

Prom 2025



Prom Candidates

Left to Right:

Reagan Bartley

Chase Paulsen

Ashley Braun

Zach Spohn

Keila Ricenbaw

Mason Vossler

Prom Royalty 2025

Queen: Ashley Braun

King: Mason Vossler



Looking Ahead

As we look toward the end of this school year, we have also started looking toward the beginning of the next school year. With the inaugural year of EMF, there will be many questions as well as new challenges to address.

During the last two years, we have seen our athletes and participants tackle new challenges in terms of forming teams and finding their place in a new system. The same will be true for all of our students and staff as they navigate this exciting future. Throughout this year, we have worked with the staff in both buildings to begin forming relationships and create new course offerings and opportunities. This does not mean that all of the kinks will be worked out before year one. There will always be “bumps in the road” when you are pushing for progress.

Speaking of bumps, there have been a few so far, but as I type this, 6-12 classes have been created and enrollment will begin soon for next year. The elementary schedule is taking shape and for the first time for many of our staff, they will have a grade partner who they will be able to collaborate and coordinate with.

Throughout this process, the goal of the school boards and administration was to work toward finding what each district does that works and make sure that those pieces were in place for our students. Some traditions may fade, but others will be kept strong. The administration has always stated that we need to move past the “Friend Way” or the “Exeter-Milligan Way” and create the “EMF Way.” That has been our goal throughout this school year with decisions that have been made.

Plans are being made for an open house at both locations to help our students transition. We are in the process of planning this open house for EMF families before school starts in August. With as much room movement and construction that is scheduled, even students who are familiar with the building will find that many of the classrooms have moved or changed. The reason for an early August gathering is to ensure both buildings are prepared for visitors. Right now, the plan is to have this event the week of August 4. I would encourage all students and families to consider attending the open houses. More information will come later this summer.

In this packet you will find information regarding bussing. This was one of the many concerns that kept coming up. My hope is that the information presented here will serve to help you prepare for next year if you have a child riding the bus.

Throughout the next few months, big changes will be happening. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Warm regards,

Derek Anderson
Superintendent



Exeter-Milligan-Friend Public Schools
501 S. Main Street/ P.O. Box 67, Friend, NE 68359
Phone: F- 402-947-2781 Fax: 402-947-2026
E- 402-266-5911 Fax: 402-266-4811

Administration
Superintendent: Derek Anderson
PreK-5 Principal: Laura Kroll
6-12 Principal: Liz Stutzman

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Exeter-Milligan-Friend, the safety of our students is our top priority, especially when it comes to transportation. Riding the school bus is a privilege, and we expect all students to follow the established safety rules to ensure a safe and respectful environment for everyone. Whether your child rides the bus for 10 minutes or 45 minutes, the same rules apply, and following them is essential to keeping everyone safe.

To maintain a safe and orderly ride for all students, we ask that parents and guardians review the following five most important bus rules with their children:

1. **Stay Seated at All Times** – Once on the bus, students must remain in their seats until they reach their destination. Moving around while the bus is in motion is dangerous.
2. **Listen to the Bus Driver** – The driver is in charge of the bus, and students must follow their instructions at all times.
3. **Keep Hands, Feet, and Objects to Yourself** – For everyone's safety, students must not touch others or throw objects inside or outside of the bus.
4. **Use Respectful Language and Behavior** – Loud noises, inappropriate language, and disruptive behavior can distract the driver and create unsafe conditions.
5. **Keep Noise Levels Low** – Students should talk quietly so the bus driver can hear important traffic sounds and communicate necessary instructions. Excessive noise can be a safety hazard.

Failure to follow these rules may result in consequences, including warnings, assigned seating, parent notifications, and in serious or repeated cases, suspension of bus privileges. If a student continues to disregard the rules, they may lose the privilege of riding the bus altogether.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your children. Working together, we can ensure that every student has a safe and pleasant experience on school transportation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the transportation department.

Attached are the 2025-2026 School Bus Routes with pick-up times included.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our buses safe!

Sincerely,

Dean and Leesa Bartu

Liz Stutzman

Laura Kroll

2025-2026 Projected Bus Routes

These routes are projected right now and will not be finalized until approximately one week before school starts, as students move in and out of the district. Times will be adjusted at that point, depending on which students ride.

Afternoon drop-off times will not be published as different students ride every day, depending on after-school activities.

There will be transfer routes going both ways between Friend and Exeter. Students will be assigned to a bus and there will be a para taking attendance on the bus. Buses will leave from each site PROMPTLY at 8:00 AM and WILL NOT stop to pick up students who are running late. There will be a strict policy on this so that students will arrive at their designated school on time. Students who miss the bus will have to find their own transportation.

In the afternoon, the transfer buses will return to the schools at 3:30 PM. The transfer buses will be full; no unassigned students will be allowed to ride. Bus routes will switch directions at Christmas break. The listed stops are the only places our drivers are allowed to drop off students, so we don't add time to the routes.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK OUR DRIVERS TO DROP OFF YOUR CHILD AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We expect all EMF students to use school-appropriate behavior on the buses. If a student does not behave, A & M, Inc., along with the EMF administration, have the right to suspend students from transportation for a designated amount of time.

We have a system in place to record student behavior that is shared with the administration. The bus Supervisor and Administration can review all noted incidents. The driver can identify an incident with a student using the following color code system:

- **Code Green** – Documentation of a behavior issue
- **Code Yellow** – Student must speak with bus supervisors or administration
- **Code Orange** – Immediate intervention required
- **Code Red** – Student will need to find alternate transportation for a set amount of time

If you have any bus questions or issues, please feel free to call:

- **Dean** – 402-366-3650
- **Leesa Bartu** – 402-366-3651

Just a reminder: If your child is not a regularly scheduled rider, you will need to obtain the permission of the school and A&M, Inc. for them to be transported.

Preschool Transportation

Transportation is available to all identified students. Students are transported to and from Milligan each day to Exeter. Students are transported to and from inspected daycare facilities. Transportation is also available to rural students who live in the EMF District.

If you are not listed on these routes and live in the EMF district and need transportation, please contact Dean or Leesa Bartu.

Exeter Area**North Route**

Pettygrove
Harrison
Geiger
Petersen
Arbuck
Tiny Images Daycare
Sandy's Daycare
Brandy's Daycare

South Route

Zeleny
Zelenkas
Oldehoeft
Gilmer
White
Hafer
Foutch
Jindra
Hemmingsen
Bruntz
Sudrla

Milligan Area

Jaeger
Svec
Krupicka
Pribyl
Capek
Baller
Slezak
Daycare
Milligan School

Friend Area**North Route**

Stutzman
McManaman
Johnson
Moore
Semler
Weber
Spohn
Leif
Andersen
Rohren
Nichelson
Segner
Ciro
Songster
Bartels
Brandt
Ellison
Snyder
Bambi's Daycare
Friend Learning Center

South Route

Burk
Lawver
Rohrig
Svehla
Nichols
Zoubek
Borgman
Park
Cool
Kohout
Brandt
Clouse
Kirchhoff



Every New Beginning Comes From Some Other Beginning's End...



Hello, Parents and Students,

The end of the year is so busy with celebrations and excitement that summer is upon us! I wanted to take a moment and reflect on all of our students' successes, in and out of the classroom this year. Going to state in Girls Golf, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, and Boys Basketball- and to think our spring seasons are not even completed yet! This along with success in many academic and activities- including FFA, quiz bowl, MAP scores, and the list goes on and on. We are definitely beaming with pride for our students and fellow staff members!

Not only do we get to reflect on the great year that our staff and students have had, but also as we close the Friend Public School chapter and enter into the Exeter-Milligan-Friend Public School chapter, we celebrate and reminisce all of those great memories as well. One of the ways that I enjoy giving the students a history in Friend Public School is by taking them on adventures around the school. I read books to the Preschool-6th grade classes and then afterwards we go on an "adventure" around the school. We have done this for years and explored the greenhouse, the boiler room, the basement tunnels, the old Principal's office/teachers lounge, under the gym floors, and most recently I showed the kids the old locker rooms vs. the new ones. Needless to say, they were the most shocked about the communal showers in the old locker rooms and happy to see that trend phase away. It was nice to show them the new locker rooms too so they could see how fortunate they are and remind them that most schools they will visit do NOT look like ours; we are very lucky! I do these adventures to ensure they know the importance of the background of the school, telling stories, relieving memories, and celebrating where they came from. I have attached a few pictures from our adventure. I hope it brings back some fond memories for our fellow alumni!

It has been a wonderful year, and I am so blessed as a proud alum that I was here for the end of the Friend Public School era, and I look forward to being a part of the new Exeter-Milligan-Friend Era! What a great time to be a staff, student, and community member! We will continue to be successful and make memories along the way!

Liz Stutzman- PreK-12th grade Principal



Upcoming Dates:

May 1: EMF Activities Night (new gym)
7th-8th grades= 6:00 pm and 9th-12th grades= 7:00 pm

May 4: Friend Class of 2025 Baccalaureate Service (old gym) 6:30 pm

May 6: Friend Academic Honors Night 7th-12th grades (new gym) 6:00 pm

May 10: Class of 2025 Graduation (new gym) 3:00 pm

May 12: Class of 2037 Kindergarten Graduation (old gym) 2:15

May 13: Elementary Field Day

May 15: Last day of Preschool

May 20: Last day of school 12:30 out

May 24: Alumni Banquet 5:00 San Carlo Room

Be on the lookout!!!

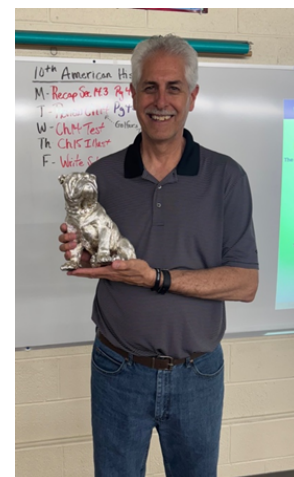
We are in the process of planning an open house at both school buildings plus a community gathering for EMF families before school starts in August. We want to ensure that both buildings are prepared for visitors. The plan is to have this event the week of August 4.

There will be more information to come later this summer.



Thank you, Maggie Malone Hardin, for talking to our EMF 6th-12th grade students about the "5 to Thrive" Mentality Approach = Growth, Resilience, Health, Community, and Faith.

Congrats to our 2025 Staff Top Dawg March Madness Bracket Challenge Winner: Paul Martin



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Scholarships

- Seniors are asked to let Ms. Hottovy know about scholarships they have been awarded.
- At Awards Night on May 6, all scholarships that have been awarded (by that date) will be announced. Seniors are highly encouraged to attend!
 - A complete list of scholarship recipients will be available at the graduation ceremony.
- Many thanks to our local benefactors for the numerous scholarship opportunities being given to our seniors!

Next Year's Classes

- Students who will be in grades 7-12 for the 2025-26 school year will soon be signing up for classes.
- Ms. Hottovy and Miss Fousek will visit with each grade level to discuss options and requirements. The current Exeter-Milligan students will be joining us in Friend for these meetings.
- All students are encouraged to get out of their "comfort zones" by taking classes that are challenging and get them thinking about new and interesting topics!
- Parents/guardians who have questions about required coursework are encouraged to reach out to the school counselor.
- Students will then receive their class schedules for the 2025-26 school year in August, along with their back-to-school information.
- After receiving their schedules, students who wish to drop and/or add classes are welcome to stop by the Friend school the week of August 4-8 between 8:30 and 3:30.
 - It is highly recommended students make an appointment with Ms. Hottovy ahead of time to avoid a wait.

Parents/Guardians of Juniors

- Juniors took the ACT on March 25. Kudos to them for working hard during the ACT-Now test prep sessions as well as the day of the test!
- ACT score reports are available to juniors on MyACT.org. Ms. Hottovy will visit with each individual to interpret results.
- If juniors have not taken a college visit yet this school year, now is the time to get one scheduled!

Freshmen & Sophomores

- Please consider signing up to take the ACT this summer. We really prefer you NOT wait until your junior year to take it. Check out test dates and other information on www.act.org.

Community Service

- Businesses, organizations, churches, etc. in the EMF school district are reminded to contact the office at either Exeter or Friend, or Amy Hottovy, high school counselor, regarding community service opportunities that might be available for our high school students over the summer. Thank you to all who have already partnered with us!
- Students who will be in grades 9-12 for the 2025-26 school year are encouraged to earn community service hours this summer. Check out the Google Doc for multiple opportunities.

EMF Community Service Information - 2025-2026 School Year

All high school students at Exeter-Milligan-Friend Public School are required to earn community service hours as a graduation requirement.

The breakdown of required hours is as follows:

| Students Currently Attending Exeter-Milligan | Students Currently Attending Friend |
|---|---|
| Incoming Seniors - 5 required hours by May 2026 | Incoming Seniors - 20 required hours by May 2026 |
| Incoming Juniors - 10 required hours by May 2027 | Incoming Juniors - 20 required hours by May 2027 |
| Incoming Sophomores - 15 required hours by May 2028 | Incoming Sophomores - 20 required hours by May 2028 |
| Incoming Freshmen - 20 required hours by May 2029 | Incoming Freshmen - 20 required hours by May 2029 |

We welcome all of our community businesses, organizations, and district patrons to offer community service opportunities to our students!

Here are a few points to remember:

- Students may not complete community service hours for relatives/family.
- Students may not be paid for their community service hours.
- All community service opportunities/events need to be pre-approved BEFORE they are offered.

Anyone who would like to offer a community service opportunity to 9th through 12th grade EMF students is encouraged to follow these steps:

1. Contact the school's office staff or Amy Hottovy, High School Counselor, with the following information:
 - a. Name of person/business/organization holding the event
 - b. Name, phone number and/or email address of the contact person for the opportunity
 - c. A brief description of the event/opportunity for students
 - i. Date
 - ii. Location
 - iii. Time of event
 - iv. Tasks the students will be asked to complete & how many students are needed
2. Someone will be in touch with you to confirm the event and make sure it meets our school handbook requirements.

Once a community service opportunity has been approved, it will be shared with students and added to an ongoing list of events.

Students will be required to bring a form along to the event, which will require a signature from the person who supervised the event (remember, the supervisor cannot be the student's family member).

Contact information to submit a community service event for consideration:

Exeter-Milligan site - Phone Number: 402-266-5911

- Jackie Yound
 - jackie.yound@emwolves.net

Friend site - Phone Number: 402-947-2781

- Kim Hulse
 - kim.hulse@friendschool.org
- Stacy Kirchhoff
 - stacy.kirchhoff@friendschool.org
- Amy Hottovy
 - amy.hottovy@friendschool.org



2024-25 YEARBOOK

Order your yearbook today!

\$33.53

- ☎ 402-947-2781
- ✉ paula.anderson@friendschool.org
- 🔗 <https://www.treering.com/purchase>
PassCode: 1016044079672509



Attention ALL Friend High School Alumni

*The class of 2005 will be hosting the
2025 FHS Alumni Reunion!*



Friday, May 23rd: Class celebrations in the evening,
at specified locations based off of each class.

Saturday, May 24th:

*Golf at the Friend Country Club

*2:00-4:00: Gathering on the Country Club Patio

*4:00-5:00 School Tour

* 5:00pm- Doors Open for The FHS Alumni Banquet at the San Carlo Room, 6:00pm- Supper will be served followed by entertainment!

Ticket Information: Beginning April 1st tickets can be purchased at Johnsons Pharmacy, Citizens State Bank, or Friend Public School OR you can Venmo Liz Stutzman at @LizStutzman

Tickets will be \$30 each and if purchased through Venmo we will have your tickets at the banquet for you, unless you would like your ticket mailed to you in advance.





Sunday, May 25th:

Friend Pool will open this weekend!

Monday, May 26th: Memorial Service 11:00 AM at Andrew Cemetery

MAY Breakfast & Lunch Menu

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE DUE TO AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS | | | Waffles Hamburger/Bun Sides Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Chocolate Chip Muffin Pizza Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Breakfast Pizza Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Gravy Bread/Butter Fruit & Veggie Bar | Breakfast Bites Walking Taco Shredded Cheese Bread/Butter Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Donuts Mandarin Orange Chicken Rice Bread/Butter Fruit & Veggie Bar | Pancakes Chili Dogs Green Beans Shredded Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Breakfast Bar Fiestada Spanish Rice Churros Fruit & Veggie Bar |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| French Toast Corn Dogs Mac and Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar | Cinnamon Roll Spaghetti Breadsticks Shredded Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Long Johns Hamburger/Bun Potato Smiles Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Egg Patty Breaded Chicken Patty/Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar | Blueberry Muffin Subs Chips Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Biscuits & Gravy Meaty Nachos Toppings Bread/Butter Fruit & Veggie Bar  | Long Johns Pizza Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar LAST DAY 12:30 out | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | |

Friend Public School is an equal opportunity provider

May 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| For updated information, please go to https://friendbulldogs.socs.net/vcalendar/ | | | | EMF Activities Night (Friend) JH (7-8) 6:00 HS (9-12) 7:00 | <u>2:00 OUT</u> | TR Pioneer Conference @ Pawnee City 9:00 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Baccalaureate-old gym 6:30 | JH TR @ Sutton 12:30 FFA Petting Zoo 1:00-3:00 | BG @ Sutton 9:00 Academic Honors Night Friend (7-12) 6:00 | BG @ York 9:00 HS Quiz Bowl @ Seward FCA Lunch Meeting 5th Grade Field Trip | TR @ Cross County 10:00 | <u>2:00 OUT</u> | JH TR Pioneer Conference @ Lewiston 9:00 Graduation 3:00 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Mother's Day | BG Dual @ Fillmore Central 4:00 Kindergarten Graduation 2:15 BOE-Media Center 7:30 | Pre-4 - 6 Jump up Day Elementary Field Day Student Council Lunch Meeting | BG @ Hebron 9:30 Elementary Student Council Field Trip | Last Day of Preschool District Track TBA | <u>2:00 OUT</u> | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | BG District | <u>12:30 OUT</u> Last Day of School BG District | Teacher Work Day | Teacher Work Day | Teacher Work Day State Track Omaha | State Track Omaha |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | Memorial Day | | State Boys Golf | State Boys Golf | | |

Friend 4th Graders Travel to Lincoln!

4th Graders in Mrs. Archer's class spent a fun-filled day in the capital city on April 16, 2025. They started their day touring the Nebraska State Capitol building. Senator Tom Brandt stopped by to visit with the students, and they were introduced before the legislature! No trip to the State Capitol is complete without an elevator trip to the top to look out over Lincoln in all directions.

From the Capitol students traveled to Morrill Hall, where they watched a Planetarium Show and explored three floors of exhibits and artifacts. The weather was perfect to sit outside and enjoy a picnic lunch! We had to take a picture with "Archie" the famous Nebraska Woolly Mammoth!

Our day ended at the Nebraska History Museum. Fourth Graders explored three floors of exhibits and completed a scavenger hunt based on 1 of 4 themes within the museum. Many of the artifacts in this museum tie in nicely with our 4th Grade Nebraska History Curriculum!

It was a very busy day, but it is always fun to see kids learning outside of the four walls of a classroom. Friend Public School 4th Graders represented our school well, and a fun day was had by all!



E.M.F BOYS BOBCAT BASKETBALL CAMP

MON. JUNE 23RD- WED. JUNE 25TH

AT FRIEND HIGH SCHOOL

GRADE K-3 9AM-11AM / GRADE 4-7 12PM-3PM

(GRADE COMPLETED '24-'25)

Boys who have completed kindergarten- 7th grade are welcome to join in on the fun! The camp will focus on learning fundamental basketball skills and teamwork. The kids will play games and take part in competitions on the final day of camp. The boy's High School and Jr. High basketball coaches and athletes will assist the youth players throughout the week.

Each camper will receive a t-shirt.

Questions contact: Brian Arp - brian.arp@friendschool.org

Please fill out the google form/ scan QR code

<https://forms.gle/m9vVDryCKFgjWFvA7>

and return this portion and payment to

the office of FPS or EM by: May 16th, 2025



Payable to: FPS Cost: \$40 per player

Name:_____

Name:_____

Name:_____

Name:_____

I hereby release Friend/Exeter-Millgian Public School District and all volunteers of camp from all claims resulting from injuries, which may be sustained by the player while attending the camp. I have no knowledge of any physical impairment that would affect my child's participation in the camp as outlined. By signing below, I certify that I have read and agree to the above statement.

Parent/Guardian:_____ Date:_____

EMF Student Council

2025-2026



Seniors (9)

Caleb Black

Dylen Collier

Kiley Oldehoeft - Secretary

Selah Petersen

Taylin Schluter - President

Hadley Sladek

Tucker Svec

Hunter Svehla - Vice President

Babe Weber

Sophomores (9)

Naomi Black

Tori Bresson

MaKenna Burchett

Maddy Kenney

Bob Milton

Meredith Paulsen

Miley Ricenbaw - Pub. Relations

Ty Svehla

Reese Tuttle

Juniors (11)

Rylan Bartels

Evan Brahmstedt

Jaxson Brandt

Abby Klooz

Cheyenne Krupicka

Aniston Meints - Pub Relations

Alexis Paulsen

Jacob Spohn

Avery Tuttle

Gracie Vyhnaelek

Sophie Weber

Freshmen (3)

Maddi Allen

Keisyn Kirchhoff

Gehrig Weber

BULLDOGS OF THE MONTH



Staff
Kristen Milton
Thad Weber

Female Student
Ella Archer

Male Student
Bob Milton

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