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Community Newsletter - April 2025

Dear South Nodaway Family,

Welcome to the 24-25 third edition of the South Nodaway School District Community Newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest news, updates and highlights. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about important events, achievements, opportunities, and challenges within our educational community!

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE & DISTRICT NEWS

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we enter the home-stretch of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon our shared goals and values and provide some important updates.

Missouri's 2025 legislative session is winding down. As always there are several **pieces of legislation aimed at Missouri's school districts!** A few items of note:

- **Open Enrollment (HB 711 – Pollitt)** – A topic that has garnered much attention and discussion over the last few years is at the forefront of this legislative session and **likely to be debated this week or next on the Senate floor.** As is the case with most things - the details matter. Please take a look at the bill or contact me if you have any questions.
- Proponents tout increased choice and the empowerment of families as reasons for this bill. It is believed that a successful school district may attract new students and families outside their current communities. Opponents express concerns about the impact open enrollment will have on students who remain in districts that see a loss of students and state funding. Districts that see a loss of students would likely see a reduction in funds because of tax revenue leaving the district with students and therefore could need to cut programs, services, and teachers. An additional consideration for South Nodaway is that our state

revenue is capped through the formula (and has been since 2006) due to our status as hold-harmless. Therefore, **SN would not see any additional state aid upon receiving new students** increasing the per-pupil tax-burden on our resident constituents. Essentially, district tax payers would subsidize non-resident attendance.

- **Governor Kehoe also appointed a task force to examine how school districts are funded** and propose changes to the foundation formula (the primary mechanism through which public schools are funded). The committee is primarily composed of lawmakers, business folks and other stakeholders. It also **includes two superintendents - one large district (St Louis) and one small district (Springfield)**. It would be extremely difficult to forecast the impact formula changes might have on our district but we will watch the process closely! If you have questions or would like to discuss please reach out!
- **I would encourage you to contact your legislators to discuss and share your thoughts on these pieces of legislation and to advocate for your school and community!**

In other news, the district is **looking to assemble a committee to assist with revising our Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP)**. The district received 30/30 points when our plan was last reviewed. However, the new cycle starts next fall and we will be revising and updating the current plan. **If you are interested in serving on this committee** in late spring/early summer please contact me via email at dustin.skoglund@snr4.org or phone call at 660 652 3221.

For a closer look at South Nodaway's academic focus please check out our existing CSIP! This **strategic plan** was **crafted by a committee composed of various stakeholders (including staff, parents, community members and students)** after three nights of collaboration, data analysis, needs assessments, reflection, and evaluation. Please use the following link to find the CSIP if you're interested in South Nodaway's strategic plan!

CSIP link: <https://www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/CSIP>

I want to express my gratitude to our SN family for your unwavering support and dedication to our school. It is through your collective efforts that we continue to strive for excellence in education and create an inclusive and nurturing environment for our students to thrive!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

South Nodaway's students have consistently demonstrated **remarkable achievements in academics**, with many receiving recognition at local, state and even national levels. Some recent triumphs and milestones include:

Jailee Flora will be playing her trumpet solo and **Joslynn Heath** will play her alto sax solo at Mizzou on May 1st. Their **gold rating at District Solo and Ensemble Festival qualified them to play at State Solo and Ensemble Festival**. Congratulations ladies!

Envirothon competitors will be traveling to Prairie Fork conservation area to compete on May 1st. **Alaina Henggl, Joslynn Heath, Sienna Billings, Jailee Flora, and Aubrey Degase received first in the district to earn this trip to state**. The team of **Jace Beattie, Michael Degase, Lacy Metcalf, Trinity Galart, and Abbey Earl received 3rd place and a trip to state**.

Each team will work together to take 4 tests and give a presentation over forest conservation. The day-long competition will test their knowledge over forestry, soil, aquatics, and wildlife. They have all been working hard and hope to do their best while at state. Good Luck!!

Congratulations Mrs. McConkey and our FBLA for earning Gold Level - Chapter of the Year! They were recognized at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Springfield!

Chapter of the Year:

The Missouri FBLA Chapter of the Year (COTY) program is designed to encourage and recognize chapters that participate at the local, state, and national level activities. Each activity is designed around the mission and goals of the association and worth a specific number of points. Chapters who achieve a certain number of points receive prizes and recognition at their division's respective State Leadership Conference. Points are earned in the following areas: Missouri Activities, Champion Plus, Summer Starter, Shaping Success, Service Season, CTE Celebration.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sometimes it's creativity in lesson planning and engaging the students that make all the difference! We'd like to **take a moment to extol a couple of teachers** that have gone above and beyond to **create engaging learning opportunities** for our students!

We'd like to commend **Sage Acklin** for her **efforts in preparing a student performance with our SN 3rd graders!** The 3rd Graders presented a play, "The War of the Vegetables" to the lower elementary and to their parents. It started as a reader's theater in the classroom and the **students asked if they could present it.** They took full ownership of it and practiced daily for 2 weeks. They **worked together helping one another** read their lines and add actions. In the play, the 2 adults were planting their garden and the seeds accidentally got dumped and were mixed up so the vegetables in the garden argued about whose bed it was and ultimately decided they could grow in the same bed. They had **a lot of fun** and were so happy with the turn out from the parents.

We're excited to share a few staffing updates following our recent board meeting.

Please join us in **welcoming Mia Silkett as our new Art Teacher!** We're thrilled to have her join our team and look forward to the creativity and passion she'll bring to our students.

Following Mrs. Wampler's resignation, **Mrs. Moutray has accepted the position of full-time Reading Specialist** beginning next school year. With Mrs. Moutray stepping into that role, **Mrs. Jermain will be moving into the position of 2nd Grade Teacher.**

We also want to extend our **heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Schreck, Mrs. Wampler and Mrs. Atkins** for their incredible dedication and contributions to our district. You've made **a lasting impact on our school and community**, and we are so thankful for everything you've done. While we are sad to see you go, **we are truly happy for you and your families as you begin your next chapters and you'll always be Longhorns!**

CURRICULUM CORNER – Spring Testing & Summer School

It's that time of year again-our students are taking the state-mandated tests. These tests, while cumbersome, are important because DESE uses them to generate our score on our Annual Performance Report (APR). Our teachers and students have been preparing for these tests for the last few weeks.

Additionally, as the school year winds down students will be taking (significantly more valuable) district-level assessments that inform decision making processes related to curriculum, classroom instruction, individual interventions and instructional practices. **Please help us stress the importance of doing well on these assessments by getting adequate rest, eating a good breakfast and giving maximum effort.**

Unfortunately **grant funding for summer school has been eliminated by DESE and South Nodaway will not be able to host summer school this year.**

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are very **thankful for the Kawasaki-Maryville plant** and their **generous donation of \$5000** to the South Nodaway School District. These funds have been utilized by the district to update Chromebooks and maintain other technology-related expenditures as part of the **district's 1-to-1 program** in which every student has access to a device and the internet!

Amee Wilmes from the MU Extension, along with Nodaway County Sheriff 's Department (Sheriff Austin Hann and Deputies Dalton Murphy and Michael Clements) , are visiting the fourth grade each week to present their SNAC (Student Nutrition Advisory Council) program. Each week they share healthy food choices along with fun activities for exercise.



PARENT RESOURCES AND INVOLVEMENT

We strive to keep parents and the community informed about school happenings. Please visit our website at www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us where you will find a live master calendar of events. You will also find the Lumen Portal login to keep up with your child's grades and assignment information.

Community members can sign up to receive text alerts though TextCaster on your mobile device. Please follow our Facebook (South Nodaway Longhorn Family & Platte Valley Athletics) and Twitter pages (@SNLonghorns & @PlatteValley1) for additional content. Parents of students taking virtual classes also receive access to an additional parent portal through LAUNCH where they can monitor their online student's progress.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As always, we take the health and wellness of our students, staff, and extended Longhorn family very seriously. Fortunately we made it through the cold and flu season without significant illness here at school! **Thank you to Nurse Tabitha** and parents for **promoting healthy hygiene habits!** We are having our spring immunization clinic and physicals for students to begin to prepare for next school year.

As the weather warms up, encourage your kids to go outside and get fresh air! With the warming weather comes the sun, reminding your kids to stay hydrated and wearing sun protection is important for their health. Other than seasonal allergies being in full force, we are happy to report a healthy bunch of kids are enjoying their warmer days at school!

Josh the Otter visited to talk about water safety to our PK, - 1st grade students in preparation for summer water activities!

It is our hope you find this newsletter informative. I can't emphasize enough that **your involvement in your child's education is invaluable**. Whether it's attending parent-teacher conferences, participating in activities or

simply being a supportive presence at home, **your engagement plays a crucial role in our collective success!** We are in this together!

Your involvement in our school district is essential and we encourage you to stay connected, attend events and support our students' successes. **Stay updated on school events and initiatives through our website, school calendar, social media pages, text alerts and regular communications.**

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions for future newsletters please contact me! **There is a lot of information contained in this bulletin, please reach out if you have any questions, would like more information or need clarification!**

Thank you for being a valued member of the South Nodaway family! Together, we are committed to providing the best possible education for our students! **I feel truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work and live in a community that places such a high priority on children and their education!**

Warm regards,



Dustin Skoglund

Superintendent

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