



Home of the Falcons

Hitchcock County Schools

Kelly Erickson, Superintendent
Tanner Collins, Secondary Principal
Cherie Wallace, Elementary Principal
Deb McCarter, Asst Secondary Principal & Counselor
Randall Rath, Activities Director

Students and parents,

Welcome back to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope you have had a wonderful summer filled with fun, relaxation, and time with family and friends. As we begin another exciting school year, I look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming our new students and families to Hitchcock County Schools.

Although this is my first year serving as your Superintendent, I have had the privilege of being part of the Hitchcock County family for the past three years. During that time, I have come to appreciate the outstanding students, dedicated staff, supportive families, and caring communities that make our district such a special place. It is truly an honor to continue serving our school in this new role. Our teachers, staff, and administrators are committed to making this a year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities. We are dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where every student is encouraged to do their best, discover their strengths, and reach their full potential.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Hitchcock County Schools. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all-encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to ensure a productive, orderly, and safe learning environment for our students and staff. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

The student parent handbook can be found on the school website at www.falcons.org. Please take time to review this information with your children and call or email me with any questions or concerns at 308-334-5575, kerickson@hcfalcons.org.

Sincerely,

Kelly Erickson

Superintendent of Hitchcock County Schools

The following five paragraphs are items we are required by law to inform you of once a year

The Hitchcock County Schools wish to reaffirm its position that all children in the unified district, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education and an equal opportunity for education according to the individual's needs. The district assumes the responsibility to assure that handicapped children are identified, evaluated, and verified and are provided or contracted for program services for all resident children who will benefit from such programs. These programs shall include, but not be restricted to, the development of self-realization, social awareness, economic usefulness, and civic responsibility as required by law. To avoid duplication, every effort will be made to utilize established programs in cooperation with all contracting agencies approved by the Department of Education. If you wish to know more about these services, please notify the offices of the Hitchcock County Schools.

The Hitchcock County Schools does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the Hitchcock County Schools, District 44-2001 compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Kelly Erickson, Superintendent; P.O. Box 368; Trenton, NE 69044.

All students will be required to be immunized PRIOR to enrollment, and any student not in compliance shall NOT be permitted to continue in school. One dose of measles-mumps-rubella must have been obtained at or after 12 months of age. A physical examination is required by a qualified physician within 6 months prior to entrance into Kindergarten and 7th grade. Kindergarten and 7th grade students have to either have the varicella (chicken pox) vaccination or be able to show proof of having had the chicken pox. A physical exam is also required in case of a transfer from out of state into any grade. All students enrolling for the first time (entering Kindergarten and transfers from out of state) are required to have 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine. (If your child has had a booster on any shots, we would appreciate having the date of the shot to keep our records up to date.)

The Federal Government has instituted laws, which mandate school districts to identify and manage asbestos or asbestos-containing materials in schools. As a result of this mandate, Hitchcock County Schools have been inspected and have formulated a management plan to ensure that the school remains a safe, healthful environment for the students. General recommendations and detailed descriptions of the management plan are on file in the superintendent's office and are open for inspection to all interested patrons. The updated management plan has also been submitted to the Nebraska Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health and Housing Surveillance.

The district has a sexual harassment policy for employees and students. Portions that apply to students are as follows: 4) Unwelcome advances, a request for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, submission to which or rejection of which by an employee of the District is used as a basis for any educative decision about a student such as, but not limited to, conferring of a grade, credit, favor or honor. 6) Conduct by an employee or employees directed against a student of the opposite sex which has an effect of interfering with academic performance of the student, or creating an intimidating, hostile, offensive, or unsafe or unwholesome learning environment. Parents of all students should be aware of the availability of the complaint forms in the superintendent's office. If any student feels he or she is experiencing sexual harassment by a school employee or another student, this student must contact a school administrator or school guidance counselor immediately. An investigation will take place, and the unacceptable behavior will be stopped immediately. Remember.....SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS AGAINST THE LAW!

ATTENTION STUDENTS AND PARENTS! Registration will be on the following days from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm: **Seniors** – Monday, July 20th; **Juniors**– Tuesday, July 21st; **Sophomores**– Wednesday, July 22nd. Registration for **Freshman**– Thursday, July 23rd. All remaining High School students who have not registered may do so on Friday, July 24th from 7:30 am-12:00 pm **7th Grade Orientation** will be Tuesday, August 11th @ 7pm.

Handbooks – Student handbooks can be found on the Falcon Web Page, www.hcfalcons.org. Students will receive forms that need to be signed by the parents and students themselves and are required to return the forms to the office by the end of the first full week of school.

Start & Dismissal Times: Staff Development will be held on Monday, August 10th & Tuesday, August 11th. Teacher workday is Wednesday, August 12th. **School will start on Thursday, August 13th. There will be an early dismissal: Elementary at 12:45 pm and the High School at 1:00 pm.** School hours will start at 8:00 a.m. for both Elementary and Junior/Senior High School; and dismiss at 3:20 for K-6, and 3:45 p.m. for Jr. /Sr. high school each Monday –Thursday. Every Friday, dismissal will be at 2:20 p.m. for K-6 and 2:45 p.m. for Jr./Sr. High School. All rural and shuttle buses will load immediately from each location following dismissal times.

Bus Routes & Schedules: Culbertson bus routes will be driven by Bob Madden and Rick Cook. Trenton bus routes will be driven by Wayne Merrill, Pat Lewis and Dave Wimer. Tom Lewis will drive the Stratton Shuttle route. Rick Cook will be driving the Junior High/ High School shuttle bus, which **departs** from Culbertson at 7:30 a.m. The elementary shuttle to Culbertson will depart Trenton at 7:45 a.m. Trenton parents need to have all elementary students in the cafeteria by 7:40 a.m. Any students wanting breakfast should be here by 7:20 a.m. to eat. There will be a shuttle bus for students in Stratton meeting at the Catholic Church and leaving at 6:50 a.m. The McCook shuttle will leave from the Goodwill parking lot at 7:00 a.m. If you have any questions concerning your child's bus schedule, call your local school office.

PE Shoes: All PE shoes are required to be free of stickers and gravel to protect the gym floor surfaces.

Academic Performance: Students with a 70% or lower grade in any class will be notified weekly of their academic progress.

Medication: State law requires that designated school personnel may only dispense medication **after receiving parental consent forms**. There will be an authorization for medication or treatment form. Please fill out and return to the school for any student to possess or use prescribed and/or over-the-counter medications, including Tylenol for headaches. **A copy of the consent form is included in the handbook or is available at the office.** Read it carefully, as medications **must come to school in the ORIGINAL container.**

Physicals & Immunizations: All Kindergarten and 7th grade students (and new students from out of state) are required to have a physical examination before the start of school. Immunizations must be up to date for these students. The Red Willow Department of Health will give immunizations on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Their address is 1400 West 5th Street, McCook, NE. Call 308-345-1790 to schedule an appointment. Also, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department offers immunizations. Call 308-345-4223 to schedule an appointment. A summary of the school immunization rules and regulations is attached to this newsletter.

Student Insurance: Student insurance is offered through the Student Assurance Services, Inc. Several plans are offered, with football covered by a separate policy. This will be available on the school website www.hcfalcons.org.

Breakfast & Lunch Information: PLEASE NOTE: Available at all locations every day for breakfast are cereal, toast, peanut butter & jelly, juice, and milk plus a hot breakfast item. A breakfast consists of 4 items. The items are: 1. Milk, 2. Juice, 3. A grain or bread (cereal, toast, muffin, biscuit), and 4. A meat or meat alternative (meat, cheese, egg, yogurt, peanuts, or peanut butter). A student may decline only 1 item. Lunch at all locations every day will include the salad bar. Students will only be allowed to take one extra milk or juice each day.

Board Meetings: The Hitchcock County board meetings are usually scheduled for the second Monday of each month at the Jr/Sr High School in Trenton. We encourage anyone wishing to discuss school matters to feel free to visit with teachers, the administration, and your school board members.

School Website: www.hcfalcons.org This website contains the Daily Bulletin, School Calendar, Student Handbook, and much other interesting information about our school.

Our Mission Statement: The Hitchcock County Schools are to produce creative, adaptable, productive citizens committed to life-long learning.

Sports Conditioning and Practice Times: Fall sports practice starts on Monday, August 10th. Coaches will be notifying the players of times for conditioning and practice. All athletes must have a signed physical form and signed NSAA permission form to participate in practice. Forms can be picked up at the office in Trenton. There will be no SHUTTLE.

NEW STAFF AT HITCHCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS

Tanner Collins - Secondary Principal
Shawna Hegwood - Preschool
Kailee Kolbet - 3rd Grade
Jadon Hess - 4th Grade
James Mockry - Computer Technology and Business
Tony Fiscus - 9-12 Social Studies
Melissa Weiss - Paraeducator
Jeffrey Barger - Custodian
Carol Wimer - Secondary Cook
Angela Rogers - Elementary Cook
Monte Cooper - Bus Driver

Please welcome our new staff members to the district!

ATTENTION PARENTS: Hitchcock County Schools will use the parent notification system within PowerSchool. This system will enable the school to instantly reach parents and staff members regarding emergency broadcasts and weather-related announcements. **For this to work effectively, we need families to make sure the school has your correct phone numbers and emails.**
PLEASE MAKE SURE THE SCHOOL HAS YOUR CORRECT AND CURRENT NUMBER.

SCHOOL PICTURES are scheduled for Monday, September 14th, for both the Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools. Packets will be sent home with the students. Retakes are scheduled for Monday, October 19th.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Wednesday, August 12th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

FIRST SEMESTER

August	10-11	Staff Development
	12	Teacher Workday
	12	Elementary Open House 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
	13	First Day of School
	24	Early Dismissal Elementary 12:45 pm, Jr/Sr High 1:00 pm 1 st Day of Preschool
September	7	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
	14	School Pictures – Elementary/Jr/Sr High School
	23	NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00-8:00 pm 8:00-12:00 pm- Staff Development
October	16	End 1 st Quarter
	19	Retakes – School Pictures – Elementary/Jr/Sr High School
	30	NO SCHOOL- Fall Break
November	20	NO School only for Elementary Students - 7-12 will have school.
	25-27	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December	18	Last Day 2 nd Quarter/ End of 1 st Semester
	21-31	Early Dismissal: Elementary 11:45 Jr/ Sr High 12:00 pm NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

SECOND SEMESTER

January	1	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
	4	School Resumes for 7- 12 Students, No School for Elementary
February	4	NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Staff Development 8:00 to noon.
	5	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
	26	End of 3 rd Quarter
March	1-5	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
	26-29	NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
May	15	Graduation 10:00 am
	20	End of 4 th Quarter/ Students Last Day. Dismissal Elem 10:30 am, Jr/Sr High 10:45 am NO MEALS SERVED
	21	Teacher Workday



2026-2027 HITCHCOCK ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

★ Home of the Falcons! ★

PRESCHOOL MRS. HEGWOOD

- 1 pack of watercolor paint
- 1 box of crayons (24)
- 3 gluesticks
- 4 pk of play-doh
- 1 pack colored pencils
- 1 pk washable paint
- Scissors
- Pencil box
- Pocket folder
- Dry erase markers
- Kleenex
- Clorox wipes
- Back pack

KINDERGARTEN MRS. CADDICK

- Pencil box
- 1 pkg #2 pencils
- 2 containers of play doh
- Paper mate eraser
- Backpack
- 3 glue sticks
- 2 dry erase markers
- 24 count crayola crayons
- 2 durable pocket folders
- 1 set of headphones (not bluetooth) in a ziplock bag
- 2 boxes kleenex
- Extra set of cloths
- PE Shoes

*please do not put names on items

1ST GRADE MRS. EBBERS

- 1 box of pencils
- 2-2 pocket folders
- Pencil box
- Colored pencils
- 2 expo markers
- 1 box of 24 ct crayons
- Headphones (not blue tooth) in ziplock bag
- 2 box kleenex
- Clorox wipes
- Backpack
- PE Shoes

2ND GRADE MRS. GAULKE

- 2 pink erasers
- Scissors
- 4 glue sticks
- 2 black expo markers
- 1 pencil box/case
- 2 packages of #2 pencils (sharpened)
- 1 box of crayons (24)
- Headphones (not bluetooth) in a bag
- 2 boxes kleenex
- 1 container of clorox wipes (girls)
- 1 box ziplock bags-gallon size (boys)
- Backpack
- PE Shoes

3RD GRADE MS. KOLBET

- Pencil case/bag
- 1 package dry erase markers
- 2 packages of #2 pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 1 package of crayons
- Small personal sharpener for colored pencils
- 2 subject spiral notebooks
- 2 folders
- 2 pink erasers
- 2 glue sticks
- Scissors
- 2 red pens
- Headphones (no bluetooth) in a bag
- Kleenex (3 boxes)
- 3 5oz dixie cups (boys)
- 1 box of ziplock baggies (girls)
- Clorox wipes (2)
- Backpack
- PE Shoes

4TH GRADE MS. HESS

- 2 packages #2 pencils
- 2 pink erasers
- Colored pencils (24pk)
- 2 composition notebooks
- 1 pack expo markers
- 3 pocket folders
- Pencil box
- 2 boxes of kleenex
- Clorox wipes
- Headphones (no bluetooth) in a bag
- PE Shoes
- Deodorant

★ Please label all personal items

5TH GRADE MRS. SMITH

- Trapper keeper
 - Headphones
 - Deodorant
 - PE Shoes
- ★ If you can fit all items in a trapper keeper you don't need a backpack

6TH GRADE MRS. RUPPERT & MRS. HADDIX

- Bookbag (must fit in locker)
- Headphones (no bluetooth)
- 2 pocket folders
- Erasers (pencil top or big)
- 1 package #2 pencils (no mechanical)
- 3 boxes kleenex
- Clorox wipes
- 1 composition notebook
- PE Shoes



BE PREPARED.
BE RESPECTFUL.

BE A FALCON!



LEARN. LEAD.
SOAR!



2026-2027 HITCHCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

★ Home of the Falcons! ★



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— 2026-2027 —

HITCHCOCK COUNTY JR/SR HIGH

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

★ *Home of the Falcons!* ★

Jr. High School Supplies

Colored Pencils/Crayons
3 Book Covers
4 Folders – one for each core class
College Ruled Paper (3 packs)
1 Highlighter Pack (4 colors)
Pens – No fluorescent colored pens are allowed!!!
Pencils (24 pk)
Scientific Calculator
Eraser
Pencil Case
Sketch Book
2 Composition Notebooks
(4) 1-inch Binders
Expo Markers
3 packs of plastic tab dividers
(4) 3-subject notebook
Headphones

High School Supplies

Scientific Calculator with these functions: nPr, nCr, Sin, Cos, Tan, square root button, and exponent button
Pens
Pencils
Book Covers
Spiral Notebooks or Notebook paper
Composition Notebook



BE PREPARED.
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LEARN. LEAD.
SOAR!





HITCHCOCK COUNTY ELEMENTARY

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

OPEN HOUSE

**BRING YOUR SUPPLIES
AND MEET YOUR TEACHER!**



**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 12TH
6:00 – 7:00 PM**

There will be no formal presentation
just a great opportunity to say hello
and get settled in.



HITCHCOCK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU FOR AUGUST

WEEK OF AUGUST 10th, 2025

Monday – NO SCHOOL
Tuesday – NO SCHOOL
Wednesday – NO SCHOOL
Thursday – Chicken Rice Bake
Friday – Burritos

WEEK OF AUGUST 17th, 2025

Monday – Chicken Alfredo
Tuesday – Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Wednesday – Chicken & Noodles over mashed potatoes
Thursday – Corn Dogs
Friday – Meatloaf

WEEK OF AUGUST 24th, 2025

Monday – Turkey Bacon Wraps
Tuesday - Spaghetti w/meat sauce
Wednesday – Hamburger on a bun
Thursday – Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
Friday – Pork Rib Patty on a bun

- **Please see the website for Elementary Lunch Menu**



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to announce that Hitchcock County Schools has qualified to participate in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** for the 2026–2027 school year. This means that **all students** will receive **one nutritious breakfast and one nutritious lunch each school day at no cost**, regardless of household income.

Families do **not** need to complete a free and reduced-price meal application for their children to receive these meals. We hope this program helps ensure that every student begins the day ready to learn and has access to healthy, balanced meals throughout the school day. In addition to the free breakfast and lunch provided each day, students may also receive **one à la carte beverage (one milk or one juice) at no charge each school day**.

The meals served at Hitchcock County Schools meet the nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), providing students with healthy, well-balanced options to support their growth, learning, and overall well-being. Research consistently shows that students learn better when they are well-nourished. **We encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy the healthy meals offered each day.**

If you have any questions about the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or our school meal program, please contact the district office at **308-334-5575**.

We look forward to serving all of our students and appreciate your continued support of Hitchcock County Schools.

Sincerely,

Kelly Erickson
Superintendent
Hitchcock County Schools



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In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at: [AD-3027](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email:

program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.