

# APS Newsletter



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had a joyful and restful holiday season. As we return from Christmas break, we are excited to continue our journey of learning and growth with all of you.

We are excited to share our recently adopted mission statement: "Provide a nurturing and inclusive environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and lifelong learning." This mission reflects our commitment to creating a supportive space where every student can thrive academically and personally.

Our vision, "Empower all students, every day, to pursue their highest ambitions and make a positive impact on their community," will guide us in our efforts to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

Additionally, we are excited to embrace our new motto: "Every Student, Every Day!" This simple yet powerful phrase underscores our dedication to ensuring that each student's unique needs are met daily, fostering a culture of respect, inclusion, and excellence.

We also want to invite you to participate in our upcoming Listening Lunches, where we will be seeking community input as we move forward in meeting our mission. The Administration will briefly highlight key talking points, but most importantly, we want to hear from you. Please join us during a listening session to share your ideas on the next steps to grow Ansley Public School.

Welcome back,

*Kim Jonas*

In this  
newsletter  
you can expect:

#### School Updates & Calendar

#### Program Information:

--KSB  
Presentation:  
Digital  
Citizenship and  
Safety  
--Annual Report  
--Listening  
Lunches

#### Staff Profiles

#### Extra-Curricular Highlights:

--Band  
--Speech Team  
--Basketball  
Programs

# Digital Citizenship and Safety

Bobby Truhe from KSB Law presented "Digital Citizenship and Safety" to our 5th-8th grade and high school students. Students from Arcadia and Litchfield also attended the presentation. Mr. Truhe effectively used humor, statistics, and court cases to highlight the serious consequences of inappropriate use of digital platforms and social media apps such as Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok. He emphasized that digital decisions carry legal consequences and shared real-world examples of how students' social media actions have impacted their lives.

## Key Pointers for Parents to Foster Digital Citizenship in Children:

**Model Appropriate Online Behavior:** Demonstrate positive digital habits, including respectful communication and proper content sharing.

**Discuss Online Safety:** Teach children the importance of privacy, the risks of sharing personal information, and the dangers of interacting with strangers online.

**Set Boundaries:** Create rules for screen time, acceptable websites, and social media use based on the child's age and maturity.

**Teach Critical Thinking:** Encourage children to evaluate the credibility of online information and recognize bias or misinformation.

**Promote Respectful Interaction:** Stress the importance of treating others with respect and kindness online, just as in real life.

**Monitor and Guide:** Stay involved in your children's online activities and guide them in navigating the digital world safely.

**Encourage Reporting:** Ensure children know they can report any uncomfortable or inappropriate online experiences to you.

## Semester 1 & Q2

### Principal's List (All A's)

#### Seniors

Luke Bailey

#### Juniors

Clysta Brott  
Kolten Clay  
Owen Cunningham  
Bailey Hawkins

#### Sophomores

Kiera Bailey  
Addie Gibbons  
Madelyn Loy  
Asia Lyon  
Garittee Smith

#### Freshman

Cainan Marsh  
Kali Nelson  
Jaycee Vogel  
Patricia Olivo

#### 8th Grade

Bayler Clay  
Tripp Oxford  
Kaycee Nelson  
Mayra Sanchez

#### 7th Grade

Kyler Bailey  
Robert Brott  
Abby Hickenbottom  
Lily Hickenbottom  
Manuel Olivo  
Jaxon Schulte  
Aspen Taylor

### Honor Roll (A's and B's)

#### Seniors

Jacob Hoblyn-Bittner  
Isaac O'Brien  
Kerry Ryan

#### Juniors

Landon Schulte  
Joey Gibbons  
Kailea Vogel

#### Sophomores

Kaleb Aguilar  
Vanessa Czarnek  
Adrian Nienaber  
Bella Plunkett  
Cenizie White

#### Freshman

Kiera Burns  
Wyatt Hoblyn-Shoemaker  
Freya Lawrence  
Mary Pena  
Lauren Fernau  
Owen Hawkins  
Allie Leiting

#### 8th Grade

Kylee Ceballos  
Bailey Roberts  
Bo Smith  
Parker Wilson  
Aiden Burns

#### 7th Grade

Tyliee Hendricks  
Pandora Duryea-Bryant  
Livia Hall

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES FOR SENIORS TAKING TESTS

Grad. Yr.	Total		English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
2019-2020	14	19	19.2	19.7	18.5	20.2	19.5	20	19.2	19.9		
2020-2021	20	18	*16.8	19.7	18	*16.8	20.2	18.3	19.8	20		
2021-2022	13	18	17	16.5	18	16.2	17.5	18	17.3			
2022-2023	12	18	17	19.8	18	19.1	20.8	18	19.8			
2023-2024	12	17	17	18.2	18	18.2	18.7	18	18.1			

\*English and Reading score combined for State totals.

## ANNUAL REPORT TO DISTRICT #44 PATRONS 2023-2024 Report

### ANSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kim Jonas, Superintendent

Pete Cunningham & Jamee Bailey, Board President

### MISSION STATEMENT

Educating and empowering students to succeed in an ever-changing world.

### VISION STATEMENT

Focusing on high expectations, cultivating individual strengths, and creating a community of respect.

### PHILOSOPHY

Ansley Public School is an educational institution organized to preserve traditional, fundamental goals and objectives of our democracy. The primary objective of our school is to build a foundation enabling students to be cognizant of their responsibilities in civic, social, economic and individual endeavors, in order that they may function successfully in their spheres of experience, unguided by, and within the parameters of the Bill of Rights, as set forth in the Constitution.

### OBJECTIVES

1. **Dynamic Curriculum and Instruction** - Develop, implement, and refine a curriculum plan that is focused on academic growth, emotional development and expanded opportunities for EVERY student.
2. **Whole Child Focused** - Enhance student focus and social-emotional supports for the health, safety, and well-being of the whole child.
3. **Culture and Communication** - Create, sustain, and promote a district culture that demonstrates high expectations for all staff and students.
4. **District Resources** - Provide purposeful facilities and an adequate number of well-trained staff.
5. **Board of Governance** - Commitment to sustainable strategies that focus on student achievement, fiscal responsibility, and engagement with our community.

### Graduate Status

#### 6 Year Report 2018-2024

	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Totals
<b>Number of Graduates</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>82</b>
Attending 4-yr. college	5	5	9	7	3	5	34
Attending 2-yr. college	5	6	3	3	3	5	25
Working	4	3	6	3	4	1	21
Military	0	0	2	0	0	0	2

## Summary of This Year's School Census 2024

(The number of boys and girls here must agree with the total number of school age persons in the district.)

#### Number of Children 5 to 20 Years\*

Ages	Total																	Total	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	20		7-15
F	7	5	5	10	3	11	12	7	8	8	10	7	5	5	103	6	5	114	74
M	4	8	10	9	6	8	5	3	11	4	10	10	6	6	100	7	5	112	66
Total	11	13	15	19	9	19	17	10	19	12	20	17	11	11	203	13	10	226	140

#### Pre-School Census

#### Number of Children Under 5 Years\*

Ages	Total				Number of Handicapped				Total
	0-1	1	2	3	0-4	Deaf	Mentally	Other Physically	
F	1	7	6	2	18	0	2	1	203
M	2	3	5	9	27	0	1	1	203
Total	3	10	11	11	45	0	3	2	203

#### County Summary Number of Children 5 to 18 Years\*

County	Number of Handicapped		Total
	Female	Male	
County	103	100	203
Custer	103	100	203
Total	103	100	203

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL**

All students will improve their [mathematical skills](#).

## **CERTIFIED STAFF**

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF: 23  
DEGREES: MA=2; BA=21

## **NON-CERTIFIED STAFF**

Full Time: 1 secretary, 1 bookkeeper,  
5 paras, 3 [custodians](#), 2.5 cafeteria workers.  
Part Time: 1 registered nurse,  
4 bus route drivers

## **CAFETERIA:**

The [District's cafeteria](#) served approximately 25,411 lunches and 11,082 breakfasts thru the 2023-2024 year.

## **PRICES**

Lunch: Adults-\$3.40; Jr.-Sr. High-\$2.65;  
Elem.-\$2.55  
Breakfast: K-12-\$1.65; Adults-\$1.65  
Milk or Juice: \$.45 per [carton](#)

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

Vehicles – 2 activity buses; 2 micro buses; 1 spare bus (route bus); 1 suburban; 3 vans; and 1 car. We currently run 4 routes daily at APS. We log approximately 55,000 miles per year. Activity miles accounted for approximately 25,000 miles.

## **CONTRACTED SERVICES**

Ansley Public Schools contracts with ESU 10 for special services that include but are not limited to the following: Diagnostic/Evaluation Team, Speech Pathology and various coordinators to enhance instruction. We also contract with Team Physical Therapy and [Hermes](#) Occupational Therapy for special services.

## **MULTICULTURAL STATEMENT:**

The District, in compliance with Rule 16, will provide learning experiences for all students to obtain knowledge about and respect for the diversity and traditions of cultures, histories, and contributions of Americans of different color or languages.

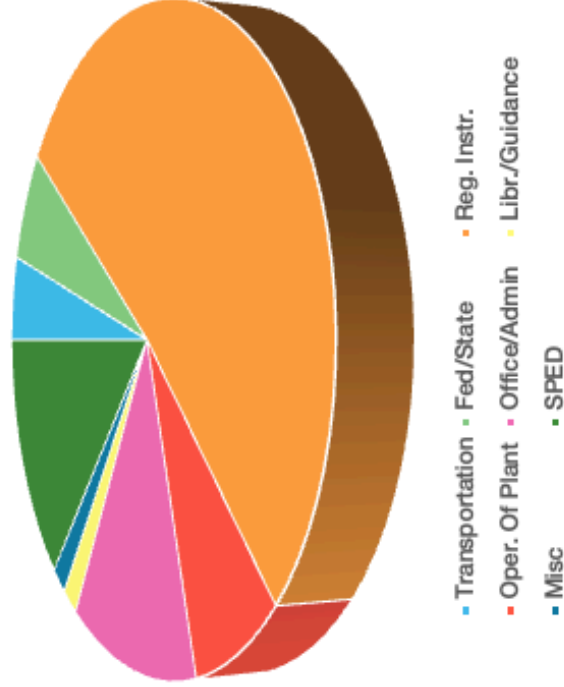
## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & HOURS**

Students need 250 credits to graduate:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits Req.</u>	<u>Total Credits</u>
English	40	70
Social Studies	30	60
Science	30	50
Math	30	50
Speech	5	5
Physical Education	10	30
Electives	105	260

A reduced requirement is available for those Educationally compromised and seeking an Alternative education course towards a diploma.

Programs & Services Budget Needs by Percentile 2023-2024



**ANSLEY PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

# LISTENING LUNCHEES

**PLEASE RSVP 1 DAY PRIOR TO EVENT AT:  
308-935-1121**

## **3 SESSIONS OFFERED:**

1. Thurs, February 13th (11:45-12:45) Lunch Provided  
Please arrive @ 11:30 if you plan to eat school lunch & RSVP  
one day in advance
2. Thurs, February 13th (7-8pm) No Meal
3. Mon, February 17th (11:45-12:45) Lunch Provided

## **ABOUT**

Administration will highlight a few points, but most importantly we want to hear from YOU! Please join our listening session to share ideas on growing Ansley Public Schools!



# 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!

### 7-12 Band

Music education, particularly Band, plays a crucial role in students' overall development. Band participation enhances cognitive abilities, improves memory, and fosters discipline through regular practice and commitment. It cultivates teamwork and collaboration, as students must work together to achieve a harmonious sound. Band also provides a creative outlet, allowing students to express themselves and build confidence. Moreover, music education has been linked to improved academic performance, as it sharpens focus and problem-solving skills. Ultimately, Band nurtures a lifelong appreciation for music, enriching students' lives both in and beyond the classroom. The Ansley Band has been busy spreading school spirit and preparing for upcoming performances! Recently, our Pep Band joined forces with the Litchfield Band to energize the crowd at home football and basketball games. It's been a fantastic collaboration filled with music, fun, and team spirit! Thank you for supporting the Ansley Band program!

### Speech

Ansley's 2025 speech team is excited to welcome back varsity speakers and is ecstatic to add novice members to our roster. Students are working on their memorization for many events: Serious Prose, Humorous Prose, Duet Acting, and Oral Interpretation of Drama. Other participants are working on their speech writing for events such as Informative, Poetry, Program of Oral Interpretation, and Entertainment. The speech team plans to compete at six regular meets, the Fort Kearney Conference Meet, District Speech, and State Speech. The students on the speech team put in many hours of hard work writing, memorizing, and practicing to perform at their best.

### Spartan Basketball

It's that time of year and basketball season is underway. Basketball season always brings about a wave of excitement and anticipation as the gym lights shine bright and the sound of squeaking sneakers fills the air. Both the Spartan girls' and boys' teams are gearing up for an action-packed season, fueled by the promise of thrilling competition. Fans, families, and the Ansley-Litchfield communities eagerly await the opportunity to cheer on their teams, celebrate standout plays, and witness the growth of young athletes both on and off the court. With new goals, fresh rosters, and the potential for unforgettable moments, this season is set to be an electrifying journey for players and supporters alike.

The excitement surrounding the girls' basketball team is real as they prepare for a promising season. Returning all starters from last year, the team enters the season with a strong foundation of experience and camaraderie. Leading the charge is their lone senior, Kerry Ryan, whose leadership on and off the court sets the tone for the team's dedication and drive. Although the roster is predominantly young, the underclassmen bring an abundance of experience, raw talent, energy, and untapped potential, making this team one to watch. With Kerry's steady hand guiding the way and a blend of youth and skill ready to rise to the occasion, the girls are poised for an exciting and dynamic season filled with growth and success.

The boys' basketball team heads into the season with a mix of challenges and high expectations, led by returning All-State senior Luke Bailey. As the team's anchor, Bailey brings unmatched skill, leadership, and the experience needed to navigate a season filled with opportunity. However, with the departure of four key starters from last year's squad, the team faces a period of transition. The spotlight now turns to a group of promising newcomers who will be tasked with stepping up and filling critical roles. Despite the turnover, the team's commitment to excellence remains unwavering. With Bailey at the helm and a collective determination to return to the state tournament and compete for another conference title, the boys are ready to embrace the journey and aim for success.

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## Staff Profiles:



**Karla  
Hickenbottom,  
Paraprofessional**

Hi, I am Karla Hickenbottom. I live here in Ansley with my husband Steve and our twin daughters Abby and Lily who are 7th graders here at Ansley. I work as a Paraprofessional mainly with junior high and high school students. This year I am spending most of my time in History and English. I also work with the VIP after school program. I find it rewarding when a student that has been struggling with a class starts to find success after we work together to better understand it. I love doing anything crafty and being able to show off my creativity through the bulletin boards, library window and other decorating I help with around the school. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I especially love supporting Abby and Lily in all the different activities they do. I also enjoy cooking and baking with my girls and have started quite the collection of houseplants..that I am actually keeping alive!



**Jennifer Ryan, Preschool**

My name is Jennifer Ryan, and I teach preschool at Ansley. I am originally from Kearney, where I attended college at UNK. I majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood. I moved to Ansley in 2014 and have been teaching preschool ever since! I love working with preschool-aged children because they have such a thirst for knowledge and still enjoy being silly! I am married to my husband, John, who is originally from Ansley. In my free time, you can find me hanging out with my family, collecting flamingos, and bowling!



**Mitchell Sloggett, PreK-12  
Physical Education & Health**

I am Mitchell Sloggett, the Physical Education/Health Teacher. I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. This is my 5th year with Ansley Public Schools. My wife, Clarissa, and daughter, Ruby (age 7), currently live in Minden, Nebraska. I am also the head boys' and girls' wrestling coach for the Spartans. I am originally from Broken Bow and have many family members in the area. I am lucky enough to get my haircut by my grandpa, Ron Hanshew, every couple of weeks. In my classroom, I try to introduce a variety of activities for all ages to spark interest in being active, whether through sports or different fitness activities.



**Kalli Johnson, Music**

Kalli Johnson's journey is fueled by her passion for music and dedication to education. Raised in Ansley, Nebraska, she developed her love for music within the close-knit community of Ansley Public School. After graduating, she pursued her dream of becoming a music educator at Grace University. Throughout her teaching career, including at Omaha Christian Academy, she shared her passion for music with young minds. In 2023, she returned to Ansley Public School as a music teacher, bringing creativity and expertise to her alma mater. Beyond teaching, Kalli enjoys being an aunt, nurturing her niece and nephew's curiosity. She also finds solace in crafting, channeling her imagination into beautiful works of art. Kalli's journey exemplifies the transformative power of music, education, and creativity, leaving a lasting impact on those around her.



**Kirsten Scott, Office Assistant**

**My husband, McKway, and I live on a ranch just south of Comstock with our slew of animals. We currently run a small herd of cattle and are growing our quarter horse breeding program. We also have 3 dogs: Boog, the Great Dane; Kit, the Collie; and Stetson, the Corgi. I have a background in real estate sales for over 4 years. I grew up in Broken Bow, graduating in 2018, and then attended Hastings College to play volleyball. While enjoying my time there, I transferred to Northeast Community College, where I obtained my Associate degree in Business in 2020. On the weekends, you may find me at the lake, playing coed volleyball, with family, or more than likely on the back of a horse. So far, I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the community and creating connections with staff and students!**



## Stephanie Evans, 5th Grade

Stephanie is a dedicated 5th-grade teacher with a passion for nurturing young minds and fostering a love of learning in her students. Outside the classroom, she finds joy in spending time with her two children, Brittan and Declan, and embracing the outdoors through hunting and helping with farm and ranch work. She also takes pride in baking/crafting cakes for special occasions. Balancing her professional commitment with her personal interests, she demonstrates a humble and hardworking spirit in every aspect of her life. Her classroom motto for the year is "Conflict is a given, drama is choice." Stephanie believes teaching isn't just a profession - it's a calling, a lifelong journey of learning, growing, and making a difference in the world, one child at a time.

### Thank You!

JAG extends heartfelt thanks to all the local businesses and families that generously supported our Toy Drive and Christmas Toy Give Away, as well as our JAG Celebration last month. This fall has been incredibly busy and rewarding, marked by the success of our first semester projects. Your unwavering support and community spirit have made a significant impact, and we deeply appreciate your contributions in making these events memorable for everyone involved. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey!

- Flatwater Bank
- Insurance of the Heartland
- Jones Group
- Spartan Foundation
- Fill-n-Chill staff
- Ansley Area Rotary
- Grocery Kart
- Village of Ansley
- All the many families that donated to our project



# Ansley Public School 2024-2025 Calendar

	Student days Early Dismissal Holiday - No School Teacher Work/In-Service Day - No School End of quarter	<b>School Hours</b> Mon-Thur: 8:00 a.m.- 3:32 p.m. Fridays: 8:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.	
			<b>AUGUST</b>
			Aug. 9, 12-13 - Teacher Inservice
			Aug. 12 - Open House
			Aug. 14 - First Day of School-1:00 Dismissal
			Aug. 19- PreK Begins (M-W-F until 9/3)
			<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
			Sept. 2 - No School - Labor Day
			Sept. 16 - No School - P/T Conferences
			<b>OCTOBER</b>
			Oct. 17 - Early Dismissal-2:30
			Oct. 17 - End of 1st Quarter
			Oct. 18 - No School - Fall Break
			Oct. 21 - Teacher In-service
			Oct. 31 - Early Dismissal-2:30
			<b>NOVEMBER</b>
			Nov. 1 - Teacher In-service
			Nov. 27-29 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
			<b>DECEMBER</b>
			Dec. 20 - End of 2nd Quarter (44 Days)
			Dec. 22-26 - NSAA Moratorium
			Dec. 23-31 - No School - Winter Break
			<b>JANUARY</b>
			Jan. 1-2 - Winter Break
			Jan. 3 - No School-Teacher Inservice
			Jan. 6 - School Resumes
			<b>FEBRUARY</b>
			Feb. 10 - No School - P/T Conferences
			Feb. 21 - Teacher In-service
			<b>MARCH</b>
			Mar. 12 - Early Dismissal-2:30 p.m.
			Mar. 12 - End of 3rd Quarter (44 Days)
			Mar. 13 - 14 No School-SPRING Break
			Mar. 17 - No School-Teacher Inservice
			<b>APRIL</b>
			Apr. 16-17 - No School - Teacher Inservice
			Apr. 18 - No School - Easter Break
			<b>MAY</b>
			May 7 - Senior's Last Day
			May 10 - Graduation - 2:00 p.m.
			May 16 - End of 4th Quarter (45 Days)
			May 16 - 1:00 Dismissal-Students' Last Day
			May 19 - Teacher Work Day
			Rev. 5/13/24

1st Qtr. = 45 2nd Qtr. = 40 Student Days: 172	3rd Qtr. = 46 4th Qtr. = 41 Teacher Days: 185
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<b>ANSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	308-935-1121
<b>School calendars &amp; upcoming events can be found at:</b>  <b><a href="http://www.ansleypublicschool.org">www.ansleypublicschool.org</a></b>	1124 Cameron Street  PO Box 370 Ansley, NE 68814

Thank you for reading!