

High School News



News from Ms. Kintzle

It's hard to believe that the school year is already half over! This semester I no longer have eighth graders as they have other elective classes. In place of their class, I am teaching a section of English 10. In this course students will read a variety of world literature and write a research paper.

Meanwhile, in seventh grade students, are diving into nonfiction books. Students were hesitant to begin nonfiction, but we kicked the unit off with a speed dating activity with books. Students went from table to table in the library getting to know different books and in the end chose a book they would like to get to know better and read. They had a lot of fun with this and hopefully will enjoy reading nonfiction.

In other news, seventh and eighth grade students had the opportunity to attend a fan night at the junior high basketball game in Edgewood on Thursday, January 28, 2016. This was a great opportunity for students to support their classmates and cheer the team on.

News from Mr. Wenger

It is hard to believe the second semester is upon us! Students (and teachers) have come back rejuvenated and ready to go. In 7th grade World Geography, we are currently learning about the Middle East and Northern Africa. This has been particularly interesting to the students due to current events in the news and the thought of people not having enough water. Students recently created brochures to spread awareness of the region's water crises and what could be done to conserve the water. Another highlight

was when we were given the opportunity to have a guest speaker from Pakistan. This was very eye opening for everyone including teachers and I think everyone walked away learning several new things.

While the 7th graders are exploring the world, the 8th graders are taking a closer look at the home front. Recently, we have been learning about the Articles of Confederation and why they were replaced with the Constitution. Often times we forget about these fragile years in our country's history and think that George Washington became president right after the American Revolution. To help make this topic more memorable, each student took the role of a delegate and we held our own constitutional convention. Next comes the big step of getting it ratified with Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist.

News from the Counseling office

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month. Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from someone they are in a relationship with. Help spread awareness about dating abuse; everyone deserves to be healthy, safe and respected. Visit www.loveandlogic.com for more information.

Colleges will be visiting Ed-Co again starting in February. Upperclassmen should watch their emails for dates and times.

Sophomores: Career Learning Link through NICC is having a Parent night on Thursday, Feb 11th. This program exposes students to different career areas and sets them on the pathway to career and educational success beyond high school. Look for more information coming in the mail.

News from Superintendent Busch

Iowa Report Card

The Iowa Department of Education continues to role out information to evaluate and rate each public school. The website will provide Iowans a snapshot of how our public schools and school districts are performing in areas such as student attendance, graduation rates, student proficiency rates and growth toward college and career readiness.

The system meets a 2013 legislative requirement and aligns with Department efforts to provide Iowans easier access to educational statistics, to hold schools accountable for student progress, and to support local efforts to improve schools.

This website will enable users to look up this information for any public school or district, including ours. You may find the Iowa School Report Card at www.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard . It assigns schools one of the six ratings: Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority. Schools are grouped by comparable grade configurations (elementary, middle, and high schools)

The ratings are based on each school's performance over a two-year span on the following educational measures:

- **Proficiency:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or better on state reading and mathematics assessments.
- **College and Career-Ready Growth:** The percentage of students who are making the year-to-year growth necessary to be ready for college and career training by the end of high school.
- **Annual Expected Growth:** The percentage of students making a year of

academic growth in a year's time on state reading and mathematics assessments.

- **Closing Achievement Gap:** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Language Learners.
- **College and Career Readiness:** The percentage of students who score at or above a level of performance on reading and mathematics assessments that predicts a higher probability of postsecondary success. (Middle/high schools only.)
- **Graduation Rate:** The percentage of ninth-grade students who finished high school within five years. (High schools only.)
- **Attendance:** The average daily attendance of students, which is the total number of days students were enrolled and present divided by the total number of possible attendance days.
- **Staff Retention:** The percentage of teachers, school administrators and other licensed staff members who remained employed in a school over consecutive school years.

Iowa School Report Card scores and ratings are based on data reported by school districts for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. The scores and ratings, which will be updated annually, apply only to public schools – private districts do not receive ratings. No consequences or rewards are tied to the school ratings.

We believe this information can complement conversations in our community about our work to provide students a great education. However, student performance data only tell part of the story about how our schools are doing. To get the full story, I encourage you to stay connected

with our schools as much as possible. Thanks for all you do for our kids.

Your Partner in Education,

Rob Busch

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The school district does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, gender identity, religion, creed, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. Students are educated in programs that foster knowledge of, and respect

and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator. The Affirmative Action Coordinator for each building is the principal. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 800, Milwaukee, WI, 53203-2292, (414) 291-1111, or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0146, (515) 281-5294.