



**SCRIBNER-SNYDER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
2022**

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Patrons:

The students and staff will be very busy upon their return back to start for the second semester on January 5. We hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday break and has fun spending time with your family and friends.

With the winter weather upon us, just a reminder that the doors in the elementary building do not open until 7:30 a.m., please take this under consideration if you're dropping your child off before the start of school. The high school buildings aren't unlocked until 7:45 a.m., so unless your child is eating breakfast, there's no reason for them to come prior to that time as well.

Our Jr. high school students have taken NSCAS Pilot tests for Math and Reading prior to Christmas break. Next, our 2-6 and 9-10 grade students will do their testing in January. We'd like to thank Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Nemecek for all their work preparing the schedule and checking up on the tests as they're administered.

At the beginning of each semester students in grades 9-12 are given a chance to drop and add courses. With this process the student must get the signature of the teacher's class they're dropping and from the teacher they're adding. They're also expected to get a parent signature so they're aware of the change as well. To end the process, Mr. Stithem looks over the form and makes sure the change is being done for correct purposes and we also have Mrs. Fischer check the student's transcript to make sure it doesn't affect their graduation requirements.

The basketball and wrestling teams continue their seasons with the upcoming conference competitions and several games/meets to be held in the months of January & February. As always, we encourage everyone to come and support our student-athletes during these competitions.

We're hoping everyone is staying safe and healthy with COVID 19 still around, and wishing everyone an excellent start to the second semester of school.

Best Regards,

Mr. Stithem



FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Joe Peitzmeier

As I write this, the fall sports/activity season has come to a close and the winter sports/activity season is already in full swing. By the time you read this newsletter, I am in hopes that you have recovered from an enjoyable Thanksgiving feast and special time with family. Last month the annual Veteran's Day program sponsored by the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools was held live and in person. Thanks to everyone that had a part in this outstanding tribute to our veterans. This program helps remind me to be thankful to the veterans for the sacrifices that they have made so that we can live the way we do in the greatest nation on earth.

We continue to deal with issues that the Pandemic throws at us and I am reminded that we need to take care of ourselves and our families and possibly the best way to do that is to alter "normal" plans. We all feel that the best place for our students is in school with face-to-face learning. Keeping schools open continues to be a local decision and one that we do not take lightly. All of us working together, working with local health departments, and symptom monitoring of students and staff go a long way in accomplishing this goal. Thank you for your diligence.

I want to assure you that our teachers and support staff continue to be very proactive in continuing to provide the fine educational tradition at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. We continue to evaluate curriculum, upgrade technology, fine tune testing procedures, and build on our Positive Behavior Support System in order to improve the education of our youth.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! As always, my door is open. If you have concerns pertaining to the schools—do not hesitate to contact me.

School Closing/Dismissal Information

- *Please understand that safety for students is the main concern in the decision to close schools.
- *When school is dismissed early for bad weather, students who drive their own vehicles and live outside the city limits will be required to contact their parents by telephone prior to leaving school.
- *Bus/van students will ride home as usual.
- *My main contact is KTIC AM 840 & FM 107.9 radio and TV channels 3, 6, or 7 in Omaha for any school closing, late start, or early dismissal due to threatening weather. I will also attempt to contact KFAB 1110 radio.
- *We will also send out an all call to family's phones through School Messenger
- *On late starts, we typically plan to start school 2 hours late. We realize that some roads are more hazardous than others and we do not expect students or parents to endanger their safety in order to get to school. If a student legitimately cannot get to school because of weather conditions, they will be excused.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS ONE-ACT CAST & CREW



Members of the SSCS District Runner-Up One-Act cast and crew include: Front: DesiRae Svehla, Xavier Rangeloff, Jenna Adams, Chandler Carrier, Jillian Dames, Skye Wheelock, Addison Lange, Ashley Stadt, Jillian Adams; Back: Gillian Hunke, Eli Enos, Hannah Ryun, Kadyr Wheelock, Garrett Hunke, Shandera Simpson, Eryn Hull, Nattie Hull, Kristen Andrews, McKenna Stewart, Maycie Streit, Eryn Hull, Zoey Gathman and Director-Mrs. Laura Enos. Not pictured: Cailey & Keira Stout and Rylee Nemecek. They performed 'Law & Order: Fairy Tale Unit' by Jonathan Rand.

Scribner-Snyder Speech Team season is underway!

Students have begun writing speeches, finding performance pieces, blocking and practicing their lines. This year's team will be co-coached by Mrs.

Drey and Mrs. Enos.

Speech

Team is an NSAA sanctioned activity. Students at the D-2 level begin competing in January with regular season invitationals and end their season with district and state competition in early to mid-March. There are many different events students can choose to compete in. An individual can



represent his/her school in up to three events. The individual public speaking options are Informative, Persuasive, Entertainment, and Extemporaneous Speaking. The individual performance options include Serious Prose,



Humorous Prose, and Poetry Interpretation. The group performance events consist of Duet Acting and Oral Interpretation of Drama.



This season the Scribner-Snyder Speech Team will be competing at the following tournaments:

- Saturday, January 15th at Wisner-Pilger High School
- Saturday, January 29th at Logan-View High School
- Saturday, February 12th at Mead High School
- Saturday, February 19th at Wisner-Pilger High School
- Wednesday, February 23rd at Oakland-Craig for the EHC Tournament
- Friday, March 4th at McCool Junction for the NSAA District Tournament
- Friday, March 18th at Kearney High School for the State Tournament

All of the tournaments are open to the public and free admission. If you would like more information about the specific schedule/performance times at each competition, please reach out to Laura Enos for more detailed information at lenos@sstrojans.org



**CLASSES RESUME
JANUARY 5th**

The Scribner-Snyder FFA chapter has done many exciting activities

so far this school year. Students have been participating in fundraisers, contests, convention, community service, and much more. Fundraisers, such as working the concession stands at sporting events, and selling fruit, meat, cheese, and sweets to name just a few. We appreciate all of the support from the community in these fundraisers. This money helps us to attend conferences and conventions throughout the year. In addition, fundraisers help us to provide for the community, as community service plays a huge role in our FFA chapter.



The chapter is constantly helping the community by cleaning up the highway, sponsoring a food drive at the school, working at the Faith Food Pantry, pitching in when people in the community need help, and donating a baskets for charitable causes. The "I CAN Make a Difference" food drive is kicked off during American Education Week each year. This is when all of the classes Pre K- 12 donate nonperishable food items, toiletries and paper products for the Faith Food Pantry. This year the elementary classes are competing for breakfast, cookies, or candy; whereas the middle and high school have a goal of 400 items. If the goal is reached, they will be rewarded with a movie afternoon on December 22. The



students surpassed their goal this year, and brought in over 1500 items! FFA members sorted, packed, delivered, and dispersed all of these items at the Faith Food Pantry in December. We are always looking for opportunities to help in the community, contact Mrs. Ryun at the high school (402-664-2567 or mryun@sstrojans.org) if you have an opportunity.

Two members were lucky enough to receive free FFA jackets through the Nebraska FFA Foundation's *Blue Jacket. Bright Futures.* Program. Nattie Hull and Keira Stout received their very own FFA jackets. They were two of 311 students selected statewide.

Eight members of the Scribner-Snyder FFA Chapter were lucky enough to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana this October to attend the National FFA Convention.

In addition to 57,000 other people, our members experienced the Career Fair and Expo, the National Band and Chorus, sessions, and great keynote speakers. As an added bonus, our members participated in a tour of Louisville, Kentucky which included the Louisville Slugger Museum, Church Hill Downs, and a retired horse farm. It was a great experience that they will not soon forget!



Greenhand Night is when members present the FFA Creed, speeches and demonstrate parliamentary procedure or agricultural demonstrations prior to the district contest. This evening was held on Tuesday, November 9th. This year we had five FFA Creed speakers, one Employment Skills interviews, one Natural Resources speech, two Junior Public speeches, and an Opening Ceremonies team. The district Leadership Development Events contest was then held on Wednesday, November 17th at the Nielsen Center in West Point. Around 450 FFA students were in attendance from 13 different schools. Cailey Stout competed in Employment Skills and received a purple. This involves submitting a resume, cover letter, and job application. Followed by an interview in front of a panel of three judges and writing a follow up letter. The two FFA Creed presenters were Zoey Gathman and Keira Stout. Both girls made it to finals, earning purple ribbons. Zoey walked away with reserve champion, and will be representing our district at the State FFA Convention in April; while Keira is the alternate. Hannah Ryun and Ashley Stadt presented junior public speeches on protecting the pollinators and rice. Ashley received a blue ribbon, and Hannah received a purple and is the alternate to state. Krista Beranek competed in the Natural Resources speaking contest, focusing on the Japanese Beetle and received a blue. Finally, in the Opening Ceremonies contest, the officer team of Cailey Stout, Jenna Adams, Addison Lange, Hannah Ryun, Jill Adams, Kadyne Wheelock, Izzy Carrier, and Ashley Stadt received a blue ribbon. We would like to send out a special shout out to those from our community that donated their time to judge these events: Mishele and Dan Beerbohm, Pastor Bruce Schut, Beth Boyle, Angie Brainard, Arlene Alsmeyer, Becky Hull, and Jordan Young. This contest would not be possible without the generosity of their time!

FFA members also got to participate in other contests this fall. These consisted of dairy evaluation and land evaluation. Dairy Evaluating helps students develop skills in dairy cattle selection. This contest took place in Wayne, NE at the Wayne County Fair Grounds. Several students from S-S attended, and brought home red, blue, and purple ribbons. Land Evaluation is a contest that focuses on soil – texture, slope, permeability, capability class, etc. This year, this contest was located near Howells, Nebraska. There were well over 380 participants in our regional contest; and again, we had many S-S participant. Our top three finishers earning purple ribbons were Ashley Stadt (48th), Kadyne Wheelock (61st), and Jillian Adams (68th).

A couple of conferences have been offered for students this year, also. District EDGE Conference was offered by the state FFA officers this fall, in Fremont. A few Greenhand members and junior high students attended workshops about engaging in the agricultural education classroom, building personal image, and communicating effectively. This is a great way to help young members kick start their FFA career!

An additional activity this fall has been the Farm Bureau's Connecting Chapters. This is aimed at improving agricultural literacy in our schools. The first step in this program is to read a book to the elementary classrooms and then donate the book to the library or a classroom. This book focuses on different types of farming operations and how food gets to your plate. Then, a few chapter members attended a training session in Wayne to learn how to present the provided lessons to the elementary students. Scribner-Snyder FFA Chapter received a binder with 15 lessons to teach elementary students more about agricultural literacy. We look forward to utilizing these during FFA Week when we do a lesson in the elementary classrooms.

We are looking forward to several events in the year to come; particularly our Barbeque and Auctions on Tuesday, March 22nd. It has been a couple of years since we have been able to hold this event, so we are really looking forward to it this year! We hope to see you all there to enjoy the good food, silent auction items, friendships, and labor auction.

On Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021, Scribner-Snyder Community schools hosted its semesterly blood drive. The blood drive began at 9:00 am and ran until 3:00 pm. The blood drive this year looked a little different. With the current COVID regulations, the American Red Cross has

numerous safety protocols to keep each donor safe during the donation period. The number of available appointment times has been limited to allow for disinfection and distancing between donors. However, this did not deter local staff, students, and community members from donating. All of the available appointments were quickly filled and each donor was able to be seen the day of the drive. Although, there are many benefits to donating blood, the number of units collected by Scribner-Snyder's blood drive translates into a \$250-\$500 scholarship for a local senior. The next blood drive hosted by the school will take place on Monday, March 21st, 2022.



WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE? -- *Anthony Ruzicka*

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost half done! Where has the time gone? With Holiday breaks coming up, students are beginning to grow restless again. There is always talk about what they are going to get for Christmas, and what they are doing, or where they are traveling over break. Personally, I'm just happy that Christmas music is almost done!

My classroom is as busy as ever. There's constantly kids coming and going for various reasons. The students are working hard, and are looking forward to coming back after Winter break for round 2 of MAPS testing. As winter sports season hits the heart of its season, kids are as busy as ever. On top of the daily school and athletic load, students are beginning to divert some of their focus to ACT preparation. Students are preparing to take ACT tests in December and February.

Wrestling season this year looks a little different than in past years. Girls Wrestling was officially sanctioned this past year, and has seen a growth from around 250 girls statewide last season to over 700 competing this season! We have 4 amazing and dedicated girls of our own on the team. We are wrestling tough and competing in every match that we wrestle. Districts will be February 4th and 5th in Nebraska City with the State Tournament February 17th-19th in Omaha.

Music Department preparing for Semester 2

The first semester seemed to fly by and here we are planning out the rest of the year. Typically January and February is the time of the year when we prepare all of our events that happen towards the end of the school year. This year is no different as we are starting our preparations for District Music Contest, the musical, spring concerts, and mix in an honor band or two.



At the time of this article, the actual musical has not yet been determined. However, there has been a lot of interest from the students and I expect that I will have another fantastic cast and crew to work with. Please be on the lookout for the dates and sneak peaks of what is happening in that department.

Preparations have also begun for the spring concert and District Music Contest. With Mother Nature throwing all her tricks at us the past few months, we are starting that music early so that we will be ready for everything by April 1st. It seems that when spring hits, there is an activity for the kids almost every day of the week.

We (the students and myself) would like to thank everyone for coming to our events throughout the first semester and hope to see you this spring at our performances.

Mr. Poessnecker

2021 -2022 First Grade Class

Carlie Loth, First Grade Teacher

The SSCS first-grade class has already 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 throughout the first semester 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 87 High Frequency Words! Many of these words are very tricky to learn, because you can't always rely on sounds to figure out how to read and spell them. We have also been working on learning spelling rules. We started off 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 2021-2022 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.

We have been busy bees in Preschool this year! This first semester, there



has been no shortage of creativity, kindness, and learning. So far, we have learned half of the alphabet and the children are showing me how much they know through their play. I've seen the children build skyscrapers in blocks, cars in the small toys and create rocket ships in art. Their imagination is soaring!

In the fall we took a trip to the park on a nature scavenger hunt. We looked for various leaves, acorns, squirrels and many more items.

Thankfully this small town had everything on our list! We were able to create leaf rubbings from the leaves the children found on their walk. From decorating pumpkins to singing in the Christmas concert, this group has done it all! I know the second semester will bring just as much learning and growing as the first semester. Happy Holidays everyone!



How FAFSA Verification Works

By Jacquie Butler in FAFSA

You've submitted your college admission application(s) and filed your FAFSA ...two big hurdles you've crossed in preparing for college next fall. Kudos to you!! You would think that it's smooth sailing from here on out, but that's not always the case. Nearly 25% of all FAFSA applications are selected for a review process called verification. Now you may be wondering; "What does Verification mean? Did I do something wrong when I completed the FAFSA? Am I in trouble? Why me?" Read on to get these and many other verification questions answered.

How does the FAFSA process work?

Once your FAFSA has been submitted, it goes to the Federal Processing Center. Here, your personal information is reviewed to make sure it matches what the Social Security Administration has on record; names, social security numbers and dates of birth. They also "crunch" the numbers that were reported on the FAFSA and forward all of that information onto the college(s) that you listed on your FAFSA. At that same time, you will get an e-mail from Federal Student Aid which provides a link to your Student Aid Report (SAR) and lists your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). If there is an asterisk (*) behind your EFC number, that indicates that your FAFSA was selected for *verification*.

What Is Verification?

Verification is a process put into place by the U.S. Department of Education to confirm that the information reported on FAFSA forms is accurate. The purpose of verification is to make sure that colleges aren't awarding need-based financial aid to students who don't actually qualify. The Department of Ed notifies colleges who is selected for verification, and it's the responsibility of the college to work with students to complete this process.

Am I in trouble?

Being selected for verification doesn't mean that you're in trouble. It really depends upon the Financial Aid office at each college, as well as the information that you reported on your FAFSA. The college is simply making sure they are awarding the correct amount of aid to their students. Some of the reasons (but not limited to) your FAFSA being verified are:

- Your FAFSA had incomplete or conflicting information
- Tax information was entered manually rather than using IRS Data Retrieval
- Parent reported child support paid on the FAFSA
- Your family qualifies for SNAP/Food Stamp benefits
- You're eligible for the Federal Pell Grant

How will I be notified of verification?

Each college you listed on your FAFSA will tell you what documents they are asking you to turn in to their Financial Aid Office. You'll be notified via postal mail, your e-mail or your student portal – which is your college-based student account. Due to privacy laws, the colleges cannot communicate with anyone other than the student...not even parents! Make sure that you're checking these communication platforms regularly and taking action as soon as possible!

Where do I send verification documents?

The college's Financial Aid Department will provide their mailing address, e-mail address or fax number, and will indicate if they have a verification deadline. Keep in mind that colleges stop processing your financial aid package until you turn in the requested documents. Although verification isn't a scary process, it is a very important one, and missing deadlines or not responding altogether will affect the types and amounts of aid you may have otherwise qualified to receive.

How to Find Legitimate Scholarships (And Avoid Scholarship Scams!)

By Allison Ourada in Scholarships

You should apply for as many scholarships as you can in order to reduce your out of pocket expenses for college. Unfortunately, not all scholarships are legitimate and you should be cautious while conducting your search. How can you tell a real scholarship from a fake? Use these tips to become an informed scholarship applicant.

Questions to Ask:

Who is offering the scholarship?

It is a good idea to look for scholarships from organizations that you already know and trust. Check out awards from businesses and organizations that you are already familiar with, and from your future college. If you are looking at a scholarship from an organization you are unfamiliar with, do some research before you apply. Check out their website and see if there is a way to contact them directly. If you are still unsure, ask a trusted adult for help.

How did you learn about this scholarship?

Although you may learn about some scholarships directly from the provider, it is likely that your scholarship search will focus on resources that aggregate awards from many different sources. This includes online scholarship searches, scholarship lists from your school counselor, and more. If you learn about a new award from a resource that you trust, it is likely that the scholarship is valid. [Click here](#) to check out ScholarshipQuest for local and state awards in Nebraska, and check out EducationQuest's list of trusted national search sites at the bottom of that page.

What information are they requesting?

All scholarships will request some of your information. Some examples of information gathered by legitimate scholarships are: Full name, address, phone number, email address, the high school and/or college that you're attending, citizenship/residency status, academic information, and financial information from your FAFSA. Usually the type of information requested will make sense depending on what scholarship you're applying for and the eligibility requirements. If you're unsure why a scholarship provider might need a specific piece of information from you, reach out and ask.

Red Flags to Avoid

Never pay to apply!

There are enough free scholarship resources out there (like [ScholarshipQuest](#)) that you should never have to pay anything to search for or apply for scholarships. In fact, most scholarship resources that ask you to pay are just trying to scam you out of your money. It is likely that you would never see any scholarship money from them in return.

You've already won! (When you haven't applied)

You may receive emails or other correspondence stating that you've already won a scholarship that you've never applied for. The majority of scholarships require some sort of application process, so it is best to avoid these 'too good to be true' options. The exception to this rule is the scholarship package that your college creates for you. In this situation, the college financial aid office would gather information from your admission file and award any scholarships that you meet the criteria for. Some college scholarships do still require an extra application, so reach out to the financial aid office if you are unsure.

Requesting Too Much Personal Identifiable Information (PII)

We talked earlier about information that legitimate scholarship applications request, but how much information is too much? To start with, no legitimate scholarship will ask for information such as your checking or savings account number, or your credit/debit card info. Some scholarships may request information about your college savings account (in Nebraska, this is your NEST 529 account), but this is for the purpose of depositing money, not withdrawing it. 529 accounts only allow the account owner and/or beneficiary to withdraw funds.

Then there's your Social Security Number (SSN). Some legitimate scholarships do still request the SSN as part of the application process, but most scholarship providers have moved away from that practice. Check with the provider to see how your information will be used and how your privacy will be protected if they request your SSN.