

Travis Sprague
Humboldt High School Principal

As the leaves begin to fall and the holiday season approaches, I am proud to report success at Humboldt High School. This success comes in many forms and is as simple as a student or staff member smiling or greeting in the hallway. I have observed students highly engaged in the classroom, which has led to a 40% reduction in the failure rate over the past five weeks. Credit goes to our students and staff who are committed to improving learning outcomes for all.

These learning outcomes are linked to our professional development. As a staff, we continually review our attendance data, student grades, assessment scores, and lesson plans to see where students are excelling and where they need support. We work in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to accomplish our goals. At the high school, we work in two PLC groups: grade-level and content-specific. Our grade-level PLCs seek to support individual students who are struggling, while our content-specific PLCs look at where we can improve instruction.

I want to thank our community members who supported our football, volleyball, cross country, cheer, dance, marching band, and musical student-athletes and performers during this fall

season. Many of you braved inclement weather to support these Wildcats, and I can tell you that our students notice and appreciate you. Our students achieve at a high level not only on the field, court, course, and stage but also in the classroom. Your support goes a long way in terms of their academic achievements as well.

There are always challenges that we face but this time of year we see an increase in absences due to colds and the flu. Please continue to practice those good habits to reduce the likelihood of illness but if illness does occur please remember to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

We are excited to see our building projects advance and are nearing the opening of our new Wildcat Athletic Facility. On a personal note, each day I look at how the new entrance and front offices are progressing.



Ryan Fedders
Taft Elementary Principal

It's hard to believe we are already nearing Thanksgiving break and a busy winter season! Our year continues to fly by. We appreciated meeting with all of our parents at conferences. Continuing

our partnership with families and keeping lines of communication open is one of the most important things we can do to benefit our students! We also had our Fall Parties on November 3rd; each grade did something a little bit different, ranging from rotations to learning about bats, a variety of games played, or an apple cider social. It was a fun afternoon had by all! We want to extend a huge thank you to two of our Taft parents, Clint Hartmann and Brad Brodale, for the time and resources they spent this day giving hayrack rides to each student at Taft. It was definitely a memorable experience for all of our kids!

One of our building goals that we spent time on in August/September was implementing morning meetings in each of our classrooms. We aimed to have 100% of our general education classrooms implement morning meetings following the learned framework 4 of 5 days per week. With our first building-level check-in in October, along with walkthroughs by our elementary principals/instructional coaches, we were meeting this goal. Each classroom reported completing these at least 4 of 5 days per week, with numerous classrooms implementing all 5. The goal moving forward is to sustain and build upon this success. With our leadership team's direction, we have adjusted what the framework looks like/the time spent on each component as the year has progressed. We've seen this positively impact our building-level behavior overall. At the end of October 2022 (last year) we had over 40 major referrals (office-handled behaviors.) At the end of October this school year, we had only seen 21 major referrals. Some of this change in data can be attributed to the hard work our teachers put in on a daily basis!

The next few months seem to fly by every year. I'm looking forward to continuing our PLC work around our academic building goals into December/January, along with some upcoming events at Taft. One of these will be heading to the Humota Theater with students to see a movie before Winter Break. Thanks to PATHs for helping to support and offer this experience for our students!

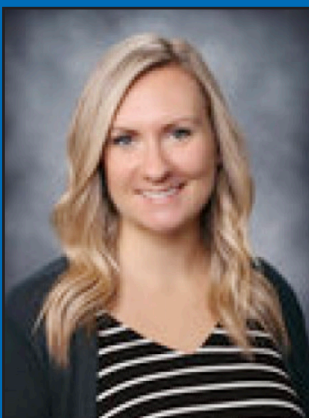
Cassie Smith
Middle School Principal



During a recent professional development meeting, I shared specific data from our school report card. In that report card, our middle school showed growth in several different areas. One of the things that we emphasized last year with staff and students was being clear with expectations around the school building. As a middle school, we use PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) to explicitly teach and reinforce the positive behaviors we expect from our students. We refer to the expectations often and provide boosters (reteaching) when needed.

Since implementing PBIS at the middle school in January 2022, we have noticed a decrease in our office referrals, a decrease in major behaviors, and an increase in students' understanding and awareness of expectations in the building. Do we still have areas to work on and improve? Always! But it was great to see that this specific data where students know and understand expectations came through in the school report card! This information tells us as a staff that our consistency and clear expectations help our students to be more successful in a variety of settings around the school. Research has shown over the years that students perform better when they have predictable routines and clear, consistent expectations. So far, PBIS has proven to be a strong program for us and has helped our staff look for and identify the positive behaviors of our students. Our students have really stepped up in meeting those expectations! I appreciate all the support we have received from parents, and I'm proud of the Wildcat Pride our students are demonstrating in the classrooms and hallways.

As we near the holiday season, I just want to wish you and your family a safe and relaxing season with all the joys that the new year brings.



Jenna Haselhuhn
Mease Elementary Principal
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Wow! What a great school year we have had so far. It's hard to believe we are already into November. The kindergarten and Title reading teachers have been busy grouping and regrouping students based on their reading skills. This is a tedious process, but it ensures we are getting each student those targeted reading skills they need to be successful. Once a student shows progress and mastery in the skill, they are moved onto another group to work on a different intervention. This is part of our MTSS process, and our teachers have done a great job moving kids and getting them where they need to be. I have been so impressed with how well our kindergarten and Title teachers work together to ensure all students are successful in reading. Kindergarten is unique in the fact that we get to teach kids how to read, a skill they will use their whole lives. We appreciate all the parents and guardians to take the time to read with their students at home.

Our district instructional coaches have been working hard to learn about a new coaching model. The New Teacher Center is a student-centered model, but it also ensures coaches connect with teachers and offer positive and reflective feedback that they can take back to their classroom. Instructional Coaches are an essential part of supporting students and teachers in our district, and we are very fortunate to have the coaches we do in each building.

We had a lot of fun at our fall parties. Kindergarten students were able to rotate between classrooms and do various crafts. It's great for them to experience a different classroom and teacher while enjoying their classmates. Thank you to Clint Hartmann and Brad Brodale for coming and doing our hayrack rides. It is a fun tradition that our students look forward to, and we even had great weather!

Mark Wenzel
Twin Rivers Elementary Principal



Hello Twin Rivers and Humboldt Communities,

As we reflect on the activities and accomplishments since the beginning of the school year, it's clear that the dedication and hard work of our teachers and students have truly paid off. The cultural routines and classroom expectations we established have not only shaped our academic landscape but have fostered an environment where care and concern thrive.

Walking through our halls, it's heartening to witness the genuine acts of kindness between students—helping one another, offering support, and creating a community that goes beyond textbooks and tests. This positive shift is reflected not only in the reduced number of office referrals but also in the smiles that light up our school.

I'm also happy to share some good news—the School Performance Profiles have been released, and Twin Rivers School has moved up from “acceptable” to “commendable.” While we recognize this as just one data point in our evaluation process, it is satisfying to see our progress manifest on the performance scale. We eagerly anticipate next year's report, setting our sights on the categories of “exceptional” and “high-performing.”

As we dive into the festive season, I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude. To all the parents, community members, partners, law enforcement, and businesses that have supported us—your contributions have made an immeasurable impact. We appreciate your support more than words can convey.

With the annual winter break on the horizon, I encourage each of you to take time to focus on what truly matters—the people around you. Amid the holiday hustle and bustle, find moments to listen, share stories, and reflect on the conclusion of another calendar year. Let's make space for creating new memories and savoring good food together.

It's also essential to acknowledge that the holiday season can be particularly challenging for those who have lost someone dear to them this year. To those facing difficulty during this time, please know that our hearts go out to you, and you are not alone. You are loved, and we, as a school community, stand with you in solidarity.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, connection, and the spirit of togetherness.

Warm regards,