

Cascade Elementary



RICK COLPITTS

DAN WENDLER



Cascade Elementary FAX

Superintendent 563-744-3885

Principal 563-852-3335

563-852-7322

July 24, 2019

Dear Cascade Elementary students and families,

I hope that you all have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer vacation. It's hard to believe that this letter is arriving as we excitedly anticipate another amazing year at Cascade Elementary! This summer was rather "low-key" at CES compared to previous years which we were under construction or doing projects to significantly upgrade our facilities. Near the end of last school year, we added some window wrapping on the new addition facing Tyler Street. These window wraps look amazing, but more importantly, provide a significant safety feature to our classrooms. People outside of the building cannot see in the windows where these are installed. We hope to add more wraps in the near future at places where it is easy to see into classrooms. We have also done a couple of painting projects at the front door and in the gym to enhance the appearance.

Last year we made some significant changes to our Literacy instruction and each and every child saw the benefit of these changes. Last year 89% of Cascade Elementary students made at least 1 year's worth of growth measured in text levels. While we take pride in the work we have done here for many years, these growth numbers are incredible and by far the best we have experienced. As we move forward this year we will add some structured grammar instruction which will help fill in learning deficiencies we are still seeing. We are far more individualized and intentional with our literacy instruction than ever before, and our students are reaping the benefits.

The State of Iowa measures schools using a tool called the "Iowa School Performance Profile." Cascade Elementary is incredibly proud of receiving a rating of "High Performing" this past spring. The hard work of our teachers and students along with the incredible parental support that you provide us has allowed us to continuously improve and earn the highest rating of all elementary schools in Dubuque County! We look forward to continuing to grow. The Iowa Performance Profile can be found at <https://www.iaschoolperformance.gov/ECP/Home/Index> if you would like to explore more.

This past spring we added some talented and motivated new staff members to our team at CES. Jill Wolf, who student taught with us a couple of years ago, will be coming back from Peosta as a special education teacher. Jill is highly trained in behavior and specially designed instruction and will certainly make us better. Madison McElmeel has officially joined our team as a 4th grade classroom teacher. Ms. McElmeel already feels like family to us after student teaching and serving as a long term substitute throughout most of last year. Katie Andrews will be joining us from Monticello as a 5th grade teacher. During the interview process, Katie stated that it was her professional dream to be part of our CES family and as a resident of Cascade, we could not have found a better new teammate. Finally, Kelli Fagen will be joining CES as a pre-k paraprofessional. Kelli spent the past several years in the same role at Dyersville Elementary. Kelli's energy and passion will make a huge difference in the lives of our youngest Cougars!

Soak up these last few days of summer! School will be here before we know it! Registration will be held at CES from 12- 7pm on Monday, August 5th. You can also register online if that is more convenient. We will have our annual back to school open house on Wednesday, August 21st from 5:30-6:30 pm. We hope to see you all there! Our first day of school for K-6th students will be Friday, August 23rd. This will be a full day, not an early dismissal as we have done in past years. Pre-k will start the year on Wednesday, August 28th. We look forward to another wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Dan Wendler, Cascade Elementary Principal