

Eagle Profile

We want to say thank you to everyone that responded and helped with the bus wreck on December 18. Great communities are measured by their response in times of crises. The response we received during this time truly shows how absolutely great our community is!

Thank You

USD 303 Recognizes Kim McNinch for 31 Years of Service to Ness County Students

On December 21, family, friends, and colleagues gathered in the NCHS Library to celebrate Kim McNinch's retirement from teaching. Mrs. McNinch spent her entire professional career teaching in Ness County with the last 22 years at NCHS. Mrs. McNinch shared that when entering college she was torn between becoming a teacher or becoming a pharmacist. Ultimately, she feels she made the right decision, and we agree. Thank you Mrs. McNinch for everything you have done for the students in Ness County, NCHS, and USD 303.



NCHS Performs “Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress”

Ness City High School All-School Play presented “Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress or Let’s Give the Villain the Slip” by Billy St. John from Pioneer Drama. It was directed by Elaine Wierman and assisted by Carrie Beutler.



After six hard weeks of preparing their lines, blocking their positions and getting into character, the students pulled off another “hairlarious,” performance causing kids and adults to “dye” laughing when the heroes put on their dresses. Yes, young actor Clarence Rawlins (Landon Reinhardt) managed to do just that when he and his theatre company headed west to Lucky Lady, Nevada, where Clarence discovered that he had misread his distant aunt’s handwritten will. Thinking he had inherited a profitable saloon where his acting career might flourish, he had actually been bequeathed the Lucky Lady Salon, a beauty parlor.

Flat broke, Clarence had no choice but to raid the costume trunk and transform himself into a down-on-her-luck British aristocrat, Lady Claire Rawl, who became the head hairstylist of the small town’s only salon. His pal and fellow actor, Roger Gaines (John Pfannenstiel), became a French stylist, Rogaine. Together with the ladies in the troupe-Heidi Gray (Iran Mesta), Bobbie Pinz (Savannah Moore) and Nell Clipper (Caidyn Horton)-they re-opened the beauty salon to great success. But their good luck ran out when, unbeknownst to them, two crooks plotted to acquire Clarence’s salon as part of a scheme to rob the bank next door. The Old West was never any wilder-or more fun!

Other actors and actresses were Angel Guzman, Jaiden Pavlu, Alexa Reinhardt, Kenzee Cupp, Taylor Starr, Angel Guzman, Kris Liggett, J.D. Moore, Austin Snodgrass, Makenzie Flax, Edwin Reyes, Clay Beutler, Amy Foos, Kayden Smith, Brendon Reed, Janessa Briney, Tristan Schwien. Dancers were Janate’ Kerr, Andrea Morales and Jena Ratliff. Lights and Sound were Jay Cupp, J.C. Payne, Riley Starr and A.J. Garcia. Stage Design was Ava Reis and Stage Manager was Jadon Copeland.

Ya’ll will have to “comb” back next year for the next NCHS presentation.



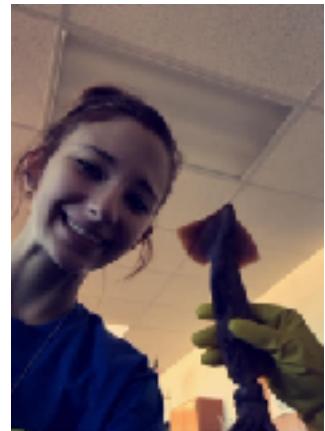
Biology Classes Explore Animal Kingdom Through Dissection

Mr. Clay’s biology classes have been exploring taxa of animals through dissections this semester. Thus far they have dissected, sea stars, crickets, crayfish, freshwater mussels, and squid. For each dissection students create a list of questions about the animals that they answer using evidence from their dissection. Students have created reports from their dissections and have really progressed in their scientific writing during the semester.

The 8th grade science classes have been studying space this quarter and recently created exhibits about NASA missions. During the semester they have studied planets, stars, and phases of the moon.



8th graders Bryce Flax, Trey Solze, and Raul Lopez constructing a paper model of Apollo 11.



Sophomore Kinzi Cox dissects a squid with her group.

LADY EAGLES BREAK 25 GAME LOSING STREAK

Our Lady Eagle 2018-2019 season has started with a bang this year as we got our first win in 25 games! The girls have worked hard to buy into what Marissa Stoecklein and I have started last year and have continued to build on the skills they've learned so far. The first semester of basketball looked very promising, with huge improvements in both the older and younger players. The players have been looking and feeling more comfortable on the court and really look to each other to finish what we've started both varsity and junior varsity wise. Our motto this year has been "together" so we're really excited to see the players finish this season together and continue getting better everyday!

Our three senior leaders that lead the way are Tiana Epperson, Alysson Foos, and Jenna Werth. These girls have gained a lot of varsity experience throughout the years and are learning to take on new responsibilities and new roles throughout the team. As a team we lean on them to direct us and set the tone for practices and games and they've done a great job of taking on this big role.

For our juniors we have Summer Pfannenstiel, Rylee Starr, Kass McGranahan, Makenzie Flax, and Kenzee Cupp. Last year, a lot of them were thrown into big roles, with these roles continuing to get bigger. They have responded with resiliency and continued to pick themselves and their team back up game after game. Sophomores Andrea Morales, Tia Solze, and Cynthia Guzman have came in and made great strides this season. They work hard and continue to get better everyday which adds a lot of depth and competition to our team.

We have a big group of freshmen this year that include Taylor Starr, Amy Foos, Zoe Seib, Kennedy Liggett, Alexa Reinhardt, and Caidyn Horton. These freshmen have been great additions to our team and really round us out at all positions. They have made the transition from junior high to high school and now feel comfortable out on the court.

We're lucky enough to have two freshmen managers which are Kaleigh Backstrom and Ava Reis. These girls have came in and learned how to do things really quickly and are always there to help the team and coaches whenever they get a chance. We're super thankful for these girls and couldn't do what we do without them!

Run Run As Fast As You Can...Preschool Talked about the Gingerbread Man!

Preschoolers have done a lot of things pertaining to the Gingerbread Man books this month. We read many versions of the book and looked at how they were alike and different. We also created Gingerbread men on paper and decorated them. We sang The Five Little Gingerbread Man song, and even played with Gingerbread scented playdough. The kids had fun recreating the story by rolling out the dough and making their own little Gingerbread man. Then they put them in the house area oven to bake. Our favorite part about the Gingerbread week, however, was having a

“grand” person come in a decorate a house with us out of graham crackers. The preschoolers chose a person of their choice to come in and build a house using many donated supplies and milk cartons. I always enjoy seeing all of the houses and how different they all look even though they had the same materials.



1st Graders Achieve Their Reading Goal!

Congratulations to this group of ambitious little readers. These five 1st graders made it their goal to get their eagle with their name on it on the wall before Christmas and they did just that. To get an eagle on the wall in the Ness City Elementary Library, a student must get 10 accelerated reader points. To receive points, students must read a book and then go to the library and take a comprehension quiz on the book they read and score an 80-100%. Their eagle will continue to move across the wall throughout their grade school career as they earn more points. These first graders worked extra hard to achieve this goal and there are several others in the class who will be earning their eagle very soon. I am so proud of how hard all of my students have been working this year!

Below: Jordyn Fenley, Callie Carr, Arlyn Cruz, Addison Reinert, and Megan Robledo.



KAYS Observes Citizenship Week

Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) Citizenship Week is a week-long celebration of KAY. It is observed across the state in December and is a designated time to serve our school, community, nation, and world. The Ness City High School KAY organization planned activities throughout the week. Members set time aside to show a kind gesture to a family member and shared via our social media pages. They also cleaned up after a

home basketball game and had a contest between classes on freerice.com. This website is a 100% non-profit website where students choose categories to answer trivia questions. Each time a student answers a question right, rice is donated through the United Nations World Food Programme. The Freshman class answered the most questions, in turn donating the most rice. The KAY members will continue to find community and school service projects throughout the second semester.



5th Grade Utilize 3D Printer to Create Replicas of Native American Homes

This first semester in fifth grade has been filled with many fun filled activities and learning. One of the activities that the kids worked very hard on was their Native American projects. The students in our class, along with Mrs. Albers class, chose what Native American tribe they would like to research and create a trifold of information using what they learned from their research. They used MakersEmpire, a 3D software, to create and print a 3D replica of the tribes homes. Once the research and creation of their trifolds were finished, parents, grandparents, and other classes came to watch the students present their projects. I am so proud of how hard each group worked on creating such great pieces of work. In the month of December, in Mrs. Beutler's character ed lessons, as well as in class, we have been talking about the importance of giving to others. So, we decided the last week of school before break, we would make goodies to give to teachers and paras. The students worked great together in order to make these yummy goodies for others. We have had a great first semester and I cannot wait to see what next semester brings.



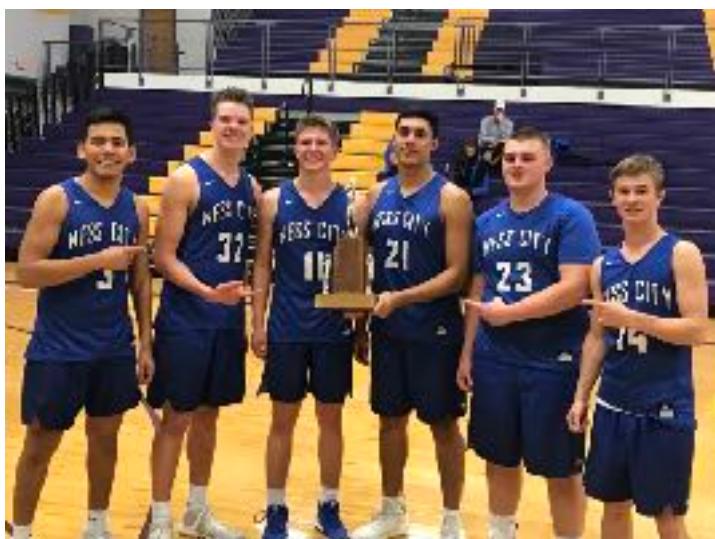
NCHS Eagles Off to a Hot Start

The varsity team is 7 and 0 coming out of Christmas break. We won the Trego Tournament by beating LaCrosse 62-24, Oakley 60-34, and Northern Valley 55-52. In the regular season we beat Macksville 67-40, Hodgeman County 77-41, Kinsley 67-30, and Dighton 71-24. Coming out of Christmas break, we have our

7th road game in a row when we play at St. John. One thing we have focused on this season is defense. The boys have bought into the scheme and have been playing very tough defense. We currently give up 35 points per game while scoring 66 points per game.

The Junior Varsity is 4-0 with wins over Macksville, Hodgeman County, Kinsley, and Dighton. The junior varsity boys are progressing very nicely and we look forward to seeing this progression pay off in the near future!

All of the boys are recovering emotionally and physically from the accident following the Dighton game. We are very thankful and extremely lucky to escape with the injuries we did. We would like to thank the Ness County Hospital, EMT's, Fire Department, first responders, sheriff's department, highway patrol, state troopers, the school administration, and Steve Proctor for everything they did for us that night. There are no amount of words we can use to express our gratitude for serving the community and these kids, but THANK YOU!



Ms. Bernbeck's English and American History:

Here we are at the end of another semester! It goes so fast when you are having fun. This year I'm not only teaching freshmen and junior English, but I get to see the juniors an extra period every day for American History. I love history, and it is nice to see students in a subject outside of English. The only downside is that I miss having a junior high class.

Enough with me, in the first nine weeks of English III, the juniors worked their tails off reviewing grammar rules and ways to prepare for the ACT. Some have already taken an ACT this year, and we've seen their gains. Others are getting ready to take their ACT in February, so I continue to look forward to their improvements. Early American literature, a couple of novels, and continuing grammar mini-lessons have filled the rest of the semester.

The freshmen in English I bring a refreshing perspective. Their class discussions reveal a variety of views. It is always entertaining when they feel cheated by an author's abrupt ending. I sincerely believe them when they claim they could write a more satisfactory conclusion to William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The freshmen worked on reading, writing, and grammar, but I'm really looking forward to the project that we barely started before the end of the semester. It began as an experiment with a website that builds a free magazine. Playing around revealed some real potential for fun and quality work. We look forward to publishing our first issue at the end of January, giving us plenty of home basketball games for material. American history is wrapping up The Great Depression. We've journeyed from the Second Industrial Revolution and Progressive Reforms of the 1800s. In appreciation for their hard work on tests and primary documents, they've watched several movies that bring the content to life. Up next comes the content that

people usually remember the most: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Civil Rights with all of its movements. I look forward to it, and I hope they do too.

Junior High Boys Basketball

The Ness City Junior High basketball team is working hard this season. The junior high Eagles basketball team has 18 players out this year, and we have seen the students improve every week in every aspect of the game. There has been a lot of changes this basketball season and the students have responded in a great way. Going into Christmas break, the varsity team is 3-5 on the season so far.. The junior varsity is 2 - 6 at their level. A major change we have had at the junior high level is allowing 6th grade the opportunity to play basketball due to a smaller number of boys going out for the team this year. This has given us an opportunity to have more subs to put into the game and for scrimaging during practice. We believe these students will be ahead of most classes when they are in 8th grade because of the experience they will have. It has been a great experience to see these 6th grade players grow on the court, and the improvement we have seen has been amazing thus far.

We are very fortunate to have Mark Hager help us coach this year. He has a lot of experience with coaching basketball at many levels in his career. He has done a great job working with the students and help the students learn the skills they need to help them at the next level. He has brought new ideas into our program that have allowed us to make different changes on the court to help out our players.

Mark Hager and I have enjoyed coaching the players this year because of how hard they work everyday. Having the opportunity to work with these students everyday is always enjoyable because of the relationships and bonds you are able to create with them. I would like to thank the parents, teachers, and high school basketball teams for all of the support this season.

Junior High Girls Basketball

In my second season as head Jr. High girls basketball coach I was fortunate enough to not only have a supportive assistant coach, Patrick Younger, but to have 17 awesome ladies to work with as well. At the beginning of this year we were only going to have 12 players from the 8th and 7th grades. With that small number of girls we asked the 6th graders to join us. Coach Younger and I were excited for this move. We believe that the sooner that we could work with the younger kids, the better our program would be in the future. The 8th grade girls, Hannah, Vanessa, Gwendolyn, Andrea, Mackenzy, Aneth, and Avril, are great role models with their can do attitudes, their willingness to get better, and the love of the game. Each day everyone comes in ready to work hard. They give it their all with every challenge that the coaches throw at them. This year one of our focus words have been “Intensity”. We chose this as one of our words because with this group of girls we have wanted to press and be aggressive on defense as well as be a fast transitioning team on offense. Halfway through the season the varsity has a record of 5-3 and the junior varsity has a record of 4-4. Although records are important, they do not define this team. After every game we try to watch film and see the skills that we do well and the skills that we need improvement on. Within the last couple of games some roles had to change because of injuries. As a coach I am pleased to say that the girls have stepped up and worked hard to get two wins before heading into Christmas break. With only a month left for the season I can confidently say that the girls will keep pushing forward to continue to be the best that we can be as a team. Can't wait to see how the season unfolds.

CRISIS DRILLS CONTINUE AT USD #303

As many of you are aware, schools in the state of Kansas are now required to perform nine crisis drills per year. Crisis drills could be any situation that could interrupt the school day. So far this year our drills have covered: 1) if a “bad person” comes to the school, 2) what to do in case of an evacuation, 3) an enhanced fire drill, 4) stranger on the playground or in the building, and 5) if a student is missing in a crisis (such as a fire). The subject of each crisis drill is determined by our District Crisis Team with the assistance of local law enforcement. Before the drill, the staff is given directions for that particular drill. The teachers then discuss the drills and procedures with the students. Once the drill is over, teachers meet and debrief about the drill and discuss any procedures that need to be changed.

Going through these drills has been beneficial to help students and staff better understand and practice procedures for different possible crises. We will continue to communicate the crisis drills to students and parents through the school’s Facebook and Twitter pages or a letter home.

SOFTBALL TEAM COUNTING DOWN TO FIRST SEASON OPENER!

In 92 days, the Ness City Lady Eagles Softball Team will take the field for the first time in our school’s history! After fundraising for over a year, equipment and uniforms are ordered as well as the game schedule set. Our team is very eager for the upcoming season. It has truly been a joy watching the girls trying out equipment and discussing how the uniforms look awesome.

Players and parents are now raising funds for the next season, 2019-2020. We will continue our fundraising efforts through suppers, concessions, and silent auction items at games. We will be selling donuts again after the first of the year.

We are truly appreciative of the community’s support of our endeavors. None of this would be possible without you!

If anyone, or business, would like to further support the Lady Eagles Softball program, you may contact us at:

Tonya Fenley - tonya.fenley@usd303.org

Jennifer Foos - jennifer.foos@usd303.org

Jeff McGranahan - 785-798-7051

Tracy Fenley - 785-798-0984

Again, “Thank you” and “GO EAGLES!”

PUBLIC NOTICE

USD 303 will continue to monitor and regulate the utilization of the district’s computer network to assure patrons of USD 303’s compliance with the federal regulation of the Children’s Internet Protection Act. The USD 303 Board of Education will be reviewing our local policy at their February 11th, 7:00 p.m. meeting. The public is invited to attend.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The superintendent, the board and staff shall protect the right of privacy of students and their families in connection with any surveys or physical examinations conducted, assisted, or authorized by the board or administration. The district shall provide parents notice of their rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment annually, at the beginning of each school year, and at any other time the school district policies in this area are substantially changed.

BUILDING REPORT CARD

Information on counties, districts, and schools in the State of Kansas can be found online. Information includes data on: building/districts, staff and salary information, attendance, schedules, enrollment, dropout/graduation, vocational education, discipline, advanced courses, student improvement plans, and student satisfaction. Data relating to Ness City Schools (and all other schools in the state of Kansas) can be found at <http://ksreportcard.ksde.org>

Random thoughts from Mr. Flax

I hope everyone enjoyed a nice Christmas vacation and a Happy New Year! With the holiday season coming to a close, that only means another semester is in the books! Grade cards have been printed and mailed out and the honor roll has been calculated and released (A very impressive listing of students). Be looking in the Ness County News for this listing of students.

Have you ever thought about becoming a KSHSAA Official? It is becoming harder and harder to find officials for our different activities especially the sub varsity and junior high levels. The following was taken from the KSHSAA January monthly journal:

Across the country, there is a high demand for individuals to become registered athletic officials at all levels of competition. And there is no greater need than at the high school level. As veteran officials are continuing to retire, new officials have an opportunity to make a difference in their communities right away. Becoming a licensed high school official is an easy call. Officiating allows you to continue being a role model by demonstrating qualities such as impartiality, fairness and courage. High school officials help protect the integrity of the games we love by teaching and enforcing the rules of play.

Who Can Become An Official? Those associated with school activities would make ideal officials:

- Former coaches
- Teachers, administrators
- Spouse of coaches
- Students and former athletes
- Parents of former athletes
- Others who have been supportive of school athletics

Benefits of Becoming a High School Official:

- Help teach and support the youth in your community
- Continue to develop leadership skills
- Give back to the sport that has given so much to you
- Stay in good physical condition
- Stay connected with students
- Have fun and make a difference
- Earn extra income
- Help make sure your home state always has enough qualified officials

For more information on how to become a KSHSAA registered official, go to

www.kshsaa.org>Official>NewOfficials or contact the KSHSAA at 785-273-5329. Or, contact the high school office and we can get you the information you need to get started.

On January 31st, Ness City High School will be hosting a 2A regional Scholar's Bowls tournament starting at 4:00 pm. If you have helped us host Scholar's Bowls tournaments before and are interested in volunteering, please contact the high school office as we will need several helpers for this tournament.

On April 3rd, Ness City High School will be hosting the CPL Speech and Drama (forensics) tournament. This tournament will last all day and we will not have classes. We will also be needing many volunteers to serve as judges and other positions. It's been many years since NCHS has hosted such a event, so if you have any interest in helping out, please let us know!