

CONESTOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT PACK

Welcome

Back to School

A big welcome to our new staff

DISTRICT

Ms. Breanna McLaughlin
~ District Secretary

ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Emily Carpenter
~ 4th Grade
Mr. Todd Block
~ 5th Grade
Mrs. Anna Harveson
~ Vocal/Band

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Holly Taylor ~ Administrative Asst.
Mrs. Molly Stieren ~ A.P./Activities Director
Mrs. Jennifer Swerczek ~ Science
Mr. Shaun Brothers ~ Business

Administration

Superintendent
MR. MICHAEL APPLE
(402) 235-2992
(402) 227-2992

Elementary Principal
MR. ERIC DENNIS
(402) 235-2341
(402) 227-3745

Asst. Jr./Sr. High Principal
& Activities Director
MRS. MOLLY STIEREN
(402) 235-2271
(402) 227-3745

Jr./Sr. High Principal
MR. ROB GEISE
(402) 235-2271
(402) 227-3745

Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment
MRS. LISA BERGMAYER
(402) 235-2271
(402) 227-3745

Director of Student Services
MR. NICHOLAS KRAUSE
(402) 235-2271

CONESTOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 104
E. HIGH ST - ELEMENTARY 8404
42ND ST - HIGH SCHOOL P.O. BOX
184 MURRAY, NE 68409
WWW.CONESTOGACOUGARS.ORG

SUPERINTENDENT, MR. MICHAEL APPLE



Parents and Patrons:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year! It has been an exciting and nerve racking past couple of months for all of us here at school. A passage of a school bond which I believe will meet the needs of the students and staff for years into the future along with all the renovations that are currently going on.

Current update on the renovations. All the ceiling in the Senior High was removed along with a majority of all the old supply ductwork. New electrical services to supply the new HVAC system have been installed, along with wiring, ductwork and supply units. Ceiling grid has gone up and the entire school will have a new ceiling up prior to the start of school in August. New cabling to supply internet throughout the school is also currently being wired.

Our only hold up that is off schedule is the delivery of HVAC units that will supply the gym and commons areas. Currently the plan is to utilize temporary units to provide cooling for those areas until the permanent units are installed sometime this fall.

At the end of July the building will be cleaned by the construction company and followed up by school staff who will shampoo carpets and then the reoccupation of the building will begin by cleaning everything prior to those items going back into classrooms. All of this done by August 1, things will be tight but we are planning on school starting on time.

As for the Bond work, currently we are in the fine tuning stages for the final plans. A committee of teachers and board members toured some newer schools in the area to visualize what is wanted and what is not. Feedback will be taken and final designs drafted. I anticipate ground breaking will be in the spring of 2025.

I would like to take a moment and thank all of you for investing in the future of our students and staff. All of us here at Conestoga are deeply appreciative and thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Apple
Superintendent of Schools

All Board of Education Policies
are available on the school district website at www.conestogacougars.org
under the Board of Education tab

POLICY 5052: SCHOOL WELLNESS

The policy is also available in printed form in each building office. The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT IS A LAW!!

All new enrolling students and kindergarten students must provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. There is a thirty day period in which this may occur. Failure to comply shall cause the school district to notify the parents or guardian in writing. If after ten days, compliance has not occurred, the matter shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency. There is an immunity clause protecting schools from civil or criminal liability.

POLICY 5045: STUDENT FEES

The District's general policy is to provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution. The District also provides activities, programs and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide non specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches and sponsors for further regulations.

CHILD FIND FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND 504 ACCOMMODATION PLANS

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year! I want to take the time to remind you that we have an obligation to locate, evaluate and identify any child residing in the District who qualifies for special education services or may require Section 504 accommodations or services. Children who may be eligible for special education services include children with disabilities including autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, developmental delay, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech/language impairment, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment. Children who are eligible for Section 504 accommodations or services include children who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. If you suspect your child has a disability and may need additional support or if you would like more information, please contact the District's Director of Student Services, Nicholas Krause, at 402-235-2271. Best wishes as we start a new school year.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND PHYSICALS

Students enrolling in the school district shall submit proof of immunization against measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, and chicken pox (varicella) as required by law. The student may be admitted provisionally to the school if the student has not yet completed the immunization process but is in the process of doing so.

*Contact the school office for a summary of school immunization rules and regulations. Failure to meet the immunization requirement will be grounds for suspension, expulsion or denial of admission. Students enrolling in preschool, kindergarten, beginner grade, 7th grade or students transferring to any grade in the district from out of state shall have a physical examination by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner within six months prior to the entrance and provide proof of such an examination to the school district.

A physical form stating the results of a physical examination and signed by a physician, physician assistant, or an advance practice registered nurse must be on file before the first day of school at Conestoga Public Schools. The physical exam may be waived in writing. The sports physicals may NOT be waived. Students entering school for the first time, including kindergartners and transfer students from out of state, will be required to provide proof of a vision evaluation taken within six months prior to the student's entrance. The vision evaluation may be waived in writing. Additional information is available from the school office and Parent-Student Handbook, which each student will receive the first day of school.

The District's homeless liaison is Mr. Michael Apple, Superintendent. Students in homeless situations who require assistance should contact the liaison at 402-235-2992 or 402-227-2992 or in person at the Conestoga District Office 8404 42nd Murray, NE 68409

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are currently being accepted for Special education para's (CNA experience is preferred, but not necessary) and in Food Service at both the Elementary and High School locations.

In addition, we are accepting applications for Title 1 Paraprofessionals at the Elementary school.

Interested applicants should visit our school website www.conestogacougars.org or contact the Superintendent's office, 8404 42nd Street, P.O. 184, Murray NE, call 235-2992 or 227-2992 to file an application. Conestoga Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer. A substitute is a person that can be called to help out on specific days.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>

from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of
Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue,
SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider.

CONESTOGA ELEMENTARY

(MURRAY, NEBRASKA)

2024-2025 SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

We recommend all students come with a **full sized book bag & water bottle** to school everyday. Items listed are recommended supplies, followed by suggested items to be donated.

PRESCHOOL

- 1 pkg Pipsqueak skinny markers
- 1 box of Crayola crayons
- 1 box of Kleenex

Suggested Items:

Baby wipes, paper plates, do-a-dot markers

SPECIALS & OTHER DEPARTMENTS

- boxes of tissue/Kleenex

There will be a collection space inside the school near the front office to be shared among Title, Sped, OT/PT, Speech and Specials.

KINDERGARTEN

- 1 blanket/towel
- Headphones (headset style; no earbuds)
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 2 pkgs. of dry erase markers

Suggested Items:

3 glue sticks, 2 boxes of 24 crayons, 1 container of play-dough, 1 pkg of baby wipes, 1 box of markers, 1 pair of scissors. Suggested items by last name-

A-M: paper plates & 1 large bag of M&Ms

N-Z: 1 pkg of white lunch bags with handles & 1 large bag of Skittles

1ST GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 2 boxes of crayons
- 6 glue sticks
- 36 Ticonderoga #2 pencils (sharpened)
- 4 big pink erasers
- 2 boxes of skinny dry erase markers
- 1 fun folder & 2 (3-Pronged Plastic Folders)- 1 green, 1 red
- Headphones (headset style)

Suggested Items:

4 boxes of tissues/Kleenex, 2 magic erasers, 1 large bag of Skittles, M&Ms or Starburst, 1-2 large boxes/bags of individually wrapped class snacks per month

2ND GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of crayons
- 4 glue sticks
- 24 Ticonderoga #2 pencils
-
- 4 big pink erasers
- 1 box of dry erase markers
- 3 folders
- 1 pkg of wide ruled notebook paper
- Headphones (headset style)
- 1 pencil box or bag

Suggested Items:

1 box of gallon ziplock bags, 2 boxes of tissues/Kleenex, 1 pack of pencil top erasers, glue bottles, classroom snacks, extra headphones

CONESTOGA ELEMENTARY

2024-2025 SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

We recommend all students come with a **full sized book bag & water bottle** to school everyday. Items listed are recommended supplies, followed by suggested items to be donated.

3RD GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 2 boxes of markers
- 1 box of crayons
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 pencil box
- 24 Ticonderoga #2 pencils (sharpened)
- 1 big pink eraser
- 1 box of dry erase markers
- 2 plastic folders
- Headphones (headset style)

Suggested Items:

2 boxes of Kleenex, 1 box of Ziplock bags

4TH GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of crayons
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 pencil bag
- 2 red pens
- 1 pkg multicolored highlighters
-
-
-
- 24 Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- 1 pkg of big erasers
- 8 dry erase markers
- 7 folders
- Headphones (headset style)
- 1 pkg of wide ruled notebook paper
- 1 pkg 3x5 notecards
- 5 1-subject notebooks

Suggested Items:

2 boxes of Kleenex, 1 box of Ziplock bags (quart/gallon), post-it notes, black felt tip pens, black sharpies

5TH GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of crayons
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 pencil bag
- 3 colored ink pens
- 3 highlighters
-
-
- 24 Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- 1 pkg of big erasers
- 2 boxes of dry erase markers
- 1 fun folder
- Headphones (headset style)
- 3 spiral bound wide line notebooks
- 1 accordion file folder

Suggested Items:

2 boxes of Kleenex, 1 box of Ziplock bags (sandwich, quart or gallon), post-it notes

6TH GRADE

- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 box of markers
- 2 glue sticks or 1 bottle of glue
- Post-its
- 1 pencil bag
- 2 blue or red pens
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 36 Ticonderoga #2 pencils (sharpened)
- 4 dry erase markers
- Headphones (headset style)
- 1 fun folder
- 2 one-subject notebooks (100+ pages)
- 2 three-subject notebooks
- 2 packages of college-ruled lined paper
- 1 accordion file folder
- 2 black felt pens

Suggested Items:

3 boxes of Kleenex

A NOTE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, **MR. ERIC DENNIS**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child(ren) to the start of another school year at Conestoga Elementary! The beginning of the school year is always full of anticipation and excitement.

This year you will find an extra emphasis on attendance. With Conestoga being a 4-day school week, having your child in school every day is vital. A missed day of school is a lost opportunity for your child to learn. In an era of increased accountability for schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before.

- First and foremost, missing unnecessary days puts your child at a disadvantage to those that attend.
- Conestoga students (4-day school week) are in school 57% of the week.
- If your child misses 1 day of school, they are only in school 43% of the week.
- In addition, our students benefit from a 3-day weekend every week. We understand that things happen and we understand people get sick, but please ensure your child is in school whenever possible.

Kindergarten orientation will be August 7th from 5-7. This orientation is for kindergarten students only. We will begin in the gym with an information meeting for the parents and conclude with a meet and greet with your child's teacher. On August 8th we will have an open house for students in grades 1-6 from 5-7. I encourage all parents and students to come meet their teacher at the open house. Please bring your school supplies with you on your open house night.

Class lists will be posted on the East doors at 5:00 on Friday, August 2nd. In order to ensure proper balance, class lists will not be finalized until this time. Please remember in the interest of fairness, I do not accept parent requests.

Joining the staff this year will be Mrs. Emily Carpenter, 4th grade teacher, Mr. Todd Block, 5th grade teacher, and Mrs. Anna Haverson, 4-6 vocal/band instructor. I am excited to welcome them to Conestoga Elementary.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on the 8th. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

A NOTE FROM THE JR./SR. HIGH PRINCIPAL, **MR. ROB GEISE**

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child(ren) to Conestoga Jr/Sr High School. I'm excited for the opportunities the school year will bring. Whether it be academic, extra-curricular or personal, we will work hard to provide resources and support so every student grows and reaches their full potential.

We ask that you please take an active role in your child's educational endeavors. We strive to be transparent in our communication and encourage you to communicate with us as well. With your support and involvement, we can work towards a successful and positive experience for your child.

You'll find an extra emphasis on attendance this year. With Conestoga being a 4-day school week, having your child in school every day is vital. A missed day of school is a lost opportunity for your child to learn. In an era of increased accountability for schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before.

- First and foremost, missing unnecessary days puts your child at a disadvantage to those that attend. - Conestoga students (4-day school week) are in school 57% of the week.
- If your child misses 1 day of school, they are only in school 43% of the week.
- In addition, our students benefit from a 3-day weekend every week.
- They have an extra day to complete homework as well as study for quizzes and tests. - They have an extra day to focus on their mental health.
- They have an extra day to run errands and make important appointments.

We understand things happen and we understand people get sick, but please ensure your child is in school whenever possible.

A suggested materials list regarding what our students will use on a daily basis as well as what they might use periodically throughout the year can be found below. Important dates regarding the start of the school year can be found as well. I'm looking forward to working with your child(ren) and I'm excited for an outstanding 2024-2025 school year!

1. A Folder for each class or a Trapper Keeper

- All students are different in how they stay organized. Please communicate with your child to see what works best for them. Organization is a common struggle for many 7-12 students, especially middle school students.

2. Spiral Notebooks

3. Book Covers

- Fines can be assessed for damaged books so protecting them is highly encouraged. Brown paper bags from the grocery store work great!

4. Calculator (TI-34 to ensure consistency within our math curriculum)

- Every math room will have TI-34 calculators so students will always have what they need. However, because they will be using this make/model for the next 6 years it might be worth consideration.

5. Pens / Pencils (Students should avoid Red for regular classwork)

6. Daily Planner

- As mentioned above, organization can sometimes be a struggle. A daily planner is not for everybody, but it's a good conversation to have with your child to see if it might be something they will utilize.

We are cONestoga - Go Cougars!

Additional supplies for Junior High students (Optional):

The following items will always be on hand and can be checked-out from the teacher, but if your child would like their own, these items will be used periodically in some classes. Colored Pencils, Glue Sticks, Scissors, Highlighters

August Dates to Remember:

August 7: 5:30pm 7th Grade Orientation (More info to come)

August 8: 5pm-7pm Open House (Both Buildings)

August 13: 7:50am Student 1st Day of School / 2pm Early Dismissal

2024-2025 HEALTH OFFICE REMINDERS

Please communicate any health needs/concerns for your student to me for the upcoming school year. We can work together to ensure your student has a successful and safe school year. Yearly well child visits/physicals are highly encouraged for every child to track their health and growth.

Well Child Checks, Physicals, and Immunizations

- All students entering Kindergarten are REQUIRED to be up to date on immunizations and need to have physicals within 6 months of starting school. Yearly well child checks are strongly encouraged for all students.
- Every student athlete is REQUIRED to have a current up to date sports physical on file at school.
- Sports physicals are required each year for students that participate in athletics.
- Physicals that are not up to date for the 2024-2025 school year will not be accepted.
- Students entering 7th grade in the 2024-2025 school year are required to have a Tdap booster and physical on file before starting school. Yearly state audits are done for the previously listed items.

Medications

- Prescription medications taken at school must be brought in the original prescription bottle with the label intact.
- Over the counter medications will also need to be brought into the school in their original containers.
- There must be a signed Medication Administration Form on file in order for school personnel to distribute them.
- Please see the following forms. These can be filled out and brought in with you to your student's school building. As you will see there is one for elementary students and one for Jr/Sr High. Extra forms will be available at the open house if needed.
- Students with known reactive airway disease (including asthma and anaphylactic allergies) will need to have an emergency action plan on file signed by a physician. This must be renewed each year.

Thank you and I look forward to another exciting successful year here at Conestoga!

Tracy Anderson ~ District Nurse

FIRST STUDENT BUS COMPANY
P.O. BOX 164 MURRAY, NE. 68409
OFFICE 402-235-2206

Transportation Managers, Don and Nancy Schultz:

All bus routes are scheduled by the transportation managers. If you want your child to ride the bus, you MUST register, even if you child rode previously. This is to avoid confusion regarding students who may have moved or are attending another school district.

- New Families may contact the Transportation Office at 402-235-2206 to arrange transportation. There is no charge for transportation at Conestoga.
- It is requested that children are at his or her bus stop five minutes prior to their scheduled time. The bus may arrive 5 minutes prior to your scheduled pickup time or up to 5 minutes after.
- We do require a courtesy phone call if your child is not going to be on the bus in the A.M. One or two miles makes a huge difference in time for our rural routes.
- If your child is only going to ride once or twice a week, we would prefer to have you on our WILL CALL list.
- If you are not sure if your child will ride the bus this year, complete the Paperwork so your house will be added to a route but, your child will be on the WILL CALL list until you notify transportation that you are ready to become a part of the bus route.

We have had families that Option In from another district request transportation. Our guidelines are:

- If you live on an existing route, you may ride the bus.
- If you live close to an existing route, you may meet the bus and ride.
- The school district will not expand a route to include an option student.

Call 402-235-2206 if you need to find out where the nearest bus route is.



**ALL STUDENTS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION MUST REGISTER,
EVEN IF YOU REGISTERED LAST SCHOOL YEAR.**

BUSING SERVICE REQUEST FORM

This form MUST be filled out for ALL busing requests, even if your child(ren) rode the bus previously. If you think that some time during the year you will be using the bus service, please fill out the form and we will put you on the WILL CALL.

Please complete and return to: First Student School Bus
 P.O. Box 164
 Murray, NE 68409

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Residence Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Directions from Murray to Residence: (be specific: miles, side of road you live on, etc.)

Children's Names	Grade
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Date to begin riding the bus: _____

Additional information that might be helpful while transporting your child(ren) to and from school on the bus:

Conestoga Public Schools contracts busing services through First Student School Bus, Inc.
Please contact Don or Nancy Schultz at 402-235-2206, if your child(ren) will not be riding the bus or if you have any concerns regarding the busing service you are receiving.

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year!

I hope your summer has been restful and your family is ready for a great school year!

Here is a brief overview of resources and assessments utilized at Conestoga.

If you are interested in learning more about the curriculum resources utilized at Conestoga please check out our curriculum website found on the QR code below.



This site includes links to the teacher's contact information, the Nebraska State Standards, assessment information and the course offerings for the Junior Senior High.

Conestoga Public Schools utilizes various assessment systems to ensure not only student growth, academically and emotionally, but also mastery of Nebraska State Standards. The results of these assessments allow teachers and staff to prepare instructional strategies that will best engage the students of Conestoga. Although the assessment periods may seem long, we strive to ensure that valuable classroom instruction time is not lost due to "all the testing". Teachers will inform students of their approaching test date and begin recommendations for testing tips such as a good night's sleep and an energizing breakfast! Following this information, you will find a brief description of the assessments, the purpose, and the testing windows.

If you have any questions regarding the assessments please reach out to me at
lbergmeyer@conestogacougars.org

Thank you for supporting the students and staff of Conestoga!

Assessment	Grade Level(s) 5th, 7th, 8th in Science 9th-10th in ELA, Math and Science	Testing Window(s)	Purpose
NWEA Map Growth Testing		Fall: August 19th-September 27th Winter: December 1st- January 24th Spring: March 24th-May 2nd 9th, and 10th	<p>The purpose of MAP Growth is to determine what the student knows and is ready to learn next in the areas of Reading, Language Arts, Math, and Science.</p> <p>MAP Growth can track students' individual growth over time – wherever they are starting from and regardless of the grade they are in. For 3rd grade students, this information is used to determine qualifications for an Individualized Reading Intervention Plan per the state of Nebraska.</p>
AIMS Web Plus	K-2nd	Fall: August 19th-September 27th Winter: December 1st- January 24th Spring: March 24th-May 2nd 9th, and 10th	<p>AimsWeb Plus is used for benchmarking, universal screening, diagnosing strengths and weaknesses in Reading and Math, and for progress monitoring. This information is used to determine qualifications for an Individualized Reading Intervention Plan per the state of Nebraska.</p>
Pre-Act	11th 10th	September or October--TBA March -TBA	PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects.
ACT	11th	April 25th <i>In case of emergency, April 8th</i>	<p>The purpose of the ACT test is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admissions officers will review standardized test scores. In Nebraska, all Juniors are required to take the test.</p>

NAEP	4th, 8th, and 12th	Random Selection by Department of Education	The NAEP reading assessment measures the reading and comprehension skills of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 by asking them to read selected grade-appropriate passages and answer questions based on what they have read.
NSCAS Growth	3rd-8th in ELA and Math plus *5th and 8th Science	Fall: August 19th-September 27th Winter: December 1st- January 24th *Spring: March 24th-May 2nd 9th, and 10th	The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced “en-skass,” is a new statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska’s holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. This assessment works cohesively with the Spring NWEA MAP assessment for these grades.
ASVAB	11th	January- TBD	The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a heavily researched and well-respected aptitude test developed by the Department of Defense. It measures a young adult’s strengths and potential for success in military training.
ELPA-21	K-12 identified students	January 27th- March 14th	The English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) is the assessment used in Nebraska to measure English proficiency. The ELPA21 is an online assessment that measures English proficiency in the four domains of listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
SAEBERS	K-12	October,* February, May by teachers and students	The SAEBRS (Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) is a brief and efficient tool for universal

			<p>screening of student risk for social-emotional and behavioral problems for students in Grades K through 12.</p> <p>Behavior and academic success are intimately connected and need to be intelligently addressed together. The SAEBRS is grounded in this conceptual model, which specifies that school success is predicated not just upon academic achievement, but also success within multiple inter-related behavioral domains. SAEBRS may be used to evaluate students' overall general behavior, as well as risk for problems.</p>
OLSAT	*3rd-6th *identified students	After benchmarks *identified students	<p>The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) is a multiple-choice K-12 assessment that measures reasoning skills with several different types of verbal, non-verbal, figural, and quantitative reasoning questions. It is designed to assess a child's performance across a wide variety of reasoning skill sets. The OLSAT is utilized for admissions into gifted and talented programs.</p>
GOLD	Pre-school	Throughout the year	<p>Teaching Strategies GOLD is an authentic, ongoing observational system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten. It helps teachers to observe children in the context of every day experiences, which is an effective way to learn what they know and can do.</p>

Additional Assessments Used at Conestoga

Assessment	Program	Purpose
Reading Placement Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Early Interventions in Reading *Corrective Reading *REWARDS Read to *Achieve Phonics for *Reading 	Administered to K-8 students to determine qualification for a reading intervention based on AIMS Web Plus and/or
Language Support	*Imagine Learning	NWEA. Used For Progress monitoring throughout
Formative Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Into Reading/Into Lit *Into Math *Elevate Science *My World/My View *Nebraska Standards Referenced assessments 	Administered K-12 to assess Student understanding of Nebraska state standards on a weekly to bi-weekly basis.



CONESTOGA COUGARS ACTIVITIES, ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, **MRS. MOLLY STIEREN**

Parents/Guardians of 7th-12th grade students,

My name is Molly Stieren and I will be the new Assistant Principal and Activities Director at Conestoga Jr/Sr High School this fall. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the staff, students, and families in our district; and have already felt so welcomed!

To participate in activities at Conestoga students must meet certain requirements. This information and other important information can be found below.

All students in grades 7-12 that participate in an activity are required to pay an annual participation fee that is mandated by the Conestoga School Board Policy 5045. The fee is a one-time fee and is the same amount regardless of how many activities a student participates in. For high school students it is a \$50 fee and for junior high students the fee is \$30. With this fee the student will receive an activity pass at the time of payment that will allow them access to all home sporting events, excluding tournaments and district competitions. If your family qualifies for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, this fee may be waived if the proper paperwork is completed at the Conestoga District Office.

Additional paperwork needed to make sure your son/daughter is able to participate in the first practice of the season includes a completed physical exam (After May 1, 2024) for all 7th- 12th graders, NSAA Parent Consent form, and school waivers - these forms can be turned in directly to the coaches of their sport/ the high school office. Any student that does not have these completed forms on file with the high school WILL NOT be allowed to participate in practice or contests. The student will still be required to attend practice during this time. The first link has printable copies while the second link provided is our online forms. Online registration is encouraged. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hMzZwU6lVNFwIRuq4l0Zbqepb1ckfvF/view?usp=sharing>
<https://conestogajrsrhs-ar.schooltoday.com/>

FALL SPORTS INFORMATION

If you have a son/daughter in the grades 9-12 that plans on participating in a fall sport please request membership to their sport specific TeamApp. Fall practices are set to begin on August 12th. If you have any sport specific questions please direct them to the appropriate coach.

Football- TJ Quick, tquick@conestogacougars.org

Softball- ReAnn Schreiner, rschreiner@conestogacougars.org

Cross Country- Ryan Burns, rburns@conestogacougars.org

Volleyball- Kaitie Serkiz, kjserkiz@conestogacougars.org

Junior High Information

If you have a student in grades 7 or 8 that plans on participating in football, volleyball, or cross country, they will be given information once they are in the building. Their practices will not start until after the school year has started. Those coaches will share information with their participants as well as parents/guardians. Junior high participation fee is \$30.

We are very excited to get the school year rolling and appreciate all of the support you give our programs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks & Go Cougars!

Molly Stieren

7-12 AP/Activities Director

Activity Calendar: <https://www.nebraskacapitolconference.org/>

SEASON PASSES

Student Activity Card Covers admission into most extracurricular events. ***Recommended for all students <u>not</u> involved in activities.	\$30.00 (K-8) \$50.00 (9-12) \$60.00 (Adult)
Student Participation Fee The student participation fee includes a student activity card which covers admission into all extracurricular events.	\$30.00 (7-8) \$50.00 (9-12)
The student participation fee is required of all students who participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities. (Maximum \$200 per family)	

New Gate Prices from NCC: Varsity: \$5 students; \$7 adults
Lower Level: \$4 Students; \$5 adults

Don't hesitate to join the Booster Club! They support ALL of our Jr-Sr High School programs! Membership form can be found in this publication. Contact conestogaboosterclub@gmail.com for more information.

Pick One <input type="checkbox"/> (Staff have separate form)	Maroon Membership \$50	Gold Membership \$100	Grandparent or Alumni Membership \$30
Booster Club T-Shirt		 x 2	 x 2
Listed on LED Big Screen			
Listed on Sports Rosters			
Included on Meeting Emails			

Student Accident Insurance Forms

Insurance is available through Student Assurance Services for Conestoga students, at parent expense. available through each building office. Premium costs for each plan are:

PREMIUMS	
	One time policy year premium
Full-Time Coverage (Grades PK - 12) Does NOT Include Interscholastic Sports Coverage	\$ 99.00
Full-Time Coverage (Grades 7 - 12) Includes Interscholastic Sports Coverage Except Football Grades 9 - 12	\$ 174.00
School-Time Coverage (Grades PK - 12) Does NOT Include Interscholastic Sports Coverage	\$ 16.00
School-Time Coverage (Grades 7 - 12) Includes Interscholastic Sports Coverage Except Football Grades 9 - 12	\$ 91.00
Football Coverage (Grades 9 - 12)	\$ 250.00
Extended Dental Coverage (Grades PK - 12)	\$ 9.00

All Middle School and High School athletes must show evidence of insurance before any participation in sports is allowed. This insurance policy acts as secondary insurance to existing policies held by families.

NEBRASKA 'S CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

CHIP is health care coverage for qualified children who are without other health insurance and who do not qualify for Medicaid. Federally called the Children's health Insurance Program (CHIP), it provides the same services covered under Medicaid. For more information about the Nebraska Children's Health Insurance Program, call the toll-free number 1-855-632-7633.



2024-2025 Conestoga Booster Club Membership

The Conestoga Booster Club is a non-profit organization that supports all Junior and Senior High students by encouraging School Spirit and Participation by providing support to all activities within our school.

Become a Member Today!

Meetings: first Wednesday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Stay Informed: Follow us on Facebook, X, Team App, and through monthly emails.

Support ALL Conestoga Activities by becoming a Booster Today! Your membership helps the Booster Club attend to student activity needs beyond school resources. Examples: athletic warmups, travel funds, and annual scholarships for seniors. Together with our business sponsors, your membership enables us to give back about \$20,000 annually to our Conestoga Cougars.

Pick One (Staff have separate form)	<input type="checkbox"/> Maroon Membership \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent or Alumni Membership \$30
Booster Club T-Shirt		 x 2	 x 2
Listed on LED Big Screen			
Listed on Sports Rosters			
Included on Meeting Emails			

Name(s) as they will appear for recognition _____

T-shirt size _____
(Unisex S – 4XL)

Email _____

Email _____

*Return form w/check to: Conestoga Booster Club Conestoga Jr/Sr High, PO Box 40, Murray, NE 68409
ACTIVITY PASSES MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT*

3012 School Meal Program and Meal Charges

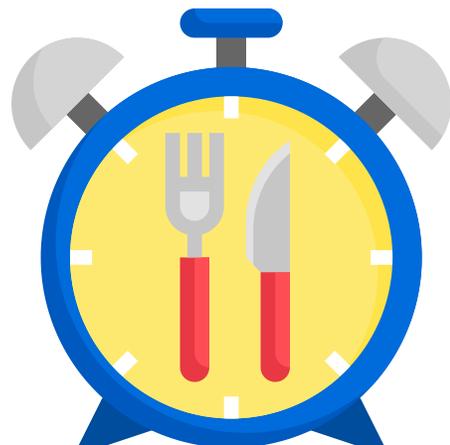
Meal Program. The school district will make a school meal program available to students. The cost of the program will be determined by the board of education so as to make the program as nearly self-supporting as possible. With board approval, the district may contract with a private company or corporation for the management and/or provision of the program. The district will notify the families with children attending school of the current guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals. A copy of the complete regulations and procedures regarding reduced-price and free meals shall be available in the office of the superintendent. Families may apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year.

Payment Options. Families may pay for school lunches using cash, check, or electronic e-fund payments are also available through a link on the school district's website.

Meal Charge Policy. The district will notify students and their families of the policy for **Charged Meals**, meaning meals received by a student when the student does not have money in hand or in his or her food account. This policy applies to students who receive meals at the free, reduced, or full rates. Notice of this policy must be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year. Notice may be provided through the student handbook, student registration materials, online portal used to access student accounts, direct mailing or e-mail, newsletter, the district website, and/or any other appropriate means. Notice of this policy will also be provided all school staff responsible for the enforcement of it, including food service professionals responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service, staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances, and other staff involved in enforcing any aspect of this policy.

The district's policy on charged meals is: If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for up to five limited "courtesy meals," such as a plain sandwich. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided. Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance. If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal and has not brought a meal from home, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year. In the event that the Nebraska Department of Education develops a state level meal charge policy, it shall supersede that portion of this policy.



Welcome back to a new and exciting year! This year students will need to pay for their Breakfast and Lunches unless you apply for free and reduced lunches. Purchasing of a la carte items must be done after going through the lunch line. 2024-25 Breakfast and Lunch Pricing a la carte Prices:

Student Breakfast \$2.30	Milk \$.55	Adult Breakfast \$2.80	Chips \$ 1.00	Main Dish \$2.55
K-6 Student Lunch \$3.15		Adult Lunch \$3.90	Cookies \$.65	Vegetables \$.95
7-12 Student Lunch \$3.40				String Cheese \$.75

Students are required to have funds available in their lunch account at the beginning of the school year. Funds can be sent with the child in an envelope marked as lunch money or deposited via the online eFunds payment portal. The link for eFunds is located on the Conestoga Public Schools district website at www.conestogacougars.org located under the "About Us" tab and titled e-Funds Link. On a mobile device, you may need to select view full site and then click on the menu icon on the top left corner to access the e-funds link. The direct URL for the eFunds page is <https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/55934/>. In order to establish your eFunds account, a parent or guardian will need to contact the Food Service Manager, Mrs. Meisinger at 402-235-2341 or your students office building, to request the student ID numbers for each student in the household. This student number is different from the student's lunch and PowerSchool code and allows the parent or guardian to link their payment portal with their student's lunch account. A parent registration guideline is located on the login page and can further assist you with the log on procedure. There are charges assessed to the parent or guardian for using eFunds. The fee schedule for eFunds is as follows: Credit or Debit Card Payments: Flat fee of \$2.95 per each \$100 transaction. ACH Checking or Savings Account Payments: Flat fee of \$1.50 transaction. Uncollectible Payment Fee: \$2.50 charged to the school and paid by the parent or guardian. Not Sufficient Funds Fee: \$35.00 charges to the school and paid by the parent or guardian.

The district assigns every student a lunch code that they key into the computer when they purchase breakfast or lunch each day. Each purchase is deducted from their lunch account. As students deplete their lunch account and funds run low, they are alerted by staff that more money is needed in their account. Please provide your email address to the office secretaries if you would like email notifications of low balances. Parents will receive lunch balance alerts if a student's balance is less than -.01 cents.

This alert could come via an email, or letter. You may also check your student's lunch balance at any time through PowerSchool. PowerSchool also has an option that allows you to be sent balance alerts via email. Simply turn on email notifications by clicking the edit button next to your name on the parent screen in PowerSchool. The district has previously encountered a large number of unpaid charges and is unable to allow the practice of charging. However, emergencies can always arise. A call to the school or food service manager by a parent OR the student himself or herself speaking with a food service manager will allow the school to arrange for the student to charge a lunch. An administrator or the food service manager, Mrs. Meisinger, must clear a charge in an emergency.

The food service personnel and staff on cafeteria duty make sure that every child eats a healthy lunch at school every day. Staff will not approve charging arrangements for a student wanting a la carte items. A la carte items are components of the meal served individually. Examples include seconds of the main dish, fries, vegetables, cookies, etc. A student can purchase a la carte items or "extras" ONLY if they have a positive balance in their account or pay with cash. We do not allow students to run a negative lunch account balance for a la carte items. Please be aware that purchasing a la carte items could cost more than a full meal. Our food service staff will mention to a student that they could save money by getting a full tray rather than a la carte items, but we cannot make them take a full tray instead. It is the parent's responsibility to inform students if they do not want a la carte items purchased. We are excited to be in the kitchen and looking forward to seeing your faces!

Thank You, **Mary Meisinger, Food Service Director**

CONESTOGA SCHOOLS BREAKFAST

August 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		Back to School 	Menu subject to change due to supply 8	
We offer 1% white milk and skim Strawberry and Chocolate milk as milk choices	This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider 	K-6 grades	Open House 	This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider We offer 1% white milk
Welcome Back To School 	13 Pancake on a stick Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	14 Waffles Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	15 Donut Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	16 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk
	20 French Toast Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	21 Breakfast Pizza Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk 	22 Breakfast Combo Bar & Toast Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk 	23 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk 
	27 Pancakes Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk 	28 Scrambled Eggs & toast Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	29 Tornado Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk	30 Biscuits & Gravy Fruit, Juice or Vegetable Milk

CONESTOGA SCHOOLS

August 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Salad Bar offered everyday to all 3rd thru 12th graders			
We offer 1% white milk and skim Strawberry and Chocolate milk as milk choices This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider	Menu subject to change due to supply 13	Italian Dunkers are Hamburger & spaghetti sauce to dunk your cheese bread in	15 Open House	K-6
	Hot Dog Corn Fruit Roll up Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	14 Italian Dunkers Green beans cheese bread Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	15 Beef Taco Green Beans Chat Snax Vanilla crackers Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	16 Chicken Sandwich Tri-Tatars Gold fish Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk
	20 Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Smile Fries Bug Bite Crackers Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	21 Nachos Corn Strawberries Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	22 Corn Dogs Tatar Tots Brownie Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	23 Pizza Lettuce Salad Bomb Pop Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk
	27 Fiestada Green Beans Cookie Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	28 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Dinner Roll Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	31 Chicken Nuggets Season Fries Graham crackres Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk	30 Crispito Lettuce Salad Frozen Juice Cup Fruit and Vegetable bar Milk

Conestoga Public Schools

7/15/24

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Conestoga Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.30; lunch costs \$3.40. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by October 5, 2024 in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Applicants who qualify for free or reduced price meals also qualify to receive Summer EBT, which provides \$120 in grocery funds on an EBT card mailed to the household during summer break. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Michael Apple, Superintendent, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator, 402.235.2992; 402.227.2992 or mapple@conestogacougars.org.

3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Conestoga District Office 8404 42nd St. Murray, NE 68409.

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Breanna McLaughlin, 402.235.2992; 402.227.2992 or bjmclaughlin@conestogacougars.org immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if your school district makes this option available.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?

Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application. _____

8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Michael Apple, 402.235.2992; 402.227.2992 or Allison Welch, Board President, 402.235.2539

11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact Breanna McLaughlin, 402.235.2992; 402.227.2992 or bjmclaughlin@conestogacougars.org to receive a second application.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, please go online to ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov or call 1-800-383-4278.

If you have other questions or need help, call Breanna McLaughlin, 402.235.2992; 402.227.2992.

Sincerely,

Michael Apple,

Superintendent

Instructions for Completing the Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application

For households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), follow these instructions:

- Part 1: List each child's name, the school they attend and their grade.
 Part 2: Enter household's Master Case Number if the household qualifies for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR.
 Part 3: Skip this part.
 Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.
 Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

For households with FOSTER, HOMELESS, MIGRANT or RUNAWAY CHILDREN, follow these instructions:

If all children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1: List all foster children, the school they attend and their grade.
 Part 2: Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.
 Part 3: Skip this part.
 Part 4: Skip this part.
 Part 5: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form. This part is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

If some of the children in the household are foster children or are homeless, migrant or runaway children:

- Part 1: List all children, the school they attend and their grade. Check the appropriate box.
 Part 2: If the household does not have a Master Case Number, skip this part.
 Part 3: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.
 Column 1–Household Members: List the first and last name of each person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
 Column 2 - Gross Income and How Often it was Received: Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions; it is not your take-home pay. For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must also report how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. Earnings from Work includes the following:

- Salary, wages, cash bonuses
- Net income from self-employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military, include:

- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments or privatized housing allowances)
- Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing

Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster care payments. Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony includes the following:

- Unemployment benefits, Worker's compensation
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash assistance from state or local government
- Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), Strike benefits
- Child support payments, Alimony payments

Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income includes the following:

- Social Security payments (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- Private pensions or Disability benefits
- Regular income from trusts or estates, Annuities, Investment income, Earned interest, Rental income and *Regular* cash payments received from outside the household.

If you have no income, write “0” or leave the income field blank. By doing this, you are certifying there is no income to report.

Household Size: Enter the total number of people in your household.

Social Security Number: The adult signing the form must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN) or check the box to the right labeled “Check if no SSN.”

Part 4: Complete this part. An adult must sign the form.

Part 5: This part is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

Please note: Children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant or runaway, are eligible for free meals. However, the school district must have documentation on file from a migrant coordinator, homeless/runaway liaison or the district’s Direct Certification list to approve the child for free meals.

For ALL other households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all children, the school they attend and their grade.

Part 2: If the household does not have a Master Case Number, skip this part.

Part 3: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.

Column 1 – Household Members: List the first and last name of each person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Column 2 - Gross Income and How Often it was Received: Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions; it is not your take-home pay. For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must also report how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. Earnings from Work includes the following:

- *Salary, wages, cash bonuses

- *Net income from self-employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military, include:

- *Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments or privatized housing allowances)

- *Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing

Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster care payments.

Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony includes the following:

- *Unemployment benefits, Worker’s compensation

- * Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash assistance from state or local government

- *Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), Strike benefits

- *Child support payments, Alimony payments

Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income includes the following:

- *Social Security payments (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)

- *Private pensions or Disability benefits

- *Regular income from trusts or estates, Annuities, Investment income, Earned interest, Rental income and *Regular* cash payments received from outside the household.

Part 4: If you have no income, write “0” or leave the income field blank. By doing this, you are certifying there is no income to report.

Part 5: Household Size: Enter the total number of people in your household. Social Security Number: The adult signing the form must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN) or check the box to the right labeled “Check if no SSN.” Complete this part. An adult must sign the form. This part is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one may be selected based on visual observation.

Return Completed Application to: Conestoga Public Schools 8404 42nd St. Murray, NE 68409

Part 1: Children in School

List names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last). If all children listed are foster, skip to Part 4 to sign the form. If some of the children are foster or are homeless, migrant or runaway children, complete all steps of the application.	Grade	Name of School Child Attends	Check all that apply:	
			Homeless, Migrant, Runaway	Foster Child
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: Assistance Programs – SNAP, TANF or FDPIR Benefits

Enter MASTER CASE NUMBER if household qualifies for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR:
 (Social Security numbers, Medicaid numbers and EBT numbers are not accepted.) Skip to Part 4

Part 3: Total Household Gross Income–You must tell us how much and how often.

1. Household Members List everyone in the household, current income each person earns in whole dollars (no cents) & how often. Entering “0” or leaving the income field blank certifies no income to report. A foster child’s personal use income must be listed.	2. Gross Income (before taxes) and How Often it was Received					
	Earnings from Work before deductions		Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony		Pensions, Retirement and All Other Income	
	Income	How often	Income	How often	Income	How often

Total Number of Household Members: (Children and Adults) _____ Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of the adult signing this form: XXX-XXX-_____ Check if no SSN

Part 4: Adult Signature and Contact Information – An adult household member must sign the application.

“I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.”

Sign here: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address (if available): _____ Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Part 5: Children’s Ethnic and Racial Identities–Optional

Check one Ethnic Identity: -and- Check one or more Racial Identities:

Hispanic or Latino Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Not Hispanic or Latino White American Indian or Alaskan Native

Do Not Fill Out the Section Below - For School Use Only

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52; Every 2 weeks X 26; Twice a month X 24; Monthly X 12

Free & Reduced Price School Meals Family Application – complete one application per household Attachment C: 2024-25

Total Household Size: _____

Total Income: _____ per

Year Month 2X Mo Every 2 Wks Week

Free Reduced Denied

Income Income

Categorically eligible:

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR

Foster Child

Homeless/Migrant/Runaway:

(Official Documentation Required at School)

Reason for denial:

Income too high

Incomplete application

Signature of Determining Official: _____

Date Approved: _____

FOR THE VERIFICATION PROCESS ONLY:

Signature of Confirming Official: _____

Date Confirmed: _____

Date Withdrawn From School: _____

Signature of Verifying Official: _____

Date Verified: _____

Sharing Information with Other Programs - Optional

Dear Parent/Guardian: To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify.

For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with any of the following associated fees per activity and/or grade. Please check appropriate selection.

- Conestoga Activity Fee (Student Season Pass, as determined in Policy #5045 Student Fees)
- Conestoga Participation Fee for extracurricular activities or athletics (Student Season Pass, as determined in Policy #5045 Student Fee)
- PSAT Test (Preliminary SAT, 11th grade)
- ACT Test (American College Testing, grades 9-12)
- Duke TIP (7th grade)
- Field Trips
- Music, Band and Vocal
- Laptop/iPad Consent/Usage Fee
- Backpack Lunch Program
- Scholarships
- Cheer or Dance Team
- Ag Program

If you checked "yes" to any or all of the boxes above, complete the following form to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call Breanna McLaughlin or Mr. Michael Apple at 402-235-2992; 402-227-2992

or email bjmclaughlin@conestogacougars.org

Return this form to 8404 42nd St, P.O. Box 184, Murray, NE 68409

CENSUS UPDATES

NEW TO THE AREA?? RECENTLY MOVED??

Conestoga Public Schools strives to keep informed of the changing needs of the community and its population. The Nebraska Department of Education mandates a census of all children age 5-18, to be taken and reported during the summer for this purpose.

Are you new to the area? Is there a change in your household? We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to contact the District office with the information. Complete this form and mail it to the district office; PO Box 184 Murray, NE 68409 OR Email bjmclaughlin@conestogacougars.org

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you!

Adult Household Member: _____

Adult Household Member: _____

Address (physical and mailing): _____

Phone: _____

Names of Children Under 21 living at home:	Code	Sex: M or F	Date of Birth

Code KEY: P- Public School NP-Non Public School H-Home School C-College I-Idle

SCHOOL CLOSINGS During the course of the year, there may be times when it is necessary to start school late, dismiss early, or not have school at all. (Weather, emergencies, etc.). When this is necessary, every effort will be made to get announcements out early.

Please do not call administrators or other school personnel at home. This will only tie up their phone lines and prevent them from making all the necessary calls to get the closing messages distributed.

Local television and radio stations telecast announcements pertaining to schedule changes or closings.

An automated calling service (ParentSquare) is used by the district to notify families of important school information (closings, late starts, early dismissals, or even information the patrons of the district need to know). This calling service is generated from the phone numbers in the PowerSchool program. It is important to keep your information current with the school offices.

2024-2025 CONESTOGA SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				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

August	12 S/ 16T
5 - New Staff Day	
6 - 9 Teacher PD Day	
8 - Open House	
13 - First Day/Early Dismissal	

January 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			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	

January	16S/ 17T
6 - Teacher PD Day	
7 - Start of 3rd Quarter	

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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					

September	16 S/ 18T
9 - Teacher PD Day	
23 - Monday In Session	
25 - 26 - PT Conferences 1:45/2:00 Early Dismissal	
27 - No School	

February 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						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	

February	16S/ 17T
10 - Monday In Session	
14 - No School	
24 - Teacher PD Day (Flex)	

October 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		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		

October	19 S/ 20T
11 - 1st Quarter Ends	
14 - Teacher PD Day (Flex)	

March 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						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					

March	15 S/ 16T
10 - School In Session	
11 - 12 - PT Conferences 1:45/2:00 Early Dismissal	
12 - End of 3rd Quarter	
13 - 14 - No School	

November 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					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

November	16 S/ 17T
11 - Teacher PD Day	
25 - School In Session	
27 - Early Dismissal	
28 - 29 - No School	

April 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		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			

April	18S/ 18T
14 - School In Session	
18 - No School	

December 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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				

December	12 S/ 12T
20 - Early Dismissal	
20 - End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester	

May 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					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						

May	13S/ 13T
10 - Graduation	
22 - Last Day Early Dismissal 11:15/11:30	

- New Teacher Day
- Open House
- Monday School Day
- School In Session
- Early Dismissal

K-6 Early Dismiss: 1:45
7-12 Early Dismiss: 2:00

1st Quarter - August 13 - October 11 = 36 days
2nd Quarter - October 15 - December 20 = 39 days
3rd Quarter - January 7 - March 12 = 39 days
4th Quarter - March 18 - May 22 = 39 days

First Semester = 75 days
Second Semester = 78 days

Teacher Days = 164 Student Days = 153

School Hours: Elementary: 8:00 - 3:45
Jr./Sr. High School: 7:50 - 4:00

Elementary: (402) 235-2341; (402) 227-2275
Jr./Sr. High: (402) 235-2271; (402) 227-3745
District: (402) 235-2992; (402) 227-2992
Transportation: (402) 235-2206



Approved 3/12/2024

Conestoga Public Schools
P.O. Box 184
Murray, NE 68409-0184
An Equal Opportunity Employer
Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Murray, NE
Permit #3

