

# *The Leigh Legend*



*February 2025*



## *A Note from Mr. Fischer...*

This month I am including my annual report of Leigh Community Schools. This report is a snapshot of the many different statistics of LCS. We are particularly proud of our district being rated EXCELLENT according to the Nebraska Department of Education for the second year in a row. This puts us in the top 15% of schools in the state. Please take a moment to look over the report and feel free to call me at the school with any questions.

BE THE BEST!

Cole Fischer  
Superintendent/Elementary Principal



Leigh Community School  
Regular Meeting

Board of Education  
December 9, 2024

President Kamin Held called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Verification of Notice by Kamin Held (Published on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the Leigh World Newspaper & Posted on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Leigh Community Schools, Main-Stop and the Leigh Post Office)

Recognition of Open Meetings Law by Kamin Held

Secretary Brabec read the roll call. Present were Brabec D, Folken, Held K, Hoffman, Machmueller, Urban J.

Also present were Superintendent Fischer, Principal Faltys, Secretary Brabec.

Excuse Absence of Wietfeld M, Higby, Went

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment - None

Principal's Report – Students of the Month; Congrats to Leigh One Act on Qualifying for State; FFA District Champs; Speech; Upcoming Events.

Superintendent's Report – End of Semester; New Students; Elementary Notes; Facilities; Contract Reminder; Questions.

Consent Agenda approved the November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes, Treasurer/Financial Report, Bills/Payroll.

Motion Passed: Approved Superintendent Evaluation

Discussion Item: NEP Profile & Testing Results

Motion Passed: Approved Policy School Emergency Response-Mapping Data

Discussion Item: Certified Staff Negotiations

Moved by Brabec D, seconded by Folken to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. All present voting "aye". Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Leigh High School STEM Room (B138).

April R. Brabec, Board Secretary

Leigh Community School  
Regular Meeting

Board of Education  
January 15, 2025

President Kamin Held called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Verification of Notice by Kamin Held (Published on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the Leigh World Newspaper & Posted on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Leigh Community Schools, Main-Stop and the Leigh Post Office)

Recognition of Open Meetings Law by Kamin Held

Secretary Brabec read the roll call. Present were Urban J, Went, Wietfeld M, Brabec D, Folken, Held K, Higby, Hoffman, Machmueller.

Also present were Superintendent Fischer, Principal Faltys, Secretary Brabec.

Oath of Office Policy 2004 – read - signed by all Board members

Election of Officers - Approved the Election of Board Officers – Kamin Held, President; Ryan Hoffman, Vice President; Megan Folken, Treasurer; April Brabec, Board Appointed Secretary.

Board Code of Ethics – Policy 2012 – provided for all Board members

Update Board Committees

FFA Presentation – Leigh AG Education Expansion

Approval of Agenda

Principal's Report – Students of the Month; End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester; FCCLA; FFA; Speech; Basketball; Wrestling; 'Thank You!' for Flood Help; Upcoming Events.

Superintendent's Report – Start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester; Facilities; Staffing Additions; Transportation; Spring-Umpire; Questions.

Consent Agenda approved the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes, Treasurer/Financial Report, Bills/Payroll.

Motions Passed: Approved Superintendent as Non-Discrimination Compliance Coordinator and the State and Federal Authorized Representative; Approved the '25-'26 Negotiated Agreement.

Discussion Item: Superintendent's Annual Report

Motions Passed: Approved the '25-'27 Superintendent contract with a 4.9% increase; Approved the '25-'26 Principal's contract with a 3.0% increase.

Discussion Item: '25-'26 Preliminary School Calendar; Splitting of Classes for 2025-2026 School Year.

Moved by Hoffman, seconded by Urban J to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. All present voting "aye". Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Leigh High School STEM Room (B138).

April R. Brabec, Board Secretary



# LEIGH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### January 2025



#### Board of Education

Kamin Held Ryan Hoffman Josh Urban  
Debbie Brabec Nate Higby Megan Folken  
Travis Went Matthew Wietfeld  
Drew Machmueller

[leighcommunityschools.org](http://leighcommunityschools.org)

#### RECENT PK-12 ENROLLMENT

##### TOTALS

2018-19 226  
2019-20 246  
2020-21 257  
2021-22 266  
2022-23 280  
2023-24 291  
**2024-25 302**

#### ENROLLMENT - JANUARY 2025

Pre-School-3yo/4yo 42  
Kindergarten 31  
1st Grade 24  
2nd Grade 25  
3rd Grade 28  
4th Grade 17  
5th Grade 21  
6th Grade 18  
7th Grade 17  
8th Grade 13  
9th Grade 16  
10th Grade 20  
11th Grade 14  
12th Grade 16  
**TOTAL 302**

### Learning Empowers Individuals to Great Heights

#### Statewide Assessment Data 2023-2024(NCASC/ACT) - % Proficient

	<u>LCS</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>ELA</u>	<u>LCS</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>LCS</u>	<u>State</u>
<u>Math</u>								
3rd	93%	60%	3rd	62%	59%	3rd	**	**
4th	75%	60%	4th	80%	59%	4th	**	**
5th	88%	61%	5th	88%	58%	5th	94%	74%
6th	93%	58%	6th	73%	59%	6th	**	**
7th	75%	56%	7th	75%	58%	7th	**	**
8th	80%	57%	8th	93%	62%	8th	100%	65%

*Overall District Proficiency: Math 84%, ELA 79%, Science 97%*

#### ACT- Junior Class Average Scores

	<u>LCS</u>	<u>State</u>
ELA	22	17
Math	23	18
Science	22	18

#### LCS Administration

Cole Fischer, Superintendent/Elem. Prin.  
Andrew Faltys, 7-12 Principal/A.D.

#### NEP- AQuESTT - School Rating

**Overall District-EXCELLENT**  
❖ High School -EXCELLENT  
❖ Middle School -EXCELLENT  
❖ Elementary -EXCELLENT  
*\*Updated in Fall of 2024*

Full Time Certified Teachers  
22.5

#### Student Population Characteristics

	<u>LCS</u>	<u>State</u>
<b>SPED</b>	14%	17%

**Free/Red. Lunches** 26% 52%

#### K-12 DAILY ATTENDANCE DATA

	<u>Dist.</u>	<u>State</u>
2019-20	95%	94%
2020-21	96%	93%
2021-22	95%	92%
2023-24	95%	93%
2024-25	96%	92%

#### School Improvement Goals

- ❖ Math Proficiency
- ❖ Reading Comprehension and Fluency
- ❖ CTE Career Readiness

Follow us on Facebook!

#### Tax Levy and Valuation Data (Approx. Levy)

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>District Valuation</u>
2020-21	0.89	\$442,932,633
2021-22	0.91	\$449,232,794
2022-23	0.99	\$455,193,330
2023-24	0.92	\$501,168,858
2024-25	0.84	\$563,022,075

#### Grants and Program Expansion

- ❖ LCS has been awarded numerous grants estimated at over \$100,000
- ❖ CNA program with CCC and CHI
- ❖ Mechatronics STEM Program with CCC
- ❖ ITE Course Expansion



# Leigh Community Schools

The Leigh Community School District(#39) comprises 80.7 square miles. The district covers parts of Colfax, Platte, and Stanton counties. The community's financial base develops from an agriculture economy. A new HS (7-12 grades) was built onto the existing Elementary building creating a PK-12 facility in 2020. The mission of Leigh Community Schools is to foster a positive educational culture where: STUDENTS thrive, TEACHERS guide, ADMINISTRATORS lead, PARENTS support and the COMMUNITY is the foundation for all. We have sustained a successful athletic coop with Clarkson Public Schools and look forward to strengthening it in the future.

The Leigh Community Schools district has a total valuation of \$563,022,075. The current total tax levy is 84 cents. We recently completed a 4 classroom elementary addition due to our increasing enrollment.

The Leigh Board of Education is very supportive in the continuation of providing a quality education for the students of the district while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

## WE ARE LEIGH! #BETHEBEST

- AQUESTT EXCELLENT District Rating
  - Top 15% in the state
- New Jr/Sr High School in 2020
  - Elementary classroom expansion complete in 2024
- ITE courses that focus on fabrication, design, and entrepreneurship
- CNA Pathway Program in partnership with CCC and CHI
- Mechatronics Stern Program in partnership with CCC
- Proactive Board of Education
- Professional and Progressive Staff
- LCS is 1:1 Computers/IPads in grades K-12
- 98% High School Extracurricular Activity Participation
- State Assessments and ACT Scores above the state average
- Dual Credit and College Courses offered
  - 2024-100% of all seniors graduated with college credits

LCS Legislative Districts Representatives:  
 Dist. 22/23/16 - Mike Moser, Jared Storm, Ben Hansen

# SCHOOL DISTRICT STATISTICS

◆	PK-12 Students: 302	
➤	Growing Enrollment	
➤	State of the Art Facilities	
◆	22.5 Certified Teachers	
➤	22 Classified Staff	
◆	2 Administrators	
◆	General Fund Levy: \$0.6488	
◆	Building Fund Levy: \$0.0636	
◆	Bond Fund Levy: \$0.1327	
◆	General Fund	(Dec. 2024): \$1,385,611.66
◆	Building Fund	(Dec. 2024): \$895,130.78
◆	Depreciation Fund	(Dec. 2024): \$830,410.74
◆	State Aid	
➤	2024-2025	\$628,210.00 (+\$132,244)
➤	2023-2024	\$495,966.00 (+\$304,351)
➤	2022-2023	\$191,615.00



# PATRIOTS

## February is CTE Month!

The Association of Career and Technical Education has designated February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. CTE offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for true career readiness. Students in CTE programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement.

Leigh has a long-standing tradition of offering CTE courses. Building on the foundation of its original comprehensive programs, these courses have evolved into robust programs of study.

Leigh currently offers the following programs of study in their respective content areas:

- 1) Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
  - a) Animal Science
  - b) Ag Business
  - c) Agricultural Power, Structure, and Technology
- 2) Business, Marketing, and Management
  - a) Finance
- 3) Communication and Information Systems
  - a) Broadcast Journalism
- 4) Health Sciences
  - a) Health Science
- 5) Human Services and Education
  - a) Child, Youth, and Family Studies
- 6) Skilled and Technical Sciences
  - a) Construction
  - b) Welding
  - c) Manufacturing

The future of CTE at Leigh continues to evolve. As new local labor market data becomes available, the CTE team meets to discuss how the curriculum and course offerings need to adapt. For example, in response to the growing demand for early childhood care and education, we are excited to introduce the Early Childhood Education program of study in the upcoming school year. This program will allow students to actively engage with our community's early childhood education programs through work-based learning and practicum experiences.

Leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, such as advanced manufacturing, health care, transportation, and early childhood services. CTE prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials. CTE programs ensure employers have access to a qualified and thriving workforce, ensuring our communities thrive in a strong and competitive economy.



We take pride in the CTE programs at Leigh Community School and remain committed to offering programs that align with local labor market needs and equip students for successful careers. If you're interested in supporting your local CTE programs, please contact the school for more information.



CELEBRATE **TODAY,**  
OWN **TOMORROW!**





# Science Classroom Update

## Chemistry:

1st semester students learned about matter and the atomic model and the experiments that led to important modification to the atomic theory throughout history. We also covered all they ever wanted to know about the periodic table (and maybe some they never knew they wanted to know). They have also learned how to name and write formulas for chemical compounds as well as balancing and writing chemical equations. One of their favorite labs was flame tests while studying atomic stability. They ignited small samples of chloride compounds and watched the flame change colors, then calculated the amount of energy released and made connections to firework colors. This semester we will be studying stoichiometry (one of my favorites!) and gas laws.

## Physics:

1st semester we focused on motion in one dimension. Including forces and falling objects and pendulums. Students were asked to complete different challenges throughout the semester including figuring out how to time a marble dropped from 6 feet so it landed precisely in a cup attached to a moving car underneath. They also built cars to best protect an egg as the car rolled down a ramp. They will continue with motion in two dimensions this chapter and momentum. They will design, build, test, and analyze an egg drop contraption after they have a strong understanding of motion, force, and momentum concepts. We will wrap up the year with some energy, light, mirrors and lenses as well as a final "The Physics of..." exploration project.



## Biology:

1st semester students explored all parts of the cell and many cellular processes. We studied some of the important chemistry that takes place inside the cell and how materials can move through the membrane via different processes. They used an egg to demonstrate osmosis and the effect different materials can have on a cell if the liquid has too many/little dissolved materials compared to the cell/egg. They also learned about mitosis and created some awesome stop-animation videos depicting the process of mitosis occurring in a cell. 2nd semester we are diving into genetics and understanding the important aspects of how information is passed from generation to generation and then from the DNA to other parts of the cell. They will do a genetics exploration project. We will round out the semester discussing ecology concepts and hopefully completing a few dissections.



## 8th grade:

8th grade is the NSCAS testing year so while we cover different topics we are also preparing to take this test which students only take 5th grade and 8th grade. Some of the topics we have explored this year include concepts related to energy, force and motion, and the Earth and solar system. Each topic is based on a different phenomenon that kicks off the concept and is explored allowing students to ask questions and build understandings. We have explored many topics with simulations and some hands-on activities. During the force and motion unit, students designed, built

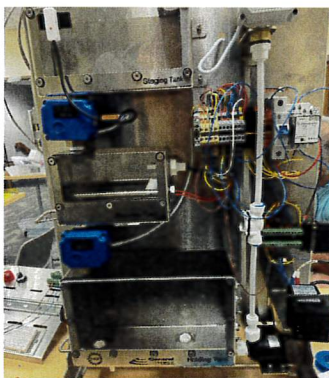
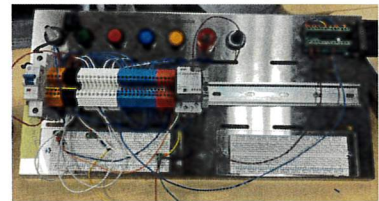
and tested an egg drop contraption that connected to a supply drop pod they developed in a simulation. They then wrote a paper defending their simulated pod design and how it met different criteria and constraints of the project. The next units they will cover will be related to genetics and natural selection.

### **Physical Science:**

1st semester of freshmen physical science is their exploration of many chemistry related topics. This chemistry related semester students explored matter, the atom and brief overview of the atomic model history, the periodic table, writing formulas and names of compounds, and chemical equations and solutions. This semester we transitioned to a focus on the physics part of physical science. Students have already enjoyed conversations about point of reference in order to answer a simple question about if they were moving or not. We will explore motion, forces, energy, machines, and wrap up the chapter with projects related to light, sound, mirrors, and lenses. Students will get the opportunity to build roller coasters, Rube Goldberg machines, and other engineering type activities.

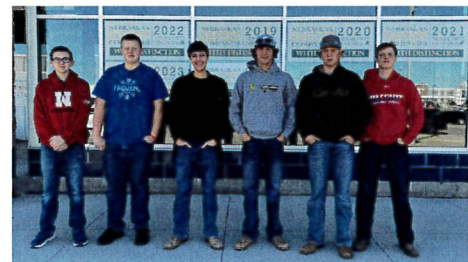
### **Mechatronics:**

Mechatronics is a newly offered class through CCC that I act as a facilitator for during the class period. I went to training last summer for 1st semester and 2nd semester and will continue training this summer to offer a 3rd and 4th semester of it next school year. 1st semester students completed "Introduction to Electricity." They learned to read wiring schematics and learned about a digital multimeter. They built a trainer that they wired in order to complete different lab assignments. They learned how voltage, current, resistance, and power are related in different types of circuits. They could calculate any of these in a circuit schematic as well as build it



and use a digital multimeter to test their circuit for many of those variables. This semester students are taking "Instrumentation." They will build a new trainer that they bench test the components to in order to understand different process components. Some of the components they will learn about are different types of valves, two different level sensors, temperature probes, a flow sensor, and a heater. All of these components they will know how to wire and control through their 1st semester trainer. Once they have learned, tested, and built the second trainer they will be able to run water through it and control the different elements from their original board. The students also attended an

industry tour in Columbus during the first semester that they really enjoyed and are hoping to get to go on another one this semester. Three seniors and three juniors will have completed both semesters by the end of the year. It has been a great opportunity for the students and I look forward to growing the program in the future.





**SCHOLASTIC**  
**BOOK FAIR**  
**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**To Cookies and Chat**

Title1 informational meeting  
Wednesday March 19th 5:30-6:00pm JAG Room  
If you attend the meeting, your name will be put in  
a drawing for \$20 to the book fair.  
The Book fair will be open to the public March 19th 5:00-7:00pm

**MORE BOOKS  
MORE READING**

Book Fair Dates: March 17-21 (see book fair flyer)



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**SCHOLASTIC**  
*It's* **BOOK FAIR** *time!*

**COME TO  
THE FAIR  
CHOOSE BOOKS  
YOU LOVE**

Leigh Community School Book Fair  
Dates: March 17-21  
Hours: before school 7:40-8:05am  
after school until 5:00pm  
Family Night Wednesday March 19th 5:00-7:00pm

# Leigh Community Schools

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 WR - EHC Tourney @ Lyons/Decatur 9:00 a.m. V B BB - EHC Tourney - C/L vs Howells/Dodge @ Oakland 6:00 p.m.
2	3 V G BB - EHC Tourney - TBD	4 V B BB - EHC Tourney - TBD JH BBB vs Schuyler @ Clarkson 4:30 p.m.	5 FFA Meeting 10:00 a.m. LATE START - Teacher Professional Development NO AM PRE K Classes FFA-State Degree/ Proficiency Reviews @ CCC 5th GBB practice @ Leigh 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	6 V G BB - EHC Tourney - TBD JH BBB @ Wayne 4:30 p.m.	7 WR - Patriot Tourney @ Clarkson 10:00 a.m. V B BB - EHC Tourney - TBD Speech Meet @ Wakefield	8 V G & B BB EHC Tourney Finals @ PENDER 5th GBB practice @ Clarkson 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
9	10 FCCLA Week JH BBB vs Archangels Catholic @ Leigh 3:30 p.m. EHC Honor Band @ WSC C-Team B BB @ Madison 6:00 p.m. 5th GBB practice @ Clarkson 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. C-Team G BB @ Tekamah-Herman 6:00 p.m. LEAP after school	11 FCCLA Week JV/V BB @ Pierce 4:30 p.m.	12 6:30 p.m. Regular School Board Meeting FCCLA Week	13 FCCLA Week JV/V BB @ Stanton 4:30 p.m. JH BBB vs Madison @ Leigh 4:30 p.m.	14 FCCLA Week WR Districts - TBD 5th GBB practice @ Clarkson 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	15 WR Districts - TBD Youth BB Tournament - Both Gyms in Clarkson & Leigh Speech Meet @ Humphrey FCCLA - Parent's Night Out Junior High Dance- Leigh Elementary Gym 7-9pm
16	17 FFA Week GBB Sub Districts - TBD	18 FFA Week GBB Sub Districts - TBD	19 FFA Week	20 FFA Week State Cheer & Dance in Grand Island (Class A & B Dance) WR - State Championships GBB Sub Districts - TBD	21 FFA Week WR - State Championships JV/V Boys only BB vs David City @ Leigh 6:00 p.m. State Cheer & Dance in Grand Island (Session 1-Class C1-C2-D Dance; Session 2-Class C2 & D Cheer)	22 WR - State Championships C Team B BB @ Tekamah/Herman Tourney Speech Meet @ Wisner/Pilger State Cheer & Dance in Grand Island (Session 1-Class A-B & Unified Cheer; Session 2-Class C1 Cheer)
23 FCCLA - Peer Ed Conf. in Kearney	24 FCCLA - Peer Ed Conf. in Kearney BBB Sub Districts - TBD	25 BBB Sub Districts - TBD	26 EHC Speech @ Clarkson - 8:00 a.m.	27 BBB Sub Districts - TBD FCCLA Chapter Meeting - 6:15 p.m.	28 GBB District Finals - TBD	1



# FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Milk is included with all menus	All Breakfasts include fruit or juice				1
2	3 BR: Cereal Bar, Cereal L: Chicken Patty/Bun, Tri Tater, Broccoli, Pineapple	4 BR: Muffin L: Meatball Sub, Sun Chips, Peas & Carrots, Fresh Oranges	5 BR: LATE START-NO BREAKFAST L: Corn Dog, Sweet Potato Fries, Baked Beans, Peaches	6 BR: Bagel Bites L: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes, Bread Stick, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit	7 BR: PB&J L: French Toast, Sausage, Hash Brown, Juice, Yogurt	8
9	10 BR: Rice Krispie Bar, Cereal L: Walking Taco, Refried Beans, Side Kicks	11 BR: Donut Bites L: Calzone, Broccoli, Tri Tater, Pineapple	12 BR: Tornado L: Breaded Beef Patty, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Mixed Fruit	13 BR: Cinnamon Roll L: Turkey & Noodles, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Tropical Fruit	14 BR: Bagel Breakfast L: Chicken Nuggets, (H/S: Bun), Potato Wedges, Mixed Veggies, Mand. Oranges, Ice Cream Sandwich	15
16	17 BR: Smore Bar L: Pork Patty/Bun, Tri Tater, Corn, Applesauce	18 BR: Pancake, Chicken & Sausage Sandwich L: Tater Tot Casserole, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Peaches	19 BR: Breakfast Bar L: Popcorn Chicken, (H/S: Bun), French Fries, Broccoli, Fresh Oranges	20 BR: Mini Donuts L: Hoagie, Chips, Carrots, Strawberry Cup	21 BR: Poptart, Cereal L: Elem: Hot Dog H/S: Chili Dog French Fries, Peas & Carrots, Pineapple	22
23	24 BR: Rice Krispie Bar, Cereal L: Pizza, Lettuce, California Blend, Pears	25 BR: Donut Bites L: Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Fruit Cup	26 BR: PB&J L: Hot Turkey Sandwich, Potato Wedges, Peas & Carrots, Peaches	27 BR: Muffin, Cereal L: Hamburger or Cheese Burger, Chips, Baked Beans, Tropical Fruit	28 BR: Yogurt, Bun L: Breakfast Sandwich, Tri Tater, Juice, Chocolate Chip Bar	

THE LEGEND  
222 W 4TH STREET  
P O BOX 98  
LEIGH NE 68643

## From the Principal's Desk:



Speech season is off to a great start placing 4th out of 17 teams at the North Bend meet. Speech meet results can be found on the school Facebook page following each meet. FFA will have their first round of CDE's at Columbus Community College. Check our Facebook page for results Thursday evening. FCCLA had their district events last week in Schuyler and all 16 members that competed advanced to the state competition. The Patriot basketball teams will be competing in Conference play the next few weeks. Semifinals and finals will

be held in Pender on Friday and Saturday next weekend. The conference wrestling meet will be held in Lyons on Saturday. I want to wish everyone the best of luck at their respective events! #GOPATS.

**Students of the Month - Carter Brabec (senior), Ella Urban (senior), Vylet Hollatz (sophomore)**