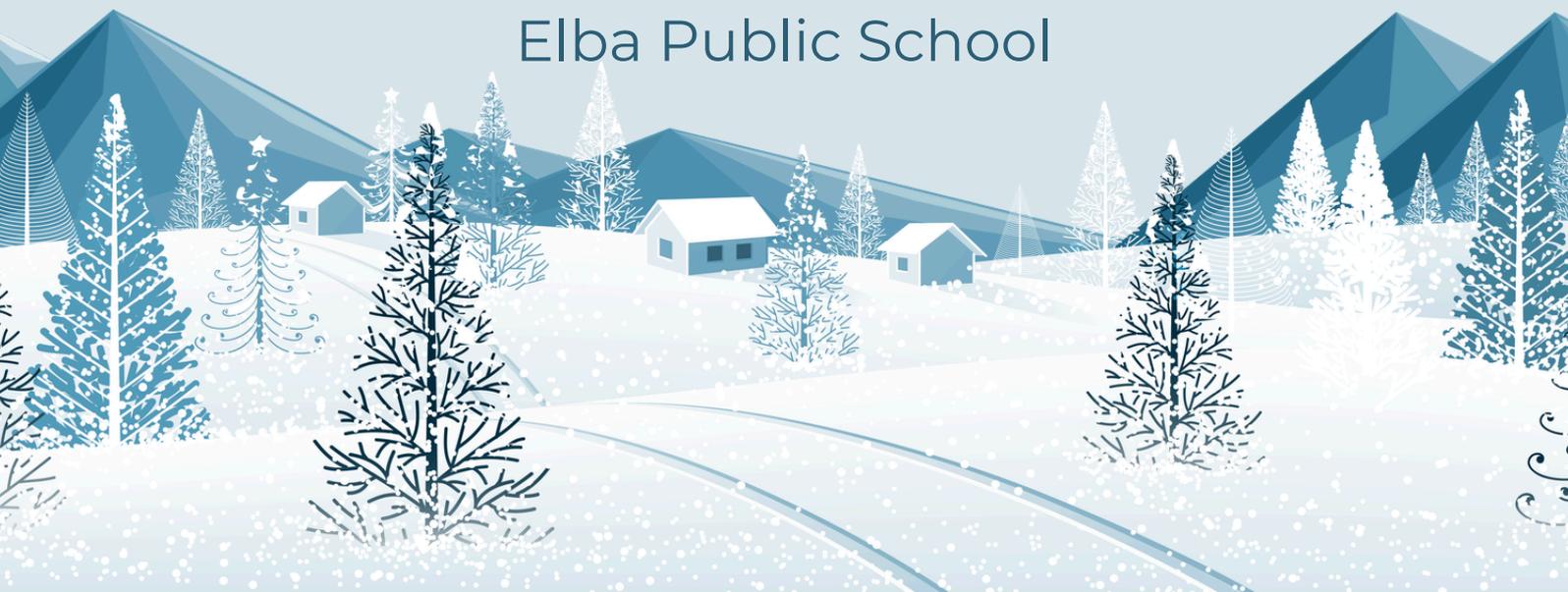


Newsletter by
EPS

HELLO
January

Elba Public School





JANUARY 2026

Elba Public Schools Newsletter

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



January Superintendent Update

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and an enjoyable winter break spent with family and friends. It was great to welcome our students and staff back as we begin the second semester.

It is hard to believe how quickly this school year is flying by. As we enter second semester, it serves as a reminder of how important each day of learning is for our students. This is a great time for renewed focus, goal setting, and finishing the school year strong.

One area we continue to emphasize at Elba Public Schools is the culture we are building together. I shared with our students at the beginning of the school year, and we continue to focus on, the importance of understanding that whenever they attend an activity, field trip, competition, or event, they represent Elba Public Schools, the Elba community, our staff and administration, and their families. Their behavior and actions matter, and we want others to see the pride, respect, and integrity that define our Bluejay students.

That same expectation extends to all of us as parents, fans, and community members. When we attend ball games or school activities, we are also representatives of Elba. Our conduct in the stands sends a message about who we are as a school and community. Yelling at officials, using profanity, or displaying unsportsmanlike behavior reflects poorly on our students and our town. We ask that when you support our Bluejay athletes and activities, you do so with pride and positivity. This includes cheering respectfully, encouraging all students, showing appreciation for officials, following facility expectations, and modeling good sportsmanship—especially in moments of frustration.

The Elba Public Schools Board of Education met on **Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 at 711 Caroline Street**. During the meeting, the board reviewed regular reports and discussed several important items related to district operations, policy review, and future planning. A difficult portion of the meeting included the acceptance of resignations from **Jayvilyn Salvador** and **Ervin Salvador**. We are truly saddened that they will not be with us next year. Both individuals have made meaningful contributions to Elba Public Schools, and we are grateful for the dedication and care they have shown to our students and school community. We wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

As we move into second semester, attendance will be a key factor in student success. Being present and engaged each day makes a difference academically, socially, and emotionally. We are committed to making this the best semester yet and appreciate the continued support from our families and community as we work together to help our students succeed. Thank you for your continued support of Elba Public Schools and for representing the **Elba Bluejays** with pride.

-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.

JANUARY 2026

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

NEWS & NOTES



Small Classes, Big Futures

We ask our students to intentionally listen to other students, staff and their families seeking to understand their experiences and perspectives and respond with compassion and fairness. T.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WRITTEN BY

MR. POTTER

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope each of you enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break. As we begin a new calendar year—and the second half of our school year—I'm excited for the learning, growth, and opportunities ahead. January is a wonderful time to reset, refocus, and build positive momentum.

As temperatures drop, please make sure students come dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. In cases of delayed starts or closures, communication will be sent via email, phone, and district alerts.

As we begin the new year I encourage you as parents to get involved with your students' education. Your involvement makes a difference. Whether you attend school events, review homework, or simply ask your child about their day, you help build the foundation for academic and social-emotional growth.

- **January 5 Teacher In-Service**
- **January 6 First Day of second semester**
- **January 20-27 MAPS Testing**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

Education is not preparation for life but life itself—John Dewey





ELBA ACTIVITIES



Message from the Activities Director



Here are the award winners from conference and district One-Act:



Conference:

Marena Paczosa, Jordyn Haug, Lacey Barg, Jazlyn Encinger, Addie Wysocki, Shia Rasmussen, Alana Berney, Marissa Usasz, Blake Barg and Ayva Gregoski

Districts:

Addie Wysocki, Maria De Pace, Shia Rasmussen, Marissa Usasz and Alana Berney

Congratulations to these talented individuals on their awards. Thank you to Mr. Alexander for doing such a great job with this years performance and to the whole crew as they persevered through adversity and made it all come together!

LET'S GO BLUEJAYS!!!



Written by: Mr.Simmerman

SCHOOL COUNSELING CONNECTION

Elba Public Schools
January 2026

CONNECTION POINT

Brains are amazing and they grow stronger with practice. Responsibility means doing what needs to be done and owning our choices. It builds confidence and smooths days at school and at home, like starting work and returning materials at school, and getting ready and cleaning up at home. If you want to help your child, pick one daily job for two weeks, teach it when calm, add a picture cue, give one short prompt, then notice effort.

GUIDING WORDS

For Caregivers: I provide structure, model responsibility, and praise progress.

For Students: I own my choices, try my best, and make it right if I need to.

THIS MONTH AT EPS

January will start with working on responsibility for each of our elementary classes. We will talk about how we are responsible for the decisions we make.

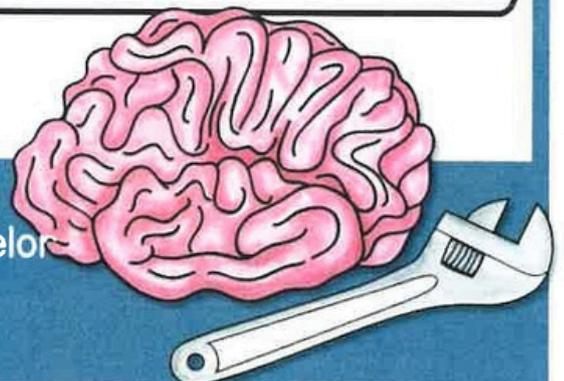
In the high school, we are going to continue to work on College and Career readiness as well as preparing for the ACT and Pre-ACT. These tests will be given in April. Students can study for them on myact.org. Here is where they registers as well.

JUST A NOTE

"The moment you take responsibility for everything in your life is the moment you can change anything in your life." - Hal Elrod



Jason Folkers
Elba Public Schools- School Counselor
(308)-863-2228 ext. 115
Jason.Folkers@elbaps.org





BLUEJAYS Winter Sports



ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: LOGAN SIMMERMAN

VARSITY BASKETBALL

BOYS COACHES: SETH WILLIAMS AND JASON FOLKERS
GIRLS COACHES: JEREMY WALTERS AND JUSTIN MORROW

UPDATED

Friday, November 21st
Monday, December 1st
Friday, December 5th
Tuesday, December 9th
Friday, December 12th
Thursday, December 18th
Saturday, December 20th
Tuesday, December 23rd
Tuesday, December 30th
Saturday, January 3rd
Tuesday, January 6th
Thursday, January 8th
Saturday, January 10th
Tuesday, January 13th
Friday, January 16th
January, 17th-24th
Tuesday, January 27th
Thursday, January 29th
Tuesday, February 3rd
Friday, February 6th
Thursday, February 12th
February, 16th-17th
February, 23rd-24th

Gatorade/Granola Bar Scrimmage
Jamboree vs Santee
G/B vs Riverside + JV
G/B vs Ansley/Litchfield
G/B @ Silver Lake (Roseland)
G/B vs Central Valley + JV
G/B vs Sutherland @ Elm Creek
G/B vs Dorchester + JV
G/B vs High Plains + JV Boys
G/B @ Burwell
G/B @ NGSE (St. Edward) + JV Boys
G/B @ Palmer + JV
G/B vs Red Cloud
G/B vs Nebraska Christian + JV
G/B vs Cedar Bluffs (Seniors & Parents Night)
Goldenrod Conference Tournament
G/B @ Fullerton + JV BOYS
G/B @ Giltner +JV
G/B @ GI Lutheran
G/B @ Twin Loup (Taylor)
G/B @ Franklin + JV
Girls Sub-Districts
Boys Sub-Districts

6:00pm
4:00 & 5:30pm
4:15/5:00/6:00/7:30pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
4:30/6:00 & 7:30pm
1:30 & 3:30pm
12:15/1:00/2:00 & 3:30pm
5:00/6:00 & 7:00pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
4:15/5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
2:00 & 3:30pm
4:15/5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
TBD
5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
4:15/5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
6:00 & 7:30pm
4:00/5:00/6:00 & 7:30pm
TBD
TBD

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

COACHES: LOGAN SIMMERMAN, JEREMY WALTERS AND KAYLA COLFACK

Monday, November 17th
Monday, November 24th
Monday, December 1st
Friday, December 5th
Thursday, December 11th
Saturday, December 13th
Monday, December 15th
Thursday, December 18th
Tuesday, January 6th
Thursday, January 8th
Tuesday, January 13th
Thursday, January 22nd
Thursday, January 29th
Saturday, January 31st
Tuesday, February 3rd
Friday, February 6th
Thursday, February 12th

Girls vs High Plains
Girls @ Palmer
Girls vs Giltner-Harvard
Boys vs Riverside
Girls vs NGSE @ St. Edward
Girls Tournament @ Kenesaw
Girls vs Arcadia-Loup City
G/B vs Central Valley
Boys vs NGSE @ St. Edward
Boys @ Palmer
Boys vs High Plains
Boys vs Arcadia-Loup City
Boys @ Giltner-Harvard
Girls Tournament @ Riverside
G/B @ GI Lutheran
G/B @ Twin Loup
Boys vs Burwell

4:00pm
4:30pm
2:30pm
3:00pm
4:00pm
8:00am
4:00pm
2:00pm/3:15pm
4:00pm
3:00pm
3:00pm
4:00pm
3:00pm
9:00am
3:15pm/4:30pm
3:15pm/4:30pm
4:00pm

ADMISSION

Adults: \$6.00
Children 6 -18: \$5.00
Elba Students: Free

"Find teammates who challenge you to grow, fans who cheer for you when you win, and stand by you when you don't. That's your real team."

BLUEJAYS LIVESTREAM

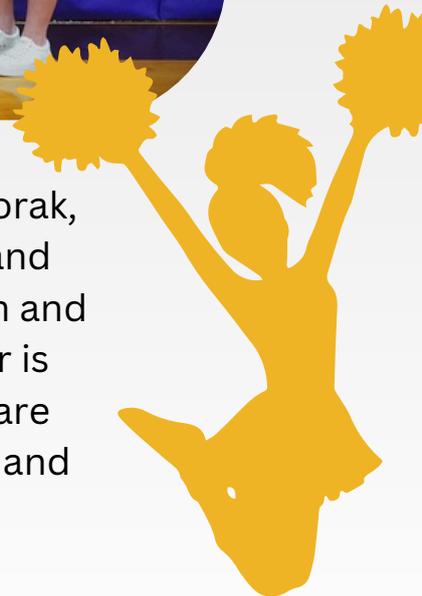




2025-2026 CHEERLEADERS



Our 2025-26 Cheerleaders are Sophomores Jordyn Poss, Kenna Dvorak, Jazlyn Encinger, Brooklynn Porter and Jordyn Haug. Juniors Shia Rasmussen and Marena Paczosa. Our cheer sponsor is Mrs. Salvador. These cheerleaders are excited to kick off basketball season and cheer our teams onto victory!





GRINCH DAY @ EPS



Welcome to the Polar Express!

4th and 5th grade celebrated Polar Express Day by doing some fun themed activities throughout the day on their train ride to the North Pole!



Elba FFA at Leader Development

The FFA Chapter competed in District Leadership Development Events (LDEs) at Ansley on December 8th. The Junior High Quiz Bowl (Brooklynn Fredrick, Ryker Hoff, Hadlee Morrow and Elsie Wilkinson) team took First place and the Ag Demonstration team (Garrett Wells and Bladen Rathman) received a Purple Ribbon taking 6th overall.

Our next contest will be District Career Development Events (CDEs) at CCC Grand Island Campus, February 11th.



BLUEJAY BUDDIES

Bluejay Buddies has kicked off, and our first meeting was simply amazing. Many special bonds are being formed and it's so exciting to see. Our students made handshakes and Christmas tree ornaments with their Buddie.





JANUARY



BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				¹ No School	² No School	³
	NOTES: CHRISTMAS BREAK					
⁴	⁵ No School	⁶ Chicken Patty Donut	⁷ Soft shell taco scrambled eggs	⁸ Corn Dogs Muffins	⁹ Pizza Pancakes	¹⁰
¹¹	¹² Breaded pork Patty Cinnamon Roll	¹³ Rice-steak bowl Hashbrown Bowl	¹⁴ Sloppy Joes Breakfast pizza	¹⁵ Chicken pot pie Mini bagels	¹⁶ Hamburger mac n' cheese french toast	¹⁷
¹⁸	¹⁹ Chicken Patty Donut	²⁰ Walking tacos scrambled eggs	²¹ Soup sausage n' toast	²² Crispito Biscuits Gravy	²³ Spaghetti Pancakes	²⁴
²⁵	²⁶ Hamburger Patty on a bun Cinnamon Roll	²⁷ Chicken Fajita Breakfast Burrito	²⁸ Hamburgers Muffins	²⁹ Chili Dogs Breakfast Bagel	³⁰ Pizza French Toast Sticks	³¹ Menu subject to change

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

2025



NEBRASKA CRUNCH OFF



Certificate of Participation

Mountain Plains Crunch Off October 2025

We hereby certify that

ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOL

is a Nebraska Farm to School Month Champion

recognizing the benefits of serving local foods for students, producers and the community; that children benefit from early exposure to agriculture and healthy nutrition experiences; that farmers benefit with market diversification and opportunity to increase profits; and the community benefits from positive relationships being built between farmers, children, parents, school staff, and others, helping to engrain the important role of agriculture in how our food gets to our tables.

Kayla Partch

Kayla Partch
Director, Child Nutrition Programs

PLANNED
PAPERWORK

PLEASE RETURN

January 2026

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Teacher
Inservice
No school!

Back to
school!

Christmas
Break