

**Volume 10 Issue 3**  
**Spring, 2015 - 2016**

**District Events:****May 16**

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

**May 30**

No School -  
Memorial Day

**June 1**

Last Day of School -  
1:00 Early Dismissal

**June 20**

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

**July 18**

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

**August 15**

School Board Meeting -  
Independence 6:00 p.m.

**August 23**

First Day of the  
2016-2017 School Year

***From the Desk of Jean Peterson, Superintendent***

It does not seem possible that we are heading into the last six weeks of the 2015-2016 school year. This school year seems to have gone extremely fast!

It will not be long before we say good bye to another graduating class. Our Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for May 22nd at 2:00 pm. in the Jr/Sr High School Gymnasium. We wish the best of luck to all of our graduates as they pursue their post-secondary options in the future. We hope that they will never forget, too, that the staff in this school district will always care about them!

According to our school board approved calendar this year, we are to make up the first three full days of school missed due to weather situations. As of this date, we have two full snow days to make up. So, our last day for the rest of our students is scheduled for June 1st. The teachers will have a work day on June 2nd and professional development activities on June 3rd.

Many, many thanks go to all of our school employees, our school board, our parents, and our community members for their continued support once again of our school district. We do have many great things going on in our school district and we sincerely hope we keep getting better and better with all of our initiatives. Our motto of "Start Here. Succeed Anywhere." is one the entire school community feels strongly about and works hard at every day.

**School Board Approved Calendar**

The board did approve the school calendar for 2016-2017 at their March 21, 2016 meeting. The 2016-2017 calendar is located on our school's website under the Quick Links section.

**Summer Building/Grounds Projects**

Every summer our building/grounds crew is very busy working on cleaning the facilities and getting things fixed and ready for the next school year. The board of education also has a long range facility plan in regard to completing different bigger projects that need to happen from year to year.

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**Jean Peterson,  
Superintendent**

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Two of those projects planned for this summer are adding air conditioning to West Elementary and resurfacing our track. It will be very nice to have all buildings now air conditioned. Not only will the air quality be more conducive for learning during the warmer weather months but we also won't have to let school out because of the hot temperatures. Every six to seven years, we usually need to resurface our all-weather track too. The infrastructure of the track itself is still good but the top surface wears down over time. So, that project will be happening this summer as well.

We are also moving forward with our elementary playground project. We will be installing the new concrete and the rubber tiles for the playground area at East this summer too.

One last item to mention, of course, is our new baseball/softball complex facility. We have been fortunate to have had fairly nice spring weather this year and we are making good progress with that project. As of this writing, we are planning to have both fields ready to use for the upcoming baseball/softball seasons. If something should happen to delay the work on this project, we do have a "Plan B" in place to move forward.

## **Long Range Strategic Plan**

During the 2016-2017 school year, one of my goals is to update our long range strategic plan for our school district. I will be working with staff, administration, students, parents, community members, as well as our school board members, to establish goals and action steps for the following areas:

- ❖ Student Achievement
- ❖ Culture/Climate and Communication
- ❖ Integrating technology in all content areas
- ❖ Finance and Facilities

It is best practice for school districts to create a strategic plan for the goal areas they feel will best meet their needs. It is also best practice to review and update these goals every five years. It is now time for us to work on our new strategic plan. More information on this will be coming out next fall. We will also look at the information from the most recent Needs Assessment Survey that we had staff, parents, and community members fill out as well. We are required to do a Needs Assessment every five years and we did our last one the year before the Department of Education's Site Visit to our school district. The results of that Needs Assessment Survey are posted on our website under the District Information Tab.

## **May is School Board Recognition Month**

The statewide School Board Recognition occurs in the month of May. Our ICSD School Board Members are responsible for formulating school system policy, approving curriculum, maintaining facilities, and adhering to state/federal law. Our board members spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our current board members, Brian Eddy, Shelly Whited, Eric Smith, Heather Meador, and Kim Hansen, for their dedication and commitment to our school district. Each of them devotes many hours of volunteer time to help our school district become the best it can be.

## Teacher Leadership Compensation Grant by Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement

We have done a lot of work to prepare for the TLC grant. The committee, which consists of the building principals, superintendent, and teachers from each building, met. The grant will be used to hire a variety of positions to our district. All positions will be filled by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

### Instructional Coaches

The Instructional Coach is a fulltime teacher with at least three years experience and within ICSD, a minimum of one year. Coaches will also collaborate with administrators in aligning district vision, goals, and initiatives.

The coach will primarily work one on one with teachers to improve instruction and student learning. Responsibilities of the Instructional Coach:

- assist teachers in curriculum implementation, instructional strategies, and technology integration
- routinely do walk throughs and extended classroom observations to provide coaching for best instructional practices
- assist teachers in reviewing student achievement data
- assist teachers in Iowa Core Curriculum alignment
- serve as a resource to help guide teachers in the use of technology in their instruction
- provide support to teachers in the classroom in regards to summative and formative assessments
- help guide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) process
- provide professional development support and implementation monitoring of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- coordinate the school-wide expectations of *Living the Mustang Way* and working with teachers to incorporate PBIS philosophies in their classrooms
- be responsible for modeling best instructional practices in the beginning teachers classrooms

### Curriculum Leaders

Curriculum Leaders are full time teachers with additional curriculum duties fulfilled outside the contracted day. Leaders will work collaboratively with administration, Instructional Coaches, and Mentor Teachers.

Responsibilities of the Curriculum Leader:

- plan professional development learning activities designed to improve instruction
- engage in development, adoption, and implementation of curriculum materials
- guide their grade level/subject areas in data analysis through the PLC process
- provide grade level/subject area support for technology integration
- provide resources to enhance classroom instruction
- support grade level/subject area assessment of student learning
- be an active member of the building's PBIS team
- provide input for Living the Mustang Way into grade level/subject areas

### Mentor Teachers

Mentor teachers are full time teachers that will work with beginning teachers on best practices in the classroom. They will provide guidance and support for beginning teachers. Mentor teachers will be models of teaching excellence. Responsibilities of the Mentor Teacher:

- serve as exemplary models of teaching and providing support to all teachers with a focus on beginning teachers
- be available to assist teachers in reviewing student achievement data and best practices to help guide instruction
- assist beginning teachers with alignment of the Iowa Core Curriculum
- serve as model teachers in regards to technology integration
- share how they use a multi-tiered approach to supporting students learning
- be an active members of the PBIS team



Danielle Meyer,  
Dir of School Improvement

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### Count Down Begins--271, 315, 314

by Steve Noyes, Director of Technology

As the district approaches summer 2016, we need to have 100% PowerSchool Parent Portal accounts created for fall registration. We will not be using InfoSnap so there will be no summer letter with a Snap code. It is imperative that all parents create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account.

Registration for 2016-2017 will open on August 1, 2016 and will close on August 15, 2016.



**Steve Noyes,  
Director of Technology**

East has 271 accounts needing to be created.

West has 315 accounts needing to be created.

JSH has 314 accounts needing need to be created.

The countdown will begin at these numbers with the ultimate goal of zero. While we are running the countdown, we will also have a friendly competition between the buildings. The first building to have all parent accounts created will be awarded Gold-Star status and will be published as the winner in the fall newsletter.

On Friday of each week, Steve will update the status of each building. We will also publish the numbers on Facebook and Twitter so you can follow along.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, you will receive the first secure email with your account information and instructions. I will continue to send out bi-weekly email reminders to parents who need to create accounts. Each time I send parent emails, the number should be dwindling. We want all parent accounts created by May 31, 2016.

You do not need to create separate accounts for each student. Also, accounts are carried over from year-to-year. Once the account is created and your students are added, the account stays active through graduation.

If parents have already created an account, it is easy to add additional students to your current account. Sign into Parent Portal, scroll down and find System Preferences on the left. Once you click this icon, you are able to click students and add siblings.

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## Creative Writing Winners Submitted by Megan Rawlins

The following students placed in the Eastern Iowa Reading Council Creative Writing and Poetry Contest from Independence Schools.

At East Elementary; back row left to right Jonathan Reed 1st grade 1st place Poetry, Connor Goldenstein 2nd grade 3rd place poetry, Caleb Michael Kindergarten 1st place creative writing, Landon Halligan kindergarten 2nd place tie creative writing; front row left to right: Addison Marshall Kindergarten 2nd place tie creative writing, Myra Peyton Kindergarten 3rd Place tie creative writing, and Mercedes Youngs Kindergarten 3rd place tie creative writing.

High School winners were back row left to right; Shane Eder 12th grade 3rd place tie Poetry, Elizabeth Kurt 11th grade 2nd place Poetry, Kirstie Martin 11th grade 2nd place creative writing, Chandlynne Reichenbacker 10th grade 2nd place poetry, Autumn Diesburg 11th grade 1st place creative writing, Veronica Wagner 9th grade 1st place poetry, Rachel DeBoer 10th grade 2nd place creative writing; front row left to right; Grace Bertelli 3rd place creative writing, Jenna Shonk 11th grade 1st place creative writing, Josie Fischels 10th grade 1st place creative writing and 1st place poetry, Catherine Lake 10th grade 2nd place creative writing.

Not pictured; Noreasa Higgins 9th grade 2nd place creative writing, Reid Lewin 9th grade 3rd place creative writing, McKenna Kirchoff 9th grade 3rd place poetry contest.

Junior High winners were Hannah Johnson 7th grade 3rd place creative writing, Courtney Kelly 7th Grade 2nd place Poetry contest. Jazlyn Smith 7th grade 1st place creative writing and 1st place poetry. Alaina Butters 8th Grade 1st place poetry contest. Taylor Tharp 8th grade 2nd place Poetry contest. Not Pictured Alexis Shupe 8th Grade 1st place creative writing.

Students who place 1st had their stories or poems submitted to the state level. The winners were Jazlyn Smith 2nd place creative writing and 2nd place Poetry, Alaina Butters 3rd place poetry, Veronica Wagner 1st Poetry, Josie Fischels 1st place poetry and 2nd place creative writing. Jenna Shonk 2nd place creative writing. 1st place winners at State will get an opportunity to attend the summer reading conference and receive an award.



## Principal's Corner by Danielle Meyer, Principal



**Danielle Meyer,**  
ECC/East Elem Principal

East Elementary students wore blue on Friday, April 15th in efforts to raise money to support JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes



Research Foundation). We have a student who has recently been diagnosed and wanted to show support. The students did a nice job promoting the cause.

## Preschool Family Night Out

On March 10th we did host a Preschool Family Night Out. It was well attended and there were about 30 families present. Teachers entertained kids and parents in Boost-Up, Spark, and a story time. It was a great night.

## Effort and Attitude Assembly

We had some special guests come over from the Jr/Sr High School to model to the kids what good effort and attitude look like and what poor effort and attitude look like. Coach Doyle and the student-athletes really got the kids excited.





## Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten Roundup was March 17<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>. The teachers spent time assessing students. Below are some skills that indicate readiness.

- Social and Behavioral Skills
- Self Help Skills
- Language and Listening
- Math Skills
- Large Muscle Skills
- Small Muscle Skills
- Writing

Not only is it necessary for teachers to assess the students, it is equally important for students to gain a familiarity with the building. Below is a schedule of events for the students.

- Puzzles, Play-Doh, Coloring pages
- Opening (Jobs, Schedule, Calendar), Names, Kindergarten, Morning message
- Read Big Red Barn/Activity
- Centers/Story/Songs
- Snack/Songs
- Recess
- Library – Principal Meyer reads
- Home



## WANTED!

### Mileage Club Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to devote 15-30 minutes each week outside at recess to help students reach their goals in the Mileage Club, please call Val Maximovich at 319-332-0626 to volunteer your time!

### Mentors Needed!

If you are interested in being a mentor and volunteering your time to work with a child for approximately 30 minutes each week on a regular basis, please call Val at 319-332-0626 and let her know!

### Wanted: Substitutes

If you are available to substitute occasionally as a classroom, office or media paraprofessional, (duties vary), please call 334-7425.

**We need YOU!**

### Box tops for Education/ Pop Can Tabs/Milk Moola for Schoola

We continue to collect Pizza Ranch Wagon Wheels, Donuts to Dough, General Mills Box Tops, Pop Can Tabs & bottle caps and bag tops from Kwik Star products. This is a good way to help us earn extra money for things we need. Thanks!

If you are interested in spending time at school or at home sorting/cutting and redeeming these items for our school, please call 334-7425.

## Career Days

Each grade level has had guests come into their rooms to discuss careers with the kids. There has been a variety of careers showcased from restaurant management to hair stylist. The kids had a great time.



## Second Grade

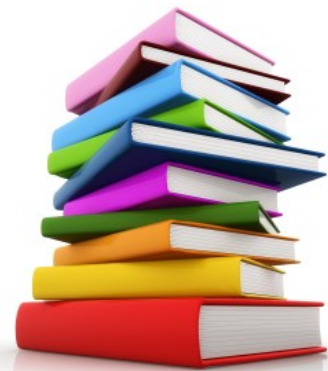
Students in second grade are working on putting math into action. *Everyday Mathematics* is a comprehensive Pre-K through Grade 6 mathematics program engineered for the Common Core State Standards. It is designed to give students a variety of activities to experience math.



## East Elementary Book Fair - Huge Success!

Thanks to the support of parents, students and community members, the East Elementary Book Fair held in February was a great success. Our book fair sales for two days was slightly over \$3,000. This gave us a profit of about \$1,500 in Scholastic Dollars to spend through Scholastic. Forty-eight books were taken from the book fair before it was sent back. Eighteen of those books were given to students as prizes. The remaining profit will be used to order additional library books and materials.

Thank you to those who participated in our Classroom Wish List this year. With your generosity, 9 books were given to teachers to use in their classrooms.





Greetings from West Elementary! We hope you are enjoying the improved weather and opportunity to get outside more often. The students and staff at West Elementary are continuing to work at learning as much as possible before the summer gets here. Our teachers have shared some of the great things that have been happening at West Elementary in the remainder of this newsletter. Please note that West Elementary Track and Field Day will be on June 1st in the morning.



**Dewey Hupke,  
Principal**

Our Parent/Teacher Organization recently hosted their Spring Carnival at West Elementary. This was a great success! I would like to thank the many volunteers, parents, and teachers who donated items for this fundraiser. The money the PTO raised goes right back to our students in the form of field trips, student supply kits, PE/playground equipment, and teacher requests for their classrooms. If you are interested in volunteering for the PTO, please contact West Elementary for more details.

Summer school will be offered again to 3rd grade students and those students who qualify for extended year services. If your student qualifies for summer school, you will be receiving notification of this learning opportunity by a note in the coming weeks. Please call West Elementary if you have any questions regarding Summer School.

I would like to encourage all students to continue to read for 20 minutes each day during the summer. This will make a huge difference in their reading ability and help them continue to become more fluent, effective readers. The Waterloo Bucks will be sponsoring a reading program for our students and more information will be coming home with students. To go along with reading, I would encourage students to get involved in some summer activity. Swimming, baseball, softball, soccer, and golf are all great ways for students to stay active and develop great friendships as well as getting exercise for improved body development.

Thank you to the Independence, Rowley and Brandon communities for your continued support of our tremendous school!

It is great to be a Mustang!

~Mr. Dewey Hupke, Principal

## News From 3rd Grade

The third graders are hoping to have warm weather sometime in the near future! It has been a long, cold winter and we are all ready to get outside and play. In math we have been working on multiplication and division. We are learning various strategies, such as Partial Products and Lattice, to solve two-digit and three-digit multiplication problems. Students continue to work on basic facts.

We recently finished our Nutrition and Digestion unit in science. Miss Angie, from Fontana, came in to share information about nutrients. Students explored the diets of various animals, focusing on proteins, vitamins, fats, and carbohydrates.

In writing, students recently completed a unit on opinion pieces and are now focusing on informative writing. Students are very excited to research their topic of interest and share the new information that they learn.

The third graders have been reading between 300 and 400 minutes each month. In February, we were able to go to Pizza Hut to celebrate with our Book It certificates for a personal pan pizza. What an exciting field trip! We will be heading to Pizza Hut again this month to celebrate our March reading achievements. We were also able to go to Lucky 10 bowling alley as a reward for meeting our reading goals. We are looking forward to meeting our reading goals in the next two months and continuing the celebrations!



## News From 4th Grade

As the end of the school year is approaching, the remaining science units in fourth grade are the circulatory system and the weather unit. The southwest and west regions are the final regions that will be studied in social studies. Students that have met their reading goals in the past couple of months were able to participate in the sledding and bowling incentives. Make sure that your child is being responsible (reading at home and returning the reading log) so that s/he can participate in the final incentives! Upcoming math units will focus on multiplication, division, perimeter, area, fractions, decimals, and percents.

## News From 5th Grade

Fifth graders at West have been working extremely hard this year. Students, in Math, have been learning about fractions, (adding & subtracting fractions, mixed numbers; with like and unlike denominators). We also continue practicing multiplication of two digit numbers and long division. Fifth grade students are improving in reading, increasing their vocabulary level, using strategies for comprehension while citing text evidence. They have been working on writing focusing on the various story elements such as the characterization, plot, and problem/solution in their stories. In Social Studies, we have been learning about the 13 American colonies. We are busy making colony tangrams to demonstrate what we have learned. The culminating activity will be learning a colonial craft or job. Some classes will be presenting their facts in a display or colonial fair. Science for several classes have been studying the properties of magnetism and the principles of electricity. Students will demonstrate their learning in hands-on activities and projects. Other classes have completed the study of the human eye. 5th graders learned the parts of the eye and their function. The unit ended in an eye dissection lab; where students dissected pigs' eyes (donated by Mark's Locker in Rowley). They worked with a partner to identify the important parts of the eye that we had previously learned in class.



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## News From 6th Grade

On Thursday, April 7th, West Elementary 6th graders joined the rest of Buchanan County's 6th graders at Heartland Acres for D.A.R.E. graduation. The students completed the Drug Awareness Resistance Education program with Sheriff Bill Wolfgram. This year was a special celebration honoring the sheriff for 25 years of teaching. The guest speaker, who was part of Sheriff Wolfgram's second year class, was University of Iowa and National Football League player, Robert Gallery. Gallery challenged all students to treat others respectfully and to make wise life choices. D.A.R.E. essay winners from each school shared their essays during the graduation as well. Grace Reidy was chosen to represent Independence. Sheriff Wolfgram was presented with a quilt designed by Peggy Short and sewn by Jan Reed, an Independence 6th grade teacher. The quilt was made from D.A.R.E. t-shirts along with a t-shirt from each of the six schools where Sheriff Wolfgram teaches D.A.R.E. A dance and party, complete with snacks and prizes, followed.



## “Summer Maintenance”

The summer is quickly approaching; students have worked hard to learn new skills and strategies to solving problems, reading books and being socially active. Summer break can be a time students may not maintain some of their hard work from the school year. Here are some short and simple strategies for educational summer maintenance.

Students should read for 15 minutes everyday. If you have students who are not at the reading age, then have someone read to them. If you have students who are reading, then read with them. Making time to read is reinforcing and you are modeling the positive behavior.

Find unique ways to incorporate math for beginning learners. Create visuals to count, add, and subtract. When outside, grab a handful of rocks to create adding or subtracting problems. Allowing students to help you bake is an excellent way to introduce them to measuring and problem solving.

The last strategy is from an educational researcher Benjamin Bloom who created domains of learning and is centered on questioning. Here are examples that can be utilized in any setting to engage your student to create, evaluate, analyze, apply, understand, and remember.

Remember: How would you describe...?

Understand: What might happen next...?

Apply: Which approach would you...?

Analyze: Why do you think...?

Evaluate: Which is more important...?

Create: Could you invent...?

These strategies are to assist in engaging your students learning during summer break, if you miss a day here and there that's ok! Enjoy the summer and GO MUSTANGS!



**Josh Payton,  
JSH Assistant Principal**

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## Teacher Leadership Compensation Grant by Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement

### *Continued from page 3*

#### **Curriculum Cycles**

The goal of the Independence Community Schools is to have a guaranteed and viable curriculum. This means that it does not matter which teacher your child gets that they will master the exact same skills in each grade level. This guaranteed and viable curriculum should be set around Essential Learnings. These are the skills that we feel each child must know in each grade. The problem is the Core does not offer teachers the Essential Learnings.

Much of the work of our Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) is based around teachers coming to an agreement amongst a grade level team or content area team on determining the Essential Learnings. Once that is determined they will figure out the success criteria for students to master these learnings. In short, what does mastery of these skills look like, or how are they assessed?

Right now, East Elementary and West Elementary are working through a needs assessment for reading. This work is to help us make an informed decision on what we need to support our students in reading. So far, we have reached a few conclusions. First, we do not have the in-depth knowledge of the Iowa Core that we desire. Second, there is a need for reading support, we just are not sure if that is a series, instructional support, or materials. Professional development will be based around these needs.

## “Did You Know...The 2015-2016 Version for Independence Jr/Sr High School”

One can find a virtual plethora of fascinating facts and interesting stories by simply typing “did you know” into any search engine. You can trust me on this one, but if you don’t just try it. You will see.

With just these three words, one can find a countless number of seemingly useless trivia questions. For example, did you know one in ten people live on an island; 11% of people are left handed; traffic lights were invented before the automobile; the Grand Canyon could hold 900 trillion full-sized footballs; humans spend nearly 25 years asleep; we always see the same side of the moon during a full moon; approximately 23 million babies have been born worldwide so far this year; the oldest word in the English language is “town”; or you share the same birthday as 9 million other humans?

If technology is your “cup of tea”, did you know there are 100 billion searches on Google every month; the first commercial text was sent in December 1992; if Facebook users were a country, it would be the world’s largest; or there will be more unique information produced this year than in the previous 5,000 years...combined! OK. I know what you are saying, “What do these facts have to do with Independence Jr/Sr High School?” Well, this newsletter edition is devoted to facts and (short) stories that many don’t know about our 2015-2016 school year. Let’s begin (a partial) Did You Know... The Independence Jr/Sr High School edition.



**John Howard,  
JSH Principal**

- District-wide enrollment was UP this year!
- Coach Justin Putz has the best overall winning percentage as a head football coach, at 75%, since Emmett Allen in 1905.
- The varsity football team this year had the most wins in a season since 1973.
- This year marked the first in history that Independence had beaten Decorah in varsity football.
- Coach Michael Doyle got his 300<sup>th</sup> dual wrestling victory this year...in his 17<sup>th</sup> year.
- Matt McMillan became only the 3<sup>rd</sup> 4X state wrestling qualifier in history.
- We had **two** National Merit Scholars, Ross T. and Adam G. Both Ross and Adam scored in the top 1% of all students who took the P-SAT in the fall of 2015.
- Grace B. earned the highest score on the P-SAT this year (2016) in the school’s history.
- Independence was the only school at the 2016 Iowa Jazz Championships with 2 jazz bands.
- Three Independence students represented our school and community in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- A time capsule was buried in front of the school to be opened in 50 years.
- David Greene, a World War II veteran and participant in the Battle of Iwo Jima, spoke at our Veterans’ Day Program.
- Our art students received the most first place awards at the WaMac Art Show!
- Alaina K. became the first Independence student to sign to bowl at the collegiate level.
- The sophomore class earned the group incentive for Iowa Assessments as their complete composite was 88%.
- Brian S. earned the highest total score in the school on Iowa Assessments.
- The Independence School Board has made the National Career Readiness Exam a graduation requirement for the Class of 2017.
- Twenty Jr/Sr High students were recognized at the Eastern Iowa Reading Council Creative Writing and Poetry Contest.
- 86% of all HS students met at least one of the goal scores on Iowa Assessments.
- Archery was started as a club for Independence students.
- The new baseball and softball fields are progressing nicely and should be ready for the summer.

In summary, there are thousands (and probably millions) of answers to the question Did You Know? Hopefully, you learned some interesting information from this newsletter, especially about Independence Jr/Sr High School. Go Mustangs!

## Activities

By Justin Putz, Activities Director

Every spring the Iowa High School Athletic Association has its member schools do a student participation survey. While this process can be a little time consuming I find the numbers interesting enough that I thought I would share in this spring newsletter. It should also be noted the Iowa High School Athletic Association is the governing body of boys sports so some information is geared more toward male participation.

Total Students in 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	Boys 61	Girls 61
Total Students in 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	Boys 63	Girls 58
Total Students in 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	Boys 70	Girls 54
Total Students in 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	Boys 57	Girls 51

Total Boys Participating in Sports (Each student is only counted once no matter how many sports he participates in):

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	39
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	44
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	28
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade-	33

	TOTAL BOYS	TOTAL GIRLS
Baseball	33	0
Basketball	37	28
Bowling	13	10
Cross Country	24	9
Football - 11 Player	65	0
Golf	20	14
Soccer	29	30
Softball	0	20
Tennis	18	28
Track & Field	25	26
Volleyball	0	58
Wrestling	42	0
MUSIC – Band	52	54
MUSIC - Vocal	28	48
SPEECH - Individual Events	9	18
Speech - Large Group	16	26
SPIRIT - Cheerleaders	1	21



**Justin Putz,**  
**Activities Director**

While compiling this data I always find it interesting to see how many students we have involved in something. In addition to what the state asks us to report, we offer various other activities or clubs that are not included in this survey. At Independence CSD we have a large majority of our students involved in something and over 1/2 involved in multiple things. However, we still have some that are not involved. With such a wide variety of sports, activities, or clubs I recommend that every student take advantage of doing something that interests them. Studies have shown that students who are involved feel more connected with their school. When students feel connected they have a better overall high school experience. Someday I would like to fill out a report like this or look at our own data and see 100% of students involved.





Val Maximovich,  
Volunteer & Mentor  
Coordinator

## **Independence Community Schools Volunteer & Mentor Program Update by Val Maximovich**



A “Thank you” was said to all our volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 10-16. We appreciate each and every one that see us every day, every week or once a month, throughout the school year. We

appreciate your dedication and being part of the team!



The adult and student volunteers that volunteer during the school day, will be thanked by the students and teachers during the end of the year award assemblies in each building.

*Be watching your email for the date and time!*



**Attention, Mentors! SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Mentor Picnic**

*Thursday, May 12, 2016, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at West Elementary*

*Be ready for the adventure!*

*All mentors and mentees come join the Safari!*

## **Silver Cord Announcements**

It's time to recruit 8th graders to be part of the Silver Cord Volunteer program. They will hear all about it on Monday, May 9th during Mustang Time.

**Attention: Seniors!** May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for posting your final hours. This deadline is for the graduating seniors only. For reporting your hours go to the Reporting hours form at <http://209.56.132.90/fmi/webd#SilverCord>



All other students will continue to accumulate hours through the summer. However, it is recommended to turn in your hours from this school year before summer begins.

We are proud of all students that have volunteered for a variety of activities in the Independence and surrounding area.

To find upcoming events and activities for volunteering click on “Activities” on the side or top tab and choose Silver Cord. When on the site you have 2 choices to find activities:

- “Volunteer Opportunities” for the monthly calendars
- “Other Volunteer Opportunities” for general activities



Find us on  
Facebook

Be sure to send a friend request to us on Facebook at Independence Mustang Mentoring! Or follow us on Twitter !



**It's time to recruit volunteers and mentors for the 2016-17 school year! If you would like to mentor or volunteer, please contact Val at 319-332-0626 or send an email to [vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:vmaximovich@independence.k12.ia.us), or download the volunteer registration form at <http://www.independence.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Volunteer-Registration-Form-2015-2016.pdf>**

During the summer, we will disable parent access to PowerSchool as we finish up student schedules so parents do not attempt to register for school in the wrong school year. Once the district enables Parent Portal, it will be very close to the opening of registration and time will be very limited to create parent accounts.

**We re on the Web**  
<http://www.independence.k12.ia.us>

When you log into PowerSchool Parent Portal, you will notice a button called eRegistration. This button is active and you are able to update your demographic information but not pay fees. Once the entire district goes through the registration process, eRegistration will continue to be available for parents to update demographic information, view registration fees and pay additional fees as needed.

As of April 2016, the Lunch program is a separate entity and will require you to continue to use this program to apply money to student meal accounts. Eventually, our new eRegistration and the Lunch program will be combined so you will be able to apply meal fees from eRegistration.

In August, you will create a RevTrak account. RevTrak requires a separate account for payment but uses your PowerSchool account information to authenticate you and your children. RevTrak is a separate program and will bear the responsibility of processing credit/debit cards, checks and echecks for district and building fees. You will be able to see district and building fees through your Parent Portal.

Let's begin the countdown and get Parent Portal accounts created.

Have a great spring and summer! Feel free to contact Steve Noyes, [snoyes@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:snoyes@independence.k12.ia.us) with any questions.

#### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of the Independence 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 socioeconomic 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: Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or [dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us)

The board requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

#### **CONTINUOUS NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of the Independence 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 socioeconomic 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: Danielle Meyer, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or [dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us](mailto:dmeyer@independence.k12.ia.us)