

SUCCESS FROM START TO FINISH

The Parkston School District has had a fantastic two-year run. From start to finish, the district has found success in the classroom, playing field and airways across the nation.

Parkston's good news began early when they learned the class of 2013 had the highest ACT composite in the state at 24.34. This class of 35 students garnered over \$1 million worth of scholarships for higher education.

Trojan TV continues to be a model of media coverage for high schools across the state. This past year, the media club broadcast 76 live events and numerous tape delayed events.

"We had numerous schools come to Parkston wanting to review our program and ask questions as to how they can get started," Superintendent Shayne McIntosh said.

The media club has been self-sustaining, paying for their equipment via donations, sale of ads, and sales of DVD's. While Trojan TV has become most popular, the media club has also found great interest in broadcasting via HighSchool Cube, an internet streaming option for schools across the nation.

"We have had as many 6500 viewers tune into a single event!" McIntosh said.

Parkston also had the honor of being recognized in two separate national reports.

The 2013-14 school year concluded with the district being named by US News and World Reports as one of America's Top High Schools. U.S. News & World Report reviewed 31,242 public high schools throughout the country and identified 35 high schools in South Dakota, including Parkston H.S., that made their rankings.

Recently, another report was released by Niche, which ranked high schools across the nation were on a number of set criteria.

"We were most excited find Parkston High School ranked as the seventh best high school in South Dakota for 2015," McIntosh said.

Not only did the district find much success in the classroom, PHS has had a fantastic run in extra-curricular activities.

Things began strong in the fall of 2013 when the PHS boy's golf team earned State Runner-up honors. That honor was followed by the football team who was also the State Runner-up.

Things did not slow down from there, in February the Trojan

Wrestling team won their second straight state championship, scoring the second most points in state tournament history, only falling short of the record they had set the previous year.

Things only got better after wrestling.

The PHS girls' golf team won their third straight state championship in the spring. The team has had four State Championships and two State Runners-up over the past six years.

The 2014-15 school year started just as dynamically, as the boy's golf team finishing third in the state competition. The girls cross country team brought home a fifth place finish, while the competitive cheer squad, in their first year of competition, brought home a fourth place finish at state.

The Trojan Football team brought home the school's first state championship trophy in the sport, as well.

Finally, ther marching band had an excellent year, placing in multiple competitions, including second place finishes in competitions in Orange City and Sioux City and winning their class at the Quad-State Competition in Vermillion.

Good news for the Parkston School District also came in career and technical education, as the district engaged the community in discussions about CTE programs.

"The support was overwhelming and for the first time in school history, the Parkston School District is offering Agriculture as part of its curriculum," McIntosh said. "We also found tremendous interest in the State's reduced tuition dual credit course."

The Parkston Elementary student council led a number of service projects throughout the year. One service project completed during the winter was "Pennies for Patients" which called on students to donate their loose change with proceeds going to fund cancer research.

Classes challenged each other to see who could raise the most funding.

"Not only did the students help a great cause, but they learned a lesson about giving to others," McIntosh said. "Many schools throughout the state participate in 'Pennies for Patients' and Parkston Elementary is proud to have raised the fifth highest amount this year."

"We are most proud of our accomplishments and look forward to having another fantastic year!"

