



## Travis Sprague Humboldt High School Principal

We are well into 2nd semester with a long stretch of beautiful weather. In my previous newsletters, I promised the community an update on our building goal. Through first semester, we have made significant progress in our “formula” goal. Our formula goal is to increase attendance + decrease failure rate = increased graduation rate. In terms of attendance, our seniors and freshmen made the goal, and the high school fell just short of our 93.5% overall attendance goal with an attendance rate of 93.07%. Our failure rate decreased significantly, and the high school is well below its average failure rate. Our seniors made the goal of a student failure rate of less than 10%. Overall, the high school had a 14.63% failure rate. Our graduation rate goal is 96%. We are meeting that goal, with over 96% of our seniors on track for graduation. We have made progress, which is a credit to our students, their families, and Humboldt High School teachers. However, we continue to strive to meet our ambitious goals.

Our building leadership is working on an implementation plan for MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support). Tier I is universal instruction that all students in the class receive. Our goal is that at least 80% of students succeed with Tier I support. Tier II is small-group instruction focused on targeted learning. Our goal is that under 15% of students need this level of academic intervention. Finally, Tier III is one-on-one learner support. Our goal is that fewer than 5% of students need this intensive support.

The winter is always a busy time for extracurricular activities. Whether it is a fine arts performance, a wrestling match, a basketball game, a speech competition, or many other events, our student-athletes and performers put their talents on display nightly and continually dazzle the audience and fans with their skill and ability. I want to thank them for the entertainment they provide and the dedication they exhibit. I also want to thank their coaches and sponsors for the countless hours they devote to these young men and women.

The front office construction has progressed at a rapid pace. At the time of writing this newsletter, windows are in, the drywall is up, electrical and ductwork are being completed, and the doors have gone in. It is certainly an exciting time to be at Humboldt High School.



## Ryan Fedders Taft Elementary Principal

Our school year continues to fly by! During January, Mease and Taft wrapped up their midyear screening assessments, and there was a lot of great growth to celebrate! Overall, our

reading proficiency grew from 66% in the fall to 74% of K-4 students in the winter testing period. In math, our proficiency went from 74% to 79% in the winter. The target percentage for a healthy “system” is to be close to the 80% proficiency range, so we feel good about where we are at in math, and we feel like we’ve made a lot of gains in getting closer to this number in reading. One of the building goals our team set last summer was to have 100% of students either meet the FAST Benchmark or show growth that was closing the achievement gap (expected growth + at least 1 more) in reading. From Fall to Winter, over 86% of our students met this goal! It is a great celebration, but our staff is already hard at work to continue to improve upon these scores.

A challenge we saw coming back in January was simply settling into a routine. Mother Nature didn’t want to cooperate very well with us; we had a few no-school days and quite a few late starts/early outs immediately after winter break. For elementary students, this made getting back into consistent routines difficult, and when you added it to our testing window/schedule, things really got thrown off. Thanks to our teachers and students for bearing with these few weeks and making the best of things. We have welcomed a consistent and “normal” schedule over the last few weeks!

After having a taste of the spring weather, I really began to look towards some of our upcoming events. Field trips will begin to kick into gear once Spring arrives, and multiple grades have some presentations scheduled from different organizations, like the Science Center. It is a great opportunity to add some of these experiences to our educational program, especially after students have worked hard all year!

## Mark Wenzel Twin Rivers Elementary Principal

Hello Twin Rivers and Humboldt Communities,

At Twin Rivers, we recently held our SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) meeting with staff, parents, and community members. Mrs. Chesler and Mrs. Fannon presented student proficiency data and our goals for continued improvement. I was able to share the progress we have made toward last year’s suggestions for school improvement. This meeting is a good opportunity for us to collaborate and connect on the direction of our progress. Our students have had opportunities to participate in hands-on learning activities such as visiting the Nature Center in Algona and the Post Office in Bode. They participated in Valentine’s Day celebrations, as well as made cards for Long Term Care and Assisted Living Residents. The students earned time to play board games as a PBIS reward for showing positive behavior. The teachers are currently preparing for the ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress). This requires them to complete trainings and participate in practice tests with the students. We are excited to be finishing up school conferences. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with parents and work together toward student progress. We are looking forward to the spring weather, getting outside, and, as always, making new memories. Thank you for your continued support, and let’s finish the year strong. Go Wildcats!



## Cassie Smith Middle School Principal

February seems like just the middle of the school year. In reality, it is a very busy time as we are already starting to plan and think about the 24-25 school

year. Our teams have been discussing how we are meeting our building goals for this year and creating goals to work toward for next year. It is a team effort with a lot of honest conversations and hard work!!

On Friday, March 15, our students will spend the morning volunteering and giving back to those in need through Meals from the Heartland. Our students will work in teams of 8-10 to package meals. These meals help those in need right here in our Humboldt community, as well as provide meals in countries all over the world. Our students have been raising funds all year to help pay for the meals we package. It is always great to see our students working together for a good cause.

The other major task we will work on in March is the Iowa State Assessments of Student Progress (ISASP). The ISASP tests measure our student’s understanding of reading, writing, math, and science based on what they have learned over the course of the past year. Our goal is for our students to perform at their best and demonstrate growth in their learning from one year to the next. The results of these assessments help our staff to look at our current instructional practices and curriculum to ensure we are providing the best instruction to our students. We also look at the areas we are doing well and what areas we need to improve in order to better serve our students. We can’t wait to see their hard work in the classroom shine through on these assessments. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.



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

January and February flew by this year. Having such nice weather for students to have outdoor recess has been great. Fewer snow days mean consistency, and routines stay in place, which always helps this time of year! Winter testing is over, and our students showed us what they can do. In kindergarten, over 80% of our students scored proficient in both math and reading. These scores show how hard our teachers and students work every day. Not to mention, all the growth across other grade levels has been incredible to see.

We are already starting to think about next year! On March 8th, we will be having a kindergarten round-up. We will have students who will be in kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year come in and meet teachers. They will spend half the day rotating between stations and seeing what kindergarten is all about. We will host our preschool open house on March 12th from 4:30 to 6:30. Parents are welcome to come into Mease and meet our preschool teachers and see the classrooms. It is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and get more information about our kindergarten and preschool programs!

High school and middle school teachers spent one of our Wednesday’s professional development sessions in content groups across grade levels. Having vertical alignment meetings is a great way to ensure teachers collaborate on what students can do by the next grade level. I was able to join the math group and was pleased to hear the conversations they were having about the new math curriculum. Not every curriculum is perfect, but our teachers continue to utilize it as a road map of what they want students to know and be able to do. We look forward to seeing the growth from a consistent K-12 math curriculum in the coming years.