

Interstate 35 Community School District

Principal Report to the Board

Written By Sharon Whitson
Month/Year November 2023

The Interstate 35 Community School District exists to develop life-long learners and responsible, productive, successful citizens in an ever-changing society.

**Any connections to the District Strategic Plan are highlighted in red.

Culture:

Veterans Day Assembly was yet another excellent performance and a learning experience for our school community. Our students and staff graciously coordinated another great assembly and meal. Special thanks to guest speaker Crystal Jordan for delivering a powerful speech in support of our "Hometown Heroes". Additional performers included the high school band and choir, middle and high school speeches: Ethan Mongan, Mackenzie Alery, Cadi Carlson, and Michael McClelland. Tim and Kelley performed a duet, while Alex Coleman led the moment of silence with playing the taps. The high school student council, honor society and middle school students decorated the auditorium, cafeteria, gym as well as set up the tables for the Veteran's luncheon. Lori Howe and the various FTC students put on a wonderful tasting meal, Laura Haines photography students shot snapshots of veterans and the special activities, Maggie Arnold created the video of the veterans, Amy Maiers and Dr. Sharon Dentlinger assisted with the making of the decorations. Last, but not least, Heather Wells was instrumental in controlling all of the technology for the assembly.

MS Student Council conducted a food drive to support our local pantry during the week of November 10-17. We are appreciative of those who were willing to donate to this cause as we begin to enter into the cold months of winter and the holidays.

MS Student Led Conferences The middle school students led their parents and guardians through information about their success in academics and Roadrunner PRIDE. The students and teachers worked together to prepare for the students to lead their own conference. While attending some of the conferences I observed students taking ownership in knowing and sharing their personal strengths and abilities. I also heard parents/guardians asking their child open-ended questions to broaden and guide their learning. The middle staff and I appreciate the parents/guardians for providing our school community the support to grow both academically as well as responsible and caring people.

December brings about many fun activities....Basketball, Wrestling, Concerts, Winter Celebrations and more. Together, we wish you and your family Happy Holidays!

Academics:

MS Homework Hotline is now being implemented in middle school. The teachers have been brainstorming ways to support our students with their organizational skills. The idea of the Hotline Homework was reinvented from a past practice a couple of years ago. The Homework Hotline is a resource to both students and parents. Students and parents have at their fingertips daily assignments to access when absent and/or falling behind in school work. Thanks to the teachers for taking extra measures for the success of our students.

5th/6th Grade Schedule Revision Beginning November 27th 5th/6th grade students will now have

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built into the schedule a time to receive individual and small group support from their core content teachers. The Building Leadership Team listened and responded to teachers' concerns with our 5th/6th grade students not having the same opportunity to receive assistance in their daily work. Therefore, we shaved off 5 minutes of each of our first four periods of the day and created 25 minutes where students could meet with on their own and/or be requested by a teacher to receive support in their academic learning.

Band-Southern Iowa Honor Band

We are proud of band director Nick McKinney and the following students for being selected to represent Interstate 35 middle school band at the Southern Iowa Honor Band performance on November 16th. These students include 7th graders: Daisy Lorton, Gaea Adix, Jordan Golay, Nora Phillips and 8th grader: Elliot McMichael.

Choir-Opus Honor Choir Festival (November 16th)

Congratulations to Choir director Danae Coleman and student Addison Scrivner, who was recently selected for participating in the 37th annual Opus Honor Choir Festival. Over 2400 students were nominated by their directors for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. Selections were made by means of a recorded audition.