



February

NEWSLETTER



Goodbye January, hello February!
Bluejays, let's make it count!



Elba Public School





FEBRUARY 2026

Elba Public Schools Newsletter

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



February Superintendent Update

As we turn the calendar toward February, we are excited about the momentum building in our schools and the many opportunities ahead for our students. The second half of the school year always brings renewed energy, important learning milestones, and chances for students to finish strong.

One important date to note is **February 16**, which will be a **no-school day for students**. On that day, Elba Public Schools will be hosting the **Conference Quiz Bowl**. In order to provide the best possible environment for our conference guests and students participating in the event, we need adequate staffing throughout the day. The only way to do that effectively is by designating February 16 as a no-school day. We appreciate your understanding and support as we showcase Elba Public Schools and host this conference event.

Exciting Technology Update for Grades 7–12

One of the highlights from our January Board of Education meeting was the Board's approval to purchase Apple MacBook computers for students in grades 7–12. This investment will help ensure our students have reliable, up-to-date technology to support learning, creativity, and college and career readiness.

Approximately 75% of the cost of the MacBooks will be covered through REAP funds. REAP (Rural Education Achievement Program) funds are federal dollars designated specifically to support instruction, technology, and educational opportunities in rural school districts. Using these funds allows Elba Public Schools to upgrade student technology while being responsible stewards of local taxpayer dollars.

Highlights from the January Board of Education Meeting

In addition to the technology purchase, the Board addressed several other important items:

- The Board completed its annual reorganization, including the selection of officers and committee appointments.
- The Board approved working with NASB to provide guidance as we begin the district strategic planning process.
- The Board approved the purchase of track uniforms and warm-ups.

- Personnel actions included accepting the resignation of Bev Moore, approving the contract for Sydne Sims, and approving the 2026–2027 Negotiated Agreement.

New Certification Flexibility – Help Spread the Word!

Nebraska recently updated certification rules that allow school districts to hire individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree, even if they do not yet have a teaching certificate. Elba Public Schools is able to support these individuals as they work toward certification, and the Board has the ability to reimburse hired teachers for expenses related to earning their teaching certificate.

Because of this flexibility, we are excited to share that Elba Public Schools has an opening for a K–12 Music Teacher. If you or someone you know has a bachelor’s degree and has ever thought about teaching music, this could be a great opportunity to make that transition into education.

Finishing the Year Strong

As we head into the second semester, our goal is to make it stronger than the first. One of the most important ways families can help is by ensuring students attend school regularly and complete their work. Consistent attendance and engagement make a big difference in student success.

Thank you for your continued support of Elba Public Schools. We are proud of our students, staff, and community, and we look forward to a productive and successful second semester.

-Bobby Kelley, Superintendent

The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates and individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The school district’s Title IX policy, notice, and other information may be accessed elbaps.org.

February 2026

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

NEWS & NOTES



SMALL CLASSES, BIG FUTURES

We encourage our students to speak up even though it may move them out of the comfort zone. They need to express themselves in words.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WRITTEN BY: MR. POTTER

I hope you and your family are staying warm this winter. I can't stress enough how important it is for students to be properly dressed when they come to school. Students will need to be dressed appropriately as they go outside and are on the bus. Also, we have over 150 people in our building and we want to try to keep as much sickness out of the building as possible.

Our communication with you is something that we are always trying to improve. I know some find it too much with IRIS alerts on your phone. Remember that you can adjust those notifications in several different ways. We have three choices that you can pick from. Calls, text and email are three ways that those alerts can be sent to you. You can do all three or you can just pick one or two that work best for you. Please call the school office and set up your preferences. If you aren't set up and you would like to be, we can do that as well.

The school calendar is also the best way to see any and all updates. When something gets changed it gets changed on our school calendar on our website. We also have several hardworking staff members who keep our Facebook page looking great and updated with all types of information and announcements.

- No school for PK-12 on February 16th
- Parent/Teacher Conferences February 19
- Teacher In-Service on February 20
- No School for PreK-6 grade on February 23

QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn"---Benjamin Franklin



ELBA ACTIVITIES



Throughout the Basketball season I have been very impressed with the teams and how they've been competing. Both teams have been fighting the injury bug, but I am hoping our teams go into Conference Basketball/ Sub-Districts at full strength. The Girls start conference play as the 4th seed and will face Riverside, while the Boys will be facing Palmer as the 10th seed.

As a reminder to our parents/fans:

Please don't critique officials, coaches, or players during/after games. If anything, offer your support and encouragement!!

OUTSTANDING MALE AND FEMALE ATHLETES OF THE MONTH:



JUNIOR HIGH:

- Hadlee Morrow
- Ryker Hoff

HIGH SCHOOL:

- JarahLynn Morrow
- Garrett Kaslon



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

- 3rd: JH/V G/B @ Grand Island Lutheran (see calendar)
- 6th: JH/V G/B @ Taylor vs Twin Loup
- 9th: JH G/B BB vs Santee ****New Addition as of 1/15/26**
- 12th: JH BBB vs Burwell & G/B Varsity BB @ Franklin

Written by: Mr.Simmerman

SCHOOL COUNSELING CONNECTION

Elba Public Schools
February 2026

CONNECTION POINT

Children thrive when they understand what they can and cannot control. Talk about things they can change, like effort, words, and actions, and things they cannot, like the weather or others' choices. At home, you might explain that they can change the channel with a remote but not the show. When problems come up, guide them to focus on what they can control. This reduces frustration, builds problem-solving skills and encourages empowerment.

GUIDING WORDS

For Caregivers: The way I speak to myself and my child helps build their inner voice.

For Students: I am learning, growing, and getting stronger every day.

THIS MONTH AT EPS

With the 2nd semester in full swing, the High School is working on College and Career Readiness surveys as well as MAPS, PreACT, and ACT preparation.

In the elementary, we are working on focusing on ourselves and what we can and cannot control.

JUST A NOTE

I have come to realize how important the limits we set for our children are for the development of their creativity."

--Fred Rogers

LOCUS OF CONTROL!



Jason Folkers
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Quarter 2 Honor Roll

All A



A/B



CHRISTMAS BREAK DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT

ON DECEMBER 19TH GRADES 7-12 AND STAFF COMPETED IN A DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT TO KICK OFF CHRISTMAS BREAK. WHILE EVERY CLASS BROUGHT THEIR "A" GAME. THE STAFF TOOK OVER AND WON THE TOURNAMENT!



WINTER BALL

On January 17th the Elba PTO put on a Winter Ball for classes 7-12.





Go For The GOLD!

Elba Family Olympic Night

Friday, Feb. 27th

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Open House Style

Come when you can!

Activities for preschool through 6th grade!



Baked Potato Bar
Junior Class
Fundraiser
Everyone Welcome

02

FEBRUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Pulled Pork Donut	3 Soft Shell Taco Hashbrown Bowl	4 Salisbury Steak Sausage	5 Pizza Sticks Banana Bread	6 Spaghetti Pancakes	7
8	9 Pork Patty Cinnamon Roll	10 Walking taco Scrambled Eggs	11 Chicken Pot Pie Biscuits Gravy	12 Tator Tot Cass. Muffins	13 Pizza French toast Sticks	14
15	16 No School	17 Chicken Fajita Donut	18 Mac N Cheese Muffins	19 Pizza Sticks Sausage/Toast	20 No School	22
22	23 NO PK-6 French Dip Cinnamon Roll	24 Chicken Rice Bowl Scrambled Eggs	25 Ham Patty Banana Bread	26 Creamed Chicken n	27 Lunch Breakfast	28

Hatchlings

*Please Return

W/your
Schedule*

FEBRUARY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 NO SCHOOL	17	18	19 2pm dismissal	20 NO SCHOOL	21
22	23 NO PK-4	24	25	26	27	28
	President's Day					