

In less than three weeks, the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year will conclude, and the new calendar year will follow shortly thereafter. The speed of modern society makes each year seem to fly by faster and faster.

As we enter into this Holiday Season, we all have various people and items to be thankful for. As a school district, we are very thankful and appreciative of the support that the community provides. There are numerous groups and individuals that provide support and resources to our students in need, during the Holiday Season and throughout the school year. These people that have a great heart and desire to help those less fortunate are truly a valuable asset to this district, as we work hard to support every child. These actions are often unnoticed from the outside, but their generous contributions make a difference in the lives of many of our students and their families.

As a community, we should be thankful that Highway 14 is now open and the road construction is concluding. The new roads look great as people enter Central City. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, I know how important it has been for many of you to get the roadways opened back up. We are hopeful that our community can get back to normal with traffic flowing in and out of our community.

As this semester draws to a close, we have several items that are in the works for second semester and beyond. In collaboration with the FFA, a greenhouse is being constructed south of the middle school. This project is scheduled to be completed over the next few weeks and this project will allow the FFA to expand their operations and educational opportunities while also providing additional educational opportunities for our science department.

Along the lines of educational opportunities, the district hosted the reVISION Community Engagement meeting the morning of November 29th. Many steps continue to be marked off as the district looks to greatly enhance career education and exploration for our students. The district will be meeting with the Nebraska Department of Education in the near future to follow-up with the Community Engagement meeting and to write an action grant. Through this continued process, the district continues to take steps towards Career Pathways that provide hands-on and dual credit learning opportunities for students. The number of dual credit opportunities for our students will be greatly expanded for the 2018-2019 school year, and we are currently in the planning stages with Central Community College to be able to offer an entire Framing Certificate to our students while they complete high school. The Framing Certificate is just one example of hands-on learning in conjunction with dual credit opportunities for students. The Career Pathway Initiative will lead to eventual building enhancements and renovations that will help set this district apart from others.

As a district, we have a lot to be thankful for, and with each day we must put students first. Students are the key to the success of this community, region, state, and nation, and they deserve to have the very best quality educational opportunities

to help shape their future and ultimately, our future. I hope that everyone enjoys the conclusion of the first semester and looks forward to the upcoming New Year!
Go Bison!!!