

Alternatives For Success

From the Heart of AFS

Full STEAM Ahead

**30 Sept.
2025**

"The Norfolk Public Schools Foundation was established in 1991 and is dedicated to enhancing the learning opportunities for students of Norfolk Public Schools. We strive to create opportunities, including

Classroom Grants to support teachers and staff in the classroom, as well as other extras and special projects that benefit the school district!" The staff and students of AFS are grateful to the entirety of NPSF for not only providing grant opportunities, but also



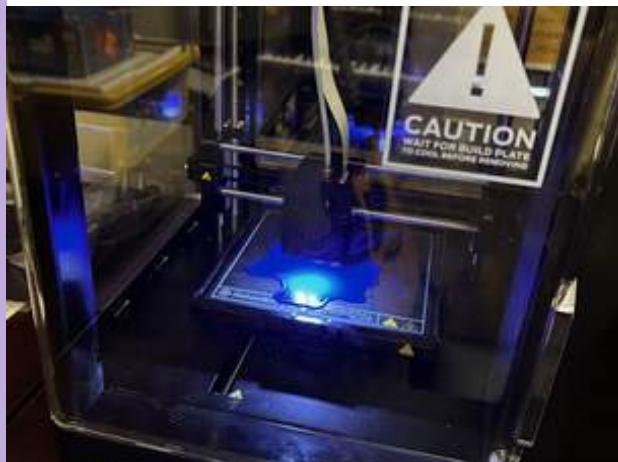
for accepting our 2025 proposal! "Full STEAM Ahead" is an innovative classroom project designed to ignite student curiosity, foster critical thinking, and cultivate essential 21st-century skills by integrating Science, Technology, Engineering,

Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) into the curriculum. This project will move beyond traditional subject silos, providing students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences that connect these disciplines in meaningful and relevant ways.

Ashley Brown

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A Look Ahead

07



23



29



October Events

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 01 | Inktober | 16 | Early Dismissal |
| 02 | CD Job Applications | 17 | No School |
| 06 | P.E. | 20 | No School |
| 07 | CD Reading Paystubs
Hawk Visit | 21 | CD Resumes Part 1
AM ASVAB Testing |
| 08 | CD NECC Financial
Thank You Letters | 22 | Fundraiser |
| 09 | End of 1 st Quarter | 23 | Weiland Doors Industry Tour
PM ASVAB Testing |
| 10 | No School | 24 | P.E. |
| 14 | Parent Teacher
Conferences | 27 | P.E. |
| 15 | Cemetery Tour
PT Conferences | 28 | CD Resumes Part 2 |
| | | 29 | Pumpkin Carving &
Haunted Verges Park |

"Friendly trick-or-treating for the little ones at the Settler's Cabin & One-Room Schoolhouse. Brave trick-or-treaters can venture into the haunted cave, hosted by the students of NHS's Alternatives For Success program, for only \$2!"

[Elkhorn Valley Museum](#)



On the Grind

Healthy Habits



I'm super excited to introduce our Healthy Habits course! This course is all about helping our students build a strong foundation for their mental and emotional well-being. We focus on giving our students the tools to navigate challenges and build resilience. The cool part is that students get to choose how they complete their 16 hours (that's just one hour a week!) of self-care activities. To make sure everyone's getting their hours in and earning credit, students need to check in with me, Tia, to log their awesome work. My biggest hope for this course is to empower our students to: understand their feelings, handle the tough stuff, prioritize themselves, build awesome relationships, and bounce back stronger. This course is a huge step in making sure they have the support and skills they need to succeed in both school and life. I'll be listening to their feedback and seeing what works best so we can keep making this course even better!

Tia Onderstal

COLLEGE BOUND

With the new school year in full swing, our students have been working diligently with Mrs. Onderstal to schedule college visits, and/or, attend dual-credit classes at Northeast Community College!

JOIN THE RANKS

A 2025 AFS Graduate, Andrez Hernandez, will ship to Georgia on November 10th for Basic Combat Training with the U.S. Army. We are proud of him and his decision to serve!

CAREER CORNER

Part-time positions for high school students (via Indeed):



31st Annual Ponca Tribe Powwow



Preserving Ponca Culture

7 August 2025

*Excellence, Sovereignty,
Sustainability*

"In 1994, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska held its first annual Powwow after the Tribe's federal reinstatement in 1990. The Tribe hosted its 25th Annual Powwow on August 10-12, 2018 in Niobrara. Traditionally, Powwows were held as a celebration of fall harvest, successful hunts and for all births, deaths, and weddings of tribal members during the past year. It was also a gathering place for other tribes, relatives, and friends to meet and celebrate. The Powwow brings all of us together to our ancestral homeland to share, celebrate, reminisce and pass our knowledge and traditions on to future generations."

Ponca Tribe of NE Nebraska

beyond the classroom



in the community

On September 17th, AFS students participated in the second annual Community Outreach Day. We partnered with the Liberty Centre, the Elkhorn Valley Museum, the Orphan Grain Train, and the Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska. Students practiced generosity, one of the four pillars of AFS's philosophy, by giving their time and services back to our community organizations and neighbors.

Ashley Brown

motion matters

One of the extracurricular classes we offer at AFS is P.E. We encourage students to participate for several reasons: to foster routine, get them moving away from their computer screens, teach leadership and teamworking skills, and to offer healthy outlets. We're extremely grateful to our local Norfolk Family YMCA for allowing us to utilize their space and equipment for free! Students attend P.E. once a week every semester. We play team sports style games like basketball, volleyball, kickball, and more.

Ashley Brown

Hope in Action

The AFS Staff has a new addition to the team - Coach Brent Pollari! Following the retirement of one of our teachers, Dave Hepner, the NPS Administration worked diligently to bring in a candidate that would meet our students where they are, help them achieve their goals of success, and to foster our philosophy of: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. We are thankful to have him on board, and are excited for the future culture that we're building toward every single day!

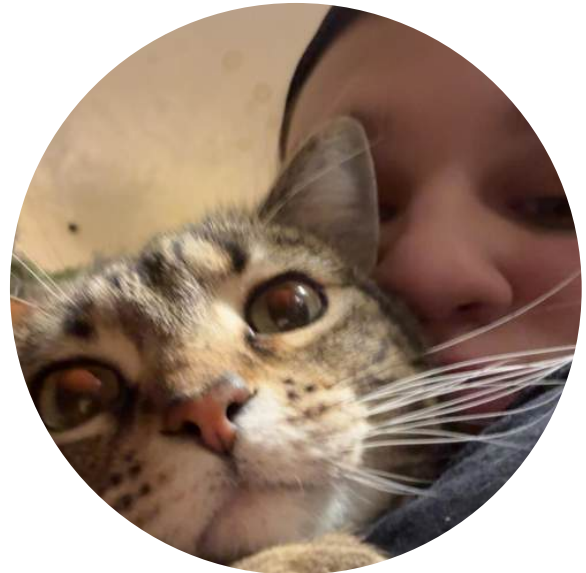
Ashley Brown

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Eden Petersen

We are excited to announce that Eden has been accepted into NECC's nursing program!



Tanner Suhr

We are excited to announce Tanner as our first graduate of the 2025-26 school year!