

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

After a seemingly endless winter, we seem to have jumped right into the heat of summer! Welcome to the year-end edition of *The Messenger*. In this edition we will share accomplishments of students, staff changes, facility improvements, and more. It is always exciting to share the many positive things going on in the district. I encourage people to check in frequently on the school website, www.indianola.k12.ia.us, as well as the District Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Indianola-Community-School-District-899787926753646/>, and many Twitter accounts and Facebook pages of different clubs and groups.



If you are not frequently online, the district will continue to publish *The Messenger* several times a year; and, of course, we encourage people to attend school events and volunteer in our schools as they are able. As always, I am happy to connect with people throughout the district and encourage you to contact me. My email is art.sathoff@indianola.k12.ia.us, my office phone is 515-961-9500, and my office is located at 1304 E. 2nd Avenue.

Art Sathoff

Indianola Superintendent

School Safety - Constant and Ongoing

School safety is on everyone's mind, particularly since the tragic and highly publicized events of this school year. The school administration has been working on updating and implementing plans, and recent legislation and community concern has spurred on those efforts. We are actively planning and training in the six key areas of emergency planning and incident management, which include the following: prevention, protection, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Some of our preventative measures, beyond facilities improvements for security, were detailed for the school board: "As a district we are very concerned with addressing underlying issues that prevent students from having a strong connection with school. Through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) plans in each building, we strive for early identification of struggling students, providing additional support. School counselors teach anti-bullying curriculum and facilitate small groups. The district has an agreement that ensures trained, on-site mental health counselors are available. We work cooperatively with the faith community through the Indianola Ministerial Association. Our administrators investigate every allegation of bullying and harassment. We use structures like student advisory periods and student teams to try to build community. *Continued on page 2.*



Irving Elementary Welcomes New Principal

Mr. Derek Morris is set to take the reins as the new principal at Irving Elementary School next year. Although he will not officially begin work until July 1st, Morris has already been busy meeting with colleagues and staff. On April 25th and 26th, Morris spent two days at Irving participating in Instructional Rounds. He provided a fresh perspective on Irving's PLC work and made a positive impression on administrators and teachers alike.

Mr. Morris brings a diverse background and an abundance of experience to his new position. He has served as the principal at Lenox Elementary School in Lenox, IA for the past thirteen years. He has also been Lenox CSD's Special Education Director and English as a Second Language Coordinator. Prior to becoming an administrator, Morris served as a language arts and reading teacher in the Highland and Bedford CSD's. He is a graduate of Lenox High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and his Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northwest Missouri State University.

Mr. Morris comes highly recommended by his current colleagues. His teachers praise his versatility, professionalism, kindness, collaborative spirit, and steadfast commitment to students and staff. Fellow administrators admire his intellect, vision, enthusiasm, and instructional leadership. These qualities were evident throughout Morris' interview and subsequent visits to Irving Elementary.



School Safety - Constant and Ongoing

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Our elementary schools use positive reinforcement systems like PBIS, and our middle school has utilized a campaign where everyone is a champion for someone else. Two district goals identified by the school board focus on effective communication and meeting students' needs. Both of these goals tie in with having safe schools and communicating efforts to parents."

The district is working cooperatively with Warren County Emergency Management to create the new Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes information for schools. We also plan to participate in a large-scale training exercise at the high school this summer and are working with the Indianola Police Department and Indianola Fire Department. Additionally, the Indianola Police Department is in contact with the FBI to bring ALERRT active shooter training to the school district. In 2015, this training was held at Irving Elementary with a few school administrators participating. We hope to have broader participation in the next round of training.

Review of district and building emergency plans and procedures is constant and ongoing. Areas the district wants to continue to improve, beyond planning, include appropriately drilling and evaluating drills, increasing training for students and staff, and communicating effectively with parents and community. There are elements of planning and procedures that cannot be made public, but the district wants the community to know we take student safety very seriously and are working to make district buildings as safe as possible.



Happy Retirement!

Please join us in wishing the following teachers and staff a most enjoyable retirement. Each have played an important role in the lives of students and helped to shape our district. We wish them all the best!



Paul Rogalla - Mr. Rogalla has been with Indianola CSD for an incredible 41 years and in education for 42! He is looking forward to establishing new goals for himself and exploring interesting second career choices.



Sue Putz - Sue began her teaching career with the start of the Indianola High School Spanish program 33 years ago. She is most excited about traveling, spending more time with family, and not getting up at 5:45am!



Rhonda Ross - Rhonda first taught in Ohio for two years before coming to Indianola, where she has taught third and fourth grade for 29 years. She will miss working with students and seeing their excitement for learning.



Claudia Schooler - Claudia has been in education for 33 years, teaching both English and Spanish. She plans to "dig in my garden and dig deeper into ministry roles at church." She will miss her colleagues the most.



Kathy Turnball - Over the course of 30 years, Kathy has covered the spectrum from elementary to college level instruction. She is going to enjoy having a flexible schedule and is keeping her options open.



Mary Kay Hannam - Twenty years ago Mary Kay left adult counseling to focus on prevention and intervention for situations that middle school students encounter. "That was the best career decision I ever made."



Cinda Synhorst - Cinda is retiring after 30 years in education, 15 of those here in Indianola. Although she is looking forward to the freedom of a flexible schedule, Cinda will greatly miss the camaraderie at IMS.



Sherrie Stark - After a total of 38 years teaching and working with students Sherrie hopes that she has passed on her "love of reading". IHS students and staff will be greatly missed along with access to books and "book talk."



Jim Bassett - Jim retired earlier during the school year. For 10 years Jim served as a systems control technician, working his magic on the building HVAC systems. In 2017 he moved to interim then acting facilities director.



Al Beck - Al worked as a custodian at Emerson Elementary for five years. Instead of tending to all of the little things (and big things) at the building, he is doing them at home now. Al plans on enjoying more time with family and taking it one day at a time.

High School DLE Refresh

It's amazing how fast four years can go flying by and how much technology can evolve in that time. It hardly seems possible, but Indianola High School is wrapping up its 4th year as a Digital Learning Environment (DLE). The IT department first issued the MacBook Airs to students at the beginning of the 2014-15 school year. Since that time, both students and teachers have been working hard and making good progress toward our goal of transforming IHS into a digital-age learning center.

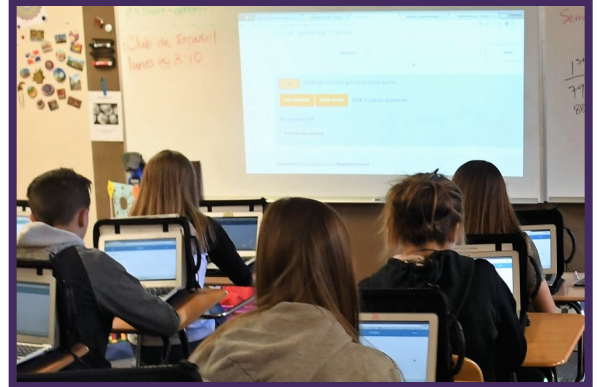
As part of the Original DLE plan we began budgeting for a "refresh" of our equipment at the 4-year mark to ensure our students are using current, dependable technology.

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HS DLE Refresh

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When the new school year begins in August, each high school student will receive a new 13" MacBook Air for use at school and at home. Not only will the new laptops be equipped with the latest hardware and software, they will also have 2" larger screens than our current devices. Each computer will come with a new "always on" protective case that displays the student's name. We are going to continue to use the same style of carrying case that students have now. This case, combined with our highly responsible students, has resulted in less than 1% major damage reported this year. Compared to other area schools, this number is simply amazing and it speaks volumes about our students, the devices, and the cases.



The new MacBook Airs can hold a charge that lasts up to 12 hours - allowing for a full school day of use by students. Just like we do now, our students and staff will utilize Google cloud storage, which provides each user with unlimited storage. This cloud storage is in addition to the 128GB of built-in flash HD storage on each computer.

On-board internet filters round out the MacBook Air configuration and help to ensure the online safety of our students when on campus and at home. While we do our best to provide adequate protection, there is no greater tool than active parenting. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to monitor student usage and set restrictions for computer time at home.

Staff and students often ask if they can purchase our devices when they are cycled out. Unfortunately, we cannot legally do a direct-sale of equipment to individuals. However, we are able to sell the used devices to recyclers and other businesses through a competitive bid process. We have been in contact with several companies regarding the removal of our current MacBook Airs and the resale value appears promising.

We are looking forward to using the funds we receive from the sale of our existing equipment to facilitate the expansion of our Digital Learning Environment to 8th grade during the 2018-19 school year. Please look for implementation details and the timing of this mid-year transition in future editions of *The Messenger*.

Ray Coffey

Director of Technology

New Elementary Math Screening Tool Implementation

For the first time this spring, teachers used The FastBridge math assessment to screen all elementary students. The district has measured and monitored student reading progress using FastBridge for the past two years. As with the reading screener, the purpose of the math screener is to learn each student's current math skills and identify those students who need additional math instruction. Use of this screener also helps teachers to improve instruction by demonstrating what skills a student has mastered and which ones still need to be learned. *Continued on page 5.*



New Elementary Math Screening Tool Implementation

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Teachers will use the student results from the spring screening process to train on the FASTBridge dashboard and reporting tools. After students complete an assessment, teachers can use the customized reports to measure, track, and monitor student learning and growth for more effective teaching; pinpoint any problems; and make intervention recommendations.

Here is a snapshot of the math screeners given at each grade level:

earlyMath Grade Level: K - 1	Assessment focus: Early numeracy Kindergarten <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numeral Identification • Number Sequence • Decomposing 1st Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decomposing • Place Value • Story Problems 	Screening length - 5 minutes
aMath Grade Level: K - 5	Assessment focus: Broad Students answer questions about all areas of math using a computer. The questions adapt to the student's math level during the assessment.	Screening length - 15 to 30 minutes
CBM Automaticity Grade Level: 2 - 3	Assessment focus: Computation Facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)	Screening length - 1 to 4 minutes
CBM Concepts and Applications Grade Level: 4 - 5	Assessment focus: Applied math problems Students use a computer to solve a variety of math problems that require both fact and procedural knowledge.	Screening length - 20 to 30 minutes

Next year, both the math and reading screeners will be given to students three times over the course of the school year and results will be shared with parents/guardians. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions about grade level screening.

Cindy Slauson

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Online Student Registration

Indianola Community School District has finally moved to online registration! Early this school year the district began enrolling new students using PowerSchool's Online Registration (OLR) solution and the process has gone very well. Just a few months ago we opened up OLR for incoming Pre-K and kindergarten students, and the district is just now accepting returning student enrollment using OLR. Here are just a few of the benefits of OLR:

- No more writing your name and address over and over.
- It's paperless! No more packets of paper to be sent home...saving a few trees and the frustration of misplacing a page or two.
- Information carries over from year to year. That's right, if your information doesn't change much from year to year, the time it takes to complete registration should decrease dramatically.

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2018-19 Calendar Highlights

Irving Elementary students will follow the traditional calendar for the 2018-19 school year.

August 23

First Day of School

September 3

Labor Day / No School

October 29 - November 1

Parent / Teacher Conferences

November 1 - 2

No School

November 21

1 Hour Early Dismissal

November 22 - 23

No School

December 21

1 Hour Early Dismissal

December 24 - January 2

Winter Break / No School

January 14

Teacher Workday / No School

February 12 - 14

Parent / Teacher Conferences

February 14 - 15

No School

March 18 - 22

Spring Break / No School

May 23

Last Day for Seniors

May 26

Graduation (1:00 pm)

May 27

Memorial Day / No School

May 30

Last Day of School / 11:30 am Dismissal

Weekly Early Dismissal: There will be a weekly, one hour early dismissal on Wednesdays for professional development .

Online Student Registration *Continued from page 5.*

- The ability to quickly update information for all of your children at once.
- OLR is accessible through the Unified Classroom / PowerSchool Parent Portal.
- Parents will eventually be able to update information throughout the year (e.g. phone and address changes).
- You won't have to write your name and address over and over. OK, so we mentioned that already, but thought it was worth mentioning again:-)

To learn more about the enrollment process, please visit our district website (<https://www.indianola.k12.ia.us>) and navigate to District → Enrollment.

If you are a parent/guardian and already have access to the PowerSchool Unified Classroom (<https://classroom.powerschool.com>), you can just login and click on *Quick Links*→*Main Portal Page*→*Indianola Returning Student Registration* to begin the re-enrollment process.

If you are a parent/guardian and do not yet have a Unified Classroom account, please request access via the link on our district website *Information Technology*→*PowerSchool*→*Request PowerSchool Parent Access*.

Please note, that while a recent survey showed that most of our families have internet access at home, we understand that some may not. If you do not have a computer to complete online registration, please contact Julie Ormsby to come into our district office to complete the process. Julie may be reached at 515-961-9500 X1506 or by email at julie.ormsby@indianola.k12.ia.us.



Proud Traditions...Unlimited Possibilities

IHS Students in Action

At Indianola High School we take pride in creating opportunities for our students to be successful in a variety of ways. From fine arts to athletics to clubs and theater, we have seen some great performances by our students. We are also very pleased to have tremendous parent and community support that helps create the great experiences that we strive for our students to have. Take a look at some of the moments captured from this school year.



the MESSENGER

Indianola Community Schools

Graduation 2018!

Spring 2018



We're on the web: www.indianola.k12.ia.us



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