



Travis Sprague
Humboldt High School Principal

The 2024-2025 school year is rapidly approaching, and we are excited to welcome all our high school students on Friday, August 23. Work on the high school has been at a fever pitch since the 2023-2024 school year ended in May. Our north and south hallways are dramatically brighter and inviting with new ceilings, lighting, and paint. We have updated our FCS room with new paint on our kitchen cabinets and walls and new kitchen countertops. Within one month, our media center will be modernized with new ceilings, carpet, paint, and furniture. Finally, our new front office will be opened soon. Not only will this increase our safety and security, but our current office will provide additional learning spaces for our students and staff. I cannot thank all of those involved in these projects enough, including our construction workers, electricians, plumbers/HVAC technicians, painters, custodians, maintenance, and many more.

The updates to our building reflect our amazing students and staff.

Speaking of staff, the high school welcomes one new teacher to our Wildcat family, Ms. Halsrud. She will serve in our English Department and also teach in the middle school. In addition, we are proud to offer six new high school courses to better serve our students during our first semester. The courses are Pre-Algebra, Sports Medicine II, Advanced Chemistry, and three Project Lead the Way courses: Civil Engineering & Architecture, Human Body Systems, and Medical Interventions. The wide range of options and opportunities seek to support whatever career path or post-graduation dreams our students have.

Continuing our push to ensure a safe and secure environment, all visitors will need to enter the high school through our new front office main entrance. Our students will also be routed to this entrance during our school day. Supporting safety throughout the campus remains a main focus of ours.

Through teamwork and collaboration, our staff has set its sights on improving classroom accommodations and supporting all learners, but especially our special education and English language learners. This focus will be reflected throughout the year in our professional development, as will answering the question, "How will we respond when students don't learn a concept?". By improving our practices and better serving our students and families, we will help ensure Learning and Success for All.

Please contact me with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or positive news to share. Your input is welcomed and valued and is an integral part of continuous improvement at Humboldt High School. Feel free to call me at 515-332-1430 or email me at tsprague@humboldt.k12.ia.us.



Jessica Goodenow
Assistant High School Principal Director of Safety and Mental Health

As our summer in Humboldt has been newsworthy, the high school has been flushed with activity to amaze staff, students, and families for the 2024-25 school year. Not only do we have upgrades to our building through the front office and the media center, but are also planning and preparing for even better systems relating to student safety on our campus. Several years ago, we had an upgrade to our west parking lot. It's a wonderful space for our students to park. This upcoming year, we will use zones for parking. This will ensure that seniors get preferential walk time to the new front entrance when utilizing open campus. All other students will have staggered zones. It is my hope that students will not hold tightly to "their spot," but realize the

overall goal is to give students that have privileges better access to safe entering and exiting of the building.

Getting to know students on a first name basis is another priority of mine. With one year under my belt, I look forward to the relationships I've built with our incoming sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The incoming freshmen will take me some time to get to know, but I look forward to how they will enhance our Wildcat family. It is a joy to see all of our students contributing to Humboldt County's job force, fair, and other school-sponsored activities this summer. This is a direct reflection of strong expectations from their families and pivotal people (including teachers!) in their lives. That is why attendance and participation during the school year is vital to future career readiness.

Our district crisis team will continue to meet and discuss proactive solutions to safety topics affecting each building. All of our staff will have an upgraded app on their phones called E3. This app is more user-friendly, allows administrators to control their staff list (including substitute teachers!), and has interactive maps to help with safe evacuation routes. We will also have all staff trained on "Stop the Bleed." Traumatic injuries can happen anywhere. The goal of the training is for staff to be able to respond quickly and effectively to stop life-threatening bleeding. Safety continues to be our top priority district-wide.

I am here to serve you and welcome your questions either in person (high school office), on the phone (515-332-1430), or via email (jgoodenow@humboldt.k12.ia.us). Most days, you can stop in without an appointment and I will be able to accommodate. Thank you for your support and Go Cats!



Creighton Jenness
Director of Special Education & Middle School Assistant Principal

We're off and ready for the 2024 - 2025 School Year! I'm excited to welcome back all the returning students, along with the new ones, to the Middle School. One of my favorite things is catching up with the students and seeing how their summer was. I know some students wish they were still on summer vacation, and others wish they could stay in school throughout the summer. These conversations bring forth an array of emotions for the students and me. As the Assistant Principal at the Middle School, I get to work with students, families, and staff regularly. When I get to know these students' stories, it helps me prioritize how best to help them. One of our goals is to keep the school safe and secure. This includes physically, mentally and emotionally. If you know any Middle School kiddo, you probably know that this is a tall task...but a very important

one. We are working on students bringing forth situations that happen in school and cause any challenges for them while they are in school. When situations happen at school, we look into what is reported by talking to witnesses and video footage, if possible. If your student, or one that you know, brings up concerns about a situation that has happened in school, please contact the school right away, so that we can work together to make the school the safest place possible.

It's important to keep everyone informed about the changes that have come down from legislation. As an Administration Team, we've worked hard to align with these changes as much as possible. One significant change is in the area of attendance. We're now looking at the percentage of school a student misses per grading term. The law has more narrowly defined which days of absence from school we can 'excuse' from going towards the percentages of absenteeism.

Cassie Smith
Middle School Principal



The rooms have been cleaned, the floors waxed, and the schedules adjusted just in time for our students to return on August 23. While we cherish the more relaxed days of summer, the building can feel a bit empty. We are eagerly awaiting the return of our staff and students in August! We will be hosting Welcome Back conferences for our students and their families on August 21 & 22, and we can't wait to see you! Watch your inbox for links to sign up!

We are thrilled to welcome a few new faces to our building, along with some familiar ones stepping into new roles. Regardless of the change, we are excited to have a fantastic staff who will continue to work diligently to meet the needs of each of our students throughout the year. We are eager to grow in our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), incorporating new strategies and ideas into our toolbox, with the aim of providing even more differentiated and engaging instruction to meet our students' learning needs.

We are unwavering in our commitment to student safety and positive behaviors. We will continue to emphasize these through the use of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) by teaching expectations in all areas of the building. This will not only increase appropriate behaviors but also create a safe and welcoming environment for our students. When our students demonstrate those appropriate behaviors, they earn CATS cards, which they can turn in for a variety of prizes and incentives throughout the year!

One of my goals this year is to provide more opportunities for parents/guardians to stay connected with their students and our school through different communication methods. Follow us on Facebook (Humboldt Middle School) for updates. We have also added a Facebook page for our EL families (Humboldt Schools EL Support) where you can find a variety of resources and links. If you have ideas or suggestions, I welcome your input. You can reach me at 515-332-2812. I hope you had a great summer. I know I did, and now I can't wait for another great school year to start!



Ryan Fedders
Taft Elementary Principal

Welcome back to another great school year, Wildcat Families! This summer has been a busy one at Taft, with many great projects going on. Our addition of a new gym and two classrooms is close to completion and will be ready for our students when school resumes in late August; it will be a game-changer for us with the extra space and no longer

needing to travel across the street for specials! We've also updated cabinetry in five more classrooms, along with replacing the flooring in our 1st/2nd-grade boys' restroom; another project that has been completed is adding an outdoor seating area by our Northwest doors. This will be an outdoor classroom area for our students throughout the year when the weather allows!

At the end of May, we received our results from the Conditions for Learning Survey, given annually in the state each year to measure each building's physical/emotional safety, staff/student relationships, and expectations/boundaries. We are happy to report that all five measured areas improved from the previous year and are above the state averages. Our adult-student relationships increased 9 percentage points to 81% positive responses, and our student-student relationships increased 14 percentage points to 97% positive responses! As our leadership team reflected on this data, we felt that a great deal of the increase can be attributed to implementing morning meetings in each classroom to begin our school day.

This year, our building will continue to focus on our morning meeting implementation and connecting this to our PBIS framework. Our staff will continue to engage in PLC work focused on responding to student needs. This will be done by implementing an intervention bank of resources to align student needs with research-based intervention, and we will also focus on more responsive groupings that change monthly based on student needs. Our district also plans to provide opportunities for staff to learn about and implement best practices in supporting our English Language Learner students. Taft has many great things already occurring; we are excited to continue building as the year progresses!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have this year. The number for Taft is 515-332-3216, and my email address is rfedders@humboldt.k12.ia.us. Have a great school year!