

# Tigerhawk Talk



March 2022

## Tigerhawks!!



**Erik Anderson  
Superintendent**

Thank you to our parents, students, and staff for your continued support for our kids and district. We are continually proud of the efforts of all of our Tigerhawks each day. Celebrating daily efforts and accomplishments should not be overlooked. While not all of them make it out to the public, we celebrate everyone dedicated to the daily goals achieved, routines created, habits formed, and mindsets changed.

As these daily accomplishments take place, there are other life-changing accomplishments worth celebrating. This year has given our schools some challenges they have not faced before.

Challenges with emergency student health situations, in particular. Our community is not always aware of the heroic steps of our staff to take care of our kids. (Randomly listed and intentionally vague)... This year we have had paraprofessionals and teachers respond instantly to protect students in a parking lot. We have had bus drivers react instinctively to protect kids riding on a bus. We have had teachers respond to immediate medical needs of students. We have had paraprofessionals drop everything they are doing and ride with scared students in an ambulance. We have had nurses and secretaries keep the building and staff calm when an emergency situation arises. We have had administrators take heroic steps to bring safety to an unsafe situation. While we cannot always share the names and situations specifically, it is important for our communities to know what our educators are doing daily for our kids that goes far beyond what their contractual duties

are. Unfortunately, situations of poor choices make the news and get attention from some legislators looking for political gain, while these daily heroics get looked past.

I welcome you to take the opportunity to share with our Colfax-Mingo staff your appreciation of their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, our students. You can send them an email, a letter, tell them in person, give them a call, or send a note through your student to bring to school. These messages mean the world to our staff as they tirelessly work for our students' growth and improvement. Thank you for finding a way to thank our educators!

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

Remember, this is Tigerhawk Country!

Take care,  
Erik Anderson

## Meet our new Jr/Sr High School Secretary — Willow Neer

I moved to Colfax a little over 6 years ago and really love the area. Before moving to Iowa in 2009, I completed my degree in Early Childhood Education and worked at the Preschool where I completed my student teaching. My husband is a Superintendent for a construction company and we have 4 children; 3 daughters and one son. My daughters are 11, 9, almost 5 and my son will be 3 in May. I love to spend time with family, travel, play cards/cribbage, spend time outside and be crafty. I've worked in corporate America for the last 12 years and I'm excited for this new journey and look forward to meeting new people and being involved in the community!



Willow Neer



# March 14-18

# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

The elementary just completed the second trimester of the school year. It's hard to believe we are two-thirds of the way through the 2021-2022 school year! The beginning of March brings parent-teacher conferences. The elementary will host conferences on Thursday, March 3rd and Tuesday, March 8th. Spring break follows parent-teacher conferences and will run from Friday, March 11th through Friday, March 18th.

One piece of data that the elementary uses to assess progress is the number of students at benchmark on our grade level literacy assessments. As a building we increased our percentage of students proficient 65% in the fall to 71 % in the winter. We will add one more data point this spring to our progress. We were extremely pleased with the growth made so far this year. The elementary has been focusing on our literacy skills this year. Dr. Anderson will discuss some of the other data that we have collected around literacy in this newsletter. We are ex-

tremely excited with our progress but also know we have work to do the remainder of the year to continue the celebration.

There is no data collection for math at this time. We do have different math assessments that are given across the building but nothing that is consistent like the literacy piece. The building added a new math series this year and we have been consistently looking at grade level assessments to track progress of our students. That information will be shared with families at parent-teacher conferences.

## Elementary school counseling

This year the elementary school counseling department has grown in more ways than one. We were so excited to add another full-time counseling position this year and have been incredibly pleased with the abundance of knowledge and compassion that Kristjana Smith has brought to our school. Mrs. Smith is currently teaching one section of kindergarten through second grade classes each week, facilitating small groups, and counseling students individually as well.

Our Colfax-Mingo Elementary school counselors are reaching ALL students, kindergarten through 6th grade, through weekly classroom counseling lessons. In comparison to last year, K-2 students are receiving triple the amount of lessons, while 3rd-6th graders are receiving over 30% more curriculum. Lesson topics include: skills for learning, emotional regulation, goal-setting, growth mindset, and more. Our goal is to empower our students to be successful academically, social-emotionally, and in their postsecondary and career aspirations.

2020-2021	2021-2022
<b>18</b> students served through individual interventions	<b>42</b> students served through individual interventions
<b>30</b> students in <b>10</b> skill-building small groups (topics such as friendship, self-control, study skills)	<b>62</b> students in <b>19</b> skill-building small groups (topics such as friendship, self-control, study skills)
<b>8</b> whole group classroom counseling lessons K-2 and <b>16</b> classroom counseling lessons 3-6	<b>19</b> whole group classroom counseling lessons for each grade (on track to have 24 by the end of the year)

We have also been able to offer more skill-building opportunities for students to continue to develop and practice their skills in a safe and structured small-group environment. These students have enjoyed fun and interactive learning activities that help them develop and enhance their study skills, emotional coping strategies and friendships. The school counseling department has also been able to provide individual interventions to 42 students through solution-focused brief counseling and skill-building activities. This is more than double the number of students that were served last year.

As a team, the school counselors are extremely excited to see what the future holds. We are committed to creating a comprehensive and data-driven school

counseling program that ensures the success of all students in our building. One of our aspirations is to earn the title of a Recognized ASCA (American School Counselor Association) Model Program (RAMP) school. RAMPing is a long and detailed process and has only been achieved by a handful of schools in Iowa. This is a distinction that would further demonstrate our immense dedication to providing our students with all the tools they need to be successful in the future. We are continuing to push forward in the process and will keep the community updated in our progress towards this goal. We thank you for all of your support and collaboration in working with your students. Please continue to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

## March Newsletter Article – Elementary Data

By Wendy Anderson

This year, our district has been engaged in learning about how to become a High Reliability School – one that functions at a high level no matter what the circumstances. We have been learning to incorporate the idea of “prove or improve,” meaning that we need to prove that what we’re doing works, or we need to improve it. One thing we realized is that we are lacking some data to show what and where we need to prove or improve our practice.

At the elementary, we followed guidance from the state in looking at one of several indicators that determine the “health” of an organization. One of those indicators is universal instruction, or the instruction that is available to all students. Beginning with the literacy content, the state

guidance indicates that we should first determine whether we have set aside between 90 and 120 minutes daily for literacy instruction. Teachers documented their daily literacy schedules, and all students are indeed receiving at least ninety minutes of literacy each day.

The second level of inquiry about literacy is the use of those instructional minutes. We did not have any data to show how many of the literacy minutes were used for teaching and learning, and how many minutes might be used on other activities such as giving directions, making transitions between activities, having breaks, and so forth. The goal that the state has set is that at least 95% of the literacy minutes are used for teaching and learning.

In order to collect some data, Mrs. Engle, Mr. Summy, and Dr. Anderson completed classroom observations in the

fall of 2021. At that time, the building average was 89% of literacy minutes used for teaching and learning. While that is very close to the 95% goal, the staff believed they could improve because fewer literacy minutes over time can have a negative effect. The teachers did some reflecting on how the non-literacy minutes could be shortened while still building in those necessary brain breaks.

The third level of inquiry concerns student engagement. The state’s goal is that 80 to 90% of the students will be engaged 80 to 90% of the time. We also did not have data about this level of inquiry, but the staff had completed several sessions of professional learning about engagement strategies. We decided that the second round of observations in the winter of 2022 would gather data on both literacy

minute usage and student engagement.

During the second round of observations, the building average of instructional minute usage jumped to 95.6%!

Additionally, the average level of student engagement was 91%!

This accomplishment is a result of diligent efforts each and every day by our skilled professionals at Colfax-Mingo. They have truly embodied the idea of continuous improvement, and we couldn’t be more proud of our staff. Please join us in celebrating these dedicated educators.

Our work is far from done, however! We will begin our next leg of the journey by examining our instructional standards, materials, and practices for alignment and adherence to best practices. Stay tuned for more updates about our progress.



### March 3rd & March 8th - Elementary Conference Night Art Show Grades 3-6

By Drew Otto

These kids have been working super hard in art and would like to show you what they’ve done! Come in before or after your conference to see your students art work / other students’ work too!

About the show & projects on display: Students learned about line, shape, color, & texture prior to starting the project. They were to take a word of their choice, and illustrate it using only lines, shapes, colors, and textures in an abstract way. They created 3-6 drafts, and then worked on their final project. The results have been amazing, come see for yourself!



## Moo-Velous Learning in Pre-K

By Mrs. Ament, Ms. Bunce,  
Mrs. Fritch

This year, all three Pre-school classes are participating in the Discover Dairy Adopt-A-Cow program. The calves were all born at Maassen Dairy Farm in Maurice, IA around the end of September 2021. Each class has a different calf to adopt: Ms. Bunce's class has Lucy, Mrs. Ament's class has Joy, and Mrs. Fritch's class has Sparkle. We have the opportunity to see updates on how each calf has grown including pictures and PowerPoint presentations by the company as well as the abil-



ity to communicate with the farmer about the calves. The students always get so excited to see new pictures of our cows



and it's fun to see how much they have grown! In addition to our Adopt-A-Cow activities, we are working hard every day



on our Math and Literacy skills to be ready for Kindergarten. We have "Moo-velous" things happening in our classrooms!

Your Colfax-Mingo staff are working diligently to create and implement an MTSS process that focuses on not only our academic successes and needs, but also that of Social Emotional Behavioral Mental Health (SEBMH). We continue to grow and learn together as we navigate through many obstacles in our profession. We have some of the best students and staff in the state, so pushing forth is not the obstacle, it's making sure that we're meeting the needs of ALL of our students. The MTSS process will ensure that we are doing just that. Below are some of the current practices we are using to become ...

### The Model Rural District School in Iowa and beyond!

- Marzano's Framework - academic
- Restorative Practices - SEBMH
- SEBMH focus - morning meetings, advisory, more school counselors for needs and using the CASEL competencies etc.
- MTSS framework & process to ensure Tiered interventions are implemented and individualized - academic and SEBMH
- Systemic process for office referrals and collaborative teams and meeting times - SEBMH
- PBIS using PBIS Rewards, teaching, rewarding and using data to drive our decision making in both areas - Academics & SEBMH
- Using data to make decisions based upon feedback from our staff and stakeholders - Academics & SEBMH
- P.I.E. and community partners - Academics & SEBMH
- We exude professionalism, positivity, passion and pride in all we do! #TigerhawkPride

## Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition

Mr. Sontag, Jr/Sr High Art Teacher

Participating in the 2021 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition were Lio Winklepleck, Emm Arndt, Bri French, MacKinzie Corbin, and Shy Steck. Those winning awards for their artwork were Lio Winklepleck with a Silver Key for his Film and Animation, Drawing Cows; Emm Arndt with an Honorable Mention for their Digital Art Drawing, Incubus; and Bri French with a Gold Key, two Silver Keys, and an Honorable Mention for her Digital Art Drawings. This is a remarkable achievement for these young adults! Their work has been recognized by a panel of creative professionals as the most outstanding work submitted by their peers in the Central Iowa Region.

- Gold Keys are awarded to the top 5-7% of all entries
- Silver Keys are awarded to the top 7-10% of all entries
- Honorable Mentions are awarded to the top 10-15% of all entries

Since 1923, the awards have recognized some of America's most celebrated artists and writers while they were teenagers, including: Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Robert Redford, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, and the list goes on! You are now among these esteemed names as Scholastics Awards alumni! Gold Key awards have automatically been advanced to the national level of adjudication in New York City. Good luck, Bri! Congratulations once again to those who took the time to participate and to those who were selected to be recognized.

# Jr/Sr High School News

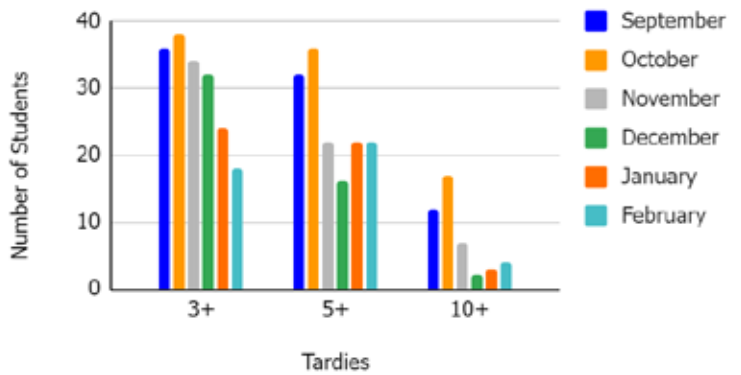


**Alex Lancaster**  
Jr/Sr High School  
Principal

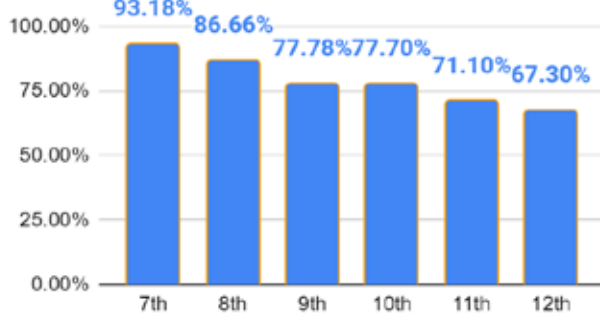
## From the Desk of Mrs. Lancaster:

We are well on our way into the second semester and making great progress! I have included some snapshots regarding attendance and academics. At Colfax-Mingo Jr/Sr High School, we strive to improve the attendance of our students on a daily basis. Each minute of the school day provides opportunities for learning, and it's noticeable when students miss time. The first chart shows the number of students with 3, 5, or 10+ tardies for each month this school year. As you can see, we are trending lower for those with 3-4 unexcused tardies, which is great! However, we are starting to go back up in the number of students with 5+ unexcused tardies. Our goal is to continue lowering unexcused tardies overall. The second chart shows the percentage of students in each grade level that have attended school at least 85% of the school year. This is an area for improvement across our building. As we head into spring, please remember that every missed day is a missed learning opportunity. If you or your student are needing support with attendance issues, please reach out to us so we can find ways to support your child in their education journey.

Number of Unexcused Tardies by Month



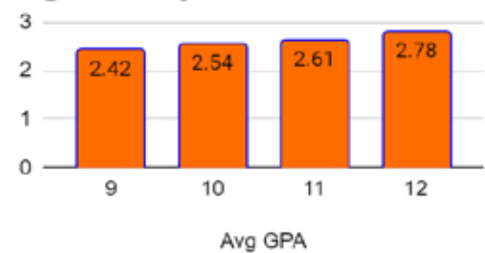
Students with at least 85% Attendance



I also want to share the component recovery opportunity students were offered to improve their final grades and demonstrate a higher understanding of skills taught so far this year. One-third of our student body chose to participate in this opportunity! This was an option for all students, not just those who failed a course. Our teachers worked hard to

develop activities and assessments for students to demonstrate new learning. Below is the average GPA by grade level after the first semester. Our goal is that by the end of the year, each grade has an average GPA of at least 2.5, which we are well on track to achieve! The component recovery opportunity, along with consistent attendance, is a great way to reach this goal. I am looking forward to a great second semester and finishing the year strong!

Avg GPA by Grade Level



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Good Afternoon!

The Jr/Sr High School Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 3rd and Thursday, March 10th from 4:00-8:00pm. All teachers will be in the cafeteria, and they will be available to meet with parents on a drop in, first come, first served basis. You do not need to make an appointment to meet with your student's teachers. Teachers will not be available to conference from 5:30-6:00 on either evening.

Conferences are a great opportunity to connect with teachers and communicate regarding your student's strengths and areas for improvement. We look forward to seeing you in March!

Alex Lancaster  
Jr/Sr High School Principal

## Sub District FFA

Colfax-Mingo had 13 members participate at Sub-district Leadership FFA contests on February 7th. There were 16 schools present. Highest place was Sydney Harter in Greenhand quiz receiving 3rd place which is a gold rating. Also participating in Greenhand quiz included Elise Engle and Lily Webster tying for 18th place. Participating in Chapter quiz included Katie Schlosser who placed 7th place which was a gold rating. Receiving a silver rating and is an alternate to districts was the junior conduct team which consisted of: Joe Earles, Ben Keeney, Kayd Pleggenkuhle, Madison Riddle, Tate Carlson, Emma Cook, and Ava VanMaaren. Receiving a gold rating and also an alternate in job interview was Destiny McBride. Receiving a silver rating in Agriculture Broadcasting was Kirsten Frier.

District Convention is March 5th in Adel.



By Drew Otto

This year's Alumni+ Community game will be on Sunday May 15th at approximately 12:00PM with an 11:00 am social/warm up time. For more information scan the qr code below or visit [tinyurl.com/tigerhawksbaseball](https://tinyurl.com/tigerhawksbaseball) and go to the bright green button at the top of the page "Alumni Game Sign up".

## "Revolution Talent Dance Competition"



Brooke Pease received a Platinum Award when she placed 1st in her category and received 3 place over all soloist at the "Revolution Talent Dance Competition" in Des Moines at the Event Center. Brooke dances with Wilson Dance Company.



## **Congratulations to Kenny Schlosser on his outstanding senior season of wrestling.**

He finished 27-3 and went 1-2 at the state tournament. With only 3 loses, all to state medalists, any wrestler would love to have the season he did. Kenny will be missed next year by more than his wrestling family at Colfax-Mingo. As many people know, his personality has led him to make friendships with people from all over our area. Having a kid like Kenny on the team does more for the program than winning wrestling matches.

He makes the long season more enjoyable by being a part of it. Thank you!



# Congratulations!

Photo credit to Katie Schlosser



# MARCH 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2 90 MINUTE LATE START	3 ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	4	5
6	7 BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING	8 ELEMENTARY PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	9 90 MINUTE LATE START	10 SECONDARY PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	11 TEACHER COMP DAY NO SCHOOL	12
13	14 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	15 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	16 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	17 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	18 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	19
20	21 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	22	23 90 MINUTE LATE START	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 90 MINUTE LATE START	31		



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.

### Colfax-Mingo CSD March 2022 Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 B - Breakfast Pizza	2 B - Grab n Go	3 B - Sausage & Pancake on a Stick	4 B - Cinnamon Roll
	Spaghetti Mixed Greens Salad Seasoned Peas Breadstick Peaches Milk	Shrimp Poppers Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Biscuit Apple Milk	Soft Shell Taco Corn Refried Beans Rice (7-12) Banana Milk	Fish Sandwich Fish Sticks (K-5) French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Orange Wedges Dessert Milk
7 B - French Toast Sticks	8 B - Coffee Cake	9 B - Grab n Go	10 B - Breakfast Choice	11 No School
Cheeseburger/WG Bun Curly Fries Baked Beans Applesauce Milk	Salisbury Steak Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Wheat Roll Peaches Milk	Hotdog/WG Bun Tater Tots Mixed Vegetables Macaroni Salad (7-12) Strawberries Milk	Cooks' Choice	
<b>National School Breakfast Week</b>				
14 Spring Break March 14 -18	15 Spring Break March 14 -18	16 Spring Break March 14 -18	17 Spring Break March 14 -18	18 Spring Break March 14 -18
21 B - Mini Waffles	22 B - Donut	23 B - Grab n Go	24 B - Biscuit & Gravy	25 B - Long John
Corndog Seasoned Wedges Green Beans Fruit Choice Milk	Walking Taco Lettuce/Tomato Cheese/Salsa Black Beans & Mexi Corn Rice (7-12) Pineapple Milk	Pulled Pork Sandwich French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Mandarin Oranges Milk	Hot Ham & Cheese Broccoli Salad Vegetable Choice Banana Milk	Italian Dunkers Seasoned Peas Garden Salad Apple Milk
28 B - Mini Cinni	29 B - Muffin & Yogurt	30 B - Grab n Go	31 B - Mini Donuts	
Breaded Chicken Patty Potato Smiles Mini Carrots Orange Wedges Milk	Beef Burger Waffle Fries Baked Beans Pears Snickerdoodle Cookie Milk	Quesadilla Tex Mex Salad (7-12) Refried Beans Corn Salsa Mixed Fruit Milk	Chicken Strips Potatoes Au Gratin Fresh Vegetable Salad Wheat Roll Fruit Choice Milk	
*Milk (skim, choc skim & 1%) * Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice & milk. Additional options at the JH/HS. *Menu is subject to change				
<i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider</i>				

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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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