



# LEARNING & SUCCESS FOR ALL

## WEATHER CANCELLATIONS & DELAYS:

Be sure to update your contact information in Infinite Campus to receive weather-related school phone messages and texts. If we start late on a Wednesday, we **WILL NOT** dismiss one hour early.

## HUMBOLDT Community School District

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@humboldt\_csd

## Message from Superintendent Jim Murray



Another year is almost “in the books.” Yes, school pun intended:) My favorite day of the year is fast approaching, Graduation! It is the day to celebrate our purpose and success. We want “Learning and Success for All,” meaning students will graduate and leave prepared for their lives after high school. I am proud to shake the hand of the seniors, and I am appreciative of the teamwork that went into the accomplishment. Bus drives, food service workers, paraeducators, secretaries, custodians, teachers, and administrators all played an essential role in the success of each student. We can also celebrate that we have two outstanding school boards for Humboldt and Twin Rivers that support our staff and provide the resources needed.

Preparations are already underway for next year. Teacher leaders and administrators are setting goals and priorities for bettering our service to all. Meeting the mental health needs of all students continues to be our greatest challenge and focus for next year. Providing engaging classroom instruction is another. The saying, “Instruction and Student Behavior are married forever,” means that engaging instruction leads to less challenging student behavior.

The NFL held its annual draft at the end of April. It has become overhyped, but I enjoy seeing where players from our state colleges end up. I also watch closely to see how the Vikings and Chiefs will bring in players to better their teams. In a sense, we are like that in schools. The timing is the same: we hire in the spring and start a new year in the fall. The recently hired administrators and teachers have training and experiences that will strengthen our school team and improve students’ educational experience. There is a lot to be excited about in the district, and I am fortunate to be a part of it.

Thank you all for supporting our school this year. It continues to be my pleasure to serve you.

*Jim Murray*

### “The Real Deal”

I continue to get great feedback from this portion of the newsletter. Our community members don’t want to hear that everything is well; they know education is challenging.

- School safety continues to dominate the media and is at the forefront of our work. This summer, we are adding key card security and tightening public and student access to certain areas of the buildings and the entrances and exits. We are also adding more cameras, improving intercom systems, and tightening visitor procedures. The Humboldt School Board recently approved constructing a new, secure front entry to Humboldt High School. We also purchase software that monitors student web searches and school emails. The district is adding more counseling at the middle school and high school to meet the mental health needs of our students.
- Like many local businesses, the hiring pools are tiny. We have raised starting wages to a competitive \$15 per hour starting pay for cooks, associates, and custodians. Kitchen Managers start at \$20 per hour. If these wages can’t attract employees, we’ll have to explore our service model to students, especially those in special education. The district must also consider our food service procedures and staff utilization.
- The hiring pools are limited. We are short a high school science teacher, a middle school special education teacher, special education associates, and one preschool teacher. We may not be able to staff these positions for next year. Our staff members continually exhibit great teamwork, but being short-staffed makes everyone’s jobs more difficult.



### Ryan Fedders Taft Elementary Principal

It is hard to believe that May is already here! With the end of the school year comes hiring for open positions in the building. We had some movement around our building with Amanda Altman transferring from second to first grade and Alex Jenness transferring from first to fourth grade. We are also excited to share three new additions to our building for the 23-24 school year. Andrea Paterson will be joining our first grade team after teaching Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten at Mease for the last few years. Lauren Odland will be joining our second grade team; she graduates from Iowa State this month and graduated high school from Clarion. Emilee Morannville will be teaching fourth grade next year after previously teaching fourth grade at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn. We are excited for our new staff to join us in the fall!

Early in the school year, I reported that we had begun some work on our report cards with the main goal being to improve communication with our families. Our team has met monthly for a few hours and has recently met for a few half days to finalize more of this work. A big thank you goes out to this team; they have aligned our report card to priority standards that teams identified early in the year, along with creating consistent behavior expectations for Kindergarten through 4th grade. They have also spent a great deal

of time working to ensure vertical alignment of skills as students progress from grade to grade. There is still some work to finish on these in the month of May; we are hopeful to have more information to share out in the fall. Our staff is looking forward to clarifying the grading/reporting process.

I hope that you all have a great summer coming up! Our summer school program will be up and running in June, and the summer meals program will be starting in June as well. The custodial crews will also be hard at work preparing buildings for the fall. It will be a busy summer for some of our staff; thanks in advance to them for all of their hard work in preparation for next year!