

APRIL 2025

A MESSAGE FROM MRS PETERSEN

Dear Spring Ridge Families,

Spring has arrived! Our daffodils and tulips are starting to poke themselves out of the ground. As we continue into our last quarter, our students will keep focused on becoming better readers, writers, and mathematicians. We are proud of their hard work and the progress they are making. We also appreciate your support in assisting your child(ren) through your work and volunteering at school. Spring Ridge is truly fortunate to have such active and supportive parents.

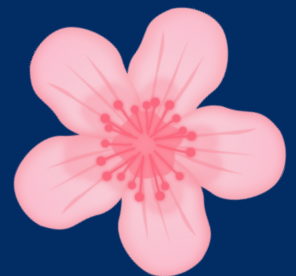
The last quarter promises to be busy with many activities taking place. Please check your child's backpack for classroom newsletters and other notes throughout the month.

NSCAS Tests will be given this month in 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade. We encourage you to take some time to discuss this event with your child. Remind your child to relax and do his/her best without worrying. These tests are nothing to fear or be nervous about. Be sure your child gets plenty of rest each evening and send him/her off to school with a good breakfast each morning. It is important that your child be present for the tests; please avoid making appointments for your child during this time. The data from student performance is used to make decisions for school improvement, to drive instruction at each grade level, and to make recommendations for certain programs at Spring Ridge. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I continue to welcome the opportunity to visit with you should you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please feel free to drop by the office and school for a visit!

Laurinda Petersen

Spring Ridge Principal





UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

April

- March 31 - Kindergarten Round-Up Parent Meeting - 6 PM
- March 31 - Spring Ridge Battle of the Books
- April 4 - Kindergarten Round-Up, 9-11 AM
- April 7 - District Battle of the Books
- April 7 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM - Kindergarten teachers attend.
- April 18 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service
- April 22 - Kindergarten attends Rose Theater, 9:10-11:30 AM
- April 25 - Mid Quarter Reports Go Home



NSCAS TESTING TIMELINE

All students in grades three through eight, as well as 11th grades, will take part in NSCAS (Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System). Results from the NSCAS will be used to identify strengths and areas of need across the district, as well as for each individual student. It is important that your student(s) be present during these assessments in order to get an accurate snapshot of their level of mastery in relation to state standards. These results will also allow our teaching staff to guide classroom instruction based on areas of need. Listed below are the scheduled dates for the NSCAS assessments at Spring Ridge. Please be mindful of these dates when scheduling appointments, vacations, etc. If you have any questions regarding NSCAS assessments or scheduled testing dates, please feel free to contact Laurinda Petersen at 402-637-0204.

NSCAS Reading & Math for 3rd through 5th Grade Students & NSCAS Science for 5th Grade Students is scheduled during the weeks of March

Assessment	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
NSCAS Reading	April 1 & 3	April 2 & 4	April 1 & 3
NSCAS Math	April 8 & 10	April 9 & 11	April 8 & 10
NSCAS Science	Not Administered	Not Administered	April 15



6TH GRADE ORIENTATION

PARENTS OF FIFTH GRADERS AT SPRING RIDGE WILL RECEIVE 6TH GRADE ONLINE REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH WITH THE ONLINE REGISTRATION BEING DUE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH. STUDENTS WILL TOUR ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MONDAY, MAY 5TH FROM 9:15-10:00 AM. 5TH GRADE PARENTS VISIT ERMS ON MONDAY, MAY 5TH AT 5:30 PM.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CURRENT KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:



THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR CURRENT KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH DUE TO KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP.



Note from the Nurse...



Thank you for keeping your child home when they don't feel well. **CHILDREN SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL**

FOR THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Contagious diseases such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, pink eye, etc.
- Skin eruptions or suspicious rash
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Abnormal temperature (Elkhorn Public Schools complies with the Douglas County Health Department recommendation that a child may not stay at school if temperature is 100 degrees or more and should not return to school until fever-free for 24 hours.)
- Head lice

A child absent from school because of a skin disease or other infectious or contagious disease may be required to present a statement from a doctor upon returning to school (Guidelines under student handbook).

-Reminders-

- 5th grade health talks will be taking place on Thursday, April 17th. Girls will begin at 1:30pm and boys will follow at 2:15pm. Parents who attend the lesson are asked only to observe. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to view the video, please feel free to contact me or the school office.



It's not too early to start scheduling your school and sports physicals!

- Students who will be entering **Kindergarten** in the fall or who are **new students from out of state** will need to submit a **physical exam and vision exam (including tests for strabismus, amblyopia, and acuity)** dated after **February 12, 2025**. A **current** immunization record including recent Kindergarten booster shots is also required. Here is the [Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations](#).
- 5th grade students wanting to participate in a sport at the middle school level must have a **sports physical** completed sometime after **May 1, 2025** and uploaded to [rschool](#).

****Health records should be submitted to school prior to the first student day on August 12, 2025.**

Thank you!
Elizabeth Page, BSN/RN
epage@epsne.org



April

COUNSELING CORNER

Parenting Pathways

Teaching Courage at Home

Courage isn't just about being brave in big moments—it's about trying new things, standing up for what's right, and facing challenges with confidence. Parents and caregivers can help children build courage in everyday life through small but meaningful actions.

- **Encourage New Experiences** – Let kids try new foods, activities, or hobbies, praising their effort rather than the outcome.
- **Model Courage** – Share stories of times you've faced fears or challenges and how you overcame them.
- **Practice Speaking Up** – Role-play situations where kids can express their feelings, ask for help, or stand up for others.
- **Celebrate Mistakes as Learning** – Teach kids that mistakes are part of growth and not something to fear.
- **Read Books About Courage** – Stories like *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles or *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall show courage in action.

With encouragement and practice, kids will grow more confident in facing life's challenges with bravery and resilience!

Try it!

Encourage kids to use positive self-talk daily:

★ **I am** (*brave, strong, kind*)

💪 **I can** (*try new things, speak up, face challenges*)

🔥 **I will** (*keep going, stand up for myself, believe in me*)

Repeating these statements helps children grow confident and courageous!

Cuddles & Covers

"What Would You Do with a Chance" by Kobi Yamada inspires kids to take risks, be brave, and embrace new opportunities, teaching them that courage leads to growth and possibility.



SOM Character Trait

COURAGE

is choosing what is helpful, right, and kind - even when it's hard or scary

© 2018 Kobi Yamada





PurposeFULL People
Character Strong

COURAGE

is choosing what is
helpful, right, and kind
- even when it's hard or scary

PurposeFULL
People

What are we learning
in guidance?

- [Kindergarten](#)
- [1st Grade](#)
- [2nd Grade](#)
- [3rd Grade](#)
- [4th Grade](#)
- [5th Grade](#)

DISTRICT NEWS

Early Intervention Services Reminder

Elkhorn Public School Families - if you have any concerns regarding your young child's development, don't hesitate to reach out to the EPS Early Intervention team. Our dedicated professionals are here to support you and your child's needs. Visit [Elkhorn Public Schools Early Intervention](#) for more information.

Does your child talk and play like other children?

The *Early Development Network* works with school districts to offer **FREE** screening and evaluations for children birth through age five.

Your child could be eligible to receive free help with:

- Play skills
- Speech and Language
- Motor Development
- Vision and Hearing



Summer Athletics and Activities Camps

*Annually, EPS coaches and activity sponsors host opportunities for athletic and activity skills development through summer camps and clinics. The list of 2025 opportunities is currently available online at <https://www.elkhornweb.org/blog/summer-athletics-and-activities-camps-3/>. *Please note this list is only inclusive of camps and clinics hosted by EPS coaches and sponsors as related to their duties within the school district and does not include opportunities offered by outside organizations.*

Upcoming District-Wide Events

Elkhorn High School's 50th Anniversary musical will be performed April 10-13, 2025. Click [here](#) to view details and purchase tickets.



Spring Ridge PTO

APRIL

APRIL 2025

WELCOME OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

SPRING RIDGE PTO HAS INVITED OUR NEW INCOMING PRINCIPAL, **KELLI HAYWORTH**, TO OUR UPCOMING APRIL PTO MEETING ON APRIL 07, 2025 AT 6:30PM! SHE WILL BE GIVING ALL OF US SOME INSIGHT ON HER BACKGROUND, WHAT SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO AT SPRING RIDGE AND WILL STICK AROUND FOR A MEET AND GREET AFTER THE MEETING! WE HOPE ALL FAMILIES CAN JOIN TO WELCOME HER!



MAGGIE BROCKMANN
PRESIDENT

HANNAH WIEGER
PRESIDENT-ELECT

IMPORTANT DATES

04/04: KINDERGARTEN
ROUND-UOP | 9:00-
11:00AM

04/07: PTO MEETING |
6:30PM

04/07: NEW PRINCIPAL:
KELLI HAYWORTH
MEET & GREET |
6:30PM

04/18: NO SCHOOL



MEETING

Kindergarten
Teachers will
Present!

**CHILDCARE
AVAILABLE**

APRIL 07, 2025



MEET & GREET



APRIL 07, 2025

LIBRARY/MEDIA ROOM

6:30PM

NEW INCOMING PRINCIPAL

KELLI HAYWORTH



The flyer has a dark teal background with a repeating pattern of graduation caps, diplomas, and stars. At the top center is a large, light orange graduation cap icon. Below it, the text "5TH GRADE GRADUATION" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The word "VIDEO" is prominently displayed in the center in a large, light orange, serif font. Below "VIDEO", the words "PHOTO SUBMISSIONS" are written in a white, sans-serif font. A horizontal white line separates this header from the main text block. The main text, in a white, sans-serif font, invites 5th grade families to submit photos of their students taken at Spring Ridge Elementary or on its grounds. At the bottom, the website URL "www.springridgepto.com/fifth-grade-video" is provided in a white, sans-serif font.

5TH GRADE GRADUATION

VIDEO

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

All 5th grade families are invited to submit photos of their 5th grade student throughout their time at Spring Ridge Elementary for the 5th Grade Graduation Video. Photos must have been taken on Spring Ridge grounds of your students and/or other Spring Ridge students.

www.springridgepto.com/fifth-grade-video



SAVE THE DATE
SPRING RIDGE ELEMENTARY
PRESENTS

YEAR 
*
*
* **END**

2025 CARNIVAL

how 

FRIDAY, MAY 9
5:30-8 PM
SPRING RIDGE
ELEMENTARY

*
*
*



HOW TO REACH US

DON'T HESITATE TO ASK EVERYTHING ABOUT US!



SPRING RIDGE PTO



CONTACT@SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM



WWW.SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM



17830 SHADOW RIDGE DRIVE

MORE INFO: 

SIGN-UP FOR PTO EMAILS!



The Spring Ridge Review is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School, Elkhorn Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska.

Address

17830 Shadow Ridge Drive Elkhorn, NE 68130

Principal

Laurinda Petersen

lpetersen@epsne.org

Secretary

Muriel Manske

mmanske@epsne.org

LINKS



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PTO Emails!

