

# Tigerhawk Talk



December 2021

## Tigerhawk Family



**Erik Anderson  
Superintendent**

We are so excited, thankful, and appreciative of our community support for our school and students! As we close the books on 2021, please take some time to consider who you need to thank for the blessings and positive aspects of your life.

You are an essential member of our Tigerhawk family and all of us play an important role in our continued growth and improvement.

The entire 2021 calendar has seen us enduring through this pandemic. We are all tired, exhausted, and perplexed

by the complexities and continuance of this situation. We are all feeling additional pressures in our lives. Our kids are no different. We have seen new and increased incidents this year of behaviors that impact our educational system. Some behaviors take away from the educational environment and some make it more inviting. We can choose to make decisions that positively impact our kids. We can model for our kids what a caring, supportive community we are. We can work together, bridge our differences, and make our Tigerhawk Country a better place for everyone. Thank you for your support, your patience, your care, and your love for our kids.

Finally, we are entering a time of the school year that has a range of emotions for our students, staff, and families.

Anytime there is a holiday celebrated, traditional family gatherings are often a focus. That is a point of celebration for many and for others, a time of stress, especially this year. We often see a spike in attendance and behavior concerns with our students in November and December for this reason. As we celebrate families, holidays, and each other, please keep in mind that for members of our extended Colfax-Mingo family, this season could cause additional stress. As Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently stated, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" This is one of many great questions MLK provided for us all to consider.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Go Tigerhawks!!  
Take care and be safe,  
Erik Anderson



## Honoring our veterans

Photos by Abby Knipfel/Jasper County Tribune



# Colfax native elected to school board

By Kendra Perry

I grew up in Colfax and in CM schools, graduating in the class of 2002. I then went on to UNI, graduated in 2006 and moved into Mingo in 2007. I have been here since, with my husband Bob Perry and kids Elijah (10), Evelyn (8), and Esmeralda (4). I have worked for Halfhill Insurance in Mingo since 2012 and have been with Shomo-Madsen-Stayner Insurance in Colfax upon their purchase of Halfhill Insurance last year. We also own Mingo Products Inc. with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Beau and Emily Perry, in Mingo.

I am excited to be on the CM board! My husband has been on the Mingo City Council for several years. I have been the one staying home with the kids during that time and I am happy to do that because I know the council has been working hard to make our community better. I'm excited to start doing this work in a more direct way with the school. I've been involved in several different committees and groups for the district over the years, but I think the board is an opportunity to get a scope of the entire district and really understand our challenges, opportunities, and what we are doing right.

I have also been involved with Mingo Parks and Rec, Mingo Days, Mingo HomeTown Pride, and Mingo Grill and Chill. I'm proud of the development and foresight that the Mingo and Colfax communities as cities and as a school district have had in the last several years and I look forward to continuing to build on that as one school community.

Also - I wanted to thank you so much for the opportunity to serve on the board. I want to do the best work possible and that means I want to hear from you! Please reach out with your concerns, suggestions, and what you love about CM. I look forward to getting to know you and CM in a new way.

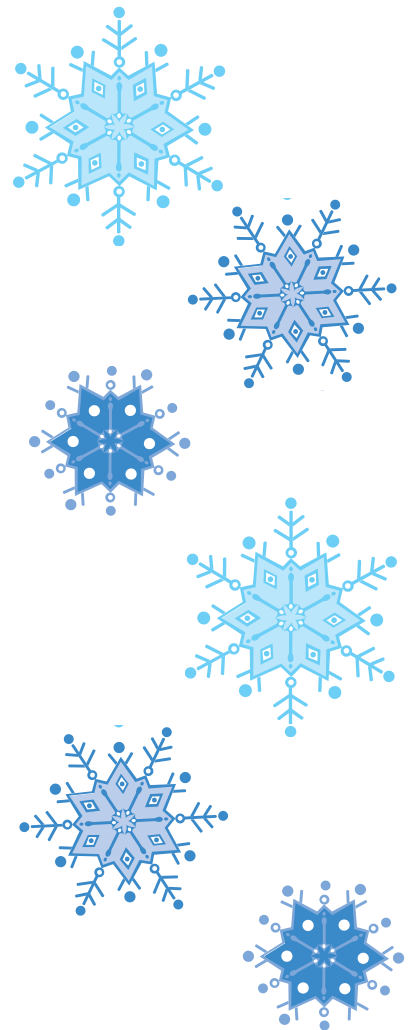


**FINE ARTS  
NIGHT II**

**4TH, 5TH, & 6TH GRADE**

**MARCH 8**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**@ 6:00 PM**  
**GYM & ART ROOM**



# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

Fall is winding up and we are heading into the winter months. The elementary school has been quite busy over the past month and it will be winter break before we know it. The students, staff, veterans and community were so happy to be able to host our annual Veterans Day Celebration again this year. There was a good turn-out from our local veterans that were able to join us.

Parent-Teacher conferences were also in November and the building had great parent participation as always. The building had 94% family attendance with 6 classrooms having 100% attendance!

The Elementary Student Leadership Team has started our yearly SLT (Student

Leadership Team) program. The SLT consists of eight 6th grade students that were chosen by their peers to represent the school. The leadership team members sign a contract agreeing to display our SOAR expectations in and out of the classroom. The SLT leaders participated in monthly community service projects including Adopt-A-Family and organizing our annual food drive for the local food pantry.

They are also working on ideas for our December assembly on the 21st. All SLT leaders have agreed to show respect, offer kindness, act responsibly and remain safe.

Professional development has continued to focus on staff learning of High Reliability Schools, which has been identified as our district wide instructional framework. During November, the staff focused on an overview of student engagement. Building

level professional development has focused on the Iowa Reading Research Center's resources. Staff have been participating in the eLearning modules focused on literacy.

The first elementary Fine Arts Night of the year was held Thursday, November 18th. It was great to invite families back into school and promote our fine arts! Mrs. Stookesberry and Mr. Otto did a great job preparing the students for the evening. The music students were able to use some of the new instruments that were purchased this year. They include maracas, lummi sticks, triangles, guiros, wood blocks and rhythm sticks. The art projects were created using the art elements of line and shape. Many projects used bubble letters and line to break up the background. Fine Arts Nights for Grades K-1 and 4-6 will be held in April.

## Elementary Special Education

**Jami Gruwell**

The Special Education Team at the elementary has been rolling out new materials in each of our classrooms. We have started rolling out Numeracy Project 2.0 for math. This research based program is to increase student achievement in mathematics by intentionally developing number sense through number knowledge and number strategy and, in turn, increase teacher understanding about instructional practices that target and develop number sense and place value. We have had great success with this program.

Math Essential Elements is another instructional routine that has been added to our day. These lesson plans and routines help build consistency and knowledge with the same routines every day.

Growth Mindset and Unique Learning are two



**Reading with a snack!**

more programs we have started using. Growth Mindset helps students focus on viewing challenges and setbacks as opportunities to grow.

Unique Learning is an online program that can be used in the classroom and at home. Unique Learning System is a one-of-a-kind solution designed specifically to help students with special learn-



**Colors and shapes.**

ing needs master their state's extended standards. The 6 minutes solutions program is a daily fluency practice with repeated readings with comprehension strategy practice.

Great things are happening in the Elementary Special Education classrooms that have provided structure, learning, retaining and success.

## Elementary SLT

**Jami Gruwell**

The elementary school has started our yearly SLT (Student Leadership Team) program.

SLT consists of 8 6th grade students that were chosen by their peers to represent the school.

Leaders sign a contract agreeing to display our SOAR expectations in and out of the classroom. Each month the SLT leaders will have a community service project as well as an outing.

They are also working on ideas for our December assembly on the 21st.

All SLT leaders have agreed to show respect, offer kindness, act responsibly and remain safe.

## Fifth grade prepares for JA BizTown

By Kelcy Brecht

The fifth grade students have been very busy preparing for their upcoming trip to JA BizTown. They will participate in this economic simulation experience put on by Junior Achievement on November 22. "Junior Achievement USA empowers young people to own their economic success." It uses hands-on experience to help students understand the economics of life.

Through this experience students will:

- Discuss the roles of citizens in a community
- Build money management skills
- Develop a basic understanding of business practices
- Display a basic understanding of successful participation in the world of work

As part of the preparation for our trip, the students filled out a job application and went through an interview process. We had candidates run an election campaign for BizTown mayor which concluded with an election day on November 2. Congratulations to Jonnie Jones, our 2021 JA BizTown mayor!

The students participated in business group meetings in which they had to prepare their business for the simulation day. They had to fill out loan paperwork, develop business cost sheets, and write advertisements for their businesses.

On the day of the simulation, the students become the workers of JA BizTown. They will have job responsibilities that they will complete throughout their day, while working cooperatively in their business to pay off their business loans. The students will have built in breaks in which to eat lunch and spend their hard earned BizTown money.

It is always a rewarding experience to watch the students participate in this real world activity!



## Here's what's going on at the elementary



Scouts at the Veterans Day Celebration



2nd grade singing at the Veterans Day Celebration



2nd grade practicing for Fine Arts Night



Staff presenting during professional development.

## 2-3 Fine Arts Night

**Drew Otto**

During the 2022 school year, the 2-3rd grade students are working on 7 main art elements including line, shape, color, texture, space, value and form. The projects displayed at the art show last night, Nov 18, 2022, were a project based on line and shape. The students learned how to make bubble

letters, outline them, and fill the background with lines of different direction, rhythm, angles, weight, and style. They also learned about organic and geometric shapes and how to break up a space or background using the shapes and lines. The students originally made drafts and practiced the elements with broadline markers and crayons; later,

they were given sharpies, highlighters, and thick paper to complete their final project over the course of 4ish class periods.

At our Fine Arts Night, a special shout out was given to our Education Foundation, PIE/Partners in Education (previously "PTA"), Mr. Summy, and our school for supporting the future of our Art

Programming by purchasing a kiln, the kiln furniture, and shelving. The K-6 Art program will now be able to support and produce 7-14,000 clay projects over the next 20 years!!!

Thanks again to our community that came out to our Fine Arts Night, Ed Foundation, PIE, Mr. Summy, and our school for supporting the arts!



# Jr/Sr High School News

## From the Desk of Mrs. Lancaster:



Alex Lancaster  
Jr/Sr High School  
Principal

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of students during the holiday season.

Due to the busy nature of the season, sometimes schedules and added responsibilities can cause stress. Concerts, parties, family visits, and so many other events seem to be packed into a limited amount of time. Our upcoming band and choir concerts offer the opportunity to slow down and enjoy a little holiday cheer. The music concert on December 21st will be held at the CM Jr/Sr High Com-

mons beginning at 6:00 pm. Students and staff have been working really hard to showcase these special talents.

Please come; everyone is welcome! As the holiday season approaches, please give your child the gift of extra time. Put an I.O.U. for a special event or activity in his/her stocking. When students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about, but a particular experience they have had with someone special.

During this season of the year we would like to say thanks to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check

their child's homework; who are seated beside them as they complete their homework; and spend quality time with their child.

- Community members and parents who organize fundraisers, make phone calls, and bring food to classes and the staff lounge on special days.

- All the people in our district who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, school nurses, student aides, secretaries, teachers, and members of the school board.

- All of you who are doing your very best to send



your child ready to learn every day.

- Hopefully years from now, during the holiday season, you and your child will remember many wonderful times spent together.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lancaster

## National FFA Convention


Seven members from the Colfax-Mingo FFA chapter had the opportunity to attend the 94th National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The convention took place from October 27th to the 30th. The Colfax-Mingo FFA chapter departed from Colfax Wednesday morning on October 27th. The group went to Louisville, Kentucky, before attending the convention in Indianapolis. They were able to tour many different places in Louisville, including the Louisville Slugger, Glass Factory, Churchill Downs, and the Mega Caverns. At the end of their day in Kentucky, they went bowling, roller skating, played laser tag, and had fun at an arcade. The following day, they drove to Indianapolis, where they attended the convention's career fair and 7th session. At the sixth session, the group watched the presentations of many different awards, such as the proficiency awards and the American Stars. Finally, they listened to the National FFA band and choir perform along with one of the National Officers, Paxton Dahmer, Retiring speeches. There were over 69,944 members and guests present at the convention. Participants included Katie Schlosser, Kirsten Frier, Elise Engle, Kenny Schlosser, Justin Myers, Grant Alexander, and Joe Earles. Members said one of the trip's highlights was seeing and meeting all the different FFA members throughout the United States. In addition, they enjoyed the Churchill Downs tour and learning more about the Kentucky Derby. The group returned to Colfax on Saturday, October 30th.



Sessions were presented at Colts stadium: from left, Joe Earles, Justin Myers, Grant Alexander, Katie Schlosser, Kirsten Frier, Elise Engle, and Kenny Schlosser.



# DECEMBER 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 90 MINUTE LATE START	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 90 MINUTE LATE START	9	10	11 Elem. Music Fundraiser "Cocoa & Carols" Chili, cookies and hot chocolate for sale. Proceed to Music Boosters.
12	13	14	15 90 MINUTE LATE START	16	17	18
19	20	21 5-12 Band Concert at the HS 6 pm	22 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	23 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	24 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	25  CHRISTMAS
26	27 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	28 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	29 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	30 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	31 NO SCHOOL WINTER VACATION	CLASSES RESUME MONDAY JAN 3

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 December 2021 Menu</i>				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
		1 B- Grab n Go	2 B- Biscuit & Gravy	3 B- Breakfast Pizza
		Soft Shell Taco Mexi Corn Veg Choice Rice Banana Milk	Pork Chopette Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Sliced Wheat Bread (7-12) Mixed Fruit Milk	Mr. Rib Curly Fries Steamed Broccoli Pears Cake Milk
6 B- French Toast Sticks	7 B- Breakfast Sandwich	8 B- Grab n Go	9 B- Coffee Cake	10 B- Pancakes
Corndog Tater Tots Baked Beans Peaches Milk	Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk	Chicken Wrap Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Macaroni Salad (7-12) Pineapple Milk	Pasta Bake Tossed Salad Broccoli Salad Garlic Bread Grapes Milk	Cheese Steak Sandwich Seasoned Wedges Mini Carrots Mandarin Oranges Milk
13 B- Mini Donuts	14 B- Muffin & Yogurt	15 B- Grab n Go	16 B- Long John	17 B- Mini Cinnis
Cooks' Choice	French Toast Sausage/Egg Potato Triangle Cucumber Slices Strawberries Milk	Beef & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Wheat Roll (7-12) Peaches Milk	Fish Sandwich (7-12) Fish Sticks (K-6) French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Orange Wedges Dessert Milk	Garlic Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Mixed Greens Salad Corn Apple Milk
20 B- Breakfast Choice	21 B- Breakfast Choice	22	23	24
Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Fresh Vegetables Fruit Choice Milk	Cooks' Choice	No School Winter Break Dec 22 - Jan 2		
*Additional fruit choice is offered daily *Milk (skim, choc skim & 1%) *Menu is subject to change * Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice & milk. Additional options at the JH/HS. <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</i>				

It is the policy of the Colfax-Mingo Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Erik Anderson, Superintendent, 1000 North Walnut, Colfax, IA 50054. Telephone: 515-674-3646; Email: erik.anderson@colfaxmingo.org

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

### Iowa Nondiscrimination Statement

It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E 14th St, Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.