

# the MESSENGER

Indianola Community Schools

Fall 2018

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

**W**elcome to the fall edition of the Messenger. We had a productive summer with several successful projects, such as asbestos abatement at the high school (with a new health office and structured study area coming), new playground and fencing at Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary, new heating system at Irving Elementary, and work on the new District Office. Next spring and summer the current District Office will be renovated for student use in the district's online learning program. We also welcomed a number of new staff, who will be introduced in this edition. Fall activities have been very successful with high participation, rated teams, and many wins. I am writing this greeting during Homecoming week, which is always exciting. Thank you to our awesome students, tremendous staff, and supportive community for making Indianola such a great place to work and learn and live!



**Art Sathoff**  
Indianola Superintendent

## Strong and Mighty

**I**ndianola Community School District is supporting two of its students by helping to raise awareness for childhood cancer through the Strong and Mighty campaign. "Joie Strong" Gorder (Irving Elementary) and "Mighty Maddy" Snow (Emerson Elementary) have been diagnosed with childhood cancer. Don't let their size fool you. These two pint-sized warriors pack a one-two punch. First, they get you with a smile and then comes their fierce determination to beat this disease! We want these brave girls to know that they are not alone in their fight. Throughout the school year students, staff, PTO and community members are joining up to assist with fundraising events and to let them know that ICSD is in their corner.

You may know that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the symbol is a gold ribbon. On September 25th the district held a "Go Gold" day to honor its students and children everywhere who have or currently are battling this disease.

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Emerson Elementary students and staff send a photo greeting to their classmate "Mighty Maddy" Snow.

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## Meet Our New Teachers

**W**e are delighted to introduce the talented new and veteran teachers who have joined our staff this year. They bring a double dose of enthusiasm and knowledge, and we are excited to have them on board.



### **Jamie Busby - Secondary Math Interventionist**

- I am from Indianola and graduated from Simpson College.
- My favorite thing about teaching is seeing a student's reaction when they finally get it.
- I am excited to be back in the district that did so much for me as a student.



### **Janaya Cordray - Middle School Family & Consumer Science**

- I am originally from Ottumwa. I graduated from Grand View University.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is the joy on the face of students when they accomplish a task that may have been challenging, whether it was perfecting a recipe or completing a sewing project.
- I am excited to be a part of Indianola CSD because the faculty and students are so welcoming and ready to start a brand new school year!



### **Derrick DeJong - High School Social Studies**

- I am originally from Orange City, Iowa, and graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City.
- What I enjoy most about teaching is the diversity of experiences each day brings.
- I am most excited to be part of a respected and growing district.



### **Myles Finn - High School Vocal Music**

- I was raised in Manchester, Iowa, and I graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.
- My favorite part of being a teacher is helping students learn how to operate as individuals. My goal is to help students become self-sufficient musicians that are able to pursue music at any capacity later in their lives.
- Indianola has a strong history in music that inspires students to achieve a high level of success. Our students are truly standing on the shoulders of giants.



### **Erin Halterman - Irving Elementary 3rd Grade**

- I am from Indianola and graduated from Iowa State University.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is helping students discover a love of learning.
- I am so excited to come back and teach in the school district that helped shape me into who I am today.





### **Jeff Janssen - Middle School 7th Grade Language Arts**

- I was born in Fort Dodge, lived in Tipton, Iowa Falls, and Fairmont, MN. I graduated from Buena Vista University in 2012.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is building relationships with students.
- The thing I'm most excited about with coming to teach at ICSD is to be as involved as possible within the community and the school district. My wife and I are extremely excited to make Indianola our home.



### **Celeste Lumsden - Middle School 6th Grade Language Arts**

- I live in Carlisle and I graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny.
- I love getting to know my students and seeing them gain confidence as they master new skills.
- I appreciate the warm welcome I have received, and I am so excited to be a part of the experienced team at Indianola Middle School.



### **Mitchell Klocke - Middle School 7th Grade Science**

- I grew up in Coon Rapids, Iowa, where I attended Coon Rapids-Bayard High School. I graduated college from Drake University in Des Moines.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is having the opportunity to see individuals grow and develop, not only during their time in my classroom, but throughout all of their schooling. I have the unique opportunity to inspire lifelong learning, and I'm eager to help students attain their goals each and every day.



### **Aryn Kruse - Irving Elementary Special Education**

- I am originally from Panora, and all three of my degrees are from ISU.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is creating positive relationships with students and families.
- I am so excited to work directly with young kids again, and also give back to the school district that has so wonderfully supported my own children these past several years.



### **Derek Morris - Irving Elementary Principal**

- I am a graduate of Lenox High School and earned my Bachelor's degree in elementary education and Master's degree in educational leadership from Northwest Missouri State University.
- The think I enjoy most about being an administrator is the opportunity to interact with all students in the building. I enjoy visiting with students at lunch, playing with kids at recess, and interacting with students in the classroom.
- I am excited to begin working with a dedicated staff that puts students first.



### **Kendall McKie - Whittier Elementary Preschool**

- I'm from Cambridge, Illinois, and I graduated from St. Ambrose University in 2017.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is building relationships with my kids and watching them learn and grow over the course of the year!
- The people I've met in Indianola are so genuine and kind. Everyone is willing to lend a helping hand. I'm excited to collaborate with the other teachers in the district during my first year of teaching.

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## **Courtney Neuendorf - Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts**

- I am from Altoona, Iowa, and went to Southeast Polk High School. I graduated from Simpson College in Indianola.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is that I'm also a mentor. Every young person needs someone to look up to, and I love building relationships and making connections. I think making connections with students, challenging them, and encouraging them is what will make them want to be successful.



## **Alex Sanchez - High School Spanish**

- I'm originally from Clear Lake, Iowa. I have a Bachelor's degree in marketing and Spanish from the University of Iowa. St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota, is where I earned my Master's degree in curriculum and instruction.
- I absolutely love watching my students get excited as they explore a new language and cultures that are different than their own. Language learning is so unique and engaging, and I am really looking forward to sharing my passion with students at IHS.



## **Morgan Singleton - Emerson Elementary 3rd Grade**

- I am from Webster City and graduated from Simpson College in 2017.
- My favorite thing about teaching is building relationships with my students and seeing their growth both academically and as humans throughout the year.
- I'm excited to be joining ICSD because now that I'm in the same district as my husband, we can be more involved with district activities. I'm also excited to be working with teachers who are passionate about what they do.



## **Nathanael Smale - Emerson Elementary Music**

- My hometown is Ely, Iowa. I graduated from Simpson College in the spring of 2018.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is watching students discover new ideas and find joy in learning.
- After 4 years of living here during undergrad and student teaching in the district, I'm excited to be able to give back to the community and the district that have given so much to me.



## **Jenny Steffen - Irving Elementary 2nd Grade**

- I am from Indianola and I graduated from Iowa State University.
- My favorite thing about being a teacher is that I get to spend so much time with kids. I love when they smile or laugh, but I especially love the moment when they learn something new!
- I am most excited about teaching and giving back to a district that has given me so much growing up.



## **Anna Wernimont - Middle School Guidance Counselor**

- I grew up in Atlantic, Iowa. I received my undergraduate degree from Loras College and am completing my Masters of School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health from Drake University.
- Being a school counselor is such a privilege. I get to hang out with kids all day to assist them in getting past the hurdles that hold them back from their goals. The work is super challenging but absolutely necessary.





### Julie Elder Wood - Middle School Vocal Music

- I grew up in Des Moines, attended college at Anderson University in Indiana, and just moved back this summer.
- I absolutely love the students, the relationships, and the opportunities to impact their lives.
- I am excited to come to Indianola because of the district's commitment to excellence to its students and staff. I am also excited to be teaching middle school again.

## Strong & Mighty *Continued from page 1*

Buildings were encouraged to "Go Gold" in their own way – at Irving Elementary students and staff designed and created a "Fighting Cancer" banner. Each student signed the banner to send a message of courage and support for their classmate, Joie. In addition to dressing in gold on the 25th, the entire Emerson student body and staff organized a roof-top picture of everyone waving to Maddy to let her know that they were thinking about her.

We want to show our support for students and their families who are affected by childhood cancer. We are most proud of the courage and strength that our "Strong & Mighty" duo share with their fellow students each day. We are united in our wish for successful treatment and a healthy future for Joie and Maddy.



Irving students "Joie Strong" Gordor and her brother Hank dress up for Scrabble day during homecoming week.

## School Bus Safety

Please help us protect our students during their school bus stop with these simple rules.



Be prepared to stop when you see flashing red or amber warning lights. Do not pass a stopped school bus.

### • Approaching the school bus from the rear:

When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and the stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

### • Meeting the school bus from the front:

When you see amber warning lights flashing you must slow your vehicle to no more than 20 mph and be prepared to stop. Stop in front of the school bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted. Proceed with caution.

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## School Bus Safety *Continued from page 5*

Unfortunately, we are experiencing an increase in vehicles passing the school bus while students are being picked up or dropped off in the City of Indianola and Warren County. The majority of our bus fleet has a camera mounted outside, which captures the violation on video. We then write out the violation and turn it into either the Indianola Police Department or Warren County Sheriff's Office. The offense carries fines between \$250 and \$675 and up to 30 days in jail.

Please take your time around the school bus when it is stopped because chances are there is one or more students around that school bus. I would like to personally thank the majority of drivers out there that are stopping and following the laws. For the drivers that don't think they need to stop, ask yourself, "What if that was my child getting off the school bus?" "What would I do?" Let's keep our students and the children of this community safe and give the school bus some space.

This website has more information on safe procedures and the laws that apply to school bus stops:

<https://iowadot.gov/schoolbus/highway-safety/requiredstopping>

From all of the drivers at Indianola Community School District, let's do the right thing and stop for our students.

**Ron Swartz**

Transportation Director

## 2018-19 Calendar Highlights

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

**October 29 - November 1**  
Parent / Teacher Conferences

**November 1 - 2**  
No School

**November 21**  
1 Hour Early Dismissal

**November 22 - 23**  
No School

**December 21**  
1 Hour Early Dismissal

**December 24 - January 2**  
Winter Break / No School

**January 14**  
Teacher Workday / No School

**February 12 - 14**  
Parent / Teacher Conferences

**February 14 - 15**  
No School

**March 18 - 22**  
Spring Break / No School

**May 23**  
Last Day for Seniors

**May 26**  
Graduation (1:00 pm)

**May 27**  
Memorial Day / No School

**May 30**  
Last Day of School / 11:30 am Dismissal

**Weekly Early Dismissal: There will be a weekly, one hour early dismissal on Wednesdays for professional development.**





## Fall Activities are well underway and our students are very busy...



Boys golf competed in their district tournament on October 2nd.



The girls swim team hosted their last home meet for the season on October 16th.



Marching band works to perfect their performance for the state competition.



The boys and girls XC teams battled the elements this fall.



Girls volleyball, currently ranked #11 by the IGHS AU, is leading the LHC standings.



The football team, currently 6-2 overall and 2-2 in district play, has one remaining game.



Homecoming parade!



Window painting during Homecoming Week is serious business!



Varsity cheerleaders perform under the lights.

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## What is SIAC?

**SIAC** - short for School Improvement Advisory Committee, involves students, parents, teachers, community leaders, and industry & legislative representatives who look at major educational needs in our district. Student learning goals and state indicators focused on reading, math, and science achievement are reviewed to formulate recommendations. These recommendations from SIAC are presented to the school board for its consideration.

This year meetings will be held in the high school professional development room (across the hall from the main office entrance) beginning at 5:45pm. The committee will meet three times over the course of the 2018-19 school year. The first meeting took place on September 17th. The remaining meeting dates are:

- November 19, 2018
- January 21, 2019

Agendas are posted to the School Improvement website page during the week before each meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the SIAC Committee, call Director of Curriculum and Instruction Cindy Slauson at 515-961-9500 x1508.

Please join us in our efforts to drive positive change at ICSD!

We're on the web: [www.indianola.k12.ia.us](http://www.indianola.k12.ia.us)



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