

ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

The 2026-2027 school year is upon us in a few short days. Custodians and ground crews have been very busy preparing the building for the upcoming school year and preparing for students and staff to fill the classrooms and hallways. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Throughout the summer, hallways and classrooms were filled with ongoing activities and programs. Drivers Education, sports camps, sports leagues, outside building use, meetings, summer school, and academic camps utilized the buildings nearly every day of the summer. Many people do not know that the school buildings are never truly empty over the summer. While summer athletic programs often receive the most attention, many may not realize that this marked the second year of our Welding Camp. Due to strong interest, we offered multiple sessions, providing hands-on learning opportunities for a significant number of students and adult participants. That camp gets bigger with each year.

Each year brings new challenges for both students and staff. Balancing academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and the demands of family life can present obstacles throughout the school year. Our students and staff should never feel alone and should know that our District's culture is one of support, encouragement, and mutual respect. The term "Herd" is ever important with our approach to each and every year and "Charge into the Storm" is a fitting theme for the 2026-2027 school year as we embrace the many challenges together.

It appears that our first day enrollment will surpass 800 total students for yet another consecutive year. The District continues to experience steady growth, driven by community development, increased option enrollment, and families choosing to relocate to the area. Although enrollment continues to increase, we do project to have a smaller kindergarten than years past. This enrollment pattern is consistent with trends observed in many school districts, post COVID, as larger first-grade classes have been followed by smaller incoming kindergarten classes.

A few new faces will be working with Central City Public Schools. At the elementary level, Stephanie Elder joins the Special Education team after previously teaching in O'Neill. Samantha Kistler brings experience from the Omaha area and will teach fourth grade. York native Libby Troester begins her teaching career as a first-grade teacher, and Rachel Christenson joins the kindergarten team after several years of experience in early childhood education. In the High School/Middle School, Bobby Jacobs will be teaching instrumental music after considerable experience at Sandy Creek and Grand Island, Jessi Owen will be teaching social studies, physical education, and leadership after multiple years of being at Ainsworth, Hayley Royle will be teaching math and utilizing her expertise in teaching graphic courses after being with the Grand Island District, and Christine Hecht will be teaching science after being with the Grand Island District.

The summer was utilized to complete a few summer projects in needed areas. The north parking lot received a final phase of concrete to continue to provide quality parking for the 175 school days and the activities that take place over a calendar year. That same area was prepared with a slab for a new shed that will be constructed by the Construction Classes this upcoming school year. The High School Media Center also received a new facelift with new lights, ceiling, flooring, and furniture. Next year will mark the final phase of upgrading the entire High School with new LED economical lighting. As another school year approaches, it is very evident why our District boasts tremendous facilities.

The District's long-term vision of transitioning from the 1927 elementary building to a K-12 campus on the south side has gained significant momentum. Initial plans are complete and the potential move is within reach. As the District transitions to a K-12 site, the 1998 and 1947 buildings will continue to house the District's two preschool programs. In addition, the 1998 building will be repurposed to support expanded community childcare services, with the potential to accommodate up to three external daycare providers. The 1947 building will once again serve as the District's Central Office while continuing to provide valuable community resources, including a gymnasium and wrestling room. As community needs continue to grow, the building also has the potential to support an additional external childcare program. Additionally, interested parties have begun exploring potential uses for the 1927 building that would support continued community growth, development, and expansion. As things continue to evolve, tremendous wins for the school and community appear to be taking shape.

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break and is looking forward to the opportunities and excitement that the 2026-2027 school year will bring. The District continues to do incredible things for students and the community, and we look forward to continued excellence.
Go Bison!