elementary students participated in art club

this past month. This has been a fun chance for students to have an hour and half a week to make art in an open studio. Students choose their materials and subjects to practice idea generation and allow for true ownership of their work.

I am feeling incredibly lucky to be back in this school and I

can't wait to see where the students' creativity and collaboration with the community takes us next year as well!

Sincerely, Megan Stock



Why are social studies such a crucial subject area?

Here are a few of the reasons why we emphasize social studies in our school.

In today's global economy and world, only being exposed to the immediate community is not ideal. Through social studies education, students get to learn about the vast array of people and cultures that make up the global community. By studying world populations from both a historical and sociological perspective, students will get a better understanding of themselves and how they fit into the greater world. Further, when they enter the workforce, students will be better equipped to compete in the international marketplace by having some understanding of different cultural norms.

Social studies classes help students understand the responsibilities that citizens—including themselves—have in their communities. Through social studies, students learn how all levels of government function and become familiar with the role that citizens play in shaping the legal and political landscapes. Students also gain the ability to compare and critically analyze different government styles.

Economics is an important part of social studies that students carry with them throughout life. Understanding how economic systems work helps high school students become better-informed citizens, provides a foundation for the business world, and even helps them manage their own finances.

Social studies are also essential for helping students understand history and its influence on the modern world. A common school of thought is that failure to understand the past means that society is doomed to repeat mistakes. It is important to examine history and improve upon it over time. Without historical knowledge, learning from the past is not possible. Social studies fill in the gaps that other types of coursework may not necessarily cover.

For students to develop strong decision making and critical thinking skills, they need to understand perspectives, concepts, and principles that are all part of social studies. They learn how to examine different situations and contexts and then apply different ways of thinking to new situations. They also learn to process information and make decisions based on past experiences--even those they did not personally have.

Did you know...

Technology is responsible for driving more of the U.S. economy than any other profession aside from healthcare.

- Jobs in the tech industry are continually on the rise.
- The top five categories for technology are
- Software
- o Hardware
- Telecom
- IT and business services
- Emerging technologies



Those are some pretty impressive facts about technology in 2022. There were almost 600,000 tech companies in the US last year. Those facts just reinforce that we need to teach computer science in our schools. Nebraska recently passed a law that states all schools in Nebraska must teach computer science to grades K -12. It also is now a graduation requirement for every student in the state. Here at SSCS we offer a variety of Computer Science Courses and already meet the state requirements. Our elementary computer classes include topics like digital citizenship, computer care and parts, keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet introduction, and various multimedia projects. For our Jr. High, we have a curriculum covering digital citizenship, keyboarding skills, Office and Adobe tools, website evaluation tools, and computer programming.

In our high school we offer Foundations of Computing Freshman year, Coding 2 (1 semester) for 9 -12th, Cybersecurity, (1 semester) 9 -12th, Web Design (Intro and Advanced), AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Computer Science A will be offered this next fall. In the past we have also had a Gaming and Careers class.

> Graduation is set for May 6th at 2 p.m.

Mr. Schnoor: Giving Back to SSCS

By Andrea Hass

Many high school seniors after graduation day are excited to venture away from home. Some high school seniors would rather give back to their community postgraduation. Mr. Randy Schnoor is the latter of these two descriptions. Our food service program is grateful for Mr. Schnoor's choice to return to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. Mr. Schnoor, a 2009 SSCS graduate, returned to the school district in 2022. While working in the Food Service Department, Schnoor would say the best part of his day is "... looking forward to seeing my nieces and nephews throughout the day..." His favorite part about specifically working in the kitchen is the company of people whom he works with.

While in high school Schnoor played football. Besides his love for the game as a teenager, one item Schnoor always has with him as an adult is his phone, "You never know when you're going to need it for an emergency."

Even though it's been 14 years since Mr. Schnoor graduated from Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, and despite not being a student anymore, one thing has stayed the same. Mr. Schnoor still looks forward to the end of the school year and summer vacation.

Some advice Schnoor has for the graduating class is, "Don't be afraid to work." He would know. Schnoor chose, right after high school, to work on his dad's farm.

Some hobbies and activities he enjoys include: reading (his favorite author is Dean Koontz), cooking (but only at home), playing with his dogs, and video games. Schnoor feels these pastimes are a good way to relieve stress. His favorite movie is *Interstellar*. "It's a really good space movie," said Schnoor.

SSCS has many alumni who return home to positively contribute and give back to the school district. Randy Schnoor gives back every day to every student across our campus.









want to be and act how you want to act. Music is your friend. Obtain emergency Best Advice for Underclassmen: "Don't be afraid to go against the flow; be who you

"snckalackage"."

Major in Nursing Attend Midland **Future Plans:** University Hobbies:

Listening to music Playing with my **T**aking walks animals

Chicken Tenders Favorite Lunch: Hamburgers 20

Honor Student

Musical

Frack & Field Volleyball

One-Act Speech

Involvement: **High School**

Choir

easy-going personalities. I think this is what I'll mind, to the comfortable environment, to the teacher. From the laughs, to easily speaking my bonding time I created with each individual memory from high school was the amount of miss the most." Favorite Memory: "I believe that my favorite

to and always has a good vibe." has. She has always been someone I could talk the personality and the environment Ms. Piper eyes from laughing so hard in this class. I love because I kid you not, I have had tears in my A Teacher with a Positive Impact: "Ms. Piper,

Random Fact: "I can pinch people with my toes.



Merivar Zamora

"IF YOU'RE HAPPY, WHO HONESTLY CARES?"

School Involvement FCCLA, One Act, Musical, Band, Speech, Cornhusker Girl's State, Volleyball, and Track & Field.

Working out, traveling, and shopping.

Advice to Underclassmen "Don't stress; you have time. Take each day one at a time."

Random Fact She gets the urge to clean her room at midnight when she can't fall asleep.

- KHALID

Fun Memories in High School: 0

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- One was when her and two of her classmates dressed up as apple trees for the musical and threw apples
- her was last year's post-prom "We went to Sky Zone and didn't get home till 3 am. The food and gifts were amazing." • The other fond memory for

- Future Plans:
 attend the University of Nebraska Omaha to study
 hopes to see herself as a Nurse Practitioner opening up her own med spa in medical aesthetics
 plans to travel around the world

How to Make the Most of Campus Visits

Juniors, NOW is the time to get serious about planning for college! Some important tasks you can knock out in the spring of your junior year include taking the ACT, doing some job shadowing in your anticipated field of study, setting up your <u>ScholarshipQuest</u> account (on EducationQuest) to begin searching for scholarships, and going on campus visits!

When to Visit - Spring of your junior year is the ideal time to go on campus visits. Taking your campus visits prior to your senior year will help you to begin narrowing down your list of potential colleges.

It is recommended visiting while classes are in session rather than on the weekends. This will allow you to peek in on a class or two to see the student-to-faculty ratio. It will also allow you to see the faces of students who attend that particular institution, and give you a real feel of the campus environment.

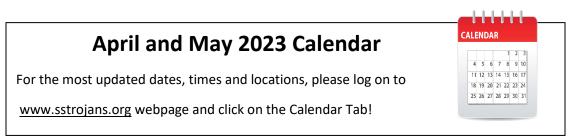
Setting Up a Visit - Colleges prefer that you schedule your tour at least two weeks prior to your desired visit date. This will help admissions to tailor your visit toward your specific needs. For example, if you have a certain major you're considering, they can arrange for you to meet with a faculty member or department staff. If you plan to participate in a sport, they can potentially set up a meeting with a member of the coaching staff.

If possible, visit multiple colleges so you can compare them to each other and find the one that's the right fit for you! Contact the college's admissions office or go to their website to schedule your visit.

Ask Questions - To make your visits more effective, sit down ahead of time and write out a list of questions you would like to have answered about each college. Your questions may be directed toward an admissions representative, financial aid counselor, faculty member, or even current students at each college. For suggested questions to ask, check out the <u>Campus Visit Questions</u> handout on EducationQuest.

What to Expect While on a Visit - The admissions staff generally does a welcome session to begin the day. They will then break the visitors into smaller groups, keeping parents and students together for tours. Student ambassadors will take each group and show you around campus...so expect to do a lot of walking! The tour guide will provide insight about the college, fun facts about buildings, and share information about various activities that you can participate in while attending that institution. You'll get to check out campus housing, the student union, the fitness center, classrooms, the library, and even eat lunch in the cafeteria. This is also a great time to ask your ambassador about their college experience thus far. Make sure to get all of your questions answered before your visit concludes.

Wrap Up Your Day - Take some time to walk around campus with your parents/guardian and chat about your day. Also, drive around the town to discover points of interest. What do you (and they) like and dislike about this college and/or community? Ask yourself if you can imagine spending the next two to four years in this environment. After all, this is a big investment and you want to make sure it's the right fit!



NOTICE OF DISCRIMINATION

The Scribner-Snyder Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Students, Employees and Others: Malia Nemecek, Director of Activities and Data: 400 Pebble Street, Scribner, NE 68057, 402.664.2567, mnemecek@sstrojans.org