



Bulldog Bites



Nikiski Middle/High School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR. CARSTENS

With the return of the warm sun, songbirds and longer daylight hours, this time of year also marks the end of a school year. I have to say that this was a very busy but successful year in terms of achievement for our staff and students. As we look forward to next year, there are many things that are still up in the air. We currently still need to fill two certified teaching positions in order to offer what we need to our students. These positions will serve students in the areas of Spanish, History, Construction, Woods and possibly Welding.

The reason for the question marks in our staffing stems from the budget issues from both our state and local borough. The state has still not approved any sort of budget for education and continue to use it as a bargaining chip as leverage for different ideas. The bottom line is that we need to know how we will be funded in order to make the best possible plan for the students we serve. Having teaching positions on hold due to the unknown fiscal commitment is unwise at best as we hope to fill out our staffing with the best possible candidates. Recently I also posted to our Facebook page regarding the borough funding situation. It looked like there would be a little bit of an increase until some of the members amended the budget to reflect flat funding; this is not what is best for our kids. I do want to point out that our local assemblyman, Wayne Ogle, voted in favor of the mayor's increase. Thank you Mr. Ogle. I am encouraging all of you to contact both our state and local legislators to tell them your story about how our schools have impacted your children and our community. Personal stories are always the best bet. Make sure to thank them for their support and encourage them to make a decision that will be best for our kids.

OK, now that I've said what I needed to say, let's move on to recognize some people who will be leaving us this year. The reasons for our people to leave vary greatly from retirement to simply needing to move on to something different.

Paul Johnson: Career and Technical Education

Dave Brown: Special Education

Joetta Wolff: Special Education (Intensive Needs)

Troy Zimmerman: Spanish, History

Becky Lakin: Custodian

As the year finishes up, there is always the chance that others may decide to move on. However I would like to publicly recognize these men and women for their service to our school. Thank You.

On the other side of the equation, whenever we have people who move on, we will also have some new faces arrive. At this point in the hiring season, I would like to formally welcome the following people:

Caroline Willis: Special Education (Intensive Needs)

Tina Hall: Special Education

Caroline and Tina, welcome to Nikiski! As mentioned previously, we are still hoping to fill a couple more positions.

I hope everyone had a great school year and enjoyed the ride here at Nikiski Middle/High School! Have a safe and relaxing summer and remember, the next school year is right around the corner!

Dan Carstens

VICE PRINCIPAL - MR. BOSTIC

Nikiski Middle/High School had the opportunity to host an amazing group of fifth grade students during the Annual Step Up Day. The Class of 2024 top ten list was printed on the back of the T-shirt that they received on their visit.

- Have Fun-**
- Great Attendance-**
- Turn in Your Work-**
- Get Involved-**
- Self-Advocate-**
- Be on Time-**
- Use Your Planner-**
- Monitor Your Grades-**
- Make Good Choices-**

As we look forward to the upcoming summer and school year, how will we make decisions that impact our future?

Spend time with family and friends to continue to build lifetime memories. Focus on positive achievements and look for new opportunities. Set Academic, Athletic, and Activities goals that challenge you to be your best.

Think about how you would like your future to look and what you can do now to reach those dreams.

Serve others in the community through volunteering.

Thank you for an amazing year on our campus. We are proud of your achievements and look forward to hearing about all of your summer adventures.

Explore. Dream. Discover.

Best Regards,

Mr. Bostic

MR. BAILEY - QUEST, 6TH SOCIAL STUDIES

A good portion of 4th quarter Quest this year was spent on 2 main tasks – middle school debate and math enrichment challenges (including district “Trimathlon” meet). In addition, 8th graders completed some career/personality surveys to help identify individual strengths and traits, and students will also complete a creative expression challenge in the last week or so of school which enables them to express their creative thinking with everyday materials.

During the past quarter, students have practiced and steadily improved their abilities to debate various topics in the class before a group of judges. Students used SPAR (Spontaneous Argument) debate procedures to debate numerous topics such as school dress codes, driving age, and homework. All the students had to find ways to work with others in their class, sometimes argue for sides that they didn’t think they’d support, and also listen to both sides of arguments and provide constructive feedback as unbiased judges. From professionalism to body language to convincing rebuttals, everyone seemed to find something they could work on improving. For the final debates, students will be presenting their arguments on a topic to a panel of adults or high school student judges.

The past few weeks, students have also prepared for or helped others prepare for a district “Trimathlon” math meet in Kenai. Whether students participated in the district meet or not, they all managed to practice or improve their problem solving strategies, particularly those oriented around multi-step word problems (Brain Busters), and shortcut math strategies for timed problems. In addition, chess was one part of the Trimathlon, so several students practiced their higher level strategic thinking with contentious chess matches. Our Nikiski teams at the district meet brought home awards for word problems (Brain Busters) and Lighting Round performance, and everyone represented Nikiski admirably.

6th grade Social Studies/Geography students have spent most of the 4th quarter focused on the geography and culture of Africa, as well as working on individual country projects. Africa completed our year-round exploration of the 6 main continents, with each student completing a large Africa map with regional, physical, and city labels. Like earlier quarters, students have also been discussing and reading about current events in Junior Scholastic student magazines, as well as completing weekly geography questions based on various maps. For the individual country projects, students selected a country from one of the continents studied, researched required information, and put that information in a creative presentation of their choice (which they will share with the class). It’s been a great year of geography by these students, as they’ll move on to history social studies classes in 7th and 8th grade!

MR. HOOPER - OUTDOOR ED/MATH

In my Outdoor Ed class the students just completed their Hunter Education course that concluded with our field day at the Snow Shoe Gun Club. We are wrapping up a great semester of Outdoor Ed by practicing archery and searching for Geocaches. In Advanced Algebra students are exploring graphs of circles and ellipses. Precalculus is wrapping up the year examining a variety of coordinate systems.



MRS. ZIMMERMAN - SIXTH GRADE

Wow, it does not seem like summer vacation should be right around the corner, but it is!

In 6th grade Language Arts, our focus continues on Greek and Roman Mythology. We continue our DOL grammar practice as well as our Spelling Word of the Day.

In 6th grade Social Studies, our focus continues to be on current events and daily geography.

In 8th American History, we have started talking about the early republic (1789-1925). This includes the following topics: Washington's presidency, early political parties, and the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812.

We are gearing up for the BIG middle school camping trip May 22 & 23. We've been talking to students about this celebration since the beginning of the year.

In order for a student to qualify s/he needs ALL of the following:

70% or higher in ALL classes ALL year

NO in school or out of school suspensions

NO more than 2 office referrals

It has been an honor and privilege teaching your students this year. I sincerely hope you all have a wonderfully relaxing summer. I will see you next school year! I might even have some of you in class, but if not, do not forget to stop in to say 'hi.'

MR. ANDERS - MS P.E.

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle/High School in Physical Education for grades 6-8. The snow is gone and we are getting out more and more. Our soft-ball unit is in full swing, and we are using our track. So far this quarter our classes have participated in track and field events such as the 4x100 meter relay, 1600 meter run, and 100-meter dash. Other spring activities include Native Youth Olympics and the end-of-year fitness testing. We are continuing our weekly strength and conditioning workouts and weekly mile runs. Students are also participating in a variety of team and cooperative games throughout each week. Students are reminded to have a sweatshirt or light jacket on hand for cooler days.

GO BULLDOGS!!



MRS. BARROWS - LANGUAGE!

We are finishing up a great year in room B215! Students have completed the Language! curriculum and we are ending the year with some fun reading and writing activities. We began reading *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and students seem to be really connecting with the story line. Students completed Language and Edperformance assessments and I am so proud of them in the growth they have shown over the course of this year.

As we go into summer, please remember that it is important for your children to continue reading and writing daily. Thank you for sharing your children with me, I've fully enjoyed the last year at Nikiski Middle High School and I'm already looking forward to connecting with these kids again in the fall!

MR. SMITH - SIXTH GRADE

Math classes: We have spent a large portion of 4th quarter studying geometry: area, volume, surface area, and more. As we close out the year, we will finish our last session of Ed Performance testing to track student growth throughout the year from the fall until now. In our 6th grade class, the coordinate plane will be our last unit of study and in the 7th grade class we will close out with solving multi step equations.

Science class: Earth science is coming to an end! We finished out the year studying the atmosphere, weather, space and are now transitioning into studying climate and how everything we have learned in earth science thus far effects our lives and other living systems. Our last unit of study is an introduction to life science to get the students ready for 7th grade Life Science next year. We will do a project on earth's biomes and then summer will be here in no time!

MRS. DILLON - CHOIR/BAND

Hello Music Lovers!

The end of our year so far has been wonderful! After our excellent showings this quarter at High School Mass Band, Middle School Mass Band and Middle School Mass Choir I have never been more proud of our students! They performed well and were so incredibly kind, on task, and enthusiastic!

We have been working hard and are getting ready for our next band and choir concert of 2017, Our 1st annual Music Department Variety Show! Our performance on May 15th at 7 PM is sure to be an outstanding tour of popular music, full of great soloists, small groups, and the whole music department together! Dancing included! The show costs \$5 for adults and is free for students 18 and under.

It has been a great school year and I'm so excited for the students at this school to be building such an amazing music program together. I am so proud of and amazed by the dedication and artistry of these lovely students. They have collectively performed in 10 performances this year and each one has topped the last! Can't wait to see you at our upcoming concert!

Have a wonderfully musical day!



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE



MS. NIEMCZYK - LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts: It has been a busy year in 6th grade. We just finished up our second read aloud for this semester—*A Fish in a Tree*. This was a great way to discuss how people learn, what it means to be a good friend and how to deal with bullies. I love to read to kids and am grateful that this group of kids enjoy being read too! We've covered idioms, similes, metaphors, grammar, parts of speech, punctuation, and how to put it all together in our writing. They have rolled dice for story plot elements, described pictures without naming the object itself, created fictional stories based off of pictures, and read, read, read! The final book report of the year—a Shoebox Book Report—is due the end of this week. It has been a fabulous year and I am excited that I will have them all again next year! Thank you for sharing your kids with me. I hope you have a safe and wonderful summer!

7th Grade Language Arts: I'd like to take this opportunity to say what a privilege and pleasure it has been to teach your children this past year, and I look forward to having them back in my classroom in August. Currently in 7th grade Language Arts, students are completing their Literature Circle Group projects. I am amazed at the variety of story maps and board games being constructed. On the writing side of things, students like to jump in and start writing a story before they have figured out the setting, climax, and most importantly, the ending. To help them improve their writing, we are practicing planning by working through the writing process for original stories. This helps students develop life-long writing skills and they are writing far more interesting and creative stories. It is an enjoyable way to end our year. The last few weeks of the school year are flying by and are jam packed with the Middle School Celebration Camping trip, spring sports, and football camp. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer.

8th Grade Language Arts: When we came back from Spring Break and I introduced our last unit of study—Narratives, the kids were a little skeptical about writing their own novel. It seemed like a daunting task that many students did not think they were capable of doing. Now that we are a month into the project, that attitude has shifted and kids are finding the task to be not only manageable but fun. If you haven't heard the plot for your child's novel, please ask him or her—they love to talk and share their varied ideas. I am extremely proud of how the students have stepped up to the challenge. It has been my privilege and pleasure to teach your children this past year. I have had the majority of these kids for two years now, and it is a little bittersweet knowing that I won't have them in class next year. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer.

MR. DOTH - SCIENCE

Middle school science is wrapping things up here and looking forward to finishing strong! 7th grade biology is unlocking the mysteries of genetics as per their choice for the year's final topic of study. Plans are in the works for some genetic research on isopods and fruit flies for the up and coming year! 8th graders are finishing up their studies in physics by learning about energy and how all force and work are done. Its going be full of power and energy as the kids work towards their final lab: The Medieval Siege. Catapults designed by Davinci, trebuchets, and Lego towers will provide the backdrop of ultimate war inside the physics lab! Stay tuned faithful readers and enjoy the remainder of the school year!

MR. BJORKMAN - HISTORY

7th Grade Ancient Civilizations:

Recently students have been learning about Greece and Rome as civilizations who laid the principal ideological foundation for the Renaissance and our American Democracy. As we study Rome, students are learning about many ancient institutions that were the examples for modern day government bodies. Students are becoming able to recognize the core democratic values of free Romans and relate those ideas to modern times.

10th Grade World History:

In this course students have been learning about the World Wars, their causes and effects. Students have been engaged in many of the stories of conflict that still have weighty consequences to this day. Most recently we have considered the conditions in which large groups of people are willing to consent to the rule of a dictator. There will be a comprehensive semester final exam for this class on May 22.

12th Grade AK History:

Students have been learning about Alaska and the process of becoming a state and some of the local Kenai history as well. Just today (Tuesday, May 9th) we traveled to Kenai to visit the historical cabins there and the Russian Orthodox Church. Last week we had guest speakers, Bob Bird and Elaina Spraker, in to discuss the Alaska Statehood Act and ANILCA. We will continue to discuss modern Alaskan history in the waning days of the semester. There will be a comprehensive semester final exam for this class. 2nd Period: May 17, 4th Period May 18th.

MS. WIDMAN - ART

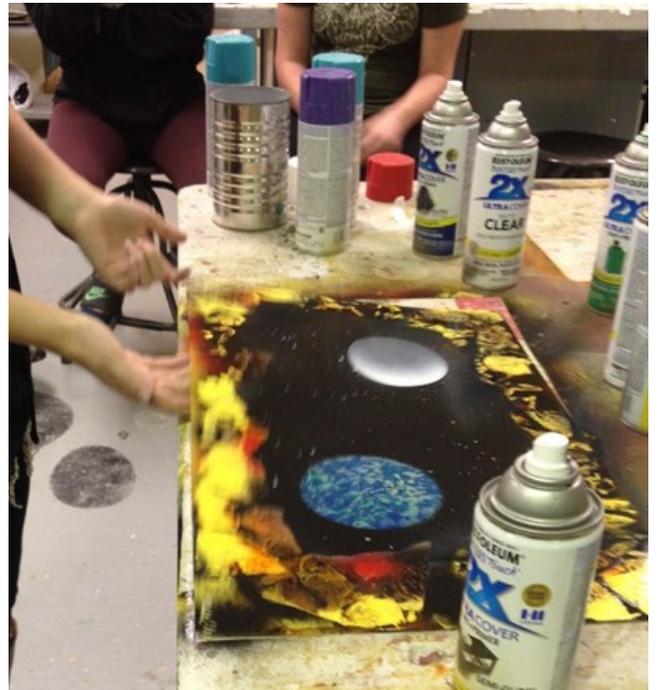
Spring in the Art department is bringing in some OVER THE TOP guest speakers for art and photo classes. Joshua Veldstra, a Homer photographer featured in several magazines, including Vogue, came in for a discussion session with the digital photography classes. Our own Kelly McCaughey came and gave us the inside scoop on her successful, one-of-a-kind beach themed windows. Spray paint artist Chevie Lewis came and got two sections of high school fired up about an alternative art form. In two weeks we will have a tie-dye session in the afternoon with Soldotna business owner Jen Luton. I hope the students will realize the many career opportunities in the arts as they hear these testimonies from local vendors! The students have been having a blast with these projects as well as some amazing in class projects as well. Congratulations to Myranda Rockett on her first place award in the state art competition and also Kaitlyn Johnson who earned Honorable Mention. And to all our middle and high school ribbon winners and entrants in borough and state art!!!! Look for new art at the next concert and at senior awards night!

Cheers,

Ms. Widman



Beach Art by Amy Porter



Spray Paint Art by Maizie Carpenter

MR. JACKSON - HISTORY

Many people have heard the phrase by the Spanish philosopher George Santayana that states “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” I’ve taken it to heart with my history students this semester to really help them to begin to not only learn the past, but to see how it can, and will, affect the future. In both U.S and World History we have worked to not only learn about what has happened, but what led up to specific events and how they turned out. Equally important to me is that students begin to see how to make connections between what has happened in the past and the current events that are occurring.

In U.S. History, we have included looking at how these events have both positively and negatively shaped and changed our country. The changes that have been tracked include economic, government, art and culture, science and tech and religion. As time marches on, each of these areas changes, I’ve allowed students to have the freedom to look at each area and determine what exactly they find interesting and spend a little more time according to their interest. This gives them the freedom to find interest in history based on what they find interesting now. Some choose dance, some fashion or hairstyles, others pick a specific sub-culture for that decade. I believe that by giving freedom and autonomy to students, they feel less restricted and more empowered, this in turn promotes a new feeling in many students that they find themselves enjoying history.

In World History our focus points have been religions, dictators and how the past has shaped the present. A few examples include China, Tibet, Korea and Cambodia. To go along with each country, we have looked at each leader and their different policies they have implemented in the interest of either himself or the country. Mao, the Dalai Lama, and the past and present Kim dynasty in North Korea.

I strive to make learning history more interesting than many students have experienced in the past. Students have told me that they enjoy learning about the connections between what has happened and what is currently happening. Other common reports from students is that they like being able to learn from a variety of sources, text, audio, video and first person accounts. I have enjoyed the opportunity to instill a love of learning history to the students and Nikiski High school this semester.

MR. BROWN - STUDY SKILLS

Study skills are life skills!

We have had a great 4rd quarter! My 1st and 7th hour study skills classes have made some great progress this year. One of my main goals is to not only teach good study skills, but to exemplify how those skills could help them in life.

Each Tuesday, my class sends home a postcard addressed to their parents. On the card, they have outlined their current grade and percentages. This gives parents a quick snapshot of how their child is doing in their classes. Many of my students don’t have home computers, thus, rendering PowerSchool ineffective for many working parents. I was surprised to have the students so committed to consistently sending the cards home. On several occasions, when I would walk in my classroom, the kids would already be at their computer, accessing PowerSchool and completing their post cards. Again, we set up a solid routine, the kids bought in, and now it is an automatic response!

The same can be said in life. Once you establish a positive routine (exercising, paying bills on the same day, eating healthy foods...), it becomes a positive life skill. The kids in study skills classes have established a great study skills routine. I only hope that some of those skills translate themselves into their lives.

MRS. HORNUNG - MATH

As we count down the days until summer, we also count down the days until final exams! Both classes that I teach, Physical Science and Chemistry, will have cumulative finals during the last week of school. Students should be preparing a little each night to be ready for these exams. Below is a list of things to remember about my finals.

On Monday, I will be giving back all tests previously taken so that students can use them to study from. The tests cannot leave the classroom, so students need to be in class to have this opportunity.

All KUD's (Know Understand & Do) that have been handed out this semester are also on Canvas, so students should access those documents to begin studying.

Some helpful web links for both classes are as follows:

This is a site with quizzes organized by topic good for both Chemistry and Physical Science.

<http://www.sciencegeek.net/Chemistry/taters/directory.shtml>

This is the same site as the one above only it takes you to powerpoints for review which are also organized by topic.

<http://www.sciencegeek.net/Chemistry/Powerpoints2.shtml>

This is the link to Canvas where I have a lot of previous information and videos also organized by unit.

<https://kpbsd.instructure.com/>

This site is where I get most of the worksheets, labs, and activities I use in class. There are great tutorials and help for students.

<http://www.mrphysics.org/MrGuch/chemfiestanew.html>

Study, study, study! Finals are another chance to show what you know! Happy Summer!



MRS. WOLFF - INTENSIVE NEEDS

We are all eagerly anticipating the end of the school year. Students in the Structured Learning Group have been steadily gaining proficiency using assistive technology to communicate their wants and needs. Our Middle School Life Skills students have been learning life skills and job skills. They have done an excellent job of staying on top of their academic work load.

MRS. JENNESS - YEARBOOK/AP ENGLISH

Language Arts classes are wrapping up. My AP class culminated with everyone taking the official Advanced Placement English Literature test on May 3. Students felt prepared and are celebrating their hard work by watching some classic films in class. The Language Arts department will be saying goodbye to our Student Teaching Intern, Justin Smith as he completes his degree and moves on in his career. Justin has been an amazing adding to our school this year and will certainly be missed.

Yearbooks are in and they look great! They will be distributed to Seniors on May 12 and everyone else on May 15. There are still books available for \$65.

Have a wonderful summer and get outside!

MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY

The school year is ALMOST over, but not quite. I am encouraging the students to finish strong and not let their academic efforts suffer because of the wonderful spring we are having. Biology students have final take home tests they should be working on every night as homework. The Earth Science students have been working on individual projects and textbook assignments. The Independent study students are progressing through their course work and should finish in good order by the end of the year. I think the year has been successful and I have been very pleased with the students' work ethic and positive attitudes throughout this school year. I would like to recognize Angela Druessedow in particular this year. Angela took 2nd place with her Caring for the Kenai entry. Angela represented our school and community very well through the competition and the many interviews since the competition. Angela epitomizes all the best in our student body. Nikiski has a lot for which it can be proud, none more than our kids.

Have a safe and fun summer

MS. VRANIAK - MATH/NHS



National Honors Society members, Jamie Yerkes and Melanie Sexton, planned and organized Nikiski's first blood drive in years. The blood bank team was able to collect blood from thirty-eight donors in just one day from the school and community! Afterwards, we were told by the community coordinator for Blood Bank of Alaska that "Nikiski High School registered more donors, collected more units of blood and had more new donors than Soldotna High School or Kenai Central High School." Also, the Team Leader from the LIFEmobile said, "The parking spot was great and the student helpers were great; wish other High Schools would learn how to do it right like Nikiski High School." The Blood Bank of Alaska will be back in Nikiski for another blood drive in November!

2017 MIDDLE SCHOOL WING T FOOTBALL CAMP



MR. NELSON - PE

With a flurry of activity in May, it's hard to believe my first year of teaching is almost at a close. We had an exciting spring SST competition, with Nikiski bringing home a few first place trophies! We completed one Stink n Drink and will have another soon; ask your kids, I'm pretty sure they like it. =) Skills and performance testing is also underway, and will continue through the end of the semester. Numerous PR's will be set! Health has been very productive as well. They just completed a restroom reader bringing awareness to various mental health issues, and they did an outstanding job. We have had various posters, presentations, and projects this semester where the kids could really show their stuff. It's been a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to next year. Go Bulldogs!

MR. RIZZO - LANGUAGE ARTS/DRAMA

The spring musical, *Pirates of Penzance* was a great success. The students had a terrific time and audiences enjoyed the show. It could not happen without a lot of great people in the community who support this program. Parents and volunteers who step in and help with costumes and props and advertising are very instrumental in our program's success. We are so lucky to have this great auditorium to help kids excel in the arts and bring some culture to the North Road. Stand by for the announcement of next year's play. It's coming!

MR. PORTER - MATH

The Algebra crew is working on factoring. Lots of factors go into that. Geometry has been and continues to work on their studies of polygons. We have proven the characteristics of quadrilaterals including the parallelogram, Rhombus, Kite, and Trapezoid. This week we will be jumping into the study of the areas of these figures. Business math finished up their work on business plans and then moved on to practicing interviews and writing resumes. We will be looking into the characteristics of successful people this week. The big news for this letter is AP Calc. These guys have been working like mad men and women to prepare for the AP exam. The exam was on 5/9 and we wish them all the best! I have a good feeling about this years test takers.

MR. KORNSTAD - INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Hello from the Industrial Arts world at Nikiski Middle/High! We are quickly coming to the end of another year full of practical learning experiences in the shops. Students in the Cad Cam shop have learned to create products in the digital world and produce them in the physical. We are proud to report that we have had a safe year free from major accidents! A safe attitude produces a safe environment!! Students have learned the basics of two software programs that design their various projects to be run on four different machines. Students have become proficient in utilizing some of the basic design tools in Corel Draw and Partworks to create projects on each one of the four machines in the shop. Projects created in Partworks were produced on either the ShopBot or on the Plasma Cam. The ShopBot is a computerized router mounted on a large rectangular table used to engrave, mill and cutout. The plasma cam is a plasma cutter controlled by the computer and mounted to a large square table. It cuts metal designs out of steel and aluminum. Projects created in Corel Draw were produced on either the Versa Cam or on the Laser machine. The Versa Cam is a large printer that prints and cuts out designs on rolls of various vinyl-type materials up to 28" wide. The Laser machine engraves, etches, burns, and cuts all kinds of materials from paper to plastic to glass to metals. Students have worked well in the shop and enjoyed learning employable skills relevant to the 21st century!



**NIKISKI MIDDLE/HIGH
SCHOOL**
PO Box 7112
Nikiski, AK 99635

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KENAI, AK 99611

NON-PROFIT

PERMIT NO. 23



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2017—2018 School Year

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| May 18-Awards Night—7:00 | July 26-Football & HS XC Begin |
| May 23-Graduation—7:00 | August 2-HS Volleyball Begins |
| May 24-Last Day of School | August 11 & 14-New Student Registration |
| | August 21-6th Grade Ice Cream Social |
| | August 22-Students back to School |
| | August 22-MS Soccer & MS XC Begin |



**Remember, registration is for new students only.
If your student attended NMHS or NNS for the 2016
-2017 year they are automatically enrolled for the
2017-2018 year.*