

Chief Editor: Gracie-Marie Prock

Team: Jordyn Blankenship, Macie Wainscott, Lynn Landeros, Haley Pray, Lilly Chrisman

Barks N' Growls

From the Admin's Desk:



As the final bell rings on the 2025-2026 school year, I find myself filled with immense pride and gratitude. It has been a year of remarkable achievements, profound growth, and countless memorable moments. Together, we have empowered our students to thrive, and I want to thank each of you—families, staff, students, and community partners—for your dedication to excellence. Reflecting on our successes this year, our district continued to build a stronger community, one student at a time. Highlights from this year included: ● **Academic Achievements:** Our 2025 School report card was 80.3% which is the highest it has been since 2022. We continue to improve academically. This year we have had Professional Development over Student engagement and will continue with this as one of our goals moving into next year. We will also be focusing on student attendance as well. ● **Student Accomplishments:** Congratulations to our 2026 graduates, they worked hard to get to the finish line. Our sports and activity teams were very successful this year. Our Math Relay Team came in second this year at the GVVC Math relay tournament. We walked away with the GVVC Spelling Bee traveling trophy thanks to our spelling bee placers Nolan Bogart-1st place, Bristol Borland-1st place, Blaise Wainscott-2nd place, LeAnne Lange-3rd place, Charlotte Hastings-2nd place. Our volleyball teams, basketball teams, and football teams had very successful seasons this year. Our FFA team enjoyed successes throughout the year as well. Emmalee Scott and Braydon Siebeneck participated in the Hymax Leadership Academy and Ashton Siebeneck and Kennedy Borland were part of the Hype Leadership Academy. Thanks to all the teachers and coaches and their hard work to make these accomplishments possible. Gratitude to Our Team! I am especially grateful for our educators, support staff, and leadership team. Your passion for learning and commitment to fostering a safe, welcoming environment have made this a truly wonderful place to work and helped create a successful school. Looking Ahead: Summer and Beyond ● **Key Dates for Next Year:** Online School registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 ● **Back to School Bash:** Friday, August 21, 2026 ● **First Day of School:** Tuesday, August 25, 2026. Enjoy a safe, restful, and fun-filled summer. I eagerly await our return in the fall, ready to embark on another exciting year together. Sincerely, David Andrade

Senior Spotlight:

Gracie-Marie Prock, 18, is the daughter of Stephaine and Daryl Ferguson and the late Brandon Prock. She is the sister of many siblings. Her favorite color is pink, and her favorite class is Publications. Gracie-Marie's dream vehicle is a Black 2018 Dodge Ram. Her favorite song is "Traces of You". Her favorite restaurant is Freddy's, and her favorite food is cheeseburgers. Gracie-Marie's hobbies include writing and taking pictures. Her biggest pet peeve is being interrupted. Gracie-Marie plans to go to college after graduating. In 15 years, Gracie-Marie sees herself living happily with children. Her famous last words are "Meow."



Lynn Landeros, 18, is the daughter of Deziree Quiroz and the sister of Navi Quiroz and Tatiana Martinez. Her favorite color is Light lavender, and her favorite class is the EMT classes she attends at Votec. Lynn's dream vehicle is a Charger Scat Pack. Her favorite song is The Spins by Mac Miller. Her favorite restaurant is Chipotle and her favorite food is literally any Mexican food. Lynn's hobbies include studying skills for EMT classes, spending time with the love of her life, and doing all the fun outdoorsy nature things. Her biggest pet peeve is people never shutting up, or people finishing her sentences. Lynn's plans after graduating are working as an EMT for awhile and studying to be a paramedic, or decide within the next few years of life that something else would be worth it. In 15 years, Lynn sees herself as a loving mother and wife, with a very put together life and a stable home, and have a loving environment for her kids. Her famous last words are "I graduated despite the odds and all the alarms I ignored."



Staff Spotlight:

Rachel Gregory, 54, is the wife of Nathan Gregory and the mother of three furbabies: Auggie, Freckles, and Esmerelda. Her favorite color is Kelly green, and her dream car is a 1971 Chevy Nova. Rachel's favorite song is "Almost Home" by MercyMe. Her favorite food is biscuits and gravy, and her favorite restaurant is India Palace. Rachel's hobbies are reading, sewing, and embroidery. Her biggest pet peeve is people interrupting her. Her favorite thing about working here is getting to work with the best students and staff. Rachel sees herself in 15 years, retired, living on her sister's farm with Mr. Gregory, her sister, and her sister's husband. Rachel's famous last words are "That was not a yes or no question."



Jennifer Chambers is the wife of Mr. Chambers and the mother of 2 kiddos. Her favorite color is black, and her dream car is a "Ford Mustang". Jennifer's favorite song is "This is the Stuff" by Francesca Battistelli. Her favorite foods are pasta and pizza, and her famous last words are "I don't want any paperwork."



March Student of the Month

Congrats Students of the Month!

PAISLEY MILLER - Paisley is so deserving of the honor. She is the epitome of both of these character words! Cooperation and respect are often traits that we do not see until children gain maturity. That is not the case with Paisley. She possesses these skills naturally. She is a mild-mannered easy-going student that has never met an enemy and always does her Bulldog best to cooperate during our learning activities. She is a quiet girl, but uses her manners throughout her day. She shows respect to her teachers but also her peers. Paisley is a genuinely kind student that is always willing to cooperate in school and shows respect to everyone she encounters. ~Mrs. West

Paisley is always kind and respectful to her teachers and peers. She easily cooperates with her classmates and she is a joy to have in class.. ~Ms. Burgin

AMELIA BOGART - Amelia is an exemplary student who consistently demonstrates respect and cooperation in all aspects of her work. She shows kindness and consideration toward her peers, teachers, and other adults. Amelia collaborates effectively in group settings and continues to model positive behavior during less structured times, such as recess. Amelia is a consistently outstanding student who demonstrates excellence in all that she does. ~Mrs. Hathcock

Amelia consistently demonstrates cooperation and respect within the classroom and throughout our school. She works well with her peers and teachers by listening carefully, following directions, and actively participating in group activities. Amelia shows respect by using kind words, valuing others' ideas during discussions, and being mindful of classroom expectations. She is considerate of those around her and contributes to a positive, supportive learning environment each day. ~Mrs. Bailey

CHANDLER BORLAND - Chandler Borland is a joy to have in class. She is responsible, always has a smile on her face, and is willing to help others. Chandler is a positive role model and a great choice for Student of the Month. ~Mrs. Trickey

My grades are mostly based around effort. Chandler puts in more than enough effort to consistently get a good grade in my class. She is also in general just a good person that I never have to worry about behavior issues. ~Mr. Duncan

She is cute and deceptively sweet but has a quick and fierce bite, like an adorable Chihuahua. Congratulations! ~Mr. Gregory

I had the privilege of coaching Chandler on the volleyball team this year, and she was such a joy to have. She brings a positive attitude every day and is always quick to encourage the people around her (or just make them laugh). Chandler is the kind of player who makes others better, not just in how she plays, but by how she treats her teammates. She shows genuine respect to her peers and teachers, and you can always count on her to work well with anyone. I'm really proud of her for earning Student of the Month! ~Mr. Bergen

KENNEDY BORLAND - Kennedy Borland consistently gives 100% effort in everything she does. She is a wonderful role model who demonstrates outstanding leadership both in and out of the classroom. Kennedy has a natural ability to create a positive environment wherever she goes, uplifting those around her with her attitude and actions. She is responsible, dependable, and a supportive friend to her peers. Kennedy's dedication and character make her truly deserving of being recognized as Student of the Month. ~Mrs. Trickey

Kennedy is a wonderful student who is respectful to adults and peers. She works hard at everything she does ~Mrs. Hathcock

Kennedy is a great student and one of the smartest and nicest persons you can ever meet. Keep being who you are! ~Mr. Gregory

I've had Kennedy in class since she was in 7th grade, and she has consistently been someone I can count on to give her best effort every day. On top of being a great student, she is respectful, kind, and thoughtful in how she treats others. Kennedy has a quiet way of making the classroom better—she gets along well with everyone and contributes to a positive, respectful environment. It's been really neat to watch her grow over the years, and she is very deserving of Student of the Month! ~Mr. Bergen

Kennedy is funny, bright, and a joy to be around. She is dedicated to excelling at her schoolwork, and she is very intentional at being a good friend. I know that if I ask her to do something, she will make sure it gets done with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. I truly enjoy not only having her in class but also being her class sponsor. ~Mrs. Gregory



February Student of the Month

Congrats to February students of the month!

NATHAN BALES - Nathan exemplifies quiet strength and strong character. He approaches every task with steady determination and gives his best effort, no matter what. His words are always respectful, and I have never heard him speak negatively about anyone. Nathan's kindness, dependability, and consistent effort make him a positive influence in our school. He is well deserving of Student of the Month. ~Mr. Bergen

He may not be in my classes anymore, but he still shows kindness and respect to others. He is a good example of a kind and dependable young man. Keep up the good work and positive attitude! ~Ms. Burgin

Nathan Bales is a kind, dependable, and courteous student. He consistently shows respect for others. Nathan is a young man you can always count on. His polite manner and thoughtful attitude make him a positive presence among his classmates. He treats everyone with consideration and sets a strong example through his kindness. ~Mrs. Gregory

KYOKO SMITH - She always demonstrates kindness to everyone and is a joy to have in class. She is a dependable student and usually turns her work in before it is even due. She is a friend to all. ~Ms. Burgin

Kyoko is very deserving of Student of the Month. She is kind, dependable, and consistently hardworking in everything she does. As her junior high volleyball coach, I had the privilege of watching her be an outstanding teammate who encouraged others and always gave her best effort. Kyoko leads by example both in the classroom and on the court, and we are so proud of her! Congrats on being Student of the Month! ~Mr. Bergen

Kyoko brings such a fun and uplifting energy to class. Her kind-hearted nature makes a positive difference in the classroom, and it shows in the way she interacts with others. She has a creative spirit and is a hard worker who consistently gives her best effort. Her dedication, determination, and positive attitude set a wonderful example. The classroom is brighter and more enjoyable because of the enthusiasm and creativity she brings each day. ~Mr. Duncan

LEANNE LANGE - LeAnne consistently demonstrates kindness and dependability within our classroom and throughout our school community. She treats her peers with respect, includes others in activities, and is always willing to offer help when someone needs support. LeAnne models positive behavior by following expectations, completing her work responsibly, and staying focused on her tasks. I can rely on her to do the right thing even when no one is watching. Her caring heart and strong sense of responsibility make her a wonderful role model for her classmates and a valued member of our school community. ~Mrs. Bailey

I do not know her well, but in passing she is always kind and polite. ~Mrs. West She demonstrates kindness everyday and is always eager to read! ~Ms. Burgin

DAKOTA LIPPERT - Congratulations on being Student of the Month! I am so proud of you! You show kindness every single day. You are helpful to your classmates and make sure that everyone feels included. Your big heart makes our classroom a happier place. You are also someone we can always count on. You follow directions well and do your best work. When I ask for help, you are ready. When there is a job to do, you take it seriously and complete it wholeheartedly. Keep being the kind and amazing student that you are. ~ Mrs. Hester

Dakota is a friendly outgoing student that does his best to include everyone. ~Mrs. West



Sports Pages

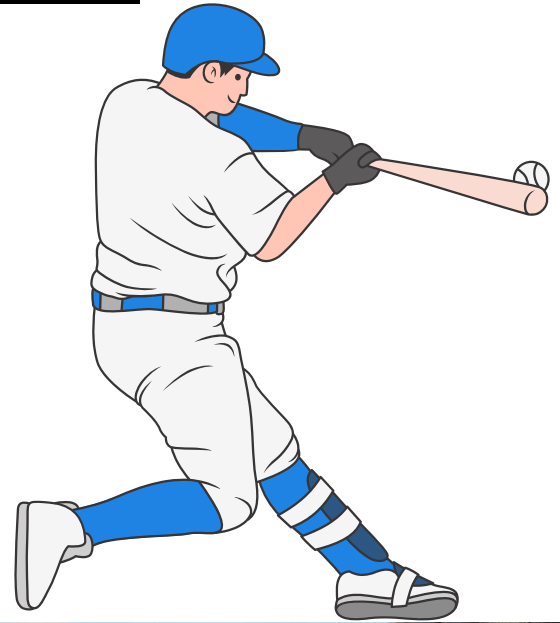
Track



**Track is in full
spring as we fly
through the season!
The athletes are
having fun and
working hard!**



Co-Op Baseball



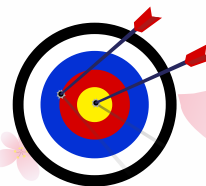
Baseball is having a great season and having lots of fun! Keep the good work up boys!

Counselor's Corner



Sophomores and Juniors recently attended Reality Day in Hume, where they participated in hands-on activities designed to help them prepare for life after high school. Students explored different careers and college pathways, learned how to create and manage a realistic monthly budget, and enjoyed an interactive experience in the planetarium. The day wrapped up with an exciting BMX show that kept everyone engaged and energized. Back at school, we have continued to focus on the character traits of integrity and perseverance, encouraging students to do the right thing even when it's difficult and to keep working toward their goals despite challenges.

Kelsi Bergen



Archery

We had a great season for Archery this year!

Lucas was able to qualify for state and he scored 264 on bullseye & 260 on 3D! Good Job Lucas!!

Enchanting English

College Prep - The Princess Bride - Age of Romance poets

Juniors - Reading "Night" by Eli Wiesel -

Sophomores - Preparing for EOC testing - lots of writing

Freshman - Reading "Where the Red Fern Grows"

Dramatics - Reading "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Pygmalion"

Novels - reading "Pride and Prejudice"





Ballard FFA Celebrates State Success and Upcoming Opportunities

The Ballard FFA chapter has had a busy and successful season, achieving numerous goals and accomplishments. Most recently, members returned from the State FFA Convention with several honors. The Ballard FFA Knowledge Team earned a silver rating while competing against more than 60 teams from across the state. Team members included Aspyn Eidson, Emmalee Scott, Braydon Siebeneck, and Bentley Winter. Their success reflects the many hours of preparation and dedication they invested leading up to the competition. In addition, Ashton Siebeneck and Dayne Greer were both awarded the State FFA Degree, the highest honor an FFA member can receive at the state level. Greer also represented Area 7 and earned a state plaque for his Beef Placement Proficiency. FFA advisor Mrs. Trickey expressed pride in the chapter's hard work and dedication throughout the contest season, noting that the time and effort put in by members did not go unnoticed. Several teams and public speakers also qualified as alternates for state competitions. The chapter will host its annual FFA Banquet on Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m. in the school gym. The event will recognize members for their achievements and celebrate the year's successes. Looking ahead, Ballard FFA members are preparing for a busy summer. Two students, Emmalee Scott and Braydon Siebeneck, have been selected to attend the HYMAX Leadership Academy, which recognizes the top 100 freshmen in the state. Additionally, juniors Kennedy Borland and Ashton Siebeneck have been invited to attend the HYPE Leadership Academy, an honor reserved for the top 30 juniors statewide. Ballard FFA is also reaching out to younger students and families. Parents of students currently in grades 3–6 should watch for information about a three-day Ag Camp, scheduled for June 9–11 at the school. The camp will run for two hours each day, and participants will receive a free T-shirt while enjoying hands-on agricultural activities and learning experiences. With strong accomplishments behind them and exciting opportunities ahead, Ballard FFA continues to grow and make an impact in the community.

The Ballard FFA chapter will host its annual plant sale beginning Friday, May 1 during school hours, and Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will continue on school days starting May 5 and will run until all plants are sold out. The sale will be held at the Ballard greenhouse, located behind the agriculture building. A variety of items will be available, including vegetables, bedding plants, and a limited number of hanging baskets. Purchases may be made by cash or check only. For more information, contact FFA advisor Mrs. Kyleigh Trickey.



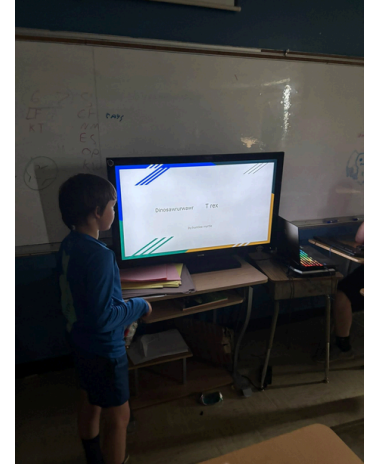
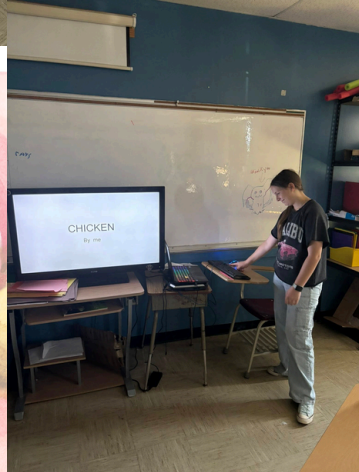
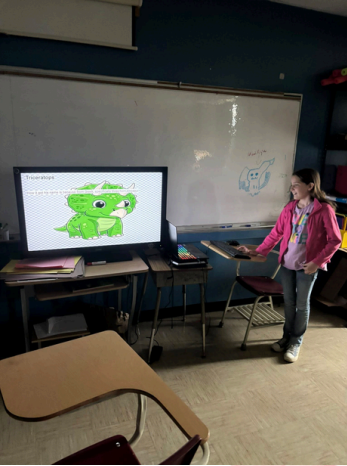
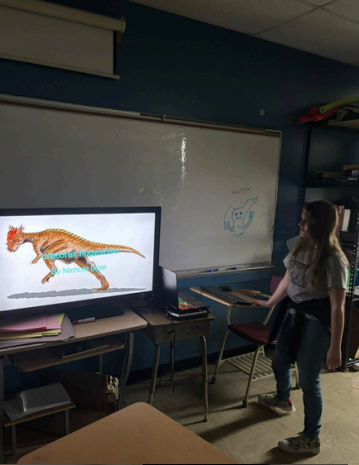
Ballard elementary had so much fun on their field trip to Royals stadium!

ELEMENTARY



Stubborn Sixth

In 6th grade, we are doing NWEA. We are also learning about dinosaur fossils. But besides all of the working my class has been having a great time.



Ablaze Of Art

High School FACS Students Take on the Role of New Parents

Students in Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes are getting a hands-on look at what it takes to care for a baby. Through engaging and interactive lessons, students are learning the responsibilities that come with caring for an infant, ensuring overall well-being. As part of the unit, students are also creating their own personalized baby announcements. This project allows them to explore creativity while practicing real-world skills such as communication and design. In addition, students are studying the developmental stages of babies from birth to 24 months. They are learning how infants grow physically, emotionally, and cognitively during this critical time period. From first smiles to first steps, students are gaining an understanding of the important milestones that shape early childhood development. This unit provides students with valuable life skills and insight into the responsibilities of parenting, preparing them for future roles both inside and outside the classroom.



Math Relays

Ballard R-2 students competed at Bronaugh R-VII school in the annual GVVC Math Relays on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, and represented our school well with several strong finishes in both individual and team competitions.

Individual Medalists

Lucas Crump – 3rd Place, Advanced Math

Xander Menken – 1st Place, Algebra II

Ashton Siebeneck – 2nd Place, Algebra II

Jacob Eidson & Owen Meade – Tied for 3rd Place, Geometry

Aspyn Eidson – 3rd Place, Algebra I

Group Competition Results

1st Place – Algebra I Group: Lily Bergen, Aspyn Eidson, Emmalee Scott, Braydon Siebeneck

2nd Place – Geometry Group: Nathan Bales, Jacob Eidson, Oliver Hon, Owen Meade

2nd Place – Algebra II Group: Kennedy Borland, Xander Menken, Ashton Siebeneck, Macie Wainscott

3rd Place – Advanced Math: Lucas Crump (competing individually)

Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work and excellent performance!

Ballard R-II placed 2nd Overall in the contest, and Mr. Bergen is very proud of all the students who competed!



SALTY SOPHOMORES

The annual Sophomore Dinner went great this year. Everyone showed up and did their part to help out, and lots of people showed up to visit and grab some dinner. We thank the staff for helping as much as they did, especially the lunch ladies and Mrs. Wainscott, as well as Mrs. Eidson. We had lots of customers coming through, all very nice and pleasant. All in all, the dinner was a success and we are excited to see everyone's faces next year.



Teacher's Advice of the Month

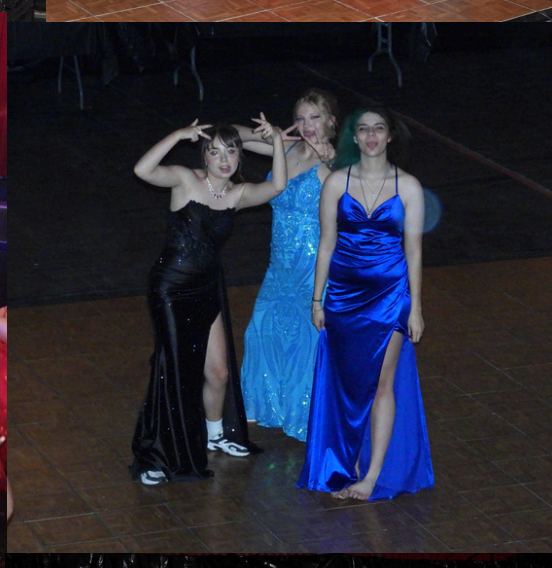
“Small healthy choices today: hydration, movement, and rest; build the stronger version of you tomorrow.” - Coach Schroeder

“Always be mindful of how you treat others and the words you say, you never know what struggles another person is going through - and a few words of encouragement can make all the difference.” - Mr. Gregory

Jaw-Dropping Juniors and Slaying Seniors



The Juniors and Seniors had so much fun at prom and it was such an amazing experience! The Seniors are so thankful for the Juniors for setting up a fun night!!!



FUN PAGE

APRIL Word Search

H N S S B Q S P R I N G O M T
S P A H I A P R I L F O O L S
J D P E R R I R P K A V Y D V
C Y R E D R R N R W U H D B V
Z V I P E U G K U U C P N J S
G X L H Z V L U W L X G Z U U
M B B F L O W E R S H W K N N
B H B U T T E R F L I E S K N
U D C D U V J Y B Y V Y T R Y
N N Q U C X K Y Y L V R E A D
N M K D E A S T E R H O W I B
Y O F M B L C V Z X Q R V N R
O Y I A E R J F V H N O E Y S
F N S R D T M H C Y A S P X M
M S F T B U K E A R T H D A Y

Birds
Bunnies
Sunny
Tricks
Sheep
Easter
Earth Day
Butterflies
April Fools
Spring
Rain
Flowers



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**What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?
They lived happily ever after.**

**What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music?
Hip-hop.**

**What kind of bunny can't hop?
A chocolate bunny.**

