



Holdingsford Elementary School Principal's Newsletter April 2026

Greetings Husker Family!

I hope this newsletter finds your family loving life and reflecting on some wonderful spring break/Easter memories. I love this time of the year and holiday. Despite the wind, rain, and snow, the Stang Gang managed to thrive and survive another egg hunt, easter candy galore, and a rough and rowdy basement tackle football game. Happy to report no broken bones or furniture! Just good times and fun! I can not believe we are into April and May will be here before we know it. Please mark concerts, field trips, and other fun dates down on your family calendar. Good times filled with Husker Kindness and Friendship are on the horizon! Please help our children remember there is lots of learning between now and May 27. Work hard, be a great friend, ride the bus respectfully, and always try your best! Do your best work. Better together.

Sincerely,

Jim Stang Elementary Principal



Grandparents' Day:

Our annual Grandparents' Day is scheduled for Friday, May 1. Classrooms will send invitations with arrival times. Please reserve the date. I can't wait to meet and greet our grandparents! This day is a family celebration of Husker Spirit and Husker Family Values! We love sharing our school and classrooms, and we are looking forward to another Grandparents' Day full of learning and family fun!

Grandparents' Day Highlights Are:

A celebration of Husker Community and Husker Family

Classroom Visits and School Wide Exploration

Delicious School Lunch

Husker FFA Plant Sale in the elementary Gym



Set Sail On Summer Learning!

Summer School permission slips will be sent out Friday, April 17th. Being invited is a wonderful chance to spend 3 weeks together as a Husker Family of summer learners. Each day, students work on friendship, reading, math, and writing skills. Our summer school staff work hard to prepare fun lessons that help children practice skills needed for the start of a new school year. Busing is provided, a fun daily recess will be paired with a healthy snack break. We will be flexible with your family if vacations come up. We are hoping to have over 120 children participate in grades K-8.

I love our summer school program...please save the date; July 13-31, M-F from 8:30-11:30 am.

Please feel free to call if you have questions and/or concerns. 320-746-4461. I have said it before and will say it again, Husker Summer School is the BEST part of July. Well maybe July 4th celebrations and time spent fishing and swimming with my family are the best parts of summer...but summer school is a highlight and so dear to my heart. Please consider and help us support your child's academic journey.



April Weekly Reading Challenge:

This month we will ask all K-6 children to read each night and record minutes on their Rox Reading Calendar. Please turn them in on Monday morning. Classroom teachers will be drawing for weekly Rox Reading Winners. Have fun, put away cell phones, and cuddle up while enjoying a good book. Grow your child's vocabulary and their imagination. Slow life down and simply find time to practice reading. Thank you!



Tidbits of Knowledge from the Social Worker, Ms. Meemken
April 2026

April is a great time to reset your mindset- spring itself is a reminder that growth often follows discomfort. Here at Holdingford Elementary, two resilience skills are going to learn about in the month of April are: Confidence and Adaptability.

Confidence grows from evidence, not from belief. Confidence isn't something you magically feel- it's something you collect. Each time you follow through on a commitment (even a small one), you create proof that you can handle things. How to practice confidence at home? Keep a short "wins list" each day, even if it's just "I handled a tough conversation" or "I didn't procrastinate."

Adaptability comes from loosening control. Resilient people aren't rigid- they adjust. When plans change, instead of asking "why is this happening?" shift to: "what's my next best move?" The subtle shift builds flexibility over time.

For the month of April, students and staff will be working on Goal Setting and learning how to be flexible with their goals and how goal setting helps build confidence.

During the month of March, students and staff learned our "having a purpose" builds resiliency. Students and staff wrote on what they feel their purpose is and together we joined everyone's purpose to create a Purpose Rainbow! Stay tuned for next month's resilience tool as we learn about Flourishing!

If you are new to this page, or need a recap: each month, your child and their classroom will learn a new tool designed to help them grow into a more resilient individual. Upcoming tools include: Confidence and Adaptability and Flourish. Each month I will share with you what tool we are learning about and different ideas that can be done at home, in school or in the community. Your child will continue to earn Husker Pavers (aka Bug Slips) when caught showing their Husker Integrity! We will continue to have weekly drawings. Please note the following: Students whose Husker Pavers were drawn will go home with a certificate along with their prize in hopes that parents/guardians are just as proud as we are here at Holdingford Elementary! We are keeping track of just how many Husker Pavers are handed out each week. We are starting our count over and working towards another PBIS celebration this spring.

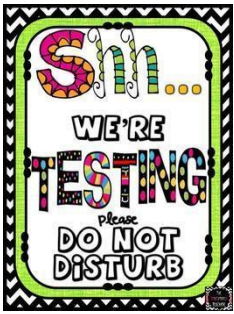


FAMILY HELP WANTED! HELP NEEDED! FAMILY HELP GREATLY APPRECIATED!

- Review bus safety: Less is more! Do not bully! If you see or hear a bully, tell the bus driver. Ask your child if they stay out of the bus aisle. Do they stay seated and facing forward at all times? "Sometimes" is not good enough. Does your child use their quiet voice while riding the bus? Ask your child about their behavior while waiting at the bus stop. And last, but certainly not least, talk to your child about the language they use and hear on the bus. Set the standard and teach your expectations of appropriate words. Simply put, the primary concern of our bus drivers is safety. Tell your child to do their part and make good bus behavior contagious! Together we will keep our children safe and healthy!
- Hallway and cafeteria: We revisited our hallway and cafeteria manners and behaviors during the month of March. Please support our efforts by asking your child to walk in the hallway, stay to the right, turn outside

voices off while walking throughout the building, and then thank them for us! Our kids did a super job of creating a better learning environment! Thank you, students and staff! I am proud to be your principal!

- If transportation changes occur during the school day, please let us know as soon as possible. Last minute changes can be very stressful for students, staff, and bus drivers. Thank you.
- Please set time aside nightly to share a good book or provide a quiet place for your child to read by themselves. Turn off the TV while completing homework and studying for spelling. Check your child's agenda and take home folders. And if the weather ever turns nice...please remember to hold bedtimes sacred, and please make sure to get your children to school every day unless sick with viable signs of illness.
- **TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE! TOGETHER WE MAKE LEARNING A LIFELONG ADVENTURE!
TOGETHER WE WILL KEEP OUR CHILDREN GROWING!**



MCA Testing Dates and Tips:

READING MCA

Grade 3	April 21 - 23	Mornings
Grade 4	April 21- 23	Mornings
Grade 5	April 21 - 23	Mornings
Grade 6	April 21 - 23	Mornings

MATH MCA

Grade 3	April 28 - 30	Mornings
Grade 4	April 28 - 30	Mornings
Grade 5	April 28 - 30	Mornings
Grade 6	April 28 - 30	Mornings

SCIENCE - GRADE 5

Talberg	May 5 - 6	throughout the day
Sailor	May 5 - 6	throughout the day
Ahrens	May 5 - 6	throughout the day

Loven	May 5 - 6	throughout the day
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Again this year our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to present curriculum and state standards to ensure academic success and pique student interest. There are too many to thank individually, so I will simply, but with great sincerity and respect, say thank you to my AMAZING staff. You make work and learning fun! I would also like to thank my families and students for supporting us. The rigor of schooling has increased greatly in the last decade and family time is at a premium, and yet day in and day out, you support us with countless hours spent reading, practicing math, spelling, and studying for tests. It is our relentless pursuit of making our community a better place to live and laugh that we discover that we are in this together to create a better tomorrow!

Your Holdingford Husker Family is proud of the fact that our students continue to have some of the highest overall proficiency rates in math, reading, and science when compared to state averages and neighboring districts. With your help and encouragement, we pursue even better test scores and continue to educate all children to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Please support our mission by getting your child to sleep and school on time. Give them the love and structure they need to get 8-9 hours of sleep every night. Thank you!



Is your child getting enough sleep?

It might be tempting to think that your children can get by with less sleep than they need, or that they should be able to cope fairly well with a few skipped hours here and there. However, all children thrive on a regular bedtime routine. Regular sleep deprivation often leads to some pretty difficult behaviors and health problems. Children who get enough sleep have a healthier immune system, and better school performance, behavior, memory, and mental health. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that grade schoolers (ages 6-12) need 9-12 hours of sleep at night.

Healthy Sleep Habits: Tips from the AAP

- **Make sufficient sleep a family priority.** Understand the importance of getting enough sleep and how sleep affects the overall health of you and your children. Remember that you are a role model to your child; set a good example. Making sleep a priority for yourself shows your children that it's part of living a healthy lifestyle—like eating right and exercising regularly.
- **Keep to a regular daily routine.** The same waking time, meal times, nap time, and play times will help your child feel secure and comfortable, and help with a smooth bedtime. For young children, it helps to start early with a bedtime routine such as brush, book, bed.
- **Be active during the day.** Make sure your kids have varied activities during the day, including physical activity and fresh air.

- **Monitor screen time.** The AAP recommends keeping all screens—TVs, computers, laptops, tablets, and phones out of children's bedrooms, especially at night. To prevent sleep disruption, turn off all screens at least one hour before bedtime.
- **Create a sleep-supportive and safe bedroom and home environment.** Dim the lights prior to bedtime and control the temperature in the home. Keep your child's bed a place to sleep, rather than a place to play. One or two things—a favorite doll or bear, a security blanket—are okay and can help ease separation anxiety.
- **Avoid overscheduling.** In addition to homework, many children today have scheduled evening activities (i.e., sports games, lessons, appointments, etc.) that pose challenges to getting a good night's sleep. Take time to wind down and give your children the downtime that they need.
- **Learn to recognize sleep problems.** The most common sleep problems in children include difficulty falling asleep, nighttime awakenings, snoring, stalling and resisting going to bed
- **Communicate with your child's teacher** about your child's alertness during the day. Sleep problems may manifest in the daytime, too. A child with not enough, or poor quality sleep may have difficulty paying attention or "zoning out" in school.



Preparing every student to make a difference and challenging a school to be the BEST it can be.

Parent Power:

- * Read to and with your child, and have your child read to you.
- * Encourage your child to keep a journal of daily events.
- * Keep books available to your child, and make regular trips to the public library.
- * When you shop for groceries, have your child help you find items and then estimate the cost of the purchase.
- * Discuss different kinds of jobs and careers in your community to help your child understand that school prepares them for a career.
- * Visit museums, zoos, and city art exhibits with your child.
- * Help your child set fitness goals. Make walking, hiking, or biking a family activity.
- * Talk to your child about the importance of education.
- * Meet with your child's teachers regularly to monitor progress.
- * Compliment your child's work and success in school.
- * Make sure your child does each day's homework assignment. Set aside a quiet place for homework and set a regular time each day for it.
- * Listen to music together, and have art materials available at home.
- * Ask who they play with at school and who their friends are. What makes a good friend?



The Starfish...Please share with your children! Everyone Matters!

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said,

"It made a difference for that one."

— [Loren Eiseley](#)



Easter/Spring Break April 2-6. Back to learning and Husker friends Tuesday, April 7th.

May 14: K-2, 3-5 Elementary Spring Concert 6:00, 7:00 pm High School Gym

May 1 : Grandparent Day Save the Date!

May 2: Big Rigs Preschool Event 10 - 11

May 4 : Band Concert 630 pm in the HS gym

May 21 : PTA All School PTA Inflatable Party

Wednesday, May 27 Last Day of School ½ day!

6th Grade Graduation and Elementary Awards Ceremony starting at 8:30 in the Middle School Gym