



# STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Superintendent's Message from Mrs. Dottie Heusman

The Community Engagement Meeting on March 4 had over 60 participants. The information from this meeting along with parent, student, and staff surveys will be compiled and used to help the Board of Education determine next steps for our District. It was evident at this meeting that the participants have a vested interest in Sterling Public Schools and are proud of the accomplishments that have occurred. However, we never want to stay stagnant. We want to continue to improve in all facets and help our students achieve at higher levels. Look for more information to be shared in future newsletters after all the data has been collected.

In recent months the Board of Education has had conversations with a sub-committee of the Freeman Public School's Board and with the Superintendent of the JCC School District. The JCC Superintendent presented information to the entire board at a regular board meeting about the facilities at the Cook and Tecumseh site and what their plans were for the future. The board listened to this information and thanked him for sharing. The board took no action on being involved in this process at JCC. The board has not instructed me to add this to our agenda for any future discussions at this time.

The Freeman and Sterling board sub-committee meeting focused on the possibility of cooping some sports for the 2019-2020 school year. Freeman is the smallest Class C School playing softball independently without cooping and they would like to change this. Because softball is a female sport we needed to offer a male sport so wrestling was discussed. The Sterling sub-committee members wanted the Freeman board to consider having a coop for Junior High Football. The Freeman board was not in support of this unless we were looking at combining our football teams at all levels, junior high and high school. The Sterling sub-committee weighed the pros and cons in doing a coop for softball and wrestling and shared this information with the entire board. Based on this information the board has decided it is not in the best interests of our current students to do a coop for softball and wrestling. The board does not want our own programs to suffer because we are sending students to another district for competition. I appreciate both boards' work to consider all the possibilities for our kids.

### Board of Education News for March 2019

The BOE met on Monday, 3-18-19 for the monthly meeting. Board Member Vollman was unable to attend.

Items discussed/Action taken:

- Mrs. Salberg & Mrs. A. Heusman presented information to the board in regards to the work of the Crisis Team.
- Board Committee Reports were given by Harms, Karr & Wirthele on NRCSA Legislative Conference, Wirthele on President's Retreat, and Horstman and Wirthele on Subcommittee meeting with Freeman.
- The board approved the consent agenda as presented which included three volunteers for the track team; Melissa Boldt, Austin Buss & Micah Erickson
- Admin Reports included information on 80 day vehicle inspections, bus routes, bus emblems, Quiz Bowl Update, Mudecas Music Contests, State BB 4th Place and Sportsmanship Award, options for Web Hosting for the District, JH FB for the 2019-2020 season which will be at Sterling, ESU #4 Meeting to discuss services for next year, and teacher contracts.
- Several motions were passed for ESU #4 services next year including technology support, Core Services, and Special Education Services.
- The Board approved an increase to the special education FTE for next year by .25
- The Board reviewed Supt. Heusman's recommendations in regards to make up days due to snow. This year we have missed 6 1/2 days of school. Make up days for students will be Monday 4-22, Friday 5-17 pm, Monday 5-20 all day and Tuesday 5-21 all day. Make up contract days for staff will be Thursday 2-28 (state bb), Monday 4-22, Monday 5-20 thru Thursday 5-23 full days and Friday 5-24 (AM only). Trainings will occur on May 22, 23 & 24 with work time in classrooms included.
- The next scheduled Board Meeting is Monday, April 15 @ 7 pm



# From the Principal's Desk by Mr. Harrington

## Senior Parent Reminders

At the start of the 2015-16 school year, the Sterling Board of Education adopted revised graduation requirements which now include a community service piece. All incoming 9th grade students will need to perform a minimum of 20 hours of community service in order to fulfill the graduation requirements. These community service hours must be voluntary, but they may also be used in conjunction with other school organizations, so long as that is approved by the sponsors of those organizations. All forms need to be turned in to the Principal and all forms must include a date, time served, a brief description, and a signature by both the student and supervisor/sponsor. The supervisor/sponsor cannot be a family member.

Also, if you plan to purchase your senior student's MacBook, please plan to do so by May 10. Payments can be made anytime now and through installments or in full. The price is \$900 and includes the laptop, power cord, snap-on case, and 2 years of AppleCare. I will have more details as we get closer to the seniors last day. If you have any questions please let me know!

## April Events

We have a multitude of events going on in April. All juniors will take the ACT and all sophomores will take the pre-ACT on April 2. State conventions of FFA, FBLA, and Skills USA will have many of our students competing against other students from across the state. The school will conduct another lockdown drill during the week of April 8-12 to test and review our emergency procedures. Mrs. Salberg will once again be having her Spanish Fiesta on April 24th to celebrate Spanish culture. Dr. Wusk and the freshmen will be performing their annual wax museum on the afternoon of April 25th and the elementary will be having their spring vocal concert on the evening of April 29th.

As always, you can follow all of the school happenings by liking the school's Facebook page and by following us on twitter at the handle @spsjetpride. If you have a question on anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school or talk to me at school events. **Go Jets!**

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## What is Title?

Title 1 is a federally funded program designed to work with children that need an extra boost with their reading skills. Sterling Public Schools is a school-wide Title school. We are able to receive additional training, resources, programs, and staffing to benefit all reading groups, from below to above grade level. Having a school-wide status helps us to assist all of our students and enhance our reading program as a whole. This means any student who could benefit from additional help using Title 1 resources, whether for a two-week skills group or a year-long remediation plan, will receive the help needed.

Funding for our program is based on the percentage of families that apply for free and reduced lunches. Even if our families choose not to participate in the free and reduced lunch program, the application goes toward our funding.

Children who score below grade level on the NSCAS, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark, DIBELS, MAP growth, or on other state and district assessments and are referred by the classroom teacher qualify to receive Title 1 services. Once these students are identified, the students are instructed in small groups according to their needs and strengths in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. This placement is reviewed regularly and children come into and out of the program based on their needs.

Parental involvement is an important component of the Title 1 program. Title 1 helps parents and children develop successful reading habits both in school and at home. Parents have a right to be involved in planning their child's education, so Title 1 teachers encourage involvement from families of children receiving our services. Working together we can promote a successful educational experience. - Mrs. Sara Hier



## Jet News

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class has just wrapped up a challenging math unit of fractions. These hard workers have learned how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa using the strategy M.A.D. While converting mixed number and improper fractions, they have learned to simplify fractions by finding common factors of numbers. In the final week, the students accomplished finding a common denominator by locating the least common multiple of each denominator.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team has begun to develop our very own newscast called "Jet News" using our new green screen. Each broadcast will have multiple segments including the weather, weekly updates, and featured student and teacher of the week to name a few. This broadcast really brings out the creativity and ideas of our bright students. Be on the lookout for the next newscast on the school's social media page SOON!

-Mr. Lempka

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## Dear Sterling FFA Supporter,

The school year is winding down at a rapid pace, at times seemingly too quickly. Currently, the Sterling FFA Chapter is gearing up for the Year End Banquet celebration. The banquet and dinner will be held **Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30pm** at Sterling Public School in the high school gym. Supporters and members of FFA over the past year will be recognized for their help and achievement.

The Sterling FFA Chapter would like thank you for your help over the past year. Your support has helped us become an active chapter that gives the best opportunities to students.

The FFA members will be serving a meal that features pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, salads, and desserts. We'd like to invite you to help us celebrate our accomplishments from the 2018-19 school year.

*Please RSVP to let us know if you can attend by calling 402-866-4761 ext. 128 or email [tschultz@sterlingpublicschools.com](mailto:tschultz@sterlingpublicschools.com).*

We thank you for your support of our students at Sterling High School. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Sincerely,

Taylor Schultz

Sterling Agricultural Education Instructor

Chapter FFA Advisor





## Science Department Update...

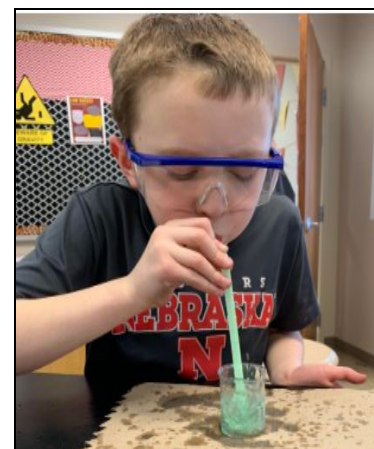
In 2017, the adoption of Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science kick-started a shift in science instruction throughout the state. These new standards ask all students in grades K-12 to gather, analyze, and communicate core ideas while also fluidly integrating science and engineering practices. Our Jet science students have embraced this new shift and continue to grow in their science skills every day. The standards really emphasize the importance of shifting from "learning about" science to "figuring out" content.



This shift also allows for other content areas to collaborate and create robust learning opportunities for our students. This spring Mrs. Rumsey created opportunities for elementary students to engage in science practices with the Anatomy and Physiology class. Elementary students read Charlotte the Scientist is Squished by Camille Andros in library class then engaged in science activities led by the high school students pertaining to respiration and the human body. It was a fantastic opportunity to highlight our younger students' skills while also showcasing the understanding our upper-level students have acquired.

With warmer weather finally tipping its hat, Biology and Intro to Ag students will begin collecting data as part of the University of Nebraska's "Know Your Well" project. Students will be out in the field analyzing drinking water in our area. This unique opportunity allows for community partnership and real, practical experience with our local natural resources. Look for our updates as we take our science classroom to the field!

It's always a great day to be a science geeky Jet! --Mrs. Laura Goracke







**MAKE UP DAYS:** Due to missed days of school this year, the following have been added to the 2018-19 school year calendar.

**SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION ON:**

Monday, April 22 - Full day

Friday, May 17 - Full day

Monday, May 20 - Full day

Tuesday, May 21 - Full day



## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### MUDECAS MUSIC CONTEST

**Sterling Choir:** Division I

**Sterling Band:** Division II

**Solo/Small Groups:**

-8 Division I ratings

-5 Division II ratings

### JH Pioneer Quiz Bowl

Jesus, Trenton, Collin, and Lauren placed 3rd overall out of 20 teams.

Trenton, Jesus, Andrew, and Collin also placed 1st in the Carolina Bracket at Freeman.

### Peru State Math Competition

**Geometry Team:**

Belle Haner - 1st in small school division, 1st out of 29

Kaity Wusk - 3rd out of small school division, 9th out of 29

Bianca Gonzalez - 5th out of small school division, 13th out of 29

1st place Geometry team and received 3rd in the quiz bowl where all teams regardless of school size competed.

**Algebra Team:**

Diego Sterkel - 3rd in small school division, 3rd out of 29

Cameron VanGroningen - 5th in small school division, 11th out of 29 Algebra

Colby Thies - 10th in small school division.

1st place in the quiz bowl where all teams regardless of school size competed.

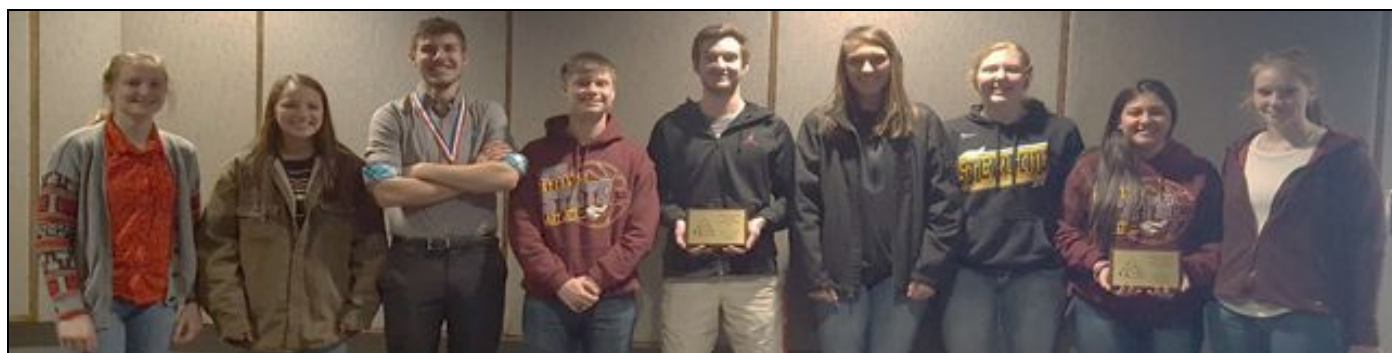
**Pre-Calculus:**

Nicole Harms - 4th in small school division.

Caleb Dolbow - 6th in small school division.

Malayna Wingert - 8th in small school division.

They were also the 1st place Pre-Calculus team.





## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### **LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR**

All-State

2nd Team: Colby Thies

Honorable Mention: Carly Wenzl  
& Malayna Wingert

### State Basketball All-Tournament Team

Colby Thies

### **OMAHA WORLD HERALD**

Class D-2

2nd Team: Colby Thies

Honorable Mention: Carly Wenzl  
& Malayna Wingert

### **JANE WHITE ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM - MUDECAS**

Colby Thies & Carly Wenzl

Honorable Mention: Sydney Huls  
& Malayna Wingert

### **PIONEER ALL-CONFERENCE**

1st Team: Colby Thies

2nd Team: Carly Wenzl

Honorable Mention: Malayna Wingert

## **NSAA ACADEMIC ALL-STATE**

### **Football**

Logan Jasa & Cameron VanGroningen

### **Play Production**

Sydney Huls & Cameron VanGroningen

### **Volleyball**

Nicole Harms & Malayna Wingert

## **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### **LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR**

All-State

Honorable Mention: Trace Dirks,  
Caleb Dolbow, & Logan Jasa

### **OMAHA WORLD HERALD**

Class D-2

Honorable Mention: Logan Jasa

### **JANE WHITE ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM - MUDECAS**

Honorable Mention: Logan Jasa

### **PIONEER ALL-CONFERENCE**

2nd Team: Logan Jasa

3rd Team: Caleb Dolbow

Honorable Mention: Trace Dirks





# Counselor's Corner

Addie Heusman

aheusman@sterlingpublicschools.com

402-866-4761, ext. 113

## JUNIORS...

- By picking your top colleges now, you'll be better prepared to apply for financial aid and college admission early next fall. Start answering these questions...
  - What do you want to study?
  - Explore your [career interests](#) and then research colleges that offer programs in areas you may want to pursue. Use college selection tools like [College Profiles](#) at EducationQuest.org.
  - What kinds of school do you want to attend?
  - Do you prefer a large university or a small college? Are you interested in a community college? What kind of student/teacher ratio do you want?
  - Where do you want to go to college? Is location important?
  - Do you want to live close to home or far away? Do you want to be in a major city or a small town? How big of a factor is out-of-state or private school tuition? If you want to go out of state, investigate programs like [Midwest Student Exchange Program](#) which may provide discounted tuition.
- Spring is a great time to schedule college visits while classes are still in session! You can take up to 3 college visits during your junior and senior years at Sterling.

## TRANSITION TO COLLEGE...

- This program provides resources to parents and students regarding the transition to college. There are six interactive lessons that we are planning to offer throughout the school year to our 10th-12th grade families. Some meetings require only parents and some require both students and parents to attend in order to initiate dialogue that might not otherwise be started. We started the program in February and are only able to hold the first three lessons this Spring. Starting in the 2019-20 school year, we will hold all 6 lessons each year. Our final meeting this year will be **Lesson 3: College costs held on April 8 from 6:30 - 8:30.**

- Lesson 1: Apply to College
- Lesson 2: Money Matters
- Lesson 3: College Costs (both parent and student)**
- Lesson 4: The Social-Emotional Transition
- Lesson 5: Adapting and Overcoming Challenges
- Lesson 6: Succeeding Academically

## AREA COLLEGE FAIRS...

- Talk to representatives from colleges across the state, region, and nation during upcoming college fairs.
  - [Omaha Area College Fair](#) – Sunday, April 14, 1-3 p.m., University of Nebraska at Omaha Sapp Fieldhouse
  - [Lincoln Area College Fair](#) – Sunday, April 28, 1-3 p.m., Southeast Community College, 8800 O Street
  - Before you attend, get a barcode at [NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](#). Print the barcode (or download it to your smartphone) and take it to the fair so college reps can scan it.



## APRIL 2019 MENUS

April 1-5	
<b>Monday</b>	Breakfast Pizza Bites OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Quesadilla, Chips & Salsa, Green Beans, Apple Churro
<b>Tuesday</b>	Strawberry Banana Smoothie, Granola Bar OR WG Cereal/Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Tacos, Corn, Celery w/ PB, Mandarin Oranges
<b>Wednesday</b>	WG Cereal, WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Potato Bake, Ham Salad or Tuna Salad Sandwich, String Cheese, Applesauce
<b>Thursday</b>	Waffle, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/Sausage Link, Fruit/Juice, Milk Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Peas, Peaches
<b>Friday</b>	Cheese Omelet, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Fish Nuggets/Fish Squares, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Pears, Brownies
April 8-12	
<b>Monday</b>	WG Cereal, Breakfast Cookie OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Breakfast for Lunch, Pears
<b>Tuesday</b>	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Sweet & Sour Chicken, Egg Roll, WG Rice, Fortune Cookie, Applesauce
<b>Wednesday</b>	WG Pancake, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/Sausage Link, Fruit/Juice, Milk Nachos w/ Cheese Sauce or Bean Dip, Corn, Celery w/ PB, Peaches
<b>Thursday</b>	Breakfast Tornado OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Ham Patty on WG Bun, Mixed Vegetables, Tator Gems and/or Swt. Tator Gems, Mandarin Oranges
<b>Friday</b>	WG Donut OR WG Cereal/Granola Bar, Fruit/Juice, Milk Cheese Quesadilla, Green Beans, WG Rice, Pineapple Tidbits
April 15-19	
<b>Monday</b>	Breakfast Bar OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Hamburger, FF and/or Swt. FF, Peas, Applesauce
<b>Tuesday</b>	Yogurt Parfait OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Noodle Soup, PB&J Sandwich, Celery w/ PB, Peaches
<b>Wednesday</b>	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Italian Dunkers, Green Beans, Pineapple Tidbits
<b>Thursday</b>	Breakfast Burrito OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Corn, Jell-O Cake
<b>Friday</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
April 22-26	
<b>Monday</b>	Pancake & Sausage on a stick OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Pizza Crunchers, Mixed Vegetables, Mandarin Oranges
<b>Tuesday</b>	Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas, Pears
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cinnamon Roll, Gogurt OR WG Cereal/Gogurt, Fruit/Juice, Milk Mini Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Hash Brown Bites, Peaches
<b>Thursday</b>	Omelet, WG Toast OR WG Cereal/WG Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk Cook's Choice, Applesauce
<b>Friday</b>	Yogurt Parfait OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Sub Sandwich, Chips, Jell-O, Pineapple Tidbits
April 29-30	
<b>Monday</b>	Breakfast Sliders, WG Muffin OR WG Cereal/WG Muffin, Fruit/Juice, Milk Goulash, Corn, WG Dinner Roll w/ Jelly, Peaches
<b>Tuesday</b>	French Toast Bites, Sausage Link OR WG Cereal/Sausage Link, Fruit/Juice, Milk Chicken Patty on WG Bun, FF and/or Swt. FF, Strawberry Applesauce
<p><b>Menus are subject to change without notice - USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer</b>  <b>A variety of fruits and vegetables are offered with every meal - Milk is served with every meal</b>  <b>ALTERNATE ENTREE OFFERED DAILY: COLD SANDWICH OR CHEF SALAD</b></p>	





# APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		ACT Testing - Juniors	<b>EARLY OUT</b> 1:37PM Mustang HS Track Invite @ Friend - 10AM	HTRS JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 9AM	Meridian JH Honor Band/Choir	MUDECAS JH Track @ Tecumseh - 9AM
				<b>FBLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION @ OMAHA</b>		
				<b>STATE FFA CONVENTION @ LINCOLN</b>		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	MUDECAS JH Quiz Bowl @ Southern - 1PM Transition to College Meeting - 6:30-8:30PM	Lewiston HS Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 9:30AM		Pawnee City JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 10AM	<b>NO PRESCHOOL</b>	ACT Test Date MUDECAS HS Track @ Freeman - 9AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Blood Drive 12-6PM SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - 7:30PM	Irish HS Track Invite @ Syracuse - 9:30AM	Freeman JH Track Invite @ Adams - 10AM	District Music Contest @ JCC -	<b>NO SCHOOL EASTER BREAK</b>	NHS Trash Pick Up - 8:30AM
				<b>SKILLSUSA STATE CONVENTION @ GRAND ISLAND</b>		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		4th Grade Field Trip to State Capital/Memorial Stadium Pawnee City Invite HS Track @ Pawnee City - 9AM	Lewiston JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 9AM Spanish Fiesta - Sterling 8AM-1PM	Farm Safety Day - 4th & 5th Grade 9th Grade Wax Museum - 2:45PM HS Spring Concert - 7PM in the gym	Middle School Dance	Pioneer Conference HS Track @ Pawnee City - 9AM
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Elementary Music Concert - 7PM in the gym	Freeman HS Track Invite @ Adams - 9AM		FFA Banquet	<b>NO PRESCHOOL</b>	Pioneer Conference JH Track @ Tri-County - 9AM

Calendar is subject to change. Please check the Weekly Bulletin, Facebook, or Google Calendar on the school website: [www.sterlingjets.org](http://www.sterlingjets.org) for the most up-to-date info. Thank you!



**STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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Website: [www.sterlingjets.org](http://www.sterlingjets.org)

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dottie Heusman

**PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL**

Scott Harrington

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Brent Heusman

**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

Addie Heusman



**2019 Sterling High  
Alumni Banquet**

**Sterling High School Gymnasium**

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**

**5:00 p.m. Social Time | 5:30 p.m. Banquet**

**Pre-registration tickets \$16; Tickets at the door \$20**

See the school website for more details: [www.sterlingjets.org](http://www.sterlingjets.org)

**6TH Grade  
Science Fair -  
APRIL 26**