

**Volume 16 Issue 3**  
**Spring, 2021 - 2022**

**District Events:****April 29**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
Prof Dev

**May 6 & 13**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
Prof Dev

**May 16**

School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

**May 20**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
Prof Dev

**May 27**

Last Day of School  
2 hour Early Dismissal

**May 30**

Memorial Day

**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**

1st Day of School for  
All Grades 2 hour Early  
Dismissal-Prof Dev

***From the Superintendent's Desk...***

The calendar says, "Spring is here" but I'm a little cautious after watching the snowflakes fall and cold temperatures this past week. Regardless, it's been a very busy Spring and I would like to catch everyone up on a couple of important issues.

The Independence CSD is currently in the middle of taking the Iowa assessments designed for the state of Iowa. They are called the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). These tests are important as our staff will use the results to modify what and how we teach the Iowa Standards. Deeper thinking and problem solving are the key components to being successful on these assessments. Our mission is to provide a quality classroom education that will provide our students with an edge after graduation.

After an icy Winter where we had to modify the 21-22 school calendar, I'd like to share a few important dates. May 17th is the last day for our senior class while Friday, May 27th is the last scheduled student day with a 2 hour early dismissal.

I would like to wish our JSH Principal Mr. John Howard much success as he has accepted the Superintendent position in the Union School District. He has spent the past several years working to improve and provide the best possible experience for your students here in the Independence Community School District. Good Luck John!

Congratulations to the class of 2022... Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd in the Junior/Senior High School. Go Mustangs!!

If you have any questions, please contact the Central Office at 319 334-7400.



**Russell Reiter,  
Superintendent**

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## School Improvement by Erin Burmeister, Director of School Improvement



**Erin Burmeister,  
Director of School Improvement**

“Grades are first and foremost communication; they are information, nothing more.”  
-Rick Wormeli

At Independence Community School District, we are working on reforming and improving our grading practices. It is our belief that grades are a communication tool for all stakeholders. Therefore, grades should provide an accurate picture of what students know and are able to do with regards to the standards that we are required to teach. Standards set the criteria and provide a description of what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level and in each content area. They provide a benchmark for the minimum level of proficiency needed by individual students. In Iowa, we have Iowa Core Standards that we are required to teach. If we are required to teach the standards, then we should be assessing student progress towards those standards, which brings us to standards referenced grading or grading based on the standards.

When thinking about how we reform our practices, we believe that we must clarify the purpose of grading and establish goals we hope to accomplish. The purpose of grading is first and foremost to accurately communicate what students know and are able to do. With our reform and improvement efforts we hope to accomplish the following goals.

1. Create a grading system that serves as a better communication tool of what students know and are able to do in relationship to the Iowa Core Standards.
2. Develop a system that allows us to separate behavior from academics and report out on both.
3. Reduce grade inflation and/or deflation. Create a more reliable scale.
4. Create a system that doesn't mask true understanding of the standards we are required to teach and students need to learn (more accurate grades).

Our preliminary data suggests that we are accomplishing these goals through the use of standards referenced grading practices.

Additionally, we believe that in order to improve grading practices we must establish clear learning goals that will unite curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Teachers have been working hard to establish these goals through priority standards, learning goals, and learning targets (I can statements). A clear goal, and established criteria aligned to the goal, will help teachers provide appropriate instruction and assessments and will help students become active participants in their own learning. Equally important, we must base grades on a collection of evidence that reflects current achievement. This evidence must support conclusions about the learning outcome it's being used to rate. Also, this evidence needs to reflect what students are currently able to do. Where students were at the beginning of a learning sequence or how many times they fell short during the sequence shouldn't negatively impact the grade.

Furthermore, students must be given appropriate opportunities to practice and receive feedback before their work is graded. We wouldn't ask athletes to compete in a game without first practicing and receiving feedback from a coach, yet we do this all the time in the classroom. In the traditional system, first attempts at learning and early practice opportunities are graded. The main grades on report cards should report only students' current status on achieving intended learning goals and learning targets. Other factors like social emotional learning (SEL) skills, work habits, collaboration, behavior, and attendance should be reported separately. Finally, reform efforts should include the use of scales with fewer gradations. As the number of categories rises, inter-related reliability goes down. Teachers can distinguish between 4-5 levels more easily and more precisely. Distinguishing among 101 levels of performance is next to impossible.

Changing grading and reporting practices can be very challenging. However, reform and improvement need to happen. Poor grading practices at best don't support learning, and at worst, harm students by giving them inaccurate information about important school and life decisions. Effectively determined grades can help students, parents, teachers, and administrators understand what has been learned and select the next best steps in teaching and planning.

## Viruses, Trojan Horses, Phishing Scams and a Host of Other Scary Terms

You may think this is my Halloween article with all of these very scary and real terms. There is no reason to get caught-up in the actual terms or definition or too fully understand all of the differences and nuances of these tactics. The important thing is you protect yourself from all of them and stay vigilant with your computer browsing and internet usage.

I want to look at several different scenarios and give some ideas of how to protect yourself.



**Steve Noyes,**  
**Director of Technology**

### **Scenario Number 1: Advertising Pop-ups:**

You are browsing the Internet and suddenly you see a message that your computer has a virus and the computer freezes. You think to yourself, "My computer has been running slow, it has been freezing.... Maybe I actually do have a virus." Before you take a minute and calm down, you call the number on the screen or answer the email. This is a very common way for a malicious attack to start. These kinds of scams are always fake and are "phishing" [fishing] for information.

A computer restart will clear the message and your computer will return to normal.

Your computer may be running slow, it might have a virus, it might need upgrading, but the pop-up or random email has no idea and is trying to trap you into giving information. If your computer does need repair, you must initialize the repair by contacting a reputable service provider.

To continue this scenario, you might get information about your credit score, processing checks, medical messages and all kinds of different messages. These are all the same scam. Do not contact or answer the email, when you need something, you contact the appropriate business.

### **Scenario Number 2: Friend or family member in-need**

These are very similar to the previous type of scam. This time, the scammers try to create a sense of urgency by pretending to know your family or friends. The scammers have probably used a computer program to scan social media for your contacts and send you a convincing sounding message about need or urgent matter. Do not panic. These messages are scams.

If a family member is truly in trouble, you will learn about the problem in a more traditional manner. You should never send money, give information or pass this information to others. Do your due investigation before you respond to the request. "If it feels like a scam, it is a scam."

### **Scenario Number 3: You have won a million dollars**

Most everyone wants to win money, these are all scams as well. Avoid opening the email and block the sender. You will still receive these kinds of messages even if you block the sender. The sender knows they are being blocked and continually create new email addresses.

Ignore all of these kinds of messages.

If you are listening to the radio and call-in to the radio station and win the word of the day, or question of the day go ahead and enjoy your winning. Again you are the one initializing the call to a reputable business.

***Continued on page 16***

Though the weather doesn't feel like it currently, we've made it to spring! East Elementary and the ECC have had a great year! This principal couldn't be prouder of the students, staff and families for the flexibility and grace exhibited all year long. Looking back to fall we have come so far. The students have made gains and learned a bunch.



Kay Reidy, Principal

Kindergarten Roundup was March 24th. 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 was the schedule of events for the students.

- Puzzles, Play-doh, Coloring pages
- Read Big Red Barn/Activity
- Centers/Story/Songs
- Snack/Songs
- Recess
- Library – Principal Reidy reads
- Home

We are excited to close out the school year with many great activities from Fontana visiting to Fitness Day on May 6th. We will not be having parents join us for Fitness day but will revisit our policies to see about potentially making changes for next year. May 18th we will have a day of celebration with bouncy houses provided by the PTO in conjunction with our spring fundraiser.



## Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is splashing into Spring! Students will be exploring several spring related science themes. We will learn about weather, snakes, frogs, toads and tadpoles. Students will celebrate Earth Day! In reading, we will focus on our sight words. We will also continue to blend CVC words, learning beginning blends and diagraphs, and continue to apply super power strategies to our reading.

In math we will practice addition and subtraction skills, problem solving, counting to 100, and exploring 3D shapes.

In writing, we will continue to practice independent sentence writing using 5 Star Writing.

We are working hard at becoming first grade students!



## First Grade News

First grade has been looking forward to nice weather, especially after our Recycling Presentation from our Fontana Naturalist Michael. We can't wait to do our part to help the Earth! We had a successful Musical Performance and some amazing hats at our Spring Concert! First grade will continue to work on Opinion Writing, reading fluency and fractions in math.

## Second Grade News

In second grade math, we have been working on coin recognition and counting money. This month, our second graders are earning money for our pretend trip to Hawaii. The students earn money for living the mustang way, and they will also be working on exchanging coins. In writing, we are wrapping up our realistic fiction stories, and we will be moving into learning about opinion writing. Finally, for reading, we have been working noticing how the author uses descriptive language.

## 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.

## **ART - Mrs. Anderson**

Over the next few weeks in Art we will continue working on our drawings skills, craftsmanship, and creativity as we wrap up this school year! At East, we are working on collages and weaving projects. Kindergarteners and first graders are using mesh, beads, foam, popsicle sticks and fuzzy sticks to create their weavings. It has been a fun year in art classes, be sure to check out the student artwork hanging at Ryan's Pharmacy!

## **MUSIC JK-2 Miss Baskerville**

Wow, this year has gone by so fast! 1st graders just finished their Spring Concert and Hat Parade, which was a huge success with a great audience, so thank you to all those who came out to see their performance! As we finish the year, Kindergarten will keep working on learning new rhythms and will compose their own rhythm songs! 1st Grade will also finish learning their rhythms and will put their skills to work on the xylophone, while also learning how to play some classic nursery rhymes like Hot Cross Buns on the xylophone. 2nd Grade has been learning about the notes on the staff and will soon be learning about ledger lines, and how there are notes that go above and below the staff, and how there is a special musical alphabet. It has been such an exciting year in music and I have enjoyed working with all these wonderful and hardworking students!

## **L.A.C.E.S Donation- In Memory of former teacher Sheryl Mace**

L.A.C.E.S donated money to the East Elementary library to purchase books in memory of Sheryl Mace a former teacher of the ICSD and a L.A.C.E.S. member. The three books purchased are Jan Brett books, who was one of Sheryl's favorite authors.

Thank you, L.A.C.E.S



Molly Hocken, L.A.C.E.S. representative, with Virginia Lake, K-12 Teacher Librarian

## **Counseling News- Mrs. Litterer and Mrs. Canady**

East & West Elementary are hosting its 5th Annual Careers on Wheels Plus Event.

Preschoolers through 6th graders and their families are invited to come join the fun at our 5th Annual Careers on Wheels Plus event!!

Monday, May 9 from 5:00-7:00pm.

Explore the vehicles, big trucks, tractors, equipment and more!

The Life Guard helicopter will be landing at 5:00pm!

Drivers and vendors will be there to assist and answer all your questions. For their safety, all students must be accompanied by an adult for entrance.

Food Trucks will be here! (at your own expense)

- T & T Barbeque out of Oelwein
- Food's Here Mobile out of Manchester
- Kona Ice Truck out of Cedar Rapids

## Greetings from West Elementary!

At West Elementary, we are *Living the Mustang Way* (Being Responsible, Being Respectful, Showing Kindness, and Living Gratefully), and we are:

**Working Hard**

**Engaging in our Learning**

**Staying Positive**

**Thanking those along the way**



**Cheri Reed, Principal**

At West Elementary, we are busy collaborating and learning. Our students and staff are preparing for a busy spring with our Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), field trips, classroom learning, and special events. A huge thank you to our students and staff for their commitment to doing their best everyday and *Living the Mustang Way*!

### Third Grade

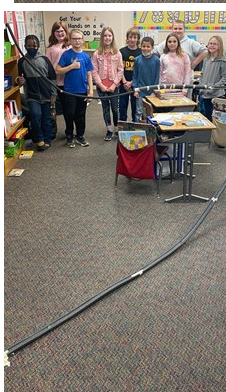
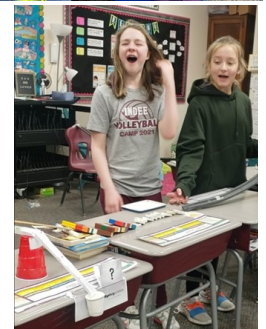
Third graders have been comparing and contrasting characters between stories and determining the author's purpose. They continue to practice determining the main idea and supporting details in nonfiction texts. In writing, students have practiced informative writing strategies that include brainstorming topic ideas, writing true facts, and using non-fiction text features to enhance their writing. They will continue to revisit the three genres of writing (narrative, opinion, and informative) and use all they have learned to increase their writing abilities. In math, third graders are working hard to master their multiplication of basic facts. They have learned how to solve multiplication facts by skip counting, drawing arrays, and using equal groups. They will end their year by gaining a better understanding of fractions and practicing their measuring and data-collection skills. In social studies, students have done a fantastic job of engaging in conversations centered around immigration and migration, why people move from one place to another, and how that affects their lives. We will finish our year in science by exploring weather patterns and how animals have changed over time. We are also looking forward to our field trip with Fontana to Boies Bend Park in April!





## Fourth Grade

This spring students have been busy diving into experiments with our unit *Energizing Everything* in science. They've been enjoying the hands-on lessons of figuring out how energy is transferred. The fourth grade visited Fontana Park on Thursday, March 3rd. Students participated in five rotations. They were able to go on a nature hike, visit the nature center, build on the watershed table, and dissect owl pellets. In addition to those activities, students also worked closely with Sondra Cabell to learn about sounds animals make in the wild. Students also worked with Micheal Maas and learned about the great horned owl, Harvey. In math, we've worked on fractions, decimals and percents. We'll be closing out the school year with measurements and calculating perimeter and area.





## 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 to support theories and inferences. They have been working on writing by focusing on the various story elements such as the characterization, plot, and problem/solution in their stories, as well as how to organize an opinion argument by stating a thesis in a topic sentence. In Social Studies, we will be learning about the 13 American colonies after completing our study of the Age of Exploration. 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 has been an exploration of Earth's four systems. Focus has been on how a healthy hydrosphere is important for all other systems.



## 6th Grade

During this last quarter of sixth grade, our students will be reading diversity themed books in book club groups. There are lessons from our reading curriculum (Social Issues: Reading for Empathy and Advocacy) that complement these novels. We will continue with a deeper study of characters by analyzing character relationships and group-related issues.

In math, the students have been learning about negative numbers, particularly graphing with negative numbers, coordinate line graphs, and inequalities on a number line. This unit will be followed up with a unit reviewing decimal concepts and decimal computation. We will conclude the year analyzing data: identifying outliers, analyzing the spread and center of data, as well as interpreting and creating box and whisker plots and line plots.

During May, we will walk over to the JSH building for an academic tour and mini orientation. Students are split into small groups led by current JH students to the main areas they will be using next year. There is typically a question and answer session with staff members and/or current seventh graders. This helps ease major concerns and gets them excited for all the exciting new changes in seventh grade.

We are looking forward to an outdoor field trip in May at Fontana. Each classroom will spend a fun day outdoors, learning how to use a compass and how to canoe. We look forward to a day away from school learning with Buchanan County conservationists Sondra and Michael.

## **Art - Mrs. Anderson**

Over the next few weeks in Art, we will continue working on our drawing skills, craftsmanship, and creativity as we wrap up this school year! In third and fourth grade we are experimenting with printmaking. We are using styrofoam to print images to colorful backgrounds in the style of Andy Warhol. Fifth graders have been working hard on their one-point perspective drawings. They have done a great job creating a town of their choice. In sixth, we are researching well-known artists as well as finishing our cardboard sculptures. It has been a fun year in art classes, be sure to check out the student artwork hanging at Ryan's Pharmacy!



## **MUSIC 3-6 Mrs. Fisher**

As we wrap up this year in Music, students are starting their final units. Third graders are continuing to work on music literacy, learning rhythm and pitch and putting them into practice with composition and classroom performances. Fourth graders are wrapping up their introduction to recorders and will be turning their attention to instrument families, getting to meet some high school band and choir students to get them excited about joining band and choir in fifth grade! Fifth graders are starting their ukulele unit, where they'll learn the basic chords to play some of their favorite pop songs. Finally, sixth graders are going to talk about form in pop music, write their own lyrics for blues songs, and create their own parodies. Music students will be letting their creativity flow as we move toward summer break!

## **BAND - Ms. Cummings**

We are having a blast in band as the year is coming to a close. The 5th and 6th grade bands have their joint concert with the 5/6 Choir on Tuesday, May 3rd. The 5th grade band students have been working hard to learn new notes, rhythms, and time signatures to help them play new and more complex music. The 6th grade band has been having fun working on new styles and playing fun instruments in their music. After the concert is done, the 6th graders will have the opportunity to learn another instrument for jazz band next year and we will do a unit on marching band!

## **PE 3-6 Mr. Donnelly**

Students in PE will be finishing up a bags unit and then ending the school year with some presidential physical fitness testing along with a few team activities outdoors. The mile run, pullups, shuttle run, sit ups and sit and reach make up the five presidential fitness tests. Please help your son/daughter by encouraging them to be active and live a healthy lifestyle. This is talked about a lot throughout the year in PE.

Farewell....

Just the mention of this simple, eight-letter term conjures up poignant emotions for everyone. For some, these sentiments might be of despair, woe, and definite unhappiness. Others, however, view the expression, either penned or stated, in a positive manner — with excitement, joy and cheer — focusing on the prospect of a “new beginning.” This goes for the Class of 2022 and for me.



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

For many in the Class of 2022, the sadness at this time stems from the “change” of action, habit, and focus. No more morning locker discussions, eating school breakfast, trying to “sneak” food down the hall, or feverishly trying to finish homework before the bell. No more competing for the Mustangs on the athletic courts or fields, with the great roar of the crowds. No additional speeches, projects, papers or labs to complete. No more band concerts, choral festivals, speech contests, mock trial or musicals to perform in the near future. No ACT’s, PSAT’s, ISASP’s, or ASVAB’s to (sometimes) stress over. No, all of these “special” activities and the students who made them will soon be memories...and tears will flow.

To say, however, that everything is gloomy about the departure of the seniors is not accurate. The success of all on the academic, athletic, co-curricular and extra-curricular “fronts” is unquestionably evident. Their thirteen-year journey, which seemed to many like it would probably never end, is almost complete and congratulations, hugs, and gifts are imminent. Now, fortunately, comes the time for bigger challenges, loftier goals, and the potential for life-long achievement. To this end, the administrators, faculty, staff and (especially) parents have provided a strong foundation from which to complete these aspirations. And it is these facts that are causes for merriment, not misery and tears.

I have many of the same sentiments mentioned above pertaining to the Class of 2022. As you may already know, I have accepted the position of superintendent of the Union Community School District for the 2022-2023 school year. The sadness of leaving Independence Jr/Sr High School, after eight quality years, hundreds of positive memories and priceless relationships, is definitely present. Yet, the anticipation of leading a great district and addressing new challenges is great... and that brings joy.

The students’ departure, as well as mine, provides a distinct lesson in sharp, contrasting emotions. The sadness is clear, but joy also abounds. So, may the tears and smiles combine as both the Class of 2022 and I leave Independence Jr/Sr High School.

Farewell... Go Mustangs!



In the Fall of 2019, Mr. Howard and I took steps to address the culture of the Jr/Sr High School. One of the ways that we did this was to implement a program titled "Capturing Kids' Hearts." Every certified staff member at the Jr/Sr High School has been trained in Capturing Kids' Hearts program.

Some of these strategies are:

- **Classroom Social Contract** (A set of mutually agreed upon rules for the classroom),
- **Celebrating Good Things** (Allowing students and staff to share positive events in their life),
- **Affirming student** (Telling students good job, way to go, congratulations when they do something worthy of praise.)
- **Launching** (Sending students off with a parting thought/idea),
- **Greeting students at the door** (saying hello to students as they enter the classroom,
- **Asking the 4 behavior questions** (What were you doing? What were you supposed to be doing? Were you doing it? What is going to happen the next time you are not doing it?), just to name a few.



**Dewey Hupke, JSH  
Assistant Principal**

Each Fall and Spring, Bob Case from Capturing Kids' Hearts comes to our Jr/Sr High School and meets with staff, students and administration. Bob has been a great resource for staff and administration to continually improve our building's culture. We believe when we improve the culture of our school, we will then be better able to teach and impact our students. Below are the notes Bob sent us after his most recent visit to our school.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

Even as you enter the building, you can feel a welcoming environment, more welcoming than in the past. It gets better each time I visit. The continual intentional uses of the processes of CKH are impacting the culture at Independence JH/SH.

Staff is using the processes of CKH more often. It is a noticeable increase! I was impressed by the body language and tone of teachers and the use of affirmations while teaching.

The emphasis of affirmations is impacting the culture of the entire building. Administration has been leading this and the impact is changing culture. Two noted activities 1) the affirmation wall, and 2) the Unicorn are just examples of the activities that are in place.

Affirmation opportunities are available to students and staff. I witnessed students writing affirmations to each other in Spanish!

The intentionality with new staff and ensuring their progress with CKH will continue to grow this culture. Good job!

During classroom visits, most classrooms had Social contracts posted and they were done pretty well. Most were posted in good positions by the teaching wall.

*Continued on page 16*

Every spring the Iowa High School Athletic Association has its member schools do a student participation survey. I obviously am passionate about kids being involved in activities and believe they can offer a wide range of benefits to our students. I am going to share with you our number of students who take advantage of our activity offerings. 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.



**Justin Putz,  
Activities Director**

Total Students in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 71, Girls 59  
 Total Students in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 62, Girls 59  
 Total Students in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 56, Girls 62  
 Total Students in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Boys 56, girls 64

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

9<sup>th</sup> Grade 52  
 10<sup>th</sup> Grade 43  
 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 41  
 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 35

	TOTAL BOYS	TOTAL GIRLS
Baseball (Projected)	40	0
Basketball	37	22
Bowling	10	7
Cross Country	14	9
Football - 11 Player	56	1
Golf	22	14
Soccer	17	22 (Indee kids only)
Softball (projected)	0	35
Tennis	18	41
Track & Field	38	30
Volleyball	0	48
Wrestling	41	11
MUSIC – Band	71 total	
MUSIC - Vocal	80 total	
SPIRIT - Cheerleaders	0	26

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 50% 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. We are also always looking at and considering other options. Activities can enhance the educational experience. 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.

## Information from your School Nursing Department



### Kindergarten Health Requirements

For **all students entering Kindergarten** it is required by the state to have the following complete:

- **Vision screening**- Can be conducted by ophthalmologist, optometrist, primary care doctor's office, or sometimes there are community based programs.
- **Dental examine**- By a certified dentist.
- **Immunizations**

The above must be complete and the nurse have documentation **prior** to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact your primary care provider or Molly Beatty, East Elementary Nurse.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Health Requirements

For **all students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**, it is required by state law, that they have a **vision screening**. The vision screenings can be conducted by an ophthalmologist, optometrist, primary care doctor's office, or sometimes there are community based programs.

The vision screening must be completed 6 month- 1 year **prior** to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Proof of exam must be given to the school nurse upon completion.

If you have any questions, please contact your primary care provider or Kelsi Donnelly, West Elementary Nurse.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health Requirements

Per the administrative rule **ALL** students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have one meningococcal vaccine. If your student/students have had a previous meningitis, in order to be valid, it must have been given after age 10. If your student/students had one prior to age 10, they are required to have another one given. This must be complete **PRIOR** to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

Another important immunization requirement for **ALL** students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade is that they are required to have a Tdap booster. This must be complete **PRIOR** to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact your primary care provider or Jennifer Eddy, Jr/Sr High Nurse.

### 12<sup>th</sup> grade Health Requirements

Per the administrative rule **ALL** students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have two doses of meningococcal vaccine. The only exception is if first dose of meningococcal vaccine was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required. Again, this must be complete **PRIOR** to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact your primary care provider or Jennifer Eddy, Jr/Sr High Nurse.



Also, as a reminder please make sure to update your student's health conditions and concerns on PowerSchool under the health section.





Val Maximovich,  
Volunteer & Mentor  
Coordinator

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



Since April marks both Volunteer Appreciation Month and National Volunteer Week, now seems like the perfect time to say how incredibly grateful we are for all of the mentors and all volunteers that give us their time, energy, and expertise to connect with and advocate for our students.



### **We are revvvving up for the end of year Mustang Mentoring Party**

**We are giving the students a “Bucket of Summer Fun!”**

Buckets filled with:

- \* Join the Library Summer reading program information
- \* Postcards to write a postcard to your mentor
- \* Directions to make a paper airplane
- \* Sidewalk chalk to write a message to someone!
- \* Don't forget to be KIND!

We are looking forward to  
all about your summer  
in the fall of 2022!

**Everyone needs to be seen, heard and connected!**



**Don't miss this opportunity!**

**BE a MENTOR for the 2022-23 school year!**

*It's only takes 30-45 minutes a week, during the school day (usually a lunch hour), during the school year to be a friend for a student Kindergarten -8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

Call Val Maximovich, Mustang Mentor Coordinator today!  
319-332-0626, email [vmaximovich@indeek12.org](mailto:vmaximovich@indeek12.org) or download the volunteer registration form at:  
<https://www.indeek12.org/parent-student-info/volunteer-information/>

If you call a business and they ask for passwords, bank information, full social security numbers and other private information, these are scams. Legitimate business do not ever ask for these kinds of information.

**Final Thoughts:** be careful with your information, always initiate the contact with a reputable business, always stay calm, never give out passwords, never send money, and assume everything is a scam.

Even well prepared and thoughtful people might fall victim to a scam. Always calm down and think through the process. Ask, "Does this feel like a scam?" Scams are usually based on urgent, immediate responses. Slow-down, talk to friends, ask for advice are ways to protect yourself.

As we come to the end of school, enjoy the summer. Registration for 2022-2023 will open on Saturday, July 9, 2022.

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I noticed class agendas for the day that included journal questions and good things!

I witnessed Good Things in several classes and it was done very well! The feedback from staff is that students really enjoy and are engaged during Good Things.

I saw student work being displayed in both the HS and the JH sections of the building.

NOTE: Independence JH/SH has intentionally developed activities that include the staff and student body to grow these relationships! Impressive!

Leadership is modeling the processes of CKH in the daily business of the campus, during conversations, and meeting times!

As you can see, our staff and students are doing a great job together to improve the culture of our Jr/Sr High School. Everyone who works at or attends this school should be proud of the progress we have made. The goal is to keep this progress going!!

**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](mailto: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.

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Agriculture

Business

Family and Consumer Science

Industrial Technology

Marketing

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**We're on the Web**

<http://www.indeek12.org>