



Tri-Center Newsletter 2015

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

**The Annual Progress Report for 2014-2015
may be found on the Tri-Center website as
soon as the state makes it available.**

Tri-Center Community Schools Mission Statement

**Committed
to
Maximizing
Student Potential**

Tri-Center Community Schools Belief Statements

- Learning should be approached as a life-long, continual process.
 - In order to function in a global society, students need to understand individual and cultural diversities.
 - It is the responsibility of everyone associated with the school to develop a climate that fosters positive self-concepts and self-esteem.
 - Learning occurs best in a safe, clean, attractive, and comfortable, non-threatening environment.
 - Students learn best when their unique personal, social, and academic needs are met by caring teachers and administrators.
 - Excellence will be achieved by hiring, nurturing, and retaining innovative teachers who are leaders in their field.
 - Learning occurs best when students are involved in a variety of academic and extra-curricular activities.
 - Self-discipline, personal responsibility, respect, and a commitment to a strong work ethic will be encouraged, expected and exemplified.
 - Family and community support enhances the learning process.
 - Functional families are an integral part of student achievement.
- All students can learn and succeed, although in different ways and at an individual pace.
 - Learning should take place in real-life contexts and should reflect the interrelated nature of subject areas. Using resources in the community can help students to understand how present learning is connected to future work experiences.

Board of Education's Belief Statements

- ★ Hiring the best teaching staff available, regardless of salary schedule placement. Keeping pay/benefits for staff (certified and classified) competitive with that of regional and comparably sized schools, such as those in the Western Iowa Conference.
- ★ Striving to keep lower elementary (PK-2) classroom numbers at twenty or less and continuing to provide all day and half-day pre-kindergarten programs.
- ★ Focusing curriculum and professional development primarily on reading, writing, math, and science; and pursuing research-based instructional practices that will bolster student achievement in all teaching areas.
- ★ Keeping the plant/facilities and the transportation fleet updated each fiscal year; and providing a safe educational environment for students and staff.
- ★ Valuing co-curricular activities and demonstrating that belief through facilities, equipment, and the selection of auxiliary staff. Recognizing the various booster clubs/support groups as vital partners in the education process.
- ★ Hiring the best administrative staff and allowing them to make operational, managerial, and procedural decisions for the district with the overall welfare of the students as the focus.
- ★ Striving to maintain a high level of parental/community involvement, and keeping people informed about the educational opportunities for district youth.
- ★ Continuing to emphasize curricular offerings which will meet the needs of all students at all grade levels.

How to get your students excited to learn...

I recently ran across the article, "10 Ways to Get Your Child Excited to Learn." This article quickly makes some interesting points. Some are humorous, some are practical, and all can easily be used to get our students excited about learning. I find #2 and #10 most profound when I read through this list. Take some time to read to or with your students every day. Families that read together, learn together...families that are learning together have fun together. The final idea related to complementing your students is also very profound and powerful. Take time to tell your students you are proud of them. Be proud of them for their hard work, achievement, and at times simply trying something new. There is nothing wrong with trying new things and maybe even struggling with them for a while. How else will we figure out what we really like and succeed at if we don't take the chance to try new things? Thank you all for the chance to serve your students and families. As always, please call, email, or stop by any time.

Dr. Tony Weers, Ed.D.

10 Ways to Get Your Child Excited to Learn
Corie Holmes, July 2013

Let's be honest, sometimes it's downright hard to get kids to want to do homework or to learn and try new things. Going to school or getting extra help from an online tutor can turn into an all out battle. At one point or another, we've all experienced that feeling. Kids would much rather be playing video games, watching television or playing. However, all is not lost. Education is important, and there are several things you can do to help your kids get excited to learn

1. Bribery

Let's not sugarcoat it. We will call it what it is. If there is a reward attached to finishing a problem or completing all homework, it's a bribe. Bribes don't have to be elaborate. Almost anything will do. Give them an extra piece of candy when they answer a math problem. Give them a ten-minute dance break when they've just read four chapters for history

class. Candy, fun activities, extra video game time, extra playtime or a chance to stay up a little later are all good rewards for stubborn kids.

2. Read Everyday

Reading is one of the most important ways to get a student excited about learning. Books are full of information and adventures. A student can learn even if it's a fictional book. Daring sword fights and far off places will teach your child about characters and places and ideas beyond what they learn in school. If you have a student in elementary school who is struggling with learning, take the time to read them a bedtime story, or better yet, have them read one to you. A good strong reader won't feel like it's a burden to read that chapter for history. Although science texts are filled with technical jargon, it's easier for a good reader to understand if they have learned to understand the context around it. Reading is crucial to learning, and a good reader will be more willing to learn.

3. Remove Distractions

Students have the attention span of a gnat. Their minds are going to be wandering to the sticky goo on their fingers or the hottie in math class. It won't matter what age, any subject is going to be tough to concentrate on. If you put added distractions in a learning environment, like television and video games, your child's concentration levels are going to be completely gone. Make sure you give them a solid environment – an office, desk or kitchen table – where they can focus only on homework and learning.

4. Find Interesting Subjects

Everybody is different. We all have different likes and dislikes. If children are learning about things that really pique their interest, they are going to be a lot more excited about learning. When a student actually wants to learn or explore a topic, the educational process goes a lot smoother. Don't be afraid to ask questions about what a student likes or dislikes. Find out what gets them going and run with it.

5. Music and Games

Educational songs that rhyme and teach math are great to stir up a desire to learn. There are several people out there who know all 50 states and capitals because of the *Animaniacs* song. There are tons of websites that feature educational games. Games and music are a great way to keep a student's interest and focus. They will have fun while still learning.

6. Learn Beyond School

School work is important, but learning something new is always exciting. Teach your child how to bake cookies. Baking involves math and fractions, so your child can be learning a little math, too. Or help them learn how to ride a skateboard. Learning new and different skills can increase a student's desire to learn more.

7. Set Goals

It's important to set goals when studying. They can be broad, long-term goals or very specific short-term goals. Having something to work for and gaining a sense of accomplishment is a great motivator for a student to want to learn. To-do lists are another great way to track productivity and keep spirits high.

8. Extracurricular Activities

Get your kids involved in recreation soccer leagues. Let them play T-ball. Sign them up for piano or music lessons. Look for science adventure clubs in your community and sign your kids up. Extracurricular activities are an excellent way for children to take a break from the monotonous and boring rituals of school. Taking a break will often rejuvenate kids and get them ready to go back on the grind. Activities outside of school get the blood pumping and give them something to look forward to.

9. Show the Relevance

"I'm never going to use this in real life." We've all said it, and we've heard it a thousand times over.

Looking back, we were right. There are a lot of things we learned in school that we've never used in grown-up life. Don't tell your children they are going to need this when they grow up. Show them what they are learning is relevant to their lives now. This will make the information stick and not just go in one ear and out the other.

10. Compliment Your Child

Who doesn't love a good compliment? A simple and sincere "That's great!" or "Good job!" can go a long way. Give your student something to be proud of and acknowledge the fact that you are proud of them. Making kids proud of what they do is going to make them strive for that same feeling again. Give them hope and power to accomplish and continue doing great things.

These are just a few simple things you can do to encourage your kids to study and enjoy learning. These simple techniques will help your kids learn, and you won't have to tell them that's what you want them to do. With things like games, compliments, bribes and a sense of accomplishment, your kids will be seeking out knowledge in no time at all.



From the Principal's Desk ... Angie Huseman

**October 22nd: End of 1st Quarter
No School for Students October 9th or October 24th.**

Power School

Remember, you can check your child's grade at anytime through the Power School System. All you need is Internet access. If you do not have Internet access, call me, and we can figure out a

way for you to stay as informed about your child's academic performance as possible. If you see something on Power School that you do not feel makes sense, make sure you contact the teacher.

It is vital for your child's progress in school to be involved in his/her daily activities. Let your child know what your expectations are for him/her, and talk frequently about what is going on in school.

PowerSchool also has a nice app if you have a smart phone. Just search for Power Grades in the apps and select the one for parents. The app looks like a chalkboard with an A+ written on it. The first thing you will need to put in is the website for PowerSchool at Tri-Center: pwrschool.tri-center.k12.ia.us and then use your student's user name and password in the next two blanks.

As with everything that happens at the middle or high school, if you have any questions that I can answer, please call 485-2257.

New Parent Log-Ins, Apps and Alert Numbers

If you have not already created your parent account (some of you did this last year), following are the instructions you will need to follow.

First, parents will need to create a new account with their own chosen user name and password. You can access this location by going to the Tri-Center website: www.tri-center.k12.ia.us.

Once you are in our website, click on Parent under the Resources heading (top right hand corner) and then the Power School Student link located under District. Click on "Create Account". Complete the information on the form, selecting your own user name and password; this will become your username and password for all of your children. At the bottom of the form, you will type in the name(s) of your child(ren). You will need to use your old parent log-in information for the Access Ids and Access Passwords for your student(s).

If you have more than one student, you will want to enter all of your children on this same page when you first create your account. **THE SYSTEM IS CASE SENSITIVE, SO IF THERE ARE CAPITAL LETTERS, USE CAPITAL LETTERS.**

This will enable you to have one log in for all of your children. Hit enter when all of the fields are full. **Second, YOU NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO SET UP AND CONTROL YOUR OWN ACCESS TO THE DISTRICT WIDE ALERT SYSTEM.** This system allows parents to update

any and all contact information at any time by simply logging into their parent account and clicking on Power Announcement in the side bar. Once you have clicked on Power Announcement, you should click on EXPAND ALL. Now you have the power to tell us if you want to be notified by text, email, phone or any combination. You can add a lot of numbers or just one. That is up to you. We do need to have at least one number so we can reach you in case of emergency.

If you need additional help, please do not hesitate to call any of the building secretaries or principals. The help you will need is close at hand.

New Work Time for Students

We have tweaked our schedule so there is a little more time in the middle of the day when students can get help on academics. Any student who is ineligible according to the D/F list will be assigned to a teacher during that time; For those students who are not assigned to a teacher, they will be able to utilize this free time to hang out with buddies in the cafetorium, start their own study table in the cafetorium or go to a teacher to get additional help. The hope is that with a longer period of time when students can have access to the teachers they need, they will be more likely to ask for the help they may need.

If you have any questions regarding this new time change, please call Dr. Huseman at 485-2257.



Counselor Comments ...Tami Harman

It is a busy time of the year in the Guidance Department. The next two months are full of standardized testing and several activities that students are involved in here at Tri-Center. Students need to pay attention to deadlines and manage their time to help them through these busy months.

SENIORS:

There are several college representatives scheduled to visit Tri-Center in October and November.

Please visit the Guidance website to see the listing of those representatives scheduled to visit.

I have met with some of the seniors and their parents in regards to their daughter/son's credits, graduation plans, scholarship procedures, college visits, and application process. I would still like to meet with those remaining parents and seniors within the next two months. Please call and set up a time to meet and review those plans.

The John Baylor Test Prep is in progress. There are 17 seniors preparing for the October 24th test by taking this Prep course. We will meet 12 times before the test date to help prepare for doing their best on this ACT test. Seniors should be finishing ACT testing by December unless a college or scholarship requires a later test date.

There will be a Financial Aid Meeting on Wednesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Tri-Center in the cafetorium. A representative from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) will give a presentation about the financial aid process for colleges and will be available to answer questions that parents may have about financial aid.

JUNIORS:

The juniors will be offered the John Baylor Test Prep before the February or April test date in the spring, depending upon conflicts. More exact prep dates will follow in the newsletter. It would be a good idea to have your daughter/son take the December ACT test to get a baseline score before taking the Prep course.

There will be 22 juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT test on October 14th here at Tri-Center. This test is a preliminary SAT test and is the only opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program. This is not an automatic scholarship program but they must take this test to qualify. This is also a great practice test for the ACT.

All juniors will be going to the Lewis Central College Fair on October 14th from 1:00 - 3:00. We will eat lunch here at Tri-Center and then travel to Lewis Central for the Fair and return to school by 3:15.

All Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen will be taking Iowa Assessments the week of November 16th. The Seniors will be taking the National Career Readiness Certification test during this week also. Please encourage your daughter/son to do their best, these assessments are great measurement tools for students, parents and the school.



**Elementary Principal
.... Diane White**

There is a very large College Fair in Omaha on the University of Nebraska campus. The date is Sunday, October 25th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. See a current list of colleges attending at EducationQuest.org. Students can register for a barcode at NebraskaCollegeFairs.org. If you need more information please call the high school and ask for Mrs. Harman.

October Events at the Elementary

- 1-9 NWEA Testing Continued
- 1 PK to Vala's Pumpkin Patch
- 1 5th Grade to Living History Farms
- 2 No PK today
- 5-10 Fire Prevention Week
- 6 1:30 out for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 7 Fall Fitness Day
- 7 1:30 out for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 8 3:30 Dismissal (this was originally a 1:30 dismissal)
- 8 PK to the Minden Fire Station
- 8 KDG to Minden Fire Station
- 8 1st Grade to Smalls Fruit Farm in Mondamin
- 9 No School
- 12 5th Grade Public Art Field Trip
- 12 Columbus Day
- 12-13 Hearing Tests
- 12-16 School Lunch Week
- 15 PK to Arrowhead
- 14 Grades 1-5 to the Neola Fire Station
- 19 Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 21 No PK today
- 21 3rd Grade to Hitchcock Park
- 23 End of 1st Quarter – No School – In Service
- 25-31 Red Ribbon Week
- 26 Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 31 Halloween (change your clocks tonight)



Picture Retakes

Picture retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 9th, in the elementary.



**Special Olympics
.... Julie Theulen**

The Special Olympic team competed in bowling at Thunder Bowl in Council Bluffs on Tuesday.

Cole Osbahr - 1st place - qualifies to compete at state!

Elijah Bearley - 2nd place

Matthew Killpack - 5th place

Kaleigh Gillespie - 5th place

Cole will compete at State on November 21st in Sioux City! GO TC!

