

Tigerhawk Talk



October 2023

Our future looks bright....



Tim Salmon
Superintendent

As we kicked off the 2023-24 school year, we welcomed over 50 new students to our district. We are beginning to see a trend in enrollment shifting and as the state has changed open enrollment and school choice, we are seeing that people are choosing to come to Colfax-Mingo. This growth is exciting, but also brings with it space issues in our buildings. We will begin working on facilities later this fall as we look towards our current space and future needs.

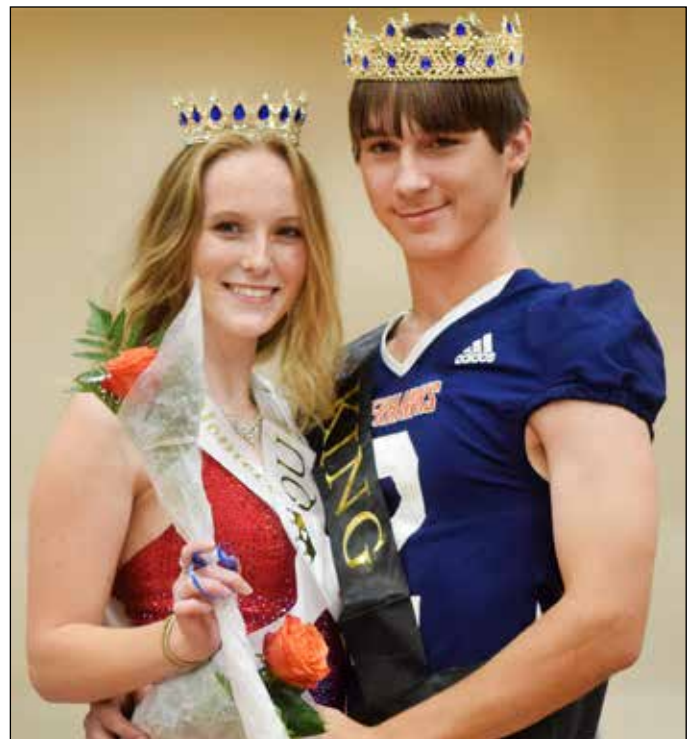
It's also an interesting year with the school board election coming up in November. With the census this year, it caused redistricting of our existing board of directors. In typical elections we would have either three or four seats up for election. But due to the redistricting and the board voting to shift from seven district seats to four district seats and three at-large, we have six openings. It's exciting to see interest from the community as we have twelve individuals that have turned in paperwork to run for those offices. We will host a public

forum in October to allow citizens an opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their responses to questions.

One of our goals that we have set for the school year is to improve attendance. As we have concluded the first month of school, we still have work to do. Attendance at school is critical for student success. Days that are missed can't be made up and the missed instruction impacts learning. If your student is ill, please don't send them to school, but we see trends with students missing school and oftentimes it can be avoided. Sometimes it's hard parenting, trust me as a father of two, it wasn't always easy. Getting our students in routines and expecting them to be at school will help them understand that attending school isn't a choice, it's the expectation.

Be on the lookout for the official grand opening of the new gym and access to the public. We are excited to get this project wrapped up and get people in the facilities. Students are already reaping the benefits of the upgraded facility. Guidance on public access will come out in the first week of October.

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION



Christopher Braunschweig/Jasper County Tribune

Elementary School News



Brian Summy
Elementary
Principal

The school is off and running at the elementary. The students and staff are settling into our daily routines and expectations. We have several new staff members that have joined our team: Kaitlyn Konfrst (1st grade), Traci Dunsbergen (2nd grade), Bailey Hume (academic interventionist), Jill Halter (shared school counselor), McKinzie Tjaden (4th grade), Lindsay Porter (Parent/Community Liaison), Deb Gipe (administrative assistant), Shelbee Stier (custodian).

The elementary building received some much needed renovations over the summer. The Pk-4 hallway got new carpet and a fresh coat of paint. We added a wall in the former library to make 2 classrooms. The library will be housed in the gym on the risers for the time being. Students will be able to continue to use the library and check out books.

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 part of a successful school. The elementary will be focusing on the following areas:

- The district will continue implementing High Reliability Schools.
- A major part of the year will be reviewing and updating Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. This help create priorities in

each grade level for learning targets.

- Social emotional learning through morning meetings and regular school counseling will also continue.

Elementary Fine Arts Concert Calendar

Dec. 4th: 4th-6th grades music/band at jr/sr high 6:00

Dec. 7th: K-1 grades at the elementary 6:00

Mar. 4th: Parade of Bands at jr/sr high 6:00

Apr. 11th: 2nd-3rd grades at the elementary 6:00

Apr. 15th: 4th-6th grades music/band at the jr/sr high 6:00

October Activities

Oct. 5th & 6th- No School, Teacher Professional Development

Oct. 8th-14th: Fire Prevention Week. Pk-K trips to the fire department & 3rd grade smoke house

Oct. 10th- School picture day

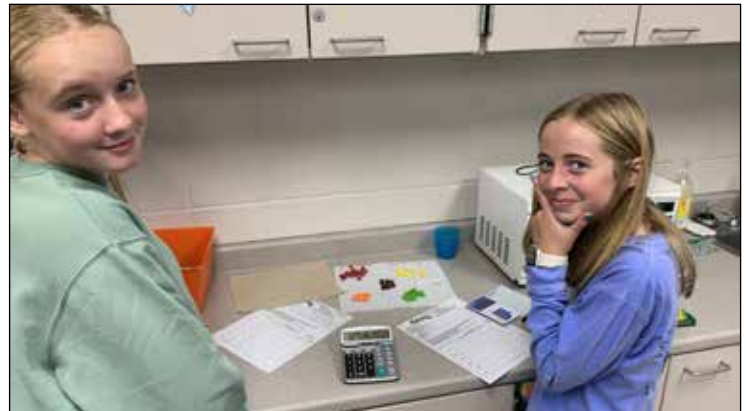
Oct. 18th- Unity Day

Oct. 31st- Halloween



Tigerhawks sharing an umbrella on a wet morning.

6th graders applying the scientific method using Skittles



School Counselor Update

By Bree Skow

We are excited to announce that because of the generosity of the Colfax-Mingo Education Foundation we were able to purchase PK-6 CharacterStrong curriculum for our elementary students. The PK-5 program is PurposeFull People. In this program, students will focus on three main outcomes: be well (emotion regulation), be strong (executive functioning), and be kind (social skills). Each outcome also has three underlying skills:

- Be Well: Gratitude, Honesty, Creativity
- Be Strong: Responsibility, Courage, Perseverance
- Be Kind: Empathy, Respect, Cooperation

Each month this year we will be focusing on a specific skill. During the month of September we have been learning about respect. We've discussed the value of seeing good in others, disagreeing respectfully, practicing perspective-taking, listening closely, solving conflicts peacefully, and much more. Our focus in October will be responsibility.

Sixth graders are included in our monthly themes, but during classroom counseling they are also receiving age-appropriate instruction focused on outcomes of belonging, well-being, and engagement.

We've just begun to dig into all of the wonderful aspects of this new curriculum and we're excited to partner with families in this work. One of our counseling program goals for the year is to increase family engagement and communication. Be on the lookout for ways you can be involved and stay up-to-date



Above — The elementary ready for the homecoming chant competition. First place- 6th grade, Second place- 4th grade, Third place- kindergarten.

**HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION**

Right — High school football team joining the elementary for the Friday Welcome.





Mrs. Dannels' 2nd graders worked hard to become a team while we read, did math problems, and classified animals.



Report to PARENTS

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Even as kids grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school. Families can use these strategies to help kids build a habit of good attendance.

Did You Know?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 2 days a month can make it harder for kids to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student might drop out of high school.

What You Can Do

1. **Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.** A structured routine helps kids feel safe and secure because they know what to expect.
2. **Prepare the night before.** Help your child pick out an outfit for the next school day and set it out so it's ready to go when they wake up. Pack backpacks then, too.
3. **Keep your child healthy.** Make sure your child has the required immunizations and is practicing healthy habits to stop the spread of germs and illnesses.
4. **Ease anxieties.** If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning. Focus on the positives about the school day, and do what you can to ease their anxieties, like introducing your child to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
5. **Develop backup plans.** If something comes up and you're unable to take your child to school on time, make plans with a family member, a neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
6. **Limit out-of-school time.** Try to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
7. **Seek advice.** If your child is sick, call your school for advice about whether they should come in or stay home.
8. **Know that perfect attendance isn't the goal.** There are times when your child should stay home due to illness. When this happens, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.
9. **Communicate with schools.** Oftentimes a barrier that exists for you exists for other families in the community. Work together with the school to address systemic barriers that might be causing kids to miss more days of school than they should.

9 Tips to Build a Habit of Good Attendance



HOMECOMING CELEBRATION









COLFAX-MINGO HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR!

Students grades 9-12 will visit organization tables at the Jr/Sr high school to learn more about various colleges and career opportunities. There are no fees to reserve a table. Hands-on activities provided by the organizations are encouraged! Please contact Amber Joyce with questions or inquiries about reserving a table - ajoyce@colfaxmingo.org




NOVEMBER 10, 2023

2:00PM-3:15PM

**COLFAX-MINGO JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
204 N LEAGUE RD, COLFAX, IA 50054**

515-674-4111

OCTOBER 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2 BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION 6 PM	3	4 90 MINUTE LATE START	5 NO SCHOOL TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	6 NO SCHOOL TEACHER TQ DAY	7
8 Oct 8-14 Fire Prevention Week PK-K trips to fire Dept. 3 rd Grade to Smoke House	9	10 ELEMENTARY PICTURE DAY	11 90 MINUTE LATE START	12 JR/SR HS PICTURE DAY	13	14
15	16 REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING 6 PM	17	18 90 MINUTE LATE START Elementary Unity Day	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 90 MINUTE LATE START FOUNDATION MEETING 5:30 PM	26 7-12 FALL CHOIR CONCERT 6 pm HS Cafeteria (Spaghetti Dinner for Music Booster Fundraiser prior to)	27 END OF QTR	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN 				

Colfax-Mingo CSD October 2023 Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
2 B – Waffles Corndog Tater Tots Baked Beans Peaches Milk	3 B – Cinnamon Roll Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk	4 B – Grab n Go Chicken Wrap French Fries Green Beans Fruit Choice Milk	5 No School	6 No School
9 B – Breakfast Bar Chicken Melt Curly Fries Mini Carrots Pears Milk	10 B – Muffin & Yogurt French Toast Sausage/Egg Hashbrown Pepper Sticks Strawberries Milk	11 B – Grab n Go Garlic Cheese Bread w/ Marinara Garden Salad Corn Grapes Milk	12 B – Breakfast Sandwich Pizzaburger Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Seasoned Peas Apple Milk	13 B – Mini Pancakes BBQ Beef Sandwich Seasoned Wedges Baked Beans Orange Wedges Cookie Milk
16 B – Mini Bagels Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Mini Carrots Mixed Fruit Milk	17 B – Mini Waffles Crispito w/ Cheese & Lettuce Corn Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	18 B – Grab n Go Mr. Rib Waffle Fries Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Milk	19 B – Breakfast Pizza Salisbury Steak Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Biscuit Peaches Apple Crisp Milk	20 B – Biscuit & Gravy Cheeseburger/WG Bun Lettuce & Tomato Curly Fries Cucumber Slices Apple Milk
23 B – Long John Hotdog/ WG Bun Potato Smiles Mixed Vegetables Strawberries Milk	24 B – Muffin & Yogurt Beef Burger Seasoned Wedges Baked Beans Banana Snickerdoodle Cookie Milk	25 B – Grab n Go Quesadilla w/ Salsa Tex Mex Pasta Salad Refried Beans Mexi Corn Pears Milk	26 B - Sausage & Pancake on a Stick Chicken Strips Potatoes Au Gratin Fresh Vegetable Salad Wheat Roll Fruit Choice Milk	27 B – Breakfast Bagel Cooks' Choice
30 B – Mini Pancakes Deli Sub Hashbrown Baked Beans Orange Wedges Milk	31 B - Breakfast Sandwich Chicken Patty/WG Bun French Fries Mini Carrots Applesauce Brownie Milk	NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK OCT 9TH-13TH * 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

Iowa Nondiscrimination Statement

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