

Welcome Back to School!

High School News



News from Mrs. Wille

Here we are back at school and the year is off to a great start! The biggest change for me this year is that I have handed my 8th grade environmental science class off to Mr. Millis while I teach freshman physics for a year.

I'm by no means an expert in physics...it has been 15 years since I last taught it at West Delaware. I am however glad to step up to fill the spot for the year as we continue our search for a physics teacher. It will be a challenging year of learning for me, BUT I have a great group of freshmen to share this experience with me!

7th Grade Life Science

We are off and running with getting to know you activities, learning style inventories and room tours. This week we will dive into what the goal of science as well as the tools of a life scientist.

9th grade Physics

We have started the year defining physics and today we are diving into experimental design. Students will be designing an experiment to determine what makes the best paper towel.

10th grade Chemistry

I have a large group first semester which can be a challenge! We began the year defining chemistry and learning to classify matter to make predictions in behavior. We will be exploring lab procedures and abstract writing.

News from Mrs. Janssen



The band department is off to a great start this year!

Fifth and sixth grade students have begun sectional work during big band rehearsal time. We are using this time to learn to play as a small group while also reviewing notes and rhythms. The students will begin to work in a full band setting around mid-September.

Junior high students are starting to learn the school song and other pep tunes. You will see them for the first time during the homecoming parade on September 25.

High school students participated in a four-day band camp in early August where they learned how to march and play to two songs. You can see their hard work during halftime of the home football games! Home football games this year are: September 18 and 25, and October 9 and 23.

Band Fundraisers:

At every home football game we will be selling yard lines. You can purchase 1 yard line for \$5 or 5 yard lines for \$20. If the ball begins on your yard line at the beginning of the 4th quarter you will win \$50!

DO YOU WANT TO SPREAD ED-CO SCHOOL
SPIRIT
DURING HOMECOMING WEEK?

THE ED-CO HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND
CAN HELP YOU OUT!

WE WILL BE
STORMIN' BUSINESSES

THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21ST (BETWEEN
8:30 AND 9:00).

FOR JUST **\$20** YOU CAN SEND THE ED-CO BAND
TO YOUR
FAVORITE BUSINESS IN EDGEWOOD! WE WILL
PLAY THE
FIGHT SONG AND OTHER PEP TUNES.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT CONTACT
STEPHANIE JANSSEN AT 928-6412
OR FIND A BAND STUDENT AT THE HOME
FOOTBALL GAMES.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD
INSTRUMENT REPAIR AND
UNIFORM UPGRADES FOR THE ED-CO BAND
DEPARTMENT.

New High School Staff

Sara Dowell

My name is Sara Dowell, I am the new School Counselor at Edgewood-Colesburg Jr/Sr High! I graduated from University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and a minor in Family Studies. I then completed my Masters Degree in School Counseling at Western Illinois University. Over this time I have worked various jobs all including work with students of varying ages. I was a Paraprofessional for 2 years at a Middle School, followed by a Teaching Assistant at a Preschool/Daycare for another 2 years. Most recently I worked as a substitute teacher and a Behavioral Health Counselor at Horizons, which closed and became Life Connections. Counseling is my passion and I enjoy working with children of all ages.

I currently live in Dubuque, IA where I was born and raised. I enjoy spending time with my family

and attending my niece and nephews sporting events. My other hobbies include activities with my two dogs, which I call my children :) and my husband Zach. I am looking forward to becoming a member of this community, district, and school and helping students become successful in their education, career and personal/social goals.

Andrea Knipper

Hi, I'm Mrs. Knipper. I will be teaching Middle School Special Education. I live on a farm in rural Edgewood with my husband, Kevin. We have two sons, Karter (5 years) and Kiptyn (3 years) and a daughter, Adalee (5 months). I love being outdoors, camping, fitness and health related activities, coaching and spending time with family and friends.

I graduated from Loras College in 2009 with my Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education, Health and Coaching. I currently hold my K-8 Instructional Strategist I endorsement; however, I am working towards my 5-12 Instructional Strategist I endorsement as well as my Master's degree in Special Education through Morningside College.

I am not a completely new face to the Ed-Co district as I have substitute taught for several years and for the past two years, I have been coaching Jr. High Boys Track. I am looking forward to teaching at Ed-Co! Go Vikings!

Megan Johnson

Hello! My name is Megan Johnson and I teach Kindergarten-6th grade technology and Kindergarten-12th grade TAG. I am very excited to be a part of the Ed-Co team! I am a MFL Mar Mac graduate and am originally from Luana, but I now live in Edgewood. I attended Upper Iowa University in Fayette and have a degree in Elementary Education.

I enjoy being outside, reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and playing basketball. I am looking forward to having a great year!



Elementary News

News from Miss Prestemon

My students and I had a wonderful week in kindergarten! We are working hard on learning our class rules and procedures. Students learn a variety of things when they enter my classroom, including: how to hold a pencil, how to walk in line, how to sit at a desk, how to hold a lunchroom tray, how to sit at the carpet, how to raise our hand...the list goes on and on!

I have 19 energetic, fabulous students this year! I have 11 boys and 8 girls. This week, we studied shapes. To make this concept fun, students made their very own "shape pizza". Students cut out shapes resembling pizza toppings, and added them to their pizza (for example, we glued pepperonis onto our pizza when we studied circles).

In literacy, we read a variety of back-to-school books. A student favorite was Pete the Cat. We have also been working on how to write our first name with one uppercase letter and the rest lowercase. Students are used to writing their name in all capital letters from preschool, so this is a fun challenge for them. Students are learning

sounds from the Jolly Phonics program. So far, we have learned sounds for the letters S, A, T, and I. By the end of October, we will know 42 sounds!

I feel truly blessed and happy to be starting another school year at Ed-Co. It is a wonderful place to be. I enjoy teaching my students about our school and how we should hold ourselves to high expectations. Here's to a wonderful year filled with lots of learning!



News from Mrs. Pierschbacher

Elementary Music Notes

The elementary music classes are off to a great start! We have a lot of exciting things planned for the year. Here is a list of dates when music activities will be happening for elementary students.

5th Grade Arts Trek Concert—Thursday, October 1

All 5th grade students will travel to Dubuque for a field trip to hear the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. The theme for the concert will be American Composers and American History.

3rd Grade Arts Trek Concert—Wednesday, November 4

All 3rd grade students will travel to Dubuque for a field trip to hear the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. The theme for the concert will be the instruments and their families.

Elementary Winter Concert—Thursday December 10, 7:00 p.m.

This concert will be held in Colesburg.

Elementary Winter Band Concert—Monday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

This concert will be held in Edgewood. It will be for BAND STUDENTS ONLY.

6th-8th Grade Band Solo Festival—Monday, February 29

For BAND STUDENTS ONLY.

Elementary Band Concert—Friday, March 11, 2:15 p.m.

This concert will be held in Colesburg. It will be for BAND STUDENTS ONLY.

Elementary Spring Concert—Date TBA

This concert will be held in Colesburg.

5-12 Parade of Bands Concert—Tuesday May 10, 7:00 p.m.

This concert will be held in Edgewood.

It may seem early to think about some of these dates, but please mark them on the calendar now. They will be here before you know it!



News from Mrs. Lueken

We are off to a great start in fifth grade, welcoming 34 eager learners into our classrooms. The students are getting to know their new schedules including math with Mrs. Gaul, science with Mrs. Ramsey, and literacy and social studies with Mrs. Lueken. The students also do a rotation of P.E. with Mr. Zieser, music with Mrs. Pierschbacher, art with Mrs. George, and technology with Ms. Johnson. A.R. goals are

set, and thanks to Mrs. Meyer for informing us about the new Iowa Children's Choice books, everyone is doing what they can to get their hands on one of those books to start the year! It's awesome to see the students so excited about reading! Our literacy classes are reviewing the Daily 5: Read to Self, Read to Someone Listen to Reading, Word Work, and Work on Writing. These are areas where we will practice skills and strategies that we will be learning in guided reading groups! In social studies, the students are already beginning to develop questions to guide their first research project on the 50 states. We will be using many resources including books, e-books, and on Internet sites like www.50states.com. As you can tell, we are off to a busy and productive, fifth grade year!

News from Mrs. Mather

We are off to a great start in 6th grade. We have a super group of students this year! They have adjusted to 6th grade very well.

6th grade social studies students are reviewing map skills, latitude, and longitude. Then they will venture back into time to study the Old Stone Age. The social studies students will be taking more trips into the past to visit ancient civilizations of the eastern hemisphere.

6th grade math students are really working hard this year with their new Math teacher, Mrs. Gaul. We all are excited to see what happens next in 6th grade.

News from Mrs. Ramsey

Fifth and Sixth Grade Science

Fifth and sixth grade science students are already acting and thinking like scientists! Students started the year looking at a multitude of current events happening in science in our world. Science-related articles were found in our local newspaper and in area newspapers. There

are so many things happening in science that we learned about life, Earth, and physical science, the main areas into which science is categorized. Students will continue to look for what is happening in the world around them as we learned how science is almost everything!

Science classroom safety has also been an important topic to kick off our year in science as well as learning about the scientific method and how to perform experiments using questions, claims, and evidence. One of the best things about science can be seeing how it really works in our lives. We see a problem in our lives and use science to learn about it and to solve the problem. When our classroom warmed with the rising temperatures during the second week of school, students researched ways we could cool our room. With the help of coolers, ice, fans, and plumbing pipes along with our creative and critical thinking skills, our homemade air conditioners became reality and actually helped cool our room. We tried various experimental variables with our cooling systems and recorded data that we graphed to help us draw conclusions and to provide evidence to support our claims about what was happening in the experiments. Yes, science is all around us!



News from Mrs. Askeland

Our preschool program began on Thursday, August 27th. My class consists of 16 fun, energetic 4 and 5 year olds! The students will attend Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with the five year olds also attending Wednesdays.

We have been busy so far! Everyone is working hard on learning our school rules and procedures. We will soon begin learning the Pledge of Allegiance and the Viking Pledge.

The preschoolers have been loving the song "I'm rocking in my school shoes!" Pete the Cat books have been very popular the last few days! We have read Rocking in My School Shoes and will read I Love my White Shoes. We are making our first lift-the-flap class book about our own school shoes. The preschoolers are working on their cutting, gluing and writing skills during this project.

In our preschool classroom we use the project or study approach (info. can be found on Google if you enter "preschool project approach"). This approach is an in-depth investigation of a topic. The topic is chosen by the interest of the children, instead of being a pre-determined theme. This approach is more of a child-led learning experience. The length of these projects will depend on the interest of the children. Although the project is an important part of our curriculum, it is integrated into all other areas of our curriculum (Jolly Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears, etc.) Some of the projects we have done in the past include: Pumpkins, Sound, Boxes, Ramps. I enjoy this approach and think the children are more engaged and involved in their learning!!

If you are ever interested in volunteering in our classroom, please let me know!

News from Miss Glime

It's going to be a great year in the elementary Special Education classrooms!

We welcome back Barb Horstman, LuAnn Bolsinger, Susan Elledge, Sue Moore, Mary Ann Every, and Angel Kulper as paras in our classrooms. They work individually with students with special needs throughout the day, reinforcing skills being worked on in the general education classroom and the special education

classroom. They are a vital part of our program at Ed-Co Elementary!

We would like to say a special "Thank You" to Sandy Mather, who retired this summer from her position as a para at Ed-Co Elementary. We sure miss you!

We are getting students settled into classroom routines. IEP testing is being done to help us find where the students are functioning and how we can best assist them to meet their goals.



News from Mrs. Pickart

As I was getting ready to write an article for the September newsletter, this article came to my attention! Being a lifelong proponent of reading to children, this piece conveys the importance of reading in the home! Our lives are busier than ever, but finding that time to make reading important in your home will have lifelong benefits! Thanks for reading with your children!

Motivating Kids to Read: Getting Your Child to Love Reading

Helping your children enjoy reading is one of the most important things you can do as a parent and it's well worth the investment of your time and energy.

Kids will learn reading skills in school, but often they come to associate reading with work, not pleasure. As a result, they lose their desire to read. And it is that desire—the curiosity and interest—that is the cornerstone to using reading and related skills successfully.

By far the most effective way to encourage your children to love books and reading is to read

aloud to them, and the earlier you start, the better. Even a baby of a few months can see pictures, listen to your voice, and turn cardboard pages.

Make this time together a special time when you hold your kids and share the pleasure of a story without the distractions of TV or telephones. You may be surprised to find that a well-written children's book is often as big a delight to you as it is to the kids.

And don't stop taking the time to read aloud once your children have learned to read for themselves. At this stage, encourage them to read to you some of the time. This shared enjoyment will continue to strengthen your children's interest and appreciation.

Simply having books, magazines, and newspapers around your home will help children view them as part of daily life. And your example of reading frequently and enjoying it will reinforce that view.

While your children are still very small, it's a good idea to start a home library for them, even if it's just a shelf or two. Be sure to keep some books for little children to handle freely.

Include specially made, extra-durable books for infants, and pick paperbacks and plastic covers for kids who are older but still not quite ready for expensive hardbacks. Allowing little children to touch, smell, and even taste books will help them develop strong attachments.

How you handle books will eventually influence how your kids treat them. Children imitate, so if they see that you enjoy reading and treat books gently and with respect, it is likely that they will do the same.

When you read aloud together, choose books that you both like. If a book seems dull, put it

down and find one that is appealing. There are, however, so many children's books in print that making the best selections may seem a formidable task.

One approach is to look for award-winning books. There are two famous awards for children's literature made each year by the American Library Association that are good indicators of quality work: the Caldecott Medal for illustration and the Newbery Medal for writing. But these are given to only two of the approximately 2,500 new children's books published each year.

Fortunately, there is a lot of other good help available. For instance, there are lists of books recommended by the American Library Association and the Library of Congress, as well as some excellent books to guide parents in making selections.

The best help of all, though, is at your neighborhood library. If you are not familiar with the library, don't hesitate to ask for help. The children's librarian is trained to help you locate specific books, books that are good for reading aloud, and books on a particular subject recommended for a particular age group.

The library also has many book lists, including ones like those mentioned above and probably some published by the library itself.

In addition, your library will have several journals that regularly review children's books, including the Horn Book and Booklist. These will give you an idea of what's new and worth pursuing.

And there's nothing like just browsing through the many books available at your library until you find ones that appeal to you and your kids.

If your children are school-aged, keep in mind that the school library is an excellent source for a wide variety of materials and the school librarian is knowledgeable about children's literature. Encourage your kids to bring home books from their school library for pleasure as well as for their studies.

Author: Kathryn Perkinson
Source: U.S. Department of Education



News from Mrs. Tegeler & Mrs. Bonert

We are off to a great start in first grade with a successful Open House. Thank you to all the families who participated in that event. It is always so fun to see smiling faces as new students arrive into our rooms after summer break. Beginning the year is full of establishing routines and setting expectations for a wonderful school year together.

Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep on school nights. They have very busy days playing and working with their first grade friends. Please feel free to contact us for any reason, as communication is key to your child's success. We look forward to working with all of you.

News from Mrs. Putz

We are off to a great start in third grade. We would like to welcome Mrs. Brady to our class. We have 41 students in our two rooms working on their math and reading skills. In math we have worked on rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred and solving patterns.

Our third graders are doing some research on states. We read the book Flat Stanley and are doing a project with him. We want to see how many states he can go to. We are reading a story in our anthology called "Boom Town", and in this story a town begins to grow out west during the gold rush. We are learning about different pioneer jobs and how they were important to a town's survival. We will be taking a field trip to Plagman Barn in September to experience some of these pioneer jobs up close.

In science we are studying electricity and magnets and will be performing experiments.

News from Ms. Peyton

We are off to a great start in second grade this year! We have 37 students in our two rooms that are working on hard on many different skills. We continue this year with our new math series, Go Math. The students started off the year working on Even and Odd numbers and also Place Value. We encourage you to work with your student at home on flashcards and fact work. In science this year we will be doing a lot of hands on activities! The students have loved starting the year off working with Pebbles, Sand and Silt. As always, we ask our parents to continue working with your student on their spelling words daily and complete their STAR reading calendar 5 out of 7 nights a week! We are all excited for a GREAT 2nd grade year!

News from Mrs. Trenkamp

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and am ready for a great school year! Welcome to the new students and I look forward to getting to know all the new families.

As a school counselor my goal is to help every student be the best student they can be. This includes working directly with students as well as collaborating with staff and families. Please

contact me anytime during the school year if I can be of help to your child.

Start your school year off on the right foot: New Study Skills Ideas! Set up a homework space, but study in lots of places. Have a place for books and supplies, but it is not always important to study in that space. Research is showing that kids learn better when they study in multiple places. Some kids may like to do math in one area and social studies in another. That is okay, let them do it.

Distractibility is another topic that research has shown has changed. A bit of distraction helps the brain to focus. That is why some kids study better with music on. Having the TV on while studying is still a no no! Some kids may also want to do homework where it is completely quiet and that is okay also. Do whatever works.

Mentioning the TV, please limit the amount of viewing time your child has every day. Use that time to read instead!

Have a great year and contact me at any time with your concerns! Karla Trenkamp

New Elementary Staff

Karen George

I'm really excited about being back at Ed-Co Elementary School in Colesburg. I began my teaching experience here in 1998 teaching a multi-age classroom. I later switched to elementary Art in 1999 and was allowed to create a Literature based art program for Kindergarten through 6th grade. I later changed course and moved to Maquoketa Valley District where I taught first grade for 14 years. I'm so glad to be teaching my dream job once again at Ed-Co: showing students how Art is a universal language for all of us and how it can be tied to all parts of our curriculum.

My husband Bill and I reside in Dyersville with our wiener dog, Sassy. We have a blended family and between us we have eight grandchildren with one on the way in October. For fun we play music with friends and like to hang out on the Mississippi River. We are also involved with the Grand Opera House in Dubuque and events at the Lennox College Museum in Hopkinton.

Megan Johnson

Hello! My name is Megan Johnson and I teach Kindergarten-6th grade technology and Kindergarten-12th grade TAG. I am very excited to be a part of the Ed-Co team! I am a MFL Mar Mac graduate and am originally from Luana, but I now live in Edgewood. I attended Upper Iowa University in Fayette and have a degree in Elementary Education.

I enjoy being outside, reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and playing basketball. I am looking forward to having a great year!



District News

From Superintendent Rob Busch

As we begin a new school year, educators recognize that in order to ensure all students can achieve their highest potential we must have a productive partnership between schools, families, and community. We all need to be reminded how significant our roles are and how important we are and will be to the students. We

are all teachers and mentors for our future leaders. Everyone has an important role.

A new program to become involved in during the 2015-16 is mentoring students. In as little as 4 to 5 hours a week, you can have a great effect on the future. Visit www.helpingservices.org/mentoring to download an application to start the process.

Teachers continue to enhance their skills through professional learning communities. Four questions that focus our professional development and are good teaching practices are the following:

- 1) What is expectation? Is it clear to students and challenging enough?
- 2) How will we know when they have learned it? (Formative Assessment)
- 3) How will we respond when they do not know it? (Intervention)
- 4) How will we respond when they already know it? (Differentiation)

To increase student skills in science, technology, engineering and math, many school districts are implementing new programs. The STEM Scale Up program was awarded to the Ed-Co Elementary for 2015-16. ST Math is a uniquely visual, non-language based approach to teaching math. The game-based instructional software is a whole class instructional supplement designed to boost math comprehension and proficiency through visual learning. The software games help students make connections between visual representations from ST Math and symbolic representations found in the Iowa Core math classroom instruction making it an effective blended learning math solution for classrooms. ST Math software, comprised of thousands of games, allows students to engage in a personalized, self-paced learning path through Iowa Core-aligned math objectives. Information about ST Math is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VLje8QRrwg> and <http://mindresearch.org>

Ed-Co is also implementing the Teacher Leadership System through instructional coaches, lead teachers and mentor teachers. These teachers will work with others to improve methods and curriculum.

Unlike many districts across the state, there is a contested race for the school board election. Four candidates are vying for two open spots on the Edgewood-Colesburg CSD Board of Directors. The individuals vying for the spots are Randy Mescher, Ken Faust, Travis Gudenkauf and Jeff Lincoln. Please get out and vote at the September 8th school board election. A forum was held on August 30th for candidates to express their views. It can be viewed at <https://thecube.com/e/525820>.

There are some changes with the teaching staff. Diane Meyer will assume the part-time librarian responsibilities along with implementing a new math program. Laura Brady will move from Title I to third grade. Karen George returns to the elementary art room. New faces in teaching roles in the district include Andrea Knipper, Sara Dowell, and Megan Johnson.

As always, I ask that you please become involved with the educational opportunities for our young people and assist us in making Edgewood-Colesburg the best school in the State of Iowa. I thank you for taking the time to read these articles as we proceed through a very exciting 2015-2016 school year.

COURTESY AT EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS

We are looking forward to excellent extra-curricular events at Edgewood-Colesburg. We

share the responsibility for appropriate behavior at the activities. For the safety of all spectators and support of the participants, the following are Ed-Co's expectations.

1. Be respectful and quiet during the national anthem. Hold your right hand over your heart.
2. Watch the game.
3. Visit with your friends.
4. Demonstrate good sportsmanship, be respectful and courteous to others; Support the teams, cheer and clap.
5. Be a positive credit to your family, school and community.
6. Leave your seat only between quarters, at half time and between games.



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.