



October/November/December Tri-Center Newsletter 2018

High School 485-2257 Middle School 485-2211 Elementary 485-2271
www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments ... Angie Huseman

Tri-Center Community Schools Mission Statement

**Committed
To
Maximizing
Student Potential**

Tri-Center Community Schools Belief Statements

- 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 understand how present learning is connected to future work experiences.
- Learning should be approached as a lifelong, continual process.
- In order to function in a global society, students need to understand individual and cultural differences and be responsible for one's actions.

- We strive for an environment that promotes responsible digital citizens.
- It is the responsibility of everyone associated within 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 that promotes accountability.
- Students learn best when their unique personal, social, and academic needs are met by caring teachers and administrators who have high expectations.
- 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 extracurricular 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) promotes the learning process both academically and socially.
- Functional families are an integral part of student achievement.
- Learning occurs best in an environment where students, teachers and parents meet face-to-face to develop specific plans to support students in order to help them to achieve at the highest possible level (discuss progress and goals).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SIAC):

At our October 2nd meeting, (6:00 p.m. in the Secondary Library) we will discuss Attendance and Enrollment Data, ways to increase our Parent/Family engagement, Legislative Action Opportunities, GrowTC Efforts. Additionally, we will review our District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (see below). You can find all of this information on our website: tetrojans.org under the District Information tab then SIAC and Minutes. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let Dr. Huseman know.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent and family engagement is an important component in a student's success in school. The board encourages parents and families to become involved in their child's education to ensure the child's academic success. The board will:

- (1) Involve parents and families in the development of the Title I plan, the process for school review of the plan and the process for improvement;
- (2) Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- (3) To the extent feasible, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies outlined in other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;
- (4) Conduct with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the school served including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I activities (with particular attention to low-income parents, Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents, parents of any racial or ethnic minority,

parents with disabilities and parents with limited literacy);

- (5) Use the findings of the annual evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family involvement and to revise, as necessary, the parent and family involvement policies; and;
- (6) Involve parents and families in Title I activities.

The board will accomplish this by review of report by School Improvement Advisory Committee.

The board will review this policy annually. The superintendent is responsible for notifying parents and families of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year. The superintendent may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

As the seasons change, the type of weather that could affect our school schedule is on the way. We will make every effort to make decisions related to school cancellation, late starts, or early dismissals as timely and effectively as possible. We will post announcements to our website, facebook page, twitter feed and local tv and radio stations, in addition to sending automated emails and phone calls to families that have given us contact information. Please remember, Parents, that the final decision is always yours. If you feel your student should stay home due to weather or other reasons, keep your student home and notify the school office. Also, if you do not believe you are receiving school messages, please call one of the offices to confirm your contact information.

NONDISCRIMINATION/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Tri-Center Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment) marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status(for programs) in its

educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Chad Harder, Secondary Principal, Tri-Center Community Schools, 33980 310th Street, Neola, IA 51559, (712)485-2257, charder@tctrojans.org.

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 2017-18 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, Instagram 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.

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 2019-2020 is March 1, 2019. The last day for open enrollment requests pertaining to Kindergarten students is September 1, 2019. 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.

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. Additionally, we will try to send voice and/or email reminders the night before.

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.

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. You will find additional resources at www.tctrojans.org.

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 **September 1st** 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 or through the website: tctrojans.org.

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.

It is all staff members' responsibility to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interactions with other individuals on social networking sites/chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

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

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the eventual arrival of another winter, the possibilities of late starts, early dismissals and calling school off are knocking at the door. Please be assured the school has a calling system in place and decisions regarding these items will be made in as timely a manner as possible so families can plan accordingly. With so many buses/vans/routes in our 200 square mile district, the reality is that everyone either drives or rides to school which equates to a lot of risk every day.

Please keep in mind that we do live in the Midwest where weather can be both severe and isolated in terms of area. It may be that part of our district is in worse condition than another, so please keep this in mind. If school is not cancelled, yet the conditions in your area are such that you feel travel too risky, please contact the school and let us know your child(ren) cannot attend that day. Families get the final say in these instances.

The media does an excellent job of keeping us informed of pending weather advisories, and we have access to several satellite websites via internet. Tri-Center Community Schools will act in a responsible manner, but we will try not to overreact.

Power School Notification: Now is a great time to check how you have notifications set up in the Power School Parental notification area. When you log in to your parent PowerSchool account, click on the **Power Announcement** tab on the side of the page. Then, click on the Expand All tab. Make sure you have numbers and email addresses entered.

If you have any questions about getting this set up, please contact Matt Schmitz at mschmitz@tctrojans.org or Angie Huseman at ahuseman@tctrojans.org.

As you will all have experienced one time or another, technology is great--when it works. If you don't have your information set up in the automated PowerSchool system, you can also get information

about school closings on the TC Webpage, TC Facebook page or TC Twitter site. Or, you can do what we have all done for years; turn on your television or radio to the local news stations (KMTV, WOW, KETV, KNOD, KMA).

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

Make sure that your kids are ready for the cold weather--especially if they have to wait outside for a bus. Hats, boots, coats and mittens are necessary equipment at this time of year. For all of those students that drive to school, my dad always preached for me to have extra warm attire IN my car anytime I left to go anywhere.

If you are having difficulties accessing warm clothing for your child, please call me, and I will help you figure out how to make this happen.

Thank you for all you do for Tri-Center students.



Counselor Comments ... Tami Harman

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

It is a busy time of the year in the Guidance Department. The next three months are full of many 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:

Reminder that October 1, 2018 is now the date that parents and seniors can file the FAFSA. It will be based off your 2017 taxes. If you need more information call the high school and ask for Mrs. Harman. Steve Irvin works for ICAN and will do your FAFSA free of charge. His contact number is

877-272-4692, ext 4209. This is a super fast and easy way to get your FAFSA done quickly and accurately.

SENIORS AND JUNIORS:

There are several college representatives scheduled to visit Tri-Center in October, November and December. Please visit the Guidance website to see the listing of those representatives scheduled to visit.

SENIORS:

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

SENIORS:

The John Baylor Test Prep will start on October 10th and continue until the October 27th test date. There are approximately 16 seniors preparing for the October 27th 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.

JUNIORS:

The juniors will be offered the John Baylor Test Prep before the February or April test date in the spring, depending upon conflicts. 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. The common recommendation is to take the ACT twice junior year and twice senior year. Depending on the score, then parents/students will need to determine if more testing is needed.

There will be 9 juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT test on October 10th 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.

As we approach December, students will be working on and finalizing their second semester schedules. Their schedules are already in place for second semester but they will have the opportunity to adjust or change schedules for second semester if needed. Please discuss course options with your daughter/son.

We will be taking Iowa Assessments second semester. These assessments allow students a chance to see how they rank in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science.



Special Olympics ... Julie Theulen

The Special Olympic Team participated in District Bowling at ThunderBowl in Council Bluffs on October 2. Placing first in their divisions and heading for state competition are Elijah Bearley, Kaleigh Gillespie, and Jak Knudsen. Placing second in their divisions were Cole Osbahr and Joslyn Puntaney. Shawn Pickett-Pauley and Miles Lee placed third. Elijah had a personal best game of 146. Kaleigh had a personal best game of 91. Joslyn had a personal best game of 40. State competition is on November 17 at ThunderBowl in Council Bluffs.



