

Superintendent's Corner

Fall 2022

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of *The Messenger*! It has been a busy summer as the new superintendent of schools: making new acquaintances, attending different school and community events, and on August 23rd welcoming back close to 3,700 students and 550 staff members to our schools.

As the superintendent I have had the chance to visit with many students, parents, families and community members. One common theme that I heard over and over in those conversations is the support for our schools and students. As a school district we need to remain committed to building on those partnerships between the school, parents/families and community as a whole as we continue to meet the needs of all students.

Those of us that work in education are fortunate that every fall brings a fresh start with new students and a rejuvenated purpose. We are always excited as we anticipate the new possibilities and learning opportunities as we look forward to the new year. We will continue our work to fulfill our mission and vision of Proud Traditions... Unlimited Possibilities and Committed to Excellence and Achieving a Lifetime of Success to prepare and empower our students to think creatively, serve, contribute and succeed locally and globally. This time of the year also brings anticipation as students and teachers are eager to find out more about each other, who will be in their classes, and the start of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Thank you for entrusting your children to our schools and staff. The Indianola Community School District is a remarkable place to learn and work because of our tremendous students, staff, and community.

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Indianola Superintendent



Indianola Community School District 22-23 School Board

During their June 15, 2022 work session each board member shared their four priorities that they would like to see addressed during the 22-23 school year. The areas of attention for this school year include:



- School Safety
- High School Bond
- Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health (SEMH)
- Career Technical Education (CTE)

At the August 9, 2022 Regular Board of Education meeting the board discussed the Iowa School Board Association's legislative priorities. The school board voted and submitted to the Iowa School Board Association to continue to focus on these areas for the 2023 legislative session:

- Mental Health
- Teacher Recruitment
- Special Education Funding
- School Safety

Meet Our New Teachers

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to introduce the talented new and veteran teachers who joined our staff this year.



Tyler Beary - Behavior Strategist

A little about myself is that I graduated from the University of Iowa in the fall of 2019. From there I attended Drake University and graduated with my master's in 2022. Before taking the behavior strategist job here in Indianola, I was able to gain practicum experience at Marshalltown CSD, Blanks Children's Hospital and Waukee CSD. I enjoy watching sports, being outdoors and hanging out with my friends. I am the oldest of three siblings and I have never broken a bone in my body.



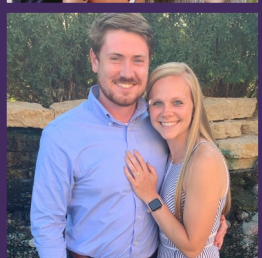
Grant Becker - Middle School Vocal Music

I grew up in Earlham, IA and graduated from Iowa State University in 2022. I had the pleasure of working with Indianola CSD as the assistant director of the high school show choirs last year while completing my student teaching in Waukee. I come from a family of educators, with my father teaching in Earlham and my sister pursuing her degree from UNI. Outside of school, I enjoy watching movies, running live music production, hiking & seeking adventures with friends and family.



Shelby Bengel - Whittier & Laura Ingalls Wilder Nurse

This is my 2nd year as a school nurse and my 8th year in the nursing field. My previous RN experience has been as a pediatric emergency nurse at Mercy. Born and raised in Indianola, I attended DMACC for my LPN, Indian Hills for my RN and the University of Iowa for my BSN. My husband and I have two daughters, Blaire (5) and Brynn (2), and we are so excited to have them grow up in the same community and school district as we both did.



Erin Brownlee - Emerson Elementary At-Risk Reading

I am originally from the Quad Cities and moved to Indianola after graduation from UNI four years ago. I taught for three years at Carlisle CSD as a preschool/k-prep teacher. I am now a reading support teacher at Emerson and I love getting to work with young readers. This summer I got married and have enjoyed the first few months of marriage with my husband! We have a two year old goldendoodle and his name is Chip. We like to go on runs together and play lots of fetch.



Emily Carstens - Middle School 7th Grade Math

I am originally from Panora, Iowa. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and taught 8th grade math at Gilbert Middle School before coming to Indianola. I originally went to college to become a pharmacist, but changed majors because I was not doing enough math!

Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination - Code No. 102.E2

It is the policy of the Indianola 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 Director of Human Resources, 1301 East 2nd Avenue, Indianola, Iowa 50125, 515-961-9500, hrdirector@indianola.k12.ia.us



Chelsey Clark - Emerson Elementary 2nd Grade

I grew up in Indianola and attended Emerson as a student. I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education at Simpson College, where I played volleyball and met my husband, Corbin. We have been married since 2017 and have one daughter, Quinn. Previously I taught 2nd grade in Des Moines and then Kindergarten at Emerson. I took a year off to stay at home with my daughter, but I missed the classroom too much and now I teach 2nd grade at Emerson.



Autumn Deporter - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary 2nd Grade

I am from Cheyenne, Wyoming but moved to Iowa a year and a half ago with my fiancé, Alek. I attended the University of Wyoming where I got my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education. This is my second year of teaching, but my first year teaching 2nd grade, which has been so fun and a big change from teaching 6th grade last year. Alek and I have two dogs who we love to take on hikes and explore with!



Angel Gioffredi - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary 4th Grade

This is my first year in the teaching field. I am from Jamestown, North Dakota and just moved to Indianola with my husband, Gage, last summer. I attended North Central University in Minneapolis, MN, where I graduated with a bachelor's in elementary education, and two minors in intercultural studies and Christian studies. I am 21 years old and have been serving in the military with the National Guard for 4 years. I love being outdoors, rock climbing and spending time with family and friends.



Jonathan Greiner - High School/Middle School Special Education

I am a graduate of Indianola and went on to play baseball at Midland University in Nebraska and finished at Simpson College with a degree in special education. This will mark the 5th year that I have been teaching, I was previously employed with the Des Moines Public School District. I live in town with my fiancé, Julia, and we have a 6-year-old boy, Blare. We are a family of many hobbies, we like to ride dirt bikes, go camping, go fishing and do almost anything outdoors.



Laurel Halstead - Middle School 8th Grade Art

I am a 3rd generation teacher married to another 3rd generation teacher in the district. Kent and I met at UNI and began our teaching careers in Minnesota over 30 years ago. Over the years I have taught art at all levels, from Pre-K through Adult. I also have my own art business and create a variety of calligraphy, portraits, kites and personalized gifts. We have raised two sons and have welcomed two daughters-in-law along with two grandchildren into our family.



Kade Kolarik - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PE

For most of my life I have lived here in Indianola. After graduating from Indianola High School I went to Central College to play football. Only doing that for one year, I transferred to Iowa State and majored in Kinesiology with a minor in health and coaching to finish out my college years. This is my 1st year teaching. When I am not at school, I enjoy golfing with friends, exercising and spending time with family.



Kelly Kuebler - Whittier Elementary 5th Grade

This is my 4th year of teaching I grew up in Indianola and I have so much pride in the school district and this community. After I graduated from Indianola High School, I attended Northwest Missouri State and then transferred to Simpson. I currently live in Knoxville with my husband, Karl, and our dog, Bella. Karl works as a chemical engineer at Ajinomoto in Eddyville. We enjoy watching football, hanging out with friends and family, spending time with our dog and hot air ballooning.

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Ben Lange - High School Interim Activities Manager

I was born and raised in a small town called Goose Lake on the eastern side of the state of Iowa. After high school, I received bachelor's degrees from the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa. I have held different roles as a coach or member of a few different athletic departments but this will be my first year as an athletic administrator. When I am not working, I enjoy watching movies, participating in athletics or spending time with my dog, Nellie.



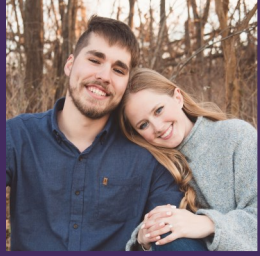
Krissa Larson - Middle School 7th Grade Social Studies

I am from Waverly, Iowa and I went to college at Central College in Pella, Iowa. At Central I majored in secondary education with a minor in history. During that time, I played volleyball and ran track for four years while being an all-conference member for both sports. Now I coach volleyball at Indianola High School and track at Simpson College. In my free time, I love to read, do puzzles and hang out with family and friends.



Tracey Murphy - Whittier Elementary PE

This is my 34th year of teaching. My husband, Jay, and I live in Pella and we have two grown children. I enjoy water activities, camping and riding motorcycles. After 28 years of teaching, coaching and officiating at Pella CSD, I retired in 2022. I was named the Iowa Elementary Physical Education Educator of the Year in 2012. I earned my National Board Teaching Certification in 2008 and I have taught at Central College and at UNI.



Sarah Nolting - Emerson Elementary 1st Grade

I am originally from Cedar Rapids, IA and currently live in Norwalk with my fiancé, Tyler. I graduated from Simpson College with my degree in education, ran track and was in Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. Last year I student taught and long term subbed in Kindergarten at Emerson Elementary. In my free time, I love gardening, crafting and spending time with my friends and family. I also enjoy watching sports and am a huge Hawkeye, Blackhawks and Bears fan.



Morgan Robinson - Irving Elementary 5th Grade

I grew up in Indianola. After graduating from Indianola High School, I attended DMACC for two years and then graduated from Iowa State University. I've remained involved with the Indianola community by volunteering at my local church, working at Indianola Child Care and teaching swim lessons. When I'm not at school, you can find me by my pool, at the lake or spending time with family and friends.



Greg Rodrigue - Middle School Computer Science & Technology

I am from New Orleans, Louisiana and I taught social studies in Arkansas for five years before moving to Iowa. I served on the residential staff at Woodward Academy before deciding to go back into the classroom teaching business and computer science at Marshalltown High School. In addition to teaching at the middle school, I am one of the assistant coaches for the Indianola High School Girls Rugby Team, I am working on my PhD in Aerospace Engineering, and I currently have re-enlisted in the military.

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Marcy Roff - Middle School Special Education

I attended Simpson where I played softball for four years. I graduated in 1997, the same year that we won a national softball title. I have taught science at Knoxville, Martensdale and Norwalk; and Special Education in Pleasantville and Des Moines Public Schools. I live in Pleasantville where my husband is the elementary principal and I have a son in 9th grade who is active in sports. I enjoy exercising, binge watching tv shows, spending time in my pool and with friends and being a mom.



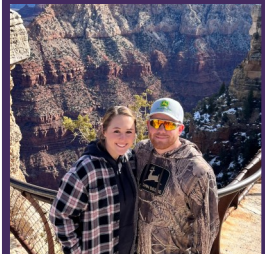
Luke Rohmiller - Emerson Elementary 3rd Grade

I am from Webster City, Iowa and I graduated from ISU with a degree in elementary education. I love teaching all subjects, but my favorite definitely has to be mathematics. Giving kids genuine experiences constructing their own understanding within the mathematical content is always my goal. When kids say, "Hey...this is math?!" then I feel the lesson was a success! I have always been an avid reader and when I get an opportunity, I love to open a book.



Jacob Smith - High School Agriculture

I grew up in Newton, IA and graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education. Outside of school you can find me working on my family's farm where we have 500 acres of row crop and run 80 head of registered cattle. My hobbies include showing livestock, hunting and fishing. I have my American FFA degree and was a three-sport athlete in high school where I played football, wrestled and played rugby.



Carlyn Stanley - Whittier Elementary 2nd Grade

I am a Turo, IA native. I was raised on our family farm and attended Interstate 35 High School. After high school I attended Simpson College where I majored in elementary education with endorsements in reading and social studies, and played softball. This will be my first year teaching. I recently became engaged to my fiancé, Jacob. We purchased our first home a little over a year ago in St. Charles. We love spending time outdoors with our friends and our dog, Crew.



Ann Van Treeck - Middle School PLTW

This school year is my 16th year in education. I have spent most of my teaching career in math and many years as a school librarian in West Des Moines. I enjoy being outside and learning new things. I love live music, hiking and running. My husband, Glenn, and I have two kids who are former Indianola High School graduates and who keep us busy traveling to visit them.



McKenna Ward - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary 4th Grade

I am originally from the east side of Des Moines and now live in Indianola. I started my teaching career three years ago with Carlisle CSD in 1st grade. I attended Iowa State University, where I met my husband, Tyler. We married in 2020 and our son, Drew, was born in August of 2022. In my free time I enjoy going for walks around the neighborhood, tending to our garden, visiting family around the Midwest and updating our fixer-upper.

Follow ICSD Teaching and Learning on Twitter to learn more about what is taking place in Indianola schools. Teachers and their classes are highlighted. @ICSDTeach_Learn

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Indianola Community Schools

2022-23 Calendar Highlights

Fall 2022

TRADITIONAL CALENDAR

November 22

1 Hour Early Dismissal

November 23 - 25

Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 22

1 Hour Early Dismissal

December 23 - January 3

Winter Break - No School

January 13

Building Meetings - No School

January 16

Professional Development - No School

February 14 & 16

Parent Teacher Conferences

February 17

No School

March 13 - 17

Spring Break - No School

April 3

Professional Development - No School

May 23

Last Day Seniors

May 28

Commencement

May 29

Memorial Day Holiday

May 31

Last Day of School - 11:30AM Dismissal

YEAR ROUND CALENDAR

November 22

1 Hour Early Dismissal

November 23 - 25

Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 16

1.5 Hour Early Dismissal

December 19 - January 9

Winter Break - No School

January 16

Professional Development - No School

February 14 & 16

Parent Teacher Conferences

February 17

No School

March 13 - 17

Spring Break - No School

March 20 - 24

Intersession - No School

April 3

Professional Development - No School

May 23

Last Day Preschool & Seniors

May 28

Commencement

May 29

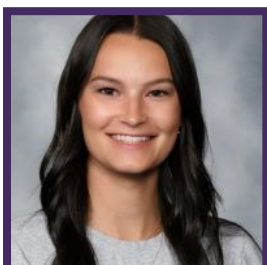
Memorial Day Holiday

May 31

Last Day of School - 11:30AM Dismissal

****WEEKLY EARLY DISMISSAL****

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



Josie Weber - Irving Elementary PE

I am from Ankeny, IA where I graduated high school in 2017. I recently moved to Indianola after graduating from UNI where I majored in physical education and minored in health. I am so excited to now be a part of the Irving team! When I am not teaching you can find me spending time with family and friends outdoors. My favorite winter activity is cross country skiing. I also love hiking, biking, fishing, gardening and playing tennis.



BJ Weepie - Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts

This is my 5th year as a teacher and 4th teaching language arts. I previously taught with the College CSD at Cedar Rapids Prairie. I attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where I played football and majored in elementary education with emphasis in reading and social studies. I am originally from Fairbank, Iowa where I attended Wapsie Valley High School. I am elated to be working in the Indianola CSD and have appreciated the welcoming embrace from the community.



Ashely Wendt - Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary 5th Grade

This is my fourth year teaching. Previously, I taught 3rd & 5th grades at Southeast Warren CSD. Prior to working in education, I was employed by the State of Iowa for 12 years at the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. My family and I live just outside Indianola and truly love this community. I have three children: Cale (9), Colton (7) and Carly (5), and they attend school at Whittier Elementary. You can always find me crafting and doing fun projects with my kids.



Emily Wright - Whittier Elementary Early Childhood Special Education

I am excited to join the Whittier family this year. This is my third year teaching preschool. I graduated from UNI with my degree in early childhood education in 2020. Helping our preschoolers develop a love for learning is my passion. My family is made up of my husband, Malcolm, and our dog, Indiana Bones. We live in Indianola but are originally from Eldora, IA. I love to learn new things, read, watch movies and go on adventures with my family and friends.

Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination - Code No. 102.E1

The *Indianola Community School District* offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study:

Business, Agriculture, Family Consumer Science, Industrial Technology

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“Replace in Place” Bond Vote

On Tuesday, September 13th the residents of the Indianola Community School District approved a bond vote for \$70 million dollars with over 85% of voters voting yes. Thanks to our community support, the district is able to move forward with the “Replace in Place” renovation project for Indianola High School.

Areas to be renovated in this plan include a new commons area to link the gym, auditorium and academic areas together to create a new “heart” for the building. A new two-story academic wing to be built to the west and athletic and career/technical expansion to the north.



We are fortunate to live in a community that supports the school district and the education of our students. We appreciate the opportunity to serve our students and make sure they have high quality learning environments to meet their educational needs.

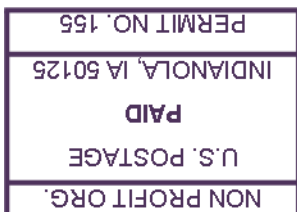
Work will begin this fall with staff finalizing the design of these spaces with an anticipation date of construction to begin in the fall of 2023. We look forward to sharing with our school community the next steps in the “Replace in Place” process as they develop.

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

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