



# SCRIBNER-SNYDER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

March/April/May Newsletter 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

By Joe Peitzmeier

It is my hope that everyone had an enjoyable Holiday with families. I am grateful for the opportunity to greet students as they come back from break so excited to share their holiday stories.

As I have reported through multiple newsletters, the School Board has been working with DLR Group (an architectural firm) to conduct a facility study to help address the facility needs of the district. DLR staff continue working with the board in confirming previous findings that relate to board goals to address future facility needs. The architects will be working on schematic design of future facilities as well as possible options of renovating current facilities. More to come on this subject in the future.

**Mark your calendars!!!** On Friday, April 25. SCS will be hosting the NSAA District Music Contest. We will not have school on that day.

The school board, at the February meeting, approved the school calendar for 2025-2026. This proposed calendar is much like the calendars of the past in that it is basically adjusted for the calendar days moving forward. There will be no change in arrival or dismissal times.

In closing, I want to mention that January 26 – February 1 was Nebraska School Board Recognition Week. Board members dedicate many hours and deal with many challenging issues that may affect them personally or professionally. Yet, the members of the Scribner-Snyder Community School Board of Education continue to work to provide a safe and orderly environment for every student and provide a learning atmosphere where every student feels welcome and can be successful. Our school district is dedicated to fostering student achievement and innovative programs and services. We are very proud of our focus on early learning and our investment in social-emotional learning. I assure that we all have a deep commitment to student success. At your next opportunity, please thank these people for their time and dedication to this sometimes-thankless service. The 2025 school board members are: Mike Fischer, President; Dyann Bradbury, Vice-President; Janis Baker, Secretary; Aaron Lange; Jake Brainard; and Lisa Lawton.

Dear Scribner-Snyder Community School Patrons,

We are cruising to the finish line of the 2024-2025 school year! We are nearing the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – March 13<sup>th</sup>. The last few months of the school year are full of exciting events, and our high school students are actively participating in FCCLA, FFA, track, Quiz Bowl, and District Music. Scribner-Snyder will be hosting District Music Contest on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please note that **April 25th is a NO SCHOOL Day**. The building will be full of students from 12 other districts. Additionally, several banquets and prom are just around the corner. Our students continue to stay involved and represent SSCS with pride. Be sure to check out the school calendar for the most up-to-date information on school events.

In the next few weeks, the seniors will enjoy one last hoorah as a class. They are headed to Branson on their Senior Sneak Trip. I think they are in search of warmer temperatures. The Senior Sneak Trip has been an SSCS tradition for many years. I am happy that we can still provide this opportunity for our seniors!

This year's Spring musical is *Aladdin*. Mr. Poessnecker and the musical students have been working hard to prepare for their debut. There will be a matinee for the students on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 1:30 and public performances will be on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Please come out and see one of the productions. The students work hard and are fun to watch.

As we approach the end of the year, students will be taking their state-required assessments. Testing dates are as follows: **Grades K-5:** April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

**Grades 6-10:** April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

**Juniors (ACT Exam):** April 8<sup>th</sup>

Please ensure your child is well-rested and in attendance for these important assessments. Any missed tests will need to be made up. Your support is greatly appreciated!

A huge congratulations to our graduating seniors! The **Class of 2025 will graduate on Saturday, May 10th, at 2:00 p.m.**, with their last day of school being **May 7th**. We are so proud of them and can't wait to see all they accomplish in the future.

Additionally, the last day for **preschoolers** will be **Wednesday, May 14th**, and **K-11th grade students** will conclude the school year on **May 21st**.

We appreciate the continued support from our families and community. Wishing everyone a strong finish to the school year and a wonderful summer ahead!

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Nemecek, PreK-12 Principal

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WELCOME



**SCRIBNER-SNYDER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IS  
EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE KATE CHRISMAN AS THE  
DISTRICT'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT!**

Kate brings 12 years of experience from Cedar Bluffs Public Schools, where she served as a MS/HS English teacher, Career Academy Director, and Elementary Principal. During her tenure, she helped grow enrollment from just over 200 to more than 500 students, launched the first career academy in a D-1 school, and established an onsite childcare center.

A North Bend native, Kate graduated from North Bend Central in 2003. She earned her bachelor's degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University, her teaching certification from UNK, and two master's degrees. Most recently, she completed her Education Specialist degree from Wayne State College in December 2023. Kate's passion for learning and her commitment to innovation and growth have been the foundation of her career.

Kate, her husband Jarad, and their 4-year-old son, Warren, are excited to join the Scribner-Snyder community. Warren will begin preschool at Scribner next fall, and the family looks forward to becoming active members of the district.

## **Middle School Science, Life Skills Physical Education & Strength and Conditioning**

By: Justin McDuffee, 6-8 Science, World Geography, and Lifetime Physical Education Teacher

Wow! The school year is over halfway done! This year the middle school science classes are working hard and having fun! The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class have been busy learning about Life Structure and Function. They are currently focusing on Reproduction of plants and animals. We will soon get to dissection with worms and owl pellets.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders just finished their textbook called The Changing Earth. In this book the students learned about how the Earth changes over time with Plate Tectonics, volcanoes, and mountain building. The next book we will get into is Earth's Resources. The 7th grade received their rainbow trout eggs in January that they are raising in an aquarium provided by the Nebraska Game & Parks. The students are very excited to see how they grow and get a chance to dissect a trout (not the ones we raise!) We will take a field trip to Schramm Park in Gretna to release the trout and learn more about ecosystems.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working on their second textbook about Energy and Motion! In this textbook, they have been studying about motion, speed and acceleration. They started the school year with Change Over Time and will continue with Humans and Their Place in the Universe. With this book, they will build model rockets, and we will have a launch day.

The freshmen World Geography class are currently learning about Ancient Rome.

Lifetime Physical Education class has been busy learning about archery, Bowhunter Education, strength and conditioning, bocce ball, trapping, and other activities that they can do in everyday life. We will soon get into learning about darts, Boater Safety and fishing. Another favorite is how to use a grill and smoker, where the class will get to do some cooking!

The school year is going by fast! I know the students look forward to the end of the year, but we have a lot to learn before the school year ends!

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We would like to introduce you to our school's most recent school-based enterprise: **Trojan Treats**. Our business consists of four students from Scribner-Snyder who have been attending workshops on entrepreneurship through the Engler Entrepreneurship Program at UNL. We purchased a freeze-dryer with Perkins grant money. As a

student led, small business dedicated to providing healthy, convenient, and delicious snacks; we've carefully crafted a range of freeze-dried fruits and treats that both kids and adults will love. Our debut was at the Tannenbaum Festival this past fall and treats have been available in the high school since before winter break. We expanded our business by doing a per-order sale for Valentine's Day where we offered five select products (berry skittles, nerd gummy clusters, snickers, strawberries, and apples). It was such a success that we will be planning to do another one for Easter! In addition, we will have open sales hours at the school and hope to set up at The Nook on a Saturday or two to make products available.

If you have any special requests or orders, you can contact us at: [mryun@sstrojans.org](mailto:mryun@sstrojans.org)

We look forward to providing you with delicious and fun snacks now and into the future.

Warmly,

Paige Raff, Aydia Ryun, Kloey Wheelock, and Marah Fischer – Trojan Treats

### **Attaining Workplace Skills through a Successful Apprenticeship**



SSCS JAG Nebraska senior student Chase F. has been developing his workplace skills and abilities through an apprenticeship with **Smeal Fire Apparatus** in Snyder, Nebraska. This apprenticeship opportunity takes place through a cooperation between JAG Nebraska, Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, and Smeal Fire Apparatus. Chase went through a full application and interview process to be able to spend his afternoons doing what he loves most, welding. Pictured is Chase F. with his supervisor **Justin Carrier**. Justin has expressed that Chase's willingness to learn, and his progress on welding parts for the fire trucks has made him a desired full-time employee after high school. He has not only grown his professional and welding skills through this employer engagement experience but also gained valuable mentors and a career path for after high school graduation.

SCRIBNER-SNYDER FFA'S ANNUAL

# BBQ & AUCTIONS

SCRIBNER-SNYDER COMMUNITY SCHOOL GYM

**Silent**

**Pie**

**Labor**



**Tuesday,  
March 25th**



**Meal Includes:**

BBQ Pork  
Potato & Macaroni Salad  
Chips  
Beans  
Dessert  
Drink

**5:30-7:30 Meal Served**

**6:45 Pie and Labor Auction Begins**

Silent auction will close at the conclusion of the labor auction (around 7:45)

## Career

## Development

## Conference Work

JAG students submitted their Career Development Conference showcase submissions. Seven students submitted a resume and cover letter to compete in the Employment Skills event, one high school and fourteen middle school students took a test on financial literacy topics, there were three students who prepared a speech, and Colton B. prepared a PowerPoint and filmed a speech about how he hopes to become a sports commentator after high school. They all have a lot to proud of!

## ***Congratulations to the following students who***

***have qualified and will participate/compete in the JAG Nebraska Career***

***Development Conference:*** In Employability Skills: Alaina Libra, Trenton Nesbitt, Calleigh Small, and Brooklynn Wheelock; Qualifying in Prepared Speaking were: Eva Berkland, Jillian Cunningham, and Gillian Hunke; Our Financial Literacy Finalists were: Halle Adams, and Gillian Hunke



Winter hasn't been our typical Nebraska winter but now that January and February are behind us, it's time to plan for a busy 3 months. Musical, concerts, districts, and graduation are all fast approaching.

We hope everyone is ready to travel with us to some *Arabian Nights* as the Junior/Senior High students bring the musical *Aladdin* to the stage. All the pieces are coming together and we'd love to have everyone come out to enjoy a little drama, a little comedy, and a whole lot of dancing. Those performances this year will be on Friday and Saturday nights, March 21 & 22 at 7pm.

District Music Contest will have a different look this year as Scribner-Snyder is the host site for our district on April 25. We are proud to show off our students, staff, and facilities as we will have about 500 students coming through our buildings. Please check in with the offices in the immediate days before the contest for schedules of performances. Again, we'd love to see community support of our students in the fine arts. It's also so nice that we get to have it in our building!

The spring programs are also fast approaching. Because of all of the activities that our students are a part of, the programs will be much later in the school year. The PK-5 program will be on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in our gym. The junior and senior high will be giving their concert on the following Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

As always, we want to thank you for all your support of the music department. Be sure to watch the calendar for reminders for our upcoming events this spring!

Mr. Poessnecker

## **What is the FAFSA, and why does It matter?**

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It's the form that determines your eligibility for [financial aid](#), which includes grants, need-based scholarships, work-study jobs, and student loans.

Whether you're planning to attend a four-year university, community college, or trade school, filling out the FAFSA ensures that you're not leaving free money on the table. In 2023 alone, it's estimated that Nebraskans missed out on \$24 million in Pell Grants by not filing the FAFSA. That translates to a mind-boggling amount of missed opportunities for students.

### **Common FAFSA myths...and the truth.**

Do any of these statements ring true for you? It's time to rethink your viewpoint!

- “My family makes too much money, so I won't qualify.”
- You may still be eligible for school-based scholarships and low-interest student loans.

Many schools require a FAFSA on file to award any aid, regardless of income.

- “FAFSA is only for students going to a university.”
- Nope! FAFSA can be used for trade schools, community colleges, and technical programs—not just four-year schools.

- “Filing the FAFSA is too complicated.”
- While gathering some financial information is required, the FAFSA Simplification Act has made the process easier than ever!

### **When should I file?**

The FAFSA typically opens each year on Oct. 1 (though for 2024, it opened in December due to changes in the form). Since some aid is first-come, first-served, you'll want to submit your FAFSA as soon as possible. Nebraska colleges and programs have their own deadlines, so don't wait until the last minute!

### **How do I get started?**

1. **Create an FSA ID** at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). You and a parent/guardian (if applicable) will need one.



2. **Gather necessary documents**, including tax returns, W-2s, Social Security Numbers, etc.
3. **Complete the FAFSA form** online—most students finish in under an hour!
4. **Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)** and correct any errors.
5. **Check with your chosen college or program** to ensure they received your FAFSA.

### What if I need help?

[EducationQuest](#) has a variety of resources to help you navigate the process, including:

- **FAFSA Checklist:** The EducationQuest [FAFSA Checklist](#) will tell you all the materials needed to complete the form and where to find them.
- **FAFSA Demo:** Watch the EducationQuest [short video tutorial](#) to prepare. It will show you what to expect and how to avoid common mistakes.
- **Personalized Assistance:** [Schedule an appointment](#) with EducationQuest's college planning specialists for one-on-one support. It's FREE!
- **Videos:** Visit the EducationQuest [YouTube channel](#) for a variety of videos and livestreams that will give you insight into filing the FAFSA and college planning.

Filing the FAFSA is one of the most important steps you can take toward an affordable education. Even if you think you won't qualify, fill it out anyway. You might be surprised at the financial aid available to you!

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

Scribner-Snyder Community School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.