

April 2016 Tri-Center Newsletter



High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments

... **Dr. Tony Weers, Ed.D.**

Stay engaged through spring...

Spring weather is in full force...there is no doubt everyone is ready for warmer weather and spring/summer activities. As a parent and educator I have noticed as the weather gets warmer, attention span and endurance for academic tasks decrease. I recently noticed this short list of things we can all do to keep students engaged as spring/summer weather comes in:

1. **Keep activities brief and engaging.**

Now is not the time to dive into a brand-new 500-page novel or nonfiction book. Instead, try focusing on shorter activities that pack in a lot of movement and hands-on exploration.

“Create games to teach content and free choice during math and reading centers.” — Jody B.

“Try lots of [Brain Breaks!](#)” —Greg S.

“Make memory books. There are a ton of examples on [Pinterest.](#)” —Mary T.

“Go outside!” —Stefanie B.

2. **Make a time capsule.**

“We get a manila folder and have the kids decorate them to put all their work in it to create a portfolio. We also create time capsules with favorite things they learned, memories and friends so they can save and remember their lives during this year.” — Martha V.

3. **Emphasize free choice.**

Capitalize on student enthusiasm by letting them focus on topics of their choosing.

“Let them pick a topic to research and present the ideas as a booklet and speech.”

—Caroline R.

“Students can select their own books and develop reading groups.” —Kamil S.

4. **Pick an end-of-year theme.**

Make the routines more fun with a focused theme. “I started a pirate classroom theme last week just for fun. I changed lots of decorations in my room to pirate things. We are reading pirate books, doing pirate alphabet review, making pirate projects and a keepsake box. The kids were over-the-moon excited! You should have seen their excellent behavior this week trying to earn a gold doubloon for the class treasure chest. It's as simple as changing up these last few weeks of school to keep them excited and willing to put in some effort.” Jen P.

5. **Know when to let go.**

Even with all of these great ideas, don't feel too badly if it's still hard to capture the kids' attention. While you always want to have a plan and do your best, you know what they say about best-laid plans. As Ruth F. advises, “Just ride the madness until the end!”

DATES OF NOTE ...

- April 16th, Prom
- April 29th, No School. In-service
- Thursday, May 26nd, 1:30 Early Dismissal for **LAST DAY of SCHOOL**

READING . . . Encourage Your Kids and Set the Example

It's never too late to begin reading with and to your kids. The Reach Out and Read organization explains reading with and/or to your kids can help them acquire early language skills, develop positive attitudes about reading and books, build a strong foundation for academic success, and more. Here is a list of timeless suggestions and tips we can all use to encourage our students to read:

- Read to your child at least 10-15 minutes every day/night.
- Do not stop reading after they learn to read—keep doing it.
- Ask babysitters, sisters, brothers, and grandparents to read.
- Have your child read aloud to you or take turns.
- Let your child see that you enjoy reading.
- Consider a designated “family reading time.”
- Have a variety of reading materials present in your home.
- Send your child to bed with his/her favorite books.
- Encourage the giving of books as gifts.
- Limit the amount of time your child watches television.
- Use the public, school, or nearby libraries.
- Play word games like “Boggle”, “Scrabble”, and “Upwords.”
- Go to or rent movies based on books that have been read.
- Talk about the meanings of words or look them up.
- Discuss the meanings or themes of stories.
- Make reading the connection to learning. It will last for a lifetime.

“If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.”

--Ralph Waldo Emerson



From the Principal's Desk ... Anglea Huseman

“One of the greatest inhibitors to effective communication is the simple word, *assume*.” Zig Ziglar

Now that we are in the fourth quarter, Spring Fever is going to hit us all. I am enlisting your help to help your student, as well as the faculty here, to keep Spring Fever from being too detrimental. I think the best way to do this is to reinforce with your student good study habits. It's not enough to pay attention in class for most students; they need to do homework. That's the result of a national test. Teens with the best scores had three things in common:

- They spent more than an hour studying daily.
- They read at least 20 pages a day at school and at home.
- They discussed schoolwork at home every day.

Next time your teen has several assignments, suggest that he do the hardest one first. He'll probably have the most energy and patience at the beginning of study time. Then he can relax while doing the rest of his work.

You can always get any teacher through the website (tctrojans.org), Power School (the teacher's name in blue is a direct link to their email) or by calling the high school office (485-2257). Please talk to the teachers if you are unsure about how your student is doing. The teachers have their own website with links to their lesson plans; you can find the link on the main tctrojans.org page on the tab at the top of the page that says **Staff Directory**. These websites not only have calendars of when assignments are given/due, many have attached power points and notes from class. I cannot stress enough how important it is for you and your student to keep in touch with his/her teachers.

Summer School

We would like to offer the possibility of summer school to students who are behind credits. Remember, all high school students are required to complete four full years of English and math. If they have failed even one semester, they will be behind on credits and will more than likely not be able to graduate on time without Summer School. If your student would benefit from summer school, please contact Mrs. Harman at 485-2257 as soon as possible. We will need to get numbers to see how we can best help students get caught up.

Driver's Education

Before I give you specifics about the upcoming Driver's Education session for the coming summer, I thought it would be useful for you, the parent and community members, and helpful for us at school, if you really knew the law associated with a School Permit. First, a School Permit is issued to a student who has successfully completed and Iowa-approved Driver's Education Course and has held a valid Permit during the 6 month period preceding application for the school permit. The student's driving history must also be free of conviction for moving traffic violations, contributive accidents and license withdrawals during the 6 month period immediately preceding application for the school permit.

This school permit may be used only during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Here are the most frequently misunderstood or abused portions of the law: A STUDENT ON A SCHOOL PERMIT **MUST DRIVE OVER THE MOST ACCESSIBLE AND DIRECT ROUTE BETWEEN THE STUDENT'S HOME AND SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSES OF ATTENDING SCHEDULED CLASSES OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. PASSENGERS ARE ALLOWED ONLY IF THEY ENTER THE VEHICLE AT THE LICENSEE'S HOME AND EXIT THE VEHICLE AT THE SAME DESTINATION AS THE DRIVER WITH NO STOPS ALONG THE WAY TO PICKUP OR DROP OFF PASSENGERS.**

If you would like to gain more information about the school permit, please go to <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ods/msl.htm> and see Iowa Minor School License (MSL).

Now for the information about this summer's class: Mr. Gary Schuler will be our Driver's Ed instructor again this summer; he

currently teaches and coaches at Treynor High School. Mr. Schuler is planning on one section of driver's education, which will take place in June and possibly the first week or two of July. Students cannot miss more than two classes and still receive credit for the class according to Iowa Law. Once Mr. Schuler gives me more information, I will meet with your students and give them a copy of the schedule so you can all finalize plans for the summer. Tell your potential driver's education student to listen to the announcements for more information. Cost will be \$275, and the student must have his/her driver's permit by the first day of class.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

April 16	Prom
May 10	High School Award's Day
May 11	Baccalaureate
May 18	Senior Trip
May 22	Graduation

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start my friend, anyone can start from now and make a brand new end.” Carl Bard



Counseling Comments ...Tami Harman

Scheduling will be taking place within the next couple of weeks. The master schedule is not designed yet but students will still plan their schedules based on coursework needed for the next school year. I will be going into the classrooms soon to give them the information they need to complete registration for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents, you should be having discussions about the coursework that you think your son/daughter will need for next school year. Schedules will be completed for both semesters to help us build the master schedule.

Seniors should be finalizing post secondary plans and continue to work on scholarships. April seems to be the month when a lot of scholarships are due and then scholarship opportunities begin to quickly taper off through the month of May. Keep researching and looking for scholarships that are still available.

The seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen will be finishing their IHAVEAPLAN in classrooms within the next week. This helps them keep track of course work completed and coursework yet to be completed.

National Honor Society:

The 2016-2017 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on Monday, March 14th at 7:00 pm in the High School Cafetorium. There were 23 new members inducted. Those new members are:

Seniors: Olivia Russo and Carly Thody

Juniors: Elizabeth Brazeal, Emma Dahir, Tyler Kozeal, Jill Manhart, Amanda Rose Phillips

Sophomores: Lane Ausdemore, Nathaniel Bolte, Caleb Chmelka, Sara Denning, Samuel Dickerson, Callie Eckmann, Ashlynn Eckrich, Danielle Elliott, Grace Hall, Kaleb Harrison, Tillie Heim, Braxton Larsen, Jeremy Miller, Jakob Orel, Cassidy Robinson and Caroline Sondag.

Congratulations to the new inductees and their families.

This is a busy time for children. Soccer practice, baseball practice, and many other spring activities can sometimes cause kids to forget that **schoolwork is most important. Help them plan their activities with school being the first priority.** They will have all summer to relax and enjoy their other activities.

Preparing Class Lists For Next Year

When making classroom assignments for children, there are many factors we consider for each child. Not only are we assigning a teacher to each student, we are creating student groups in which we hope learning can flourish. At each grade level, the teachers will sit down and analyze each student’s academic progress and their interaction with the other children. Groups are then made with discussion about what the teacher thinks is best for each child. In creating heterogeneous groups, we consider academic abilities that can balance the group for instruction. Having classes of students with high, average, and low abilities has shown us that they learn from each other. Kids bring with them a variety of skills and in sharing those skills, they influence the others in the classroom. Some students have special needs that need to be met. Recommendations from IEP’s and Special Education teachers are consulted for student placement.

We must consider a child’s personality when making a classroom placement. A child’s behavior may have some influence on their participation in the group. Is the student shy, reserved, aggressive, out-going? Does the student have a personality conflict with any other student or teacher? Does the student depend on another student for decision-making? Are there combinations of students that may hinder learning for others? These are many of the questions that we ask when making classroom placements.

To complete the task of making our heterogeneous classes we consider a student’s gender. A balance of girls and boys in the classroom makes a comfortable atmosphere for children. **As a parent, there may be something about your child that we need to know when determining his/her classroom placement. Please write that information down and send it to me before May 1.** With all things considered we hope to provide the best possible place for our children to learn and grow.



**From the Elementary
Principal
...Diane White**

April Highlights

- April 1 Preschool Screening Day – Please call for an appointment.
- April 1** **No PK today**
- April 5 PK to IWCC for Health Fair
- April 7 Jump Rope for Heart
- April 8 Kindergarten Roundup Day (If your child did not attend Tri-Center Preschool, please call us @ 485-2271 for information.)
- April 15** **1:30 Dismissal for In-Service**
- April 20** **No PK today**
- April 18 Spring Music Program Grades K-1
2:00 and 7:00 PM
- April 27 Secretary’s Day
- April 28 2nd Grade Field Trip to Gifford’s Farm
- April 29** **No School – In Service Day**



Special Olympics ... Julie Theulen

Kaleigh Gillespie won first place in Special Olympic basketball skills in Iowa City on March 12. Congratulations, Kaleigh! The next competition for the team will be track and field events at IWCC on April 12 with a rain date of April 14. Hope to see you there to cheer the team on.

