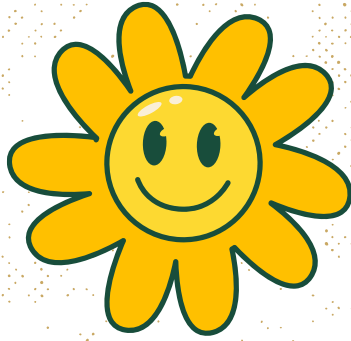




SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

ELBA PUBLIC
SCHOOL





September 2026

ELBA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE BLUEJAYS



Welcome Back to a Great School Year!

There is nothing quite like the energy of a school building filled with students once again. We are off to an incredible start, and having our hallways, classrooms, and playgrounds bustling with activity has brought our campus back to life.

A project of this scale doesn't happen overnight. A huge thank you goes out to Tamy, Shana, Adam, Jarah, and Addie for their tireless dedication over the summer. Thanks to their hard work, our building is spotless, safe, and fully prepared for our students and staff.

Summer Facility Upgrades

If you have driven by or walked through the building recently, you have likely noticed several major upgrades completed over the break:

- Air Conditioning: Installed in both the gym and locker rooms for year-round comfort during athletics and assemblies.
- New Windows: Modern, energy-efficient windows were installed throughout the entire building.
- Press Box: A brand-new press box has been constructed at the football field to support our athletic programs and community events.

These enhancements are the result of deliberate planning by our Board of Education, which is currently finalizing a comprehensive Five-Year Facility Plan to guide future upgrades. These achievements are made possible through the Special Building Fund—a dedicated, restricted fund where districts set aside savings over multiple years specifically for facility maintenance, construction, and capital improvement. By saving strategically, our board can address major building needs directly without taking on sudden financial strain or unexpected bond measures.

Welcoming Our New Staff

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to the newest members of our school family:

- Amelia Retzlaff – Special Education
- Phoebe Bascones – K-12 Music
- Sydne Sims – 7-12 Math
- Keith Aubrey Cristabol – 7-12 English
- Cassidy Frey – Ag / FFA
- Nestle Cerna – Reading Specialist (Joining us in November)

Targeted Goals & Curriculum Alignment

Our district team worked hard to refine our administrative and instructional roadmaps. A Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) Goal is a multi-year academic plan developed by staff, administration, and community stakeholders using district-wide assessment data to focus resources on specific learning outcomes.

- **Continuous Improvement Goal:** Within the district's five-year Continuous Improvement Process cycle, student achievement in English Language Arts will improve, as evidenced by a 40% increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations on NSCAS-ELA and district benchmark assessments through consistent implementation of the Marzano Instructional Model, a systematic MTSS framework, and High Reliability Schools instructional practices.

Complementing our broader CIP is our Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) Goal for Special Education. Developed specifically to identify and address achievement gaps among specialized student populations, this goal utilizes localized subgroup data to implement precise classroom interventions.

- **Targeted SPED Improvement Goal:** To bridge the proficiency gap for students with disabilities, Elba Public Schools will leverage our 78% student growth baseline to move instructional engagement scores from a 1.5 to a 3.0 by 2027, the district will see a measurable increase in SPED students meeting grade-level expectations on NSCAS-ELA through consistent Marzano engagement strategies and CKLA instructional scaffolding.

Both of these targets link directly into our ongoing curriculum overhaul and our reliance on the Marzano Instructional Model. By pairing structured core curricula like CKLA with research-backed Marzano engagement routines and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), our teachers can provide consistent, high-leverage instruction that meets every student right where they are.

We are so proud of the physical, professional, and academic momentum building across Elba Public Schools. With dedicated staff, modern facilities, and clear academic goals in place, this promises to be a transformative year for our school community. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to help every student succeed!

-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.

September 2026

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

NEWS & NOTES



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WRITTEN BY: MR. POTTER

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer filled with time to relax, recharge, and make lasting memories. It is with great excitement that I welcome each of you back to our school for another year of learning, growth, and success.

Our faculty and staff have been working hard to prepare classrooms, plan engaging lessons, and create a safe, welcoming environment where every student can thrive. We are looking forward to partnering with our families to ensure each child reaches their fullest potential.

This year, we encourage every student to:

- Come to school ready to learn each day.
- Show kindness and respect to others.
- Be involved in school activities and events.
- Set goals and work hard to achieve them.
- Never be afraid to ask questions or seek help.

Parents and guardians play an essential role in student success. We encourage you to stay connected by reading school communications, attending events, and maintaining regular communication with your child's teachers. Together, we can make this school year a rewarding experience for every student.

SMALL CLASSES, BIG FUTURES

A new school year brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and shine—let's make it our best year yet!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

— Martin Luther King Jr.



VARSIITY-JV VOLLEYBALL

COACHES: SARAH MORROW, NICOLE FREDRICK & MORGAN MCCLELLAN

Friday, August 14th	Gatorade/Granola Bar Scrimmage	6:00pm
Thursday, August 27th	JV/V Dual @ Elba vs Axtell	5:00 & 6:00pm
Tuesday, September 1st	Triangular @ NE Christian vs Gibbon/NE Christian	6:00 & 7:00pm
Tuesday, September 8th	Triangular @ GI Lutheran vs Riverside/GIL	6:30 & 7:30pm
Saturday, September 12th	Harvard Tournament	10:00am
Tuesday, September 15th	Triangular @ Newman-Grove vs Giltner	5:00pm
Saturday, September 19th	Pleasanton Tournament	9:00am
Tuesday, September 22nd	Triangular @ Elba vs NGSE & High Plains	5:00 & 7:00pm
Thursday, September 24th	Triangular @ Osceola vs Ne Lutheran/Osceola	5:00 & 6:00pm
Monday, September 28th	JV Triangular @ High Plains vs Palmer/HP	5:00 & 6:00pm
Tuesday, September 29th	Quad @ Elba with Wilcox/Hildreth/Silver Lake/Harvard	5:00 & 8:00pm
Thursday, October 1st	Triangular @ Elba vs Fullerton/Palmer (Parents Night)	5:30 & 7:30pm
Tuesday, October 6th	JV/V Dual @ Elba vs Kenesaw	5:00 & 6:00pm
Thursday, October 8th	Triangular @ CV vs Anselmo-Merna/CV	6:30 & 7:30pm
Tuesday, October 13th	Triangular @ Palmer vs Archangels Catholic/Palmer	6:00 & 7:00pm
Thursday, October 15-17	Goldenrod Conference Tournament	TBD
Monday, October 19th	JV/V Triangular @ Elba vs Burwell (Seniors Night)	6:00 & 7:00pm
Monday, October 26th	NSAA Class D2 Sub-Districts	TBD
Tuesday, October 27th	NSAA Class D2 Sub-Districts	TBD
Saturday, October 31st	NSAA Class D2 District Finals	TBD
November 5th-6th-7th	Class D2 State Tournament	TBD

VARSIITY-JV FOOTBALL

COACHES: JEREMY WALTERS & LOGAN SIMMERMAN

Friday, August 28th	Elba vs High Plains Community	3:00pm
Friday, September 4th	Elba @ Harvard/Giltner (Harvard)	7:00pm
Thursday, September 10th	Elba vs Scribner-Snyder (Parents Night)	6:00pm
Friday, September 18th	Elba @ Sumner-Eddyville-Miller	7:00pm
Friday, September 25th	Elba vs Stuart (Homecoming week)	3:00pm
Thursday, October 1st	Elba @ Ansley-Litchfield (Ansley)	7:00pm
Monday, October 12th	Elba JV vs SEM	5:00pm
Thursday, October 15th	Elba vs Riverside (Seniors Night)	7:00pm
Friday, October 23rd	Elba @ Santee	2:00pm
Friday, October 30th	NSAA D6 Football Playoffs 1st Round	TBD
Friday, November 6th	NSAA D6 Football Playoffs Quarterfinals	TBD
Friday, November 13th	NSAA D6 Football Playoff Semifinals	TBD
Friday, November 20th	NSAA D6 State Championship	TBD

JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL

COACHES: TARA KOSMICKI & KAYLA COLFACK

Wednesday, September 2nd	Elba vs Nebraska Christian	3:00pm
Tuesday, September 8th	Elba vs Grand Island Lutheran	4:00pm
Monday, September 11th	Elba @ Archangels Catholic	3:30pm
Saturday, September 26th	Tournament @ GI Lutheran	9:00am
Monday, September 28th	Elba @ Riverside	3:30pm
Thursday, October 1st	Elba vs Fullerton (Parents Night)	3:00pm
Saturday, October 3rd	Tournament @ Silver Lake	11:00am
Tuesday, October 6th	Elba vs Giltner/Harvard	3:00pm
Wednesday, October 14th	Elba vs Central Valley	4:00pm
Monday, October 19th	Elba @ St Edward	4:00pm
Thursday, October 22nd	Elba @ Palmer	4:00pm

JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL

COACHES: JEREMY WALTERS & LOGAN SIMMERMAN

Friday, September 4th	Elba @ Harvard-Giltner (Harvard)	5:30pm
Monday, September 21st	Elba vs Grand Island Lutheran	4:30pm
Monday, October 5th	Elba @ Ansley-Litchfield (Ansley)	5:00pm
Monday, October 12th	Elba vs Sumner-Eddyville-Miller	3:00pm
	Parents Night ^	
Friday, October 23rd	Elba @ Santee	12:00pm

BLUEJAYS
LIVESTREAM

BLUEJAYS
BOUND



ADMISSION

Adults: \$6.00

Children 6 -18: \$5.00

Elba Students: Free

“Earn it”

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR:

LOGAN SIMMERMAN



High School Volleyball



High School Football



Jr High Volleyball



Jr High Football

Counselors Corner

Mr. Jason Folkers

I believe school counseling is about seeing the potential in every student, meeting them where they are, and helping them believe in where they can go.

Contact!



jason.folkers@elbaps.org



308-863-2228



Meet your teacher

Mabuhay! My name is Keith Aubrey Gomez Cristobal from the Pearl of the Orient—the Philippines! I was born and raised in San Mariano, Isabela, in Northern Luzon, where I am known as a country-city girl. I graduated from Philippine Normal University and was fortunately employed by the Department of Education, Schools Division of Isabela, San Mariano 1 District a year later. I worked as a full-time English Language Arts teacher in three public middle schools from August 2012 up to July 2026 within the same district.

I've got two kids named Dos, who is 7 years old, and Ada, who's turning 5 this year. My son has two first names and my daughter has three. They both live with my parents in the Philippines. I traveled almost 9,000 miles away and it was a 10-hour drive by land to reach the airport in our country's capital, Metro Manila, plus three flights (Manila - Tokyo - Dallas - Grand Island) just to get here to Elba. I knooooow... exhausting, right? I mean, exciting!

For those who haven't figured it out yet, I am under the Exchange Visitor Program, so I am here as an exchange cultural teacher! I know this is not the first time Elba Public School has had foreign teachers.

That thought excites me even more, knowing my fellow Filipino kababayans gained a lot of experience from this school. I am thrilled to experience the same, learn more about your culture, and share my rich Filipino heritage!



Ms. Keith

MEET YOUR TEACHER

"My name is Sydne Sims (Endorf). I am originally from the southeast corner of Nebraska and graduated from Meridian Public School. I attended Peru State College and graduated in 2015. That same year I started teaching at Elba Public School and taught in Elba for 4 school years. I met my now husband (Cameron) during my 3rd here, and after my 4th year of teaching at Elba, we moved to Aurora. I taught at Barr Middle School while we were living in Aurora, we got married in 2020, and now have 2 kids (Zeke and Payton). I'm so excited to be back in Elba and look forward to reconnections and new connections!"



MRS. SIMS

Amelia (Spilinek) Retzlaff

Hi Elba family and community! To some this is a

first hello, and to some it's a nice to see you again! I've been working here in Elba off and on since I was a high schooler here in the 90s. I've done everything from Summer crew, to custodial staff, office assistant, Para, substitute teacher (daily and long term), to now an official teacher, in special education. I'm excited to see how much the students I knew have grown and learned, and to get acquainted with those I didn't know before. I've also lived here in Elba off and on a few times, and now make my home here with my husband, our youngest of five children, and a whole collection of pets. I'm sure it's going to be a great year, full of new adventures!



MEET YOUR TEACHER

My name is Cassidy Frey, and I am originally from Guide Rock, Nebraska. Prior to teaching at Elba I spent 2 years working at the USDA and 2 years teaching at Central Valley. I'm excited to begin my first year at Elba as I step into my third year of teaching agricultural education and advising FFA. I earned my bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University and am currently working toward my master's degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which I will complete in August 2027. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy photography, traveling, and attending cattle shows with my family. I look forward to sharing my passion for agriculture and hands on learning with our students and the Elba community.



Miss Frey

My name is Phoebe Bascones, and I am 41 years old. I am the new music teacher here at Elba Public Schools, originally from the beautiful province of Bukidnon in the Philippines. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Music, major in Voice, from Silliman University and my Master's Degree in Music from Liceo de Cagayan University, both in the Philippines. Before coming to Elba, I taught Music at a public school in the Philippines for 10 years. I came to the United States with my daughter, Pia, who is now a 9th-grade student at Elba Public Schools. I am very excited to experience and learn more about the American education system here at Elba Public Schools. I also hope to share the knowledge and experiences I gain here with my colleagues and students back home after I complete my exchange teacher program.



Miss Phoebe

2025-2026 Extra
YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

SALE

\$30

CONTACT DIANE SPILNEK IN THE OFFICE.

FLYER MADE BY GARRETT, CARTER AND JAYDIN

SEPTEMBER 2026

<i>sunday</i>	<i>monday</i>	<i>tuesday</i>	<i>wednesday</i>	<i>thursday</i>	<i>friday</i>	<i>saturday</i>
		1 SCRAMBLED EGGS & SAUSAGE CRISPITO	2 BISCUITS N GRAVY BREADSTICKS & MEET/CHEESE SAUCE	3 MUFFINS STEAK FAJITA BOWL	4 PANCAKES GOULASH	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL	8 CINNAMON ROLL SALISBURY STEAK	9 SAUSAGE/EGG & CHEESE CHICKEN FAJITA	10 SAUSAGE & TOAST SLOPPY JOES	11 FRENCH TOAST CHEESY CHICKEN TATOR TOT CASSEROLE	12
13	14 DONUTS BEEF PATTY	15 SCRAMBLED EGGS SOFT SHELL TACO	16 SAUSAGE EGG & TOAST PHILLY STEAK & CHEESE	17 FRENCH TOAST CHICKEN NUGGETS 1:00 OUT	18 NO SCHOOL	19
20	21 CINNAMON ROLL HAMBURGER	22 BREAKFAST BURRITO WALKING TACO	23 BANANA BREAD HAM PATTY	24 PANCAKES SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 LONG JOHNS CHICKEN PATTY	29 SCRAMBLED EGGS CRISPITO	30 MUFFINS CORN DOGS			

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.