Issue 53-4 | April 2023



ADVANCE

God is doing exciting things here at NC as we make an impact around the globe. We invite you to be a part of this movement in providing the next generation with a Christ-centered education. Together, we can equip students with a Biblical worldview that helps to foster a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

2023 Dinner and Benefit Auction Recap

The 2023 Dinner and Benefit Auction has officially concluded, and what a night it was! From the beautiful table settings and floral arrangements to the hundreds of unique items that were donated by many individuals, families, and businesses near and dear to the Nebraska Christian family, this year's Dinner and Benefit Auction proved to be one of the best!

Anticipation was high in the time leading up to the auction; in fact, it was so great that the Nebraska Christian Dinner and Benefit Auction team had to increase the number of tables available in order to accommodate the influx of patrons. Items for auction came in constantly and consistently up to only a couple of weeks before the benefit took place; it is easy to see that the level of support and generosity within the NC community is unmatched.



Year after year, hundreds of people are involved in making this event a success. The Dinner and Benefit Auction team wishes to say thank you to everyone who donated an item or money, everyone who attended, and all those who made a purchase. Many volunteers were involved in the event, including dozens of NC students. "The student involvement pieces stick out as highlights for me", said NC Superintendent Mr. Tim Hekrdle, "The student servers were spot on with their service this year". The evening "was a well-oiled machine", he went on to say, "It was so cool to see them buzzing around the gym serving (...) they did an excellent job".

The evening went off without a hitch, beginning with the silent auction preview in the beautifully decorated NC gymnasium under elegant candlelight. As final bids rolled in, guests were treated with gourmet salads and an opening speech from Mr. Hekrdle, followed by a prayer from NC School Board member Doug Langemeier.

After the opening remarks, a delectable meal was served, which included a bacon-wrapped filet and shrimp entree with green beans, garlic mashed potatoes, and a gourmet dinner roll; catered by Whitefoot Market, Incorporated. Dessert consisted of cheesecake bites by Medina Street Vault; and a wonderful selection of cupcakes created by NCs very own eighth-grade student, Miss Bria Meckel. "I love that Bria Meckel provided the cupcakes using the talents and skills that God has gifted her", stated Mr. Hekrdle, "I heard comments at my table such as 'This is literally the best cupcake that I have ever had', that was pretty neat".

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Hall of Faith Award. Nearly every

year since 1983, this award has been given to individuals who have had a long supportive association with Nebraska Christian Schools. The purpose of the Hall of Faith Award is to honor these individuals who gave themselves to service at Nebraska Christian, be it through teaching, giving of time and finances, or their involvement in other ways on campus. These individuals have made a lasting impact on NC and its students. This year, this prestigious award deservingly went to Mr. Thomas Dockweiler.

Following the ceremony, the always-anticipated live auction took place, which was not short of entertainment. With international big-game safari excursions and relaxing getaways, adorable puppies and an enlarged big head photo of Mr. Hekrdle, there was something for everyone. After the live auction, student speaker Sophie Swanson, a senior at NC, had the opportunity to speak prior to the beginning of the scholarship auction. Within her speech, she gave a glimpse into student life and how NC has impacted her life. Mr. Hekrdle remarked, "It was a great reminder not only why we do the auction but also why our school exists".

Brandi Flynn, Development Specialist for NC, stated, "It was truly a blessing to see how many people truly love Nebraska Christian and how much support there is for every activity or benefit that this school holds". Throughout the planning and execution of the entire process, the words of encouragement, prayers, and assistance did not go unnoticed as the auction ended.

Thank you, again, to all who helped with the 2023 Dinner and Benefit Auction and to all those who prayed for the event. Nebraska Christian Schools and the NC Dinner and Benefit Auction Team are incredibly thankful to every person who played a part in turning this event into reality and to God for inspiring so much generosity from all involved. The NC Dinner and Benefit Auction team anxiously awaits the next event in 2024.



NCCA Update

The 2022-23 school year is nearly complete, meaning planning and strategizing for 2023-24 is also nearing completion. This includes plans for NC's new hybrid Classical Education school in Grand Island, NCCA. With one teacher hired so far, Mrs. Autumn Peña, a high amount of interest from other prospective teachers, and a growing student body, the first NCCA school year is already off to an incredibly positive start.

"A great teacher requires many characteristics" said Peña, "Two of the most essential are passion and the mindset to never give up on a child". She continued, "I am looking forward to sharing my passion and compassion through this new adventure of



NCCA as we walk forward with grace, communication, a laser focus on Christ, and the pursuit of excellence for His glory and purposes".

There is much excitement from the current NC administration, staff, and new NCCA families. In this ever-changing and evolving world, it has never been more important to equip children with the appropriate knowledge, tools, and a Biblical worldview that empowers them to stand on Truth in order to succeed in this world in a God-honoring fashion. Ashley Cooksley stated, "As a prospective parent of two NCCA students, I'm looking forward to working with teachers and families that wish to form a Biblical worldview and a sense of community for their children".

The relationships that have been and are currently being built by the NCCA families are an integral

part of the school. Ashley Cooksley remarked, "I am eager to come alongside other like-minded families and grow together in our faith and discover more about the goodness and beauty of our world". Many prospective parents and current NC & NCCA staff have agreed that one of the greatest encouragements of the entire process has been to see and hear how God is working in the hearts and lives of his children in Grand Island.

A second informational meeting was held in Grand Island in February. Many familiar faces had returned to hear about updates and new developments for the school. There were many great questions asked and clarifications made. It is obvious that this educational opportunity will set itself apart from any other learning opportunity for children in the Grand Island community. Angie Kurz, prospective NCCA parent, stated, "Our family is incredibly excited to begin this journey with NCCA!" She continued, "We look forward to cultivating a community with God at the center of our homes to further strengthen and equip parents and their children, all for Gods glory".

There is much excitement and anticipation for this next chapter of Christian family partnership, Classical Education, and Biblical worldview implementation opportunity for the Grand Island area. Thank you all for the support, and please continue to pray for this new endeavor as the first NCCA school year quickly approaches.



A Night of Fun at the Elementary Musical

On Friday, March 3rd, the Nebraska Christian Elementary classes performed their annual musical production of Patch the Pirate, A Tale of Two Siblings to a packed house at the Performing Arts Center in Central City. This musical revolved around the idea that a house divided cannot stand. Two sisters let a rivalry spiral out of control, and their quarreling damages everything they love. This year's production was part of a longstanding tradition here at NC that Amy Schreiber, NC sixthgrade teacher, and Musical Director, is glad to be a part of. "It brings a smile to my face to know the joy that comes from sharing such a message of the truth of God's Word to the community".

Amy Schreiber has been the Director of the Elementary Musical since she began teaching at Nebraska Christian in 2017,



alongside NC band and choral teacher Mr. Mike Flynn, who directs the music. This event is an 'all hands on deck' undertaking, with much preparation for both the students and the sets and props. From students and parents to staff and faculty, each year, dozens of people help make this production come to life.

This year, there was a total of one-hundred and eleven students involved in the production, from the fifteen sixth-graders who acted; the entire kindergarten through fifth grade, which totaled eighty-six students, who sang in the choir; and the preschool class of ten who opened the evening with a song and recited a Bible verse. Schreiber said it is a blessing to see the excitement that the students exude in the months leading up to March and to have parents and other volunteers roll up their sleeves and give up their time over the years to assist her in painting sets, collecting props, and preparing costumes.

Preparations for the evening take place months in advance. Schreiber does not usually receive the digital music from the publishing company until right before Christmas break; the sheet music and script come after that. "I usually have to make some adaptations of the script before we share it with students", said Schreiber, "Some years, I have had to change roles due to having more females in the class or having to add more parts to accommodate the class size". This year was no different. Once all the appropriate changes are complete, Ms. Schreiber gets the scripts to the students soon after they return from Christmas break.

After the students read through the scripts, auditions are performed, and parts are assigned. Before the audition, students fill out a form that allows them to describe any past stage experience and also lets them choose which part they would like to play and feel they could excel at. "The audition can be very intimidating", Schreiber stated, "Each student stands in front of Mr. Flynn and myself to sing a part of the song (...) each student is so gifted and talented, this is a tough decision".

Many parents, grandparents, and individuals who have attended any of these musical performances in the past can easily see that this is not just any ordinary elementary skit or play. The students take their roles very seriously. "The challenge of learning lines and acting them out on stage is a big undertaking", said Schreiber. "Learning songs and performing for family and friends is such a joy for our students". While NC does host other productions throughout the year, this event is different, where the elementary students are the stars from beginning to end.

When asked what one of the biggest highlights from this year's performance was, Ms. Schreiber said not just this year, but every year leading up to the show, "I love seeing the student's excitement while performing, seeing their hard work in learning line, and working on solos and small group songs". She continues, "It is always wonderful to see God work in keeping kids healthy, having nice weather the day of, and the overall message of the musical becoming so evident for the performers on stage". She went on to say, "The ability to connect daily classroom lessons with what is presented in Patch the Pirate musicals is like a modern-day parable; having an earthly story attached to a Heavenly meaning is why we are here at NC".

The Performing Arts Center facility is such a blessing for the play production; NC is fortunate to have the opportunity to utilize this wonderful space. The large, professional stage, comfortable seating and viewing options for the guests, and professional lighting are just some of the perks of using the facilities.

Ms. Schreiber enjoys the musical experience every year. While she stated that her first love is teaching, she knows what a blessing the musical is to the students and those who attend. "It is wonderful to look out and see such support for our elementary students with the packed audience; it makes all the hard work and effort worth it to bring glory to God through the gift he has given". The only thing she hopes to see change in the future is to get the secondary students involved in this play production, or perhaps they pursue the creation of a musical production event of their own.

Thank you to all who came out and showed support for our elementary students and staff that evening, and thank you to Ms. Schreiber and Mr. Flynn for all of your hard work and dedication in preparing the students for the production this year. We look forward to continuing the tradition and seeing you all again at a Patch the Pirate musical next year.



February Service Awards - Secondary Students

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a



ransom for many." - Mark 10:45

Monthly awards go to secondary students who exemplify our NC Core Values: Service-Minded; Exalting Christ; Relationally Focused; Vibrant Disposition; Innovative Practices; Collaborative Approach; and Excellence.

Students are nominated by their teachers. The core value for March was "Collaborative Approach," students whom our faculty and staff agreed to have displayed collaborative qualities. These students include Julia Merchant, Liliana

Macken, Eden Selden-Berger, and Tae Tae Poongkumarn.

Julia Merchant (9th)

Julia is an outstanding team leader at Nebraska Christian. She excels at leading her peers to collaborate in various small group discussions, facilitating reviews for upcoming quizzes and tests, and providing positive support and encouragement to those around her. She consistently demonstrates what it means to have a collaborative approach.

Liliana Macken (10th)

Liliana has a helpful, willing spirit. She has offered to take on projects for busy teachers without being asked. She is always looking for ways to be helpful, yet does it all behind the scenes, with a quiet humility that speaks volumes about her character.

Eden Selden-Berger (10th)

Eden Selden-Berger is a fun and friendly personality to have in art class. She likes to encourage others and do collaborative art projects. Often she will cultivate inspiration through discussion with classmates, building on multiple ideas and using this to create collaborative art projects.

Tae Tae Poongkumarn (11th)

Tae Tae is always looking to help. He is the first to volunteer whenever a teacher or fellow student needs something. When another student is confused or doesn't understand what is expected of them, Tae Tae immediately takes time to help them. He demonstrates this in the classroom and around campus, setting a good example as a selfless volunteer.

Service Awards - Elementary Students

The elementary classes have also begun to honor their students for exemplifying the NC core values. Numerous students have gone above and beyond what is required of them, and in doing so, they have been recognized for their efforts.

Rather than focusing on one specific core value each month in the way that the secondary students do, the elementary students are acknowledged every month for any of NC's core values.

Kinley Macken (6th)

Exalting Christ/Being Respectful and Responsible She continually shows respect and responsibility in her classroom character

Spencer Francl (1st)

Excellence/Being Responsible

Spencer does his work with excellence and is responsible for listening to the teacher's instructions first before working on assigned tasks.

Amy Garcia (4th)

Relationally Focused/Being Respectful Amy shows her care towards others by being a kind friend to all. She is there for her friends and always ready to listen.

Charlotte Hale (4th) Relationally Focused/Being Respectful Charlotte is a respectful classmate who often is found helping others. She gets her work done and is quick to look out for the needs of others.

Brynn Ratliff (4th)

Excellence/Being Responsible

Brynn is a responsible student because she is an enthusiastic participant in class. She is willing to take risks in sharing her answers.

Carl McHargue (4th)

Service Minded/Being Responsible

Carl has been very generous with his time over the last week. He has helped his teacher many times and has been a big help.

Roman Falk (5th)

Excellence/Being Responsible

Roman does a great job following along in class and participating. He is doing a great job not being distracted by friends.

Katelyn Friesen (5th)

Relationally Focused/Being Respectful

Katelyn is always willing to help the younger students tie their shoes and zip their coats. She is an excellent helper.

Brianna Powell (5th)

Excellence/Being Responsible

Brianna always takes her time when completing assignments. She takes her time and always turns in quality work!

Alivia Morris (6th)

Excellence/Being Respectful/Being Responsible

Alivia continues to grow as an independent 6th grader. She is working hard to keep on top of schoolwork and has managed to focus more on her studies this year.

Sophia Vasquez (6th)

Relationally Focused/Being Respectful/Being Responsible

Sophia has shown great respect for herself and others. She is kind and hardworking. She challenges herself to give her best in what she does.

Ella Birnie (6th)

Excellence/Being Respectful/Being Responsible

Ella has such a fun spirit about her. She is always willing to go the extra step to challenge herself this year. She is prepared and shows great understanding in class.

Ali Williams (6th)

Exalting Christ/Being Respectful/Being Responsible

Ali has shown great maturity in 6th grade. She has such a love for life and laughter. She is someone I can always count on to do the right thing.

Congratulations students! Thank you for what you do and for being solid examples of moral character and spiritual strength for your peers.



What Have Our Students Been Up To?

All of the students at NC have been busy planning, competing, and creating as the 2022-23 school year begins to come to a close. Speech, sports, math celebrations, and work outside of the classroom are just some of the fun things that have been happening at NC. It's always a great day to be an Eagle!

Pi Day

March 14 is known as Pi Day (or International Mathematics Day), and NC celebrated the day in great fashion. Our elementary students had the opportunity to enjoy the day by taking part in all kinds of different math activities including mad minute competitions, measuring estimations, and a Fibonacci number sequence. Great fun was had by all involved! Thanks to our very own secondary math teacher Mr. Falk and the secondary student volunteers for an exciting and funfilled afternoon!







Junior and Senior Class Trips

Each year, the 11th-grade and 12th-grade classes have the opportunity to take extended class trips to one of many potential destinations. This year, the junior class traveled to Kansas City, and the seniors traveled to Washington D.C. Both trips proved influential for all involved.

At the beginning of March, the senior class departed for Washington D.C. where they were able to tour the capital and take a night tour of some of the iconic monuments located in the city including the World War II Memorial and Lincoln Monument. They also toured the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and Arlington National Cemetery, among other historic and notable museums, locations, and landmarks. They were able to meet and visit with Rep. Adrian Smith. Upon their return, many students agreed that the entire experience was deeply moving, specifically their time spent at the Holocaust Museum. "It was incredible to see in person", and "It puts everything into perspective" were the two most common takeaways from the class.



Very soon after the return of the senior class from their trip to Washington D.C., the junior class headed south to explore Kansas City. While there, the students toured colleges, including Spurgeon College, visited the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and also had some time to unwind with their peers participating in different activities including Top Golf, a visit to Main Event, delightful food, games, and quality time exploring the city.

Many students were moved by the visit to the WWI Museum as they had been learning about the War in US History. "My favorite part about the museum was the poppies under the floor as you walk in. It set the mood as you entered", stated Kylie Merchant, a junior at NC.

While all of the students enjoyed time touring the different establishments, NC Counselor and junior class trip sponsor, Shilo Birnie stated, "Many of the students expressed that their favorite

part of the trip was the extra free time they had together in the hotel lobby at the end of the day. They remarked that they do not often get to spend time together as a class and enjoyed the opportunity to converse and play games with their classmates."



Speech Season Wrap-Up

The Nebraska Christian Speech team ended their season on Thursday, March 16th in Kearney, and the weeks leading up to that competition were jam-packed with competition and excitement!

After competing in District Competition only a few days earlier, the students held their Speech Showcase on the NC campus on March 14th. This evening was filled with laughs and enjoyment by all, as the students performed for parents, family members, fellow students, and the general public. This was an opportunity for the competitors to highlight their talents and strut their stuff before they headed on to State.

On March 16th, six of our NC Speech Team members headed to Kearney to take part in the Nebraska State Speech competition. Chelsey Myers, Amy Springer, Rachel Rathjen, and Amanda Carlson created the OID (Oral Interpretation of Drama) team; Marlie Mundt performed Humorous Prose; and Kaylee Powell gave a Persuasive speech. Each of these students did a fantastic job in their fields which were filled with incredibly talented competitors from across the state.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work throughout the season and for representing NC and the Lord well in every practice and competition.



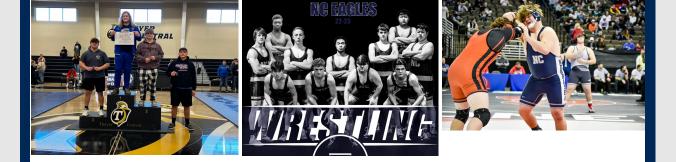


Wrestling Season Rundown

The NC Varsity Boys Wrestling team had a very successful season. They put a lot of heart into the competitions, which could easily be seen when watching these young men take the mat. A lot of learning also took place, with a good share of the boys coming into this season without much, if any, prior experience.

February 11th, the varsity Eagle wrestlers hit the mat at Districts with one athlete, Malachi Wheeler, finishing third and officially punching his ticket to state. On February 17th, Malachi wrestled the final match of his NC career in Omaha. As the sole representative of Nebraska Christian at the Nebraska state competition, he finished the tournament with a record of 1-2.

Congratulations to all of our wrestlers on a successful season.



NETA Conference Standouts

The Nebraska Christian Digital Media class has been hard at work over the course of the last two years since it began, and their impact is now beginning to show. Not only has the student's work been showcased at NC with several different commercials, short films, advertising campaigns, and social media campaigns, but these outstanding students are beginning to make a name for themselves on a regional level.

On March 16th, three Digital Media students traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Sanborn, to the NETA (Nebraska Educational Technology Association) Conference where they were able to speak to a room full of teachers and other professionals. Abby Young, Maryah Wheeler, and Liliana Macken were given the opportunity through Class Intercom to showcase their work from the Giving Tuesday video and social media campaign in 2022 and highlighted other projects including NC athletics highlight videos, uniform social media content, and how they have partnered with local businesses by creating professional advertisements and commercials. They highlighted their creative process, and the impact the class structure has on the effectiveness of their media.

After the girls concluded their presentation, many of the attendees asked several questions and multiple others contacted them afterward to further discuss their process of creating such successful campaigns. It is apparent that the NC Digital Media program, its teachers, and the incredibly creative and talented students who participate in the class are making an impact on the school, the Central City community, and beyond.



Quiz Bowl Success Continues

On Wednesday, March 15th, the NC Varsity Quiz Bowl team traveled to Columbus to compete in Districts. It was a great day of competition, and the team came away at the end of the day as District Runner-Up. The team performed very well and is looking forward to competing at State on April 26th in Hastings.



The Junior High Quiz Bowl teams have also been busy. Nine NC students made up two teams who competed on March 25th in David City. Both teams performed very well in the competition. Great job, Eagles!



Foundation



24 HOURS TO CLICK & GIVE

We are excited to announce that a **\$75,000 Matching Grant has been received!** This is a great opportunity for you to double your donation during Go Big Give on Thursday, May 4th!

Mark your calendars, Go Big Give 2023 is coming up on May 4th and our number one priority for this year's event is *The Next 50 Years Capital Campaign - Phase 2A, New Kitchen and Dining Hall* This endeavor is of the utmost importance, for as our student body continues to grow year after year, it is increasingly important to update our facilities as the current kitchen and dining hall are hitting maximum capacity, and nearing the end of their lifespan.

Thousands of meals, hundreds of students, staff, and faculty, and many years of daily use have taken a toll on our facilities. While NC's student body, faculty members, and staff still get the opportunity to partake in delectable meals every single day, thanks to our incredible kitchen staff and team, it is apparent that with updated kitchen equipment and dining space, our school would then have the ability to reach new heights and continue to serve our amazing NC family in a much more efficient and effective manner.

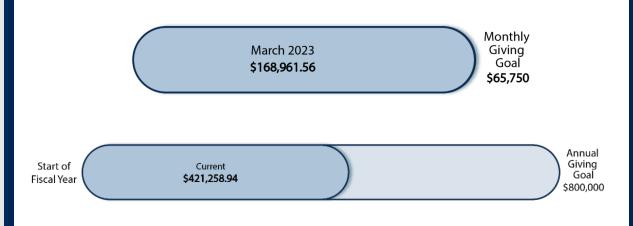
We ask you to please prayerfully consider partnering with us as we continue our march to enhance our campus in order to better house our growing mission. Go Big Give Pre-Give will take place from April 24th through May 3rd, with the official Go Big Give 24-hour giving event to take place on Thursday, May 4th! Be sure to watch our social media pages for more updates as the day nears.

Thank you for your dedication to Nebraska Christian, and for believing in our vision to equip students with a Biblical worldview that empowers them to stand on Truth.



Budget Corner

Giving Link: https://nebraskachristian.org/support-nc/donate-now/



Memorial Gifts

For: Christian Davis From: Donald & Kayleen Riley

For: Keilah Davis From: Donald & Kayleen Riley

For: Dolores Friesen From: Harold & Dorothy Cook Greg & Karen Senkbile Ed & Marilynn Ritta

For: Harley Fassnacht From: Linda Peterson

For: Don Green From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta

For: Geraldine Kaiser From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta

For: Kathy Krieger From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta For: Neil Mesner From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta

For: John Prettyman From: Ed & Marilynn Ritta

For: Mary Reisinger From: Donn & Carolyn Russell Donald & Kayleen Riley

For: Ruben Ruybalid From: Linda Peterson

For: Joan Sparks From: Linda Peterson

For: Richard Wischmeier From: Donn & Carolyn Russell Linda Peterson

Upcoming Dates

April 12

Varsity Track Invitational @ Osceola

April 13

Junior High Track @ Osceola

April 17

• Varsity Track @ Osceola

April 19

Junior High Track Invitational @ Fullerton

April 20

• Varsity Track Invitational @ Fullerton

April 21

• Digging Deeper with KC Wolf @ NC

April 22

District Music @ Westridge Middle School

Alumni News



It is officially that time of year when NC Alumni are beginning to plan class reunions for the summer! Are you a graduate of Nebraska Christian Schools? If you're not a member of the Nebraska Christian Schools Alumni Facebook group, now is your opportunity. See everything that is happening with your former fellow classmates, get updates on alumni events, and be a part of the Nebraska Christian Alumni community by clicking here or scanning the QR code. Go Eagles!

If you or someone you know is an NC Alum and has exciting news that you would like shared with the Nebraska Christian community, let us know! From wedding announcements, baby announcements, a new change in career or job, mission work, etc, let your NC family know!

You can email Rachel, NC's Communication Specialist, at rblair@nebraskachristian.org and your news will be published in the next Advance. We can't wait to hear from you!

Core Value Highlights

OUR VISION

We aspire to equip students with a **Biblical Worldview** that **empowers** them to stand on **Truth**.

OUR MISSION

We assist the family and church by providing a **Christ-centered** education and encouraging a **love relationship** with the **Lord Jesus Christ.**

OUR CORE VALUES

- Service Minded
- **†** Exalting Christ
- Relationally Focused
- * Vibrant Disposition
- A Innovative Practices
- Collaborative Approach
- 📽 Excellence

Nebrask Christia At Nebraska Christian, there are a set of values that staff and students strive to exemplify each and every day. These values are arranged as an acrostic poem and posted in every classroom on campus, and moving forward The Advance will look to highlight one of these attributes through the telling of it being lived out by a member of the NC Family. With this in mind, please feel free to share your stories of how you see the vision, mission, or core values being lived out by emailing Rachel Blair at rblair@nebraskachristian.org. Thank you in advance for being a part of telling the ongoing story at Nebraska Christian and stay tuned for the stories of the NC family being the hands and feet of Jesus in Nebraska, the United States, and possibly the world!

April 25

• Blue & White Experience @ NC

April 26

- Junior High Track Invitational @ Twin River
- Conference Art @ Central Valley High School
- State Quiz Bowl in Hastings

April 27

Spring Music Concert @ NC

April 28

- Varsity Conference Track Meet @ Burwell
- Botany Sale Begins @ NC

May 2

Elementary Showcase @ NC

May 4

• Go Big Give

