

YEARBOOK THEME: Raised on Rhythm and Roots of 2025-2026

Opening Page: *Raised on Rhythm & Roots*

This year didn't just pass, it played. Every morning since August, the days had their own kind of swing.

From the morning groove of discussion in the commons, to Friday night lights and refraining referees, all the special things that happened in between will forever be memories to share on the porch. Together, we weathered new friendships and relationships that create a backroad feel, one that could only be possible in our small community, revealing who we are. "The friends I've made here made me a better person, and they support me in my everyday life," Junior Katie Downing said.

We were Raised on "Rhythm and Roots!" Our year was full of tradition and new things. We have seen a lot of students accomplish their goals while keeping themselves grounded in their values, hard work, and grit. "Reaching my goals always feels like an accomplishment," Junior Hayden Dixon said. The rhythm comes from the speed of the year; the roots come from the people's great strength and growth throughout. We shuffle our story; we knew it was well earned.

Class Divider: *Where Our Rhythm Begins*

Before these handmade moments became wayfaring memories, there were so many different souls that made up the bare bones of our year. From Preschool to Senior year, each class captured the tempo of our backyard. Every student, teacher, staff member, and smile was a ride in the making. "It wasn't always perfect, but it was real," English Teacher Braska Grudmayer said, "And that's what made it matter."

As we grow, our roots continue to grow and keep us together as one. For preschoolers and elementary students, they are still learning to roam amongst the prairie. But for the seniors, it is the last of everything before they step out of the fence line. Every milestone they've accomplished was their last before they're out on their own, planning their own life. "It's hard to say goodbye to my friends and teachers," Senior Kylie Allemang said, "But I know they have prepared me for what is next."

We drift through the first days and new beginnings, with the faces of friends and educators who will guide and challenge us. Our hardwork and accomplishments will shape the rhythm of the days and strengthen the roots of this new generation.

We will never be lonesome or sing of heartache, as our homegrown community has shaped us into being who we are today. It makes the rhythm feel real, and the roots feel strong and connected within. "I know there is always someone available and willing to help me however I need it," Seventh Grader Camden Dixon said.

Academic Divider: *The Roots of Learning, The Rhythm of Growth*

The backbeat of our school year is what took place inside the classroom. There was growth each and every day. Each classroom followed their own hymn. Some days were filled with the laborious work of math equations, writing essays, or chemical experiments, while other days were steady and drifted along. Each day was unique in its own way. "I really like the routines and knowing what to expect each day," Freshman Cooper Fox said. "When we get off track, it's hard to find a way back."

No matter what, though, every class had its own soundtrack that was added to the year. This just showed us that learning isn't just something we have to do, but we can enjoy it in our own ways that we build our own soundtrack together.

In English, students were pushed harder to find their voices. Using stories, they shaped themselves and others. Spanish opened many doors, and brought new cultures and conversations. Math found a way to challenge students' minds and to find different ways to solve unknown things. Through rootsbound history, students were connected to the world we live in and what shaped our society today. Science classes discovered how everything works, and our Agricultural classes packed the soil in the small town around us. "We dissected a pig in Anatomy and Physiology," Senior Emerson Vogel said. "It was a hands-on experience I won't forget."

Our Business classes have prepared the students for the big drift into the world ahead of them by developing problem-solving skills. In PE and Weights, students built raw and lean muscle to create the best version of themselves. Together, all of these classes represent how deeply grown our roots are within our students, staff, and small community. The roots have created the knowledge for the rhythm to grow within us.

Athletics Divider: *Where Roots Run Deep, and the Rhythm Never Stops*

Our players and coaches have settled into their season. Each season led the cadence of early mornings and late nights leading to a worthy end of new relationships. Our athletes rambled out their rhythms in every practice and every game. It all proved to the athletes, coaches, and parents that hard work and determination has paid off. "We would run in the heat, we would run in the rain, and everywhere in between," Freshman Cross-Country runner Jadyn Hansen said.

This tradition is rooted throughout the town's generations. This was a year of hope, determination, and success. It brought huge wins that no scoreboard or timer can show. "We always try to encourage ourselves and our teammates before, during, and after each game," Sophomore Bridget Marotz said. The true ride of support from coaches, teachers, mentors, and the community gave the athletes courage to continue on and give their absolute best.

Athletes pushed their limits to their best and continued to work harder each day to perform at their peak. Capturing more than just a score in time, we celebrate our athletes and the rhythm between teamwork and the roots they came from.

Activities: *Refining Our Rythm and Roots*

Students showed their true selves and pulsed through activities and measured success. From the stage for One Acts, to the ballads of Choir, from FFA leadership to the overflowing activities of ESports and Powerlifting, we celebrate the rhythm and roots of everything that made this year sway.

Students dusted off their talents and drifted into their own desires. Students embraced new skills and honored huge accomplishments. "It was great to have a featured Tuba soloist work with us," Sophomore Jaxon Dickey said. "We were able to see what being a professional musician looks like and sounds like."

In this section, memories were created and voices were spoken. Hearts grew larger each and every day and strengthened one another. Rhythm was created in the togetherness of the team, and roots grounded us no matter the results.

Events Divider: *Flourishing Rhythm and Celebrating Our Roots*

Students dusted off their boots and strummed through memories that will last a lifetime. Moments became memories that brought everyone together. These moments were filled with laughter and joy. Each gathering we had, carried its own tempo and rhythm every time. From slow-paced milestones, to fast-paced dances, each event was sentimental to every student. Our roots were strengthened and traditions were met.

During Homecoming Week, we had hallway decoration competitions were students worked together and established new experiences. "This year was so much fun," Freshman Shelby Alder said. "The theme was Disco, and we created a whole jukebox out of cardboard for our hallway."

In the spring, the students put up their hat to doce-do through Prom, the middle-school dance, and Junior High Dance. Eighth graders performed their musical, and our seniors walked across the stage for the the last time. While we had fun, and celebrated together, others were packing up to say goodbye. We recognize those staff members who will not be returning next year, while also appreciating the milestones for the teachers and staff who will remain. Memories are created and cherished, and those are more important than dates on the calendar.

Awards: *Honoring the Rhythm of Achievement, Celebrating the Roots of Excellence*

Every year we recognize the hard work and dedication that define our students. Awards are given and viewed as accomplishments that tell the story that opportunities were excelled. From academic honors that led to athletic achievements, students have performed with their best efforts in the best ways possible. Every award and recognition is not just personal, but it shows the roots that support one another. Encouragement

came from the staff, friends, family, and school to change the rhythm of our community into successful milestones. "Receiving my packet of certificates and achievements at awards night is always something I look forward to," Junior Harrison Blum said. "It is such a surreal moment looking back on all my achievements from this year."

As you flip through these pages, recognize the talent that has been shown and the hardwork that made this year platinum.