

**Volume 17 Issue 3**  
**Spring, 2022 - 2023**

### **District Events:**

#### **April 28**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
 Prof Dev

#### **May 5 & 12**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
 Prof Dev

#### **May 15**

School Board Meeting  
 6:00 p.m.

#### **May 19 & 26**

2 hour Early Dismissal-  
 Prof Dev

#### **May 29**

Memorial Day  
 No School

#### **June 1**

Last Day of School -  
 2 hour Early Dismissal

#### **June 19**

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

#### **July 17**

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

#### **August 21**

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...***

Let me begin by first saying, "Thank You." As you know, I have submitted a retirement letter to the Board of Education and will finish my duties of Superintendent on June 30. Education has been a passion and profession of mine for over 37 years. Teaching, coaching, and various roles in administration have filled those years with one goal in mind, to make a difference and have a positive impact in the lives of our students. Teaching and learning has drastically changed over the course of my career and it will continue to evolve. Please understand, we need to continue breaking down barriers and imagine what is possible to help "ALL" of our students succeed.

I'm proud of the work we've been able to accomplish over the past 5 years here in Independence. Our goals were interrupted by the pandemic but with a great staff and your support, we were able to navigate through 18 months of uncertainty. It's been extremely rewarding seeing the positive impact this staff had in so many areas. Improvements in curriculum and instruction, activities, facilities, and the district's financial situation are gratifying. I plan to work with Ms. Phillips to ensure a smooth transition for the upcoming school year. I'm grateful for the well wishes offered and the memories shared.



**Russell Reiter,  
 Superintendent**

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



**Erin Burmeister,  
Director of School Improvement**

The work of school improvement is to ensure all learners are successful in the Iowa Academic Standards and local behavioral expectations and skills for learning through a Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework.



At Independence Community School District we have

spent the past few years working to strengthen all five areas in the graphic, Assessment and Data Based Decision Making, Universal Tier, Supplemental and Intensive Tiers, Infrastructure, and Leadership. Our leadership teams in each building have led the charge and continue to develop our school improvement plans. We are currently working on The Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation (SAMI) to measure our growth, specifically in the areas of leadership, universal tier, and supplemental and

intensive tiers and determine new priority areas and next steps.

It has been so exciting to see the amazing growth we have made in our prioritized areas. Some of the highlights in leadership include, the development of leadership teams in every building, learning for the leadership teams, and a systematic structure for meeting, planning and assessing the growth we have made.

Our biggest focus area and growth has been with universal tier instruction. Universal Tier is the evidence-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment critical for learner success. This universal instruction must align with the Iowa Academic Standards and local behavioral expectations and skills for learning that outline what educators are expected to teach and students are expected to learn. According to our self-assessment, we have made growth in all three buildings in the areas of instructional time and opportunities (ensuring there is sufficient time to facilitate engagement, learning, and growth for all students), knowledge and alignment to standards, local behavioral expectations, and skills for learning, and the intended curriculum, as well as, utilizing evidence-based instructional practices and evidence-based instructional materials.

We have also seen an improvement with our supplemental and intensive tiers (intervention). We have been able to put structures in place to ensure students that need interventions are getting these, specifically in the areas of math, literacy, and social emotional learning. Additionally, we have developed building wide procedures and processes for identifying learners, assigning interventions and monitoring those interventions.

It is important that we celebrate our accomplishments and continue to learn and grow in all five of the areas. I am excited about the work we have done and the work that is yet to come.

## Independence Web Presence

We are always interested in how we are communicating, relaying information and building relationships with ICSD students, parents, the community at-large, and local businesses. If you have any questions or comments about any of these titles, please email me at [snoyes@indeek12.org](mailto:snoyes@indeek12.org).

The Winter Newsletter covered PowerSchool, SchoolMessenger, Canvas, SeeSaw, and My SchoolBucks. For this edition, I will cover our websites and social media:

- District website: <https://indeek12.org>
- District sports related page: <https://www.indeemustangsports.com/>
- District arts related page: <https://www.indeemustangarts.com/>
- Facebook usage and goal, District page: <https://www.facebook.com/indeeschools>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@indeecommunityschools9274/streams>
- Other social media sites: Twitter, Instagram, TikTok

**The districts homepage is**  
**<https://www.indeek12.org>**



The district website is the main source of information for the school district. From the home page we have our activities, announcements and several quick links for menus, school calendar and quick contacts. As you look around the homepage, we also have links to our main building pages and a staff directory searching tool.

The district website is updated regularly and is the official source of information for the district.

When you search for staff, all certified teachers have their own website and can be clicked from the Staff Directory. You are encouraged to find your teachers and look through their website. These staff websites introduce you to our highly qualified and professional teaching staff. Individual teacher websites can be bookmarked to your Favorites for future reference.

## Independence Sports

**<https://www.indeemustangsports.com/>**



The indeemustangsports page is supplemental to our district website and covers athletics within the district. The website has links to individual sport activities, a link to listen to live sporting events and Independence athletic news. You are invited to visit the website and learn about ICSD great students and their accomplishments.



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

*Continued on page 4*

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## Independence Arts

<https://www.indeemustangarts.com/>



The indeemustangarts page is supplemental to our district website and covers music, theatre and speech within the district. We also have information about our school auditorium. You are invited to visit the website and learn about ICSD great students and their accomplishments.

## Independence Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/indeeschools>

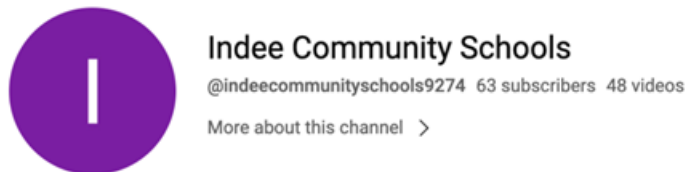


Our district Facebook page allows the district to have a social media presence. The posts on Facebook are district generated. We currently have announcements about our Building Trades Open House, various grade level events and yearbook orders. The district has disabled all comments, please contact the administration if you have any questions or concerns about anything pertaining to the district.

The district does not regularly utilize twitter, TikTok, and Instagram or other social platforms. The sites you may encounter are primarily individual sites but are not updated by the district. The district focuses our social media attention on Facebook.

## Independence YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@indeecommunityschools9274/streams>



The district has several recorded sport-related games on YouTube. We do not upload all videos from all sports, but there are many basketball games for you to enjoy.

We hope you are able to take advantage of these web-based communication outlets and learn about Independence staff and students.

My closing paragraph is to remind you that Registration for 2023-2024 will open on Saturday, July 15, 2023. You will need a PowerSchool Parent Portal account for registration. You should also have a PowerSchool Parent Portal to see past SchoolMessenger messages, student attendance, and access to MySchoolBucks.



## Happy spring greetings from East Elementary and the Early Childhood Center!

East Elementary and the ECC have had a great year! This principal couldn't be prouder of the students, staff and families for all the hard work that has gone into this school year. Looking back to fall we have come so far. The students have made gains and learned a bunch.

We are excited to close out the school year with many great activities from Fontana visiting to Fitness Day on May 26th. We will not be having parents join us for Fitness day. May 17th we will have a day of celebration with bouncy houses provided by the PTO in conjunction with our spring fundraiser.



**Kay Reidy, Principal**

## Preschool

Wow, this school year has flown by! The end of the year will be here before we know it! We have been very busy learning how to be independent, be a student, and to solve problems to prepare us for Kindergarten.

SPARK has been visiting us with new foods and exercises. Most recently we tried peppers, pepper salsa, carrots, and carrot juice. For a physical activity, we did a giraffe walk and we practiced throwing and catching balls. It is always a great time when our SPARK friends come for a visit. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity for special visitors like SPARK and Fontana to visit our classrooms so often. We learn so much from them.

Since the weather is getting warmer, we would like to remind parents to send their children in closed-toed shoes. **NO FLIP FLOPS**. The wood chips on the playground can splinter and cause an injury. If your child chooses to wear a dress, please remember to wear shorts underneath. Also, it is a good idea to put sunscreen on your child before they come to school.

We are looking forward to finishing the year strong with lots of fun activities and Preschool Graduations. We have a lot to celebrate!



## 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 also 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, count to 100, and explore 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!

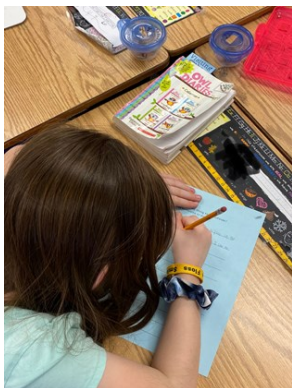


## First Grade News

First graders did an awesome job at the Spring Music Concert! Our classrooms had fun participating in Earth Day activities with the naturalists from Fontana Park. We continue to learn about the moon and stars in science and have begun our measurement unit 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 learning how to write our opinion. Our reading unit focuses on reading longer chapter books and noticing how the character(s) in a series book has the same traits across books. Photo choices of 2nd graders during Read to Self-reading series books. (2023)



## 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 - Ms. 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! Kindergarteners and first graders just completed their unique sculptures using pool noodle pieces, beads, buttons, and fuzzy sticks. We will begin working on creating self-portraits. Second graders are finishing their animal paper weaving projects. We will begin constructing a spring flower collage. 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 - Ms. Bancroft

Congratulations to the first graders who just performed their concert about bugs! They did an amazing job! As we finish the school year, the kindergarteners will continue to grow in becoming tuneful (singing in tune), beautiful (keeping a steady beat), and artful (performing music with expression), and practicing musical opposites like fast/slow, loud/quiet, and high/low. The first graders are about to begin a unit learning about the four groups of percussion instruments - woods, metals, shakers, and drums. Finally, the second graders are applying their barred instrument skills that they learned in our Mallet Madness unit by performing Orff arrangements of songs. Please encourage your student to continue to be musical over the summer!

## PE JK-2 - Mr. Loughren

The students at East Elementary are working on our fitness day activities to prepare for our event that is coming up at the end of May. We are continuing to develop our locomotor movements and skills to help promote everyday fitness and activity. The students have had an amazing year and I look forward to the rest of the year.

## 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

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*!



Cheri Reed, Principal

### Third Grade

Third grade students have been comparing and contrasting characters between stories and determining 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 grade students are working hard to master their multiplication 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 successfully completed a student-centered unit based on survival in the 1850s. We will be moving on to science to finish our year 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, January 26th. Students participated in five rotations. They were able to go snowshoeing, ice fishing, roast s'mores, visit the nature center, and dissect owl pellets. In addition to those activities, students also worked closely with Sondra to learn about sounds animals make in the wild. Students also worked with Michael and learned about the great horned owl, Harvey. In math, we've worked on multiplication and division of larger numbers.



## Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students at West have been working extremely hard this year. In Math, students have currently been learning about decimals using our new Illustrative Math resource. Fifth grade students are improving in reading while immersed in fantasy reading this spring. Not only are they increasing their vocabulary level, but they are also using strategies for comprehension while citing text evidence to support theories and inferences. They have been working on writing, 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. Michael from Fontana also visited and brought his stream table to illustrate how we can stop erosion. Students learned vocabulary like sediments, meander, and of course erosion!



## Sixth 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.

Our last major writing unit practices argumentative writing. This is more formal than an opinion or persuasive essay, and the students will use characters and themes from short stories in literature as the topics. We have been practicing citing evidence all school year as well as analyzing character traits which will be helpful in writing these five-paragraph essays.

In math, the students have been learning about negative numbers, particularly graphing with negative numbers, coordinate line graphs, and inequalities on a number line. 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 new changes in seventh grade.



## ART - Ms. 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 grade students are creating habitats for animals. Each student chose an animal eraser and are designing where the animal will live. Fourth graders are laying out a unique room in Pop Art style. Fifth graders have started one-point perspective drawings. Their task is to create a town with a theme of their choosing. In sixth grade, we are beginning an optical illusion paper weaving project. 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 - Ms. Fisher

As we approach the end of our school year, the music classes at West will be doing a lot of fun music exploration units. 3rd and 4th grade students will work on composing and performing their own original music for their classmates using various instruments. 5th grade students will have their ukulele unit where we will learn how to strum chords and play some pop tunes. 6th grade students will have an SEL unit about how music affects our emotions and memory, during which they will participate in the activity *Soundtrack of my Life*. The West Elementary Talent Show will happen for students and staff on May 26. Audition information is coming soon!

## BAND 5 & 6 - Ms. Cummings

What an exciting year it has been! 5th graders have been doing an amazing job at learning to put together an instrument, make good sounds, read notes, and play their first band songs together in just under a year! They have earned lots of band karate belts in lessons. I'm very proud of them. 6th graders have competed individually and as a full group for ratings and awards this year and have been very successful. The future of our award-winning band program is looking bright. Our final band concert of the school year is Tuesday, May 2nd at 7pm in the HS Auditorium! We will end the concert with a combined performance from our 5th and 6th Grade Band and Choir!

## PE 3-6 - Mr. Donnelly

Before the school doors close for the summer, students at West Elementary have a lot to look forward to in Physical Education class! Students are currently finishing up playing various "tag" games and then will transition into the mile run. As the weather continues to warm up, students will be outside participating in a scavenger hunt, whiffle ball, and frisbee golf. Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to be active and to live a healthy and happy lifestyle.



## Junior/Senior High Winding Down the Year...

As usual, the school year has flown by and we are now past Prom and into ISASP testing, graduation, and all of the end-of-year activities that make this time of year feel like a whirlwind. For those families with Seniors, this is especially true. And, while we raise our kids with “roots and wings”, as they say, it still often feels like an abrupt ending to a long stretch of practices, games, contests, performances, and celebrations. It also, of course, marks the end of “I forgot my practice clothes, can you run those up to school for me?”, so there are some things I do not especially miss! We’re proud of our own kids and I’m sure proud of the work our Seniors have done here at Indee. I’m looking forward to a summer of softball and baseball (with no pitch clock!) and excited to hear about all the great things our Seniors will be doing post-graduation. A final note to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and everybody else who has supported our Seniors to graduation: thank you for allowing us to partner with you in education and for supporting your children and our schools.



**Ian Kleman, Jr/Sr High  
School Principal**

## ...and Gearing Up for Greater Opportunities

I continue to be grateful for a number of things here in my first year: parent and community support for our school, a warm welcome for me, and the opportunity to lead in a building with great kids doing great things every day. If you did not see our fall play or musical, please put those things on your calendar for next year! Our performing arts programs are very good and I’ve appreciated listening to our band, jazz band, and choir. We also have a *lights out* Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, and I am working hard to encourage students to take advantage of our Auto courses (Energy, Power, and Transportation is the first), Metal courses (Metal Processing is the first in the sequence here), and Woodworking/Building Trades (Wood Processing kicks off this sequence). Independence and the surrounding communities are rich with manufacturing opportunities for students and I believe we could not only become a hub for industry micro-verticals (in this context, manufacturers who are tightly focused on a particular segment of an industry), but also an incubator of talent and skill at the Jr/Sr High. As an example of the pressure points in the sector, one [recent article](#) in a trade publication ([The Manufacturer](#)) summarized the issues of attracting and retaining Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) machinists:

“The manufacturing industry is facing a shortage of qualified CNC operatives. This shortage is a significant challenge affecting the growth and development of the industry. Manufacturing companies and educational institutions must collaborate to create training programs and apprenticeships with the aim of rectifying this situation. Additionally, the industry should reach out to underrepresented communities and women to attract a diverse pool of skilled CNC operatives. Finally, the industry should offer competitive wages and benefits and create a positive and safe work environment to enhance employee satisfaction and retention.”

***Continued on Page 13***

## ***Continued from Page 12***

Moral of the story: worldwide (and here in the Highway 20 corridor), there are incredible opportunities for students in the manufacturing sector. We need more students to engage in our CTE programming and please encourage students to do so! Also, students have the opportunity to hear from a number of local companies on Friday, April 28 during our Career Fair (*Indee Impact*), so high-level engagement from our students during that time will likely yield opportunities, thoughts, and family discussions about future plans.

If you are interested in reading more about the tremendous challenges and opportunities in the Industrial Technology sector, I highly recommend “*The Titanium Economy*” ([McKinsey & Company](#) sells direct, and it can also be found on [Amazon](#)). Great introduction, an easy read, and I learned a ton about the sector and its potential to drive economic growth over the long run.

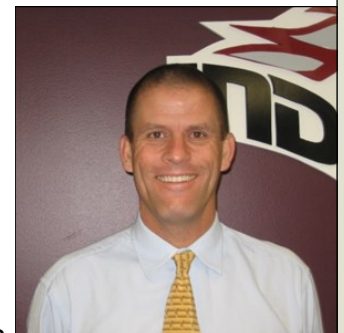
Once again, grateful to be here in Indee and to get to come to work each day and lead in a great community. Thanks for a great first year and *Go Mustangs!*

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## **Day of Service**

Our school district is very fortunate to have great facilities to work, play, and learn in.

On April 21, 2023, the Independence Jr/Sr High School students and staff participated in a ‘Day of Service.’ This day was set up by Mrs. Hurley, Mr. Hupke, Mr. McMartin, Mr. Pink, and Mrs. Stainbrook. The team of teachers worked hard at planning and preparing places for over 650 students and staff to give back to our communities. Our students and staff were able to put the computers/books aside to experience teamwork, leadership, appreciation, and community service in a different setting. There were several locations where we were able to assist in tasks in our communities. Some of the locations we assisted at are: 319 Social House, OakWood Cemetery, Independence Fire Department, Food Pantry, Heartland Acres, Independence Community School District, Independence Parks and Rec, National Honor Society Ditch Cleanup, Prairie Hills Assisted Living, ABCM Rehabilitation, River Ridge Golf Course, Independence Skate Park/Dog Park/Civic Center, Three Elms Golf Course, Cedar Rock, The Depot, City of Brandon, and City of Rowley.



**Dewey Hupke, JSH  
Assistant Principal**

Here are several pictures of students and staff included in the day. Not all groups who worked are in these pictures. However, we are very proud of the work of ALL students and staff who contributed to this great day!! Please know our students and staff appreciate what we are given by the communities of Brandon, Rowley and Independence. And look forward to participating in more of these ‘Days of Service’ in the future.

***Continued on Page 14***



*Continued from Page 13*

'Day of Service' continued



*Continued on Page 15*



*Continued from Page 14*

'Day of Service' continued



*Continued on Page 16*



*Continued from Page 15*

'Day of Service' continued



This school year has been a busy, fun, and exciting time in the activities world. We have had sports, concerts, musicals, dances, play, music contests and additions, honor bands and choirs, FFA, clubs, pep band and many other activities that went on. 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. In addition, they help connect students to schools. However, many of these events or contests would not be possible without judges or officials. Additionally, we need volunteers to help make these events and seasons happen. I wanted to use my article to plug the importance of officials and volunteers and encourage you to help in any way you can.

I wrote awhile back about a shortage of officials. We are currently seeing a shortage in officials and judges. However, it is starting to get real, and I feel it is important enough for me write about it again in this addition. This spring our soccer officials assigner sent out the following email:

**“Due to the shortage of referees for high school soccer, the CVSOA may not be able to provide referees for all of your games in 2023.**

**The best way to meet this shortage is to find adults in your town to become soccer officials.”**

This past week the IHSAA released the football schedules for the next two seasons. This is an exciting time for football players and coaches to find out who they will be playing. It is also the time to start working on officials for those two seasons. Just this past week we received the following email for our football official assigner requesting games be moved to Saturday or Thursday:

**“I was hoping this would not happen for a long time however we have now reached the time when we have more games than officials to referee those games. I have multiple dates where I cannot provide officials for your varsity games on Friday’s. In our area alone we have had six crews retire or drop out and I am being told another is considering it. If you and your school would be interested in moving your varsity game to Thursday’s or Saturday’s please let me know ASAP otherwise there will be games without officials. An advantage of moving to a Thursday or Saturday we would hopefully have more officials to choose from.**

**This is my 28<sup>th</sup> year assigning football and I have never seen it so bad and it is not going to get better for quite some time.**

**I am continuing to work on finding crews who may be available but as of this writing I am striking out but will continue my search.**

**I am short crews on the following dates:**

**August 25**

**September 1**

**September 8**

**September 15**

**September 29**

**October 6**

**October 13**

While we have been lucky in Independence so far, 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 season we actually played 1 varsity football game on the road with 4 officials instead of the normal 5. 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 in the last 9 years. With more and more youth and 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**



## Information from your School Nursing Department

Molly Beatty, RN  
East Elementary

Kelsi Donnelly, BSN, RN, NCSN  
West Elementary

Jennifer Eddy, BSN, RN  
Jr/Sr High School

As we get closer to the end of the 22-23 school year and start preparing for summer, make sure you are planning ahead for the 2023-24 school year.

In Iowa, there are four health screening programs that are regulated by the state and implemented by the schools. Those four areas are: immunizations, dental, vision, and blood lead.

Getting these items completed in the summer, prior to the start of school is imperative to prevent your child from missing class time related to appointments, or exclusion for not having the requirements met.

If you have any questions on what your child may need before the 23-24 school year, please don't hesitate to reach out to your building nurse.

### 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 2023-2024 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 months to 1 year **prior** to the beginning of the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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



Our volunteers make our lives brighter! We thank our many, many volunteers, mentors, reading buddies, door greeters, school board members, and the many parents that volunteer for concessions, band and choir events, athletic events and more! We are grateful for all your time, energy, and commitment to our students' success!

**We appreciate you. We thank you!**

## **We are planning our end of the year Mustang Mentoring Party!**



### **A slice of summer fun!**

**We are teaming up with the  
Independence Public Library  
and the BCHC Wellness Center  
to hear about ways to have some summer fun in  
our community!**

## *Thank You!*

A sincere thank you for the donors that have donated to the Mustang Mentoring Program this year.

### *Memorials*

Kendall Heppe, a past faithful mentor, unexpectedly passed away this year, and his family chose the mentoring program for the memorials. We are so grateful.

Also, in his memory, The Checkered Flag, had a pool tournament and again donated all funds raised during that tournament to the mentoring program

### *Grants*

The Mentoring program is once again recipient of the Fraternal Order of Eagles grant for \$1,000. We have received this grant several times in the past and this brings our total received over \$10,000.

Thank you to Michael Duehr and the local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles for this opportunity.

### *Monthly Donors*

We also thank our monthly donors. If you wish to support the program, please let us know and we will be happy to walk through that simple process with you.

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>

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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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### **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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