



SEPTEMBER  
2025

# Elba Public Schools Newsletter

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



## Welcome Back to Elba Public Schools!

I want to take a moment to welcome all of our students, staff, and families back to Elba Public Schools. The start of the school year has been fantastic, and I couldn't be more excited about the energy I've seen in our classrooms and hallways. From day one, students have come in ready to learn, reconnect with friends, and dive into new opportunities. Our teachers have worked hard to set a positive tone, and it shows in the excitement and engagement happening across the district.

It's been a smooth start, and that doesn't happen without the dedication of our entire school community. From the bus drivers and custodians to the teachers and staff in every building, everyone has stepped up to make sure our students are welcomed and supported. We're off to a strong beginning, and I'm confident this will be a year filled with growth, success, and plenty of Bluejay pride!

I'd also like to introduce myself. My name is Bobby Kelley, and I'm honored to serve as the new superintendent here at Elba Public Schools. Before coming to Elba, I worked at Gibbon Public Schools, where I served as the secondary principal. My experiences there helped prepare me for this role, and I'm grateful for the chance to now lead a district where relationships, community, and student success are at the heart of everything we do.

On a personal note, my wife April is the Professional Development Director at ESU 6, and we are proud parents of three amazing kids. Our oldest son, Lane, is the Ag Teacher at Doniphan-Trumbull; our middle son, Lincoln, is a Social Studies Teacher at Sandy Creek; and our youngest, Lindee, is a freshman at UNL studying Exercise Science. Seeing each of them succeed in their own paths has been both exciting and fulfilling.

### Looking Ahead: My Goals for Elba

As we begin this new school year, I want to share the three guiding goals that will shape my work as superintendent:

- **Build Bluejay Pride** – celebrating who we are as a school, community, and making sure our students are proud to be Bluejays.
- **Develop High Expectations** – challenging ourselves and our students to aim high, work hard, and achieve success.
- **Build Relationships** – strengthening connections among students, staff, parents, and the broader community, because strong relationships are the foundation of everything we do.

I'm excited for the journey ahead and grateful for the opportunity to serve this district. My door is always open, and I look forward to working together to make Elba Public Schools the very best it can be.

— **Bobby Kelley, Superintendent**

September 2025

# PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

## NEWS & NOTES



### New Staff

We have several new employees to welcome to our team. In our Agriculture Science classes, David Nielsen and Seth Williams in our Business classes. We welcome five Paraeducators—Katie Poss, Louise Burson, Aliyah Eacker, Cortney Niemoth, and Samantha Porter.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### WRITTEN BY MR. POTTER

I hope everyone is off to a good start to the new school year! We understand that the first few weeks can be challenging, and we appreciate your patience and support as we begin this school year with our students, teachers, and staff. Please continue to support our protocols in place to ensure that our students have a safe and productive school day. This month's newsletter will be packed with "housekeeping" information. In future newsletters, I will emphasize our school PRIDE and exciting events.

Here are new and upcoming events:

- We have a new dismissal time of 3:30pm.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for September 11th from 3-7pm.
- State MAP testing is scheduled for September 15th-19th.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

**EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL  
"WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO  
CHANGE THE WORLD."--NELSON  
MANDELA**



# ELBA ACTIVITIES



We're off and flying for our first contests of the season. All of the hard work and dedication that our student-athletes put into their respective activities this summer will start to come to fruition. I would like to wish our coaches and student-athletes good luck on their seasons.

**“MR.SIMMERMAN, WHAT EXACTLY WILL BE ON YOUR PAGE FOR THE ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER EVERY MONTH?”**

Great question!! Every month I will have a few things ,but not limited to:

- **Upcoming Events Calendar:** Games, performances, meets, banquets, and save the date reminders.
- **Theme Nights:** This is where student council will let me know what students will be wearing for the upcoming games. For example, camouflage night @ Medicine Valley for football.
- **Individual achievement recognition:** someone that “slayed” in their past performances and/or are area leaders in their respective activity.
- **JH/HS Male and Female Athlete/Performer of the Month**
- **Leadership & Character highlights:** student athletes modeling what being a Bluejay is all about!
- **Ways parents can support their student athletes**

**Written by: Mr.Simmerman**

# SCHOOL COUNSELING CONNECTION

Elba Public Schools  
September 2025

## CONNECTION POINT

You probably have lots of questions about how your child's new school year is going, but "How was school?" often leads to a one-word answer. Try asking something more specific like, "What felt easy today?" "What's something you learned?" or "Who did you sit with at lunch?" If they're not ready to talk right away, give it time and try again later - maybe while they're having a snack or getting ready for bed - when they may be more open to sharing.

## GUIDING WORDS

For Caregivers: I can stay curious about my child's day and make space for connection, one question at a time. For Students: I can share my thoughts and stories with people who care.

## THIS MONTH AT EPS

The elementary is working on emotions. They are learning that there are no bad emotions, just uncomfortable, and the less time we spend uncomfortable, the better we feel. High school is adjusting to their classes and finalizing their schedules. As of August 25th, they were finalized.

## JUST A NOTE

"The world only exists in your eyes. You can make it as big or as small as you want." ---F. Scott Fitzgerald  
\*\*\*\* . FAFSA opens October 1st for Seniors. Sooner it is completed the more opportunities grants are open!



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**ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

# **BEEF IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

**IS LOOKING FOR DONORS!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS TO PAY FOR THE COST OF PURCHASING AND PROCESSING A BEEF BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER 2025! THE BEEF WILL BE SERVED TO ALL STUDENTS OF ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL AND DONORS WILL BE NAMED ON A BANNER THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA. THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DONORS:**

**PRIME (OVER \$400)**

**CHOICE (\$250-\$399)**

**SELECT (\$100-\$249)**

**STANDARD (\$25-\$99)**

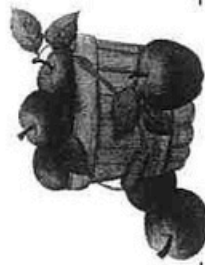
**PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:  
ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL  
C/O BEEF IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM  
P.O. BOX 100  
ELBA, NE 68835**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL  
MEMO: BEEF IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
ROBYN RASMUSSEN (308-750-0331) OR  
RYAN RASMUSSEN (308-750-3486)**

# Elba Breakfast Menu - September 2025


This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Fruit & Vegetable Salad Bars at Elba Public School comply with the National School Lunch Program. Students will visit the salad bar daily. Fruits and vegetables play a very important part; providing many nutritious and healthy options to choose from.									
	1	cinnamon roll	2	Scrambled Eggs	3	Sausage & Toast	4	Pancake	5
		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk	
8	Donuts	hashbrown burrito bowls	9	Muffins	10	frech toast	11	teacher	12
	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		in-service	
15	cinnamon roll	scrambled eggs	16	Breakfast pizza	17	Biscuits & gravy	18	Pancakes	19
	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk	
22	Rasberry Bismarks	Breakfast burrito	23	Sausage, egg, Cheese on Toast	24	muffins	25	French toast	26
	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.		OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	
29	cinnamon rolls	Scrambled Eggs	30						
	OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	OR...Cold Cereal & ToastFruit, Juice & Milk							



# Elba Lunch Menu - September 2025

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
1		2	Pork Sandwich, Scalloped Potatoes, Bun and Milk	3	Walking Tacos, Corn, Cookie, Milk	4	Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Cake, Milk	5	Goulash, Veggies, Garlic Bread, Milk
	No school		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar
8	Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Bread, Milk	9	Chicken Fajitas, Corn, Cookie, Milk	10	Sloppy Joes, French fries or Tots, Cookie, Milk	11	Fiesta (or stop sign) pizza, veggies, cookie, Milk	12	Teacher -IN-Service
	Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar
15	Breaded Pork Patty, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Bread, Milk	16	Walking I Taco, Corn, Cookie, Milk	17	Chicken Fajita Rice Bowls, veggies, cookie, milk	18	Hamburgers or cheese burgers, Veggies, Cookie Milk	19	Cheeseburger macaroni, cake, Veggies, Milk
	Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar
22	Chicken Drumstick, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Bread, Milk	23	Soft Shell Taco, Corn, Cookie, Milk	24	Crispitos, Broccoli & Cheese, PButter Bar, Milk	25	Pigs in a blanket, Baked Beans, Cookie, Milk	26	NO School
	Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar		Salad Bar
29	Ham Patty on a Bun, Scalloped Potatoes, Cookie, Milk	30	Chicken Fajitas, Corn, Cookie, Milk						

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