

Holdrege Public Schools

Foundation Newsletter

dusters.org

“Giving Back to Education”

November 2017

Who Are We and What Do We Do?

Education foundations nationwide were created in the late 1970's as public school budgets across the country were significantly reduced. To offset the serious financial crisis in our schools, and to bridge the financial gap between what was needed for our students and state and federal funding, the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation was formed in 1988 with a \$30,000 grant from the Phelps County Community Foundation for the purpose of establishing an endowment. For more than twenty years our community has responded to the district's needs with tremendous support, recognizing that in today's world, private funding is crucial for public education. Our Foundation Committee is comprised of three school board members, two staff members, and five community members who meet several times annually and work on various projects throughout the year.

HPS Foundation Committee

HPS Board of Education

Teresa Kroll, Chairman
Tim Gustafson
Shaun Jensen

Community Members

Chris Ecklun
Grant Ericksen
'Chelle Ham
Mary Oman
Jamie Rooks

HPS Staff

Todd Hilyard
Sandy Dunaway (Ad Hoc Support)



PHELPS COUNTY MATCH DAY

Take this opportunity to help the HPS Foundation grow!

GIVE2GROW is a one-day fundraising event on November 16th. It's your chance to make a real impact when your gift to the HPS Foundation is matched by the Phelps County Community Foundation. Last year's match day was successful with contributions of

nearly \$2,200. After matching funds and processing fees, the total available to the HPS Foundation and supported special projects was almost \$2,700.

This year, the HPS Foundation will also be directing funds raised through Give2Grow towards a project to replace the district's sign at the Central Office with a modern digital approach.

Join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. Your investment is guaranteed dividends!



Find out more...click on the arrow to go to the **Give2Grow** website. You can make your donation online now or by November 16th. Walk-in donations will also be accepted at the Phelps County Community Foundation office from 8:00am—7:00pm on November 16th.



Summary of 2017 Grants

Teacher grant applications are accepted annually until March 28th for consideration by the HPS Foundation Committee. The committee makes recommendations for awards to the Board of Education at their regular April meeting.

Teacher grant applications totaling \$6,047.67 were received, and six requests, totaling \$4,918.92, were awarded for the 2017 teacher grant cycle as follows:

\$332.03—Amber Kellen—HES Sensory/Behavior Room Items

\$933.66—Casey Klein—Kore Wobble Chairs in HES Kindergarten

\$324.11—Allisha Melroy—Cricut Machine & Supplies for HHS Speech Class and Team

\$1,500.00—Jeff Moore—CASE Curriculum Materials for HHS Agricultural Education

\$993.15—Mary Schneider—Stability Balls & Standing Desks for HMS Classroom

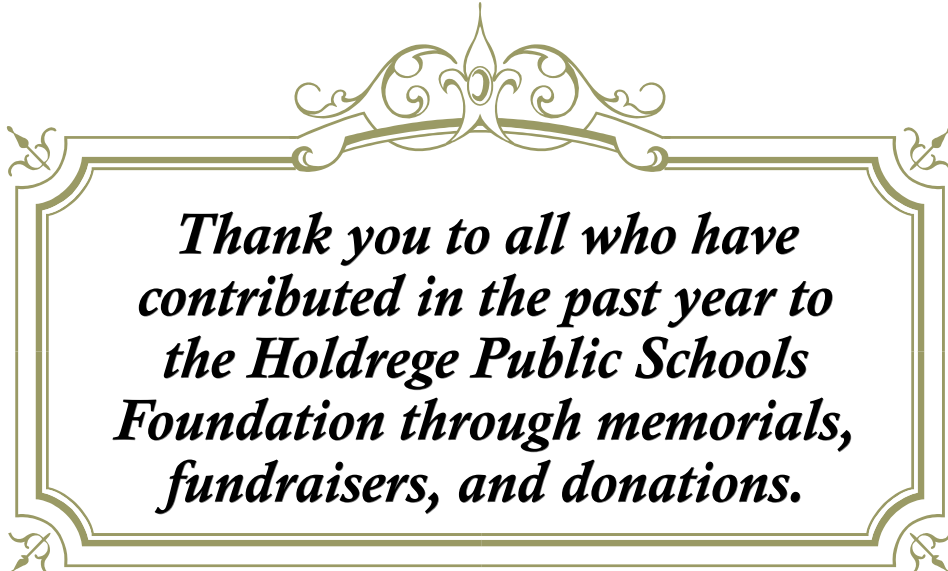
\$835.97—Jill Stoelting—Weather Station for HES



The Mission of the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ackerman
 Ag Service Associates—Mr. & Mrs. John Williams
 Ag West Commodities, LLC
 Alden & Ruth Carlson
 Remainder Trust
 All City Glass
 Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, PC
 Allmand Brothers, Inc.—Briggs & Stratton Corporation
 Anderson, Klein, Brewster & Brandt
 Mr. Blake Anderson
 Mr. Mitch Anderson
 Mr. & Mrs. Tony Badertscher
 Batie & Thorell Insurance Agency, LLC
 Bergman Ag, Inc.—Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bergman
 Bilka Chiropractic, LLC
 Mrs. Barbara Blackburn
 Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Blase
 Mrs. E. Elaine Borgman
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Brinkman
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis D. Brown
 Bruce Furniture & Floor Covering
 Bruning State Bank
 BT Ludeke, Inc. dba K & D Motor & Electric—Mr. & Mrs. Brad Ludeke
 Mr. & Mrs. Warner Carlson
 Central Valley Irrigation, Inc. & Central Valley Electric
 CHS Agri Service Center
 Clinch Enterprises
 Ms. J. A. Dahlstrom-Quinn
 Dairy Queen
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis DaMoude
 Mr. & Mrs. Brett David
 Mr. Richard Defusco
 Mr. Craig NeNoyer
 DeWald Deaver Law Firm, PC LLO
 DLR Group
 Eakes Office Solutions
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Ecklun
 Mr. & Mrs. Matt Ecklun
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ecklun
 Edward Jones Investments—Mr. & Mrs. Steve Allen and Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rehnberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Grant Ericksen
 First National Capital Markets
 First State Bank of Holdrege
 Four G Farms—Todd & Nancy Garrelts

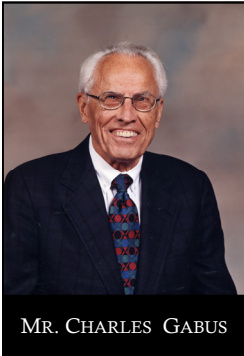
Ms. Mary A. Frazer
 Fritz's Meat—Fritz Bros., Inc.
 Ms. Ann Fuerst
 Great Western Bank
 Green Landscapes, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Gustafson
 HAR Livestock Dispatch, Inc.—Allen Anderson
 HHS Class of 1949
 HHS Class of 1966—Ms. Darlene Schaap
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Ham
 Mr. Matthew Hanson & Mrs. Linda Callahan-Hanson
 Mr. John W. Hasselquist
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hilsabeck, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hilyard
 Dr. Grant Hinze DDS, PC
 Mr. & Mrs. David Hohensee
 Holdrege Auto Parts, Inc.
 Holdrege Family Dental, LLC
 Holdrege Family Vision Clinic, PC
 Mrs. Lexie Hollertz Frahm
 Mr. David Hunt
 Husker Irrigation, LLC
 Dr. & Mrs. Brett Hytrek
 IES Commercial, Inc.
 J D Lumber—Jim & Dawn Sladky
 Janssen Auto Group
 Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Johnson
 Ms. Sheri M. Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Klein
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Klein



Thank you to all who have contributed in the past year to the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation through memorials, fundraisers, and donations.

Kroll & Sons Construction—Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Kroll
 Mr. & Mrs. William Larson
 Mr. Noah Luebbe
 Lunchtime Solutions, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Malm
 Mr. R. Tyler McClymont
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Meester
 Ms. Shirley Messersmith
 Mid-States Automation & Control, Inc.
 Ms. Arlene Mintzmyer
 Mr. & Mrs. Timothy J. Moomey
 Moore's Irrigation
 Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Murdoch
 Nebraska Provider Alliance, LLC dba RuralMed
 Management Resources
 Jeanette M. Nedrig, CPA
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Scott Nelson
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 New West Orthopaedic & Sports Rehabilitation, LLC
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Oman
 Ms. Nancy Pavelka
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pelster
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 Ms. Carole Peterson
 Phelps Memorial Health Center
 Phi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma
 Principal Financial Group
 Pro Building Supply, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Raddatz
 Mr. David Raddatz
 Real Estate Connection
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rehnberg
 Mr. Eric Runestad
 Keith D. Samuelson Land Leveling, Inc.
 Ms. Betty Sayers
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Schneider
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 Sign Pro—Curt Bennett
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 South Central Diesel, Inc.
 State Farm Insurance—Mr. & Mrs. Randy Grassmeyer
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 Studio B Photography
 Mr. & Mrs. John Suarez
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 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Swanson
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 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vetter
 Ms. Marie A. Von Behren
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Waller
 Wells Flying Service
 Mr. Gary Westergren
 Woodward's Disposal Service, Inc.
 Ms. Margo Young
 Mr. & Mrs. James C. Zalewski
 Ziemba Roofing Company

Charles Gabus Endowment Gift



MR. CHARLES GABUS

In 2008, HPS received a \$100,000 gift from former Holdrege resident, Charles Gabus, in memory of his wife, Frances Hardy Gabus. Mr. Gabus desired that this gift be endowed and the interest be used to purchase library and textbooks for

Holdrege High School. Mr. & Mrs. Gabus and their family lived in Holdrege and operated Charles Gabus Ford, later moving to Iowa. Mr. Gabus wrote that their three children, Jan, Pat, and Gene all graduated from “the outstanding Holdrege High School.”

The HPS Foundation Committee is deeply appreciative for this gift and the impact that it has on educational opportunities for our students.

We hope that this gift will help to raise awareness of the efforts of the HPS Foundation and serve as a catalyst for future gifts.”

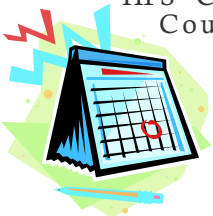
Looking Forward to 2018



Watch for information on the 2018 HPS Foundation Golf Tournament to be held next summer at the Holdrege Country Club. There will be flag prize incentives and cash payouts for the top teams.

Tentative plans are to hold the tournament on the Saturday of the annual Swedish Days celebration, June 16^h.

Proceeds will be used to provide grants to enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers in the Holdrege Public Schools. Brochures will be available next spring online and at the HPS Central Office, Phelps County Community Foundation, and the Holdrege Country Club.



Gabus Funds Invest in Next Generation



HHS English/language arts teachers Kris Olson, Laura Beerman, Allisha Melroy, and Jerry Buck display the literature series textbooks included in the curriculum acquisitions for the 2017-18 school year.

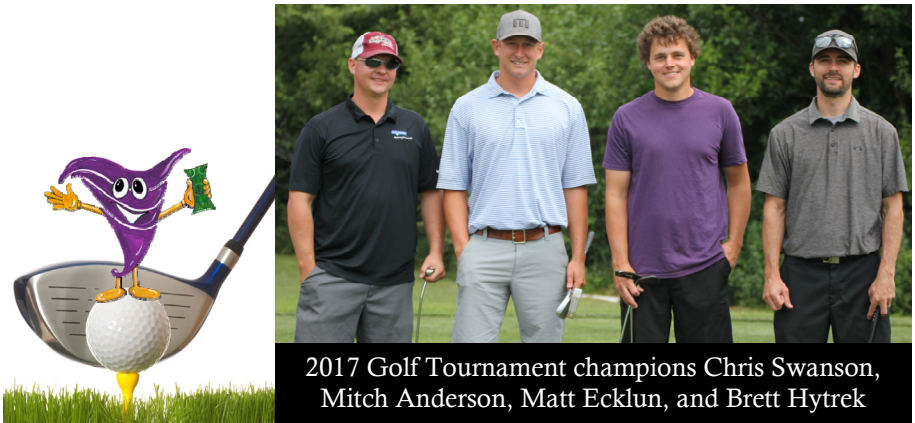
This year, the school district updated curriculum in the areas of art, music, English/language arts, speech, and drama.

Thanks to the Gabus family, their educational investment provided more than \$6,500 this year to help the school district make these purchases that will be available to our students for many years to come. Textbooks and related materials are addressed annually through the continuous curriculum improvement process and curriculum review cycle.

2017 Golf Tournament



The seventh annual 2017 HPS Foundation Golf Tournament was held in conjunction with the annual celebration of Swedish Days at the Holdrege Country Club on June 17th. The tournament was a great success with 76 golfers competing in gorgeous weather. Thanks to the tremendous support of business and community sponsors and participants, the HPS Foundation raised net proceeds for the tournament of nearly \$8,000!



2017 Golf Tournament champions Chris Swanson, Mitch Anderson, Matt Ecklun, and Brett Hytrek



HES students Michael Golus, Reyna Pineda, Teagan Weaver, Damen Noble, and Kendellen Kellen get ready for a weather presentation.



Above, Mrs. Stoelting holds the equipment that has been installed on the roof at Holdrege Elementary School. Below, the weather station monitor ready to be installed in the HES Library.



Weather Forecast—Sunny Skies Over HES

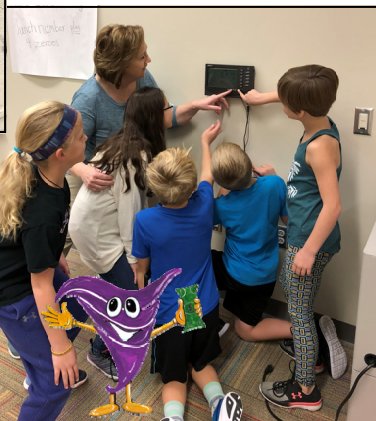
HES media specialist Jill Stoelting’s grant involved obtaining weather station equipment and controls for installation at Holdrege Elementary School. Grant funds were used to purchase a Davis Instruments Vantage Pro2, an ambient weatherbridge for connecting the station to the school website, a rain and snow gauge, and handheld anemometer.

“Thanks to Brad Larson, the district’s technology coordinator, the weather station is transmitting ‘live’ on the homepage of the school website. HES students and the 4th grade teachers are collaborating to collect and chart data. The station’s data and manual tools are available for classrooms district-wide, so all students can benefit,” said Mrs. Stoelting. “Perhaps it will even help Mr. Hilyard decide on whether to call a snowday this winter,” she smiled.



Above, students Beckett Coenen and Mackenzie Jewett look at the recently installed rain gauge with Mrs. Stoelting.

At right, Mrs. Stoelting and fourth graders Adleigh Popple Reyna Pineda, Baron Medina, Michael Golus, and Kendellen Kellen examine how the weather station functions.



How Can You Help?
 If you would like to make a donation or memorial in honor of or in memory of a loved one, to help us in our effort to “Give Back to Education”, please contact the school at (308) 995-8663 or send a check to Phelps County Community Foundation, HPS Foundation Fund.

Christmas Gift Giving Options
 Do you have the person on your Christmas list who has everything and you just don’t know what to give them? How about a gift to the HPS Foundation in their honor? Your gift will benefit many HPS students through the Foundation’s grant program. Please contact the school or send a check to the Phelps County Community Foundation, HPS Foundation Fund.



Teacher Casey Klein and her kindergarten class are full of smiles when you ask them about their new Kore Wobble chairs.

Kore Wobble Chairs Keep Kindergarten Students In Their Seats

Thanks to HPS Foundation grant funds, Kore Wobble chairs have provided Casey Klein’s kindergarteners an opportunity to have flexible seating. The Kore chairs have allowed students the ability to release energy during seat work. The chairs allow students to have movement during their whole group time, as well as independent seat work.

Mrs. Klein said, “Currently, I have 12 chairs provided by the grant in my classroom, in addition to 5 more that were borrowed from the special education room. I have 17 students, so this allows for all students to have one chair during different activities. There are certain times such as reading, math, centers, and handwriting that I direct students to get their Wobble chairs. Most students choose to use them. I think it is important for them to decide whether the wobble chair helps them be successful or not. More students choose to use the wobble chairs than not. I do see that the Kore chairs have been helpful for the students who require more movement. These students continue to stay more engaged in their seat work with the ability to move back and forth, side to side, twist, and move in a circle. These small movements are less distracting to peers during class time.”

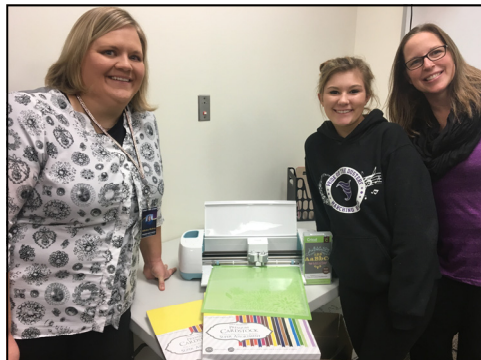


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Speech Students Gain Competitive Edge

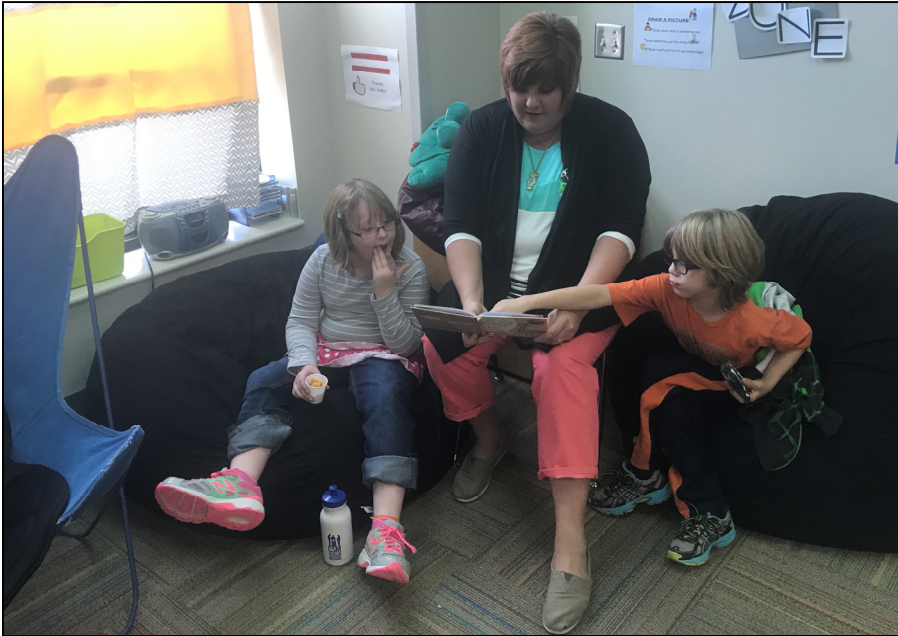
HHS speech students have a more professional approach to their presentations thanks to the addition of a Cricut wireless cutting and design machine. Grant recipient Allisha Melroy said, “Obtaining and using the Cricut machine has allowed our students to have more professional looking display boards in the classroom and in competition. It allows students to explore the importance of professionalism in a visual and tangible way. I believe they will be better equipped to create and deliver professional speeches in a way that relates to their audience. On a competitive level, I believe our speech team will experience higher scores and more success with better visual display boards.”



Above, teachers and speech team coaches Allisha Melroy and Tonya McCroden discuss design strategy with Abigail Woosley at the Cricut machine.

Below, Boston Petit finds the right settings to create his visual aid for entertainment speaking.





Amber Kellen reads and discusses a social skills story book to students Zoe Larington and Garrett Hageman.

6th Graders Explore Active Learning Options

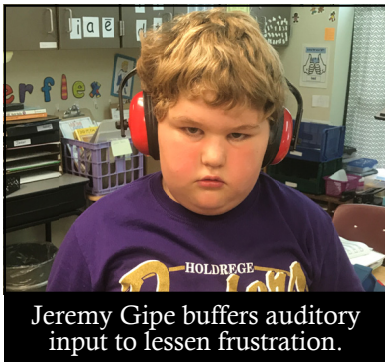
Thanks to the addition of 18 stability balls and four standing desks, Mary Schneider’s sixth grade students have options to choose from in their learning environment.

According to Mrs. Schneider, “The students are able to choose whether they would like to sit on a stability ball or sit in a regular chair. On average, 75-80 percent of the students in each section choose a stability ball. They comment that it helps them focus better and allows for some movement during class with “tiny” bounces. The standing desks have been very popular, too. Students enjoy getting out of their seats for all or part of the class.”

Sensory Items Help Students Focus

Amber Kellen, HES special education teacher, utilized grant funds to purchase sensory items and social skills books for her classroom. Students use these visual and tactile objects to help them regulate their emotions so that they can go back to the classroom and perform successfully. The items purchased include a weighted blanket, chair massager, noise reduction headphones, body sock, muscle roller stick, weighted fleece hoodie, and books to supplement the social skills curriculum.

Mrs. Kellen noted, “I have taught my students to use some of the sensory items as a deescalation technique when they are becoming frustrated. I have several students who like to use the body sock to get proprioceptive input instead of using their bodies to hurt others or destroy property. I also have others who like to use the vibrating chair when they are doing their calm breathing techniques. I have used several of the books that I received for teaching expected and unexpected behaviors, zones of our emotions and the emotions of others, and looking at a problem and matching the size of the reaction with the size of the problem.”



Jeremy Gipe buffers auditory input to lessen frustration.



Tristan Harwick uses the chair as sensory input to reengage in classroom learning activities.



Above Trey Weaver & Ethan Berg use a standing desk to complete a math challenge. Below, Averie Thomas uses a stability ball every day in class.





Jeff Moore attends the CASE Institute training program in June 2017 at Waverly High School to implement the new plant systems curriculum.



Justine Johnson, Cassidy Connell, and Alex Wells display items purchased with grant funds to implement the CASE Plant Systems curriculum.



Connecting with Duster Alumni & Patrons

The HPS Foundation Committee reaches beyond the community to keep alumni and patrons abreast of the growth, development, and success of the HPS Foundation and the Holdrege Public Schools system via emailed newsletters and alumni recognition features.

Join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. Your investment is guaranteed dividends in any economic time.

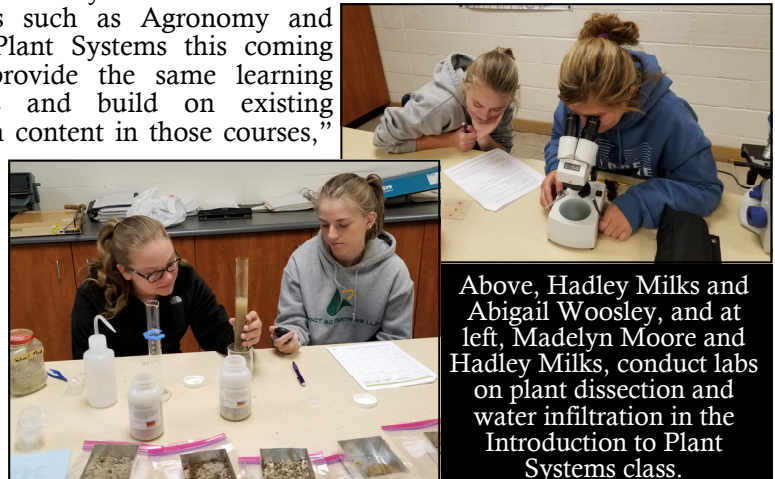
If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list, you can register from the Duster Alumni tab under Links at dusters.org or call the Holdrege Public Schools Central Office at (308) 995-8663.

CASE Materials Keep Ag Students Growing

Ag education instructor Jeff Moore realized a goal this semester to purchase and implement the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education for Plant Systems. Grants from the HPS Foundation, Pioneer/Dupont, the Nebraska FFA Foundation, and Farm Credit Services were utilized to purchase the needed materials as well as the cost of the training program held in June 2017 at Waverly High School.

Equipment purchased for the CASE system included two microscopes, as well as soil moisture probes and pH, dissolved oxygen, CO2, and Electro conductivity sensors.

“We are so fortunate to have such broad support of our ag education program. Implementing the CASE Plant Systems course has allowed for more hands-on inquiry based activities and lessons. It has deepened the learning for students through inquiry techniques. Students can conduct labs and activities in the classroom and the school greenhouse. The equipment and materials may be further utilized in courses such as Agronomy and Intro to Plant Systems this coming year to provide the same learning techniques and build on existing curriculum content in those courses,” said Mr. Moore.



Above, Hadley Milks and Abigail Woosley, and at left, Madelyn Moore and Hadley Milks, conduct labs on plant dissection and water infiltration in the Introduction to Plant Systems class.