

Tigerhawk Talk

April 2023



We're getting close ...

It's hard to believe that we are already into April and the end of the school year is nearly upon us. This year has flown by and we are already hard at work preparing for the next school year as a district.



Tim Salmon
Superintendent

Enrollment for next year is now open and we are excited to offer full day preschool again next year after the success we witnessed this year.

We are also getting closer to completion on Phase 2 of the construction project. As you may have seen through

our videos, progress has been occurring and we have been documenting that via social media.

We are target for completion prior to the end of the school year, with the plan of holding graduation in the new arena in May. This will be our communities first opportunity to experience an event in the new gym and celebrate our graduating seniors.

We had great turnout for our spring conferences. The relationships and communication between our families and building staff are critical to the success of our students and growth of our programs. We have been working

with several families and community members the past few months to open communication, improve relationships and build a solid foundation for our community. We are just in the beginning stages of this work and invite more of you to be part of the work. We have the opportunity for greatness, but it starts with all of us working together.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out and connect with me. It's a priority of mine to improve communication and seek input from our community to help our district become the envy of others.

Let's go Tigerhawks!

ISASP Testing

We will administer the Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) tests this spring during the week of April 17 for grades 7-11 and during the week of April 24 for grades 3-6. Students are tested in the areas of reading, language, writing, and math. Grades 5,8, and 10 also test in science. These assessments are required by the Iowa Department of Education, and the scores factor strongly in how schools are rated across the state through Iowa School Performance Profiles. Additionally, we use the scores from these assessments to support educational decisions, so it is critical that we have accurate data.

Parents and families can support the school by emphasizing the importance of students taking the testing seriously and putting forth their best effort. The tests are not timed. Iowa Testing Programs suggest scheduling approximately one hour for each test, but stu-

dents can take as long as they need to finish. Research has shown that students who take advantage of the full time score significantly higher than those who do not.

Parents and families can also help out by ensuring that their children get plenty of rest during the week of testing. In addition, making sure that students are present and on time to school during the week of testing helps minimize the amount of make-up tests that have to be scheduled. We thank all of our students, families, and staff members for working together to ensure that our kids can accurately demonstrate their learning and growth from year to year through these assessments. If you have questions about the tests, please contact the District Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Dr. Wendy Anderson, at wanderson@colfaxmingo.org or 515-674-3646 x 1114.

LEVEL 1 INVESTIGATION TEAM

Brian Summy, Elementary Principal

Alternate: Bree Skow
Elementary Guidance Counselor

515-674-3465

Alexandra Lancaster, Jr/Sr High Principal

Alternate: Amber Joyce
Jr/Sr High Guidance Counselor

515-674-4111

Alternate Level 1 Investigator
Lindsey Cummins, District School Nurse
515-674-3465 or 515-674-4111

Student Teacher

My name is Christopher Cunningham and I will be a student teacher this semester with Zach Tomas at the Jr-Sr. High School. I am currently attending Grand View University in Des Moines and working on my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Physical Education with an endorsement in coaching. I am originally from Des Moines, IA and graduated from Southeast Polk High School.



Christopher Cunningham

My career choice in education was motivated by some of the teachers I had throughout my schooling years, experiences in the classroom, as well as my mom who is a current teacher as well. I am a very outgoing person that loves to keep a sense of engagement in the classroom or with other peers. I love to get students actively involved in instruction as well as create a collaborative environment for all students to feel welcomed as they grow in learning. I have played soccer in high school and college as well as coaching basketball and soccer this year at Southeast Polk. These experiences have shown me the importance of collaboration, teamwork, time management skills, and communication. I am really looking forward to working with the students in Colfax-Mingo School District and making a difference in their lives.

**2023/2024
PRESCHOOL/
KINDERGARTEN
PARENT MEETING**

Please join us for a

**2023/2024 PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN
PARENT MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, April 4th
5:45 Preschool Parents (3 & 4 year olds)
6:30 Kindergarten Parents
Elementary Lunchroom

Radon testing results

Ben Cooper
Buildings and Maintenance Supervisor
Colfax-Mingo Schools

Tigerhawk Nation,

In February, specifically the week of the 6th-10th, we tested the elementary building and the district office building for radon gas. The test results came back with three rooms at the elementary site, and the office area at Central office having elevated radon levels above the E.P.A. standards. I worked alongside the Energy Association of Iowa Schools to come up with a list of corrective measures before a second (required) test was done.

Those items included the following: 1. Install a cover over the sump pump pit in the boiler room, and seal around it with silicone. 2. Identify any holes in the basement walls, and fill those with insulation. 3. Make sure all floor drains have water in them. 4. Fill in any cracks in the foundation with silicone. 5. Fill in any gaps around plumbing and electrical conduit that are coming into the building through the foundation walls or floors. 6. Replace HVAC filters. Once those items were complete, we then did the second test, only in the areas that were elevated. On March 20th, we received the results of the second test. The district

office is now below E.P.A. radon gas standards. Unfortunately, three rooms at the elementary are still elevated above E.P.A. standards. Those rooms are the gym, the preschool room on the stage, and the new teacher workroom in the basement. We are currently working on getting bids by a licensed radon mitigator to install a radon mitigation system. It is still safe for students, staff, and community members to use these spaces. In compliance with the state of Iowa, this work will be completed on or by June 30th, 2023. If you have any further questions, please feel free to email me at bcooper@colfaxmingo.org.

Elementary School News



Brian Summy
Elementary
Principal

2023-2024 Preschool and Kindergarten Informational Parent meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th in the elementary lunchroom. The preschool meeting for both 3 year olds and 4 year olds will be at 5:45 followed by the kindergarten meeting at 6:30. Please enter the playground door on the west side of the school. We are looking forward to meeting our next classes of Tigerhawks!

As April approaches, so does assessment time at the elementary. Grades 3-6 will take ISASP testing the week of April 25th. Students will take assessments in english language arts, writing and math. 5th grade students will also have a science test. The FAST window for grades K-6 also opens the week of April 25th. These assessments will include fluency, a Reading and a Math. The data collected from these assessments will be used by staff to make instructional decisions for the building. The data also will be used by

teachers to review the growth of students.

We are in the final trimester of the school year which means one more time to review our SOAR expectations.

The matrix is used to give examples of how students show SOAR around the school. It includes the bus, classroom, lunchroom, playground, hallway, restroom and assembly. The example below includes Show Self-Control. There are additional categories for Offer Kindness, Act Responsibly, and Respect Everyone and Everything.

	Bus	Classroom	Lunch	Playground	Hallway	Restroom	Assembly
Show Self-Control	Keep hands and objects inside the bus.	Active listening with teachers and peers Follow directions Accept redirection	Raise your hand if you need something. Sit or stand in your assigned areas.	Demonstrate good sportsmanship Line up quickly with your hands and feet to yourself	Walk Keep hands to your side	Use facilities appropriately Flush the toilet Leave quietly.	Active listening to speaker Engage and participate as directed by the speaker

Upcoming Elementary Events:

- Monday, April 3:
 - 6:00 pm K-1st grade concert at elementary
 - 7:00 pm 2nd-3rd grade concert at elementary.
- Tuesday, April 4th
 - 5:45- 2023-2024 Preschool (3 year old and 4 year old) Parent meeting in elementary lunchroom.
 - 6:30- 2023-2024 Kindergarten parent meeting in elementary lunchroom.
- Monday, April 10th: No School
- Monday, April 24th: No School: professional development day
- Week of April 25th: ISASP testing for grades 3-6
- Week of May 1st: FAST testing begins
- Wednesday, May 24th: K-12 Track & Field Day/Carnival (all day)
- Thursday, May 25th: Last day of school



Third Grade Classroom Updates!

By Emilee McAtee, Autumn Simpson and Kristen Hainer

These past few months in third grade a lot of changes have happened. We went from two sections to three. It is going great and the students are doing very well. Third grade had Jasper County come in as well. Mr. Greg came in and talked to our students about snowflakes. Students learned that snowflakes come in all different shapes and sizes. 3rd grade students got to create snowflakes out of hex-nuts. The students were able to connect what they learned to the story we read the next week about living on ice.



APRIL 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 State Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Pella Christian HS 12 am
2	3 **Rescheduled** Elementary Grades K-3 rd Concert Gr K-1 6 pm Gr 2-3 7 pm	4 Pre-School Parent Meeting for 2023- 24 (3 & 4 year old) 5:45 pm Elem Lunchroom Kdg Parent Meeting for 2023-24 6:00 pm Elem Lunchroom	5 90 Minute LATE START	6	7	8
9	10 NO SCHOOL TEACHER CONTRACT DAY	11	12 90 MINUTE LATE START	13	14	15 PROM
16	17	18	19 90 MINUTE LATE START	20	21 HS Band/Choir Spring Follies Concert 7 pm Jr High Dance in Mingo Gym 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm	22
23/30	24 NO SCHOOL TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DAY	25 ISASP Testing for grades 3-6	26 90 MINUTE LATE START	27	28	29

NOTE: For daily activity and athletic events, please visit the school webpage under the link "Events" at the top of the search bar.

Colfax-Mingo CSD April 2023 Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
3 B – Breakfast Bar Cheeseburger/WG Bun Potato Smiles Mixed Vegetables Apple Milk	4 B – Mini Bagels Soft Shell Taco Mexi Corn Black Beans & Rice Pineapple Cookie (HS) Milk	5 B – Grab n Go Pig in the Blanket Tater Tots Baked Beans Banana Milk	6 B – Breakfast Sandwich Chicken Alfredo Spinach Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes Mini Carrots Garlic Bread Grapes Milk	7 B – Mini Cinni Pizza Crunchers Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Strawberries Dessert Milk
10 No School	11 B – Donut Italian Chicken Sandwich Mixed Greens Salad Sweet Potato Fries Pears Milk	12 B – Grab n Go Mr. Rib Fresh Vegetable Salad Vegetable Choice Mandarin Oranges Banana Bar (HS) Milk	13 B – Biscuit & Gravy Crispito w/ Cheese & Lettuce Corn Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	14 B – Sausage & Pancake on a Stick Shrimp Poppers Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Biscuit Peaches Milk
17 B – Breakfast Pizza Corndog Waffle Fries Baked Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	18 B – Mini Donuts Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk	19 B – Grab n Go Cooks' Choice	20 B – Long John Pasta Bake Garden Salad Broccoli Salad Breadstick Fruit Choice Milk	21 B – Muffin & Yogurt Chicken Wrap Fresh Vegetables Green Beans Orange Wedges Dessert Milk
24 No School	25 B – Mini Pancakes French Toast Sausage/Egg Hashbrown Cucumber Slices Strawberries Milk	26 B – Grab n Go Chicken Drumstick Potatoes & Gravy Corn Biscuit Peaches Milk	27 B – Cinnamon Roll Pizzaburger Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Mini Carrots Pears Milk	28 B – French Toast Sticks Garlic Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Mixed Greens Salad Seasoned Peas Grapes Cookie Milk

*Milk (skim, choc skim & 1%) *Menu is subject to change

* Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice & milk. Additional options at the JH/HS.

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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

Iowa Nondiscrimination Statement

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