

Colfax-Mingo

Community Schools



Dec 14, 2021

Tigerhawk Family -

As I reflect on my past three years at Colfax-Mingo, I am proud of the work and progress we have made as a district and as a community. Together we have passed two voter-approved measures, stayed together through the pandemic, celebrated the success of our students, and we have laid the foundation for future generations of Tigerhawks. Thank you for your continued investment in our collective growth!

More specifically, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support for, and dedication to, our Tigerhawk kids. Our kids have been persevering through a pandemic now for close to two years. They have been diligent to their education and to each other throughout. Still, there have been many challenges as well. The stress of the unknown along with life's normal stresses can be overwhelming to any person, but most especially to our kids. Thank you to all of our Tigerhawks for the continued focus on yourselves and on your dreams. As the great Albert Einstein said, "Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with the big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts."

Since the passage of the bond issue in November of 2019, we have had many exciting facility upgrades I would like to update you on. First, all of our projects are on budget, even through the pandemic and recent inflation, which is no small feat. Second, of the five major projects we have going, all but one have stayed on or very close to schedule. That is a testament to the diligence of our Board, our business manager, and our leadership overseeing these projects.

At our elementary school, we have a new safe and secure entrance into the building. We have a beautiful canopy that clearly defines the entrance and helps keep visitors out of the elements while they are awaiting entry into the building. We have updated all elementary restrooms and the nurse's office. Additionally, we have updated the carpet, flooring, restrooms, and furniture in our kindergarten classrooms.

At our Mingo facility, the demolition of the three-story building is complete. That damage necessitated that the hallway restrooms, roofing system, and ceiling be updated. The damage to the hallway that leads into the gym is on track to be completed by the end of this month. Additionally, due to damage caused by the derecho, the gym floor needed to be repaired and has been repainted with a new format that mirrors what the new gymnasium floor at the high school will look like. The locker rooms under the stage have been cleaned up and painted, and old pipes were removed so heat could be added. Hopefully you get a chance to come visit the facility starting in January during our junior high events!

At our secondary building, the safe and secure entry has been completed. We also restructured the office area to accommodate the new entry. The area is designed very well for safety, flow, and function.

Colfax-Mingo Community School District's mission is to ensure a community that fosters life-long learners, independent thinkers, and productive citizens of character!

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Our new gymnasium with walking track, wrestling room, and weight and fitness center is on track at this time for completion by the end of September. There is a lot of work to be done there yet, but the dirt and infrastructure components that take a large chunk of time have been completed.

Our stadium has taken significant strides since July. Our turf field is installed, tested, and ready for use when the stadium opens. Bleachers, sidewalks, scoreboard, and stadium lights are all installed. Additionally, our School Board has approved for a large video board to be installed on top of our current scoreboard.

I do have some disappointing news to share. Unfortunately, the track will not be completed in time for the track season this spring. The primary reason for this is the extremely wet October and early November that we experienced. The contractor, Graphite Inc., had the track ready to be installed at the end of September. The wet month and a half caused some soggy ground where the asphalt is to be laid. Pouring asphalt over soft ground could cause some cracks in the asphalt, which would cause the rubberized track surface to crack. By the time the surface was dried out enough to pour the asphalt base, the asphalt companies were closed for the season. Graphite Inc.'s plan is to pour the asphalt in the spring as soon as we are able. The rubberized track surface that goes over the asphalt needs 3-4 weeks with nobody on it, so we will wait until after the track season to install the rubberized surface.

I am extremely disappointed for our kids and community to miss out on another season due to delays in stadium construction. In the end, we will have a beautiful facility, but unfortunately it will not be in the timing we expected. To our senior class, I am sorry and I wish I had the power to change this for you. There are many factors as to why this is further delayed. But the reasons do not lessen the disappointment, and they are not worth your time to linger on. Rather, what we can all do is look forward to an awesome athletic complex that our community can be proud of, and will be the envy of our surrounding communities. We can look forward to the future for what is best for all Tigerhawks, and this addition will provide opportunities for our kids that Tigerhawk alumni have never had.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Take care and be safe, Tigerhawks.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erik Anderson', is written in a cursive style.

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