

# CONESTOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOWNHALL



## HIDDEN GEM IN SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

**SUPERINTENDENT, DR. BETH JOHNSEN**

Enrollment at Conestoga has steadily increased in the past few years. The increase in our class sizes and the added programs at both the elementary and secondary campuses have maximized the classrooms and space. Both buildings are thriving with successful programs of quality education. Possibly you are aware that the Board of Education changed the Option Enrollment 5004 Policy that limits the class size capacity to 45 students per grade at the PreK-6 and 55 students at the 7-12, and a closed capacity for special education/programs. The district generates and protects the belief for smaller class sizes, for students that reside within the Conestoga School District. Families wishing to apply for admission into Conestoga are limited by the 5004 Policy. Currently, we are at capacity in grades 2-12, with many of the grades hovering around 60 students per grade. We are noticing more new construction in the area and assume that more housing will arise with the future completion of Highway 75. This is a prodigious area to live, with exceptional neighborhoods, and a great school. And that's what we're hearing from families seeking to move into our area. The Board of Education is beginning to look at options to meet the needs of our growing communities' educational programs and needs. Currently, Conestoga levies one of the lowest taxes for schools within Cass County. The Board of Education has done a tremendous job of providing a quality education for our students, but wisely appropriating funds. Taxes tied to education have been lowered in the past years because the Board observed the needs but lessened the burden on the taxpayers. They have been frugal stewards for the school budget and they continue to work hard to manage the finances of the district. Conestoga Public Schools is a great place for your kids. Our location, campuses, staff, and kids are the pieces that fit together well providing an exceptional educational environment. Some parents have commented that Conestoga is a "hidden gem", just outside of the metro-area. As the Board of Education works to maintain and improve the opportunities for students, please help support our Conestoga Way. We are very proud of our amazing school district.

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# A NOTE FROM THE JR./SR HIGH PRINCIPAL

## MR. ROB GEISE

I want to thank our entire school community for making the start of the school year such an awesome experience for everyone. Our students have done a great job of responding to our staff and some of the changes we have made. We are off to an excellent start and we want to keep the positive momentum going. Please make sure to contact any of our staff members if you have questions regarding your student's academic progress.

### **New Faces in the Jr/Sr High Building:**

- Rob Geise - Jr/Sr High Principal
- Chad Schmeckpeper - HS Science
- Kyleigh Lewis - HS Instructional Coach
- Kaitlin Taylor - Ag. Science
- Erin Marshall - Jr High English/LA
- Rebecca Spangler - HS Spanish
- Clayton Moore - HS Special Education

### **Technology**

Conestoga Public Schools continues to stay on the cutting edge of technology in the state of Nebraska. As a 1 to 1 district, the school continues to implement and utilize technology on a daily basis, preparing our students for future success. This year, the school purchased 100 new MacBook Air computers that were dispersed to our Sophomores and Juniors. The Freshman and Seniors also have MacBook Air computers and the Junior High Students each have an iPad. Mobile carts are currently being created for our Junior High Students so they can also utilize MacBook computers when needed.

### **Microsoft Initiative**

Out of over 80 schools, Conestoga was chosen as a recipient for The Nebraska Information Technology Initiative. This initiative provides funds for teachers and students to receive software training, online resources, and industry certifications. Thank you to Mr. Brokaw for making this possible.

- Students will have the chance to become Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certified, in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. When applying for jobs students will be able to have on their resume Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications for whichever they pass. This will hold much more water than just putting down "proficient at Microsoft word" as no one really knows what that means, they will have concrete tangible proof of their career readiness in those skills.

### **Important Dates**

**November 8:** Veteran's Day Program

There will be a Veteran's Day program at the Jr/Sr High School on November 8. We would like to give special recognition to those (past and present) that have served our Country. Please send via email; Full Name, Military Rank/Position, Military Branch and Picture of those you'd like to recognize. Please send to [rgeise@conestogaps.org](mailto:rgeise@conestogaps.org). If you want to stop by the Jr/Sr High School we can scan the picture and return it immediately. More information will be sent out via Parent Square.

**October 18:** End of 1st Quarter

October 21: Parent-Teacher Conferences (11am – 7pm)

November 25: School in Session due to Thanksgiving

### **Helpful Links**

District Webpage: [www.conestogacougars.org](http://www.conestogacougars.org)

Powerschool (Grades): <https://conestogaps.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

Activities: <https://www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org/public/genie/455/school/1/>

Jr/Sr High School: <http://conestogaschoolwires.net/Page/11>

### **Homecoming / Senior Royalty**

Homecoming was a huge success! Thank you to the students and staff for showing great school spirit and for making Homecoming a huge success. In addition, thank you to our dance and cheer sponsors, Mrs. Hogue and Mrs. Clausen for all their work in making the week a success! The dance and cheer members put in a lot of work as well. We appreciate all the groups that made the week a memorable one.

Senior Royalty: Jocelyn Deterding, Mattie Haizlip (Princess), Bella Hogue, Sydney McPeck (Queen), Jacob Dragon, Kobe Gansemer (Prince), Dillon Leffler, Owen Snipes (King)

### **Outstanding Students and Teachers**

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the outstanding students and teachers that we have at Conestoga Jr/Sr High School. Every day I'm amazed at the great things our students accomplish. They are polite and respectful young people that represent our community to a very high standard day in and day out. The teachers at Conestoga Jr/Sr High School are amazing. They put our students first, they grow and try new things every day, and continually do great things for our students. They truly care about each and every student in our building!

**GO COUGARS!!**

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# A NOTE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

## ERIC DENNIS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Conestoga Elementary School. I am excited to get the school year started and look forward to seeing our students grow throughout the year. The staff has already started our initial benchmark testing to determine how we will develop learning plans for each student. In order for our students to achieve, it is important parents, students and school staff form a tri-partnership when working together, there is no limit to what our students can achieve. We have set a goal for Conestoga Elementary where we believe every student can be at or above grade level in reading and math by the end of each school year. Below is the vision that is set for Conestoga Elementary, along with ways of how the parents and students can help support the vision at home. Without the partnership from home, our vision would be difficult to meet Conestoga Elementary School's Path to Success.

**Mission:** Growth will occur for all students

**Vision to meet the mission:**

100% of the students will be at or above grade level in reading and math by the end of each school year.

**How can parents/guardians help support the vision:**

- Read with their children every day for 15-20 min.
- Ask questions about what was read. Avoid yes/no questions, but ask open-ended questions.
- Practice math facts (rocket math sheets sent home and flashcards).
- Encourage healthy choices (exercise, nutrition, and sleep).
- Communicate and work with school staff.
- Children should arrive on time and be present for the full day.
- Provide a quiet place for schoolwork.
- Understand that the support level identified for your child was a decision made based on your child's needs displayed at school.

**How can students help support the vision:**

- Read every day at home for 15-20 minutes.
- Practice math facts at home for 15-20 minutes.
- Be at school every day and on time.
- Be prepared and ready to learn.
- Follow Cougar Trait expectations.
- You own your learning.

**Supports:**

- Classroom teacher
- Local library
- IXL
- Monthly family support corner in the district's newsletter

Conestoga Elementary Staff thanks you for your continued support. If you have further questions please reach out to your classroom teacher first.

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## PTO NEWS

Parents and Families—this year's main fundraiser is the Conestoga Elementary Glow Run! It's a two-week program that kicks off with a Pep Rally on October 8th. Families will then gather pledges for every lap your student runs (30-35 laps) at the Glow Run, which will happen on October 18th. This year our goal is to raise \$20,000 for playground additions and school improvements! And we need your help! We've asked the experts at Booster to power our fundraiser to make it easier, more profitable, and more fun. Students will also experience an amazing character theme, MINDSPARK: WILD WEST! Booster's most exciting theme yet combines S.T.E.A.M. skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) with character-building. While they're teaming up with the MindSpark Kids to save Dr. Shock, our students will learn five character traits that will help strengthen themselves and our world. Donations will go toward Playground additions and school improvements and the entire two-week experience. So please help our school by getting pledges from family and friends and entering them on FUNRUN.COM. Also, all families are invited to come out and cheer on our students at the 2019 Conestoga Elementary Glow Run. Thanks so much for your support and stay tuned for more info in backpacks and on Facebook! Go like Conestoga Elementary PTO on Facebook!

**BOX TOPS PROGRAM:** No more clipping! Get your BOX TOP APP Today and Start Scanning your receipts. Traditional Box Top clips are being phased out and going digital. You can still clip box tops on some products and continue to turn them into the Elementary School. Put them in a bag with your child's name on it. First deadline is October 30th. If you see this label: Use the new BOX TOPS app to scan your receipt. The app will find participating products and instantly add cash to our schools earning online.



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# STUDENT SERVICES

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES, AMANDA WRIGHT**

**Transition Services for Special Education Students:** Conestoga provides services and supports to students from birth to age 21, who require specialized instruction and have an IEP. When a student who has an IEP turns 16, the IEP team creates a transition plan that focuses on the skills and needs of the student in order to transition to post-secondary school activities.

These activities can include postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and/or community participation. In order to assist parents in navigating the world of transition services, Nebraska has several great resources available including Parent Training and Information (PTI) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). On October 21st, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., representatives from both PTI and VR will be available at Conestoga Jr./Sr. High for parents of students who currently have an IEP, to answer questions about transition services and the process of applying for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities, if the student is eligible.

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# CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT

**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT, ROBIN FROST**

Measure of Academic Progress – MAP Testing

## **What is NWEA?**

NWEA stands for Northwest Evaluation Association. NWEA is a non-profit organization that has assessed over 4.5 million students. NWEA has a presence in 49 foreign countries, 50 states, and thousands of districts.

## **What is MAP?**

MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. MAP is an online assessment that is aligned to the Nebraska standards.

## **What is different about MAP?**

These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics, and Science. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all of 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.

## **Why MAP?**

Results from MAP tests are typically available to teachers, schools, and districts with 48 hours of when the student completes the test. Whereas, results of State assessments are typically not available for a minimum of three months. MAP allows schools to assess students for growth during the school year and between school years. MAP data allows schools to differentiate and adjust instruction for individual students, groups of students, or entire classes based on results of the assessment. The results can be used by students, parents, teachers, grade levels, subject areas, schools, and the school district for a variety of purposes.

## **How long does it take to complete a test?**

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each MAP test (less for primary grades).

## **How often will my child be tested?**

Students will be tested in Fall, Winter, and Spring. Most students are tested two times a year.

## **What are MAP tests used for?**

MAP assessments are used to measure each student's progress or growth in school. MAP assessments measure each child's growth in mathematics, reading, and language usage. The scale used to measure each child's progress is called a RIT scale (Rasch unIT), which is an equal-interval scale. It is used to chart each child's academic growth from year to year.

## **How will the school use the test scores?**

MAP tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. The test scores let teachers know where a student's strengths are OR if help might be needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help guide individual and group instruction in the classroom. Grade levels, subject areas, schools, and the district will use results to continue to improve teaching and learning and helping each student grow as much as they can.

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# GOAL SETTING SECOND GRADERS

**SECOND GRADE TEACHER, MEGAN GLAZEBROOK**

We believe that when students set their own goals, they are more driven and motivated to work towards reaching those goals. To kick off the school year, all of the second-grade students created their own personalized goal display poster. Having their goals on display makes the kids invested and proud. At the beginning of the school year the students set behavior-based goals to promote positive behaviors and kindness. Starting in October, the goals will be focused on academics such as improving reading comprehension and learning new math skills.





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# CONESTOGA ACTIVITIES

## ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, JASON AHRENS

The 2019 activity season is underway and it's off to a positive and exciting start! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for playing a part in making this happen and to specifically recognize and thank certain people and groups for their contributions to helping this year get off to a great start. Thank you to the students participating in our fall activities and the coaches and sponsors leading the way. This year, we've had a big increase in student participation in fall activities for both the junior and senior high school. The effort and time given by everyone is appreciated and plays a huge role in creating the environment and culture we want at Conestoga High School. Thank you to all of the students who have been at the different events and contests to cheer on your friends and classmates. The support you provide doesn't go unnoticed and is appreciated by everyone. Thank you to all the community members who have helped support our students in a number of different ways. Specifically to our Booster Club, who does so much to help our students and the different activities we have here at Conestoga. To become a member of the Conestoga Booster Club use the link below to access the membership form.



[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B87zWA47\\_TrWYU15Q1pfdm1RdGpLMdtUlvkTm9mT2NWRjU4/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B87zWA47_TrWYU15Q1pfdm1RdGpLMdtUlvkTm9mT2NWRjU4/view?usp=sharing)  
To find out when the upcoming events at Conestoga High School are use the link below to access our Activities Calendar:  
<https://www.eastcentralnebraskaconf.org/public/genie/455/school/1/>

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# THE BOYS OF FALL

## HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, TRENTON CLAUSEN



The High School football season is well underway! We have had a season of improvements so far and have enjoyed playing in front of many Cougar fans supporting us. Our team consists of 23 players, five student managers, and five coaches. We have eight seniors, six juniors, five sophomores, and four freshmen on this year's roster. All of our team members have committed to improving themselves and their team each practice and game.

Our defense continues to play with great effort and our offense is finding ways to score this season. Our team captains which were voted on by our players and coaches are Toby Nolting, Dillon Leffler, Jaemes Plowman, and Owen Snipes. Each of these boys has shown their ability to lead our team with a positive attitude.

Our season started off on the right foot with progress being made on offense, defense, and special teams. All of our players have seen playing time in varsity competitions and were able to participate in JV games also. We have fought tough in each game and have shown our ability to compete with all opponents.

We welcomed three new assistant coaches, Chad Schmeckpeper, Jeremy Lutt, and Clayton Moore, to the varsity football staff along with the two returning coaches, Trenton Clausen and Jeff Harkness. We strive to improve our team daily and put a competitive team on the game field for each week.

New this season you will notice some different sticker decals on our football helmets. We have a new and improved Cougar logo in front of the Block "C" on each side of our helmets with a black stripe down the center. You will also notice smaller Cougar logos which are earned from a player being awarded practice player of the week or player of the game. Each of our coaches awards these each week. We also are awarding players a small Cougar paw logo for each touchdown or field goal we score in a game and for each punt or turnover we force. We count these as battles won within the game and believe that these battles will bring us success throughout the season. If you have not had the chance yet please come join us for a game!

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# VOLLEYBALL

## HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH, KYLEIGH LEWIS

It's Me, Kyleigh Lewis

Who am I? What do I do?

Hello Conestoga friends and families, my name is Kyleigh Lewis. I'm the 7-12 Instructional coach. I also get the opportunity to work with our cougar athletes as the head volleyball and assistant basketball coach. I am a 2010 graduate of Elkhorn Valley Schools and a 2013 graduate of Wayne State college. I also have two Master's degrees from WSC: MBA and curriculum and instruction-business. Before starting at Conestoga, I was a Business and Technology teacher at Dorchester High School. I am not a person to let opportunities pass me by as I serve on the NETA Board, MPBEA Board, CODE.org facilitator for middle school in Nebraska, and am a Google Certified Trainer. In my free time, I enjoy camping, spending time with family, playing volleyball, traveling, and watching my Huskers, Cyclones, and Broncos.

So what do I do? As the Instructional coach, I assist teachers in engagement strategies, professional development, and personal growth in their classrooms. I'm passionate about students' academic experiences and real world applications in the classroom. My technology background assists teachers in making a digital classroom, and providing digital ideas to assist teachers in classroom routines, delivery, and data collection. I'm excited to be a member of C1stoga. I look forward to meeting families and helping in our communities.



A team with a dream....

23 girls. 3 coaches. 4 student managers. 1 vision.

Conestoga volleyball is off to a great start. These ladies are more than just athletes. Conestoga volleyball is:

- Cheerleaders/Dancers
- Band members
- Daughters
- Academic Leaders
- Social Butterflies
- Young women with dreams

Our girls have big goals for the season, and the determination on and off the court is clear. We want to get better each and every day. If you haven't seen them in action. Make a plan to add it to your calendar. Win or Lose, take note of their passion, heart, determination, team work, and confidence.

Follow our adventures on Twitter: @C1STOGAV

The team is led by 5 Seniors: Mathia Haizlip, Sydney McPeck, Haley Miracle, Madison Mann, & Cassidy Hartig.







Back Row (L to R): Ethan Avidano, Bryson Berg, Jack Welch, Ben Welch, Dawson Hardesty, Braden Ruffner, Levi Bell, Kaden Simmerman  
Middle Row: Stephanie Poirier, Bridget Wagner, Jasmine Rainey, Tyler Masid, Trace Widler, Shelby Curlo, Danie Parriott, Bella Hogue, Jessica Poirier  
Front Row: Ethan Williams, Jayden Widler, Andy Lamoureux, Elliott Zimmerman, Dani Ahrens, Elizabeth Harvey

## OFF AND RUNNING!

### CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS ENJOY EARLY SEASON SUCCESS

CROSS COUNTRY HEAD COACH, SEAN TRAMPE

Growth in numbers of the cross country teams at both the high school and junior high level is always a high priority for the coaching staff, but beyond sheer numbers we are most focused on individual growth. Individual growth and self-improvement occurs in four different ways in cross country. Our team's philosophy encourages a development of greater mental toughness, more keen social awareness, an understanding of ways in which students can control their own emotions and obviously-improved physical development. We strive to make not just great runners, but also great students and leaders within the school community. We have been blessed with athletes that embody many of these qualities naturally who can serve as a great example to their teammates, their classmates and their community at large. It has been evident throughout the year that our athletes are making great strides not just on the course, but in their own personal growth as well. When student-athletes invest in themselves and buy into our program, their individual growth in each of the aforementioned areas leads them to success in competition as well. On our team we are fortunate to find many outstanding examples of individual and team success. Both the boys and girls teams have been able to cash in on the hard work they have invested into themselves this season. As the year progresses and our district and state outlook become more clear. We find ourselves in a fun position with many runners capable of qualifying for and placing at the state tournament. A quick season summary of our boys and girls teams' early season accolades can be found on the following page. The boys team has finished in the top half of all five meets we have competed in this year. That's a great accomplishment, especially considering the level of competition we face weekly and the fact that we were unable to fill a full boys team in 2018. With steady and continued improvement, I expect our boys to compete for top three finishes in our upcoming conference and district tournaments. Individually, our boys have been led by Ben Welch, Dawson Hardesty and Jack Welch who all consistently contend for medal finishes at our meets. Kaden Simmerman and Braden Ruffner have been excellent performers in their first year of competition and will be heavily relied on to continue to improve if we want to achieve our team goals. Injuries have snake-bitten a few members of the boys team, but our supporting cast has continued to step up and fill any void left. Ethan Williams, Trace Widler and Levi Bell have all proven capable of competing among our starting varsity line-up (Welch, Hardesty, Welch, Simmerman, Ruffner and Bryson Berg). Freshmen Jayden Widler, Tyler Masid and Ethan Avidano are also rounding into form and I anticipate bright futures for each of them.

The 2019 cross country season is underway, and both the Cougar boys and girls teams have enjoyed consistent success throughout the early part of the season. Success often comes in many different forms, and I get to see it occurring on multiple fronts with the team this season. From an influx in participation to constant improvement among our runners, optimism in our team is running high and our results continue to speak for themselves. Participation in cross country at Conestoga has more than doubled since our reintroduction as a sanctioned sport last year and the added competition at practice is helping drive our team forward. Our high school boys team is comprised of 12 runners, our high school girls team has seven runners and we also have four junior high runners competing this season. Even though our team has grown in numbers, we continue to be a tight-knit group that feels more and more like family, as the season goes on. Personally, I believe one of the best things about cross country is that every runner has a place. Everyone belongs, everyone is loved and everyone matters. Our team does a great job of providing a space and support for student-athletes who may otherwise never participate in athletics. Of all the great things that happen within the cross country team, our support for one another is what I'm most proud of and that is what I believe will continue to draw in students and continue to grow our program.



The varsity boys team huddles together before the start of the Malcolm Invite.

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## CROSS COUNTRY: CONTINUED

On the girls side we are led by two All-State caliber runners in sophomore Danie Parriott and senior Bella Hogue. Danie's breakout season has seen her win three of the first five meets while placing 2nd and 6th in the other two. Danie is running at a really high level right now and has knocked off many returning state medalists in her races. She is making a name for herself among the state's elite and we expect big things from her to finish out the year. Returning district champion and state medalist Bella Hogue is returning to top form after overcoming some early season setbacks. As these two continue to push each other daily, their results improve and expectations skyrocket. Jasmine Rainey, a returning district medal winner has been hampered by injuries early on in the season, but her mental toughness is as great as anyone on the team and as she continues to heal, she will be in contention to make a return trip to the state meet. Jessica Poirier, Bridget Wagner, Shelby Curlo and Stephanie Poirier are also seeing their times drop as the season goes, and their improvement will be instrumental in our team's effort to qualify for the state tournament again in 2019.



Malcolm Invite medalists: Danie Parriott (1st),  
Dani Ahrens (3rd) and Bella Hogue (3rd).

Our four junior high runners, Andy Lamoureux, Dani Ahrens, Elliott Zimmerman and Elizabeth Harvey, are all doing a great job in their first season in cross country. Coached by Ryan Burns, they practice as hard as any junior high team in the state and their race results are a great testament to the hard work that they have put in thus-far. Dani has led the way on the girls side with two top three race finishes. Elliott and Elizabeth have each also earned top 10 finishes this year. Andy is consistently in the top half of all racers, and his always-positive attitude has allowed him to keep making improvements. The junior high team will compete at the ECNC conference meet on Oct. 8th and at the junior high state meet in Papillion on Oct. 12th. Having junior high runners has been great this season, and I look forward to establishing a strong junior high presence in years to come.

As we move into the championship portion of our season, we want to thank all of the Conestoga students, staff, and community members for your support throughout this season. If you haven't had a chance to follow along with our teams success, we invite you to come see us in action. Our remaining meets are at UNK on Sept. 30th, ECNC Conference meet at Walnut Grove Park on Oct. 8th, and the Class C-1 District at Boys Town on Oct. 17th. As mentioned, we are excited about our upcoming meets and if we continue to follow our trajectory of improvement, we will be in contention to qualify many runners for the state meet in Kearney on Oct. 25th.

Want to know more? Follow us on Twitter @ConestogaXC or visit [conestogaxc.com](http://conestogaxc.com) to see meet results, news articles and historical information about our team!

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## TEAMMATES

The Conestoga TeamMates Mentoring Program is looking for caring adults who want to invest in the life of a child. By spending at least 20 minutes each week with a student at Conestoga and showing your interest in their life, you can help them discover their individual strengths and talents. When you mentor a child, you give them confidence, inspire positive choices, and create hope for a better future. And all it takes is a little of your time. Make a positive difference, be a mentor!

For more information, visit [www.teammates.org](http://www.teammates.org) or contact Deb Leffler at [deffler@conestogaps.org](mailto:deffler@conestogaps.org)

Together We Transform Lives  
**TEAMMATES**  
MENTORING





## JR./SR. MARCHING BAND

**INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC DIRECTOR, CASSI VALLIS**

Welcome to the 2019 Conestoga Cougar Marching Band season! Our theme for the season is, "My Chemical Romance" consisting of Na Na Na, Sing!, and Welcome to the Black Parade. The Conestoga Cougar Marching Band is composed of 60 members throughout Junior High and High School. These fantastic musicians began prep for the 2019 season during Band Camp on July 22nd-26th. Not only did the 8am-4pm band camp rehearsals pave a foundation of music and marching fundamentals and skills for new and veteran members, they established skills such as teamwork, leadership, and chemistry amongst all members. The summer was full of performances, with the band performing at the Murray Freedom Festival Parade on July 4th, Otoe County Parade on July 27th, Cass County Parade on August 10th, and the Nebraska State Fair Parade on August 24th. Since the start of the school year, the Cougar Marching Band has been performing pep band tunes at home football and volleyball games. Cheering on our fellow Conestoga athletes and coaches in the stands is one of our favorite things to do! On September 21st, the Cougar Marching Band performed at their first judged event, the Applejack Parade, and brought home the 2nd place trophy in Class B! To wrap up the marching season, the band will perform at Harvest of Harmony Parade and Fieldshow in Grand Island on October 5th, LINKS Fieldshow Contest in Lincoln on October 12th, and Oxbow Fieldshow Contest in Ashland-Greenwood on October 19th. There are many things to love about being a part of the Conestoga Band program. From dancing and playing our instruments in the bleachers at home games, the 4am bus rides to our competitions, creating a story through our images and music on the field, and to promoting Cougar Pride everywhere we go, we wouldn't have it any other way. Go Cougars!



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# CONESTOGA FFA LOOKING TO YEAR OF GROWTH

## FFA LEADER, KAITLIN TAYLOR

This summer, Conestoga FFA members volunteered at the Murray Freedom Festival pancake feed on the fourth of July and partnered with Plattsmouth FFA during the Cass County Fair to set-up and tear-down the bull riding competition. To kick off the school year in August, the officer team hosted a welcome BBQ in Nehawka for FFA members and their families. Recently, twenty-four students in agricultural education classes attended Husker Harvest Days near Grand Island. While here, students went on a scavenger hunt to learn about the major areas of agriculture: -agribusiness, animal science, environmental services, food science, natural resources, power structural & technical systems, and plant science. Students saw the diversity of the agricultural industry while networking with business leaders during Husker Harvest Days. Conestoga FFA looks forward to educating the community about agriculture. Students will participate in the Connecting Chapter Program in partnership with the Nebraska Farm Bureau teaching lessons at the elementary school and planning a community event. The Animal Science class is partnering with the Ag Pen Pal Program where the class shares their experiences about agriculture with fifth grade students at Gateway Elementary in Omaha. In agricultural education classes, students are learning about a variety of topics. The introduction to AFNR, students got their hands dirty by texturing soil and evaluating; while Food Science students dehydrated fruit and tested gluten content of flours! Plant Science students got the hydroponic Grow-Tower running, while Animal Science students have been caring for the two chapter goats learning anatomy and breeds. Upcoming events this semester include competing in livestock judging and hosting a jacket ceremony for new FFA members. Conestoga is looking forward to growing its FFA chapter and getting involved in the community.

Contact Ms.Taylor to learn more about the program!



7th Grade students are learning about the goats in ag class.



Husker Harvest Days:  
Lindee Watson, Alyssa Kellerman, Kelsi Weilage  
at the Big Iron Booth



FFA members participating in the  
Murray Freedom Fest Parade on July 4th.



Students in Intro to AFNR class texturing soil





Conestoga Public Schools  
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Murray, NE 68409 - 0184  
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ECRWSS  
EDDM

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