



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



## 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.



Jason Folkers  
Elba - School Counselor  
308-863-2228 ext.115  
Jason.Folkers@elbaps.org

## 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!



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
<i>Fruit &amp; 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.</i>				
1 	2 cinnamon roll OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	3 Scrambled Eggs OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	4 Sausage & Toast OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	5 Pancake OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.
8 Donuts	9 hashbrown burrito bowls OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	10 Muffins OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	11 fresh toast OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	12 teacher in-service
15 cinnamon roll OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	16 scrambled eggs OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	17 Breakfast pizza OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	18 Biscuits & gravy OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	19 Pancakes OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.
22 Raspberry Bismarks OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	23 Breakfast burrito OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	24 Sausage, egg, Cheese on Toast OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	25 muffins OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	26 French toast OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.
29 cinnamon rolls OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.	30 Scrambled Eggs OR...Cold Cereal & Toast, Fruit, Juice & Milk.			

# Elba Lunch Menu - September 2025

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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

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