



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.

Message from Superintendent Jim Murray



It's been an ideal winter! We've had only two snow days this year. I can't express how much that diminishes the stress I feel throughout the winter season and the driving conditions. We recently purchased some new snow removal equipment, and that must have put the "jinx" on, as we've barely used it. I'm ok with that. I have recently had an opportunity to spend more personal time with our high school students, whether related to their advocacy for high school course offerings, lunch, board game club, or robotics. I can't express how impressed I am with the student's intelligence, integrity, and personable skills. Too often, we hear "kids these days" in a negative way. I'm here to attest that we have an impressive group of high school students. It continues to be my pleasure to serve the district. I welcome anyone to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Jim Murray, Superintendent

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.

- This is a tough time of year for school districts. We forecast next year's budget while proposing a staffing plan. Like our community members, we are experiencing the same economy where everything seems much more expensive. Like our community members, there are budget limits. We must make tough decisions about how much staff we have and the programs we can offer. Fortunately, we have excellent professional support district budgeting, and a school board prioritizes fiscally responsible decisions.
- Hopefully, by the time you read this, I'll have some legislative decisions about State Supplemental Aid and SSA. The Governor proposed a 2.5% increase. It could be 3%. Both aren't enough to match our increased expenses, and we must make difficult staffing decisions by utilizing attrition. We will do our best to reassign responsibilities and not replace those leaving the district. That's only sometimes possible, but attrition always has to be at least considered.
- Preschool and Kindergarten Roundups are soon. I'm excited to hear about the young ones who will begin their school career while hoping for solid enrollment numbers.

HUMBOLDT Community School District

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Creighton Jenness

Director of Special Education & Middle School Assistant Principal

There are a ton of great things going on at Humboldt Middle School! We just had our 5th/6th grade fun night, and the students seemed to all have a blast! The 7th/8th-grade dance was a hit; from everything I heard, the students also had a great time. On the school side, we are looking at some of our test scores (FAST), and our students are showing significant growth across math and reading. We are looking at those scores to help determine some of our next steps to help these students grow in their skills.

We are already looking at our class schedules for next year and have some changes that will significantly impact our students. This year, we added a "Math Lab" class for students needing extra math help. When looking at the data from Math Lab, we had one grade that had their students grow a year's growth in just one semester! We are adding a "Literacy Lab" to the schedule for next year so that we can help our students who need extra help with their Literacy skills. We're hoping to catch up all of the students who are struggling academically to where they need to be.

One area that is slipping is the behaviors. More students are coming to the office now than earlier in the year for behavioral concerns. Although these have been higher than previous numbers this year, it is typical for this to happen with the "winter slide" of behaviors. I'm optimistic that we will have fewer behaviors once the weather stays warmer.



Preschool Roundup is March 12th Drop in anytime between 4:30- 6:30 (Weather Make-Up Date: March 26th)

Kindergarten Roundup is March 8th. There will be an AM and PM session. (Weather Make-Up Date: March 15th)

Please feel free to contact Principal Jenna Haselhuhn at Jhaselhuhn@humboldt.k12.ia.us or Lacey Casady, Mease Secretary at lcasady@humboldt.k12.ia.us OR reach us by phone at (515) 332-3578.



Jessica Goodenow

Assistant High School Principal Director of Safety and Mental Health

At Humboldt High School, we are consistently aligning our daily operations to support building and district-level goal areas. One goal is to better support our students receiving special education resources and English language learners. In doing this, we have built a team of high-quality para-educators who work closely with students and staff. Their job is tough and often goes unnoticed. Katie Allison, Jen Gardewine, Jackie Bell, Jen Larson, Shelley Jensen, Becca Williams, Patty Habben, Abbie Milledge, and Vanesa Wirtz work with our high schoolers. On a given day, you will see them taking notes in Physics, giving coaching to students making drinks at the Cat Cafe, or meeting with teachers to receive instructions for test proctoring. They are wonderful people and we are grateful for their efforts!

We celebrated our school counselors the week of February 5th. Emily Lane and Megan Douglas have vital roles that give students access to credits, mental health support, and trusted accountability. In the post-pandemic world, adolescents are experiencing a larger amount of toxic stress that can lead to depression, anxiety, and alarming rates of suicidal ideation. No longer can we expect students to "deal with it." At HHS, we share with students that if they "see something, say something." Weekly, the counselors and I will meet to discuss student support, how to get students what they need, and progress made toward attendance.

During this meeting, we will discuss our ALPHA program which is led by Kristen Fisher. Students accepted into ALPHA show great success in credit acquisition in order to graduate on time (or early!).

Each month in this new role brings opportunities for learning and areas I can improve upon. Our freshmen class is doing well on good habits with attendance. I need to hold more sophomores and juniors accountable which is challenging. I am learning more about senioritis (defined as the inability for 17-19 year olds to see the merit in ending well second semester of their senior year), how students are preparing for prom (promposals are elaborate!) and food preferences at lunch (baked potato bar is a win!). It is a joy to be a Wildcat and I am thankful for all the support from the community!