



Palmer Public School



Dr. Joel Bohlken, Superintendent
Sherise Loeffelbein, PK-6 Principal
Kristin Reimers, 7-12 Principal

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Board of Education
Kathy Wolfe, President
Todd Weller, Vice President
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Superintendent's Newsletter, October/November 2025

Property Taxes Remain Stable

I'd like to share some information on how our property tax collections have changed over the past decade. While costs in nearly every sector continue to rise, our tax amount has remained relatively stable, showing only modest increases over time.

In 2016–17, the district collected **\$2,791,201** in property taxes. This figure actually **decreased** the following year and held steady for several years. By 2019–20, the total was **\$2,739,604**, still lower than in 2016. For 2025-26, the total tax asking increase is less than half a percent - only **0.46%** - compared to last year.

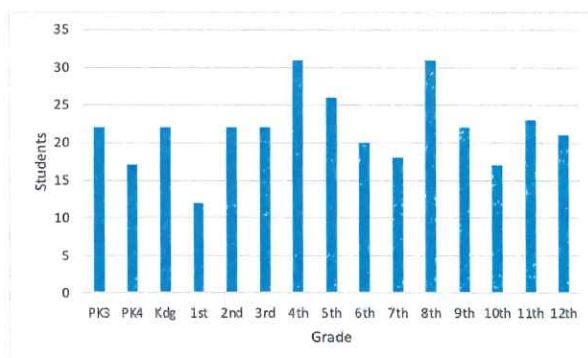
Over the entire ten-year period, the tax request has grown by an average of just **1.5% per year**. To put that into perspective, many household expenses like groceries, utilities, and fuel have risen much faster during the same timeframe.

We are proud of our ability to maintain stable tax rates while continuing to provide strong educational opportunities for our students. This careful financial stewardship reflects our commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with quality programs for children.



Enrollment Remains at Record Level

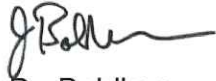
Our enrollment currently sits at 326 students, tied with the record high set in 2019-20, and up from 291 ten years ago. With most of our largest classes in the elementary, we expect enrollment to remain high for the foreseeable future.



School Endowment Fundraiser

Palmer Public School oversees an Endowment Fund through the Merrick Foundation, and our Annual Pancake Fundraiser is coming up on November 7th. Donations to the Foundation not specifically earmarked for a specific purpose are used in a number of ways, including supplemental academic or vocational programs, scholarships, technology, wellness, extra-curricular activities, or buildings/sites. The Palmer Endowment Fund has a committee of local people who review and decide on all purchase requests. During this school year alone, the Committee has approved \$6,500 in Endowment Fund requests to supplement student programs. Since 2023, the Endowment Fund has purchased nearly \$30,000 worth of teacher requests. Below are students pictured with some of the items purchased by the Endowment Fund. Thank you for your donations, and we look forward to seeing you on November 7th!

Sincerely,



Dr. Bohlken

Some Recent Endowment Fund Purchases



Lenny Grace and Remi using the writing center desk purchased by the Endowment Fund.

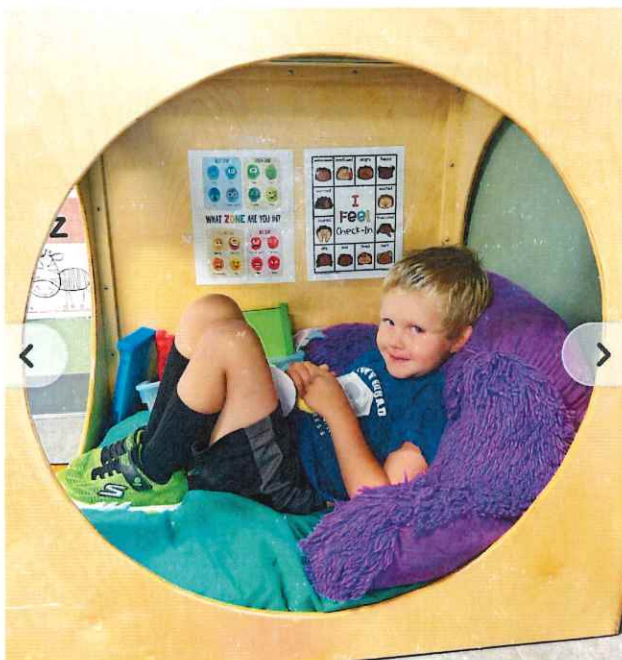


Madeline using the camera purchased by the Endowment Fund.



Remy using the Toniebox purchased by the Endowment Fund.

Band students using the trumpet mutes purchased by the Endowment Fund.



Tristian using the Cozy Cube purchased by the Endowment Fund.

P.E. students using the silent basketballs purchased by the Endowment Fund.



Remi using the light table purchased by the Endowment Fund.

Avery and Tori using the kitchen area purchased by the Endowment Fund.



LOEFFELBEIN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2025

Important Dates

October

Thursday, October 2 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
(No school for PK–6 students)

Friday, October 3 – Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM

Thursday, October 17 – End of Quarter 1 & Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM

Thursday, October 31 – K–4 Fall Caroling. Students will perform at the Palmer Legion Auxiliary.

November

Thursday, November 7 – Endowment Pancake Feed

Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day Program

Tuesday, November 12 – Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM

Tuesday, November 26 – Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM

Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 28 – No School: Thanksgiving Break

Reminders

As we all know, Nebraska weather can change quickly! Please help your child be prepared for cooler mornings and warmer afternoons by:

- Dressing in layers
- Bringing a jacket or sweatshirt each day.
- Labeling outerwear so items make their way back home.

TIME CHANGE!

On November 3rd, we turn our clocks back one hour. A few simple steps can help your student adjust smoothly: Begin shifting bedtimes a few days before the change.

Keep a consistent evening routine. Encourage plenty of morning light exposure to help reset sleep patterns.

Closing Note

We are proud of the growth our students are making each day and appreciate your continued support at home. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure every Tiger is safe, prepared, and ready to learn.



Stay Connected



When schools and families stay connected, students gain the support they need to succeed. Strong communication between home and school ensures that parents are aware of classroom expectations and progress, while teachers gain valuable insight into each child's strengths and needs. This partnership helps students see that the important adults in their lives are working together on their behalf, creating consistency and encouragement in both settings. As a result, students feel more supported, motivated, and prepared to be their best selves in and out of the classroom. At Palmer, connection occurs when students know their teachers believe in them, families feel welcome, and staff work together toward a common goal. At its heart, connection is what turns a group of individuals into a community, where everyone feels they belong and can grow together.

We've developed two ways to help you stay connected with your student's learning and stay up-to-date on what's happening each week. The Jungle is a website where you and your students can view weekly homework assignments and their due dates. You can scan the QR code on the left with your phone's camera to access the link. Once on the page, use the tabs at the bottom to view your student's grade to access the homework page. Click on the specific date to find the information



for that week. The QR code on the right is linked to the morning announcements. You can check weekly updates to see what's happening with meetings, AR, lunch, breakfast, and more.



How to Scan a QR Code

1. Open the camera app on your phone or tablet.
2. Point the camera at the QR code. Make sure the whole code is in the frame.
3. Wait a moment. A notification or link should appear on the screen.
4. Tap the notification or link to open it.

Tip: If your camera doesn't recognize the QR code, you may need a QR code scanning app.



More ways to stay connected:

School Website (www.palmer.tigers.org)

Parent PowerSchool

(<https://palmerps.powerschool.com/public/home.html>)

Hudl (fan.hudl.com search Palmer High School)

Facebook ([palmerpublicschools,nebraska](https://www.facebook.com/palmerpublicschoolsnebraska))

Youtube Channel (@PalmerBroadcasting)

X (@palmer_tigers)

There are several activities that parents can do with their struggling students to help them improve academically and boost their confidence. Here are some ideas:

1. **Read together:** Reading is an essential skill for academic success. Parents can choose books that are appropriate for their child's reading level and interests and read them together. Encourage your child to ask questions about the text, predict what might happen next, and summarize what they've read.
2. **Play educational games:** There are many educational games available that can help reinforce academic concepts. Parents can find age-appropriate games online or at a local toy store. Games that teach math, spelling, or vocabulary are especially helpful.
3. **Create a study plan:** Work with your child to create a study plan that includes specific goals, timelines, and rewards. This can help your child stay organized and motivated to complete their assignments.
4. **Take field trips:** Field trips can be an engaging way to learn about different subjects. Parents can take their child to a museum, a historical site, or a science center to spark their interest in learning.
5. **Practice writing:** Writing is an important skill that can be challenging for some students. Parents can encourage their child to write by giving them prompts, providing feedback on their work, and helping them revise their writing.
6. **Encourage physical activity:** Physical activity can help improve concentration and reduce stress. Parents can encourage their child to participate in sports, dance, or other physical activities that they enjoy.
7. **Provide positive feedback:** Encourage your child by providing positive feedback when they make progress or complete a task. This can help build their confidence and motivate them to continue working hard.

As always, please let me know at cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org if you need anything. Thank you for making this year great!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Hello everyone!

Whether you are in 2nd grade, a senior in high school, a parent, or a teacher, we all benefit from healthy sleep habits. Sleep promotes a strong memory, facilitates learning, recharges our mental and physical batteries, and generally helps us make the most out of our days. With quality sleep, we improve our mental and physical health, reduce stress, and can maintain a routine that is critical to having a healthy day. The ideal amount of sleep needed for each person may vary, but generally research suggests we need between 7-9 hours of sleep each night.

For both children and adults, sleep plays a critical role in helping our bodies and minds recover. As a result, sleep contributes to improvements in learning and promotes regulatory functions such as emotional and behavioral control that are important for each and every day. Since sleep plays such a crucial role in human functioning, lack of sleep can lead to a number of consequences including irritability, hyperactivity, poor impulse control, difficulty multitasking, impaired memory, and poor calculation skills.

Are you having trouble sleeping or staying asleep? There are many aspects that can affect our ability to fall asleep and stay asleep. If you are experiencing either of these, try reflecting on that amount of screen time allowed right before bed, the sleeping atmosphere (noise, temperature, light), caffeine intake, and the consistency of bedtime throughout the week and weekend. Changes you can make to optimize your sleep schedule can include: participating in relaxing activities before bed (taking a warm bath, listening to music, reading a book), keeping your bedroom cool, dark, and quiet, exercising during the day and not close to bedtime, maintaining a consistent sleep routine all seven days of the week, and adjusting your schedule to allow for enough time to sleep.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at cvalasek@palmer.esu7.org or call 894-3065.

Carissa Valasek



OCTOBER

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE



SENIOR NEWS

Mrs. Trout 7-12 School Counselor

Scholarships

Seniors have been emailed a google sheet that has all the scholarships and the deadlines. I am continuously updating it as scholarship committees send me updated information. If you have any questions please email me.



FAFSA

The FAFSA will be opened up on October 1st. We will be hosting a FAFSA Night October 30th from 6 - 7:30 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October:

6th : College Fair at Northwest High School

7th: Senior Class Picture

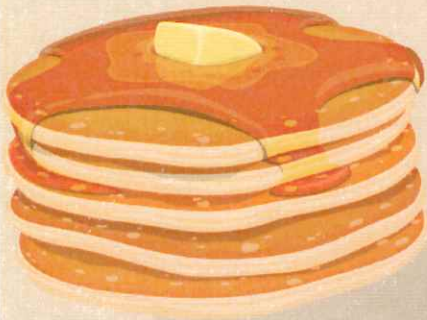
30th : FAFSA Night

December:

3rd: Seniors will be attending University of Nebraska
- Lincoln

ANNUAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDRAISER

PANCAKES & A PLAY



**Friday, November 7
5PM – 730PM
@ Palmer Public School**

Many silent auction items!

Raffle for a shotgun - Tickets at front office

SOME Live auction items: Electric scooter, Family
Getaway Package, Prime Rib, Flag pole

ONE ACT PERFORMANCE

"A Night Under the Stars"

6:30PM

Busy Yet "Great"ful

Once the first of August arrives, I know busyness takes on a life of its own. We are all busy in our own ways, doing our own activities, and doing what we love. I love being a teacher and school librarian at Palmer Public Schools. Each day, a new challenge presents itself, and I am blessed to have the opportunity to jump over the hurdle to help our students. Working with students from grades PreK3-11 brings me joy.

Elementary students attend library class once a week. Sixth-grade students learned about literary awards and are now in the process of making their own literary award. These will be displayed in the library along with the award book. Fifth-grade students are working on digital citizenship. Students need to know how to navigate the World Wide Web safely. Fourth graders are listening to one of my favorite books: *The False Prince* by Jennifer A. Nielsen. Third graders are learning about genres. We will take a reading adventure soon to discover and learn more about the structure of each genre. Kindergarten through second-grade students are listening to the ten Golden Sowers, and then they will vote as to which is their favorite. PreK3 and PreK4 students are just being introduced to the library. They are so excited to check out their very own book! The book fair is here as I write this article. As always, the fair is a great success. I can't say enough about the generosity of our school community and the reading culture that is present here at Palmer Public Schools. It is wonderful to hear staff and students talking about books!

The National Honor Society hosted Maggi Thorne at the beginning of the year. We were excited to bring her to Palmer to talk about never giving up and having big dreams. She spoke to students in grades 4-6 and 7-12. I hope our students know they can dream big and achieve their dreams with a little determination.

Junior High volleyball, National Honor Society, and all the other small tasks keep me busy in the fall. Through it all, though, I am excited to share my love of English and reading with my students every day. I look forward to seeing all of our students grow and develop their skills in English. It's exciting for me to hear students say, "I loved this book, Mrs. G" in hopes that this student has developed a love for reading. It's these moments that I learn to cherish throughout the year. The school year is filled with busyness, but I always find time to read and talk about books.

-Mrs. Gregoski





National Honor Society members with guest speaker Maggi Thorne. A big SHOUTOUT to the organizations that helped us host our speaker: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Volleyball, and Football. We couldn't have done it without your support!



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

PWOODRUFF@PALMER.ESU7.ORG

Hello,

Welcome back to another exciting year with the Palmer FFA Chapter! The first two months have been fun-filled, and we're just getting started. To kick off the school year, our officers and Alumni & Supporters chapter hosted a successful FFA Back-to-School BBQ and volunteered to help take gate at Thunder in the Corn. In September, members showcased their livestock at the Nebraska State Fair, assisted with the Royle Poultry operation, volunteered at AKSARBEN, and attended Husker Harvest Days.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our annual 4SNS Fundraiser and The Jungle's Flower of the Month (FOM) subscriptions, both of which help support our chapter and provide unique opportunities for our members.

It's shaping up to be another incredible year for Palmer FFA, and we can't wait to share even more accomplishments with you as the year unfolds!

Best regards,
Ms. Woodruff



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/1 - SC AREA LAND JUDGING CONTEST
- 10/2 - FFA OFFICER MEETING @7:15AM
- 10/7 - OCTOBER FFA CHAPTER MEETING @7:15AM
- 10/14 - CONNECTING CHAPTERS TRAINING
- 10/22 - STATE LAND JUDGING CONTEST
- 10/29 - 4SNS FUNDRAISER STARTS
- 11/4 - DISTRICT 7 LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST
- 11/6 - FFA OFFICER MEETING @7:15AM
- 11/11 - NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING @7:15AM

Palmer Ag Ed & FFA Stats:

78 FFA Members

25-26 AG ED COURSE OFFERINGS

Advanced Shop
Animal Science /Vet Science
Exploring AFNR
Foundational Shop
Intro to AFNR
Intro to Internship/Work Release
Plant Science/Floriculture

McClellan's Classroom 2025

Ignited and ready to launch!

This year will be my 4th year officially teaching in Palmer, 8th in total. I am still teaching 7-12 math and physics/forensics and I also have the coaching responsibilities of assistant JH football coach, assistant JH boys basketball coach, head JH boys track coach, and head high school basketball coach. Let's just say I am around the building a lot! Currently it is looking like we have approximately 16 players out for basketball and about 19 for JH Football. I have 12 returning players and have an additional 4 players joining the team this year.

For math we are moving and grooving as everyone has gotten through our first test of the year. It was a slow start but we are rolling through it now. The newest part of my school year this year is a new curriculum. It's not for math, but for my physics class. It is a new struggle as we all work our way through, but the text itself is definitely going to be more student friendly as the year goes on. We also have tons of new labs and activities for these students to enjoy hands-on activities as well. I'm excited to see this new curriculum work out.

Boys basketball is off and running for the year as we are looking to push ourselves a lot harder and keep making progress. We are making quite a few changes this year as we are getting new uniforms this year. Along with the new uniforms we are also ordering some new equipment. The team has also decided to give back to the community as we are going to fundraise, purchase, and install new basketball hoops for the school's playground. Thank you to everyone who has supported or will support us on our future endeavors!

Go Tigers!



Teaching the WHOLE Child

Tayma Rasmussen & Whitney Mamot – PreK 4 Teachers

Hi there! What a wonderful start to our school year with such a fun group of 17 preschoolers in PreK4! We have already learned so much and we are looking forward to much more fun learning opportunities ahead - like our annual field trips to the Palmer Fire Station and Helgoth's pumpkin patch! At Tiny Tigers preschool, we strive to not only develop students academically, but socially, emotionally, physically as well. We assess students on all of these developmental realms which are based on the [GOLD standards](#). Here are some of the activities that we do in preschool that engage and develop students as well as some ideas that parents can do at home!

Developmental Realm	Activities we will do at school	Activities for practice at home
Fine Motor	We have a manipulative area that includes items like tweezers, playdoh, hole punchers, clothespins, zippers, keys/locks, or any other items you may need to use your "finger muscles" for.	Puzzles, playdoh, coloring pages at home (broken/short crayons are GREAT for little hands!), popping bubble wrap bubbles, ripping/snipping paper, opening snack bags independently
Social Emotional	We learn how to label feelings by looking at a person's face and body in books, videos, and real life social situations that arise during the school day. Example: If a person's eyebrows are furrowed and fists are balled, they are probably feeling angry.	Talk about what we can do when we are feeling a "big feeling". Some safe ways to come down from feeling angry, sad, frustrated, etc could be taking a big breath, counting to ten, asking for a hug, squeezing a stuffie, or taking a break in a comfy spot.
Language	Students interact with each other at our dramatic play center. We create realistic environments so students can 'pretend play'. During the school year we might do a restaurant, "Camp Rasmussen", fire station, flower shop, grocery store, hair salon, etc. They build their cooperation with their peers as well as language development.	One of the best activities you could do is read to your child! :) Not only will they pick up new vocabulary and lengthen their attention span, but they can also build skills in empathy and learn about the world around them.