



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

We're excited to provide this new "alumni newsletter" in hopes that we can strengthen our communication with York Dukes near and far. It is our plan to make available an annual newsletter each summer. These will be archived on the school district's website in a "YHS Alumni News" tab at www.yorkpublic.org. We also encourage everyone to spread the word that on the "YHS Alumni News" tab of the www.yorkpublic.org website there will be a link for everyone to update their contact information. We want to grow our contact data base to strengthen communication as much as we can with our important alumni group.

We've put together an "Alumni Board of Directors" to help coordinate communication and get-togethers of various classes as they come back to town. This group will also be working to add to our "contact info database" of YHS graduates. If you're interested in helping the Alumni Board, or learning more about it, please contact one of our current officers:

- Patti (Peters) Vincent at patti.vincent@yorkdukes.org
- Troy Rowe at troy.rowe@yorkdukes.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- ANNUAL EVENT

At the present time, Patti Vincent and Troy Rowe are working with the York Public Schools Foundation on putting together an annual alumni event. This 1st annual event is scheduled for August/September 2016. Highlights of "Welcome Home York Dukes" will be a tailgate party and halftime recognition at the first YHS home football game, a visit to Wessels Living History Farm (<http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/>), a tour of the recently renovated and expanded York High School as it had over \$14 million of work done to it in 2012-13, a banquet at Chances "R," and more!

Visit the "York Public Schools" Facebook page and/or www.yorkpublic.org to stay in tune with the details as they are put together. We will be sharing much more info and specific dates as they become available.

THE YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The YPS Foundation, a (501) (3) (c) non-profit corporation, was established to assist in preserving and/or enhancing the quality of education received by students of the school district. The Foundation seeks grants and contributions for the purpose of furthering the educational programs of the district.

The funds received will be used for improvements and additions to the physical facilities of the public school district, supporting special events for students, purchase of computers and software to support the curriculum, and a myriad of other purposes in support of education.

Projects which have been supported through funds donated to the Foundation by individuals, local organizations, graduated classes, and various other foundations include:

- PLAY (Pre-School) computer software and camera and musical instruments
- YES Smartboards & laptops
- YMS Smartboards
- YHS computers & software
- YHS theater headsets, wireless systems, and sound & lighting upgrades
- YMS & YHS outdoor signs
- YMS landscaping
- YHS pole vault pit and wrestling mats
- YHS band uniform bags
- YHS security cameras
- YHS field house
- YHS science & social studies curriculum projects
- YHS library improvements
- YHS greenhouse project

Donations of all sizes are accepted at the YPS District Office. There is a YPS Foundation tab on the www.yorkpublic.org website that shows a “wish list” of various programs we have. Please feel free to stop by or mail your donation to:

York Public Schools Foundation

Attn: Gayla Knight
1715 N. Delaware Ave
York, NE 68467

gayla.knight@yorkdukes.org

YPS Foundation Board of Directors

President - Dr. Pat Hotovy
Vice-President - Dale Kahla
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YORK DUKES on SOCIAL MEDIA

York Public Schools is very active on social media.

On Twitter, look for the hashtag of **#yorkdukes** to see numerous school staff, students, and patrons tweeting about all of the great things going on within the school system. By searching this hashtag, you will find many teachers, coaches, and administrators to follow if you like.

On Facebook, look for “York Public Schools” to see lots of updates and pictures from throughout the school district. Many of our individual sports teams and fine arts groups also have their own pages to follow as well.

“York High Alumni – York, Nebraska” is also an active group on Facebook and we encourage you to join/like so you can get/keep connected with your York Duke friends.

Our website of www.yorkpublic.org has a “Striv TV” link that allows for most, not all, YHS games, concerts, and plays to be live streamed. We’ve had alumni in foreign countries report they enjoy watching the Dukes beat Seward from their computer screens in faraway places!

CAREER PREPARATION AND AWARENESS at YORK HIGH SCHOOL

York Public Schools is thrilled to be a statewide leader in school-to-career preparation. We are excited about the numerous opportunities and partnerships we have that provide our high school students with a wide array of excellent experiences.

We currently offer 15 career academies where our 11th and 12th graders can learn about agribusiness management, nursing, marketing, crop science, welding, medical terminology, website design, and more.

We also have a one-of-a-kind Agronomy Academy that began in August 2014 where students from York, Centennial, and Seward learn together at the Monsanto Production Plant near Waco. This hands-on experience is paid for by Pioneer, Monsanto, Mycogen, and Syngenta.

In 2015-16, we will be rolling out some work certification programming through the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture where YHS students will be able to graduate with a high school diploma AND work certification in diversified agriculture, irrigation technology, or chemical application. This is the first program of its type in Nebraska and we’re proud THE DUKES are leading the way!

YHS HALL OF FAME

The York High School Hall of Fame was established in 2010 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in business, medicine, education, politics, social programs, philanthropy, or other significant areas in American society. To nominate a worthy candidate for Hall of Fame consideration, please contact YHS Principal Mitch Bartholomew at mitch.bartholomew@yorkdukes.org or via phone at 402-362-6655 ext. #2.

Current members of the YHS Hall of Fame are:

- Bill Moomey, Harold Nordlund, Harvey Perlman – 2010
- Hub Foster, Even Pickrel – 2011
- Paul Toms, Jim Linderholm – 2012
- Mike Babcock, Robin Abrams – 2013
- Robert Harry, Tommy Toms – 2014

DID YOU KNOW....

- York Public Schools became a school district on June 14, 1871.
- York High School underwent over \$14 million in construction during 2012-13. We added 25,000 square feet with the addition of a fine arts wing for new art, music, and band classrooms, as well as a 2nd gym.
- YHS One-Act has won back-to-back STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS in 2013 and 2014.
- YHS had state runner-ups in softball (2013), football (2013), girls' track (2014), and wrestling (2015).
- YPS had a PreK-12th grade enrollment of 1,325 in 2014-15.
- York Public Schools ranks in the top 25% of Nebraska for student achievement scores in reading, math, and science.
- A brand new York Middle School opened in 2007 and sits on the east side of Delaware Avenue just across from YHS.

UNTIL NEXT TIME....

It is my honor to serve as the Superintendent of York Public Schools. THANK YOU to our alumni for making our school district's traditions so rich. We truly respect what it means to be a York Duke and we're working hard to make you proud. We certainly have a great past and a bright future! Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments, and/or concerns.

GO DUKES,

Mike Lucas

402-362-6655 ext. 405

mike.lucas@yorkdukes.org