

# Tigerhawk Talk

October 2022



## We're off and running...

The first six weeks of the school year have zoomed by quickly as we have moved from summer into fall.



Tim Salmon  
Superintendent

It's been wonderful to get out in the buildings, meet staff, students and community members, and do a lot of listening. It's been very obvious that we are blessed with a fantastic staff and we have great kids. Learning at a high level continues to occur in our classrooms and our students are excellent and growing in extra-curricular activities.

Building projects continue to make progress as we are in the final stages of

the stadium and will now transition our focus to the arena. We are hoping that the stadium project will finish up in the next four weeks, including installing the track and final touches. Each week we continue to get comments from visitors how fantastic the project looks. Once complete, we will have facilities that are second to none.

As we look toward the future, the board will be looking at our building capacities, as increased enrollment begins to put stress on our classroom space that we have available. This along with redistricting of board member districts, due to the recent census, will be two of our urgent topics the board and myself will focus in the next few months.

I encourage our community members to look to volunteer and give back to our district. We will have several opportunities including: SIAC, Homecoming Committee, Athletic and Music Booster clubs just to name a few. Our schools are stronger when we have more involved throughout the community. If you are interested in helping out, please contact our schools and they will be glad to help you find a group to assist with.

We have much to be proud of in Colfax-Mingo and always looking for ways to get better each and every day. Be proud, cheer loud and support our TigerHawks!

Tim Salmon, Supt.

## \$20,000 Elementary Art Grant

**Special Announcement: We applied for the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant and received \$20,000! We will be getting 15-20 iPads, and have 3-5 Tv's in the community that will automatically display recent works of the elementary art students! [5th/6th grade to start] If you/your local business would like to be part of this please contact: [dotta@colfaxmingo.org](mailto:dotta@colfaxmingo.org)**



# HOMECOMING CELEBRATION





Our district staff have been hard at work on their goal of becoming a High Reliability School. Becoming highly reliable means that our organization is successful in spite of challenging circumstances. We seek to become highly reliable in creating a safe and collaborative culture, in executing effective teaching in every classroom, and in providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

Last year, the district adopted Robert Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching Instructional Framework. This framework is a guide for aligning our practices and making sure they are based in research. During professional development, we sought to familiarize ourselves with the framework and to set goals for improvement toward more effective teaching.

In October of 2021 and May of 2022, we surveyed teachers about various aspects of instruction. The table below shows the percentage of teachers that responded either "agree" or "strongly agree" to the statement.

<b>INDICATOR of Effective Instruction</b>	<b>% Positive Fall 2021</b>	<b>% Positive Spring 2022</b>
<b>2.1 The school leader communicates a clear vision as to how instruction should be addressed in the school.</b>	34.56%	75.43%
<b>2.2 Support is provided to teachers to continually enhance their pedagogical skills through reflection and professional growth plans.</b>	43.22%	66.23%
<b>2.3 Predominant instructional practices throughout the school are known and monitored.</b>	23.24%	71.16%
<b>2.4 Teachers are provided with clear, ongoing evaluations of their pedagogical strengths and weaknesses that are based on multiple sources of data and are consistent with student achievement data.</b>	43.22%	53.83%
<b>2.5 Teachers are provided with job-embedded professional development that is directly related to their instructional growth goals.</b>	38.26%	67.86%
<b>2.6 Teachers have opportunities to observe and discuss effective teaching.</b>	30.62%	48.52%

The growth in all areas is obvious and significant! We clearly still have room for additional growth, but we are well on our way to ensuring that we enact effective teaching in every classroom.

It is inspiring to work with a team of educators and a school board that embraces continuous improvement, and I am so proud of our teachers for working diligently to become a little better every day. Colfax-Mingo is fortunate to employ such skilled and dedicated professionals.

Dr. Wendy Anderson, Curriculum Director

**Reminder: The Athletic Booster Club meets once a month at 6pm on the second Wednesday at the high school.**

# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start! The elementary has seven new staff members joining us this year. The following have joined the Tigerhawk Team: Brittany Hammes (preschool), Julia Grett (1st grade), Jennifer Bryant (2nd grade), Leanne Isley (2nd grade), Ryan Gaumer (4th grade), Marylouise Dannels (4th grade) and Matthew Gerhold (elementary music and jr/sr high choir).

The elementary has a new theme for the school year. The staff adopted “Ride The Wave To Success”. This theme brings attention to the successes during the 2021-2022 school year and focuses on the continued work on for the 2022-2023 school year. One of the building goals was to increase the building literacy proficiency.

The building raised the literacy level from 62% in 2021 to 72% in the 2022 school year. There was also success in the math during the same time frame. The math proficiency raised from 68%

in 2021 to 76% in the 2022 school year. The Building Leadership Team is in the process of developing building goals for the 2022-2023 school year. There will be more updates in future newsletter articles.

There are several areas of emphasis for the 2022-2023 school year. The first one focuses on student attendance. The attendance rates for students has been increasing over the past few years. This past year we saw a huge increase in the number of chronically absent students. The focus this year is to increase the communication between the school and families. There will be regular communication with families beginning after 4 absences. Positive Behaviors, Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is another area of focus. The elementary has done a good job in tier 1 which includes building wide expectations and incentives. The next step is to focus on tier 2 which includes specific strategies for struggling students. The building will work together with our AEA support to find ways to improve.

Professional development continues

to be a vital tool used to drive the success of our system. The following will be topics for professional development during upcoming late starts and full day sessions.

- The district is continuing its commitment to implement High Reliability Schools.

- Social emotional learning through daily morning meetings and regular school counseling sessions.

- The elementary staff will be participating in Science of Reading 201 professional development time. This information will be used to review and adopt new literacy materials for the 23-24 school year.

- Reviewing Science and Social Students standards and updating instructional materials.

During the 21-22 school year, the Colfax-Mingo PTA reorganized and became PIE (Partners in Education). PIE has expanded from a Pk-6 to Pk-12. The team continues to look for new members. Please check out the Friday Note on the district website to find a membership form.



(Left, top) Students enjoying fresh sand in the playground sandbox.



(Left, below) Elementary students participating at the homecoming pep rally.



(Right, top) Kindergarten students participating in class color day during homecoming week.



(Right, below) Continuing the tradition of the Friday Morning Welcome.

# New Second Grade Team

By April Ament

The 2022-2023 school year looks different than years past, for second grade, as there are three new teachers. One, Mrs. Ament, is not new to the district, as she had taught preschool for several years, but is thoroughly enjoying her new role with the older kids. Two, Ms. Isley is new to teaching, but has been a substitute for Des Moines Public School. Three, Ms. Bryant is new to the district but this is her second year teaching. Last year she was a fourth grade teacher for Adair Casey School District.

We are beginning the year learning about all kinds of animals and their characteristics through our Journeys reading curriculum.

Ms. Bryant and Ms. Isley's class was introduced to a service dog that someone brought in. Outside for recess, one afternoon, some students found a tree frog on the playground and were interacting with it. Also, Jasper County Conservation came and shared the book *Diary of the Fly* and discussed the difference between arachnids and insects.

For math, using our Bridges curriculum, we are beginning to learn and discuss some strategies like doubles, halves, doubles plus 1 or minus 1, to solve addition and subtraction equations and story problems. During the month of September, we have been collecting the number of minutes during our day and adding them all together during number corner.



## Dear Fourth Grade Grown-ups,

Greetings from The Dannels Crew and The Gaumer Gang!

We have been really busy in the fourth grade. The year has gotten off to a great start, we have had a lot of fun getting to know the students.

In social studies, taught by Mr. Gaumer, both fourth grade classes worked on building their own version of the transcon-

tinental railroad. Students had to work together to create a railroad track that spans the entire classroom. The transcontinental railroad unit led us into the Civil War unit which will continue into October!

What do owls hunting, muscles flexing, chicken feet, and robotic hands have in common? Fourth graders will tell you that they are all a part of understanding

how the human body works. The noise coming from Mrs. Dannels' room is the sound of students busily building four robotic fingers and putting them together to create a robotic hand. The next item on the agenda is finding out how well their robotic hands work. Wish us luck!

Sincerely,  
The 4th grade team



## Jr/Sr High School News

### From the Desk of Mrs. Lancaster:



Alex Lancaster  
Jr/Sr High School  
Principal

**Hello  
Tigerhawks  
and Happy  
Fall!**

We have had an impressive start to the school year at the jr/sr high school! We had a busy start to the year with Homecoming, opening our new stadium, and students completing their fall MAP assessments. During the first few weeks of school, students also completed an Attendance Success

Plan in their third period class. We have a building goal this year of students attending school at least 90% of the year. Students identified specific strategies to help meet their attendance goals and had discussions around why attendance matters.

Great talking points around attendance:

- If you must be absent, set a plan to communicate with teachers and the school to make-up for missed work and learning.
- Have set routines: homework, setting an alarm,

charged chromebook, water bottle

- Water helps the brain stay hydrated, and a hydrated brain helps us absorb more information
- Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
- Track your attendance! Keep a calendar for days missed to stay on track

with 90%

We have our first vocal concert coming up later this month as well as other activities around the building. New this year, we are also sending a weekly newsletter to families. Please make sure to check that for community service opportunities, upcoming events, reminders, and important dates. We truly appreciate your ongoing support and believe that by working together we can create the best possible environment that allows students to achieve success.

# October 2022


<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2	3	4	5 90 MINUTE LATE START FOR SCHOOL	6	7 TEACHER TQ DAY NO SCHOOL	8
9	10 TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NO SCHOOL	11	12 90 MINUTE LATE START FOR SCHOOL  ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEETING 6 PM @ HIGH SCHOOL	13	14	15
16	17 MONTHLY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6 PM	18 PICTURE RETAKE DAY	19 90 MINUTE LATE START FOR SCHOOL  UNITY DAY!	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26 90 MINUTE LATE START FOR SCHOOL	27 7-12 Vocal Music Concert 6 pm HS	28 FIRST QTR ENDS	29

**Please note:** Athletic events have not been included on the Newsletter's monthly calendar as there are changes from day to day. School events can be monitored on school webpage at the top under "Events."



## Colfax-Mingo CSD October 2022 Menu



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 B – Muffin & Yogurt  Corndog Tater Tots Baked Beans Peaches Milk	4 B – Sausage & Pancake on a Stick  Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk	5 B – Grab n Go  Cheese Steak Sandwich Seasoned Wedges Mini Carrots Mandarin Oranges Milk	6 B – Cereal/Toast  Chicken Wrap Green Beans Fresh Vegetables Dessert (7-12) Fruit Choice Milk	7          No School
10          No School	11 B – Mini Pancakes  French Toast Sausage/Egg Hashbrown Cucumber Slices Blueberries Milk	12 B – Grab n Go  Pizza Burger Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Steamed Carrots Pears Milk	13 B – Coffee Cake  Chicken Melt Curly Fries Baked Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	14 B – Breakfast Bar  Garlic Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Garden Salad Corn Grapes Milk
17 B – Mini Waffles  Mr. Rib French Fries Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Milk	18 B – Donut Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Mini Carrots Grapes Choc Chip Cookie Milk	19 B – Grab n Go  Crispito w/ Cheese & Lettuce Corn Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	20 B – Breakfast Pizza  Salisbury Steak Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Biscuit Peaches Milk	21 B – Biscuit & Gravy  Cheeseburger/WG Bun Lettuce & Tomato Potato Smiles Baked Beans Apple Milk
24 B – Muffin & Yogurt  Quesadilla w/ Salsa Tex Mex Pasta (7-12) Refried Beans Mexi Corn Mixed Fruit Milk	25 B – Cinnamon Roll  Pasta Bake Mixed Greens Salad Broccoli Salad Breadstick Banana Milk	26 B – Grab n Go  Hotdog/ WG Bun Tater Tots Mixed Vegetables Macaroni Salad Strawberries Milk	27 B – Breakfast Sandwich  Chicken Strips Potatoes Au Gratin Fresh Vegetable Salad Wheat Roll Fresh Fruit Milk	28 B – Long John  Beef Burger Seasoned Wedges Baked Beans Pears Milk
31 B – Mini Cinni  Chicken Patty/WG Bun Potato Smiles Mini Carrots Fruit Choice Dessert Milk	<b>NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK OCT 10<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup></b>  * 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>			

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Colfax-Mingo Community School District Newsletter

# Tigerhawk Talk



Deadline for copy is the third Friday of the month. Newsletter Designer • Dana J. King School Facilitator • Bert Deaton

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