

September 2015 Tri-Center Newsletter



High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us

NOTE: We will continue to provide copies of our newsletters in local businesses (i.e. banks, grocery stores in Neola, Minden and Persia) in order to cut back on our cost of mailing. You can also view the monthly newsletter on our school website: www.tri-center.k12.ia.us. We will mail copies to out of town/state residents who do not have access to the internet if requested.

Welcome Back Students!!

Superintendent's News and Comments ... Tony Weers

Welcome Back Trojan Students and Families!!

It is hard to believe we are almost a month in to the new school year. The beginning of a new year is a fun and exciting time. Greeting students as they get off the bus is the best part of this job. Students are excited and full of expectations as they enter our school buildings each day. It is great to know the board of education, administration, and faculty and staff of your school are all here to serve your students and the excitement they bring. Faculty and staff are focusing on positivity, perseverance, and passion this year. Please join us in focusing on being positive; persevering when faced with difficulty; and, being passionate about meeting the needs of ALL students.

Tri-Center Community Schools **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT for the 2014-15 school year (last year)** can be accessed on the Tri-Center Community Schools website at www.tctrojans.org. ****Available anytime after September 16th.**

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. 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 2016-2017 is March 1, 2016. The last day for open enrollment requests pertaining to Kindergarten students is September 1, 2016. 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



Tri-Center Community Schools Acceptable Use Policy July 2015

Introduction

Tri-Center CSD recognizes that access to technology in school gives students and teachers 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 CSD 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).
- 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 CSD 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 misuse 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 CSD 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 CSD 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 educational 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 CSD 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 CSD 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 that collaboration is essential to education, Tri-Center CSD 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 CSD may provide users with mobile computers or other devices to promote learning both inside and 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 may use personally-owned devices (including laptops, tablets, smartphones, and cell phones) at any time during school hours—unless such use interferes with the delivery of instruction by a teacher or staff or creates a disturbance in the educational environment. Any misuse of personally-owned devices may result in disciplinary action. Therefore, proper netiquette and adherence to the acceptable use policy should always be used. 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 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 educational 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

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.

- 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.

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 and research.

- 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/bullying, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, posts) online.
- Use school technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits only.
- Cite sources when using online sites and resources for research; ensure there is no copyright infringement.
- 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 to myself or others.
- Search inappropriate images or content.
- Engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or disrespectful conduct toward others--staff or students.
- 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, accounts, 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 CSD will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data or hardware.

While Tri-Center CSD 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 CSD 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 in extreme cases
- Notification to parents in most cases
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities
- Legal action and/or prosecution



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 APP is live for all Smartphones with PUSH Notifications
Go to your App Store and search for School Way Download for FREE





From the Principal's Desk...

By Angela Huseman

Welcome to a new school year! We are off to a fast and furious pace in these hallways of the Middle and High School. While being principal over both buildings will be a new endeavor for me this year, I am looking forward to the challenge. Saying that, I also realize there will be some things that I may inadvertently forget to do; when that happens, PLEASE remind me.

I have been asking students at random how their year is going, and I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of extremely positive responses I have gotten. Awesome! Fantastic! Great! These have by far been the majority of the responses, so I know the kids are ready for a wonderful year. I cannot wait to see all of the great things our kids will accomplish this year.

New Faces

There are a few new teachers in the T-C halls who you may have been hearing about:

- Miss Bryanna Logsdon is teaching Spanish.
- Mr. Juan Batula has joined the Math department and is teaching various Algebra courses, Geometry and Statistics, as well as a middle school Leadership class.
- Mrs. Kelly Alferts is heading up the Art Department.
- Claudia Baker has taken over the vocal music department (you will remember her from last year in her role as accompanist).
- Mrs. Pam Ring is helping out in the library a couple days a week.

All of these folks are fantastic additions to our teaching staff. When you see them around, please help me to welcome them to our Tri-Center Community.

Starting Good Habits

As I was reading the Omaha World Herald last weekend (August 30, 2015), I found the following tips in the Living section that I thought were great reminders for parents of all ages of kids.

I am going to share with you the tips that Michael O'Connor shared for Middle and High School level students and their parents.

Middle School:

- Take a step back: Homework help should begin tapering off in middle school, but parents can still play a role.
- Break it down: Students get more long-term projects, so encourage your child to break the project into pieces and set deadlines for each.
- Get them organized: Encourage your child to use their weekly planner with assignment, test dates and other school deadlines.
- Urge them to take care of themselves: Encourage your child to seek help from a teacher after class or school if the child is having difficulty with a subject. Students need to learn to become their own advocates.
- Keep tabs on their progress: Schools often post grades online (Power School). Check grades regularly to see if your child is on track or need extra help.

High School:

- Take another step back: Parents should really pull back on help as students prepare for college, but there are ways to lend a hand.
- Team building is good: Encourage your child to form a study group with classmates.
- Extracurriculars are good, too: Encourage your child to join a school club that ties in with academic interests, such as the environment or literature.
- Keep it casual: Find informal ways to stay plugged in with homework, such as a dinner table conversation about your student's presentation for history class.

For any age:

- Environment is key: Provide a quiet space with good lighting. Younger kids might do best at the kitchen table where you can stay close, but teens might do best in their rooms.
- Structure is helpful: Schedule a regular study time. Some kids work best in the afternoon. Others may do better after dinner.

- Deadlines are helpful, too: Set deadlines for getting homework done. Let older kids set their own.
- Supply supplies: Make sure your child has paper, pencils and other materials.
- Stay upbeat: Be positive about homework. Your child will pick up on your attitude.
- Toe the line: When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.
- Communicate: Remember that expectations can vary among teachers on the parental role with homework. If the teacher doesn't communicate it, ask.



High School Counseling Comments ... Tami Harman

Juniors and Seniors need to be aware of the ACT test dates for 2015-2016.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
Oct. 24, 2015	Sept. 18, 2015	Sept. 19- Oct. 2, 2015
Dec. 12, 2015	Nov. 6, 2015	Nov. 7 -20, 2015
Feb. 6, 2016	Jan. 8, 2016	Jan. 9-15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5-18, 2016
June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 7-20, 2016

If you daughter/son has not taken the ACT yet they need to strongly look at their career interest and visit the counseling office to determine their need for the ACT test.

We will again be offering the John Baylor ACT Test Prep course for the October test date and the February test date. The October Prep is for seniors and the February Prep is for the juniors. More information is available from the Guidance Counselor.

The Golden Circle College Fair in Des Moines is on Sunday, September 27th from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Some Juniors will be taking the PSAT/NMSQT on October 14, 2015 at Tri-Center.

Iowa Assessment testing will take place on November 16th – 20th, 2015.

Listed below are the college reps that are scheduled to visit Tri-Center.

Sept. 23	The University of Iowa	8:30 a.m.
	Briar Cliff University	10:00 a.m.
	Buena Vista University	2:45 p.m.
Sept. 30	Morningside College	1:45 p.m.
Oct. 5	Simpson College	10:00 a.m.
Oct. 8	University of South Dakota	8:15 a.m.
Oct. 12	Southwestern Community College	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 13	University of Northern Iowa	2:15 p.m.
Oct. 14	Iowa Western Comm. College	9:00 a.m.

I told all of the students the first day of school, that my philosophy is there is no such thing as no homework. There is always something you can work on for an hour or two that will help you from being overwhelmed later. You could recopy notes, study some notes for a test or quiz that will happen in a couple of days, or just read. Having said that, one of my students (Shout out to Olivia!) urged me to watch the documentary, *Race to Nowhere*. (You can find it on Netflix). So, I watched it, and after having done so, I have more questions about how to properly prepare our students for their next steps. I am torn. So, if you have a chance, watch it, and then come share your thoughts with me.

And the most important thing...

If you ever have a question or a concern about something going on at school, please share it. My email is ahuseman@tetrojans.org, or you can phone me at 712-485-2257. Just like your teachers used to tell you, there is no such thing as a dumb question!



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

September Highlights

- 4 – No PK today
- 7 – No School – Labor Day
- 8 – Election Day
- 9 – PK Picture Day
- 11 – 4th grade to Carsten Farms
- 13-18 – Homecoming Week
- 21 – No PK today
- 23 – Farm Safety Day Grades 3-5
- 24 – Picture Day K-12
- 24 – PK to Arrowhead
- 25 – 1:30 Dismissal – InService
- 28 – NWEA Testing

A Sneak Peek at October Highlights

- 1 - 5th Grade to Living History Farms
- 1 PK to Vala’s Pumpkin Patch
- 2 No PK today
- 4-10 Fire Prevention Week
- *6 - 1:30 dismissal – P/T Conferences
- *7 - 1:30 dismissal – P/T Conferences
- *8 3:30 dismissal
- 9 No School
- 19 Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 21 No PK today
- 23 No School – End of 1st Quarter
- 26 Babysitting Class at 3:30
- 31 Halloween

*Note: This is a change in the District Calendar provided at the beginning of the school year.



**HELP OUT THE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Making a difference has never been easier! Here's a list of easy things you can do to help us at the elementary school:

1. Save Campbell Soup UPC Codes--Collect UPC Codes now instead of labels

Campbell soup UPC Codes and also other Campbell products UPC Codes are collected in our building. You can send the UPC Codes with a student or drop them off in the office. We receive points to purchase a variety of things for our students.

2. Save Box Tops for Education

General Mills will give us \$.10 for each box top we collect this year. The box tops have the Box Tops for Education symbol on them. We have a collection sack in the office.

3. Save Your Empty Ink Jet Cartridges

Please put empty cartridges in a plastic bag to send them to school. We have a collection box in the office.



Go Green and Help Support the Ronald McDonald House

Tri-Center Schools are sponsoring an aluminum pop tab drive for the Ronald McDonald House. Why pop tabs and not the whole can? Pop tabs are smaller and easier to store. Tabs are also paint free and pure aluminum which increases their value.

Students and community members are encouraged to turn in their tabs into the TC offices. After we collect them we will turn them into the Ronald McDonald House. They will recycle the tabs and use the proceeds to assist families who have a child receiving treatments at our local health care faculties.

