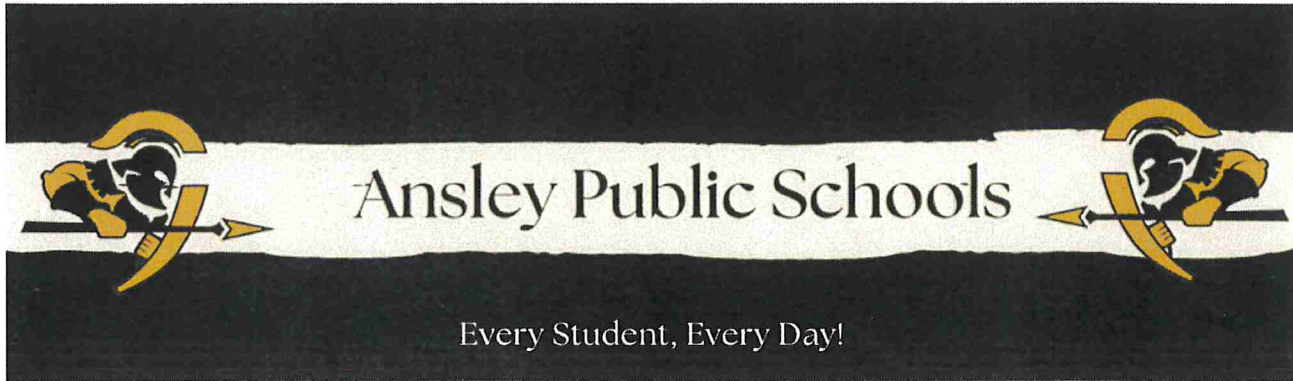


# APS Newsletter



**Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,**

As we wrap up another school year, I want to thank our students, staff, families, and community members for your ongoing support. It's been a year of growth, achievement, and collaboration, and I'm proud of all we've accomplished together.

Our students have excelled both in and out of the classroom. From strong academic progress to outstanding performances in fine arts, athletics, and FFA, their talents continue to shine. Highlights from this year include:

- Our football team advancing to the state playoffs
- District final appearance in volleyball
- One-Act placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at State
- Six athletes qualifying for the state wrestling tournament
- Two students qualifying for the state speech meet
- 22 FFA students qualifying for state
- Three students honored at the conference art show
- Growth in our music department, including a successful joint pep band with Litchfield
- A competitive track season still underway

This year also marked the completion of our PLC (Professional Learning Communities) training in partnership with Litchfield. Our staff has embraced this process to strengthen collaboration and improve instruction—a key step toward ensuring academic success for all students.

As we prepare for summer break, we also begin planning for the fall. Our focus remains on providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth for every student, every day. On behalf of Ansley Public Schools, thank you for being an essential part of our school family. We wish you a safe, fun, and restful summer.

*Kim Jonas*

**In this  
newsletter  
you can expect:**

Jr./Sr High  
Honors Program  
Highlights

**Program  
Information:**

--Summer  
Reading  
Program  
--25-26 School  
Calendar

**Staff Profiles**

**Extra-Curricular  
Highlights:**

--Track  
--Student  
Council  
--HS Choir  
--Washington  
Focus Group

# Student Achievement and Honors

Each spring, Ansley Public School recognizes students in grades 7–12 for their academic excellence. This year, we honored many of our students for their hard work, ability, talent, and creativity. Whether they demonstrated these skills in the classroom, on the stage, on a canvas, or through service to the school, these students were celebrated for their accomplishments.

## President's Award

Since 1983, the President's Award for Educational Achievement has recognized students who meet rigorous standards, including a cumulative GPA of 90% or higher and scoring in the 80th percentile or above in Math, Reading, or Science on the most recent MAP or NSCAS assessment.

### 7th Grade

Kyler Bailey  
Robert Brott  
Lily Hickenbottom

### 8th Grade

Mayra Sanchez  
Bo Smith  
Aiden Burns

### 9th Grade

Allie Leiting  
Cainan Marsh  
Wyatt Hoblyn-Shoemaker

### 10th Grade

Kaleb Aguilar  
Kiera Bailey  
Madelyn Loy  
Adrian Nienaber  
Garittee Smith

### 11th Grade

Owen Cunningham  
Clysta Brott  
Bailey Hawkins  
Kolten Clay

### 12th Grade

Luke Bailey  
Kerry Ryan

## Academic Excellence Award

Academic Excellence Award recognizes students who have made the Honor Roll or the Principal's List for the current academic year.

### 7th Grade

Kyler Bailey  
Robert Brott  
Livia Hall  
Abby Hickenbottom  
Lily Hickenbottom  
Tyliee Hendricks  
Manuel Olivo  
Jaxon Schulte  
Aspen Taylor

### 8th Grade

Aiden Burns  
Kylee Ceballos  
Bayler Clay  
Kaycee Nelson  
Tripp Oxford  
Bailey Roberts  
Mayra Sanchez  
Bo Smith  
Parker Wilson

### 9th Grade

Kiera Burns  
Owen Hawkins  
Wyatt Hoblyn-Shoemaker  
Freyja Lawrence  
Allie Leiting  
Cainan Marsh  
Kali Nelson  
Patricia Olivo  
Mary Pena  
Jaycee Vogel  
Lauren Fernau

### 10th Grade

Kaleb Aguilar  
Kiera Bailey  
Vanessa Czarnek  
Addie Gibbons  
Madelyn Loy  
Asia Lyon  
Adrian Nienaber  
Isabella Plunkett  
Garittee Smith  
Cenzie White

### 11th Grade

Clysta Brott  
Kolten Clay  
Owen Cunningham  
Joey Gibbons  
Bailey Hawkins  
Addilyne Rohde  
Landon Schulte  
Kailea Vogel

### 12th Grade

Luke Bailey  
Jacob Hoblyn-Bittner  
Isaac O'Brien  
Kerry Ryan

## NSCAS

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is the statewide assessment program used to measure student achievement and growth in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. Administered annually to students in grades 3–8 and once in high school. NSCAS provides valuable data to ensure students are mastering the Nebraska's academic standards. Students who scored in the "advanced" category and/or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile are listed below.

### 3rd Grade

Parker Miller - Math & ELA  
Ryan Olson - Math

### 4th Grade

Clarissa Burnett- ELA  
Eyden Griffith - ELA  
Dexter Rohde - ELA

### 5th Grade

Lauren Sawyer - ELA & Science

### 6th Grade

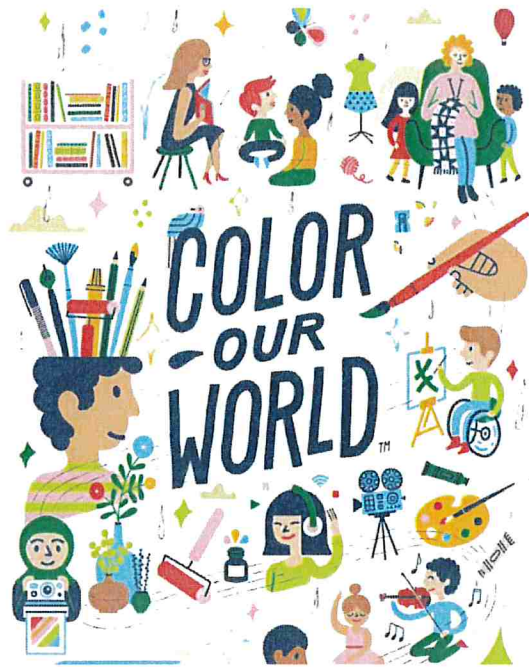
Ava Loy - ELA

### 7th Grade

Kyler Bailey - Math & ELA  
Robert Brott - Math & ELA

### 8th Grade

Aiden Burns - Science



## Summer Library

Summer Library runs from Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday each week. This year's theme is Color Our World.

The program is open to all incoming preschool through incoming 6th grade students enrolled at Ansley Public Schools. In addition to required reading time, students will participate in crafts, STEM activities, and games.

## Important Dates:

- Preschool Graduation - Friday, May 9th, 8:30am
- Elementary Track Meet - Friday, May 9th, 10:00am in Litchfield
- Ansley's Graduation - Saturday, May 10th, 2:00pm
- Elementary Awards Program and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion - Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm
- Last Day of School - Friday, May 16th, 1:00pm dismissal



## SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Ansley Public School

Starting June 2nd!

Kids ages 1-18 eat free! Adults \$7.00 On-site dining.

Noon to 1:00 pm.

---

## Staff Profiles:



Jessica O'Brien,  
Paraprofessional

I grew up in Ansley and graduated from Ansley Public School in 2008. I moved to Kearney to attend college at UNK, where I met my husband. We have been married for 11 years. After getting married, we moved to Ravenna, where we lived for five years while raising our three children—Isaac (18), Stetson (10), and Finleigh (8)—before deciding to return to my hometown. I have since decided to return to school myself and am currently pursuing an Elementary Education degree at Chadron State College. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time outdoors, attending my children's sporting events, riding horses, fishing, and doing anything that involves time with my family.



Meghan Kratzer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Hi, my name is Miss Meghan Kratzer, and I am the 3rd grade teacher in Ansley! I grew up in Litchfield, where I attended both elementary and high school. I received my degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I have been teaching in Ansley for three years now! Outside of school, you can find me at sporting events, cheering on our Spartans! When I'm not at a game, I enjoy spending time with my nephew Floyd and being around friends and family. I love working at Ansley and being involved in both the Ansley and Litchfield communities!



Lora Jewell, Kindergarten

I'm Lora Jewell, and this is my second year teaching kindergarten here in Ansley. I've been teaching kindergarten for 21 years now—it's something I've wanted to do ever since I was in kindergarten myself! Both of my parents were teachers, and they definitely passed their love of teaching on to me. I feel lucky every day to do what I love and to work with such an amazing group of students. I also have a twin brother, Travis. He works in Grand Island and is into running ultramarathons (definitely the runner in the family!). I enjoy being in the classroom, experiencing the fun, excitement, and curiosity that kindergarten brings. I learn so much from my students and love watching them grow throughout the year. I'm so happy to be part of the Ansley community and excited to continue this journey in teaching!



Jackie Wagner, K-12 Special  
Education

I'm Jackie Wagner, a K-12 Special Education Teacher with over 17 years of experience, dedicated to helping students with diverse learning needs thrive in an inclusive and supportive environment. I believe in each student's potential and am always looking for new ways to improve my teaching methods. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and four kids, especially exploring Nebraska State Parks. As a huge Harry Potter fan, I also love getting lost in a good book. My journey in education has been incredibly rewarding, and I look forward to continuing to inspire and support my students every day.



Kalla Sawyer, Art

I've been happily married to Kurt for 15 years, and together, we've built a wonderful life. I absolutely adore my two amazing daughters, Lauren and Morgan, who make life both exciting and rewarding. At home, we have a mini-farm with lots of chickens and one very patient dog. Outside of the classroom, I'm the One-Act coach, prom sponsor, and yearbook advisor—basically, I thrive on organized chaos. Teaching art is truly the best job in the school. Younger students bring such excitement and eagerness to create, while older students approach their work with a methodical, advanced perspective. I love seeing the different levels of creativity and how each student expresses themselves. Whether I'm managing projects, teenagers, or wayward poultry, I try to handle it all with a good sense of humor, plenty of coffee, and a deep appreciation for the wonderful life I'm lucky enough to call mine.

# Extra-Curricular Activities

## Support Students' Growth & Learning

Junior High and High School are pivotal times for students, with extra-curricular activities playing a vital role in their development. Participation in these programs supports social, academic, and personal growth, creating a well-rounded educational experience. Schools encourage students to get involved, so explore the available programs to help your child make the most of their school journey!

### Student Council

The 2024-2025 Ansley Student Council, had 29 high school and junior high students, led by President Kerry Ryan, Vice President Kolten Clay, Secretary Lauren Fernau, and Treasurer Canian Marsh. This year the Student Council was in charge of many great activities:

- Coffee and Smoothie Fridays: A weekly tradition where members arrived early to prepare and sell drinks to students and staff, building community and school spirit.
- Homecoming Week: Themed "Around the World," this event featured dress-up days, a food drive, a community parade, and a coronation ceremony in Litchfield.
- Holiday Activities: Included a door decorating contest, spirit days, and the delivery of Hospital Bags to Melham Medical Center, continuing an annual tradition.
- Grandparents Day: Successfully hosted in February, welcoming over 200 guests for an afternoon of connection and celebration.
- Spring Food Drive: Currently underway, this second annual drive has already brought in over 600 items to help restock the local food pantry before summer.

It has truly been an awesome year for the Council, driven by a strong group of committed student leaders.

### Spartan Track

The 2025 high school track and field season has been nothing short of outstanding. From day one, our athletes have shown up with determination, grit, and a hunger to improve, and it's paid off. Every single athlete on our team has achieved a personal record or season record in one or more events. This is a testament to their hard work and effort. With six meets under our belt so far, we've seen steady growth and improvement at every competition. The beautiful weather this season has been a welcomed bonus along with the new track surfaces at the Ansley park. Both have allowed for consistent training and strong performances. A big thank you to all who helped coordinate these new track surfaces for our athletes.

One of the many highlights this year was having four of our athletes qualify for the invite-only Midwest Nebraska Track Meet in Gothenburg. Competing among the region's best was an honor, and our athletes rose to the occasion with pride and confidence. Luke Bailey received Gold in 110 High Hurdles and 300 Intermediate Hurdles, as well as a Bronze in Triple Jump. Isaac O'Brien finish 6th and Owen Cunningham 7th in the 400m race. Kerry Ryan finished 4th in high jump and 7th in shot put.

A special shoutout also goes to our three four-year seniors, Kerry Ryan, Isaac O'Brien, and Luke Bailey, whose leadership and mentorship have helped guide our younger athletes throughout the season. Their example on and off the track is shaping the future of our program.

As we look ahead, we're excited to head to Burwell for Districts on May 14, with our sights set on State Track in Omaha, May 23–24. With momentum, talent, and team spirit on our side, we're hopeful for some exciting results to cap off this incredible season.

### High School Choir

The High School choir was made up of 10 members this year. We participated in the FKC Choral Festival in Litchfield in the fall, and performed at the Christmas concert in the winter. This spring, our students participated in FKC Solo/Ensemble at Ansley High School and did well. We also participated in District Music in Burwell and did well there. We just completed our spring concert and are excited to be starting in on the "fun" part of music again!

### Washington Focus

We're excited to share an upcoming opportunity for our students to experience a four-day educational trip to Washington, D.C., organized in collaboration with World Classrooms. This experience will allow students to explore important historical sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the U.S. Capitol. They'll also visit George Washington's Mount Vernon and the Gettysburg Battlefield, deepening their understanding of our nation's history through real-world connections.

The trip is designed to be educational and well-supported, with travel, lodging, meals, and guidance included. Students will travel together by plane and private charter bus, with accommodations and meals planned to ensure a safe and comfortable experience.

# Ansley Public School 2025-2026 Calendar

	Student days
	Early Dismissal
	Holiday - No School
	Teacher Work/In-Service Day - No School

**School Hours**  
**Mon-Thu: 8:00 a.m.- 3:34 p.m.**  
**Fridays: 8:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.**

## August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1st Qtr. = 41  
 2nd Qtr. = 44

Student Days = 173

3rd Qtr. = 46  
 4th Qtr. = 42

Contract Days 185

AUGUST
Aug. 8, 11-12 Teacher Inservice
Aug. 11 - Open House
Aug. 13 - 1st Day of School (Early Dismissal 1:00pm)
Aug. 18- PreK Begins (M-W-F until 9/2)
SEPTEMBER
Sept. 1 - No School - Labor Day
Sept. 15 P-T Conferences (No school)
OCTOBER
Oct. 10 End of quarter
Oct. 13 - Teacher In-service
Oct. 30 Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Oct. 31 - No School - Fall Break
NOVEMBER
Nov. 14 - Teacher In-service
Nov. 26-29 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
DECEMBER
Dec. 19 - End of 2nd Quarter
Dec. 24-28 - NSAA Moritorium
Dec. 23-31 - No School - Winter Break
JANUARY
Jan. 1
Jan. 2 - Teacher In-service
Jan. 5 - School Resumes
FEBRUARY
Feb. 9 P-T Conferences
Feb. 19 - Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Feb. 20 Teacher In-service
MARCH
Mar. 11 - Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Mar. 11 - End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 12-13 No School-SPRING Break
Mar. 16 - No School-Teacher Inservice
APRIL
Apr. 2 - Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Apr. 3 - Easter Break-No School
Apr. 20 - Teacher In-service
MAY
May 6 - Senior's Last Day
May 9 - Graduation - 2:00 p.m.
May 15 - End of 4th Quarter
May 15 - Students' Last Day (Early Dismissal 1:00pm)
May 18 - Teacher Work Day