

# Bluejay Bulletin

Where it is great to be a bluejay!

[www.newman.esu8.org](http://www.newman.esu8.org)

## Newman Grove National Honor Society Inducts Six New Members

By Kylie Sweetter

The Newman Grove National Honor Society (NHS) inducted six new members during a ceremony held Monday, March 23. The event highlighted a proud tradition, as this year marks the 99th anniversary of the school's NHS charter, originally granted on April 26, 1927—making it one of the oldest chapters in Nebraska.

NHS President Kailey Patzel welcomed family members and guests to the ceremony. As part of the traditional candlelight service, current members shared readings representing the four pillars of NHS—scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These were presented by Aubree Whitaker, Jayden Benson, Mady Wiese, and Piper Jarecki.

The newly inducted members include Rafael Dantas, Beckett Jorgensen, Oliver Kaufman, Andrew Matson, Isaac Meyer, and Anaylen Morales. They join current members Jayden Benson, Micah Cuevas, Allyx Forre, Piper Jarecki, Owen Kaufman, Dylan Luetkenhaus, Summer McKinzie, Kailey Patzel, Serenity Strong, Keira Voelker, Aubree Whitaker, and Mady Wiese.

The evening's guest speaker, community member and former Newman Grove Public Schools science teacher Mark Seier, shared words of encouragement with the inductees, emphasizing the importance of strong character.

Following the ceremony, guests gathered for refreshments, including cake and punch.

With nearly a century of history, the Newman Grove National Honor Society continues to promote and uphold the values of scholarship, leadership, service, and character within both the school and the community.

Pictured back row (l-r): Kylie Sweetter (Advisor), Summer McKinzie, Micah Cuevas, Anaylen Morales, Owen Kaufman, Isaac Meyer, Andrew Matson, Oliver Kaufman, Beckett Jorgensen, Rafael Dantas, Dylan Luetkenhaus, Mark Seier (Speaker). Front: Mady Wiese, Jayden Benson, Aubree Whitaker, Serenity Strong, Kailey Patzel, Piper Jarecki.



April is in full swing—along with the Nebraska wind! 🌸 Students are busy representing our district in many activities and doing a great job. Be sure to check the calendar for event times and locations!

Here are a few important dates coming up:

- ♦ April 21- Kindergarten Parent Meeting @ 6:00
- ♦ April 24- Kindergarten Roundup @ 12:00
- ♦ April 27- FFA Banquet @ 6:30
- ♦ April 30- Elementary Track and Field Day @ 1:30
- ♦ May 1- No Elementary: Teachers are at a training
- ♦ May 5- Academic Awards Night @ 6:30
- ♦ Retirement reception for John Ramaekers to follow
- ♦ May 6- Junior High Academic Awards @ 3:05
- ♦ May 7- Preschools Last Day
- ♦ Preschool Graduation @ 5:00
- ♦ May 9- Graduation @ 2:00



- ♦ May 12- Last Day of School-1:00 dismissal

We are so proud of our students and the tremendous growth they have shown this school year! It has been exciting to see all they have accomplished in academics, activities, and athletics. Take time to celebrate your child and the successes they've achieved. As we head toward the end of the year, teachers are also planning many fun and engaging activities for students to enjoy!

Educationally,  
Mrs. Forre



## Newman Grove Prom 2026



Newman Grove held their prom on Saturday, March 28th at the Creek Road Barn. The theme was “A night in old Hollywood.” Queen candidates were Jadyn Temme (daughter of Tom & Staci Temme), Elise Witchell (daughter of Adam & Dawn Witchell), Serenity Strong (daughter of Tim & Kathy Strong) and Summer McKinzie (daughter of Jamie Hansen & Tony McKinzie). King candidates were Billy Fyfe (son of Todd & Shawn Hollers), Keoni Loyd (grandson of Francis & Pam Forkner), Owen Kaufman (son of Luke & Tammy Kaufman). Serenity Strong was crowned queen and Owen Kaufman was crowned king. (Picture to the right) The students enjoyed dinner, dancing and then back to the school for post prom.





## Special Board of Education Meeting Retreat March 25, 2026

- The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.
- All members were present. Others in attendance: Stephanie Summers from NASB (Nebraska Association of School Boards).
- The Open Meetings Act was posted in the room in accordance with the law.
- Approved the agenda as published.
- Discussion of Board Governance Standards.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

## Congratulations to:



- NG/SE All-Conference Basketball Awards: 1st Team-Kailey Patzel, 3rd Team-Allyx Forre, Honorable Mention-Brylee Patzel, Honorable Mention-Parker Fitchner, Honorable Mention-Ryan Cunningham.
- Northeast Regional Science Fair Participants: Samantha Bledsoe-Blue Ribbon-Invitation to State; Ashanti Enriquez-White Ribbon; Mackenzie Wiese-Red Ribbon; Cash Sweeter-White Ribbon; Jace Forre-White Ribbon; Ana Hernandez-Red Ribbon.
- Girls Basketball Norfolk Daily News All-State: 2nd Team-Kailey Patzel; Honorable Mention-Allyx Forre and Aubree Whitaker.
- NECC Scholastic Contest students who finished in the top 10: Accounting I-Summer McKinzie-5th Place; Algebra I-Elia Jarecki-1st Place; American History-Andrew Matson-6th Place; Basic Construction-Dylan Luetkenhaus-8th Place; Geometry-Beckett Jorgensen-8th Place; Personal Finance-Austin Schulz-3rd Place; Physics-Preston Rawson-7th Place; Public Speaking-Isaac Meyer-7th Place; Trigonometry-Austin Schulz-4th Place; World History-Samantha Bledsoe-8th Place; Medical Terminology-Aubree Whitaker-1st Place-\$1000 NECC Scholarship.
- Our Bluejay Wall of Champions: Henry Stone, Nevaeh Bader, Lane King, Owen King, Reese Fritz, Chance Nelson, Makrae Warren, Lacey Nelson.
- Girls Basketball Omaha World Herald Honorable Mention All-State: Kailey Patzel, Aubree Whitaker, Allyx Forre, Brylee Patzel and Katelyn Werts.



## Regular Board of Education Meeting April 13, 2026

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
- All members were present, with exception of Eric Stone. Others in attendance: Superintendent Warren, Principal Forre, Asst Principal Sauser, Christie Wallin, Kylie Sweeter, Donna Schroeter, Shawn Hagnaya, Jayden Benson, Serenity Strong, Madysen Wiese, Rafael da Silva Dantas and Austin Schulz.
- The Open Meetings Act was posted in the room in accordance with the law.
- Approved the agenda as published.
- Approved the minutes of the March 9, 2026 regular meeting as printed.
- Approved the minutes of the March 25, 2026 board retreat.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
- Guidance Counselor, Kylie Sweeter presented her report to the board, which included: District testing; Senior Graduation Prep; 2026-2027 Courses/Schedules; College/Career Preparation.
- Mrs. Forre presented her principal's report to the board, which included: Historical presentation on April 17th to 4th, 5th & 6th grade students; District testing; End of the year activities.
- Mr. Warren presented his superintendent report to the board, which included: Air Conditioner Units; Sprinklers/Football Field; Carpet in High School; Transition Document Started; Legislature Zoom; Teacher Reports.
- Approved the gym floor renovation. This project will take place the end of May, beginning of June.
- Accepted the contract for Mrs. Lauren Fowlkes for the 26/27 School year.
- Accepted the contract for Mr. Joe O'Brien for the 26/27 School year.
- Approved the creation of a "Policy Committee" and appointed members Ginger Buhl-Jorgensen, Eric Stone and Jeanie McCloud to the committee.
- Accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- Approved the payment of claims totaling \$349,958.83 (General Fund), \$25,788.01 (Depreciation Fund), and \$2,881.11 (Building Fund).
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

# 2ND GRADE



It's been a busy year in 2nd grade! We have grown in many new ways, experienced lots of new activities, and collaborated in ways that have stretched our thinking. Here are some of our favorite moments of the year!

We started the year with an exciting unit where we were able to explore the properties of glue. After lots of observations and experiments with different substances, we each created our own glue recipe that was sticky and strong. We continue to experiment, observe, and create with a variety of STEM and STEAM challenges this year!



We have had a lot of fun working together to learn and practice new ideas and skills this year!  
Mrs. Benson

In December we traveled to Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. We spent the morning learning about life in 1880. Students were given chores they did back then. We ended our time decorating the cabin for Christmas and opening gifts that were traditionally given in 1880.





# 2026 Newman Grove Lions Club Alumni Tournament



By Gene Wissenburg

The Newman Grove Lions Club held their 36th Annual Lions Club Alumni Basketball Tournament at the Newman Grove Public Schools gym on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21. Seven teams representing Newman Grove graduating classes from 1981 to 2024 competed. Proceeds from this year's event will be donated towards Wildfire Relief in the Nebraska burn areas.

The combined classes of 2006 and 2007 are this year's champions, winning the tourney for the second year in a row. Team members are Trey Frauendorfer, Kyle Wiese, Tyler Albracht, Preston Afrank, Ryan Rudloff, Chad King, Joe McWilliams, and Tim Wiese.

Runners-up this year is the class of 2005. Team members are Matt Finkral, Hernando Hernandez, Kevin Nelson, Brett Nelson, Kyle Afrank, Jason Rankin, and Chris Wiese.

Third place honors were won by the veteran team, the classes of 2004 and older, consisting of Matt Rudloff, Yancey Nygren, Ryan Chilson, Mike McWilliams, Chris McWilliams, Ben Nelson, Terra Classen, Ben Jacobson, and Craig McWilliams.

Trenton Patzel, a 2024 graduate was the youngest player this year, and Jay Nelson, class of 1981, the veteran player this year.

This year's three point shooting contest drew in 14 participants, men, women, young and old, the contest was open to everyone. The top three places all came from the Rudloff family. Matt Rudloff place third with ten made shots, his son, Isaac placed first with 16 threes, and brother, Ryan was second with 15 threes. Four others shooters made 9 three pointers in the one minute allotted time. They are Spencer Wallin, Matt Finkral, Ben Nelson, and Terra Classen.

The Women's game was won this year by the team consisting of Mara Ranslem, Terra Classen, Chelsea Kaufman, Abby Albracht, Melissa Hernandez, and Shae Spitz.

A total of sixty-eight players competed in tourney games or three point shooting this year.



Left Champions - back row(l-r): Tyler Albracht, Ryan Rudloff, Trey Frauendorfer, Preston Afrank, Kyle Wiese. Front: Chad King, Tim Wiese, Joe McWilliams.

Right is the runner up team (l-r): Kevin Nelson, Brett Nelson, Kyle Afrank, Matt Finkral, Chris Wiese and Hernando Hernandez. (Jason Rankin, not pictured)

Veteran team members below (l-r): Chris McWilliams, Matt Rudloff, Craig McWilliams, Ryan Chilson, Yancey Nygren, Terra Classen, Mike McWilliams, Ben Nelson. (Ben Jacobson, not pictured)



Women's team below (l-r): Mara Ranslem, Melissa Hernandez, Chelsea Kaufman, Abby Albracht, Tessa Classen, Destiny Johnson, Emily Afrank, Esmeralda Arreguin, Savannah Wiese, Audrey Wondercheck. (Shae Spitz, not pictured)



## Hardworking 4th Graders Dive into Nebraska History and Hands-On Science

By Karla Patzel

This school year, the 4th-grade students have been hard at work, blending learning with creativity, curiosity, and hands-on fun. From exploring the rich history of their home state to digging into the prehistoric past and even writing their own books, these young learners have experienced a truly memorable year of growth and discovery.

One of the highlights of the year has been the use of *Nebraska Weekly* newspapers. Each week, students explore engaging articles that introduce them to Nebraska's geography, landmarks, notable figures, and important historical events. These student-friendly newspapers have brought local history to life and sparked many thoughtful classroom discussions.

In addition to reading about Nebraska, students became authors themselves by writing their own books focused on topics about the state. Using the full writing process, they brainstormed ideas, drafted their stories, revised and edited their work, and created final published pieces. Their books highlighted everything from Nebraska's natural features and wildlife to historical events and famous people, allowing students to showcase both their knowledge and creativity.

A particularly exciting moment this year was a virtual field trip to Morrill Hall. From their classroom, students stepped into the world of paleontology, taking on the role of scientists in a fossil dig simulation. They carefully uncovered and examined "fossils," learning how experts use evidence to piece together stories from the distant past and better understand ancient life in Nebraska.

The 4th graders' enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication have made this school year especially meaningful. With every article they read, book they write, experiment they conduct, and fossil they uncover, these students are doing more than just learning about the world—they're becoming explorers of it.

Keep it up, 4th grade  
—your future looks  
bright!





## Math Room

By Braxton Stack



Hello from the Math world. This year, like most, has just flown by. We are in the final run of the year as we enter April. Students have been working hard. As we make our way through April, kids will be gearing up for our standardized testing, which includes the ACT for Juniors which was just completed at the end of March.

In Algebra 2, we are a little behind where this class is normally because of illnesses and other events outside our control. We are in the middle of Chapter 7 on Trigonometric Functions. We did just wrap up the ACT which is a big check off item on our list. For the remainder of the school year we will be digging more into Trigonometric functions.

In Algebra 1, we are just beginning Chapter 9 dealing with Quadratic Equations and the different ways to solve them. We will be moving into Chapter 10 which will consist of working with functions. Students will be understanding restrictions within domains and ranges to help in graphing multiple different types of functions. They also need to pull from previous taught material ways of transforming these functions. We are on track to cover all the standards needed for Algebra 1.

In Geometry, students are beginning to jump into working with proofs in Chapters 9 and 10. These are more abstract concepts that really test a person's ability to think outside the box. Students are asked to prove something for all problems, not just an individual problem using rules, definitions, postulates, and etc. It's neat to see the students progress as we work through the chapters.

In Math 8, we are on the tail end of wrapping up our standards for this year already. My goal typically for this class is to get through the material and finish the year out working on some Algebra 1 (freshman). I like to see students make connections from what we've covered this past year and previously to material they will see going forward. It's a good way for Jr. High students get a little more confidence about math going into their freshman year.

Our General Math students have covered a variety of topics. We are currently beginning to dive into Trigonometric functions. This will expand on different applications into real world problem solving.

All classes have been working really hard. Students will still be completing our "Famous Mathematician" research project. Here they will pick an individual mathematician from the past and research their contributions to society. They will learn about their person's upbringing and education as well as any other interesting facts they learn along the way. They will then do a short presentation to the class sharing their discoveries. It's a neat way to learn about other cultures and times as well as appreciate what mathematicians have done for the world today.



## UNMC Discover Nursing

By Kylie Sweeter

Eight Newman Grove students had a great opportunity today attending the UNMC Discover Nursing event at NECC!

Students participated in hands on simulations and activities that gave them a glimpse into the nursing profession. They were able to practice skills such as giving injections, checking patient vitals, removing staples and sutures, and caring for pediatric patients. Students also explored labor and delivery simulations and took part in team-building activities.

It was a great day of learning and career exploration as students discovered what a future in nursing might look like! Thank you to UNMC and NECC for providing this valuable experience for our students.





## Abdominal Migraines

Abdominal migraines aren't headaches. As their name suggests, they make your belly ache instead. But they often happen as a reaction to the same triggers as migraine headaches. They can hurt a lot and cause nausea, cramps, and often vomiting.

Kids whose family members get migraines are more likely to get abdominal migraines; they're rare in adults. More girls get them than boys. Kids who have abdominal migraines typically get migraine headaches when they get older.

**Causes and Triggers:** We don't know their exact cause. One theory is that changes in the levels of two compounds your body makes, histamine and serotonin, are responsible. Experts think that being upset or worried can affect them.

Foods such as chocolate, food with monosodium glutamate (MSG), and processed meats with nitrites might trigger abdominal migraines in some people.

Swallowing a lot of air may also trigger them or set off similar tummy symptoms. It can cause bloating and trouble eating.

**Symptoms:** It will hurt in the center of your child's body or around their belly button (not their sides), what doctors call midline abdominal pain. Your little one could also: feel queasy or throw up; be pale or flushed; yawn, be drowsy, or have little energy; lose their appetite or be unable to eat; have dark shadows under their eyes. Abdominal migraines are often sudden and quite severe. They can hit without any warning signs. The pain may go away after an hour, or it may last as long as 3 days.

**Diagnosis:** It can be hard to diagnose them because kids have trouble telling the difference between an abdominal migraine and ordinary stomach aches, stomach flu, or other belly problems. Because abdominal migraines tend to run in families, the doctor will ask about relatives who have migraine headaches. Then they'll try to rule out other causes for stomach pain. They'll see how closely your child's symptoms match a specific list that migraine experts have come up with.

**Treatment:** Sometimes, simply knowing what the problem is makes it easier to deal with. Because we don't know much about abdominal migraines, doctors may treat them like other migraines. But they usually don't prescribe drugs unless the symptoms are very bad or happen a lot. Medications like Ibuprofen or acetaminophen may stop an attack if given early enough.

**Prevention:** With their parents' and doctor's help, kids with abdominal migraines may be able to figure out what triggers them. Keep a diary: Note the date and time they get it, what foods they had eaten earlier, what they were doing before it happened, if they took any medication recently, and if there's anything going on in their lives that could be making them stressed or anxious.

If a food triggers abdominal migraines, they can try to avoid eating it. But that may not work for everyone. Kids who have abdominal migraines should eat a [nutritious diet](#) with plenty of fiber. Other healthy habits, like daily exercise and getting enough sleep, and teaching them how to manage their emotions and deal with problems, can help, too.

Source: WEBMD.com

Mrs. Wondercheck RN

ESU 8 School Nurse



# Art Room Happenings!

By Audrey Wondercheck



The K-8 art students have been busy preparing their sports themed artwork that was displayed at the spring concert.

Kindergarten through second grade learned about pointillism while creating their ball of choice.

Third grade learned about tints as they did the background for their action silhouettes. They used their own images for the silhouettes.

Fourth and fifth grade used the rule of thirds to draw their larger than life sport balls. Sixth graders used value to paint their choices to look 3D.

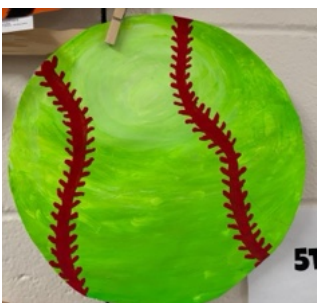
The junior high paired up to take still action photos of each. They used those photos to create the silhouettes in their project while using values to border their silhouettes.

High school wrapped up mixed media and are preparing for their 3 week final project!



Hazel Weier, 7th Grade

Evelyn Rice, 5th Grade



Tru Schlee, 6th Grade

Kinzley Nelson, 2nd Grade



## Driver's Education

Boone Central will hold Driver's Ed this summer on the following dates:

Classroom: Monday, June 8; Tuesday, June 9; Wednesday, June 10; Thursday, June 11. Range driving in Kearney:

Monday, June 15. Registration is online only through the Kearney Safety

Center.: [https://www.unk.edu/offices/safety\\_center/driver-](https://www.unk.edu/offices/safety_center/driver-education.phponly)

[education.phponly](https://www.unk.edu/offices/safety_center/driver-education.phponly). Individuals taking the course must have a valid learner's or school permit.

## NEWMAN GROVE FFA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE 2025-2026

# Chapter Banquet

APRIL 27 2026

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE  
NEWMAN GROVE GYM

DINNER STARTING AT  
6:30 PM WITH  
AWARDS TO FOLLOW



LABOR AUCTION WILL  
BEGIN AT APPROXIMATELY  
7:30 PM

## Reminder:

Friday, May 1st

No School for  
Elementary Students





**Micah Cuevas**

Parents: Jenelle Mostek

Other Family Members: Dominick, Kris & Elyssa Cuevas, Chloe Solano

Senior Activities: Cross Country, Basketball, FFA, National Honor Society, Track & Field

Favorite Pastime: Hanging out with my friends and family

Part-time Employment: Summer job at NG pool.

Plans after Graduation: Attend Northeast Community College



**Elise Witchell**

Parents: Adam & Dawn Witchell

Other Family Members: Allison

Senior Activities: Cross Country, One Act, Student Council, FBLA, Speech

Favorite Pastime: I love to travel with my family & go on adventures! I also like to play the Wii with my sister. Work on 3-D printed projects. Ride bike and make art.

Part-time Employment: Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home - Dietary Aide & NGPS Kitchen Worker

Plans after Graduation: Attend Southeast Community College for Computer Information



**Shawn Hagnaya**

Parents: Juanita & Jeff Ratliff

Other Family Members: Marion & Mariah Hagnaya

Senior Activities: Basketball

Favorite Pastime: Drawing

Plans after Graduation: Teaching



**Aubree Whitaker**

Parents: Halie Forre Bender and Kyle Whitaker


Other Family Members: Jenae, Whitney, Oakley, Mesa

Senior Activities: FFA, National Honor Society, Basketball, Rodeo, Shell Creek Watershed

Favorite Pastime: Riding Horses

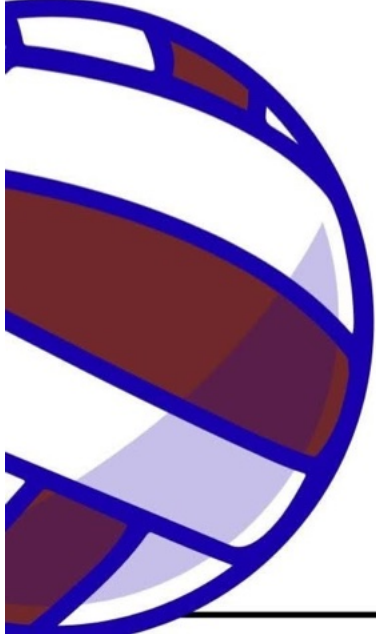
Part-time Employment: Babysitting

Plans after Graduation: Attend Northeast Community College for nursing



NG/SE PANTHERS

# YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CAMP 2026




**MAY 18-21**

8:00 AM-9:00 AM (K-2)  
9:15 AM-10:30 AM (3-5)  
10:45 AM-12:15 AM (6-7)  
CURRENT GRADE LEVEL

18&19 AT THE  
NEWMAN GROVE GYM

20&21 AT THE  
ST. EDWARD  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

REGISTRATION CLOSING  
SUNDAY, APRIL 26




## Track and Field Day

The annual K-6 Track and Field Day will be held on **April 30, 2026**, starting at **1:30 p.m.**

Students should dress accordingly. (Check weather forecast)

Their PE shoes can be worn if needed. Also, they may want to bring water bottles and sunscreen. Students will return to school and be dismissed from school.




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Earn for your school with over 350 participating products. Use the Box Tops app to scan paper receipts or submit digital receipts within 14 days of purchase, or connect your Walmart account with your Box Tops account to earn at Walmart without scanning.
- Exciting offers every month**  
Find new bonus offers every month in the app. Check the app every month to see which of your favorite Box Tops products can earn more that month.
- Extras! Extras! Read all about them!**  
Seasonal and holiday bonuses give you even more opportunities to earn big for your school throughout the year. Sign up for Box Tops emails and app notifications in the Communication Settings in the app, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get the inside scoop on exciting bonus offers that pop up.
- Refer a friend and earn BIG**  
Invite friends to Box Tops and when they scan their first receipt within 14 days, you and your friend will each earn Bonus Box Tops for the school of your choice. Go to your profile in the app and tap on "Refer a Friend" to get started.
- Beyond scanning**  
You can also use the app to:
  - Follow your school's earning progress
  - See a full list of participating products
  - Find and support schools in your area





## NEWMAN GROVE ALUMNI LUNCHEON

*Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025*

**11:30am-1:30pm - High School Cafeteria**

*\*There will be a business meeting at 1:00pm.*

**Tickets: \$20.00 per person**  
**Payable in advance ONLY**

**(Deadline to RSVP/purchase is MONDAY, May 18th).**

RSVP/purchase your meal by contacting Kari Fehring  
Call/text 402-651-0549 or Email [ngalumniassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ngalumniassoc@gmail.com)  
Mail \$20per person to 1329 330<sup>th</sup> Ave, Newman Grove NE 68758


Please include your name, guest name, address and year of graduation.

OR

Purchase in person at the Citizens Bank

OR

Visit Events in Newman Grove Facebook page for more info  
If you have questions regarding this year's banquet, please contact Kari Fehring. See contact information above.



# HELP SUPPORT SCOTT'S MEAT MISSION!

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN  
A BUNDLE CONTAINING 2 PACKS OF  
T-BONES & 2 PACKS OF RIBEYES

2 WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN

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\$10 FOR 3 TICKETS



TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM FFA ADVISOR MISS MARTENSEN OR ANY FFA OFFICER  
402-447-6294 | MIKAYLA.MARTENSEN@NGPUBLICSCHOOLS.COM



## Join us for the **JUNIOR HIGH DANCE**

*Current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders*

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

Join us for dancing from 7-8 PM and  
games from 8-9 PM

*Entry: \$2 per Student*

### Lower Platte NRD Open House

Eight students from Newman Grove Jr./Sr. High School attended the Lower Platte North NRD Open House on March 27, 2026. Andrea Miller, Mark Seier and Gene Wissenburg were also in attendance. During the event, students explored career opportunities in the water quality field and engaged directly with NRD professionals to learn about their work and pathways into environmental careers.



## **Rooted in Tradition, Growing the Future: 97 Years of Newman Grove FFA**

By Mikayla Martensen

The Newman Grove FFA Chapter is celebrating an incredible milestone this year—97 years of agricultural education, leadership development, and community impact. Chartered on March 23, 1929, the chapter holds the distinction of being one of the oldest and longest-running FFA chapters in Nebraska.

For nearly a century, the Newman Grove FFA Chapter has played a vital role in shaping generations of students. While agriculture has evolved significantly since 1929, the core mission of FFA, premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, remains as strong as ever.

“In 1929, agriculture looked very different from what it does today,” said chapter advisor Mikayla Martensen. “But what hasn’t changed is the importance of teaching students responsibility, leadership, and the value of hard work.”

Over the years, the chapter has adapted alongside the agricultural industry. Early members focused primarily on production agriculture, including livestock and crop farming. Today, students have opportunities to explore a wide range of fields, including agricultural business, food science, natural resources, and agricultural technology.

The Newman Grove FFA Chapter has built a strong tradition of excellence. Members consistently participate in leadership events, career development events (CDEs), and degree programs at the district and state levels. Many alumni have gone on to successful careers in agriculture and beyond, carrying with them the skills and values they developed through FFA.

Equally important is the chapter’s deep connection to the community. From service projects to fundraising efforts like the annual labor auction and fruit sales, FFA members are actively involved in giving back and supporting the area that has supported them for generations.

“FFA is more than just the jacket,” said Dylan Luetkenhaus, who is currently serving as the chapter treasurer. “It shapes the new generations into strong independent leaders of America.”

That sense of community has been especially evident in times of hardship, as members and supporters come together to support one another. The chapter prides itself on not only developing leaders but also fostering a culture of compassion and resilience.

Today, the legacy continues through the dedication of its members, including families with multiple students actively involved in the organization. In some cases, siblings serve in leadership roles at the same time, further strengthening the chapter’s sense of tradition and connection.

“FFA is more than just an organization, it’s like a second family where you grow into who you want to be,” says current chapter president Kailey Patzel. “It’s given me opportunities to step outside my comfort zone, build friendships, and carry on a family tradition, while learning to advocate for the future of agriculture and make a difference.”

As the Newman Grove FFA Chapter celebrates 97 years, its members remain focused on the future. With a continued commitment to leadership, innovation, and service, the chapter is preparing the next generation to meet the challenges of an ever-changing agricultural industry.

“While we are proud of our history, we are even more excited about what lies ahead,” says Miss Martensen. “The future of agriculture is in good hands with these students. Our chapter theme this year is Rooted in Tradition Since 1929, reminding us just how much history our chapter has.”

From its beginnings in 1929 to today, the Newman Grove FFA Chapter stands as a testament to the lasting impact of agricultural education and the power of student leadership. And as it looks toward its 100th anniversary, the chapter continues to grow, lead, and serve—just as it has for the past 97 years.



*Brylee Patzel*  
REPORTER | SOPHOMORE



**FAVORITE AG CLASS**  
Intro to Ag

**FFA ACTIVITIES & CONTESTS**  
Livestock Judging, Junior Public Speaking, Meat Evaluation, and Livestock Management

**BIGGEST FFA ACCOMPLISHMENT**  
My biggest accomplishment in FFA has been being able to participate at State FFA in Jr. Public Speaking. This is a very competitive event and making it to state was a big deal to me.  
**WHAT IS AN FFA EVENT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BUT HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY?**

Food Science  
**FAVORITE FFA MEMORY**  
My favorite FFA memory is going to State FFA during the 2025 convention. This is my favorite memory because I was able to laugh with friends, meet new people, and be engaged with our organization. I was able to have the best weekend while also being an advocate for FFA and what it stands for.

**FFA "WORD" OF THE YEAR**  
PUNCTUAL



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Best Choice



*Oliver Kaufman*  
HISTORIAN | SOPHOMORE

**FFA "WORD" OF THE YEAR**  
MOTIVATED



**FAVORITE AG CLASS**  
Intro to Ag  
**BIGGEST FFA ACCOMPLISHMENT**  
Receiving an officer position  
**WHAT IS AN FFA EVENT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BUT HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY?**

Poultry Evaluation  
**FAVORITE FFA MEMORY**  
Throwing out candy on the FFA parade float during Shell Creek Valley Days

**FFA ACTIVITIES & CONTESTS**  
Land Judging, Livestock Judging, Agronomy, Meat Evaluation, & Creed Speaking

## NEWMAN GROVE FFA GREENHOUSE PLANT SALES

**HOURS:**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH 3:15-5 PM  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH 6-7 PM  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND- 3:15-5 PM

**AVAILABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:**

- HANGING BASKETS
- PETUNIAS
- GERANIUMS
- SUCCULENTS
- POTTED PLANTS
- VARIETY ANNUALS
- MUCH MORE!

WATCH THE FFA FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL SHOPPING TIMES!  
TO ARRANGE ANOTHER TIME TO SHOP REACH OUT TO MISS MARTENSEN AT 402-447-6294 OR MIKAYLA.MARTENSEN@NGPUBLICSCHOOLS.COM

# NEWMAN GROVE FFA APRIL UPDATES

## State Convention

- Newman Grove FFA received a Gold National Chapter Rating. This means we placed within the Top 20 of chapters in Nebraska, and our application will now advance to the National Level
- Natural Resources Team Placed 24<sup>th</sup> out of 77 Teams
  - Jayden Benson: Red Ribbon
  - Dylan Luetkenhaus: White Ribbon
  - Also Competing: Mady Wiese & Beckett Jorgensen
- Agriscience Fair: Cash Sweeter & Jace Forre earned 3rd place
- State Degrees awarded to Aubree Whitaker, Kailey Patzel, Serenity Strong, & Owen Kaufman
- Ag Issues Academy participants: Kailey Patzel, Serenity Strong, & Elia Jarecki

What a successful convention and a great representation of our chapter!



## 97 Years Strong!

On March 23, 1929, the Newman Grove FFA Chapter was chartered. Our chapter has been growing leaders, building traditions, and shaping the future of agriculture ever since. As the oldest and longest-running FFA chapter in the state, we're proud of where we've been and excited for what's ahead.

**Here's to 97 years of legacy, and many more to come!**



**UPCOMING FFA EVENTS:**  
**APRIL 21ST: OFFICER INTERVIEWS**  
**APRIL 27TH: BANQUET & LABOR AUCTION**  
**MAY 11TH: CHAPTER MEETING**



LEARNING TO DO, DOING TO LEARN, EARNING TO LIVE, LIVING TO SERVE



# Junior High Panther Track & Field



Boone Central Quad 4-7-26

The junior high had their first meet on Tuesday, April 7th at Boone Central. The weather was a little bit on the cold side (wind) but the students did well. Participants in the top 8 are: McKinlee Marker-Brezina (1st-Shot Put, 5th-Long Jump, 5th-4x400 Meter Relay); Sydney Patzel (1st-Discus, 2nd-Shot Put, 4th-100 Meter Hurdles, 5th-200 Meter Hurdles); Cali Kerres (1st-Triple Jump, 3rd-4x100 Meter Relay, 8th-100 Meter Dash); Brooklyn Benson (1st-100 Meter Hurdles, 2nd-200 Meter Hurdles, 3rd-4x100 Meter Relay); Natasha Nelson (1st-1600 Meter Run, 8th-800 Meter Run); Morely Warren (1st-Long Jump, 1st-100 Meter Dash, 1st-200 Meter Dash, 1st-4x400 Meter Relay); Owen Flood (1st-800 Meter Run, 1st-4x400 Meter Relay); Kelton Jorgensen (1st-4x400 Meter Relay, 8th-200 Meter Dash, 8th-Long Jump); Bennett Werts (1st-100 Meter Hurdles, 1st-4x400 Meter Relay, 2nd-Long Jump, 4th-High Jump); Ali Chilson (2nd-Discus, 5th-4x100 Meter Relay, 7th-200 Meter Dash); Paisley Fritz (3rd-4x100 Meter Relay, 5th-Long Jump); Hazel Weier (3rd-4x100 Meter Relay, 4th-200 Meter Hurdles, 8th-100 Meter Hurdles); Liz Meyer (4th-Discus, 5th-4x100 Meter Relay); Micah Ketelsen (4th-1600 Meter Run, 6th-800 Meter Run); Ali Werts (5th-Shot Put); Sutton Scott (5th-1600 Meter Run); Pierce Fehringer (5th-200 Meter Hurdles, 8th-100 Meter Hurdles); Jayahn Banks (5th-Shot Put, 7th-Discus); Kayel Ditter (5th-Discus, 8th-Shot Put); Camila Gomez (5th-4x100 Meter Relay, 6th-Discus); Kelany Irineo-Gallardo (5th-4x100 Meter Relay, 5th-4x400 Meter Relay); Eddan Sauser (5th-4x400 Meter Relay, 7th-Long Jump, 8th-200 Meter Dash); Payton Kula (5th-4x400 Meter Relay); Anhelina Umanska (7th-Long Jump, 8th-Triple Jump); Brandtley Christman (7th-200 Meter Hurdles).

High Plains Invitational @ Osceola 4-9-26

The weather for the second meet of the season did not cooperate very well. The rain and lightning caused a delay and then had to stop early without all the events getting to complete. Participants in the top 6 are: Morely Warren (1st-Long Jump, 1st-100 Meter Dash); Calie Kerres (2nd-Triple Jump, 2nd-4x100 Meter Relay); Sydney Patzel (2nd-Discus, 5th-Shot Put); Brooklyn Benson (2nd-100 Meter Hurdles, 2nd-4x100 Meter Relay); Hazel Weier (2nd-4x100 Meter Relay); McKinlee Marker-Brezina (3rd-Triple Jump, 5th-Long Jump, 6th-Shot Put); Bennett Werts (3rd-100 Meter Hurdles, 6th-Long Jump, 6th-High Jump); Khale Allen (4th-Discus).

## NG/SE YOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP



### WHEN

June 15-18

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade = 8AM - 8:45AM

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade = 9AM - 10AM

7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade = 10:15AM - 11:45AM



Scan me!

### WHERE

June 15-16 - NEWMAN GROVE

June 17-18 - ST. EDWARD

The goal of this camp is to improve ability, skills, and confidence in the game of basketball. We will be working on offense, defense, and basic fundamentals.

Price: \$30/camper (price includes Panther Youth Basketball Camp t-shirt)

REGISTRATION CLOSES SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

For questions: Travis McCloud (402) 889-3930  
travis.mccloud@ngpublicschools.com

*"If you want to be a winner, you have to prepare, play, and behave like a winner!"*

## NG/SE YOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP



### WHEN

June 15-18

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade = 8AM - 8:45AM

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade = 9AM - 10AM

7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade = 10:15AM - 11:45AM



Scan me!

### WHERE

June 15-16 - ST. EDWARD

June 17-18 - NEWMAN GROVE

The emphasis for our camp is for the girls to gain confidence in their skills as basketball players. We will work both offensive and defensive skills during the camp.

Price: \$30/camper (price includes Panther Youth Basketball Camp t-shirt)

REGISTRATION CLOSES SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

For questions: Brett Miller  
brett.miller@ngpublicschools.com

*"The key is not the will to win...everybody has that. It is the will to prepare to win that is important"*

# Newman Grove Breakfast & Lunch Menu



(Variety of low fat & fat free milks offered with each meal) (Menus are subject to change without notice)

(Breakfast will include the choice of cereal instead of main course each day.)

**Scott's Meat Mission (Made with locally donated beef)**



## May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>May 1</b> <b>No Elementary</b>  Strudel <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Sloppy Joe Green Beans Pears
<b>May 4</b>  Eggs & Bacon <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Corndog Mixed Veggies Mandarin Oranges	<b>May 5</b>  Cinnamon Roll <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Flying Saucer Peas Peaches Dinner Roll	<b>May 6</b>  Breakfast Pizza <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Grilled Hamburger Baked Beans Chips	<b>May 7</b>  Strudel <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Chicken Quesadilla Corn Pineapple	<b>May 8</b>  Donut <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Sub Sandwich Broccoli Chips Pears
<b>May 11</b>  Pancake Wrap <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Salisbury Steak Green Beans Apple Slices Dinner Roll	<b>May 12</b>  Cereal & Poptart <u>Fresh Fruit &amp; Juice</u> Cook's Choice	<b>May 13</b>  	<b>May 14</b>  	<b>May 15</b>



## NG/SE High School Panther Track & Field



The Panthers traveled to Concordia for their first meet on March 20th. The boys earned 5 points and placed 12th out of 14 teams, while the girls earned 8 points and placed 11th out of 13 teams. The members who placed in the top 8 are: Payton Fehringer (2nd-High Jump); Kailey Patzel (5th-Discus, 7th-Shot Put); Micah Cuevas (6th-3200 Meter Run, 7th-1600 Meter Run); Parker Fitchner (7th-200 Meter Dash); Nolan Werts (4th-4x400 Meter Relay, 8th-High Jump); Zaiden Huesman (4th-4x400 Meter Relay); Ian Chilson (4th-4x400 Meter Relay); .

March 26th they traveled to Loup City for the Rebel Invitational. The girls earned 3 points and placed 12th out of 12 teams. The boys earned 44 points and was 7th out of 12 teams. Individuals placing in the top 8 are: Nate Fowlkes (4th-100 Meter Dash); Micah Cuevas (1st-1600 Meter Run, 1st-3200 Meter Run); Zane Potter (4th-300 Meter Hurdles, 3rd-4x100 Meter Relay, 7th-110 Meter Hurdles, 8th-Long Jump); Billy Fyfe (3rd-4x100 Meter Relay); Griffin Nelson (3rd-4x100 Meter Relay); Nolan Werts (5th-High Jump, 3rd-4x100 Meter Relay); Piper Jarecki (7th-Shot Put); Lakin Prosocki (8th-300 Meter Hurdles).

Their next meet is on Friday, April 17th at Burwell, starting at 10:00 a.m. Please come out and support the kids.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ● 10:00am: TR: Goldenrod Conf Meet (in Burwell) Skills Meeting (lunch) election of officers No Elementary (LETRS Training)	2
3	4 ● 10:00am: JH Track: Conference Meet (Archangels) NHS Meeting (lunch) election of officers 31:13 Dance Rehearsal Practice (gym in use)	5 ● 3:40pm: CILT Meeting Class Meetings (lunch) election of officers Acadience Reading ● 6:30pm: Academic Awards Night	6 ● 3:00pm: JH Academic Awards (in gym) Student Council Meeting (lunch) election of officers	7 ● 10:00am: TR: McCool Junction Invite (A) ● 5:00pm: Preschool Graduation (gym in use) Last Day of Preschool Acadience Math	8 ● 8:30am: 5th Grade Field Trip (Aurora) ACT Registration Deadline	9 ● 2:00pm: Graduation
10	11 31:13 Dance Rehearsal Practice (gym in use) ● 7:00pm: FFA Meeting ● 7:30pm: Board of Education Meeting	12 ● 1:00pm: End of 4th Qtr & Semester 2 - 1:00 Dismissal	13 No School/Teacher In-Service TR: Districts (Osceola)	14 Possible Snow Makeup Days 31:13 Dance Rehearsal Practice (gym in use)	15 Possible Snow Makeup Days 31:13 Dance Recital Set-Up (Gym in Use)	16 31:13 Dance Recital (gym in use)
17	18 Possible Snow Makeup Days ● 7:00pm: PTO Meeting	19 Possible Snow Makeup Days	20 Possible Snow Makeup Days	21 Possible Snow Makeup Days	22 Possible Snow Makeup Days State Track	23 State Track
24	25 Memorial Day Memorial Day Services (Gym - if needed)	26	27	28 Gym Refinishing - Gym not Available	29 Gym Refinishing - Gym not Available	30 Gym Refinishing - Gym not Available
31 Gym Refinishing - Gym not Available						

## Academics Award Night Tuesday, May 5th



**6:30 pm Social**

**7:00 pm Awards Program**



# END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES



## Tuesday, April 21

2026-2027 Kindergarten Parent Mtg. - 6:00 p.m.

## Friday, April 24

Kindergarten Early Dismissal - 11:30 a.m.

2026-2027 Kindergarten Round-Up - 12:00 p.m.

## Monday, April 27

FFA Banquet - 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, April 30

Elementary Track & Field Day - 1:30 p.m.

## Friday, May 1

No Elementary School - Teacher Training

Goldenrod Conference Meet @ Burwell - 10 a.m.

## Monday, May 4

JH Goldenrod Conference Meet @ Archangels - 10 a.m.

## Tuesday, May 5

9-12 Grade Academic Awards Program - 6:30 p.m.

John Ramaekers Retirement Reception - Following Program

## Wednesday, May 6

Junior High Academic Awards - 3:00 p.m.

## Thursday, May 7

Preschool Last Day

Preschool Graduation - 5:00 p.m.

## Friday, May 8

Semester Tests/Projects

## Saturday, May 9

Graduation - 2:00 p.m.

## Monday, May 11

Semester Tests/Projects

Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 12

Last Day K-11 - Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, May 13

District Track Meet @ Osceola

Teacher In Service

## Friday, May 22

State Track Meet in Omaha

## Saturday, June 6

Alumni Banquet - 11:30 a.m.

## Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

Wednesday, August 12 - First Day of School!



## Musical Summer Camp



Join us for a fun-filled week of music and acting at our Summer Musical Camp! Open to current 2nd through 6th graders, campers will learn, rehearse, and perform a musical in just four days. The week will end with a special performance for family and friends. No experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm and love for music!

**Grades: Current 2nd-6th Graders**

**Time: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Dates: June 1st, June 2nd, June 3rd, June 4th**

**Performance for family/friends:**

**Thursday June 4th at 11:30 AM in the cafeteria.**

\*For any questions, please email Mrs. Albracht at [abby.albracht@ngpublicschools.com](mailto:abby.albracht@ngpublicschools.com)

\* Registration form is due to the school office by Thursday, April 30th.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Newman Grove Public School District is committed to providing a safe environment where all students can develop academically. Students will be provided opportunities to acquire skills needed to accomplish their goals and to develop their potential as lifelong learners, which will allow students to participate in and contribute to society.