

Tigerhawk Talk



February 2021

Welcome to 2021, Tigerhawk Family!!



**Erik Anderson
Superintendent**

The New Year holiday is a time to reflect on the past year's accomplishments. 2020 is in our rearview mirror and we are moving forward! Undoubtedly, 2020 was as challenging of a year as most people remember. Still, we grew. Our students gained knowledge and experiences they otherwise would not have. Our staff grew in their pedagogical knowledge and experience. Our communities grew closer together as we all had to adjust to the new mitigation strategies. This growth did not happen in every community and school. 2021 is a chance to look forward, improve, and enhance our Tigerhawk community. I am proud of our Tigerhawk family for their dedication to each other!

There are many reasons to be proud of being a Tigerhawk. We look forward to celebrating these reasons in a variety of new ways in the coming months. Here are some of the reasons I am proud to be a Tigerhawk:

- Our communities of Colfax and Mingo are moving forward with priorities to grow our communities. Our city leaders work diligently to support our community members and our schools. There are planned new housing developments in both Colfax and Mingo.
- Construction on our new stadium at our Jr/Sr High has started and planned to be completed in July or August.
- Students graduating from Colfax-Mingo have earned over \$200,000 in scholarship money the last 3 years.
- Last year we had the largest number of open-enrolled in students we have ever had.
- Our buses have internet available on them for our students daily and on activity routes.

- Our district pays for all juniors to take the ACT exam.
 - All of our elementary students and one-third of our secondary students participate in our music program.
 - Our elementary is half-way through an update to all of its playground equipment.
 - CMCSO offers a comprehensive pre-school program and offers door-to-door transportation to all district families.
- This is not a comprehensive list but does give you some insight into the amazing things that happen in our communities and schools each day. Thank you for being a participant in this excitement and we look forward to working with all of our district patrons in the future! This is Tigerhawk country... Welcome home!
- Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- Go Tigerhawks!!
Take care,
Erik Anderson, Superintendent

Enjoy retirement, Mr. Jones

I have had the great honor to work in one of the most noble professions for 38 years. My teaching career started in a small catholic high school in Fort Madison, Iowa at Fort Madison Aquinus Catholic High School. While at Fort Madison I taught Physics, Chemistry and Physical Science as well as coaching girls tennis. After marrying my wife, Karla Thompson, I began teaching at Monroe High School which eventually became PCM High School. During my 23 years serving

at PCM, I taught Physics, Chemistry, Physical Science, Junior High Science, Biology, Advanced Biology, and Anatomy/Physiology while coaching football, wrestling, track, and softball.

In 2006 I moved back to my hometown of Colfax to become the Principal at Colfax-Min-



go High School. Since my return to my roots at Colfax-Mingo, I spent three years as head football coach before leaving coaching to focus on serving solely as principal. Our youngest son Cameron is a 2008 graduate of CM. While at Colfax-Mingo we have improved our read-

ing and math outcomes as measured by Iowa assessments and retained 75% of our teaching staff during this time. In addition we have seen great improvements in our school facilities, and will be adding a new football/track stadium along with a new gymnasium, weight room, and practice facility all to be completed by the fall of 2022. My biggest accomplishment has been working with students to help

Elementary School News



Brian Summy
Elementary
Principal

February is always a busy month around the elementary. Students will participate in the second round of FAST testing which ends in early February. Staff will take time to review student data and compare student growth from the fall. Instructional decisions will focus on student growth and help teachers identify where students are excelling and struggling.

The elementary Social Emotional Team continues to work hard promot-

ing the social emotional health of our students and staff. Staff and students have been learning about the Zones of Regulation throughout the school year. Staff check in with students daily and look for trends over time. SEL team members check in weekly on staff members. One new area of focus for the new year is increased awareness of staff social emotional health. The SEL team is planning some activities for the staff on late start Wednesdays from 8:00-8:30. One of the messages we heard from staff was the feeling of isolation and not having time to interact with other

staff. The elementary PBIS team has also been busy planning fun activities throughout the building in February and March. Details will be released in later January and will be shared in the Friday Note and on the Colfax-Mingo Website.

Upcoming events:

- February is Black History Month.
- February 14-20 is Random Acts of Kindness Week
- March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday (Read Across America)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences have moved from February to March 4th/11th.

The Value of Independent Reading

By Matt Murley

There has been a lot of research focused on the impact of reading on a student's learning. I am not just talking about the reading that a student may do in an English class. I am talking about the reading that students do on their own. Student selected independent reading is one of the most powerful tools to increase a child's ability to read and their overall engagement with learning. One reading researcher and practicing teacher, Kelly Gallagher, recommends that as much as 80% of all reading that a child does should be selected by that child. In an effort to get closer to that number, I have devoted the first fifteen to twenty minutes of my literature classes to students reading books that they select themselves. The improvement I have seen in engagement with reading has been profound. There are some days I have to cancel independent reading due to time constraints or because of all the schedule changes that we have had to deal with this year. When that happens many students will audibly groan that they are missing out on their reading time. That is music to an English teacher's ears. So far this year, students have read almost 27,000 pages and finished 58 books.

This reading shouldn't stop in the classroom, though. Getting books into the hands of students is the first step in this process. Making sure that there is reading material available in your house can build upon that. This could be books, magazines, newspapers - anything that a reader can engage with. If you don't have these things, take your child to the library or ask their teacher to be sure to send reading material home. Another key aspect of building a love of reading is to model it to your child. Don't just tell them to read. Read yourself. Even better, read something together. Then you can not only check to see if your child is reading, but you can also have a meaningful conversation with them about the reading.

Because a key aspect of getting students to read is having a wide variety of books for them to select from, I am always looking for donations to my classroom library. If you have any books around your house that you will like to donate, please bring them to the high school office and let them know they are for the English department. I am especially interested in any young adult books that would appeal to a teenage audience.





Fifth Grade and Kindergarten Buddies

By Sara Johnston

The kindergarten and 5th grade classes recently resumed a favorite program. Each Friday afternoon for about 20 minutes a 5th grader and kindergartener buddy pair meet up. Initially the two spend time getting to know each other. Later they work on activities that reinforce skills the kindergarteners learn in class or simply read a book. It is something that the 5th graders look forward to each year. One fifth grader said, "I like having kindergarten buddies because they are cute and fun to work with." In the end it is beneficially for both students.



Leadership in Band

By Mrs. Stookesberry

Band is a place for learning an instrument and making friends, but it is also a place for students to develop leadership skills.

6th Grade Band (and later 5th Grade Band) has the leadership roles which consist of: Equipment managers, focus keepers, librarians, assistants, and morale captains. The equipment managers roll the white board from the music room to the cafeteria, where band class is held. Equipment managers also make sure the music stands are racked neatly and the cafeteria is picked up. Focus keepers help maintain focus ensuring we are learning. The librarian is responsible for making sure that students have copies of their music or letting the teacher know when extra music needs copied. Assistants help take attendance and help in every way. The morale captains read inspiration quotes and keep the energy positive in class.

Our current 5th Grade Equipment Managers are Aubrey VanderSchoor, Mickey Bucklin, Zoey Mason, and Serenity Carroll, Mackenna Stone is the 5th Grade Librarian.

The 6th Grade Equipment Managers are Brooklyn Yanske, Makenna Westercamp, Dakota Allen, Makayla Nettles, and Hope Allen. The 6th Grade Focus Keepers are Grace Allen, Alex Camp, and Nate Endersbe. Nate also serves as librarian along with Allan Bregar. The 6th Grade assistants are Krissy Snow and Kaiden Yates. Our Morale Captains are Lindsey Patten and Layne Keller.

Going above and beyond are a group of 6th graders who help mentor 5th grade band. This group assists 5th grade students who play the same instrument as they do. They help by reminding how a note is played, where to follow along in the music, and reminders on how to play their instrument correctly. This group of exceptional leaders are Hope Allen, Grace Allen, Victoria Woods, Brooklyn Yanske, and Makenna Westercamp.

All members of band show leadership in doing their part to wear special masks while they play their instruments. They also have bell covers, which are a double lined fabric that encases the end of their instrument.

Preschool Learning Adventures

Mrs. Fritch's 3 and 4 Year Old Preschool and Developmental Kindergarten Classes

We are having so much fun in Preschool and Developmental Kindergarten! Every day is a new adventure with new opportunities to learn and play! In December, we did a unit on Gingerbread Men and tasted Gingerbread Cookies to vote whether or not we liked them. One of our favorite center activities is building castles with blocks and other materials in the Block Center like plastic drinking cups. In January, we started back after Winter Break with a few fun activities to welcome in 2021 and now are doing a unit on Hibernation and Animals in Winter. The 3's class is working on learning to recognize and spell our names, the 4's class is working on writing our names and learning to write the letters of the alphabet and numbers. We are excited to share our learning adventures with you and look forward to many more fun activities as we continue our school year!



Jr/Sr High School News

Meet Jeff Beener

Hi, my name is Jeff Beener, Special Education Instructor at Colfax-Mingo High School. This is my 28th year of teaching and my first year at Colfax Mingo. I have taught, PE, Health, Driver Education, and Special Education over the course of 28 years. I have also coached football, wrestling, track and baseball at the Jr high and Varsity levels. I was born and raised in Prairie City and attended Prairie City High School. I attended William Penn University and Morningside College.

My family consists of 5 children and 2 stepchildren. In my spare time I enjoy going to my children's activities, playing golf and riding my motorcycle.



Emma Arndt — Des Moines Arts Festival exhibitor

By Jeff Sontag

Emma Arndt, a high school student at Colfax-Mingo Jr-Sr High School had three of her digital art painting pieces selected to be shown in the 2020 Des Moines Arts Festival Student Art Exhibit



sponsored by the Des Moines Arts Festival.

Due to COVID-19 the Des Moines Arts Festival and the Student Arts Exhibit "Nurturing a Child's Vision" was not held on the streets of Des Moines. This year The Des Moines Arts Festi-

val Student Arts Exhibit featured the artwork of 144 students from 36 different schools throughout Central Iowa through an online gallery beginning Friday, June 26 through the summer months. If you wish to see Emma's art the online gallery will be on their website, www.desmoinesarts-festival.org follow the Student Art Exhibit Gallery tab.

"Golden," one of Emma's digital paintings exhibited in the Des Moines Arts Festival. This painting and others can be found at desmoinesartsfestival.org

Due to COVID-19, a reception, "Nurturing a Child's Vision" was held for parents and art teachers only on September 2nd at the Des Moines Central Public Library, 1000 Grand Ave. in Des Moines.

Congratulations to Emma on this artistic achievement!

TAG

By Bobbi Jo Boggs

This year has been an unusual year in the TAG room, as is the case in many areas. Although we have not been able to participate in any live competitions this year, due to Covid-19, we have managed to find a few online competitions to try. In addition, elementary students have been able to meet in small groups to work on challenging interdisciplinary lessons that allow them to stretch their thinking and their creativity, and we have several high school students, both TAG identified and not, taking college classes through DMACC again this year. This is a great way for students to challenge themselves and begin preparing for their advanced education while earning college credit that they can use after they graduate.

Fifth and sixth grade classes and a few junior high students are once again participating in the Math Olympiad for Elementary and Middle School students this year. The new format includes taking five online math quizzes, with five complicated problems each, over a period of five months (November-March). At the end of the competition, one student from each grade level will be crowned the champion, based on their total number of correct answers, and receive a trophy. Any students that are in the top 25% of the state competitors will also receive a pin or ribbon for their efforts. All students receive certificates of participation.

Fifth through eighth grade students have also been able to compete in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl this year. Due to the lack of schools able to compete (with some not meeting in person at all), this year's competition included all states together competing in one 100 question test. Colfax-Mingo fifth grade students placed 8th overall, and sixth grade placed 7th, but both groups were the top ranked out of schools competing in the state of Iowa. Seventh and eighth grade teams this year, who had to take the quiz together on a Google Meet, did not do as well in ranking, but they made a good showing for our school nevertheless.

This spring, we have the opportunity to participate in the Road Less Traveled again, with the conference being held online instead of at ISU. Eighth grade, as well as ninth and tenth grade girls in TAG will have the chance to learn about various careers available to them in the area of STEM by attending online seminars with professionals from a variety of areas.

Also in the spring, we will be participating once again in a 5-8 grade quiz bowl, the America Answers Quiz Bowl. This online quiz will be taken in school and will be a competition with schools from across the United States. It's always a fun challenge for our students. A few of our junior high students will be competing again this year in the MathCounts program, as well, with the competition being online in 2021.

Jr. High Wrestling program

By Coach Drew Otto

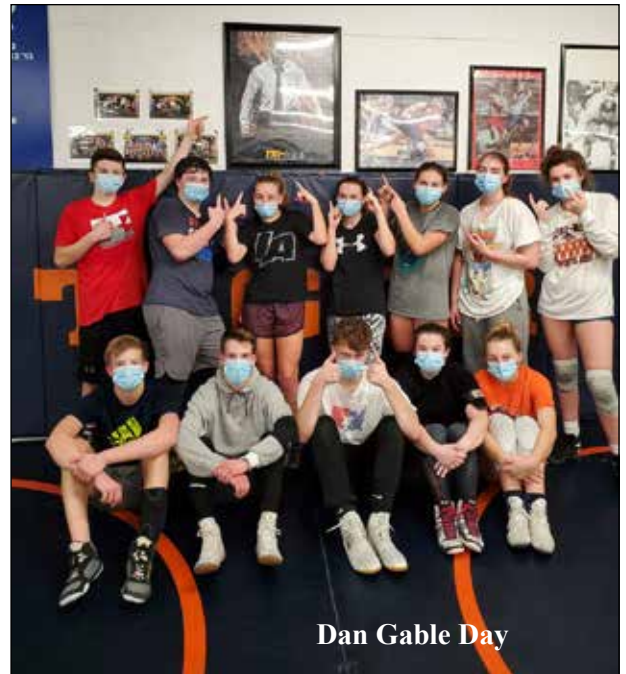
The 2020-21 Junior High Tigerhawks wrestling program has been off to a great start. We have 12 athletes in our program this year including 10 wrestlers, 2 managers, and 2 Coaches; Our Wrestlers include Tate Carlson, Nic Carrol, Emma Cook, Cason Fitch, Davion Long, Jacob Riddle, Nathan Smith, Lily Webster, Kyle Wood, and Xavier Woods. Our managers are Sydney Baldwin, and Cadence Linn. Coaching this year include assistant coach Jeremy Holdefer, and myself, Drew Otto.

So far this year we've had the opportunity to wrestle at Lynnville Sully, Sigourney, and Colfax-Mingo. Our Junior High Tigerhawks had their first

wrestling tournament at Lynnville Sully; We went .500 in our first meet with 5 pins! Lily Webster won 3/3 matches with three pins. Xavier won 2/3 by pin. Emma & Kyle fought hard both of their matches. Their Second outing was at Sigourney; Our wrestlers went 8/12 on the night. Wrestlers with two wins on the day included Davion, Tate, and Xavier. Others picking up a win were Lily and Cason. The wrestlers fought hard and got some mat time! Most recently at Colfax Mingo our home meet showed WHY we coach; One of our first year wrestlers got their first pin with just a second left in the match. Watching a wrestler get one of their first wins, after working so diligently and showing up every day for practice, working her tail off and reaping the success. Emma Cook has been to 13/13 practices, shown up with a great attitude, and listens to her coaches... couldn't be/feel more proud for her accomplishment! Ca-

son bounced back well from Sigourney getting 2/2 victories by pin, Davion got a pin, and Xavier went the full 4 minutes his first match and won by pin in his second round. Lily and Tate fought hard and are eager to learn and get prepared for our next meet at BGM.

All of the middle school wrestlers are working hard this year and having fun! Keep it up Tigerhawks!



Dan Gable Day



Varsity LS Duals Champ



Varsity PCM

Better to Give Than to Receive

Before holiday break, students in Mr. Barkalow's eighth-grade ELA classes learned more lessons than only those about reading and writing. They also discovered it was better to give than to receive.

In an effort to finish 2020 with something positive, these Colfax-Mingo students decided to collect and donate non-perishable items to the Colfax-Mingo Area Food Pantry. Additionally, several staff members from Colfax-Mingo Junior/Senior High School also generously donated to this worthy cause.

Canned vegetables and fruit, soup, pasta, cereal, soaps, paper products, and many more items were collected and displayed in their classroom throughout the month of December. The results were tremendous, as over 400 items weighing nearly 300 pounds were collected by these junior high students. They ended up filling the back of Barkalow's pickup truck with their donations.

Cesar "Tony" Buenrostro was the top participant among the students, personally gathering and donating roughly 40 pounds of canned goods. Especially noteworthy, twice he impressively carried his donations up Division Street hill in his backpack when December temps had dipped into the low-teens before school.

"It's no big deal," Buenrostro humbly stated. "We have lots of cans. Others need them more."

Judy McBride, who has selflessly volunteered for two decades for the local pantry, was very appreciative.

"Thank you for organizing, counting, sorting, loading, and unloading all the boxes to the food pantry," McBride said to Barkalow. "Our community will be blessed with this donation."



JONES • CONT. FROM PAGE 1

help them become better people. I still receive notes from many former students and current students alike. My time with students and staff have been my greatest pleasure.

During my educational career I have been lucky enough to have received a Golden Apple Award, coach many wrestlers at the state wrestling tournament, and take a football team to the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls. When I came to Colfax-Mingo, I had the goal of retiring from here along with making my parents, Dr Maynard and Mrs. B'Lou Jones, proud by serving Colfax Mingo. My father proudly served on the Colfax School School Board for many years and was a strong supporter of the Colfax com-

munity. Both my father and my mother loved living in Colfax and both loved this school.

I am proud of what I have accomplished over my 38 years in education, and I would not change anything that has happened in my career. I have learned so much from my students, parents, and colleagues and it all has made me a better person. It is now time for me to pass the torch to another person to continue to lead Colfax-Mingo's next generation of students to the next phases of education.

There are great things happening at Colfax-Mingo. We have a new housing development in both Colfax and Mingo, and businesses such as Fareway recognizing the potential for growth in Colfax and Mingo. Mingo and Colfax have wonderful people who are ready to see the next steps in the developments in our

communities. I have had the opportunity to work with many great educators and I am blessed to end my career with a staff and leadership that are of the highest quality.

Thank you all for your support throughout my educational career. I am both happy and sad that at the end of this school year I will be ending my career, and with every ending there is a new beginning. My wife and I will remain in Colfax and continue to help the community grow while taking time to visit our children on the west coast. This is not the end, but the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in my life. As my wife, Karla, has told me many times lately, I am finally graduating from school.

With appreciation and gratitude ...

thank you all.

Todd Jones

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 February 2021 Menu

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1 B – Breakfast Pizza Meatball Sub Mixed Greens Salad Sweet Potato Fries Mixed Fruit Milk	2 B - Combo Bar Chicken & Rice Egg Roll (7-12) Broccoli Salad Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Milk	3 B – Grab n Go Pork Fritter/WG Bun Curly Fries Baked Beans Peaches Milk	4 B - Biscuit & Gravy Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Biscuit Applesauce Dessert (7-12) Milk	5 B - Mini Donuts Pizzaburger Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Mini Carrots Pears Milk
8 B – Breakfast Wrap Pig in the Blanket Tater Tots Baked Beans Apple Wedges Milk	9 B - Mini Bagels Soft Shell Taco Mexi Corn Veg Choice (HS) Rice Mandarin Oranges Milk	10 B – Grab n Go Pizza Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Strawberries Milk	11 B - Mini Cinni Chicken Alfredo Spinach Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes Mini Carrots Bread Stick Fruit Choice Milk	12 B -Breakfast Sandwich Cheeseburger/WG Bun Potato Smiles Green Beans Orange Wedges Cookie Milk
15 No School	16 B - Biscuit & Gravy Italian Chicken Sandwich Mixed Greens Salad Sweet Potato Fries Pears Milk	17 B – Grab n Go Fish Sandwich Fish Sticks (K-6) French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Grapes Brownie (HS) Milk	18 B - Breakfast Pizza Pork Chopette Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Sliced Bread (7-12) Peaches Milk	19 B - Donut Super Nachos Bean/Cheese/Salsa Corn Rosy Applesauce Milk
22 B – Mini Cinni Corndog Waffle Fries Baked Beans Apple Wedges Milk	23 B - Sausage & Pancake on a Stick Chicken Wrap Garden Salad Corn Pasta Salad (7-12) Banana Milk	24 B - Grab n Go Cheese Steak Sandwich Seasoned Wedges Mixed Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Milk	25 B - Long John Pasta Bake Tossed Salad Broccoli Salad Garlic Knot Pineapple Milk	26 B - Muffin & Yogurt Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Fresh Vegetables Mixed Fruit Milk

*Milk (skim, choc skim & 1%) *Menu is subject to change
* Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice & milk. Additional options at the JH/HS.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

It is the policy of the Colfax-Mingo Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Erik Anderson, Superintendent, 1000 North Walnut, Colfax, IA 50054. Telephone: 515-674-3646; Email: erik.anderson@colfaxmingo.org

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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