

219 Ave D West  
P.O. Box 499  
McClusky, ND  
58463  
701-363-2470

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**FYI:**

Please check out the school website at:  
<http://www.mcclusky.k12.nd.us/9>

The power school site at:  
<https://mcclusky.ps.state.nd.us/public>

**Reminders:**

**Last day of School for the Year is December 21**

**School Resumes after the break on January 2, 2019**

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!**

**THE MISSION...**

... Of the McClusky Public School and community is to empower all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to meet the challenges of our changing world.

Our vision is...

**WE EXPECT SUCCESS**

# MSN

## McClusky School News

Dale Ekstrom-Superintendent  
Sarah Beck-Principal  
Andrea Lauer-Business Manager

### News and Reminders from Administration to Students and Parents:

- Parents and Students – Remember to bring proper **clothing for PE and outside recess** in both the elementary and high school. Boots and street shoes are not allowed on the gym floor during PE. Clothing can stay at the school on a weekly basis. After a week, they should be washed and returned. Continuing, socks, snow pants, boots, gloves, scarves, and winter coats should be worn on the bus and during recess at the elementary.
- Parents – Remember to **pay your child's lunch account** balance. If the account balance is not paid, your child will receive an alternative meal. An email/letter, text, and/or phone call is sent when lunch balances are in the negative.
- Parents – Please call before 2 PM or provide a written note for your child to have **alternate transportation arrangements**. If a written note or phone call is not received, your child will ride his/her normal bus route. Thanks for your understanding.
- Parents – If your **child(ren) will be absent** please remember to call the office and excuse them as soon as possible. When students are tardy or habitually late, we worry about the safety of your child(ren). Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.
- Parents and Students – Please, for safety reasons, **do not drive between the busses** when they are loading and unloading children at both the high school and elementary. This is when and where accidents happen. Again, do not drive between or pass busses when they are loading and unloading students.
- Parents and Students – The **end of quarter two and semester one** is January 8. Work with teachers on grades and make sure you turn assignments in on time. All online classes must be complete before the end of the quarter.
- Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents – **Dual credit and financial aid informational meetings** for parents and students has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 16. Dual credit information will be presented from 3:30 to 4:30 PM with financial aid information from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in the high school home economics room. All students grades 9-12 are invited to attend. Financial aid information will be directed mostly to juniors and seniors, whereas, dual credit information will be directed to everyone. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are able to enroll in dual credit classes, if or when it fits into their schedule after meeting the graduation requirements set forth by the McClusky School Board. Please attend if you have any questions.
- Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents – There is **no school for students** January 21. Faculty and staff will be engaged in professional development January 21 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- Staff, Students, Parents, and Community – An update to the Student Parent Handbook (page 70) was discussed and approved at the school board meeting Wednesday, December 13. The following Noon Hour Rules - Open Campus will read: "Upon returning from lunch, the high school students are to remain in the high school commons/locker area. If students bring their lunch from an establishment back to school, they are required to stay in the commons/locker area to eat and must clean up after themselves. Those students who choose to remain in the high school during noon hour/lunch are to stay in the commons/locker area. A high school staff member will be assigned by the principal to monitor the commons/locker area during the lunch period."

## McClusky FFA Prepares for Winter CDEs.

McClusky FFA Reporter  
Baleigh Ripplinger

The McClusky FFA Chapter will travel to Bismarck the first weekend in January for the Winter Leadership Conference (WLC). The North Dakota State Officers will also be there to speak about practicing professionalism, working smarter, and overall confidence. This will include our own McClusky FFA member, Lucas Rath, the ND State Sentinel. Our members will attend three different workshop sessions designed for specific age groups. Session 101 is made up of 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders and covers the basics to encourage students to become involved in Winter CDEs. Session 212, the temperature at which water boils, is designed for sophomores with the idea of taking students to the “boiling” point of leadership. Session 360, will take students the full circle around leadership and is designed for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Following a weekend of learning about leadership, the McClusky FFA will begin to apply those lessons toward the Winter CDEs. Members may compete in Career Development Events covering different job skills. Students participate in events such as: agronomy, livestock judging, agricultural sales, small animal care, and the environmental natural resources contest. Winter CDE practice and contests begin in January 2019.



2018 CDE McClusky FFA Chapter

Left to right back row: Jacob Strobel, Nick Richter, Carson Houser, Lucas Rath, Cole Felchle, and Jon Strobel.  
Left to right front row: Megan Jerkovich, Brook Steichen, Shelby Faul, Baleigh Ripplinger, Maria Steichen, Karleigh Baker, and Kaitlyn Haux.

## Stem Activity



Seventh through tenth grade girls attended a Girls in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) event presented by the Missouri River Education Cooperative and Missouri River Area Career and Technical Center in Bismarck Wednesday, December 5. Zoe Bundy, an eighth-grade student, entrepreneur, and creator of Brainy Ladies, addressed those in attendance. She spoke about the need for women to enter a STEM related career. Students also toured Basin Electric and Dakota Carrier Network where they heard from women in STEM careers such as aviation, help desk support, and fiber optics. Finally, students engineered, built, and flew drones as their last activity during the STEM event. Students had a wonderful time and enjoyed the new learning experience!

### Student Council

By Ms. Potts

McClusky Student Council recently attended the annual North Dakota State Student Council Convention on December 9-11<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was *Climbing our Way to the Top*. Attending this year were Jeff Laib, Carson Houser, Megan Jerkovich, Kassidee Logsdon, Jaxston Hausauer, and Cole Felchle. Once again, the convention was well attended with over 1,400 delegates.

Our own Megan ran for state officer – the first since I've been adviser! She did a nice job but didn't get the position. We learned a lot and took many notes to better serve the next candidate.

The members attended workshops and heard several speakers including Senator-elect Cramer. A group favorite was the return speaker, Stu Saunders. He is a Canadian who speaks all over the world to youth. He is the founder and Executive Director of Youth Leadership Camps Canada (YLCC) which has grown since its founding in 1992 to include several other organizations.

We anticipate attending the spring convention in April with our junior high student council members. Parents of delegates will receive information about the convention closer to April. This will include costs to be covered by family and a permission slip.

### Social Studies

Mr. Senske

As semester one of the school year approaches its end, I find myself yet again amazed at how quickly it has passed. I blame the mild weather as the culprit for not allowing myself to get into full Christmas spirit yet and allowing the season to sneak up on me! However, productivity and projects have done their part in the Social Studies classroom to help the time fly by as well.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade United States History students recently strapped on their Colonial and British troop boots with a reenactment of the encounters at Lexington and Concord. It was a fine display of creativity and expression that assisted in the learning of the beginning of the American Revolution. The students will continue next year with the Revolutionary War. The Sophomores have been cruising through chapters in World History on the early Muslim and Southeast Asian Empires. They will start the new semester off with chapters on the Enlightenment, Scientific Revolution, and both the American and French Revolutions. Hopefully no one loses their head courtesy of Madame La Guillotine. The Juniors have been pursuing the topics of urbanization, immigration, the politics of the Gilded Age and segregation. The Seniors are currently preparing to take the Civics Exam as well as conducting polls in the school. The Civics Exam is a test comprised of 100 civics related questions ranging from the contents of the United States Constitution to U.S. geography and political figures. A passing grade of 70% is required to graduate. The polls they have been conducting will be processed and analyzed and the students will have to give a final presentation to the class on their findings.

If the fall semester was able to go this fast, I can hardly imagine what the busy spring will have in store for us! For now, I'm hoping for a little snow and a calm cozy winter. I Hope you all have a wonderful holiday break!

### Blessings in the New Year

Brenda L. Schaefer English 7-12 and HS Librarian

Welcome to the New Year and to second semester! Change is inevitable; but change for the better is encouraging if we embrace it. I look at our seniors who are getting ready to go out into the world and I wonder if we have succeeded in helping them become well-rounded students, but more importantly, well-rounded citizens of our school, our town, and our state. The vision of our school is: “We expect success.” Then my wish for all students at McClusky High School is that they find whatever degree of success comes proportionally to their level of effort and imagination.

I believe that students will rise to our level of expectation—and my expectations and hopes focus more on each student understanding his or her own strengths, being willing to work and develop the weaknesses to the point where, if they haven’t become strengths they are at least minimalized to help each student find some balance in all aspects of his or her life. In my mind I see one student becoming a nurse, another a mechanic, another a game inventor, another an agronomist, another a teacher, a preacher, even Governor of North Dakota or even a President of the United States.

My hope is that our students find new ways to solve old problems, learn how to envision a project to reality, and use ingenuity to make the world a better place to live for all people, not just in the tiny box of North Dakota. Sometimes I know students believe they will never use literature or grammar in real life; my hope is that they will allow a story, a book, or a poem inspire them to reach further than they have ever reached before. I will never give up hope that they find that reading *Romeo and Juliet* or *Macbeth* will show them that there is a right and wrong way to love or to feud or to compromise and find peace.

May the New Year be full of peace, joy, and laughter—and may you find the answer to the problem, the correct form of the “their/there/they’re” to use on a sign, the right punctuation to get your point across without all the letters capitalized, and plenty of blessings overflowing in the minds of our students and your children in the coming year!

### Pep Talk

By Ms. Logsdon

I say this every month but where did December go? Happy Holidays and especially Happy 2019!!! Pep club had some fun Christmas activities again for 2018. At the time this article was written though, I do not have the results of the door decorating competition. I have, however, seen some really cute doors at the elementary school already!!

JHGBB just ended their season this past week. They really could have benefited from having a full-time coach. This will be on the agenda for next week’s co-op meeting. The co-op will also be discussing the possibility of combining for all sports with Underwood and Turtle Lake. We could possibly be the McLean County Cougars for all sports. If you would like to share your opinion about this, please call me or email me your concerns. Here’s to a fantastic 2019 everyone!!

**COUNSELING CORNER:**

Lauri Logsdon

**TROUBLED TEEN WARNING SIGNS AND RISK FACTORS**

Do you get the feeling that your teen is dealing with behavioral or emotional problems beyond the scope of what most teenagers deal with? Every teen will have struggles, but it is your job as a parent to determine if the issues your teen is facing have reached a point where intervention is necessary. Try not to compare your child to others, but rather assess based on what you know of your child. Are they acting in a way that is putting themselves and/or those around them at risk?

**Extreme Moods**

Teens are going to be moody. Their bodies and hormones are changing, and this is natural, but extreme fits of anger, long bouts of sadness, seeming hatred towards family members and a consistently disrespectful attitude are perhaps warning signs that something deeper is going on. Pay attention to your teen's mood swings to try to determine what some of their "triggers" are. If the extreme moods continue for months in the absence of logical triggers, it may be time to explore the possibility of a mental health disorder or more complex behavioral problem.

**Unexplained Amounts of Money:**

Teens living a secret lifestyle may seem to lose money or valuables very quickly, as they trade it for drugs or alcohol. As a parent or caregiver, be present in your child's life. You should always know what your teen is spending their money on. If they have a job, and never have money, there is something up!! Don't hesitate, investigate.

**New Friends:**

When your child enters middle school and high school they will inevitably meet new friends. This is good. But is your teen changing their behavior, appearance, or values to fit in with a new group of friends? This could be a sign of unhealthy or dangerous friendships, especially if the group your child is trying to fit in with seems to have questionable values.

**Self-harm**

Are there signs that your teen is cutting, burning or in any way mutilating themselves physically? If so, get help now. This is a common precursor of violent or suicidal behavior. This is not a warning sign that should be taken lightly!

**Consistent Dishonesty:**

Lying once to go to a party is one thing, but consistently lying about where they have been and who they have been with may be a sign that your teen is headed down a dangerous path. Clearly there is a reason they don't want you as the parent to know where they've been. When you catch them in a lie, try to get to the bottom of what they were trying to hide

**No Remorse for Actions**

This is a big one. All teens will make mistakes—some small, some big. But how do they react when they are caught? A teen that shows no remorse or guilt for their mistakes has crossed a dangerous line. If your teen is blatantly defying the rules you have laid out and doesn't seem to care if they get caught, these are serious warning signs. It is definitely time to seek help.

**My personal advice:** Make an effort to REALLY be in your child's life. Know who their friends are. Be the house they all want to hang out at. Know what music and shows they like on Netflix. (You don't have to like their music and shows, but their tastes tell us a lot about who they are.) Make time for them when it seems like you have none. (When you continually dismiss a child, they will go somewhere else for attention.) Listen to them and love them unconditionally!!