



Tri-Center Newsletter 2016

High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments

.....Angie Huseman

As this school year is still in its infancy, I am struck by how lucky I feel to be able to represent the whole Tri-Center Community. One would think, after the 18 years that I have been here, that feeling might have worn off by now, but it has not. There really is not a day that goes by that one of your kids does not say or do something that makes me proud, or leave me astounded by their gifts, or just plain makes me smile. It happened last night at the Volleyball game against Underwood when it seemed we had more kids cheering for our team at this away game, and at the same time, wearing burgundy shirts supporting an Underwood student in his fight against cancer. It happened two weeks ago when I asked a student if he had any homework, and he replied, "No, I did it at home, 'cuz that's where you are supposed to do homework!" (Something I had spent a number of years trying to convey to this particular student.) It happened this morning when, after our first fire drill of the year for our secondary students, we met on the football field to get a picture taken--the vast majority of the students and staff wearing blue shirts for Hydrocephalus awareness in support of one of our favorite 3rd graders, Miles. It happened last week when the secondary teachers decided to have Floats for Friday Fun for the kids--thanks to the Music Boosters for their contribution of the supplies. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the kids and the staff for this small treat was heartwarming. It really is the little things.

We are doing GREAT things for our students, preparing them academically for whatever step they will take when they leave our doors. We never want to forget, though, the importance of preparing our students in all of those non-academic ways, those little ways, so when they leave us, we are proud to have them represent Tri-Center.

Saying that, we are always trying to be better. You will be seeing on our website, FaceBook and Twitter pages a link for you to answer some questions about the job we are doing for your students. Please take a minute to complete that survey; we really do care what you think. If you cannot complete this survey through this means, we will help you to get it completed at Conferences this week (October 5th and 6th-4-8:00 p.m.).

Thank you for the opportunity to work with this fantastic faculty, staff and students.

Tri-Center Community Schools publishes all state reports, including: Student Proficiency, Demographics, Financial Report Card and C-Plan, which contains our **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT for the 2015-16 school year (last year)**.

This information can be accessed on the Tri-Center Community Schools website at www.tctrojans.org under District Information ----State Reports.

T-C-Great Kids, Great Communities! Please continue helping us market the Tri-Center schools by encouraging friends, family, or neighbors not associated with Tri-Center already to consider contacting us for a tour or information. Remind them also of our website at www.tctrojans.org and school FaceBook and Twitter pages. If you are living near the boundaries of our district, please talk with your neighbors to find out where their kids (if they have any) are attending school and encourage

them to consider us. We must continue to make parents aware of Tri-Center Community Schools and what it has to offer their children and family.

VACATIONS, IN-SERVICES, and EARLY DISMISSALS (ALL 1:30) will occur from time to time throughout this school year. The calendar can be accessed on the calendar tab located on the district website. ***NOTE:*** Early outs for teacher in-service will be published in the newsletter, sent home via notes to parents, and featured on the T-C website.

OPEN ENROLLMENT is an option that is available to parents wishing to enroll their child or children in another public school district in Iowa. The last day for regular open enrollment requests for 2017-2018 is March 1, 2017. The last day for open enrollment requests pertaining to Kindergarten students is September 1, 2017. A parent/guardian may apply for open enrollment after the filing deadline of March 1st if the student is entering kindergarten or if good cause provisions apply. If good cause has been met (according to Iowa Code), the parent/guardian shall be permitted to apply for open enrollment in the same manner as if the deadline had been met. Parents/Guardians of open enrolled children that have an income below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance, which may be in the form of transportation or a cash stipend. Open enrollment may result in loss of eligibility in activities.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH applications are available to all families that meet the income guidelines set forth by the State of Iowa, Department of Education, Bureau of Food and Nutrition. If any doubts exist concerning eligibility, please contact the superintendent's secretary at Tri-Center Community Schools. ***Families are strongly encouraged*** to complete an application for either category, as the total number of free/reduced applications that are approved constitute the percentage that much of the federal and state aid supplements are based upon for school funding. A full or partial student waiver does not transfer from one year to the next—this form must be filled out annually.

TRI-CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS does not discriminate on the basis of gender identity, race, national origin, creed, age, color, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. Inquiries and grievances may be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, Tri-Center Community Schools, 33980 310th Street, Neola IA 51559, (712) 485-2257.

VISITORS at Tri-Center Community Schools must buzz in on the intercom (near the main entrance to each building) and report immediately to the office area, sign in, and receive a visitor's sticker. Those who do not follow this procedure will be asked to leave immediately or the law enforcement agency will be called to handle the situation. Students are asked not to bring guests to school without receiving advance approval from the building principal. Parents are welcome visit the school at any time but must also check in with the office area upon entering the building. These procedures are implemented for the sole purpose of the safety of our students and staff.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING is prohibited by the Tri-Center Community School District. It is the policy of the school district to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and bullying. The Board of Education prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization of students or staff.

ANNUAL NOTICE (FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's education record. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education record that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading or in violation of the student's privacy rights.
- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

4) The right to inform the school district that the parent does not want directory information, as defined, to be released. Any student over the age of eighteen or parent not wanting this information released to the public must make objection in writing by **the first day of school** to the building principal. The objection needs to be renewed annually.

5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of that office may be obtained at the school.

**The specifics of the ANNUAL NOTICE can be referenced through Tri-Center Community Schools Board Policy 506.1E9. Copies of the board policy can be obtained at the school.

- No Child Left Behind (Federal Legislation)
- Notification to Parents Concerning Highly Qualified Teachers
- Parents'/Guardians' Rights Notification

Parents/Guardians in the Tri-Center Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. You may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your student in a Title I program or if your school operates a schoolwide Title I program.

The Tri-Center Community School District ensures that parents will be notified in writing if their child has been assigned, or has been taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified.

Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 485-2257, or by sending a letter of request to:

Office of the Superintendent
Tri-Center Community Schools
33980 310th Street
Neola, IA 51559

TOWN ROUTE BUS STOPS are located in each of our communities in the district.

For information on a particular bus stop, pick up or drop off time, please call the school office where

your child attends. **Parents and students are responsible for being to the bus stops on time. Students are expected to be at the bus stop nearest their home unless otherwise instructed by a building principal. **Please note that the sites are subject to change depending upon the location and number of students riding the bus. Thank you for your cooperation.**

STUDENT AUTOMOBILE SEARCHES may be conducted on school premises at any time if the school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the vehicle contains illegal, unauthorized, or contraband items. Parking on school property is a privilege and NOT a right. The school retains complete authority to have vehicles towed at the owner's cost, conduct routine patrols of the parking areas, and revoke a student's privilege to park on school property for any length of time that is deemed appropriate. Furthermore, **RECKLESS DRIVING** can result in being reported to the law authorities and the revocation of driving or parking privileges on school property.

LOCKER SEARCHES (in accordance with Iowa Law) can be conducted at any time as long as the student is present for inspection. There is no 24-hour notice necessary when probable cause exists.

RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION to the public as necessary will include:

Name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, previous school or institution attended by the student, and similar information. Any student, parent, or guardian not wanting this information released to the public must make objections in writing to the building principal. It is recommended that this objection be renewed at the start of each school year.



Tri-Center Community School District Acceptable Use Policy

Introduction

Tri-Center Community School District recognizes that access to technology in school gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life, and citizenship. We are committed to helping students develop 21st-century technology and communication skills. To that end, we provide access to technologies for student and staff use.

This Acceptable Use Policy outlines the guidelines and behaviors that users are expected to follow when using school technologies or when using personally-owned devices on the school campus.

- The Tri-Center Community School District network is intended for educational purposes.
- All activity over the network or using district technologies may be monitored and retained.
- Access to online content via the network may be restricted in accordance with our policies and federal regulations, such as the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as offline.
- Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action.
- Tri-Center Community School District makes a reasonable effort to ensure students’ safety and security online, but will not be

held accountable for any harm or damages that result from use of school technologies.

- Users of the district network or other technologies are expected to alert IT staff immediately of any concerns for safety or security.

Technologies Covered

Tri-Center Community School District may provide Internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, videoconferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, message boards, email, and more.

As new technologies emerge, Tri-Center Community School District will attempt to provide access to them. The policies outlined in this document are intended to cover all available technologies, not just those specifically listed.

Usage Policies

All technologies provided by the district are intended for education purposes. All users are expected to use good judgment and to follow the specifics of this document as well as the spirit of it: be safe, appropriate, careful and kind; don’t try to get around technological protection measures; use good common sense; and ask if you don’t know.

Web Access

Tri-Center Community School District provides its users with access to the Internet, including web sites, resources, content, and online tools. That access will be restricted in compliance with CIPA regulations and school policies. Web browsing may be monitored and web activity records may be retained indefinitely.

Users are expected to respect that the web filter is a safety precaution, and should not try to circumvent it when browsing the Web. If a site is blocked and a user believes it shouldn’t be, the user should follow district protocol to alert an IT staff member or submit the site for review.

Email

Tri-Center Community School District may provide users with email accounts for the purpose of school-related communication. Availability and use may be restricted based on school policies.

If users are provided with email accounts, they should be used with care. Users should not send personal information; should not attempt to open files or follow links from unknown or untrusted origin; should use appropriate language; and should only communicate with other people as allowed by the district policy or the teacher.

Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous conduct online as offline. Email usage may be monitored and archived.

Social/Web 2.0 / Collaborative Content

Recognizing the benefits collaboration brings to education, Tri-Center Community School District may provide users with access to web sites or tools that allow communication, collaboration, sharing, and messaging among users.

Users are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous conduct online as offline. Posts, chats, sharing, and messaging may be monitored. Users should be careful not to share personally-identifying information online.

Mobile Devices Policy

Tri-Center Community School District may provide users with mobile computers or other devices to promote learning outside of the classroom. Users should abide by the same acceptable use policies when using school devices off the school network as on the school network.

Users are expected to treat these devices with extreme care and caution; these are expensive devices that the school is entrusting to your care. Users should report any loss, damage, or malfunction to IT staff immediately. Users may be financially accountable for any damage resulting from negligence or misuse. Use of school-issued mobile devices off the school network may be monitored.

Personally-Owned Devices Policy

Students should keep personally-owned devices (including laptops, tablets, smart phones, and cell phones) turned off and put away during school hours—unless in the event of an emergency or as

instructed by a teacher or staff for educational purposes.

Because of security concerns, when personally-owned mobile devices are used on campus, they should not be used over the school network without express permission from IT staff. In some cases, a separate network may be provided for personally-owned devices.

Security

Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the school network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. If you believe a computer or mobile device you are using might be infected with a virus, please alert IT. Do not attempt to remove the virus yourself or download any programs to help remove the virus.

Downloads

Users should not download or attempt to download or run .exe or installation programs over the school network or onto school resources without express permission from IT staff. You may be able to download other file types, such as images or videos. For the security of our network, download such files only from reputable sites, and only for education purposes.

Netiquette

Users should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner. Users should also recognize that among the valuable content online is unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content. Users should use trusted sources when conducting research via the Internet.

Users should also remember not to post anything online that they wouldn't want parents, teachers, or future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it's out there—and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways you never intended.

Plagiarism

Users should not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images, from the Internet. Users should not take credit for things they didn't create

themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online. Research conducted via the Internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.

Personal Safety

Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission. Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks, and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet someone they meet online in real life without parental permission.

If you see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes you concerned for your personal safety, bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff if you're at school; parent if you're using the device at home) immediately.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyberstalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Don't be mean. Don't send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, or intimidating someone else.

Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Remember that your activities are monitored and retained.

Examples of Acceptable Use

I will:

- Use school technologies for school-related activities.
- Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that I am expected to follow offline.
- Treat school resources carefully, and alert staff if there is any problem with their operation.

- Encourage positive, constructive discussion if allowed to use communicative or collaborative technologies.
- Alert a teacher or other staff member if I see threatening, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, posts) online.
- Use school technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits.
- Cite sources when using online sites and resources for research.
- Recognize that use of school technologies is a privilege and treat it as such.
- Be cautious to protect the safety of myself and others.
- Help to protect the security of school resources.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Users should use their own good judgment when using school technologies.

Examples of Unacceptable Use

I will not:

- Use school technologies in a way that could be personally or physically harmful.
- Attempt to find inappropriate images or content.
- Engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or disrespectful conduct toward others.
- Try to find ways to circumvent the school's safety measures and filtering tools.
- Use school technologies to send spam or chain mail.
- Plagiarize content I find online.
- Post personally-identifying information, about myself or others.
- Agree to meet someone I meet online in real life.
- Use language online that would be unacceptable in the classroom.
- Use school technologies for illegal activities or to pursue information on such activities.
- Attempt to hack or access sites, servers, or content that isn't intended for my use.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Users should use their own good judgment when using school technologies.

Limitation of Liability

Tri-Center Community School District will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware. While Tri-Center Community School District employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms, and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness.

Tri-Center Community School District will not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for unauthorized transactions conducted over the school network.

Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy

Violations of this policy may have disciplinary repercussions, including:

- Suspension of network, technology, or computer privileges
- Notification to parents
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities
- Legal action and/or prosecution

** Please complete the Tri-Center Schools 2016-17 Technology Policy Agreement Form to decline or accept this program. You may keep this copy for your reference.*



OCTOBER 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 and JUNIORS:

Reminder that October 1, 2016 is now the date that parents and seniors can file the FAFSA. This is new this year, it will be based off your 2015 taxes.

If you need more information call the high school and ask for Mrs. Harman. We will also be holding a meeting in Underwood on October 19th that will discuss this new financial aid change.

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 21 seniors and a few juniors preparing for the October 22nd test by taking this Prep course. We will meet 14 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 College Planning and Financial Aid Meeting on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Underwood in their auditorium. A representative from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) will give a presentation about the college planning and 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 24 juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT test on October 19th 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 went to the Lewis Central College Fair on September 22nd from 1:00 - 2:00. We ate lunch here at Tri-Center and then traveled to Lewis Central for the Fair and returned to school by 2:30. I hope they were able to get good information on colleges of their choice.

All Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen will be taking Iowa Assessments the week of November 14th. The Seniors not be taking Iowa Assessment but will be doing an alternate activity. Please encourage your daughter/son to do their best, these assessments are great measurement tools for students, parents and the school.

There is a very large College Fair in Omaha on the University of Nebraska campus. The date is Sunday, October 23rd 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.



Picture Retakes

Picture retakes are scheduled for Monday, October 17th, in the elementary.

PROM 2017



Mrs. Zmolek, Mrs. Handbury and the junior class met on September 13 to discuss fundraisers and responsibilities for prom 2017. Students received a letter to give to parents and guardians detailing the responsibilities they have in order to attend prom. If students were unable to attend, extra letters were placed in the high school office.



Elementary Principal Diane White

October Events at the Elementary

- 5 – ‘Step It Up Iowa Walk’ 10 AM (30 min.)
- 5 - 1:30 dismissal – P/T Conferences
- 6 - 1:30 dismissal – P/T Conferences
- 7 - No School
- 10-14 - Fire Prevention Week
- 10-14 – School Lunch Week
- 11 - Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 12 – Students 1st thru 5th to Neola Fire Hall
- 14 - No PK today
- 14 – 3rd Grade to Hitchcock Par
- 17 – Picture Retakes
- 18 - Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 19 - No PK today
- 20 - 5th Grade to Living History Farms
- 20 – PK-3 Hearing Tests
- 21 - No School – End of 1st Quarter
- 24-31 – Red Ribbon Week
- 25 - Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 27 – 5th Grade Hearing Tests
- 31 - Halloween



Special Olympics Julie Theulen

The Special Olympic Team traveled to Thunder Bowl in Council Bluffs on Tuesday, October 4 to compete in Regional Bowling. The team consisted of Matthew Killpack, Shawn Pickett, Cole Osbahr, Elijah Bearley, Kaleigh Gillespie, and Joslyn Puntaney.

First place winners advance to compete at State on November 19 at Plaza Bowl in Sioux City. Elijah Bearley 1st place, Kayleigh Gillespie 1st place, Cole Osbahr 3rd place, Joslyn Puntaney 3rd place, Shawn Pickett 4th place, and Matthew Killpack 6th place.



Kelly Alferts Art News From the High School

"Creativity takes courage." **Henri Matisse**

We have many courageous artist here at TC. Whenever you create something on paper, you are exposing a little of your soul. Our own artist work here at TC can be seen in different parts of the school not just the display cases and art room.

Our 6th graders are busy creating personalized Mona Lisa's. It features their own personal faces, framed with the middle ground and background displaying their interest and or personal favorite things. They have finished personalized boxes that can be used for hiding their treasures.

7th Graders painted wonderful pictures featuring all the colors of the color wheel plus adding tints and shades to every color. They are now working on a "Crazy faces" exercise using design and patterning.

8th Graders Painted a project duplicating the technique used by the artist "Piet Mondrian". They were to only use the primary colors. They finished a "monochromatic" painting and are now working on a "Selfie Pop Art" project using mixed media.

Basic art has grown to 2 classes. It is fun to see all the talent and enthusiasm for the arts. We started out with an architectural design of a room and then they designed their own room, learning about 2 point perspective and how correctly drawn lines can give you the 3-D effect. They then studied form and lighting by creating a still life drawing with fresh vegetables and fruit from our garden- we snacked on some too. They are currently working on the "Vase Face" project with their profile and reverse profile creating a vase form. They will incorporate most of the elements and principles of Design: line, form, shape, pattern, rhythm, movement and balance, using paint to fill in their planned design of zentangles and doodles.

Our ceramic classes are busy, they have made whistles, pinch pots, boxes, and mugs so far. We had a guest speaker from Hot Shops in Omaha, Tim Barry. Tim is a potter at Hot Shops and is also the manager of this 52 studio art shop where local artist rent out a space to do their artwork, most after their "real job" day is done. He demonstrated how to "throw" clay on the wheel and talked continuously to the students about their future and what a difference they can make. "What are you going to do?" "What is stopping you?" – this was his theme, explaining how you need to follow your talent, your dreams, your interests, your passion. "You will make a difference". Everyone enjoyed his visit. He offered to come back and show us how to make clay.

The Advanced students are just finishing up their Batik projects using wax and dye. They have finished their mixed media project and are now working on the wheel throwing clay. Some have been working on different aspects of their final project featuring a famous artist of their choice (by suggestive list). They all must do a project in the same style as well as a report, power point and poster. Print making is coming up in the near future.