

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the spring edition of The Messenger. It felt like winter would never end this year, but now that we are into the busy spring schedule and having a little sunshine, the days pass very quickly. Our students and staff continue to do remarkable things, and we try to celebrate them along the way. You will see a mix of that and pertinent information and updates in this publication.



We continue to offer this print newsletter a few times every year because we want to reach as many people as we can in as many ways as we can. If you are on Facebook, please follow Indianola CSD there. Good news items are published on the District Facebook page very frequently. The school's website was redesigned and refreshed fairly recently, too, and each school building has its own page. If you use Twitter or Instagram, many different school groups have accounts there as well. That said, I'm a person who still likes to hold the paper in my hands and read, and I hope you enjoy receiving *The Messenger*, too.

Whether you prefer print or electronic media, there is no replacement for personal contact. I appreciate the tremendous ways people work together and support each other in the school and community. Many people and organizations contribute to meeting our strategic goal of "District and Community Pride and Identity." Thank you for your contributions to the school and community. You help make Indianola a great place to work and learn and live!

Art Sathoff

Indianola Superintendent

Indianola Schools Partner with Community as RAGBRAI® 'Rolls into 'Nola'

The Indianola Community School District will be at the center of the July 23 overnight stop by RAGBRAI, from hosting the first town meeting on May 21, to providing the campgrounds for thousands of riders as they make their way across the state.

"Indianola Middle School will serve as the primary campground for the night, with more than 5,000 riders pitching tents on the school grounds," said Roger Netsch, co-chair of the executive committee that oversees housing.

"The Indianola Middle School and High School parking lots will house RVs that come with riders," said Netsch, "and all of the elementary schools in the community will host campsites, as well," he said.

"When they say 'it takes a village,' hosting RAGBRAI is so much more," said Netsch. "We owe a big thank you to all the schools for stepping forward to help meet RAGBRAI's needs."

The first RAGBRAI-related project will be a town meeting, set for the Indianola High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to the meeting to learn more about the overnight stop and how they can be a part of the event.



Indianola High School Welcomes New Administrators

We are happy to welcome Ms. Kelli Rixner to Indianola Community School District as our new high school assistant principal this July. Ms. Rixner is currently serving as a school improvement leader with Des Moines East High School and previously held positions as vice-principal at Goodrell Middle School and school improvement leader at Merrill Middle School in Des Moines.



Kelli comes to the district with 22 years of public education experience. She is taking the place of Kristy Ellis, who will take up the role of principal at Indianola Middle School next year. Ms. Rixner commented, "Thank you for the honor of joining your team and the opportunity to work with the students, staff, and families of Indianola High School. I was so impressed with the professionalism and candor of the students on the panel, and loved speaking with the teachers and hearing about their school pride. I am absolutely thrilled and cannot wait to begin!" Superintendent Sathoff added, "We are extremely pleased to be able to hire Kelli Rixner, who was part of a very strong field of applicants. Her experience and ability to form strong relationships really impressed our three interview groups."

Mr. Jeff Siebersma will join the team at Indianola High School next year as principal, succeeding Craig Calhoun, who will pursue his entrepreneurial spirit in Minnesota.



Mr. Siebersma has been in education for 14 years with seven years of high school principal experience. He taught mathematics and coached multiple sports in a 9-12 grade setting before moving into the high school principal role at Eagle Grove. Upon accepting the position with Indianola High School, Mr. Siebersma commented, "During my time in education, I have enjoyed the time I have been fortunate to spend with students, staff, and parents. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with the Indianola community and school district." Superintendent Art Sathoff noted that relationship-building was cited as a strength by the student and parent interview groups. "We know Mr. Siebersma and his family will enjoy the community and school system, and look forward to welcoming them."

As you get the opportunity to meet Ms. Rixner and Mr. Siebersma, please welcome them to their new roles at Indianola High School.

Graduation Week Activities

•May 20-21	Senior Final Exams	5:00pm	Dollars for Scholars
•May 22	Computer Check-in	6:30pm	Scholarship Night
10:30am	Awards Assembly	•May 24	
1:00pm	Baccalaureate Practice	9:00am	Mandatory Commencement Practice (Blake Fieldhouse)
7:00pm	Baccalaureate	•May 26	
•May 23	Seniors Last Day	1:00pm	Commencement
	Computer Check-in	7:30pm	Project Graduation Event – Perfect Games (Ames). Buses depart @ 8:00pm.
	Senior Checkout Packet Due		
8:00am	Parade of Graduates		



Retiring Staff

Join us as we celebrate the service, guidance, and friendship of the teachers and staff members who have announced their retirement in 2019. Some have already gone on to explore new opportunities, while others will finish out the school year. We wish them all continued success and bid a fond farewell.



Linda Davey

Linda served as the secretary at Whittier Elementary since 2000. She adored the students and staff at Whittier and consistently went above and beyond to meet their needs. These are far too few words to describe all that she did to contribute towards the success of everyone that walked through the building doors.



Jan Dittmer

Jan has been with Indianola CSD for 18 years. During that time she worked primarily as an elementary and middle school orchestra teacher, but also served as a vocal music teacher, substitute teacher, and teacher associate. Jan graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor's Degree in elementary music in 1983. During her tenure in Indianola, Jan has instilled a love of music in countless students.



Lorraine Doke

Lorraine has worked as a food service employee and custodian with the district since 2003. She served in various buildings, including Emerson Elementary, Indianola High School, and Irving Elementary. Lorraine understands how her work supports student learning and takes that responsibility seriously.



Celeste Gebhart

If you've had a student participate in high school athletics, then you know Celeste! Her career with Indianola CSD began in 1984. For the last 20 years Celeste served as the activities secretary at Indianola High School. During that time she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the activities department operated smoothly and events went off without a hitch.



Cindy Gillenwater

Cindy has been with Indianola CSD since 2000, serving as a special education and health associate. Her infectious smile and pleasant demeanor have brightened the hallways of both Whittier and Irving Elementary for nearly 20 years.



the MESSENGER

Indianola Community Schools

Spring 2019



Mary (Means) Huey

Mary graduated from Simpson College in 1979 with a Bachelor's Degree in home economics. She began teaching family consumer science at Indianola High School that same year. Mary's flexibility and easy-going manner have made her a favorite among students throughout her career at IHS.



Sandy Hunerdosse-Lisk

Sandy began as a custodian at Irving Elementary School in 2008. She takes great pride in her building and goes the extra mile to make it the best possible environment for the students and staff members.



Scott Post

Mr. Post has served as a middle school and high school physical education and health teacher since 1985. He also coached swimming, track and field, and football. He graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1983. Scott has consistently encouraged students to remain active and make healthy choices through his personal example and calm, measured approach.



Cathy Scullen

In 1996 Mrs Scullen began her career teaching science at Indianola Middle School. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in 1985. Cathy earned her Master's Degree in Collaborative Learning and Teaching from Graceland University in 2007. Throughout her career, Cathy has fed the curiosity of her students and taught them the essentials of problem solving and scientific inquiry.



Cindy Slauson

Mrs. Slauson has served as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Indianola CSD since 2007. Before coming to Indianola, she filled the roll of building principal in Ankeny and Iowa Falls, and elementary classroom teacher in the Dallas Center-Grimes CSD. Cindy received her Bachelor's Degree in elementary education from Iowa State University in 1987, and her Master's Degree in educational leadership from Drake University in 2000. Cindy has done much to enhance the quality of curriculum materials, instructional methodologies, and assessment practices across our district.

Online registration continues for the 2019-20 school year. Nearly 1200 current Indianola CSD students have already registered for next year. Having your student registered before the end of this school year would be a great way to start your summer and have one less thing on your to do list!



Middle School is Going One-to-One in 2019-20

Indianola Middle School is excited to extend our Digital Learning Environment for the 2019-20 school year. Next year all 6th-8th grade students will receive 11" Chromebooks to be used for curriculum, assessment, and instruction. The Chromebooks will be rolled out at the beginning of the school year in August. No fees will be associated with the Chromebooks when students receive them.

We ask that you make sure to read and review the information in the Indianola Student Handbook and the Indianola Device Acceptance Agreement before students return to school, both are located on the district website. The device acceptance agreement is included in the online student registration process. Parents will electronically sign the agreement, allowing students to take a device home.

This is an exciting time for Indianola Middle School as we prepare our students to be competitive in a global market by utilizing the Digital Learning Environment. The access to this technology will have a positive impact on our students by increasing engagement and educational outcomes. The 21st Century Technology Literacy skills are at the forefront of this adoption as we look to engage our students in critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

School Resource Officer

Plans are moving forward to have a school resource officer (SRO) in Indianola CSD next school year. The officer will spend the majority of his time at the high school with some time also being spent in the middle school. Patrol officers will continue to make stops at district elementary schools as well. The school resource officer will be a cooperative effort between the city and school with the cost being shared.

There has been a wealth of excellent conversation and research around the SRO position. The officer will not function as a school disciplinarian but will be available to handle issues for which officers would have been called to respond to the school in the past. The main goals with the SRO program are to ensure safe schools, build positive relationships between the IPD and students, assist with education on topics the officer would have expertise in, and serve as deterrent for illegal behavior. The officer will be trained in a variety of areas, such as adolescent development, de-escalation techniques, and diversity.

"The SRO is a position that we are excited about establishing," said Indianola Police Chief Dave Button. "IPD and ICSD have partnered in other endeavors, but nothing as significant as this. I'm confident the community will embrace the positive role the SRO will bring to our schools by serving not only as a law enforcement officer, but as an educator, informal counselor, and mentor as well."

Online Learning Program Update

ICSD is hard at work on efforts to build our online learning program at Indianola High School. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, IHS will offer both blended courses and our new self-paced courses. We are on track to meet our goal of offering a more rigorous online diploma and credit recovery program that matches what other IHS students are receiving in the classroom.

Blended Learning

Sixteen teachers have completed a four-course training on blended learning. In blended courses, teachers strategically determine the best use of both physical and online class time with students.

Continued on page 6.

Online Learning Program Update *Continued from page 5.*

They intentionally utilize online learning in order to carve out time for small group learning, one-on-one help, or other activities during face-to-face instruction. Students might watch a video lecture as homework so that class time can be spent on collaborative learning or applying learning to higher-order tasks. Blended learning is not an online class. Students in blended courses do some work online but still attend class in a traditional classroom during a designated class period. Beginning this year, students could choose a blended environment for some courses when they registered for next year. Blended offerings will be available in English, math, science, social studies, world language, and art.

Self-Paced Course Development

Self-paced courses are completely online and allow students to move through specific learning and tasks at their own pace. These courses are ideal for students who have special health or scheduling concerns that prevent them being successful within the traditional school day or students who need to recover credit for courses they have failed. Small pilot groups of students are currently enrolled in courses developed by our own teachers. The courses ensure the same core content and performance expectations as the traditional classroom but in an online format. Teachers are using pilot groups to test the rigor, workflow, and learning success of students. They will revise course content and assessments as needed. These courses will be ready for full deployment in Fall 2019:

- Biology
- Child Care
- Consumer Math
- Economics
- English 9
- English 11/12
- Geometry

We hope to pilot several new courses next year with small groups of students:

- Intro to Online Learning
- Algebra I
- Behavioral Science
- Earth Science
- English 10
- Government
- Science 9
- US History
- World History

Facilitated Online Course Training and Development

Facilitated online courses are what most people picture when they think of online learning as they are common in the workplace and post-secondary institutions. Facilitated courses run on a semester calendar like a traditional course and allow students to interact with both the teacher and other students. Teachers deliver instruction, set deadlines, and design collaborative learning completely online. Facilitated courses may utilize video conferencing, discussion boards, and online collaboration tools. Teachers may also offer office hours if students need to meet with them for extra help. Facilitated courses allow students to take a wide variety of courses without physically being present at a designated time. A few teachers are currently finishing up their training and plan to offer facilitated courses by Fall 2020-21.

2018-19 Calendar Highlights

Irving Elementary students will follow the traditional calendar for the 2018-19 school year.

May 23
Last Day for Seniors

May 26
Commencement (1:00 pm)

May 27
Memorial Day / No School

May 31
Last Day of School / Regular Dismissal



Spring Activities

Activities at Indianola High School continue to be a great source of school and community pride. All of our extra-curricular programs are a valuable extension to the school day learning experiences and life-lessons for all of our students. We are extremely proud of their hard work and dedication.



Carter Bussanmus completes a header in a home soccer game.



Tryce Kirgan competes in the 4 X 100.



Members the IHS jazz band perform at a concert.



The IHS marching band brings the trophy home!



The IHS girls soccer team prepares for their season opener.



Tom Krapfl returns a shot at a dual meet.



Matt McKnight competes in the high jump at Simpson College.



Members of the IHS marching band compete at Valley Stadium.



Macy Grismund competes during a spring meet.

the MESSENGER

Indianola Community Schools

Spring 2019

Summer Food Pantry

Indianola CSD in partnership with the Food Bank of Iowa will continue operations for the food pantries at Emerson Elementary, Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary, and Indianola High School during the summer months in order to help alleviate hunger in Warren County. Our School Pantry Program provides a convenient supply of food at a location that's comfortable and convenient for kids in need and their families.

The Food Bank of Iowa will provide the food at each of the locations and the schools will host the pantry in each building. Food items available include frozen selections, dry food items, canned food, bottled water, and various snack-type options. School administration and teachers are supporting the effort by volunteering their time to keep the pantries open and accessible to families in our community during the summer break. Here are the summer hours and contact information for each pantry location:

Emerson Food Pantry

- 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4:00 - 5:30 pm or by appointment
- Contact - Principal Mark Timmerman 515.961.9550 or mark.timmerman@indianola.k12.ia.us

Laura Ingalls Wilder Food Pantry

- 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:00 - 5:30 pm or by appointment
- Contact - Principal AmyJo Naughton 515.961-9540 or amyjo.naughton@indianola.k12.ia.us

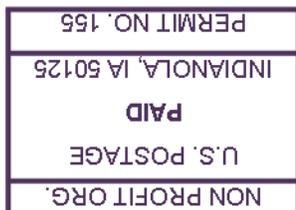
Indianola High School

- 1st Tuesday of the month from 3:30 - 5:00 pm or by appointment
- Contact - Principal Craig Calhoun or Assistant Principal Kristy Ellis 515.961.9510 or craig.calhoun@indianola.k12.ia.us and kristy.ellis@indianola.k12.ia.us

We're on the web: www.indianola.k12.ia.us



ECR WSS
Postal Customer
Indianola, Iowa 50125



Indianola Community Schools
1304 East Second Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125