

Volume 16 Issue 2
Winter, 2021 - 2022

District Events:

Feb 4, 11 and 18

2 hour Early Dismissal-
 Prof Dev

Feb 21

School Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m.

Feb 25

2 hour Early Dismissal
 Prof Dev

Mar 4

2 hour Early Dismissal

Mar 10

2 hour Early Dismissal-
 K-12 Parent Teacher Conf

Mar 11

No School
 K-12 Parent Teacher Conf

Mar 18

2 hour Early Dismissal-
 Prof Dev

Mar 21

School Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m.

Mar 25

2 hour Early Dismissal-
 Prof Dev

April 1 and 8

2 hour Early Dismissal-
 Prof Dev

April 15 & April 18

No School

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From the Superintendent's Desk...

Let's continue to focus on what matters!! There are so many distractions in the world today e.g., the pandemic, social media, politics, the economy, and the day-to-day demands of our jobs and family. For the Independence Community School District, our focus will continue to be the education that takes place in every classroom. We want to make sure your child has a safe place to learn and be given every opportunity to succeed from teachers who care about the whole child. If and when you have questions, please reach out to your building principals so that we can work together to provide those opportunities.



**Russell Reiter,
 Superintendent**

I would like to thank staff and community members who helped develop the 2022-23 calendar. The recommendations will go to the Board at the February Board meeting where they will approve or modify the proposed calendar. The goal in developing any calendar has to be "what's best for kids" and yet, that can be tough when you look at state codes, board policies, local contracts, and community traditions. Regardless, our goals are to increase instructional time in all three buildings, be more efficient with the 35 hours of required collaboration, and improve professional development opportunities for our staff. A copy of the proposed calendar will be placed on the district website on February 7, 2022. Any questions or comments may be sent to me at rreiter@indeek12.org

Second-semester parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, March 10th & Friday, March 11th. We consider you, as parents to be the most valuable member of your child's educational team. Please do your part by attending your child's conference to learn what you can do to ensure your child's success.

School Improvement by Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement



**Erin Burmeister,
Director of School Improvement**

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated.” -R. Collier

The small efforts of staff and students at ICSD are leading to greater academic success for students. In December, the Iowa Department of Education released new results for the online accountability reporting system called the Iowa School Performance Profile. The Iowa School Performance Profile is an online tool showing how public schools performed on required measures. New school index scores and school rating categories were calculated from our 2020-2021 data. Independence did quite well, compared to past performance and other schools in the state of Iowa.

The overall performance rating for the Junior/Senior High was commendable with a score of 58.14 out of 100. This was up from a score of 55.26 in 2019. East and West’s overall performance was also commendable with a score of 58.44 out of 100. This was also up from 53.65 in 2019. This increase in overall score pushed West from acceptable to commendable. ICSD has been identified as needing support for student’s with Individual Education Plans (IEP’s). The JSH was able to improve the 2019 score of 40.89 to 41.78. West was also able to move that score from 36.24 to 42.51 this year. That is huge growth for this population of students.

“The Iowa School Performance Profile is an important tool for families, educators and other stakeholders to understand how their schools are performing and to help determine next steps for moving forward,” said Department of Education Director Ann Lebo. Although there were a number of challenges brought on by the pandemic, Independence was able to rise above. Many schools across the state did not see the same type of success that Independence did. In fact, the number of schools in the Exceptional category decreased by six and the number of schools in the High Performing category decreased by 26. Conversely, the number of schools in the Needs Improvement and Priority categories (the lowest two categories), increased by seven and 21 schools, respectively.

I have been asked how were we able to accomplish that kind of success during these difficult times. First, we have great teachers that care for students and work hard every. single. day. Second, we continue to move forward with many “small” school improvement efforts. These small efforts are leading to great success. Independence has worked very hard to be closely aligned with the Iowa Core Standards. Teachers are very intentional with their instruction. We are making every minute of instruction count. Additionally, teachers are taking the mystery out of learning and clearly communicating learning expectations with students. They are using learning goals and learning targets (I can statements) to make the learning visible for students.

At both East and West Elementary, teachers have continued to improve universal instruction with an emphasis in both math and literacy (reading and writing). In my fall article, I wrote about the importance of relationship building. I believe that our continued focus and small efforts in this area, have also contributed to the success we are seeing. Across the district, we have worked hard to strengthen collaborative structures for teachers. With early out Fridays, teachers are able to meet more frequently with their colleagues, share ideas, plan together, create interventions, and provide feedback to each other and students. All of these small efforts have certainly contributed to academic success for students. Now, more than ever, we need to continue our “small” school improvement efforts so students can continue to have greater success. For more information, and to access the Iowa School Performance Profiles, visit iaschoolperformance.gov.

Did You Know....

Our school district is in need of substitute teachers. The following information is from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE).

Who May Serve as a Substitute Teacher?

License types approved for full substitute teaching (up to 90 days in one assignment):



- Initial, standard, master educator, permanent professional, or exchange licenses
- Professional administrator license
- Professional service license
- Full career and technical authorization
- Full native language teaching authorization
- Substitute license

Substitute authorization: limited to 10 days in a row in a 30 day period.

The degree requirement to obtain a substitute authorization is an associate's degree or 60 semester hours through a college or university accredited through an institutional accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The substitute authorization course is still required. For more information about the substitute authorization course, visit Central Rivers Area Education Agency at <https://www.centralriversaea.org/> or Grant Wood Area Education Agency at <https://www.gwaea.org/>

Paraeducators who hold a paraeducator certificate with a substitute authorization as an area of concentration may serve as a substitute in their assigned paraeducator classroom.

For more information, visit the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners website at <https://boee.iowa.gov/>

For employment opportunities at Independence Schools, visit our website at <https://www.indeek12.org/employment-opportunities/>

Phishing, Scams, Identity Theft, Malware... and the list goes on and on

“For now, you must still be diligent to protect yourself by not giving out personal information, use strong passwords for your information, use different passwords for different applications and services, never give out your password to others. Watch for ads which are too good to be true and generally be aware of what is happening with your account information.”

-Steve Noyes, 2021-2022 Fall Newsletter



Steve Noyes,
Director of Technology

There is plenty of information on the Internet defining, categorizing, listing, showing examples of various hacks, attacks and invasions. The research can be very interesting and confusing at the same time. Search for “Phishing,” and there will be several hundred articles to read. Most people do not even bother to get started. Just choose one or two articles and that will be plenty. The bottom line, it does not matter what the name of the attack is called, you do not want to be a victim.

I was a victim of shopping fraud. I purchased a treadmill online. The price was about average price and the website looked reputable. I ordered the treadmill, paid my money (PayPal) and waited for the treadmill to arrive. We contacted the seller every day and received responses. We finally received tracking confirmation and were at home when the packaged showed, “Delivered.” Since there was no treadmill on my step, we contacted the seller. This time, there was no response. We contacted PayPal and they showed the package was delivered, so they took no action. We contacted the US Post Office, they showed a 5 pound package was delivered to a different address using our tracking number. Obviously, this is a problem. PayPal refunded our money and I purchased a treadmill from a local store.

Several lessons for you:

- stay diligent with your purchases
- follow-through even when it takes time and effort
- use authorized pay services with fraud policies
- do not send cash or money orders
- do not give out bank information
- understand fraud can happen to anyone
- websites can be faked
- reputations can be faked
- contacts can be faked

Spending time understanding online shopping experience, rules and expectations will help you avoid fraud and may help in the recovery of any losses. If I had known the US Postal Service has a maximum shipping weight of 75 pounds, I would have known something was wrong and avoided the entire mess.

For the next newsletter, I will write about email scams. This is a large portion of fraudulent activity and can be mostly avoided by following safe guidelines: password protection, think before you leap (click), delete messages, setup email filters, and do not respond to fraudulent emails.

Winter Weather

Mother Nature is definitely making herself felt! Winter weather continues to make it necessary for students to dress warmly. Even though our buildings are heated, children should be wearing warm clothing such as long sleeved shirts and/or sweaters or sweatshirts to keep them warm inside. This will serve as an extra layer to help them when they are playing outside as well! Just a reminder: if there is wet or snowy weather, students will be required to wear boots, coats, hats, mittens and snow pants to keep them warm and dry.



Kay Reidy, Principal



Preschool Early Registration

Early registration for the 2022-2023 school year will begin February 10 thru February 24th for Independence, Kidsville, Moser, St. John's and WeeCare sites. Registration will be a virtual sign up. We will post the link to the Independence School District website. Feel free to call Kelly at 319-334-4780 with any questions.

Kindergarten Round Up

Chronologically, children in the United States are ready for kindergarten at age 5: more specifically, children in Iowa are legally ready for kindergarten if they turn 5 by September 5th. At Independence East Elementary, we conduct screening tests in the spring to help parents with their decision on their child's readiness for kindergarten. Our kindergarten round up offers a chance for us to meet the children, and for them to meet us.

Students entering Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year will participate in Round-Up Thursday, March 24th. Parents will receive information in the mail come mid-February. During Round-Up, the teachers spend 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

Kindergarten Round up is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain familiarity with the building. We look forward to seeing them and experiencing a little taste of what kindergarten will be like.

Preschool News

We are so fortunate in Preschool to have Special Visitors from the community come to our classrooms and teach us about many different things throughout the year.

The SPARK program, which is through the BCHC, comes to our classrooms two times per month to teach us about Nutrition and Exercise. They bring a different fruit or veggie each time for us to try, as well as an additional way to try it. (i.e. cucumbers and pickles). The students do such a great job of trying new foods! Then, we get to learn a new exercise such as squats or push-ups.



Michael from Fontana visits us one time per month. We have learned about Pumpkins, Salamanders,

Turtles, Turkeys, Nocturnal Animals, and Animals in Winter. We love when we get to see live animals, such as the owl!



Each of our PK4 classrooms at ECC has partnered up with a classroom from East Elementary to do Reading Buddies two times per month. The older students bring books they have been working on and read them to our Preschoolers. It is a wonderful learning experience for both groups!

We have also had visits from the Fire Department to talk about Fire Safety and will soon have a visit from Dr. Troutman to talk about Dental Health.

Kindergarten News

We have been busy this winter in kindergarten! Students started the New Year off learning how to strengthen their reading super powers! They have been digging into books during Reader's Workshop! Students have been working on reading non-sense words, CVC words, and sight words.

We have also been enjoying our favorite winter books: The Snowy Day, The Mitten, and The Hat! We love to retell these stories! Writing continues to be a focus.

Kindergarten Kids have been learning about families during our social studies unit. They have learned what a family is, we have discussed family traditions, and the different roles in families.

We sure had fun celebrating the 100th Day of kindergarten! The students enjoyed participating in many activities centered around recognizing numbers and counting.



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!

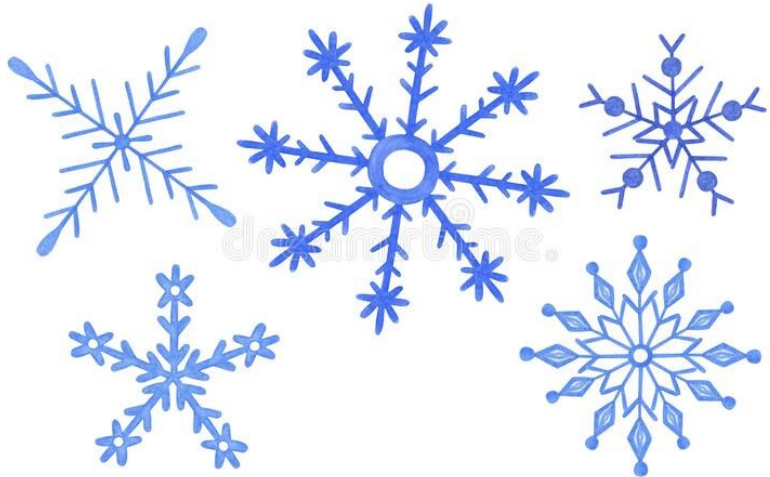
Box tops for Education/ Pop Can Tabs/Milk Moola for Schoola

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.

First Grade

First grade has been working on reading non-fiction text and becoming an expert at reading aloud. We learned about snowflakes and created nature designed snowflakes with the Naturalist Sondra from Fontana Park. Our classes enjoyed an Ag Lesson from Buchanan County Agriculture Coordinator, Shelby Hawkins about Agricultural Careers. As our weather changes daily First Grade classrooms continue to work on indoor and outdoor recess expectations.



Second Grade

In second grade math we have been working on addition and subtraction story problems along with learning the foundations of multiplication and division. For writing, we have been working on writing non-fiction stories. We have also been continuing to work on creating and editing complete sentences. Finally, for reading, we have been working on determining the difference between fiction books and nonfiction books. Our focus is currently on studying nonfiction books.

Music

In K-2 Music, we have been working hard on learning rhythms, instruments, solfege, as well as music vocabulary. First grade expanded their knowledge on music rhythms and solfege, which is a special language only musicians know, and they also learned about ballet and The Nutcracker. Second grade and kindergarten worked on learning all of their Christmas songs for their holiday concerts, which ended up being a huge success, and both grades did a tremendous job! Since coming back after break, second graders have been reviewing rhythms, learning solfege, and are learning how to write music on the staff, in addition to learning a new instrument each day. First grade has started working on their songs for their Spring Concert which will be on April 4th, 2022. Kindergarten has been learning about Forte and Piano, when to use our Forte voices or Piano voices, and also learning about the quarter note, quarter rest and a pair of eighth notes! It has been a great year in music, we've all been learning a lot and having fun!

Greetings from West Elementary!

Our winter months have been filled with learning and lasting memories. At West Elementary, our staff continually work to maintain our health and well-being, build positive relationships, and provide authentic, engaging learning opportunities to best meet students' emotional and academic needs.

As one measure of our students' academic success, students in the district will take Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) tests during our 2022 designated window, April 19th-May 6th. During the months of February and March, our building staff and students will be preparing for the administration of our state-wide assessment. As the dates get closer, we will be sending home more information about our testing process.

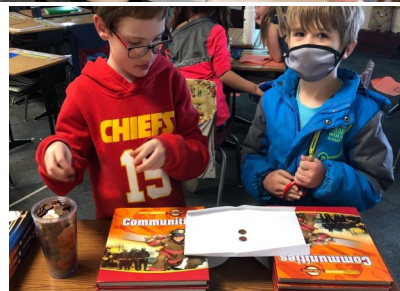
We are so proud of our West Mustangs and their dedication to *Living the Mustang Way by being responsible, being respectful, showing kindness, and living gratefully.*
Go Mustangs!



Cheri Reed, Principal

Third Grade

Third graders have learned and practiced non-fiction comprehension strategies to help them deepen their understanding. They have learned how to find the main idea and supporting details of a non-fiction book. They are currently learning strategies to use when analyzing characters and understanding a character's role in a fiction story. In writing, students have written their own opinion pieces. They learned how to state their opinion in a powerful way and support their opinion with at least three different reasons. Soon, they will be writing their own informative pieces to teach their audience about a topic on which they are an expert! They are still practicing writing in complete sentences with capital letters and correct punctuation. In math, they have been learning about the place value of large numbers and are excited to start another unit on multiplication. Third graders have started their first social studies unit, exploring some of the new standards. They are learning about how the Meskwaki Indians came to settle in Iowa. In science, they explored invisible forces and how unbalanced forces cause pushes and pulls. The third graders continue to enjoy Mrs. Hawkins' agriculture lessons each month.

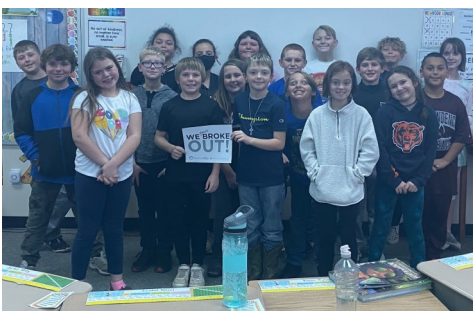
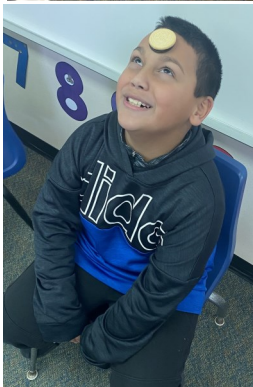


Fourth Grade

This winter, fourth-grade students have been busy practicing their multiplication and extending their learning to multiply multi-digit numbers. They have also learned to relate multiplication with division before they dove into long division! Students will get to look forward to working with fractions and decimals as school continues.

In literacy, students have gained a variety of skills within different genres and writing pieces. Within science, students were able to engage in hands-on activities to model an understanding of the way animals and humans receive information through our senses.

We continue to celebrate our at-home reading with a reading celebration for all students who meet their reading goal of 400 minutes read each month!



5th Grade

We have been working hard on comprehension strategies and learning to think deeply when we read. We are currently working to find the main idea of nonfiction text. We have been sharpening our math skills by working with decimal place value and operation and learning the order of operation.

In science, we are learning about Spaceship Earth, the Watery Planet, Chemical Magic, and the Web of Life. In Social Studies, we are learning about the history of the United States. Several classes have completed a Native American project which outlines the characteristics of each tribe that we study in the Americas. We are working on creating bio cards for an assigned Explorer. Some classes have created dioramas and poster displays for Social Studies as well.



Recently, the 5th grade students got to experience snowshoeing with Fontana's Michael Maas.



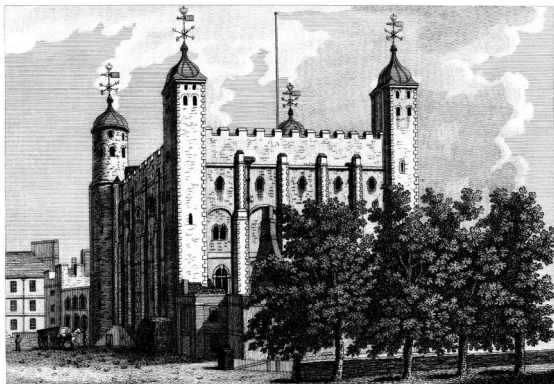
6th Grade

A priority standard for sixth and seventh grade math is understanding of ratios and proportions. Our sixth grade students have really seemed to grasp this math concept, and we've seen a lot of success with their practice of proportionate reasoning. We are now diving into a geometry unit. We will begin by reviewing perimeter and area and then move on to the main focus for sixth grade: surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures.

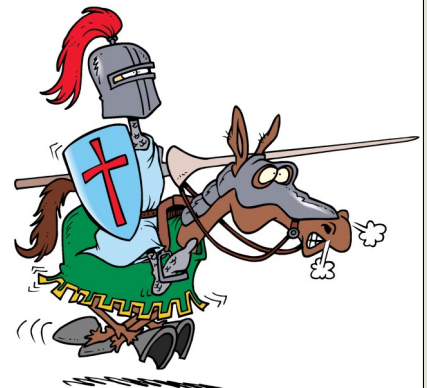
In 6th grade, the students have been busy reading a lot of non-fiction lately as our lessons have focused on informational reading skills. For part of the unit, students read nonfiction narratives (biographies and NF told in more of a story format) in book club groups. For the current part of the unit, the students are learning to read for the purpose of research. Students previewed multiple topics to determine their top choices, of which the teachers then used to assign the topics. The teachers have provided the websites and books for the research.

This year, we are combining this unit with our informational writing unit. Students are learning how to choose subtopics (rather than being given them to direct their research) and take notes. Then there will be lessons on organizing the notes into a box and bullets outline. We will review how to construct the introductory and concluding paragraphs as well as how to elaborate in the body paragraphs. Other important lessons will include how to avoid plagiarism and how to cite sources. Ask your child what topic he/she is researching and the interesting information that is being learned.

During social studies, we have begun our unit on the history of Medieval Europe. As we learn about topics such as the feudal system, castle life and structure, knights, and medicine, the students will continue to practice note-taking skills. We will also compare and contrast medieval serfs to plantation slaves, castles



to modern homes, and the education and towns of then to now. Causes and effects of history abound when we learn about the Black Death (Bubonic Plague), Hundred Years' War, and the Battle of Hastings. Be prepared to hear about the crazy meals and other bizarre aspects of daily life in the Middle Ages.



“The Way.... Little Things”

By Mr. Howard



**John Howard, Jr/Sr High
School Principal**

There are certainly many aspects of Independence Jr/Sr High School, in general, that I could discuss in this Winter 2022 Newsletter, but I want to focus on the “little things”. For it is these things that truly make our school special. Some of you may have noticed these little things before while others may have gone unnoticed until now. Let’s examine some, but to make it easier grammatically and to correspond to the title of this issue, please use “The Way” before each one.

- Many students enter the building in the morning wanting to come to school.
- Staff greet these students each day with a smile and “Good Morning.”
- Teachers and para educators work with students to be successful.
- These same individuals take pride in praising and affirming students.
- Mrs. Anderson handles staff absences and works diligently to get things covered.
- Mr. Hupke goes about his day, despite some difficult situations.
- Our musicians and actors/singers are approaching the upcoming musical.
- The custodial staff takes pride in having the building clean (and sanitized) each day.
- Some pupils come to school in shorts or jeans with holes in the winter time.
- Junior high students try to “hide” their cell phones during the school day.
- Mrs. Stevens addresses parents/guardians calling their children absent from school.
- Mrs. Eddy can “juggle” the day-to-day demands of being the nurse with the trials and tribulations with Covid.
- Wrestling fans cheer during meets.
- The varsity basketball teams are making great strides.
- Fans react when the pep band is “in the house.”
- Cheerleaders show tremendous passion for their sport and our athletes.
- Parents/Guardians and community members support the school/district.
- Counseling personnel works to meet the social/emotional needs of students and staff.
- Teachers have “subbed” for others.
- Students and staff continually strive to Live the Mustang Way!

I could go on and on, but due to time and space considerations, I am not able to do so. May all of us continue to appreciate these “little things” about Independence Jr/Sr High School. Go Mustangs!

The Independence Jr/Sr High School encourages their students to “Live the Mustang Way.” This philosophy is centered on four tenets: “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Show Kindness, and Live Gratefully.” There are many examples I could share with you, here are a few.

Be Respectful: In early January, students were walking into the building on a cold morning. In the hustle of the start of the day, someone dropped some money in the entrance. A student saw the money lying there and picked it up. He then went to a staff member and told them what he had found. The staff member brought the money to the Office where we announced to the building that some money had been found and to claim it, they needed to come to the Office. This money was never claimed, so it was then turned over to the student who found it. This an excellent example of being Respectful by this student!



**Dewey Hupke, JSH
Assistant Principal**

Be Responsible: Shared by Paraprofessional Trish Baez: Vedder Fratzke has shown responsibility by helping Peyton Harvey in PE class. When she has fallen to the floor, on a few different occasions, Vedder has taken responsibility to help pick her up in PE class. I have seen him assist a peer when they happen to need aid; he will stop to help Peyton or others. I've seen him tying a shoe for Peyton, so she wouldn't trip and I've also seen him extend a hand to her to help her off the floor from a fall. These things may seem small, but to me they are huge acts of consideration and compassion and I have taken notice of Vedder's good deeds!

Show Kindness: Shared by Mrs. Carey, 7th grade English/Language Arts teacher: I have known Olivia Fox for almost two years, and have been continuously impressed by her unfailing kindness and overall generosity of spirit. She shows patience and kindness to her classmates, no matter who she happens to be around. She is always smiling and openly friendly to everyone. Olivia has brightened my day so many times in the last year and half, that I cannot even count them up. She has sent emails, written letters, or simply said "thank you" to show gratitude for the simplest of things. She has always been very motivated, not necessarily by grades, but just by simply LEARNING. She loves to continuously seek out more information and strives for excellence. This shows she is very responsible in that she takes it upon herself many times to ensure a deeper understanding. She seeks out opportunities to better herself by being the first to volunteer to help at the JH concessions, joining student council, and helping any classmate or teacher that should ask for it. Olivia is a very kind and caring person.

Live Gratefully: We, Mr. Howard and I, are grateful for the entire staff we have at the Jr/Sr High School. They have been working extremely hard to support our students' needs while also teaching their classes. In addition to this, we have had several teachers absent for personal illness or the illness of a family member. During this time, we have experienced a shortage in substitute teachers and so several of our staff filled in to cover the classrooms of the absent teachers. We are so grateful for these teachers assisting for our absent teachers and the support they give their students.

Two of our students, Ethan Medland and Matthew Tudor, at the Independence Jr/Sr High School signed up to become members of the Iowa National Guard. Our nation is grateful for their commitment to serve our country. I asked them 3 questions to help us better understand their decision to serve our Nation. Here are their answers:

Why did you sign up for the Iowa National Guard?

Ethan: Well I joined because it sounded like it would be fun, and as a kid I always wanted to join the military. I knew it was going to be an experience I wouldn't regret having and I would meet new people. Overall, I think I joined because I wanted to do something more with my life.

Matthew: I joined the National Guard to maintain and keep the line of military going in my family. Being in the military was a popular trend with my family, so I decided to carry on with that trend by joining the Army National Guard. However, the thought of serving my country was a big one. My great grandfather was the biggest one of all, he was my idol and the reason why I chose to be in the guard. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in World War II, and all I thought about doing when I heard his story was to be like him in the Army.

Continued on page 16

This winter has been a busy time in the world of activities. We have had sports, concerts, speech and music contests, FFA, pep band, and many other activities going on. Other activities are just starting. All these events provide a great outlet for students to explore their passions while developing life skills, learning lessons, finding ways to handle adversity or stress, and making lasting memories and friendships. However, many of these events or contests would not be possible without judges or officials.

We are currently seeing a shortage in officials and judges. While we have been lucky in Independence there have been a growing number of games cancelled across the state in baseball, football, and basketball due to the lack of officials on a given night. This shortage of officials has also caused other officials to work 4-5 nights a week leading to burnout. I can say that we have personally had a tougher time getting all of our games filled this last calendar year than any other time. With more and more club games being added and sports such as girls wrestling growing the need for officials will only grow in future years.



**Justin Putz,
Activities Director**

I wanted to write this article on what can be done to help solve this issue. First, we all need to appreciate that officiating is a service industry. While officials are getting paid many of them do it as a hobby, a way to stay connected to sports, and a way to give back. It is not something they have to do rather they know officials are important to providing opportunities to kids. Most officials have a full-time day job and sacrifice time away from home or vacation time to work our events. While many are far from perfect with the calls they make the games do not go on without them. As a society we need to appreciate the work of the officials regardless of the calls they make. This goes for youth sports, clubs, all the way to high school sports. Many young officials are not coming back as they have bad experiences at youth and lower levels. These places should be a place for new or inexperienced officials to learn. Everyone has to start somewhere and the varsity level is not it. Youth and lower level games are a good training ground for new officials.

The other thing we can do is consider becoming an official or encourage others who would be good at it to become officials. I think baseball/softball can be a great summer job for former players. Basketball and wrestling are great jobs for students in college. Youth and lower levels pay well and allow for younger officials to still be free in the evenings or work on the weekends. I have provided some information below on how to become certified. If interested please take a look at the resources below or do not hesitate to contact me or a coach to help you get started. If you know someone who would be good, encourage them to consider helping out. The game and contests need them.

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/interscholastic-officiating>

<https://www.iahsaa.org/officials/>

<https://ighsau.org/ighsau-officials/>

<http://www.ihssa.org/judges.html>

Information from your School Nursing Department



As we begin the second semester, it seems like a good time to review a few items related to the nurse's office:

Nurse Visits:

Just as a refresher for your students on when it is an appropriate time to see the nurse during the school day. It is the expectation that your student will be in class **unless for a medical emergency/urgent needs:** head injury, severe stomach pain, eye injury, diabetes, a broken bone, deep cut/bleeding, asthma attack, bee sting, prescribed medication, or fainting. Students should wait until passing period or lunchtime for non-urgent needs: headache, toothache, stomachache, bug bites, minor scrapes/band-aid (teachers have in classrooms), earache, mild cough, runny nose, or sore throat.

When to keep your child home:

We have been experiencing a high number of students and staff absences across the district due to illness. In addition to positive COVID-19 cases, other reported illnesses include the stomach flu, strep throat, sinus infections, and influenza, as well as the common cold.

Please observe your students for any signs of illness and **keep them home** if they feel sick. If your student shows any symptoms of COVID-19, please have them tested. In addition to staying home when ill, please remind your students to continue to wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes. You can help us by monitoring for any symptoms, contacting us with questions, and keeping your students home when they don't feel well.

We would also like to remind you that if you have a child entering 7th grade or 12th grade in the fall there are some immunization requirements:

7th Grade:

All students entering 7th grade are required to have one meningococcal vaccine. Students are also required to have a Tdap booster. These must be done **PRIOR** to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

12th Grade:

All students entering 12th grade are required to have 2 doses of the meningococcal vaccine.

As always, please contact your school nurse with questions, concerns, needs, or changes with your child's health.

Molly Beatty, RN
East Elementary
319-332-0533

Kelsi Donnelly, BSN, RN
West Elementary
319-332-0589

Jennifer Eddy, BSN, RN
Jr/Sr High School
319-332-0720



Val Maximovich,
Volunteer & Mentor
Coordinator

Independence Community Schools Volunteer & Mentor Program Update by Val Maximovich

JANUARY is National Mentoring Month



You matter...pass it on, become a mentor!

Every January, the mentoring movement unites in celebration of National Mentoring Month and uses the power of our collective voice to recruit new mentors for students, and drive meaningful change for young people. This month-long celebration of mentoring shares exciting opportunities to grow the movement and raise awareness about the power of relationships.

The Mustang Mentoring school-based program for students Kindergarten – 8th grade through the Independence Schools is still going strong. We will be celebrating mentoring month later on in the school year.

We are always in need of adult mentors to meet with students every week at school. It's only an hour, and all you have to do is take the time to read, play a game, or just visit with a student to make a difference in their day. Contact Val Maximovich, Mentor Coordinator, 319-332-0626 or email vmaximovich@indeek12.org



An unexpected end of the year gift!

Two local churches made donations to the mentoring program in December

Prairie Lakes Church
Hope Wesleyan Church

***Thank you for thinking of the
Mustang Mentoring program!***

*Donations contribute to our mentoring events
throughout the year.*

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We have also received grant funds again this school year through the DECAT program, administered by Building Direction for Families. These funds are based on the number of hours mentors meet with students every week each month.

October 42 hours

November 41 hours

December 59 hours

***Thank you mentors for taking the time to
make a difference!***

Mentor...

Someone who shares their knowledge and experience to inspire others to reach their goals.

What experiences did you have at Basic Training you would like to share?

Ethan: At basic you learn so much about yourself and others. You also have experiences that you couldn't have anywhere else. There are two that really stick out for me though. First is when you show up to your company with all of the other new trainees and you're getting yelled at and forced to do exercise with them. You realize pretty quickly that everyone else is going through the same thing you are and it is easiest when you all work together and do the right thing. Second is the forge, it's the last bit of training before graduation and most would say the hardest. I broke two of my toes before this and really thought I couldn't do it but all of my buddies that I showed up with and grew with helped me get through it. I remember once we finished they all came to me and said "I knew you wouldn't quit" and they may have said some other things but it really shows you how much you can get through when you're surrounded by a good group of people.

Matthew: I had two or three big experiences in Basic Training that will stay with me forever. One was my last "ruck" march called the FORGE. It was the last hoo-ah, the last test to become a soldier. I remember how I was so tired, so ready to be done. Especially how my feet hurt like crap with every step. But I pushed through, and persevered through the hurt and pain. My second experience was the Graduation ceremony, standing there in front of all those parents, siblings, loved ones. Especially my family and girlfriend at the time. The feeling after the ceremony was over, leaving that fort was kind of sad. But going home as a soldier, with my loved ones was the most cherished of all memories.

What is something you would like us to know more about?

Ethan: The Military isn't for everyone but I can honestly say I don't regret it one bit. I meet new people and learn a lot every day because of it. I have only been in for a year and I think I have met someone from every state and many countries. I know I could call any of the guys I went to basic with and they would pick up and if I ever needed help they would be there. Being in the military will kind of group you in with others and make it feel like you could become friends with anyone else in it.

Matthew: Being in the Army has given me a lot more overview of diversity, anyone can join the Army. I was around people who were not natives to America. I was around people from Puerto Rico, Columbia, India, etc. It was a culture shock and a half, but I adjusted to it quickly. I would like to put out there that being diverse is not a bad thing, being appreciative of those cultures. That is the real treasure I have found in the Army, learning about the different backgrounds and making friends that will never leave your side. No matter how far you may be from each other.

We're on the Web
<http://www.indeek12.org>

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: Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or eburmeister@indeek12.org

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.

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: Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement, 1207 1st Street West, Independence, IA 50644, (319) 334-7400 or eburmeister@indeek12.org

ANNUAL NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Independence Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study:

Agriculture
Business
Family and Consumer Science
Industrial Technology
Marketing

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