



# Northwest High School Honor Graduates of 2019



The following is a list of the students who are in the top 15% of the Class of 2019. Academic achievement is the primary goal of schools, and these students are to be congratulated for their hard work and efforts during their four years of secondary education.

<u>Students</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Jason Bachle .....	Becky Bachle & the late Tim Bachle
Kaitlyn Berggren .....	Julie & Theodore Berggren
Nykola Blue.....	Hilary Pederson & Michael Blue
Adam Cooper.....	Lori & Ray Cooper
Heidi Cooper.....	Lori & Ray Cooper
Megan Cooper .....	Lori & Ray Cooper
Katelyn Douglass.....	Diane & Mike Douglass
Arianna Elstermeier .....	Pam & Greg Elstermeier
Jarod Fox.....	Heather & Brian Fox
Jared Fredricks .....	Claudia & Richard Fredricks
Luis Gracia.....	Leisa & Luis Gracia
Alena Hernandez .....	Sharon & Vince Hernandez
Carson Holliday .....	Roxann & Gregg Holliday
Sydney Holmes.....	Deborah & Doug Holmes
Whitney Jensen .....	Jamie & Jared Jensen
Jacque Johnson.....	Amy & Kelly Johnson
Celia Knox .....	Charla & Rob Rasmussen
	Tom Knox & George Kleine
Ethan Kuhn .....	Tracy & Jim Kuhn
Ryan Melvin .....	Cindy & Steve Melvin
Madolyn Oakeson.....	Paul Oakeson & Lori Oakeson
Emily Panowicz.....	Tammy & Randall Panowicz
Ana Pascual.....	Melissa Lemburg
Jared Rosenlund.....	Rebecca & Jon Rosenlund
Alexia Schulte .....	Heather Schulte & Kevin Schulte
Ashlyn Sutherland.....	Renee & Teague Sutherland
Mary Tann.....	Ilse Tann
Peyton Traudt .....	Stefani Brown & Walter Traudt
Mitchell Vitera .....	Debra & David Vitera
Aryanna Warner.....	Susie Kreider & the late Robert Kreider
Effy Widdifield .....	Lynn & Robert Widdifield
Carlyn Willis .....	Lori & Ron Willis

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## **Thank You!**

The administration, faculty, and staff at Northwest Public Schools would like to thank the parents and patrons for their support during the past school year. The commitment to your children and Northwest Public Schools is sincerely appreciated. Your positive involvement with our District has provided many successful experiences and opportunities for students this year.

Current Occupant

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Grand Island, NE  
Permit No. 26

ECRWSS



**Mission Statement**  
*Northwest Public Schools are committed to maximizing learning for all students while fostering a safe environment that promotes positive citizenship.*



**District 82**  
**Matt Fisher, Superintendent**

As I prepared to write my part of this newsletter I realized this will be the last one of these that I do as the superintendent for the Northwest district. With that in mind I decided I wanted to touch on some of the great things I have encountered in the Northwest district during the seven years I have been here.

Having spent my life in small schools in western Nebraska prior to arriving in Grand Island I was pretty apprehensive about coming to a big school like Northwest. What I soon discovered was, although the Northwest district had more students than the school I attended, and the previous two districts I had been employed by combined, it still felt like a small district. The staff was very welcoming, the students were friendly, respectful, and hard working, and the parents were highly supportive. These are factors that make the Northwest district very special.

Prior to school opening in the Fall of 2012 I had the chance to meet several times with the excellent administrative team I have gotten to work with during my time at Northwest. While some of the members of this team have changed over the years I have always felt that they have been a group of top-notch administrators who place the best interest of students as a top priority. As school got underway that fall I had chances to be in classrooms across the district and was dazzled by the great teachers and support staff we have here. Our students are truly blessed.

With the beginning of the school year also came the start of fall activities. Welcome to Northwest volleyball. What a great tradition. That fall the girls brought home a state championship. The first football game was also a highlight. Not only was the team very good that fall, but I got to see the Northwest band perform for the first time. We are very fortunate to have the strong fine arts tradition we have here. Fall rolled into winter and guess what—our athletic teams continued to be outstanding. That year the girl's basketball team won the first of three state championships they would win while I have been here. Certainly the trips to the state tournament with all of our teams have been highlights for me. Along with the volleyball and three girls' basketball championships, we also captured a state title in wrestling this past winter.

Some of the most significant accomplishments in the past seven years have received no press coverage. During these years our staff has worked diligently to implement several key instructional pieces that have had significant impact on our students. The implementation of the Marzano Instructional Model brought us a common language the teachers across our district can use to talk about student learning. The strategies and support this model has provided has made our teachers and administrators better. We have also implemented new and innovative curriculum in several areas. Add to this the move to one-to-one technology devices in all of our grades and you get a sense of the educational strides that have taken place in the past seven years.

Certainly there is much work ahead for our district. There is still a pressing need to figure out a way to better serve our middle school students. Our school board, administration and staff are wrestling with this issue. I expect that a direction will be set in the near future. Whatever this looks like, I am confident that the outstanding people who make up this district will turn it into great opportunities for students. I see a shining future for the Northwest district. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this special district.

Matt Fisher, Superintendent

## 2018-19 Board of Education

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Robin Schutt - Secretary  
Karl Quandt - Treasurer

Zach Mader - Member  
Mike Shafer - Member  
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Becky Rosenlund - Advisory Member

## Looking Ahead...

July 1-7	Moratorium
July 9-10	Class Schedule Changes for High School Current Students — Walk ins only between 8am to 12 noon and 1 to 3pm New Students — Appointments @ 3, 3:30 and 4pm
August 15	Northwest Public Schools 2019-20 First Day of School
September 3	First day for Option Enrollment for 2020-21 School Year

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## NWPS OER #GoOpen

In 2016 Northwest Public Schools was the first Nebraska District to commit to #GoOpen in one grade and subject area. NWPS has joined various states and school districts across the country committing to transitioning to the use of high-quality, openly-licensed educational resources in their schools. Openly-licensed educational resources are learning materials that can be used for teaching, learning, and assessment. They can be modified and redistributed without violating copyright laws.

With the implementation of #Go Open in some curricular areas, NWPS aims to facilitate the creation and curation of various materials. There are several resources that contain and continually add openly licensed content. This can include a single video, lesson plans, complete online courses or curriculum. One example is our recent adoption of Eureka Math in Grades K-5. We have just completed our second year and have seen great gains in students' conceptual understanding of mathematics which has greatly improved their number sense and reasoning skills.

At the High School, we used Open Educational Resources (OER) to create our Health curriculum in 2016. Since then we have added OER materials to our Personal Finance curriculum, and some instrumental music courses. OER science materials developed with funding through grants from the National Science Foundation, and various other grants to Northwestern University and the University of Colorado Boulder will be a major part of our revised Biology curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year.

On the middle school level we have used OER materials to revise our 6th grade Science curriculum and will be exploring materials to use for our 7th grade revision that teachers will be working on this summer. We have also used OER materials in our middle school technology curriculum. We plan to continue exploring OER materials as we add MS Art and Careers as course offerings for our MS students.

High-quality openly licensed educational resources are a viable option because of the timeliness and relevance for learners. They will allow NWPS educators to explore more quality resources to ensure access to updated content, and broaden learning experiences for our students. More information can be found on our district website under [Links](#).