

# HARDING COUNTY SCHOOL NEWS

***Establishing a Foundation for Future Endeavors***

**Josh Page**  
Superintendent

**Kelly Messmer**  
Principal / AD

**Elizabeth Henderson**  
Business Manager

▪ 12474 Tipperary Street ▪ Box 367 ▪ Buffalo, SD 57720 ▪ Phone: 605-375-3421 ▪ Fax: 605-375-3246 ▪ [hardingcounty.k12.sd.us](http://hardingcounty.k12.sd.us) ▪

## Thank you

It's that time of the year again - time to pause in our routines, gather with loved ones and give thanks for our blessings. I am filled with gratitude for our wonderful students and their warmth, caring and intelligence, and the ability to partner with a learning community whose members care so much about "**EVERY CHILD, EVERY CHANCE, EVERY DAY**".

Our teachers are truly the finest, and our parents, board members, administrators and our supportive community all work behind the scenes to support our mission of ***Establishing a Foundation for Future Endeavors***.

I am grateful for the contributions of the staff and our community leaders as we continue our work together in exploring the development of new partnerships.

My best wishes to you and your family for a happy and safe fall season. As the festive holidays begin, may your season be bright with joy and rich memories.

With Rancher Pride,  
Mr. Josh Page  
Superintendent

## ACT Scores

Congratulations to those Juniors and Seniors on their ACT scores from the spring of 2016!!! We had a **23.4** composite score average, which outpaced the South Dakota average of **21.9**.



## Student of the Month & Character Counts

Congratulations to the following students throughout the district for being named Student of the Month and having strong character traits!

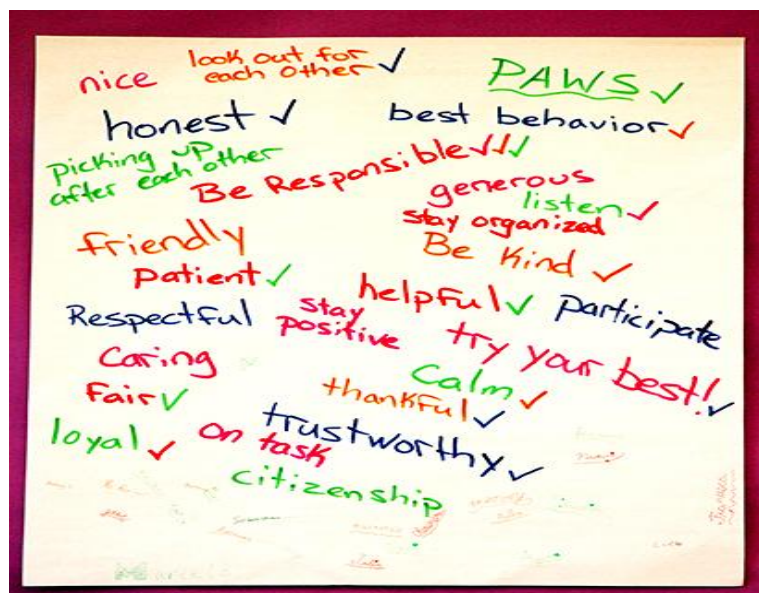
**Camp Crook Elementary:**  
Alexys Glines "Responsibility"

**Ludlow Elementary:**  
Kaydy Padden "Cooperative"

**Buffalo Elementary:**  
Rayce Balcom "Wisdom"

**Harding County Middle School:**  
Peyton Mollman "Student of the Month"  
Abby Fox "Honesty"

**Harding County High School:**  
Jake George "Student of the Month"  
Jaxon Klempel "Helpfulness"



## HARDING COUNTY KIDS VOTING 2016

**Kids Voting South Dakota (KVSD)** is a comprehensive, K-12 curriculum-based program that prepares students to become educated, engaged citizens. In addition to teaching the importance of voting and the election process, students learn to be responsible decision-makers, a trait that carries over into adulthood. In fact, communities with a **KVSD** program show an eight to 15 percent higher adult voter turnout than those without it.

Students learn about our democracy through hands-on, action-oriented classroom lessons along with community and family involvement. Activities may include at-home discussions, community projects and students voting at the polls with their parents.

Our mission is to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged citizens.

### All Harding County Teams Academic All State For 2015-016!

I am proud to announce that every HCHS athletic team has been recognized as Academic All-State for the 15-16 school year! To be recognized as Academic All-State, the grade point average of every team member must average 3.0. Although a 3.0 grade point average may not seem like a lofty number to achieve, team Academic All-State Awards is not all that common. Every Rancher team for the past 6 years has achieved this award. It is also important to report that every Rancher team GPA was well over the 3.0 mark with the lowest Rancher team GPA being 3.20 for the 15-16 school year. As you are well aware, due to our location, our student-athletes probably travel greater distances than any other student-athletes in the state and with that comes getting out of school early and getting home late. Keeping grades up can become a challenge, but our student-athletes continue to shine in the classroom despite the long distances. This takes a team effort from everyone involved including student-athletes, coaches, parents, teachers, and administration. Harding County is known for having success on the court, field, mat, and track year after year and we are very proud of that. We are even more proud of the achievements of our student-athletes in the classroom as they continue to excel there year-after-year as well!

**Mr. Messmer**  
**K-12 Principal/AD**

### Get the Work

When you know ahead of time that your child will be missing class, give the School plenty of notice so he/she can provide makeup work to do. If your child is out unexpectedly, due to illness or other reasons, in addition to contacting the school office, make arrangements with your child's teacher to pick up a packet of work from the school. If the absence is lengthy (e.g. for surgery), alert teachers as soon as you know and get updated assignments and work packets as the days go on. We are here to work with you!

## Important Reminders

### Report In

Schools are required to track attendance of every child, in every classroom, everyday. The state of South Dakota requires schools to hit a certain percentage of daily attendance and that number hovers around 94%. We realize that appointments are needed and scheduled months in advance and we live hours away from doctors, etc. It is essential that you always contact the school if your child is going to be late for class, will need an early dismissal, or will be absent.

*\*NOTE: In regards to activities, a doctor note will be required if a student/athlete is missing school the day of a game or activity for any medical appointment. If a note is **not** provided, they will not be able to participate.*



**NOW is a great time to start tracking your mileage! Taking two seconds to write down if you drove today or carpoled will save hours of hassle in May!**





### **APPROPRIATE DRESS**

As winter weather approaches, we would like to remind parents that classes will still be going outside for recess. Our policy is to go outside for recess unless the temperature is 0 degrees real feel. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Also, periodically we receive requests for children to stay inside at recess and lunch due to colds, etc. We will honor these requests

### ***HARDING COUNTY PTO HAPPENINGS***

The PTO threw a Back-To-School-Bash for all students to kick off this school year. The High School football and volleyball teams led the younger students in several games. There were free hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, and cotton candy! Once it was dark, Melissa Breiding showed "Little Giants" on the big screen in the middle of the football field.

The PTO (with the help of Sydney Turbiville) had banners made for each of the seniors which now hang in the gym...

We have reserved a parking space for Student of the Month.

The PTO will be serving the tailgate supper during the second round of football playoffs (October 31st).

We continue to give pencils to all elementary students who are nominated for Character of the Month.

The PTO fed the teachers soup and bars during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Middle School and High School students that were on the Silver or Gold honor roll from January to May will be going on a special honor trip on October 19th!

The PTO meets the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the school library. We would love to have more people join us!