

Plainview Jr/Sr. High School

Educate
Encourage
Empower

September 2011



Homecoming Week

September 19

- JH VB w/ Crofton (3:30 pm)
- JH FB @ Crofton (4:00 pm)
- GG Dual-Home (4:15 pm)

September 20

- VB w/ Crofton (5:30 pm)

September 22

- GG @ Wayne (9:00 am)
- VB w/ Stanton (5:30 pm)
- Bon Fire after VB game
**Pirate Boosters!!!

September 23

- Royalty Ceremony (2:00 pm)
**Pep Rally to follow!!!
- CC @ Crofton (4:30 pm)
- FB w/ Wakefield (7:00 pm)

September 24

- GG NENAC-Home (9:00 am)
- VB @ West Holt (3:00 pm)

Website "New Look"

As you can see, the Plainview Public Schools District web site has changed! We have been working internally for the past few months to redesign the web site, and we will be making additions over the course of the next several weeks and months. The site will continue to evolve and keep you up to date on important school activities and information.

One of the reasons we chose the SOCS network was because the site itself is very dynamic; in other words, it has the ability to change... a lot! While the site won't be a daily newspaper by any means, it is certainly our goal to keep the content fresh and exciting in an effort to entice you to return often.

So, we invite you to take a look now, and then keep checking in with us from time to time; hopefully you'll notice the changes, the new features, etc. Also, we encourage you to sign up for the News Update to get the latest news forwarded directly to you. Be sure to visit the calendar component of the web site. Sign up for weekly or monthly reminders for the events and activities you are interested in.

Come Join in all the Fun Activities

We want to extend a special thank you to the booster club, community members, and coaches for helping make this year's Homecoming a special time for everyone to come together and relive old memories and create new ones!

Plainview Pirates *Celebrate!*
HOME COMING 2011



Agriculture I & Journalism

(Mr. Kment) (Mrs. Schindler)

Our philosophy is to provide advanced technology to increase the ability of educators to do what they do best - Simply Teach. We strongly believe in the power of creating more effective teaching tools to enable outstanding levels of student achievement. We will be showcasing classes that are using technology to increase student engagement and academic achievement.

The first two classes that we have selected are Advanced Journalism and Agriculture I.

The seniors in our Advanced Journalism class are excited to experiment with our new technology by trying some sports broadcasting. The students are in the process of creating something similar to ESPN's Sports Nation, but Plainview-style "Plainview Pirates Sports Nation". They are using the school's new "green screen" and Apple's media software to create this production. The Journalism students will be interviewing guests, as well as conducting their own debates on current issues and controversies in the

sports world.

The Agriculture I class consists mostly of freshmen. They are also using the school's new "green screen" and Apple's media software to create their productions. However, they are using these technology skills to demonstrate what they have learned through their research. It is exciting to visit these classrooms and observe teachers and students engaged in a higher level of learning.

Did You Know?

A two-way conversation. The parent-teacher conference is an opportunity for parents to learn about their children's progress in school and for teachers to gain insights into their students' home and community lives. Parent perspectives on student strengths and needs, learning styles, and non-school learning opportunities can help teachers shape their instructional methods.

Emphasis on Learning. Research shows that family involvement is most effective when it is "linked to learning." An important goal of the first parent-teacher conference is to develop new strategies to support student learning at school and at home. Teachers should be prepared to discuss the academic progress of their students by using examples of student work and assessments during conferences.



Parent—Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for.....

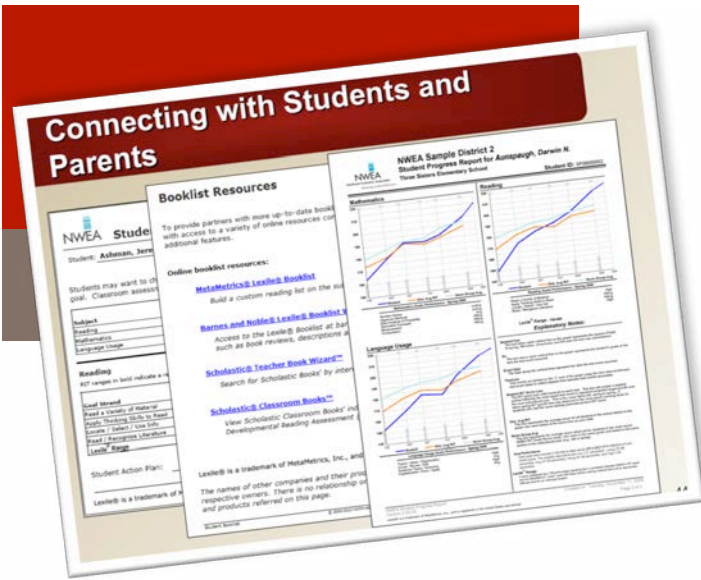
**Friday, October 21,
(2:00 pm – 7:00 pm)**

Assessments

NeSA stands for Nebraska State Accountability. The NeSA tests are intended to measure, report, and compare student performance on academic standards in all Nebraska public school buildings.

Last spring, Plainview Public Schools' faculty administered the NeSA Reading and NeSA Math tests to all students in grades 7, 8, and 11. The students took the tests via a secure website. This year, in addition to the Reading and Math tests, students in those grade levels will take the NeSA Science tests.

On Monday, August 29, parents of students who took the NeSA tests last spring received an individual student report, which explains how their child performed on the tests.



In this time of increased accountability, we have developed an assessment system to help us become better data driven when it comes to making decisions concerning our school system. Listed below are three assessment pieces that we are using to help us create a high quality triangulation of data.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in **Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics**. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

MAP for Science – This computerized adaptive test provides useful information about where a student is learning in two areas of science: General Science and Concepts & Processes.

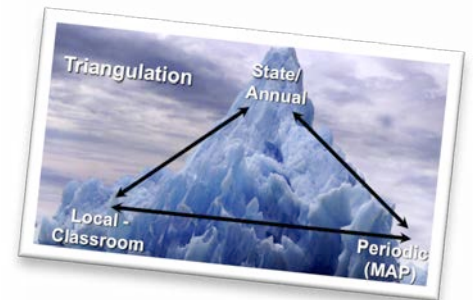
NeSA Reading & Math Scores are out!

The recent release of Plainview Public School's 2011 Nebraska State Assessment (NeSA) Reading and Math report on student results proved very exciting! Statewide tests were administered earlier this spring in the 7th, 8th, and 11th grades. The test measures the Nebraska state reading and math standards. The Nebraska State Board of Education set high expectations for mastery levels on these tests to ensure an emphasis on growth. These scores are part of state and federal calculations used in determining annual yearly progress (AYP). Parents received a report on their child's scores.

Our students performed well, and our 8th & 11th grade levels performed greater than the state average. We still, however, have challenges. Our goal is to turn these challenges into successes. Our focus will remain on growth and gain, not just scores. We will continue to align grade level and content area curriculum, analyze data, reflect, and determine a course of action to narrow our achievement gaps.

C4Learning (Type of Local Assessment)

This assessment system will replace our online assessment system. We will be having teachers participate in creating this new assessment piece.



How "Triangulation" looks in relationship to each assessment piece.

What is C4Learning?

- A state generated item bank of multiple-choice items in reading, mathematics, and science that are stored in the computerized assessment and learning (CAL) system and used to generate interim assessments to support the NeSA tests.

L to J Instructional Program

What does the L to J program offer to teachers?

- ⇒ Creates the skill necessary to lead students to meet classroom expectations
- ⇒ Provides teachers and their administrators with strategies to assist all students with academic topics
- ⇒ Teaches a process for leading students to greater success rates
- ⇒ Provides strategies to find a balance between what students know and what they can do

Whether in early elementary or high school, the newly adopted Nebraska State Academic Standards are centered upon students learning important concepts and processes with understanding. This L to J program will focus on helping support teachers in assisting students meet the goals set by our school system and the State of Nebraska.

Program results inform students of their personal progress in learning

targets for the class and inform teachers regarding students' mastery of those targets. We will be using this approach as one of our School Improvement strategies.

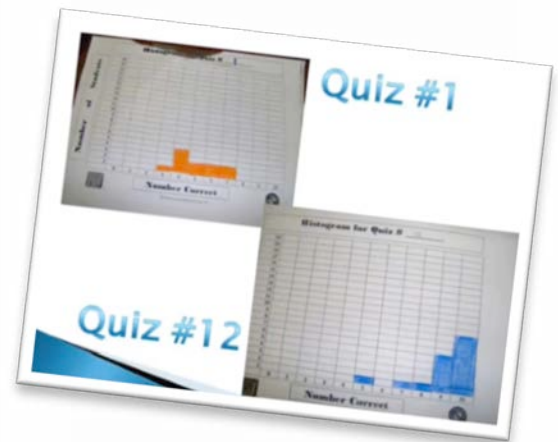
Both principals and teachers will find the quantitative connections between standards-aligned curriculum objectives, instruction and assessment help students develop the intrinsic motivation necessary to improve academic achievement.

LTOJ TRAINING CONCEPTS INCLUDE:

1. The three basic graphs that help teachers, students and administrators see learning progress and diagnose stumbling blocks
2. Sampling techniques that reduce teachers workload while improving the quality of information available for instructional decision-making
3. Tools for data analysis for use in the classroom, the parent conference, the building, the

program or content area, and the district

4. How to use classroom data to increase student learning
5. How to use the dashboard with Power Point for formative assessments for a complete year
6. How to create a team of elementary learners working together for success for all students
7. How to remediate students who have struggled in meeting both Plainview's and Nebraska State Academic Standards.



Advantage Class

Have you ever heard a two year old say "I Can't"? I haven't. If you ask a child starting kindergarten if they could be President of the United States, most of them will say "yes". However, if you ask a room full of eighth graders that same question, you will only get a few hands that will go up. Normally, those young children believe they can do anything. However, from that innocent age many are taught to believe that there are so many things they can't do.

The last few years we have created a class to help students reach their full potential. This class is held every day that school is in session from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Those students in grades 7-12 with a 70 percent average or below in a class when grades are figured on Thursday, will qualify to attend Advantage on Monday through Thursday of the following week. A second feature of Advantage is to help students handing in late or unacceptable homework. Students will be allowed 1 day to turn late

assignments in to the teacher. If not completed and turned into the teacher before school begins the next day, they will qualify for the Advantage class for that afternoon. Students will work on assignments or will be expected to do A.R. reading during the Advantage hour. A third feature of Advantage is that it is available for any student to utilize. Non-qualifying students may also use the study hour.

New Class Ranking System



Professional Development "DATA Training"

On Wednesday, August 17th our teachers continued their training on how to effectively use the data from our assessment system to make quality decisions in planning for classroom instruction.



A Big Thank You to ESU8 who has helped in training our staff!



As we begin the 2011-2012 school year, there is a new class ranking system. This will begin with the freshmen class. The Sophomore through Senior classes will be based upon the system that was in place when they entered high school.

The new class ranking system will be comprised of the students' 9-12 classroom grades (same procedure that we have now), Nebraska state assessment, and the Norm Referenced Test (Grades 9-12). For the assessment piece we will average all of the student's NRT data 9-12th grade and the student's state assessment data together, and it will comprise 15% of the student's class rank. The student's 9 – 12th grade GPA will comprise 85% of the student's class rank. Below is an example of how this new ranking system will be calculated.

Student's GPA = 96.52%

Student's MAP Assessment & NeSA = 90.20%

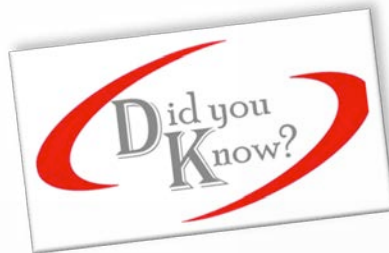
Student's Scores	NeSA			MAP Assessments			GPA 85%	Total
	Science	Math	Reading	Science	Math	Reading		
	110	130	140	227.5	259	242	90.20%	95.57%

There were two overall reasons we revised the class ranking system here at Plainview Public Schools. First, we wanted students to have some ownership in their assessment scores. Second, we wanted students to continue to push themselves to take harder classes when they are seniors and not take easy classes to make sure they can keep their class rank. We feel that this new system will have positive results in both areas.

MAP Assessment Testing Schedule

	8:30-9:55	10:10-11:35	12:15-1:45	2:00-3:25
Thursday, Sept. 15	Juniors	Freshmen	Seventh Grade	Make-up Tests
Friday, Sept. 16	Seniors	Sophomores	Eighth Grade	Make-up Tests
Monday, Sept. 26	Juniors	Eighth Grade	Freshmen	Make-up Tests
Tuesday, Sept. 27	Sophomores	Juniors	Freshmen	Make-up Tests
Wednesday, Sept. 28	Seventh Grade	Seniors	Eighth Grade	Make-up Tests
Thursday, Sept. 29	Seniors	Sophomores	Seventh Grade	Make-up Tests
Friday, Sept. 30	Sophomores	Seniors	Eighth Grade	Make-up Tests
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Juniors	Freshmen	Seventh Grade	Make-up Tests
Wednesday, Oct. 5	Make-up Tests	Make-up Tests	Make-up Tests	Make-up Tests
	8:30-9:55	10:10-11:35	12:15-1:45	2:00-3:25
	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Literature

The 2010-2011 NSAA "U.S. Cellular Cup" final standings came out and in the boys division, **PLAINVIEW** ranked 8th in "Class C".



Hastings St. Cecilia	242.5
Milford	205
Norfolk Catholic	187.5
Grand Island CC	165
Archbishop Bergan	160
Ogallala	142
North Platte St. Pat's	135
Plainview	132.5
Lincoln Christian	130
Gothenburg	122.5