

Overton Public School
P.O. Box 310, 401 7th St.
Overton, NE 68863-0310



Mark A. Aten, *Superintendent*
Brian Fleischman, *PS-4 Principal /*
Activities Director
William Johnson, *5-12 Principal*
Jody Skallberg, *Counselor*

Phone (308) 987-2424

Fax (308) 987-2349

www.overtoneagles.org

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mr. Fleischman's Office

I cannot believe that we are half way through December and the end of the first semester is only a few days away. It literally feels like we just started this school year and here we are ready to close the first semester. Good luck and continued success to all of our winter sports teams and athletes. It has been a great 1st semester!

Weather Reminder:

Thank you to all parents for ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as winter has been here for some time now. As a reminder, we try to have outside recess as much as possible. Heavy coats, hats, and gloves are essential for your child each day. Thank you again for your help with this.

Attendance:

Student attendance at school is essential for their success. As we move into the flu season, please help your child to remain healthy by encouraging healthy habits such as hand washing and eating healthy. Our custodial staff does a great job of cleaning and disinfecting each night to help during this time of year. Remember to contact the school if your child is ill and will not be in attendance at school. Thank you also for ensuring your children arrive at school on time. Punctuality is becoming a lost trait in our society.

Athletic Fan Reminder:

Thank you for your support of our Eagle athletes. Remember sportsmanship is an expectation and each of us has a part to play in this role. Though you may disagree with an official's call, there is no reason to berate the officials for what you perceive being an error in judgment. Officials are in short supply and this situation is not improving anytime soon. We can all do our part to ensure officials want to come back to Overton to officiate our contests. Remember if you feel you can do a better job, the official test and certification can be found on the NSAA website. Again we can all do our part to make sports better.

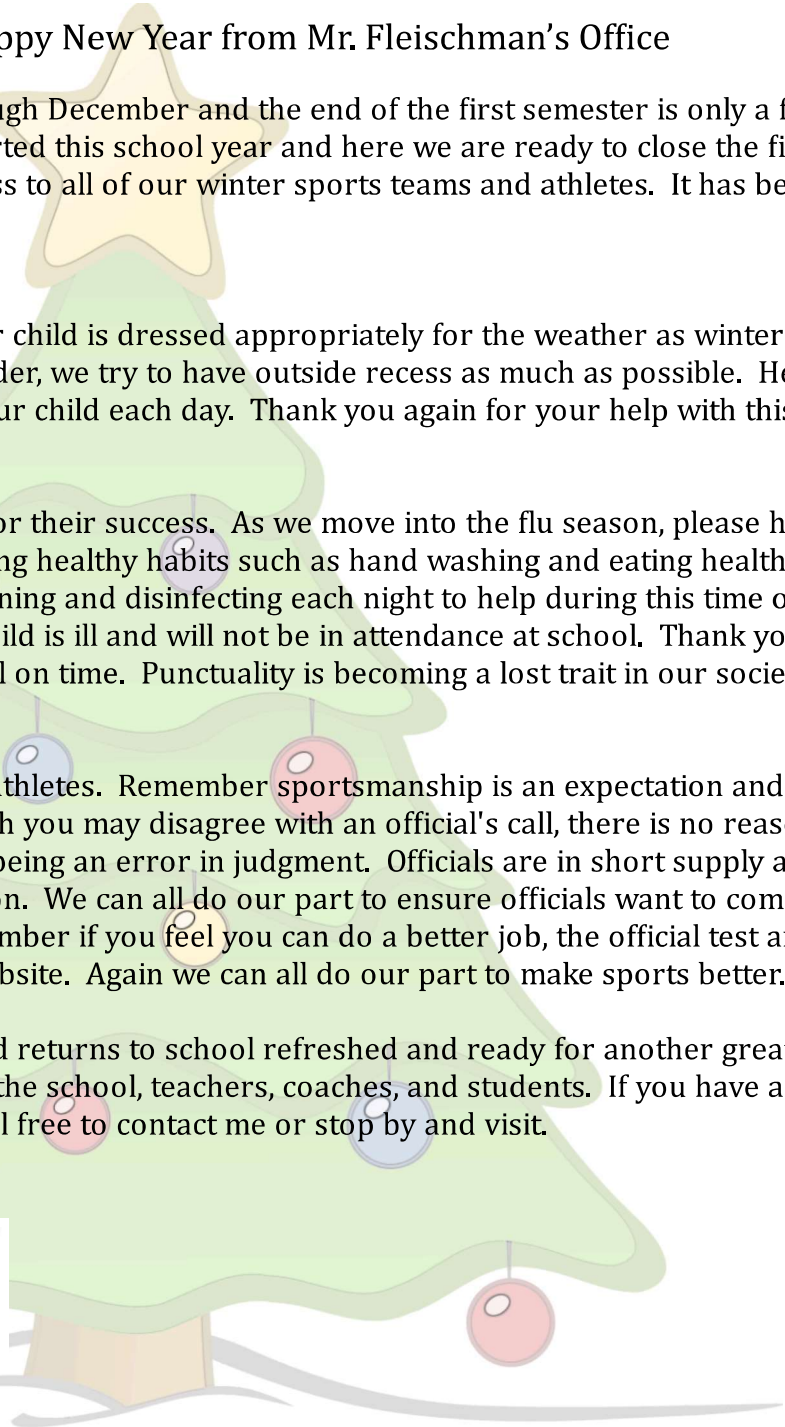
I hope that everyone has a good break and returns to school refreshed and ready for another great Semester. Thank you for your support of the school, teachers, coaches, and students. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or stop by and visit.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Fleischman", is written over a white rectangular background.

Mr. Brian Fleischman, PS-4 Principal/AD
308-987-2424 x111

brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.org



Fans:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Bad behavior at high school athletic events has gotten OUT OF CONTROL.
Are YOU part of the problem? Always be respectful, encouraging and positive.
Let's come together to **#BenchBadBehavior** for good!

BenchBadBehavior.com



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Update from the MS/HS Principal

Dear Families,

Winter Break is here—wow, where did the first semester go?

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe, restful, and joyful Winter Break. We hope this time allows everyone to relax, recharge, and enjoy time together.

School will resume on **Monday, January 5th**. This will be a great opportunity for students to refocus on academic goals, reestablish routines, and finish the school year strong. Our teachers and staff are eager to welcome students back and continue supporting their success both in and out of the classroom.

Please remember to bring back **P.E. and sports clothes** when students return. We understand removing these items before break was inconvenient; however, it allowed us to thoroughly sanitize the lockers and locker rooms over the break.

High School families, please note that the **last day for students to drop or add classes is Friday, January 9th**. Any schedule changes must be completed by this date. If you have questions regarding schedules, please contact the school office or counseling department.

Welcome back, and we look forward to seeing everyone on **January 5th**.

As always, view <https://www.overtoneagles.org/> for the most updated school information.

I wish you and your families safe travels during the Holiday season.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr. Bill Johnson-5-12 Principal

QUILT OF HONOR



DAN NICHOLS



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE**

JANUARY SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

DAWSEN MCCARTER

FUTURE PLANS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND MAJOR IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORY

BEATING ELM CREEK IN FOOTBALL SOPHOMORE YEAR, WHEN WE WERE DOWN TWO SCORES WITH 50 SECONDS LEFT AND WON.

ACTIVITIES

FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK, BASEBALL, NHS, STUDENT COUNCIL, FFA, FCA, ONE ACT, YOUTH GROUP

FAVORITE MOVIE / TV SHOW

BLINDSIDE



TAYLOR KRAMER

FUTURE PLANS

ATTEND SDSU FOR AG BUSINESS

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORY

MANY, MANY ADVENTURES WITH SHYAN

ACTIVITIES

4-H, INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION (IEA)

FAVORITE MOVIE / TV SHOW

TALLADEGA NIGHTS



JANUARY SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

KILEY LAWTON

FUTURE PLANS

TEXAS-TECH
MAJOR: BIO-CHEMISTRY

ACTIVITIES

RODEO, CHEER,
STUDENT COUNCIL,
FFA, FCCLA

FAVORITE MOVIE / TV SHOW

GROWN UPS

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORY

WHEN TRACE, BRAELYN, JAYECLEA, AND I WENT
IN THE WENT THROUGH THE TUNNELS ON
A RANDOM DAY



BROOKLYN MCCARTER

FUTURE PLANS

ATTEND UNK AND MAJOR IN
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL MEMORY

FRESHMAN YEAR CHEER

ACTIVITIES

ONE ACT, FCCLA, AND
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

FAVORITE MOVIE / TV SHOW

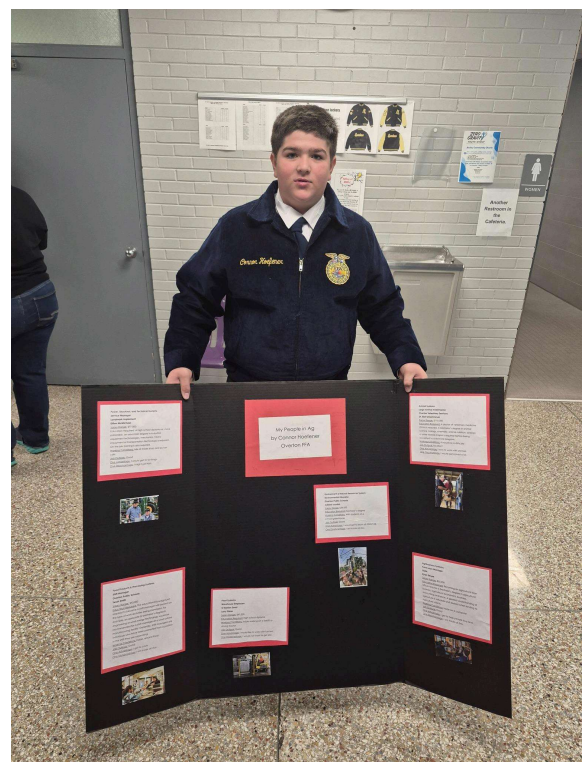
HOME ALONE



FFA Update - December Edition

For our LDE (Leadership Development Events) contest, we traveled to Ansley to compete in four different contests. Our senior parliamentary procedures team and Connor in People in Ag Poster both earned a blue ribbon. We had two district champions: Meagan Lassen with Creed Speaking and Paige Walahoski with Extemporaneous speaking! Congratulations to these ladies for punching their ticket to State FFA in March!

Our upcoming events are National FFA Week in February, State Degree Review on February 4th here in Overton, and our last round of State Qualifying Contests in Grand Island on February 18th (CDEs). We look forward to celebrating with you at our annual pancake breakfast on February 7th!







BINGO WONDERLAND

Winter Edition


Get ready for Winter Bingo! Bring your friends, family, and best holiday spirit for some mornings full of laughter, prizes, and festive fun!



WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2025

10AM-11:30AM
OVERTON FAMILY CENTER

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2026



Free Will Donation accepted for Cards
Concessions available for Purchase
Prizes for Bingo Winners will NOT be cash

**PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT ITALY
TRAVEL GROUP**

4 SEASONS FUND RAISING



Strawberry Sales

EF Italy Trip

Proceeds help defray travel costs
Sale Ends February 2nd, 2025

Berries come in 1 pound boxes in mid-February

Full Flat \$32 (8 boxes), Half Flat \$20 (4 boxes),
1/4 Flat \$14 (2 boxes)

Overton FFA

PANCAKE FEED



Saturday, Feb. 7th



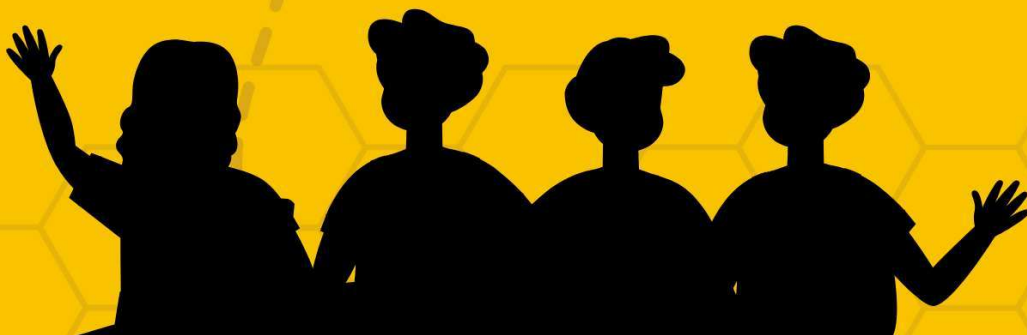
OHS Commons from 9am-11am

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED



Overton Public School

Spelling Bee



**WHO WILL BE THE SPELLING BEE
CHAMPION?**

Thursday | 1:00, old gym
February 19, 2026 | Grades 3-8

Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Title I-Educational Service Unit 10



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2026

Frequent reading can boost your child's thinking skills—and more

Elementary schoolers' brains are still developing. And research shows that reading for pleasure in these years can affect this development in positive ways. One study found that kids who read often for fun had stronger cognitive skills and better mental health.

To help your child establish a pleasure reading habit:

- **Build reading** into daily routines. At breakfast, encourage your child to read a fun book while you read the news. If your child gets stuck while doing schoolwork, suggest taking a short break to read.
- **Ask relatives, family friends or neighbors** who enjoy reading to recommend books they enjoyed at your child's age. A personal connection can be a powerful motivator.
- **Create a comfy reading nook at home.** Ask your child to help you. Include a basket of books, pillows, stuffed animals and a light.
- **Take reading material everywhere** you go, and read with your child. To add interest, have your child pick a book that relates to your destination. For example, you might read a book about a visit to a dentist while waiting for a dental appointment.

Source: "Reading for pleasure in early childhood linked to better cognitive performance and mental well-being in adolescence," University of Cambridge.



Delaying makes it worse

If your child puts off doing disliked tasks, recommend doing them first, instead. Explain that putting difficult things off just makes them seem harder. "Until that job is finished, it is just going to weigh on your mind." Then, help your child focus on how great it will feel when the task is completed.



Provide loving perspective

All kids experience negative feelings from time to time. But sometimes, the feelings aren't really justified. While listening is a vital way to offer support, automatically agreeing isn't. If your child feels wronged:

- **Ask for details.** If your child says a classmate was mean, say, "Tell me what happened." This lets your child feel heard and you can respond to the facts.
- **Offer a challenge.** If your child says a quiz was "unfair," ask "Why wasn't it fair? How did you prepare?" If the truth is that your child didn't study, point that out. Then, brainstorm together about what your child could do differently next time.



January is a time for making changes

A new calendar year and a return to school after a break make this month a natural time for a fresh start. If your child's school year has not been going as well as you hoped, a reset now can help your student get back on track.

Make this the time to:

- **Swap bad habits** for good ones. Breaking a habit is hard. It's much easier to put a different one in its place. If your child usually plays video games to relax, encourage reading for 20 minutes instead. Let your child choose what to read.
- **Show family support.** If your child needs to give studying more time and effort, make study time quiet work time for the whole family.
- **Focus on organization.** Look for a new 2026 calendar your child would enjoy. Help your student use it to keep track of home and school responsibilities.
- **Celebrate improvements.** Help your child see the link between new habits and results.

Take charge of screen use

Children's digital media use is skyrocketing. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that families actively monitor and manage their children's recreational screen activities. Here are some steps to take:

- **Designate** device-free times, such as during family meals and in the car.
- **Encourage** screen-free alternatives. Take walks, play board games, do crafts.
- **Set** a digital curfew at least 30 minutes before bedtime.





How can I help my child break through writer's block?

Q: Whenever there is writing to do for school, my child just stares into space and can't get started. What can I do to help?

A: Many students balk at the thought of writing—and so do many professional writers! Explain to your child that lots of people feel a little worried when they have to write, but there are things they can do to make it easier. Then, to help your elementary schooler get writing:

- **Suggest writing** for a few minutes about anything that comes to mind, no matter how silly.
- **Encourage your child to brainstorm** about topic ideas for the assignment, and make a list. Discuss them together to help your child think them through.
- **Tell your child to write** without worrying about things like grammar and spelling. After getting thoughts down on paper, your student can go back and edit.
- **Be a gentle reviewer.** Note what you like first. Focus on what your child is trying to say rather than the rules of writing. Make suggestions for improvement, but let your child fix mistakes.
- **Let your child express frustration.** It takes time and practice to become a capable writer.



Are you prioritizing school attendance?

Academic success starts with regular attendance. Are you reinforcing the importance of school and taking steps to ensure your child doesn't miss out on learning time? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ **1. Do you teach** your child that education matters and school is not to be skipped?
- ___ **2. Do you help** your child develop sleep, exercise and nutrition habits that support health and learning?
- ___ **3. Do you veto** weak excuses for missing school? Not wanting to get out of bed isn't a valid reason to be late.
- ___ **4. Do you adjust** bedtime and wake time if your child has trouble getting up and ready on time?

- ___ **5. Do you ask** the school for help finding solutions to attendance obstacles?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are supporting strong attendance. For each no, try that idea.

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence."

—Abigail Adams

Help with math three ways

Put these strategies to use regularly to boost your child's progress and comfort with math:

- 1. Engage with your child's math** learning. Review returned work and talk about it together. Ask the teacher how to help with different concepts.
- 2. Have your child explain** how to solve problems. This helps students clarify their understanding and catch errors.
- 3. Have fun with it.** Play board games and appoint your child scorekeeper or banker. Add math to games like Simon Says. *Simon says add 11 + 12.*

Hearing can impact reading

You may not think of hearing in connection with reading. But hearing loss can be a factor when children struggle to read. In one study, 25 percent of children who had reading issues showed mild to moderate hearing loss their families were unaware of.

If you notice your child frequently favoring one ear, raising the volume on devices, speaking more loudly than necessary or having difficulties with reading, contact a doctor for a hearing screening.

Source: J. Carroll and H. Breadmore, MD, *Morphological Processing in Children with Phonological Difficulties*, Coventry University and The University of Warwick.

Stress the value of honesty

Even when children know the difference between honesty and lying, telling the truth isn't always easy for them. To encourage honesty:



- **Discuss it.** Lying destroys trust. No one believes what a liar says—even when it's true.
- **Ask questions** that prompt truth-telling. *Why did you do this?* not *Did you do this?*
- **Praise your child** for telling the truth in difficult situations.

Helping Children Learn®

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MINUTES OF THE OVERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
December 8, 2025
7:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: *The mission of Overton Public School is to provide opportunities for everyone to be Engaged, Enlightened, and Empowered.*

Board President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members Present:

Brennan
Jeffries
Lassen
Meier
Walahoski

Notification: The December 8, 2025, meeting of the Overton Public School Board of Education was posted at the Overton Public School, on the Overton Public School website, The Lexington Clipper Herlad, Overton Post Office, and the Security First Bank.

Open Meetings Information: To be in compliance with LB 898, The Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Board President informed the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted near the LMC check-out counter.

Administration Present: Mark Aten superintendent, Brian Fleischman Pres-4 principal, and Bill Johnson 5-12 principal.

Guests Present: Brooke Puffer, Kent Puffer, Pat Luther, and Cathy Luther.

Public Comments: Brooke Puffer

Reports: No Reports

Communications: Resignations (2)

Other:

- a. Board excused the absence of member Kizer. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
- b. Appointed superintendent president pro-temp for the January 2026 board meeting.

Action Items:

1. **Agenda:** Moved by Lassen, seconded by Jeffries to approve the agenda of the December 8, 2025, regular monthly board meeting as presented. Discussion: Discussion was limited as there were no changes made to the agenda. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
2. **Minutes:** Moved by Brennan, seconded by Jeffries to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025, as presented. Discussion: Discussion was limited as there were no corrections made to the minutes. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
3. **Claims:** Moved by Jeffries, seconded by Walahoski to pay the December General Fund bill roster in the amount \$55,825.61 and the December payroll salary and benefits in the amount of \$346,825.61. Discussion: Superintendent provided additional information on the bill roster. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
4. Moved by Brennan, seconded by Lassen to approve the schoolwide Title 1 Plan. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.

5. Moved by Jeffries, seconded by Lassen to accept Mr. Dea's resignation effective the end of the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
6. Moved by Walahoski, seconded by Meier to approve the teaching contract for Mr. Micah Noel effective the beginning of the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
7. Moved by Lassen, seconded by Jeffries to approve the 2024-2025 school audit. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
8. Moved by Meier, seconded by Lassen to approve the contract renewal for the superintendent. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
9. Moved by Walahoski, seconded by Jeffries to approve the superintendent's evaluation. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
10. Moved by Walahoski, seconded by Brennan to enter executive session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss board policy 6040. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
11. Moved by Meier, seconded by Brennan to exit executive session at 10:20 p.m. The purpose of the executive session was to discuss board policy 6040. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.
12. Moved by Jeffries, seconded by Walahoski to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m. Discussion. Very little discussion as the board determined it was time to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0-1. Voting Yes (5): Brennan, Jeffries, Lassen, Meier, and Walahoski. Voting No: (0). Absent (1) Kizer.

Board Reports and Discussion Topics:

1. Board Reports:

- a. Transportation: No Report
- b. Curriculum: No Report
- c. Facilities: No Report
- d. Negotiations: Determine next meeting date
- e. Interlocal Committee: Annual Interlocal Meeting scheduled for January 12, 2026

2. Discussion Topics:

- a. January Board Meeting Date and Time: Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the LMC.
- b. Superintendent evaluation at the December board meeting.

3. Board Policy Review Schedule:

- b. 1001 General Policy Statement
- c. 1002 Creation, Amendment and Distribution of Policies
- d. 1003 Mission Statement
- e. 2002 Organization of the Board
- f. 2003 Development and Education of Board Members
- g. 2004 Oath of Office
- h. 2005 Conflict of Interest
- i. 2006 Complaint Procedure
- j. 2007 Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures
- k. 2008 Meetings

Administrative Reports:

Prek-4 Principal Report:

- a. 2026-2027 School Calendar Update
- b. Football Helmets Purchasing Plan

Grades 5-12 Principal Report:

- a. Scheduled School Activities
- b. Principal Conferences
- c. Activity Updates

Superintendent's Report:

1. Enrollment Option Report

Option Enrollment:
 Out: a. None

 In: a. None

 Change of Status: a. None
2. Financial Update
3. Budget Review
4. 2024-2025 School Audit
5. Dawson Count Election Certification Form

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 No School GBB Practice 8AM BBB Practice 10AM	2 No School GBB Practice 8AM BBB Practice 10AM Dance Practice 10AM	3 BWR @ Pleasanton 9AM GWR @ SEM 10AM
4	5 School Resumes-1st Day of 2nd Semester (Regular Day) FFA Mtg. 7PM	6 Cheer Practice 6PM	7 FCA 7:15AM FKC Quarterly Mtg. 5:30PM	8 GBWR @ Sandhills-Thedford 5PM Cheer Practice 6PM	9 Last Day to Drop/Add Classes for S2 GBBB @ Amherst 4:30/6/7:30PM	10 GBWR @ Garden County 10AM (MT) GBBB @ Maxwell 2/3:30/5PM
11 Doane Honor Vocal Festival Dance Practice 3PM	12 Doane Honor Vocal Festival Cheer Practice 6PM Music Booster Mtg. 6:30PM FCCLA Mtg. 7PM Interlocal Board Mtg. 6:00PM School Board Mtg. 7:30PM	13 GBBB @ Brady 4:30/6/7:30PM	14 2:30 Dismissal FCA 7:15AM JHBB vs. Loomis 3/4PM	15 HS Quiz Bowl vs. Pleasanton @ Kearney Library 2PM Cheer Practice 6PM	16 BWR @ SEM 10AM GWR @ Ord 1PM GBBB vs. North Platte St. Pats 4:30/6/7:30PM	17 GBWR @ Shelton 10AM GBBB @ Bertrand 2/3:30/5PM
18	19 No School-Teacher In-Service Jr. Dance Camp Dance Practice 10AM GWR @ Battle Creek JHBB @ SEM Tourney 12:30PM Cheer Practice 6PM	20 GBBB vs. Hi-Line 4:30/6/7:30PM (Jr. Dance Perform)	21 FCA 7:15AM	22 FCCLA Districts @ Callaway HS Quiz Bowl @ Shelton 9AM BWR vs. Alma 5PM (WR Parents Night)	23 BWR @ South Loup 10AM GBBB vs. Ansley-Litchfield 4:30/6/7:30PM	24 GWR @ Axtell 11AM
25 Dance Practice 1PM FKC Cheer/Dance Practice @ Overton 2PM	26 UNK Honor Choir Cheer Practice 6PM	27 GBBB @ Shelton 4:30/6/7:30PM	28 FCA 7:15AM JHBB @ Kearney Catholic 1/2PM	29 MS Quiz Bowl vs. Amherst 2:30PM Cheer Practice 6PM	30 BWR @ Central Valley (Greeley) 10AM GBBB @ Elm Creek 4:30/6/7:30PM	31 GWR @ Ansley-Litchfield 9:30AM FKC GBBB 1st Round TBD

January 2026


 SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<u>Overton is an Equal Opportunity provider.</u> ** This menu is subject to change. **		Breakfast served with choice of – milk, fruit or vegetable, protein and grain.		Lunch served with choice of – milk, fruit, vegetables, protein and grain.		1	2	3				
4	Alt: Pizza	5	B: funnel cake L: calzone	6	B: muffin L: Chicken nuggets	7	B: apple frudel L: beef & noodles	8	B: oatmeal L: crisps	9	B: cinnamon roll L: Max sticks	10
11	Alt: corn dog	12	B: little John L: Pizza crunchers	13	B: waffles L: Chili	14	B: french toast L: shredded pork	15	B: breakfast pizza L: Burrito	16	B: donut L: chicken patty	17
18	No alternate	19		20	B: breakfast on a stick L: pork rib sandwich	21	B: cereal L: French toast	22	B: Pancakes L: lasagna	23	B: bagel L: pizza	24
25	Alt: hamburger	26	B: scone L: chicken stir fry	27	B: biscuit sandwich L: taco in a bag	28	B: cereal bar L: tator tot casserole	29	B: breakfast cookie L: potato soup	30	B: pop tart L: corn dog	31

