

# Tigerhawk Talk



October 2021

## Tigerhawk Family



**Erik Anderson**  
Superintendent

Thank you all for an impressive start to the 2021-22 school year!

Our students and staff have once again shown amazing flexibility as we continue to find our footing with educating in this pandemic. Each year, month, and day seems to bring a new requirement, mandate, expectation, or adjustment. Still, our Tigerhawks all come together and find a way to make this work for our kids. That could not be accom-

plished without the support of our community. Thank you to all Tigerhawks for continuing to focus on how we can work together to help our students.

Our district continues to show signs of growth. Still, we continue to need your help and support in how we portray our district. When we are on social media, communicating one-one or with a group of people, please remember that what you say or comment about Tigerhawk Country matters. Consider the following quote from an article by Kara Cutruzzola:

*“‘Positivity’ can often sound like fluff, but there’s a good reason to focus on the bright side of things. Talking to ourselves in a positive way can help us become better performers. Take, for in-*

*stance, the impact of negative comments in the workplace. Researchers found after studying 60 business teams that the ratio of positive to negative comments in the highest performing teams was 5.6 to 1. This means people were offering five times as many positive comments as negative ones. (Medium-performing teams had 1.9 positive comments for every negative one, and low-performing teams had three negative comments for every positive one, according to the Times.)*

Let’s push ourselves to continue to find ways and reasons to celebrate our great district and be a high-performing team!

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Take care,  
Erik Anderson

## An American Hero!

Mr. Shane Webster has been an incredible industrial technology teacher and strength & conditioning coach in the weight room since arriving at Colfax-Mingo. His son, Gabe, is a freshman here. We know that all of Tigerhawk Nation will support Gabe while his dad is deployed, as we await Shane’s safe return.

Mr. Webster has given nearly two decades of his life in service to our great country via the United States Air Force. This is his fourth time overseas and his third deployment to active duty. We salute and thank him: A tremendous educator, coach, father, friend and American hero!

All, I just wanted to say thank you for the support and encouraging words leading up to this point. Today was an incredible surprise that reinforces why I have served this nation. It is because of people like you and our communities. No, I wasn’t crying...it was allergies. I wish you the best with this school year and cannot wait to see you in May!

— Take care, Shane



Jasper County Tribune Photo



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## TIGERHAWK NATION SPREAD THE WORD!

By Coach Grant

The 1st Annual Tigerhawk Throwdown will be taking place on Saturday, November 20th at 5pm to kick off the 2021-22 basketball season at the high school gym!

The Hot Shot and Free Throw contests are open to all Tigerhawks in 3rd grade and up, while the Three Point Contest is open to all Tigerhawks in 7th grade and up. Trophies will be awarded to the winners, as well as 2nd and 3rd place medals in all categories.

If you're a former Tigerhawk or a member of the Colfax-Mingo staff and you're ready to show everyone your skills, be sure to also participate in the C-M Staff & Alumni game to be held at the end of the evening!

And the best part? It's completely FREE to participate!! We'll have a free-will donation area of non-perishable food items that we'll be donating to the Colfax-Mingo Area Food Pantry, just in time for Thanksgiving. Register today by sending a message through Facebook, or you can email one of the high school coaches.

Let's celebrate our community and the upcoming season together by having some fun in the gym. We hope to see you there in 2 months ready to kick off a fantastic year of basketball. Go Tigerhawks!



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## School Counseling at Colfax-Mingo Elementary

Welcome to all new and returning Tigerhawks! 2021-2022 is going to be a spectacular year. As school counselors we are so excited to work with all students here at Colfax-Mingo Elementary. Through classroom, small-group and individual meetings, we have the opportunity to support each student in their education journey as a Tigerhawk.

### What We Do

- Education: teach ALL students the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the areas of academics, social-emotional health & college/career readiness
- Focused Skill-building: facilitate individual & small-group counseling for students needing additional time and practice to become their best Tigerhawk selves
- Short-term counseling: any student can experience stress or a change in their life that can bring about big emotions. Brief individual counseling can give them skills to cope with emotions that may be impacting their success in school
- Collaboration with teachers, families and community members to ensure students receive the supports they need

### Who We Are

**Bree Skow:** full-time counselor for Colfax-Mingo Elementary



"I love seeing students learn and grow as they become successful members of our community that give and receive kindness daily."

**Kristjana Smith:** full-time counselor for Colfax-Mingo Elementary.



"My greatest joy is to see students use the skills they've learned to face challenging situations, and have that 'ah-ha' moment where they realize they can do hard things."

**Gabrielle Hoffman:** part-time counselor for Colfax-Mingo Elementary



"I am so excited to get the opportunity to help students work on skills they need to be lifelong learners!"

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# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start! The building updates to the restrooms, nurses office, administrative office and safe entry have been a real highlight. The kindergarten rooms also got a make-over this summer and we hope to keep it going up the grade levels in the future.

Our preschool numbers are solid again this year. One reason our numbers continue to improve is due to the addition of mid-day transportation. This is the second year we have been providing transportation for all of our preschool students. We do have space available in our programs if you know anyone looking for a preschool. Colfax-Mingo has two programs for three year olds: 2 days/week and 4 days/week. There are four sections for our four-year olds with an option for morning and afternoon.

The 90 minute late starts are underway and so is professional development for the elementary staff. Professional

development time has several components to it. The beginning of each session begins with the whole staff learning common topics. Currently, staff has begun reviewing basic components of literacy instruction led by Dr. Anderson, our new curriculum director. In addition to literacy, the staff also spends time on building-wide expectations, PBIS and supporting our new math materials. Teachers also have the opportunity to work in collaborative teams to focus on team planning, creating assessments, and reviewing data.

The Elementary Success Team has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the school year. This team is comprised of our three school counselors (Bree Skow, Gabrielle Hoffman, and Kristjana Smith), Erin Engle (Instructional Coach), Tara Surprenant (Behavior Interventionist), Andy Wirtz (Academic Interventionist), and Brian Summy (Pk-6 Principal). The focus of this team is to support the Building Leadership Team and create a Multi-Tiered System of Support for the building. They will focus on such

as building culture, attendance concerns, academic concerns & interventions. This group meets weekly for an hour to review data and discuss upcoming themes. October is a busy month. Unity Day is October 21st which focuses on bully prevention and promoting kindness. Red Ribbon week is the week of Oct. 23-31st.

The Elementary Building Leadership Team is also in place. Members include Jessica Fritch, Kris Keuning, Adrienne Flattery, Becky Derry, Kristen Hainer, Brittany Johnson, Sara Johnston, Jami Gruwell, Fallan Stookesberry, Erin Engle, Tara Surprenant and Brian Summy. The group will meet monthly to review data, discuss professional development, and look at building/classroom procedures. The goal is to keep the building on the path of improvement through a systematic approach. This group is also broken down into two additional groups that include academic and PBIS/SEL. These groups also meet once a month and report back to the larger BLT. We will be setting academic and PBIS/SEL goals for the year at the end of September.



# JCC visits kindergarten classes

By Denise Bracewell

The C-M kindergarten classes enjoyed a presentation by Katie Cantu of Jasper County Conservation last week. She discussed Migrating Monarchs and gave us a lot of information about caterpillars and butterflies! The students enjoyed seeing monarch butterflies and the eggs on a milkweed leaf. Jasper County Conservation will be presenting 4 more programs to us during the school year!



# Jr/Sr High School News

## From the Desk of Mrs. Lancaster:



**Alex Lancaster**  
Jr/Sr High School  
Principal

How can we be approaching the end of September and ready to welcome in October? The Junior/Senior High has been off to a great start! We look forward to many more celebrations throughout the 2021-22 school year.

We welcomed not only new students but also many new staff. We spent quality days together before our students were in the building, learning about our curriculum, defining our expectations, and getting to know one another-community building at its finest.

As a staff, we have identified a systemic approach

to classroom management and implemented 7 Levels of Intervention throughout the building. This system is also used in the elementary building making this a PK-12 intervention. The system allows students and staff to know what is expected of them, provides a re-teaching element and a re-focus time to provide a student every opportunity to change their behavior before being asked to leave a classroom. This allows students and staff to remain consistent in their expectations and clearly defines the next steps as they move through the levels.

We have invested in Collaborative Team times that allow content area staff to have conversations built around real-time situations and concerns. Individual teachers can

bring their situations/concerns to the team. The team then provides feedback and ideas about resolving those situations/concerns before they become more intense in the classroom or need outside intervention.

We look forward to sharing our trials and tribulations with you as we progress through the year. Our number one focus is our students, and we commit to putting them first. We will celebrate our successes through the use of a new system called PBIS Rewards. This electronic system will allow staff to acknowledge students throughout the day using a point value system for small or large accomplishments. This will build upon what we have already established throughout the building and acknowledge positive

growth and behavior in our students and staff. In addition, we are currently working to build a ROAR Store for the students to purchase items based upon their earnings through their positive growth rewards and positive behavior acknowledgments. Look for more information to come about this system and the ROAR Store.

As always, I have an open-door policy and welcome any feedback that will continue to push us toward that model rural district that we strive to become. I look forward to a year of learning, growth, and accomplishments. This can only happen by us all working together to achieve our one common goal; successful students.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lancaster

## Junior High Winter Athletics



**Erin Hume**  
Activities Director

Many positive changes are coming to the Colfax-Mingo Community School District's activities and athletics. This month, I'm writing to let everyone know about another great change that will give our junior high school students great opportunities.

This article lets families know that we will be changing from our traditional winter seasons to split seasons for our junior high students starting this winter. Junior high wrestling and junior high girls basketball will start the last week of October and run-up to Christmas break. Junior high boys basketball will go from the return from Christmas break through February. Each team will still get their full allotted competition dates.

We hope this change will have many benefits. The first would be the increase in participation. Over the past three

years, our middle school participation had dropped from 43% to 25% Last season. Allowing our students the opportunity to take part in both basketball and wrestling could very well mean that 25% are not out for two activities, but each. The second reason would be gym space. If we are only holding practice for one activity at a time, we do not need shared space or scheduling conflicts that come with limited room. The third positive is opportunity. At this age level, we should be allowing our students the opportunity to try both sports. It's clear that when they get to high school, they will more than likely have to choose which to participate in. Still, if not allowed to participate in both, some might end up changing their mind during high school and be behind their peers or ultimately decide to quit activities altogether. These overall benefits are equal to both basketball and wrestling. There are individual benefits for each sport that can also come into play. For basketball,

junior high coaches can spend time with high school coaches to better understand their offenses, defenses, and philosophy. No shared gym space and the possibility of playing more grade-level games. For wrestling; growing numbers for more practice partners at appropriate weights, more match opportunities for all kids at wrestling meets, and the ability for the high school coaches to help out at the start of the season when kids need the most instruction.

With nearly fifty percent of our conference and many neighboring districts already moved to split seasons, we have filled a full schedule for all three teams.

While there might still be a few obstacles that pop up, we feel far more positives outweigh the negatives, with the overall benefit to our kids and district being too much not to give this a fair opportunity. We just ask that you encourage your students to give something new a try and participate this winter. Go, Tigerhawks!

# Tigerhawk Homecoming 2021



Children may have their choice of the breakfast menu, cereal & toast, fruit, juice & milk everyday.  
Breakfast served 7:45 am to 8:10 am daily.

<i>Colfax Mingo CSD October 2021 Menu</i>				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>National School Lunch Week October 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021</i>				1 B-Long John Cooks' Choice
4 B- Muffin & Yogurt  Corndog Tater Tots Baked Beans Peaches Milk	5 B- Cinnamon Roll  Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk	6 B- Grab n Go  Chicken Wrap Garden Salad Mini Carrots Macaroni Salad (7-12) Fruit Choice Milk	7 B- Coffee Cake  Pasta Bake Tossed Salad Broccoli Salad Garlic Bread Grapes Milk	8 B- Sausage & Pancake on a Stick  Cheese Steak Sandwich Waffles Fries Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk
11  No School	12 B- French Toast Sticks  Garlic Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Garden Salad Corn Pears Milk	13 B- Grab n Go  Beef Burger Potato Smiles Baked Beans Strawberries Milk	14 B- Breakfast Pizza  Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Fresh Vegetables Applesauce Milk	15 B- Mini Donuts  Pizza Tossed Salad Vegetable Choice Pineapple Cookie Milk
18 B- Omelet/Toast  Hotdog/WG Bun Baked Beans Vegetable Choice Mixed Fruit Milk	19 B- Mini Cinni  French Toast Sausage/Egg Potato Triangle Peppers/Cucumbers Blueberries Milk	20 B- Grab n Go  Chicken Patty/WG Bun Seasoned Wedges Broccoli Grapes Milk	21 B- Mini Bagels  Spaghetti Mixed Greens Salad Seasoned Peas Breadstick Peaches Milk	22 B- Pancakes  Shrimp Poppers Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Choice Biscuit Apple Milk
25 B- Mini Waffles  Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Mini Carrots Mandarin Oranges Milk	26 B- Donut  Mr. Rib French Fries Mixed Vegetables Banana Apple Crisp (HS) Milk	27 B- Grab n Go  Salisbury Steak Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Wheat Roll Peaches Milk	28 B- Biscuit & Gravy  Cheeseburger/WG Bun Lettuce & Tomato Curly Fries Baked Beans Grapes Milk	29 B- Breakfast Pizza  Franken Dog Skeleton Fingers Broccula Citrus Pumpkin Monster Treat Milk

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Colfax-Mingo Community School District Newsletter

# Tigerhawk Talk



Deadline for copy and photos is the 20th of each month. Newsletter Designer • Dana J. King School Facilitator • Bert Deaton

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