School Board Meeting Information on the Web

Information about the Iowa Falls and Alden school board meetings is available to the public via the world-wide-web. Anyone who wants to review meeting agendas, explanatory notes for agenda items and/or support documents may access this information by logging on to the following websites:

**Iowa Falls:**
http://www.mywebschooltools.com/schools/IowaFalls/BoardMeeting/login.php
Click "Public User"

**Alden:**
Click "Public User"

What is the Superintendent Thinking?

Those who would like to know more about what is going on in our school districts can request an electronic copy of the Monday News Line. The purpose of the Monday News Line is to provide weekly updates about the Iowa Falls and Alden School Districts from the superintendent's point of view. The news line is just one of many communication strategies designed to keep students, parents, community and employees well informed. Contact Pat Knipfel (pknipfel@ifacadets.net) to be included in the electronic mailing list.

Annual Progress Report on Student Academic Performance

**Background**

The purpose of the Annual Progress Report is to provide an extensive amount of student achievement information for public review. Note that all information included in this year's report is from the 2015-16 School Year. The entire report will be broken down into four parts with one part published in each edition of the Cadet Gazette from now through the end of the school year.
Transition from NCLB to ESSA

The United States Congress renewed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act during its last legislative session. The US Congress replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB) with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). There is at least a one-year transition time between the phase out of NCLB and the start of ESSA. This transition time allows state departments of education to develop and implement plans, policies, etc. in order to meet new education mandates.

One aspect of the transition from NCLB to ESSA is that Adequate Yearly Progress Status (AYP) for individual schools in Iowa has been “frozen” from the 2014-15 School Year through the 2016-17 School Year. In other words, there will be no change in AYP status regardless of a school’s performance on the Iowa Assessments in 2015-16 or 2016-17.

Posted below is the AYP information that was provided in last year’s Annual Progress Report on Student Achievement. This is the last year that AYP results are published.

Part 1: Adequate Yearly Progress: (Status is Frozen)

Part 1 features achievement data for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is directly tied to compliance with the federal mandate, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Accomplishment of all goals associated with Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is determined by the Iowa Department of Education in compliance with the federal government’s NCLB Legislation.

The requirement for Iowa (and all other states) is that 100 percent of all students must be proficient. A school building that misses one, or more, of the multiple goals for reading, for math, or for “other academic indicators” will cause the building to be labeled as “Missing AYP.”

The Iowa Assessments are not given to students below grade 3. Consequently, the state back maps third-grade results to Pineview so that every school building is accountable for student achievement.

Posted here are the AYP results for the 2014-15 School Year. Interpretive information for NCLB Status includes:

a) OK – Not on the Watch List
b) Watch List – Missed AYP Goals for the First Time, or was SINA and then Met AYP Goals
c) SINA-1 – School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP goal 2 years in a row)
d) SINA-2 – School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP goal 3 years in a row)
e) SINA-3 – School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP goal 4 years in a row)
f) SINA-4 – School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP goal 5 years in a row)
g) Delay – AYP Goals Met, but on SINA in previous year. Delayed in status until next year’s results are determined. Must meet AYP goals for two consecutive years to change status.

<table>
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Other Academic Indicators

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Graduation Rate

| IFAHS                           | 96.88%                   | Met AYP Goals    |                  | OK for Graduation  |
From the desk of Tony Neumann, IFAHS Principal

The High School Challenge

The High School Challenge could have many meanings. Our students face many challenges on a daily basis. What we are talking about here, however, is the challenge that was issued to our students on the first day of school. Hopefully our students have shared their challenges with you, but if not, I thought this would be a good time to discuss the challenges and a little reasoning behind them.

**Challenge #1: Do ONE great thing every day.** This may sound self-explanatory, but I challenged the students to find something great to do each and every day either at school or out in our community. Now the idea of great is a relative thing; what is great for one student may not look the same as another. We discussed how for some students one great thing might be to include a new student into their circle of friends. For others, one great thing might be to give amazing effort in one of their classes. For yet others, it could look even different. What we really want our students to understand is that doing one great thing every day can really change the culture of our school, the environment of our community, and eventually will change the world. When our 400 plus students all start doing one great thing every day, thousands of great things will happen each week and eventually millions of great things will happen in our world.

**Challenge #2: Build ONE new positive relationship each week.** This challenge is especially important for me. Coming into a new district, there were literally hundreds of people I did not know in our building. I have been trying to build multiple positive relationships each week with our students and staff, but I also wanted our students to work on building positive relationships. The idea of a new positive relationship may also include mending not-so-positive relationships with students or adults in their life. The important concept here is to build a strong network of positive relationships. We all need a support system for getting through the good times and not so good times. Collaboration will also be a fundamental concept our students will need to master in the future. We have the ability to help our students develop these relationships on a daily basis, and our teachers are here to help our students accomplish this goal.

**Challenge #3: Make this the BEST experience it can be.** This goes hand-in-hand with the Cadet Experience that was discussed in the last issue. Each student comes from a different background and has their own story to tell. Each student also has the ability to choose how to react to the events and environment that make up our collective experience. I have challenged our students to make this the best experience it can be by doing daily great things, establishing positive relationships and becoming involved in their high school experience. Being involved is not limited to athletics. We have multiple activities for our students to become involved in. We are here to help our students be an active participant in their educational experience. We are here to help our students develop into the people we see in them, even if they don’t see it yet. We are here to help our students have the best possible experience they can.

These challenges were a part of the first meetings we had to start the year. They are posted in some classrooms and sent in various emails to students throughout the year. I have asked our staff to encourage our students to meet these challenges and I am now asking the community to help our students meet these challenges. We have an amazing group of young people in our community and these challenges will help shape them into becoming involved community members.

The first weeks of this school year have been incredible and I look forward to sharing many more positives from our students and staff.

Go Cadets!

*Mr. Tony Neumann*

9-12 Principal

Iowa Falls-Alden High School

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**Student Appreciation**

I would like to take a moment to recognize how responsible and respectful our students have been during the first few weeks of school. I am incredibly proud at how mature they have been and the responsibility they have demonstrated on a daily basis. With the transition, there have been a lot of different areas for me to learn about and improve on, but our students have made the transition very smooth (our staff too, so special shout out to them!) I have told students how much I appreciate their positive behavior, responsible demeanor and overall willingness to accept this responsibility. It may not be an all the time thing from every student, but by and large they have really handled themselves like mature, responsible adults. This was another expectation that was presented to them on day one and they have responded in great fashion. There are so many times that we forget to tell people, especially young adults, how much we appreciate their sense of responsibility that I would like to take a moment to publicly recognize their responsible, mature behavior. Thank you, students!

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**MEET THE NEW TEACHERS**

**Michael Collison – English/Language Arts**

This is Michael Collison’s first year teaching at Iowa Falls-Alden High School, but not his first year in the building ... he is a 2009 graduate! After high school, Michael attended Briar Cliff University in Sioux City. At Briar Cliff, he majored in English/Secondary Education and played basketball for four years. After his playing career, he was an assistant coach at BCU, and most recently he taught English at Durant High School in Durant for the 2015-2016 school year. Michael has always enjoyed the idea of returning to his Alma Mater to teach and he could not be more thrilled to be back and working with some of the amazing educators that taught him! When he is not teaching, Michael enjoys spending time with his fiancée, Kristen, traveling, and coaching basketball. Go Cadets!

**Olivia Tebben - Science**

Mrs. Tebben is the ninth-grade physical science teacher at IFAHS. She is originally from Cedar Rapids and considers Ames a second home. She earned her biology degree and psychology minor from Iowa State University. Later, she returned to Iowa State University and earned her Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree in secondary science education. She spent this last summer working on the primate and large mammal zookeeper team at Blank Park Zoo through the Iowa STEM Teacher Externship program.

Mrs. Tebben looks forward to each opportunity to engage and challenge students with deep and robust science content. The most rewarding part of her career is getting to know each student on an individual basis and helping them reach their personal goals inside and outside of her classroom. Mrs. Tebben is excited and thankful to be a part of the Iowa Falls-Alden community!

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**Upcoming Events**

- Sept. 26 – High School Parent/Teacher Conferences (Nov. 29 is next day)
- Oct. 18 – 7th – 12th Grade Vocal Concert
- Oct. 26 – End of the First Quarter
- Nov. 4 and 5 – High School Drill Team State Solo Contest
**FFA News**

The Iowa Falls-Alden FFA is coming to an end of a very successful summer season. Over the last few months students have been putting countless hours into their livestock and mechanic projects. The chapter’s members took their projects to the Hardin, Franklin and state fairs. They have also spent a lot of time marketing and selling the meat from their herd of Lowline Angus cattle. Over the summer the chapter has been focused on raising money for a livestock trailer and new fencing for the Learning Land Lab.

At the Hardin County Fair chapter members were very successful with their projects. Chapter Sentinel McKayla DeNio received Grand Champion Cow/Calf Pair with her red angus cattle, member Autumn Schott received Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Heifer, Matt Aldinger received purple on his tractor, and Elizabeth Vogel won Champion Senior Showmanship in poultry. Many members were also awarded blue ribbons for their cattle, sheep, and poultry projects.

Following the excitement of the Hardin County Fair many members had only a few days to prepare for another busy week at the Franklin County Fair. At Franklin, Todd Raisch placed second with his market lamb, and Elizabeth Vogel received Reserve Champion Production Pen with her pullets, McKayla DeNio won grand champion for her Lowline heifer. Once again, members’ hard work paid off as they were handed blue ribbons, and learned many new things from judges that will benefit their projects long term.

This past August many members also took their projects to the Iowa State Fair. The competition at the state fair was a lot tougher than county fairs; however the IFA FFA members were still very successful. Dayna Dodd, Darby Dodd, Danny Roach and Madison Warschkow showed Lowline cattle at the state fair and received second place with their cow/calf pair. They also placed second and third with the Dodds’ yearling heifers. IFA Junior Dayna Dodd says, “We had a great year. We got to meet many new friends and enjoyed showing at the state fair.”

Members Matt Aldinger and Todd Raisch also received a blue ribbon in the Herdsmanship contest, as well as blue on their lambs. Matt’s Tractor project also received a purple ribbon at the state fair.

In conclusion to the summer season, the FFA chapter has been selling their meat inventory and fundraising for the livestock trailer they are purchasing. They are also participating in the Barlow Family Challenge this fall to raise the funds to install permanent fencing on school property and along Siloam Ave.

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**FCCLA News**

FCCLA wants to welcome you back to school! We have a lot of fun, and tasty fundraisers planned for this school year. If you like to run, we’ve got just the thing for you ... our second annual Color Run! Our Color Run will be held on October 22; more details coming soon. We have our Breakfast With Santa event on December 10. Bring your friends, come eat and have fun. Everyone loves cupcakes ... and we’re doing a Scratch Cupcake Sale in February. Thank you again for helping support our organization. Your fundraising helps us gain leadership skills and learn about outreach opportunities as we travel to FCCLA meetings and conferences.

Our goals for the chapter are to recruit more members, and keep them throughout the school year. We want to raise more money to help with expenses later, and to give back to both our communities and state as a whole.

If you’re interested in joining FCCLA, please come to a meeting. Our meetings are held on Thursday mornings in the middle school family and consumer sciences room. Meetings begin at 7:30 a.m. We hope to see you there!

Written by Kayla Weber, Public Relations officer
Riverbend Middle School concludes fundraiser

Again this year, Riverbend Middle School held its fall fundraiser to help raise money for the school. As of press time for this newsletter, Riverbend’s fundraiser has concluded. A big thank you goes out to all of you parents, family members and community members who supported our fundraising efforts during the month of September. Incentives for students included students earning an emoji bag clip for every order, money pens for cash and prizes, and earning their way to a movie day during the afternoon of a school day.

During past years Riverbend has purchased chairs, tables and books for the library and technology and supplies for the classrooms. This year we are going to use some of our fundraising proceeds to add motivational quotes and murals to our school’s hallway walls, as well as allocate funds for field trips and assemblies. The Riverbend Middle School student council also helps decide where the fundraising funds are used. At this time when funding for our schools is a challenge at best, we are acutely aware of our need to do well with our fundraising endeavors to benefit our students and staff here at Riverbend. Again, thank you to those family and community members who supported our fundraising efforts, and a huge thank you to those students who made the effort to make a difference here at Riverbend Middle School through this fundraiser. Your support, time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you still want to renew or subscribe to a magazine through Riverbend Middle School or purchase additional products through our fundraiser, please contact the school at (641) 648-6430.

Riverbend Middle School to Host Fall Dance on Thursday, October 27, Starting at 7:00 p.m.

The first Riverbend Middle School dance of the 2016-2017 school year is scheduled to be held Thursday, October 27, at Riverbend Middle School. Although this is called a dance, this is in reality more of a middle school "social," due to the numerous activities that are planned for the evening. A disc jockey will be set up in half of the gymnasium for the dance portion of the event. In addition, throughout the evening students can participate in karaoke and board games in the cafeteria, Wii games in the music room and the student lounge will also be open for students. Concessions will be available for purchase throughout the evening in the cafeteria, including Pizza Ranch pizza and Cadet Concessions.

In addition, it is also important to note that Riverbend Middle School dances are not “formal events.” We like to think of our dances as “come as you are” events. We want all Riverbend students to feel that they can attend the event without having to worry about wearing new clothes or dresses. Students can choose to dress up if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. All students are expected to follow the Riverbend Middle School handbook dress code expectations for their dance attire: "Clothes that are too tight, too short, or too revealing are not to be worn. Students may not wear halter tops or bare midriff styles or any apparel that reveal portions of undergarments.” These expectations are included in our student handbook. No strapless dresses or "spaghetti straps" are to be worn. Students not following these expectations should be prepared to change. In short, students if you have to ask your-
self if it is appropriate to wear to a dance or not, then it probably is not. Your assistance with these expectations is appreciated.

Riverbend Middle School students also do not need to feel that they need to have a “date” to attend a dance. Most students come by themselves, with a friend or with a group of friends. Students can choose to ask someone if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. Only Riverbend Middle School students are allowed to attend middle school dances.

The dance starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. for seventh-grade students and 9:15 p.m. for eighth-grade students. The staggered ending times assists with the flow of traffic in front of the building after the dance. There will be a cost of admission as determined by the Riverbend Student Council to help offset the cost of the DJ. Glow necklaces may also be available at the dance for purchase. Our dance will be supervised by at least 12 Riverbend Middle School teachers and staff.

We look forward to a fun dance and social on October 27!

Please Plan on Attending Conferences with your Riverbend Middle School Student

submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are scheduled at Riverbend Middle School from 3:30–7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, and Thursday, October 20. Middle school students are often quick to point out to parents and guardians that, now that they are at or near their “teenage years,” they are ready for more independence. Even though our students are growing up, your involvement is still key to their success. Parent and guardian participation in conferences communicates a commitment to your student having a positive experience here at Riverbend Middle School during the 2016-2017 school year.

All Riverbend teachers will either be assembled at tables in the gymnasium to meet with students, parents and guardians during fall conferences or will be in their classrooms. During spring conferences, students will be “leading” these conferences for their parents/guardians as we continue with “student-led conferences.” Conferences really do work best when the students are present to actively participate in the conference. The students have been advised to adhere to a five-minute time limit per conference during fall conferences, especially if there are others in line. If five minutes for a conference is not sufficient, you can utilize this conference to schedule a more in-depth conference at a later time. We look forward to seeing you at conferences on Thursday, October 13, and/or Thursday, October 20.

Strong Participation in Activities at Riverbend

Riverbend Middle School again had nearly all of our students participate in at least one activity during the 2015-2016 school year. Students at Riverbend had the following co-curricular activity choices: band, chorus, honor band, honor choir and jazz band. In addition, students could choose to participate in the following extracurricular sports activities: football, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, cheerleading, track & field and softball. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs and organizations: dance team, student council, science club, art club, girls’ group, FFA, FCCLA, TRIO Educational Talent Search, yearbook, publications, book club and chess club. In all, there were 25 activities offered at Riverbend Middle School during the 2015-2016 school year. Each of our approximately 200 RMS students participated, on average, in nearly four activities per student.

During the first day of school this year, all students were presented with an activity interest sheet where they indicated what activities they are interested in for the 2016-2017 school year. Research has shown that students who are active in school activities are more connected to school, and that students who are more connected to school do better in school. It is our expectation that each student be involved in at least one activity; most are out for multiple. Get involved, Riverbend students!

Academic Eligibility for Middle School Extracurricular Activities

Middle school students are encouraged to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible. Past research has shown that students who are involved in activities generally achieve academically higher than students who are not involved in these activities. Students who participate in extracurricular activities and school-sponsored clubs and organizations will be subject to the Riverbend Middle School Academic Eligibility Policy: Student grades will be checked every two weeks. All graded classes are included under this policy. If a student has one “F” at a grading checkpoint, he/she will be ineligible for a minimum of one week. If grades are passing after one week, he/she will regain eligibility. If not, they remain ineligible until grades are passing. While a student is ineligible, he/she must attend four study tables per week. Study tables will be from 7:45–8:15 a.m. and 3:20–3:50 p.m. All extra-curricular activities and before / after school clubs will be included in this policy. A student who is academically ineligible will be able to practice with his/her athletic team, and even travel with the team for competition, but will not be able to participate in competition while academically ineligible.

An Opportunity for Parents/Guardians to Provide Feedback, Direction and Leadership at Riverbend Middle School

submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield

The Riverbend Parent Advisory Council will meet monthly at Riverbend at noon on the second Thursday of each month. The purpose of this council is to learn about the day-to-day operations of the school, to serve as a sounding board, and to open the channels of communication between the principal and the parents / community. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 13. Council members are welcome to bring their own lunch or purchase school lunch (we do ask that you RSVP that morning if you are eating school lunch for the lunch count). You are welcome and invited to any council meeting that works for you and your schedule.

If you are interested in participating in the Riverbend Parent Advisory Council or if you want additional information, please contact Riverbend Middle School.

Riverbend Middle School Welcomes Mrs. Amanda Puffett

Mrs. Amanda Puffett joins the Riverbend Middle School teaching staff as our eighth-grade science teacher. Her hometown is Jesup. Mrs. Puffett received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Mrs. Puffett’s previous teaching experience includes teaching eighth-grade science at Marcus Whitma School in Port Orchard, Washington, and also seventh-grade science in Moore, Oklahoma. According to Mrs. Puffett, “I have taught in three very different states and because of that, I have had many unique experiences.”
Welcome to Riverbend Middle School

Miss Rachel Hagedorn

Miss Rachel Hagedorn joins the middle school teaching staff as seventh-grade science student teacher with Mrs. Karen Koenig. Her hometown is Roland. Miss Hagedorn is working on her teaching degree through the University of Northern Iowa. She has also coached seventh-grade softball for four years.

When asked what she has enjoyed most about her Riverbend experiences so far, Miss Hagedorn responded with, “The students and staff! Everyone has been so friendly and accepting of me here. I have truly enjoyed getting to know all of my students and the wonderful staff I have been lucky enough to meet and work with.” Something unique about Miss Hagedorn is that she loves to fish and roller blade.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to student teach at Riverbend Middle School. This school is an incredible place for students to come learn, as they have some of the best educators in the state working with them. I am happy to learn and gain experience from these talented professionals and eager students,” added Miss Hagedorn.

Riverbend Middle School Welcomes

Miss Kristie Hoelscher

Riverbend Middle School welcomes back Miss Kristie Hoelscher. Miss Hoelscher joins our staff as a teacher associate for the 2016-2017 school year. Her hometown is right here in Iowa Falls, and she graduated from Iowa Falls Community School District and attended college through Buena Vista University. Miss Hoelscher also has experience as a teacher associate at Clear Lake Middle School and Iowa Falls – Alden High School.

When asked about what she has enjoyed the most about her experiences here at Riverbend, Miss Hoelscher responded, “I absolutely love working at Riverbend Middle School. The staff is friendly and everyone cares about the success of our students. I have always enjoyed working with middle school aged students and helping them discover who they are.”

Miss Hoelscher is also a “personality test geek.” “I love discussing the differences in personality types and how they all relate to each other.”

Welcome to Riverbend Middle School

Mrs. Stefanie Nicolle

Riverbend Middle School welcomes Mrs. Stefanie Nicolle to our staff as a teacher associate. Her hometown is right here in Waterloo and she attended college through Ellsworth Community College. Mrs. Nicolle also has experience as a teacher associate substitute at Alden Elementary School.

When asked about what she has enjoyed the most about her experiences here at Riverbend, Mrs. Nicolle responded, “I enjoy working with a friendly staff and the environment.” She also enjoys activities with her family, such as camping, fishing, traveling, various sports and shopping.

Riverbend Middle School Implements “CADET Time”

submitted by Mrs. Denelle McWherter

A new initiative this year at Riverbend Middle School is the addition of a Cadet Time period. This 30-minute period is available to all students at the same time every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning and designated as purely academic time. Students are able to be requested to work with teachers on failing grades, late work or to get help with content they do not understand. Students may also request to come and work with teachers during this time as well. When students are successful in all classes, they may work on IXL: math or language arts, free read or work on current homework. As the year progresses, students may be able to work with teachers on enrichment activities in a subject of their choice. Below you will find guidelines on what should and should not be happening during Cadet Time.

Cadet Time is:

• Time for leadership opportunities for students who are passing classes and current on homework.
• Time for monitoring student academic performance in all subject areas.

Cadet Time is not:

• Social time (For students or teachers)
• Recess
• A punishment for strug-
During the school day, students may check out up to three books at a time. The library is also the site for seventh grade Technology class where students designed their own individual online Leadership Notebook and Google Drawing posters that are displayed in the hall. Additionally, seventh grade Reading is taught in the library which is an ideal site for this class!

The Chess/Game Club met for the first time on Friday, September 2, at 7:30 a.m. Fourteen enthusiastic students showed up and there was a bloodbath with knights, bishops, rooks, and other chess pieces expiring right and left. Luckily, none of the chess players themselves appeared to sport any injury. They did, however, demonstrate good sportsmanship at the end of each game by shaking hands with their opponents.

Chess/Game Club officially meets every Friday morning, but game players (and non-game players) are welcome in the RMS library EVERY morning from 7:30 a.m. It is also a great, safe location for students to work on homework or simply hang out with friends.

Welcome to Art
submitted by Mrs. Chelsie Meyer

Hi! My name is Chelsie Meyer and I’m the art teacher for Rock Run Elementary and Riverbend Middle School! I worked previously for Waverly-Shell Rock for seven years and I’m excited to begin my ninth year of teaching at Iowa Falls-Alden, where I completed my student teaching. I received my BA in K-12 Art Education from the University of Northern Iowa and my MA in Education with a middle school endorsement from Viterbo University.

CLASSROOM WEBSITE: iafallsart.weebly.com
This site is intended to serve as both an informational tool for parents and to help provide students with the means necessary to be productive, contributing members of the Art class. As you navigate this site, you will find a host of tools, resources and information related to the Art class and curriculum.

FACEBOOK PAGE: Rock Run Elementary & Riverbend Middle School Art
Iowa Falls–Alden Art Room Happenings for Rock Run Elementary 3rd-5th grade students and Riverbend Middle School 7th-8th grade students will be posted to this Classroom Facebook Page! Please Like this page to see your son/daughter in action in the art room! I will be sure to ask students before taking their photo to make sure they are okay with it being posted! I will also check with the office and respect any photo holds that might be in place.

Looking to support the arts?
Please contact Chelsie Meyer via email chelmeyer@ifacadets.net if you would be willing to volunteer your time helping in the art room. This could include taking photos of students’ artwork, organizing students’ art photos, sorting supplies and helping organize students’ artwork for display opportunities.
What have students been up to in art?

Rock Run Elementary

Third-graders are learning about watercolor resistance by using oil pastels and crayons for a “We Are Leaders” display! They learned all about lines and designs. Fourth-graders are learning how to draw various plants for a “Growing Leaders” display and looking at Georgia O’Keeffe’s flower studies from her time in New Mexico. Fifth-graders are thinking about ways in which they are leaders at school and at home as they create a super leader based on their own leadership qualities! Elementary students are learning basic drawing skills through these projects as we explore ways in which we can all be leaders!

Riverbend Middle School

Seventh and eighth-graders are into their first exploratory! Both grades learned about copyright and creative commons as we talked about how to use moodboards to come up with original ideas. Seventh-graders just finished up learning about how to use words within their art projects as they created their I Am Poem Art Projects! Eighth-graders designed their own personal skateboards after checking out Thomas Burchfield’s boards for inspiration. You can check out Riverbend’s students’ first art project in the library’s community room on Saturday, September 24, for the Art Walk.

2016 Summer Reading Challenge: Wild About Reading

For the fourth annual Summer Reading Challenge, the Rock Run staff challenged incoming third-, fourth- and fifth-graders to go for gold with our Olympic themed reading challenge. Students were given a book log to record the minutes they read over the summer. Each student also received a United Book (a specific title to read for that grade level) to read over the summer. When students turned in a book log this fall, they received a bookmark and pencil. Then, for every 60 minutes students read, they were able to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win prizes such as: a tablet, a comfy reading chair, CADET shirts, being a banker for a day at Iowa Falls State Bank, presenting a donation to the Greenbelt Humane Society sponsored by Green Belt Bank & Trust, and a pizza lunch with Mr. Swartzendruber.

An assembly was held the first Friday of the school year to draw for the prizes and announce other surprise rewards. Students who turned in a book log were given a gold medal to wear and all students participated in our closing ceremonies.

Once again the student read more than the teachers. The students read 235,777 minutes while the staff read 120,508 minutes for a grand total of 365,285. Last year’s total was 300,365 minutes. So there was an increase of 55,920 minutes over last year.

We are very proud of our students and their commitment to become better readers. Nothing beats the “summer slide” like reading all summer long. Congratulations to students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and read over the summer!

Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge

This summer, at the BIE breakfast, students of Rock Run Elementary challenged local businesses to get Wild About Reading! The Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge, which kicked off September 1, will put students head to head ... or book to book ... with area participants. Logging minutes read, participating businesses will compete with an assigned classroom at The Rock. Minutes read will be score boarded at Rock Run, so students and businesses can keep tabs on who's ahead. The challenge will wrap up in May ... just in time for the Teachers to issue a challenge of their own.

Rock Run Goals for the Year

“All for one and one for all.” This is the feeling at Rock Run this year as we all work toward achieving one common goal: improving Attendance, Literacy and Leadership.

Our first focus is getting our students to school on a more consistent basis. If students are at school, they will be more successful in all areas. Research shows that students who are chronically absent are 1.5 times less likely to be proficient on reading assessments. To motivate students, each classroom will be keeping track of their attendance and classes will earn rewards for every 20 days of perfect attendance.

We will also be working hard to improve literacy achievement. Reading and writing are life-long skills that are used in all subject areas. After reading a lot over the summer for our Summer Reading Challenge, students are already showing growth. We will be continuing to focus on improving fluency and comprehension as the year continues.

Lastly, students at Rock Run will continue to utilize Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits to improve their leadership qualities. This year, an 8th habit – Find Your Voice, will be emphasized. Students will get more opportunities to have a say in what is happening at school through a voice council and class meetings. All students will also be using their skills and strengths to be a leader in a LEAD Time group. LEAD Time groups will meet once each month to find ways they can help out the school. Some LEAD groups include greeters, public speakers, maintenance, coaching, office helpers and yearbook work. We are excited to see students step up in leadership roles.

At Rock Run, we are excited for a great year and are focused on achieving our goals, but we can’t do it without the help of everyone. Teachers, staff members, students, parents and community members will all be important in our success. With us ALL working together, we can do it!

Mentors Needed

We are currently looking for additional adult mentors to work with Rock Run Students. Typically mentors meet with their assigned student at least once per week. If you are interested in serving as a mentor please contact Rock Run and state that you desire to volunteer as a mentor and we will take your name and phone number to pass along to our mentor coordinator. Our phone number is 648-6420.
Collecting For Education

It’s time once again to start collecting Hy-Vee receipts for the Shop Smart for Education program. Save your receipts from our local Iowa Falls Hy-Vee and send them to school. Rock Run also collects Box Tops for Education, located on a multitude of General Mills products. Cut out the small Box Tops rectangles and send them to school. Pizza Ranch Wagons (off of pizza boxes), are also collected. Pop tabs are also collected to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. These can be sent to school with your child or dropped off in the main office. Saving these items and sending them to school only cost you your time, but provide us with much more than that. Each year funds from these sources enable us to provide books, resources and materials for students that would not otherwise be possible. Thanks for your support.

Elementary Fund Raiser

The annual Elementary Fundraiser kicked off on September 14 and ended on September 28. Family and friends again had the opportunity to purchase Chip Shoppe food items from Rock Run and Pineview students. The fundraiser money will be used for technology, curriculum, student activities and rewards. The delivery date is November 2, from 4–6 pm.

Pineview Elementary

Excited for an AWESOME Year in Kindergarten Prep

K-Prep students are off to a very exciting start! Our young students will learn about the 7 Habits and what it means to be a leader. We will read stories about the 7 habits and look for ways to be leaders at school and home. K-Prep will use all 7 habits while keeping our main focus on Habits 1-3. The K-Prep class is working on writing their own mission statement for the year. As we learn about ways to be a leader we will learn to set goals and to reach those goals. These leadership skills will help K-prep students to become independent.

During the year the students will learn their letter sounds and names. They will also be introduced to pre-primer sight words. In Math K-Prep students will start building their math skills with the numbers 0-20. They will work on shapes, colors and patterns. As a part of the Everyday Math program students will explore how math is all round them.

It is exciting to watch our little learners explore the world around them. I look forward to a year of adventure, discovery and fun!

Our Kindergarten Leaders

Do you have a personal mission statement? Pineview kindergarten friends work hard to be leaders. A very large part of being a leader is having a clear mission to follow! We spend lots of time the first few days of school talking about what we want our classroom to look like. Do we want kind friends or rude ones? Do we want to listen to others or be late for school?

Students come up with what is important to them to ensure a successful classroom, than a mission statement is born. It’s kind of likened to a set of rules that you follow. Ask your child about their classroom mission statement!

It might sound something like this ... "My job is to learn and be kind. Always be on time!"

We look forward to a super school year!

Pineview First-Graders Get a “Boost-Up”

The first-graders at Pineview Elementary are enjoying “Boost Up!” During Boost Up, first-graders learn and practice skills that involve crossing the mid-line, using upper body muscles, gross motor muscles and brain stimulating activities. Boost-up is a multi sensory approach to learning and involves brain stimulation activities to help prepare children to learn. The program develops visual, auditory, balance, fine and gross motor skills, which are all essential for classroom and academic success. These activities also improve each child’s physical fitness, strength, coordination and ability to pay attention. Some activities include: crawling, creeping, balancing, rolling and eye tracking. Once these readiness skills are in place, the children will have the foundation necessary to succeed in school. They are truly getting a “Boost-Up!”

Second Grade Switch Time

In second grade the teachers get an opportunity to work with not only their homeroom students, but also each second-grader at Pineview through what they call Daily Switch Time. Each day students rotate to a different classroom for 30 minutes of their day. In Mr. Johnson’s room, students will be learning about the traits of writing and enhancing their writing skills, Ms. Light will be teaching all second-graders science, Mrs. Kulow will be teaching social studies and Mrs. Sheahan will be teaching about the Leader in Me, as well as some comprehension practice and research strategies. There is also excitement because a new switch time has been added this year called Computer Sciences. This will be taught by Mr. Bridgewater. In this class, students will dive more deeply into Coding and will also be doing Robotics! We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and getting to know ALL of Pineview’s second-graders!
What Is Reading Recovery?

“Just give me that book, I can read it myself.” Hearing those words is every Reading Recovery teacher’s dream. It is the goal of the Reading Recovery program to develop strategic independent readers. Iowa Falls has endorsed this philosophy through the Reading Recovery Program for the last 18 years, serving almost 300 students. The district has three Reading Recovery teachers: Miss Adams, Ms. Hastings and Mrs. Hunt. They not only use this training with Reading Recovery students but also to effectively reach Title I Reading students in kindergarten, first and second grade.

Reading Recovery is an individualized program for selected first-graders. Each child receives a 30-minute one-on-one lesson designed to work on early reading and writing strategies. During each lesson the student rereads familiar books, learns how words work, writes sentences about the books he/she reads or happenings in their lives and reads a new book that is slightly more challenging. Through running records and observations, teachers form teaching points to direct a student’s learning. Teachers encourage rereading, learning word chunks and checking the picture. Within the lesson, students work on fluency and flexibility in both reading and writing. Students build up a writing vocabulary of known words and learn to stretch through new words they want to use in their writing.

Parents are a vital part of this program. Daily home reading practice is essential for the student’s success. Classroom teachers and Reading Recovery teachers work closely to help the students make progress. A student is ready to be discontinued (graduated) from the program when he/she is independently reading and writing at the average of their class. The goal is for the child to have a self-extending system that allows him/her to read increasingly difficult text as he/she continues through school. Reading strategies taught in the Reading Recovery program are good for all children. The techniques taught in the Reading Recovery program are the same strategies that are taught in the classrooms. They are just selectively taught, as a child needs them in an individualized manner. Since all of us become better readers by reading and reading often, it is important for all students to practice reading books at his/her reading level every day.

If you have any questions about reading to or with your children, please feel free to call one of the Reading Recovery teachers at Pineview, 648-6410.

We Need Your Help!

All you have to do is save your Hy-Vee receipts, Pizza Ranch Wagon and General Mills box tops and turn them in to the school! The school receives money from each of these receipts or box tops. Last year the school redeemed approximately $1,000 from Box Tops, $600 from Hy-Vee and over $100 from Pizza Ranch. Thank you in advance for your help with this great fundraiser!

Pineview is in need of a volunteer to add the Hy-Vee receipts that are turned in for the Dollars For Scholars program, as well as a volunteer to count and bag box tops. Please contact Melanie in the office (648-6410) with questions or if you are interested in helping us out.

What is The Leader In Me?

Pineview Elementary is a PROUD Leader in Me School!

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model that acts like the operating system of a computer — it improves performance of all other programs. Based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People®. The Leader in Me produces transformational results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems and increased engagement among teachers and parents. Better yet, The Leader in Me equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy.

What would be possible if your school was filled with students who were responsible, who showed initiative, who were creative, who knew how to set goals and meet them, who got along with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and who could resolve conflicts and solve problems?

This is reality at Leader in Me schools across the country. It started in 1999 when struggling school A.B. Combs Elementary was asked to reinvent itself or be shut down. When principal, Muriel Summers, asked parents and business leaders what they wanted in their schools, she heard the following:

- Leadership
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Cross-cultural Skills
- Responsibility
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Creativity
- Teamwork

This feedback represents what most people believe — that our schools should not merely be focused on improving test scores, but should provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential. As Muriel searched for answers she attended a 7 Habits seminar and noticed how comprehensive the habits were in covering the same needs expressed by her community. She and staff developed a leadership theme and a school mission statement: To Develop Leaders, One Child at a Time. They taught the 7 Habits not as a curriculum, but in a ubiquitous fashion, integrating them into the curriculum, traditions, systems and culture of AB Combs.

As Muriel Summers, principal of A.B. Combs Elementary, sat among business leaders, she could not help but wonder why the 7 Habits were not taught to young people.

In 2006, A.B. Combs became the #1 magnet school in the country. The leadership model began to be replicated by other schools with similar results. In 2008, Dr. Stephen R. Covey, published the book — “The Leader in Me” — which documents the leadership model these schools pioneered and its outcomes for staff, students, parents and community.

**Go to www.theleaderinme.org to learn more about The Leader in Me!!

Alden Elementary

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”
— Babe Ruth

Readers are ready to hit homeruns this school year in Alden! We kicked off the school year with a fun-filled assembly, with guest speakers from the Ellsworth Baseball Team. Special thanks to Miss Peck for lining them up for our assembly! Students were informed of our new theme and focus on reading minutes. Classroom teachers have sent home information in Wednesday folders and we will be keeping track of minutes on our scoreboard in the office hallway. Make sure to stop by and see it during Open House Night!

Alden’s School-Wide Goal

**A reminder of our purpose and focus on reading!**

Everyone has heard the proverb “Practice makes perfect.” In learning to read it is true that reading practice—just reading—is a powerful contributor to the development of accurate, fluent, high-comprehension reading (Allington, 2009a). At every age level, reading more pages/minutes in school and at home each day was associated with higher reading scores. All children need to acquire the ability to read for at least 30 minutes a day independently.
With this research in mind, a school-wide goal committee was set up. The theme for the year is "Read Like a Champion." Our goal is to get kids to read more and in turn, increase reading achievement. Classrooms have set their goals and each class will be racing to all the planets.

Here is one more piece of research on why reading outside of school is so important (Anderson, Wilson & Fielding 1988):

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**New Reading Curriculum**

Our K-6 teachers are learning ... right along with students! We have a new curriculum for reading called “Wonders” that is proven to support student achievement in reading! We have worked with a trainer and have been collaborating during professional development time to continuously improve our efforts in teaching literacy. A highlight of the new program is a new graphic organizer in each unit. The graphic organizer is a great visual to help students remember key elements in literacy and how to apply them to their learning.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

We look forward to 100 percent attendance for fall conferences this year! Sixth grade is an open house format, with times running 3:30–7:30 p.m. on October 13 and 20. Mrs. McDaniel will be scheduling K-5 conferences with notes coming home by the end of September. If those dates do not work for your schedule, please let us know so we can set up an alternate time. Sixth grade conferences are a come and go format; however, if you wish to meet with teachers, we will schedule individual appointments. We are also available before or after school as well. We are excited to share your child(ren)’s progress and fall assessment scores.

**Fall Parties**

PK-5 students will have the opportunity to wear their costumes on Monday, October 31, for our annual fall parties and costume parade. The parade will begin at 2:30 p.m. Sixth-grade students will have an alternate activity that day, based upon the Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Information will be sent home in Wednesday folders in regard to their expectations. A reminder to parents of the costume areas to avoid:

1. No masks (not safe when going on our parade up/down steps)
2. No make up—no time to apply
3. No weapons
4. PK Students:
   * Only 4- and 5-year-olds will bring costumes and will join K-5 students in the parade

**Fall Fundraiser**

All PK-6 students will bring home information on September 28, about our school fundraiser. This year we are again selling food items, including cookie dough, pizza and much more! Orders will be due within approximately two weeks, and items will arrive before Thanksgiving so you can make deliveries to relatives. Our goal is to raise $5,000 this year to support our purchase of classroom literacy items and technology.

**Leader in Me Gallup Student Poll**

During the month of September, our fifth- and sixth-grade students will participate in a 10-minute survey to measure the three key indicators shown to drive student achievement, future employment and leadership skills: 1) student hope for the future, 2) engagement with school, and 3) well-being. The poll is a part of our Leader in Me efforts and will be anonymous.

**Veteran’s Concert**

Our Alden Elementary School Sixth Grade Band and Choir invite all family and community members, especially those who have served in our armed forces, to our Veteran’s Concert on Monday, November 7, at 7 p.m. in the Alden School gymnasium. This year's concert lifts up those veterans who are currently serving as well as those who have returned home. The concert features selections by band and choir, as well as students narrating the program.

Additionally, the Veterans Wall gives community members an opportunity to lift up those veterans who are family or friends. To be included on the Veterans Wall, please send the following information, either by returning this form or emailing koliver@ifacadets by November 4:

- Veterans Name
- Branch of Military and Rank
- Dates of Service (if known)
- Relationship to student
- Any interesting fact about their service (if desired)
- We look forward to seeing you at this year’s concert!

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Sept. 20: PK-6 Family Open House Night, 6–7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28: Fundraiser Kick-Off
- Oct. 13 and 20: 1-Hour Early Dismissal for P/T Conferences