

## Multiple snows days push last day of school for Clark students to May 26

The Clark School Board met Tuesday, April 11, 2023 for their monthly school board meeting with several topics to cover. The board discussed and approved changes to this year's calendar, making May 26 the last day of school for Clark students this year.

Two snow days were planned in the schedule for the 2022-23 school year, and 11 snow days accrued this winter. According to school administration, pushing the planned last day of school back to May 26 allows for most of those days to be made up. In years past, the school board has integrated three snow days but has ended up not needing all three. This year has been much different with the weather we have experienced throughout the state.

Preschool enrollment numbers spiked significantly this year with at least 40 preschoolers hoping to

attend the Clark Elementary Preschool program for the 2023-24 school year. Options were discussed regarding a new preschool enrollment policy that will limit the number of years a student can attend preschool at the Clark School District. If it is recommended by the instructor that a student repeats the preschool year, arrangements will be made to accommodate that student.

The board discussed a policy regarding students that are required to register as sex offenders. The policy will be put into place to protect both the public and the student.

Summer will bring new floors for the track area of the field house. The school is also looking into price quotes for wall mats with Cyclone logos for the Field House.

Both the high school and elementary school students are currently

participating in Smarter Balance testing for the spring testing schedule.

The school board approved the resignations of Dan Whalen as head boys track and field coach effective after this season and Claire Mohr, middle school math and oral interpretation instructor, at the end of this school year.

A potential postponement on the elementary track and field day originally scheduled for April 17 was also discussed by the school board. The principal stated that they would look into optional reschedule dates. Later, the elementary field day was rescheduled to Thursday, May 4.

The next regular meeting of the Clark School Board is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

## Earth Day: a reminder to care for our planet

Every year, April 22 is celebrated as Earth Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of taking care of our planet. This day is a reminder of the critical role that we, as individuals and communities, play in preserving the earth's natural resources and protecting the environment for future generations.

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970, and since then, it has become a global event. People all around the world come together to raise awareness about environmental issues and take action to protect our planet.

This year, the theme for Earth Day is "Restore Our Earth," which focuses on the need to repair damage that has already been done to

our planet. There are many ways that we can contribute to the effort to restore our Earth.

One of the most important ways to restore our planet is to reduce our carbon footprint by making simple changes in our daily lives, such as using energy-efficient appliances, driving less and eating more plant-based foods.

We as individuals and as a community can also support environmental organizations and advocate for policies that promote sustainability and protect our natural resources.

This Earth day, let us take a moment to reflect on the impact that our actions have on the planet and commit to making even one small positive change.

By working together, we can create a more sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come.

| WEATHER                                 |       |    |    |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer |       |    |    |
|                                         | HI    | LO | PR |
| April 11 .....                          | 70    | 47 | 0  |
| April 12 .....                          | 82    | 48 | 0  |
| April 13 .....                          | 67    | 39 | 0  |
| April 14 .....                          | 74    | 35 | 0  |
| April 15 .....                          | 50    | 34 | 0  |
| April 16 .....                          | 37    | 30 | 0  |
| April 17 .....                          | 47    | 28 | 0  |
| 2023 precipitation to date              | 3.23" |    |    |
| 2022 precipitation to date              | 1.28" |    |    |

## Jump! Into Spring event to be held at Clark High School this Saturday

A Jump! Into Spring event sponsored by the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce and Clark Community Oil will be held Saturday, April 22 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Clark High School in the gym and field house.

There will be three bouncy houses set up for kids of varying ages. One will be for younger children, another will be for elementary age

kids, and the third one will be for older kids.

A free will offering meal of BBQs, hotdogs, chips and dessert will be available. FFA students will also be selling their popcorn during the event.

Bingo will be available to play for free starting at 5:00 p.m. with prizes for all ages to be won.

"We've been wanting to host a fun family event for our community," said the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce. "Now that winter sports are over, we finally have an opportunity to throw this together," they continued. "We hope everyone comes out to play and enjoy a fun evening on us."



The yearbook staff at Clark High School includes front row, from left to right, Kaden Janisch, Danielle Batchelor and Lily Ingraham. In the back row are advisor Kristin Janisch and Ashlan Wren. The "Comet" was awarded a national honor for its innovative coverage of students during an academic year.

## Clark's yearbook program earns bronze distinction in Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence

The Clark 2022 yearbook "Comet" and its yearbook program was awarded bronze distinction in the Jostens 2022 National Yearbook Program of Excellence. The national honor was awarded through the yearbook's publishing company Jostens Inc.

"Congratulations to the Clark yearbook program for a job well done," said Angie Babcock, Jostens representative for Clark, S.D. "The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration and information and communication technologies literacy."

The National Yearbook Program of Excellence award's criteria included creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement and successfully managing the yearbook creation process. A requirement to earn bronze status

is to cover every student three times in the yearbook. Last year's yearbook included 196 students.

"Danielle Batchelor is our veteran yearbook staffer who helped achieve this national award," said Kristin Janisch, advisor of Clark's award-winning yearbook program. "We depend on her for her leadership in the classroom." The current yearbook staff includes Batchelor, Lily Ingraham, Ashlan Wren and Kaden Janisch.

"It's not as easy as you think to get everyone in the yearbook when students are gone or you haven't run into them in the hall. When you do find them, they need to be doing something interesting," said Kaden Janisch. This is especially true for state competition, when yearbook judges like to see candid photos, the kind without people looking at the camera, according to Batchelor. "I can't tell you how many times I need to get a photo of a student, and they look at the camera and make a peace sign," Batchelor said. When

students do that, yearbook staffers say they have to wait and take another photo. "It can be stressful because we are assigned to get the photo, and that's a grade to us. We might miss the opportunity because we have to wait until they aren't paying attention," Ingraham said.

Although it may be difficult to get every student in the yearbook at least three times, the yearbook staff has been successful with a number of ways to get every student included. "We find a quick way to add coverage is to do group shots during dress-up days for homecoming and events like that, as well as ask students questions," said Wren.

"It boils down to we are doing our best to learn journalism, photography, writing, design, leadership and social skills while we create a record of the school year that people will look at for years to come. We are honored to be awarded on a national level for it," Kristin Janisch said.



## Clark High School's prom of 'Rustic Romance' was Friday night

April 14 was Clark High School's Junior-Senior prom with a large crowd in attendance to watch the students in their Grand March Friday evening.

Several members of Clark's junior class spent last week decorating the high school gym with the 'Rustic Romance' theme. Junior class members attending prom are pictured on the left. In back row, left to right: Bryce Klancke, Conner Mudgett, Owen Spieker, Cayden Binger, Collin Gaikowski, Jack Helkenn, Collin Woodland, Christian Ramirez, Aaron Zemlicka, Taylor Merkel and Tyson Huber. In the front row, left to right are Danielle

Batchelor, Nevaeh Rusher, Ella Wellnitz, Sara Thonvold, Musonda Kabwe and Madison Pickrel.

Picture on the right are Clark seniors that attended the prom. From left to right are Summer Seefeldt, Kiara Bokinskie, Iziah Holton, Turner Fjelland, Jack Hollinrake, Tate McGraw, Brady Jordan, Audrye Foster, Cole Heiman, Kayla Jordan and Trey Huber.

Photos by Heather Jordan