



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
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@OfficialHCSD



@humboldt_csd

Message from Superintendent Jim Murray



August is easily my busiest month. A lot of time and teamwork goes into setting up for the beginning of the school year. I'm glad it is September, and students and staff are falling into school routines. The "honeymoon" is officially over. Our building Principals would tell you that a few students are falling back into challenging behaviors and regular absenteeism. Unlike in previous years, Iowa legislators provided guidance for chronic absenteeism and truancy. Students absent for 15% of a grading period are determined to be chronically absent. That translates to about 13 days between now and January. Those students and families must meet with the school leaders in a Parent Engagement Meeting to create an Absenteeism Prevention Plan. Unlike in previous years, once a plan is developed, the school personnel will contact the family weekly to review progress. If unsuccessful, some students will reach 20% absenteeism or about 17 days absent before January. In that case, the County Attorney is notified and becomes a part of the team to help correct the issue. High School Principal Travis Sprague emphasizes the importance of our students graduating and being employable, enrollable, and/or enlistable. Regular attendance is critical to meeting those goals. The "waters can get muddy" about excused absences, medical appointments, etc. Common sense or logic must be applied to each student's situation. The most critical factors determining the intensity of intervention by the school and County Attorney's are involvement in school activities and success in the classroom. Ultimately, we can't help students graduate and be successful if they don't attend. I look forward to our continued work developing our attendance policy and procedures so we can support our students most at risk of not graduating. In most careers, missing 15 -20% of your work days makes it difficult to be successful and stay employable.

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.

- The Humboldt Community Foundation Grant Evaluation is due September 30. I felt incredibly grateful for how much our district benefited. We have a fantastic community. Thank you to all involved.
 - The Music Boosters received a grant to update and purchase band instruments.
 - The Activity Boosters received a grant to add an indoor golf simulator.
 - Taft Elementary received picnic tables for an outdoor learning area.
 - Mease Elementary received funds for a new swing set.
 - Humboldt High School received funds for picnic tables at the concessions area.
- We are always looking for food service personnel. Pay starts at \$15 per hour. This is a day shift position with no weekends or holidays.
- My two previous facility tours have been successful. I'm hosting another tour for the High School on Monday, October 7, at 6:00 PM. Meet at the new front office at Humboldt High School. I'm hosting a tour of Taft Elementary on Tuesday, October 15, at 6:00. Meet at the Taft Elementary main entrance. Contact Rhi Lange at 515-332-1330 or rlange@humboldt.k12.ia.us to register.



Mark Wenzel Twin Rivers Elementary Principal

Hello Twin Rivers and Humboldt Communities,

The new school year has begun at Twin Rivers Elementary, and students and staff alike are hitting the ground running with enthusiasm and positivity. The first few weeks have been filled with excitement, as students have shared stories about their summer adventures and are starting to settle into their daily routines.

One of the key highlights this month was the school-wide Safety Day presentation, which focused on topics including bus safety, first-aid, and social safety. A huge thank you goes out to all the organizers and presenters who made this event a success, helping our students start the year with safety on their minds.

Our dedicated teachers have been busy as well, getting to know the new faces in their classrooms while reconnecting with students they've taught for years. As always, they are committed to student success, planning activities and lessons aimed at fostering growth and achievement for every child. In addition to daily classroom instruction, some students receive extra support, ensuring their unique needs are met thanks to the hard work of our passionate teaching staff.

The recent cool weather has been another welcome change, allowing students to enjoy time outdoors, particularly on the brand new swings that have become an instant hit. The school would like to extend its gratitude to the parents, school board, and community members that help make the start of the year successful.

Go Cats!



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

The first few weeks of school have flown by! Students are settling nicely into routines and procedures. At Mease, we have the privilege of being the first experience of school for a majority of our students in preschool and kindergarten. This is a special time in their lives, and we want to start their school experience off positively! Each day, we have staff who welcome students into the building and help them find their way to breakfast or outside to recess. The students become increasingly confident every day, and it's incredible to see that confidence grow throughout the year.

We welcomed 81 kindergarteners, 17 transitional kindergarteners, and 44 preschool students to Mease this year. We were excited to add another preschool section to our roster as our numbers kept rising over the summer! We recently had our PBIS expectation stations around the building. Students could learn about different areas of the building and how we act in those locations. The playground and lunchroom are specific areas where we try to remind students of positive behaviors while fostering independence!

On the curriculum side of the district, we are excited to start exploring science materials for the elementary and high school. During this process, a team of teachers will meet to identify needs, create goals, and research curricula that best fit our needs in Humboldt. It is essential for us to look at our curriculum on a seven-year rotation to ensure we are providing the best and most relevant instruction and materials to our students. Teachers do all the work in giving the instruction. The curriculum is just a road map to help us reach our end-of-year goals!

As always, please reach out with any comments or concerns! jehaselhuhn@humboldt.k12.ia.us