



March 2019

COUGAR REPORT

Principal's Message

Think Spring

We are so happy to see March bringing us an end to all that snow and cold. Our Cougar athletes are more than ready to get outside for track, golf, baseball, and softball. We have some great things going on inside too with State FBLA and FFA conventions coming up along with our spring play, "Mamma Mia," spring concerts, and state music contest.

Along with all these activities comes the time of the year for standardized testing as well. Many of you grew up with the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) or maybe remember the high school version of that test, the ITED, which we took for years. A few years ago these tests morphed into the Iowa Assessments and this year the State of Iowa has rolled out a brand new test to replace the Iowa Assessments, the "ISASP" (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress). This test is more closely aligned with the Iowa Core, was developed in collaboration with Iowa Educators, and tests Reading, Math, Science, Language and Writing. We are testing at CJSHS the week of April 8th. During that week we also ask our students to complete the Conditions of Learning Survey that is required now by the state. We sent parents information on this survey earlier. The results are confidential and anonymous and give students a voice in school improvement efforts.



The extended school day has given us the opportunity to have our students do some extra reading. Students are now reading during an extended 5th period. They have been asked to bring a book on a topic they enjoy, and we are ready to help them find books as well. We have taken these steps to help students get some extra reading time as opposed to screen time that seems to occupy us a good part of our day. We are also performing academic interventions during this time as well.

Cougar Pride Day (April 17th) gives us the chance to pay the communities of Cascade, Bernard, and Fillmore back for all their support when we engage in community clean up.

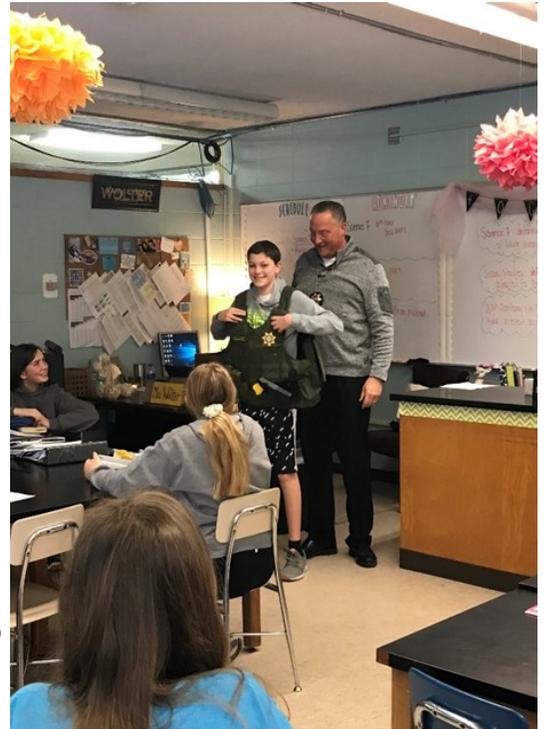
We hope to see you soon at a play performance, track or golf meet, concert, at conferences, or at Cougar Pride Day. Have a great spring!



COUGAR HAPPENINGS

8th Grade Career Exploration: Lacey Wolter

Our 8th graders have been hard at work all year, but this particular trimester they have been digging into what “work” they would like to pursue when they grow up. 21st Century Skills is a class new to Cascade Students; it encourages career exploration through some fun and unique ways. All 48 students spent the first portion of the trimester working with Joanie Knopp, NICC career coach, as well as Emily Phillips, school counselor, to find potential career pathways that best fit their values and interest. They used information collected through professional interviews, simulations, and surveys to help make informed decisions on future high school course work, clubs, and activities they hope to dig into. Each student has narrowed their interest into a potential career path and will be spending the second half of the trimester exploring their passion. Each future professional has exactly 15 days to learn a new skill, solve a problem, or create something that falls under the umbrella of their potential career. This amazing opportunity means that on any given day, a visitor into our classroom may see a student wiring a model house, following and then creating their own Bob Ross tutorial, or even practicing their new musical instrument. It’s truly capable what these children are capable of!



Mamma Mia!

Cascade Drama Club spring production will be presented on the following dates:

- Friday, April 12 @ 7:00
- Saturday, April 13 @ 7:00
- Sunday, April 14 @ 3:00
- Monday April 15 @7:00



The musical is about Donna, an independent hotelier in the Greek islands, who is preparing for her daughter's wedding with the help of two old friends. Meanwhile Sophie, the spirited bride, has a plan: she has secretly invited three men from her mother's past in hope of meeting her real father and having him escort her down the aisle on her big day.

Tickets are \$7 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances. Tickets are \$5 for Monday night only and all tickets will be available from any drama club member! To contact CHS for ticket sales, call 563-852-3201 after April 1.

We are so very excited for you to come see our show!

COUGAR HAPPENINGS

Science Update: Alisha Smith

Are we really 2/3 of the way through 2nd trimester already? I don't know about you but when we made the switch to the trimester, it really has made the year seem to go by so much quicker. With that being said, I wanted to update everyone on some new changes that are coming starting in 2019-2020 school year with science course requirements. In order to be compliant with the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we had to make some adjustments in order for every student at CHS and across the district to meet all required standards.

The adjustments that were made because of NGSS are as follows: Freshman year will require students at CHS to take one trimester each of Chemistry 1 and Physics 1. Sophomore year will remain unchanged in that students will take 2 trimesters of Biology. Junior year will require students to take a trimester each of Earth and Space Science and Environmental Science. These 6 trimesters will meet the graduation requirement for 6 science credits in science, but it will be highly recommended that students also pick up one of our elective courses we will continue to offer. Students can choose from Forensic Science 1 & 2, Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, Chemistry 2, Physics 2 and Wildlife Management.

We hope that students find they are better prepared to take on standardized test questions like the ones they will find on the ACT and ITED's with these new adjustments.



CHS Academic Awards Assembly

We held our Academic Awards Assembly on March 14, to celebrate our student's outstanding efforts in the classroom during the 2nd Trimester. Awards were given out to students for Progressive Honor Roll, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, ACT High-Achievers, and 100% Attendance. Congratulations also go out to our 8th grade students for being the winning class during our "CHS \$10,000 Pyramid" game!

A special thank you also goes out to Ohnward Band & Trust for their donation for all the students who made the Honor Roll last trimester.



WHY PASSION PROJECTS?

By: Mr. Ryan Altiere

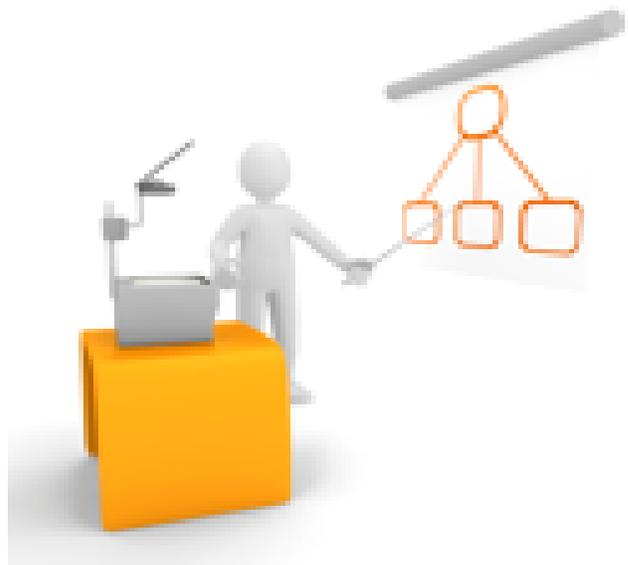
Over the past couple of years, I decided to delve into something a bit unknown. It all started when I wasn't set in stone as to how I wanted to help my students grow both academically and as an individual. As an English teacher, it can become overwhelmingly tough trying to assign readings and writings that some student may or may not enjoy and learn from. However, my whole goal as a teacher, and in English more specifically, is not for them to absolutely love the literature. If they do that's an awesome bonus. It is, more importantly, how to help the students develop the skills needed to be successful in college or in the workforce, whichever they decide.

With that train of thought, and with wanting to continue to develop their reading, writing, and research skills, I stumbled upon this idea of a passion project. It was a daunting task at first. So many avenues of thoughtful consideration, planning, preparation, and ultimately implementation had to be addressed. The stresses of creating a project from scratch, and one that would properly challenge all students was hard to construct. However, with the help of Mrs. Kolpin and Mr. Skattum, we were able to put a project forward.

Ultimately, a passion project allows for students to examine an interest of theirs without reservation. I want them to be able to pick a topic, read about it, write about it, and research something they are genuinely interested in. If I were to assign a random research topic, the results are never as strong as if they were researching something they enjoyed. Thus, the implementation of the English 3 Passion Project commenced in the spring of 2018.

For this passion project, the students are required to use those aforementioned skills to think of, create, and develop their own project. Students must create a tangible product, conduct strong and useful research (more than just google), and be able to present their work in multiple formats. The idea behind the passion project is to have the students enhance their skills, and in the process, be able to put together a large project that is not only challenging, but hopefully fun!

This is the 2nd year we have rolled out this project. Thus, Mr. Skattum, Mrs. Kolpin, and I are very excited to see what our junior class will come up with. At the end of the school year, the junior class will be presenting these projects in an open forum done at the high school. Please be on the lookout for updates so you can come see what the students have learned.



COUGAR HAPPENINGS

Transcript Update

Parents and Students:

Effective this year we are going to eliminate the practice of including activities on transcripts. Typically transcripts are academic records and other schools do not list activities on transcripts. This move will allow us to reallocate the time devoted to this task and also make our transcript updating process easier and more accurate.



Conditions for Learning Survey

- Our Students in grades 7-12 will take a survey designed to measure their engagement in school, safety and overall learning environment during the week of April 8th.
- Our school is required to administer the survey, called Conditions for Learning, annually as part of Iowa's plan to meet the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA recently replaced the No Child Left Behind Act, and Iowa's plan serves as the foundation for our state's system of school accountability and support.
- Conditions for Learning is one of up to seven measures used to determine accountability scores for schools. We embrace the Conditions for Learning measure because it takes our accountability focus beyond test scores and looks at student performance more holistically.
- Research shows students thrive academically when they feel safe, actively engaged in their learning, and when they have positive relationships with adults and other students at school.
- Results from the Conditions for Learning survey also will serve as a great tool to help our school, teachers, and parents identify areas of strength, as well as areas that may need attention or support.
- Our students' participation in the survey is very important to our school because results can help us build an action plan to improve the learning environment. A high rate of completion means getting the best data possible.
- For students, the survey is an important opportunity to be heard and to be part of efforts to improve their learning environment. We appreciate the community's support in communicating to students about this great opportunity.
- Survey results are completely anonymous. No names are recorded, and no identifying information will be attached to specific responses.
- While our students will be encouraged to answer as many questions as possible, they will not be required to answer any questions that make them feel uncomfortable.

COUNSELING OFFICE

Emily Phillips- School Counselor (x1005)
Laura Foust- Mental Health Counselor (x3036)
Stephanie Ries- Secretary (x1006)
Ty Troutman- Office Para (x1002)

WEB PAGE INFORMATION: <http://www.wdbqschools.org/CounselingOfficeCHS.aspx>

College Planning Night and Financial Aid Night

There will be a College Planning Night and a Financial Aid information night at Cascade High School on Monday, May 13th at 6:00p.m. in the Ellen Kennedy Fine Arts Auditorium. College planning is for freshman, sophomores, juniors and their parents. Financial Aid is recommended for current juniors. A representative from the Iowa College Access Network will be presenting information on the college application process and the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application, in addition, to other financial aid information.



ACT Information

The next ACT test is on June 8th and the registration deadline is May 3rd. Study guides are available in the counseling office. You can register by visiting www.actstudent.org. You must download a picture when registering. Please allow about an hour to complete the registration process. Any student receiving free or reduced lunch status should see Mrs. Phillips for a fee waiver for the test.



Most students take the ACT during the April or June date their junior year. Sophomores are also encouraged to take this test on one of those dates to gain exposure to the test. Students should plan to take the ACT at least twice. Taking the ACT early and more than once gives you the opportunity to retest if you feel your scores do not accurately reflect your abilities and it is beneficial your senior year when you need test scores to apply for colleges and scholarships.

Senior Athletes

Any students hoping for Division I or Division II athletic participation must determine their eligibility or qualifications through a formal release. This can only be done online at <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net>. All prospective division I or II athletes must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse to be eligible. The NCAA Clearinghouse charges a handling fee for the registration process.

Registering for the Selective Service

Male students who are 18 must register with the selective service within 30 days of turning 18 by law. Students can register online at www.sss.gov at age 17 years 3 months. The information can be stored electronically and then registration will be done automatically on their 18th birthday.

Transcripts

Seniors who took college credit courses while in high school need to request that NICC send transcripts to the institution they plan to enroll in this fall. This can be done at <https://www.nicc.edu/transcript/>. Seniors that took an academy at Kirkwood, Desktop Publishing II, or Emerging Technology Trends need to request Kirkwood send transcripts to the institution they plan to enroll in the fall. This can be done at <https://www.kirkwood.edu/transcript/>. It is the **students' responsibility** to have COLLEGE transcripts sent from NICC or Kirkwood to the college they plan to attend; the counseling office cannot do this for anyone. HIGH SCHOOL transcripts can be sent by the counseling office to the institution the student plans to enroll in this fall.

Senior Awards Banquet

Seniors and their parents/guardians are invited to attend the senior awards banquet on May 15th. The awards ceremony will begin at 6:00pm with a cookie and cake reception to follow. Seniors will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments over the past four years. We look forward to celebrating their successes with you.



COUGAR HAPPENINGS

Nurse's Corner

Summer vacation is around the corner and soon we will be welcoming a new senior class. I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to watch them grow the past few years.

Amid all of the excitement of getting senior pictures and making plans for the future, please remember there are some new immunization requirements. The Iowa Department of Public Health made changes to the Iowa Immunization law, which started at the beginning of the 2017/18 school year. The change requires all students entering 12th grade to have a Meningococcal vaccination before school starts in the fall for the upcoming 2019/20 school year.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness caused by a bacteria which can infect the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings. All students entering 12th grade must have proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption. **There will be NO grace/extension period of the implementation of the meningococcal requirement.** Now is a great time for your child to receive this immunization requirement, beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 12th grader.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 563.852.3201 ext. 1007, or email me at Cyndi.trumm@wdbqschools.org.

Important Dates

April

1 & 3 P/T Conferences 4:10-6:30pm
19-22—No School (Spring Break)



May

15 Senior Awards Banquet 6pm
22 Senior's Last Day of Classes
26 Graduation @ 12:30pm
27 No School Memorial Day

June

4 Last Day of School (2 hr early dismissal)