

THE SAYDEL COMMUNICATOR

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

Superintendent's Message

Mr. Douglas Wheeler



Saydel Families & Community:

Welcome Spring! I hope everyone is enjoying the change in weather and looking forward to warmer months ahead. Spring is a time when our schools focus on finishing strong and begin looking forward to the next school year.

I have several exciting program enhancements to share in this welcome letter. In the following pages, you will read more about these and other exciting opportunities for the students and families of Saydel.

In early May, you will begin to see work on the Cornell addition. While we shared details of this addition in the last edition of The Communicator, I want to reemphasize the purpose of this expansion. When completed in September, this project will provide four additional classrooms, a shared learning commons for those classrooms, a new preschool outdoor classroom and new sewer service to Cornell. This project is paid for by the statewide penny sales tax and funds from the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL).

Visitors to Woodside Middle School will see the return of outdoor basketball courts within the coming weeks. These courts will be open for play just in time for spring and summer. The Woodside basketball court is the final piece of the Referendum Project and replaces previous courts displaced by the new bus/maintenance facility. Completion of these projects is the first steps in a 10-year Site Master Plan. If you are interested in seeing the entire Site Master Plan, please visit the Saydel website.

In addition to exciting new facility opportunities, each school is working to enhance student academic experiences and expectations. Next year, Cornell will provide Spanish in all grade levels as the final step to provide a world language to all students in Saydel.

In addition, with the hiring of a half time preschool teacher, we will be able to provide expanded options and increase enrollment in four-year-old pre-school at Cornell. If you have not signed up for preschool, please visit the Saydel website or call the Saydel District Office at 264-0866.

Woodside is adjusting its class schedule to expand elective opportunities for students and allow for enrichment and intervention of core classes. This new schedule allows for the addition of a life skills class and opens the door for instrumental music in fifth grade.

The High School is expanding career pathway opportunities by

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SCHOOL HOURS

CORNELL ELEMENTARY

8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
Wed.: 9:35 AM - 3:30 PM

WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

7:45 AM - 2:45 PM
Wed.: 8:45 AM - 2:45 PM

SAYDEL HIGH SCHOOL

7:45 AM - 2:46 PM
Wed.: 8:45 AM - 2:46 PM

Each Wednesday all schools begin one hour later for teacher in-service.

**MISSION: SERVING THE
UNIQUE LEARNING NEEDS OF
EACH & EVERY STUDENT**



THE SAYDEL COMMUNICATOR

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

Superintendent's Message: *Continued from page 1*

redesigning the introductory Career and Technology Education (CTE) courses and beginning a culinary career pathway. These changes will complement the great success we are seeing with the High School of Business and Project Lead The Way (PTLW) programs. The goal is to provide a multi-year focused career exploration for all students in an area of interest.

These enhancements are supported by a continued district-wide focus on curriculum, instruction, assessment for ALL students and increased attention to special student populations such as Special Education, English Language Learners, and Extended Learning Program/Talented and Gifted.

It is a great time to be in Saydel Community Schools. We are truly working to provide "Big City Opportunities and a Small Town Commitment for our Students."

I hope the information you see in the following pages excites you as much as it excites me. It is a wonderful opportunity to lead a district with such a caring staff and supportive community. I invite you to visit our school website to learn more about our programming as well as opportunities to attend school events. Have a great spring and summer!

Yours in Service,

Doug Wheeler
Superintendent of Schools

Saydel Publishes Monthly Digital Newsletters! Subscribe Today!

If you would like to receive the school newsletters that feature what is happening at Cornell Elementary School, Woodside Middle School & Saydel High School, you can subscribe by emailing newsletter@saydel.net. Just e-mail which newsletters you would like to receive and then watch for them in your Inbox! We do not share your email address with outside parties.

Upcoming Events



APRIL 29, 2016

6th Grade Leadership Day at Camp Dodge

MAY 2-6, 2016

Woodside Spring MAP Testing Week

MAY 4, 2016

Saydel Music Boosters Meeting in HS Library, 6 PM

MAY 7, 2016

Saydel Prom at FFA Enrichment Center, 8 PM

MAY 9, 2016

- School Board Meeting at Saydel District Office, 6 PM
- 4th Grade Visit to Woodside Middle School

MAY 12, 2016

Grading for Growth Parent Meeting at HS Auditorium, 5:30 PM & 6:30 PM

MAY 18, 2016

Saydel Athletic Boosters Meeting in HS Library, 6 PM

MAY 25, 2016

Senior Award's Night in HS Auditorium, 7 PM

MAY 26, 2016

4th Grade Field Day, Cornell Elementary

MAY 27, 2016

Saydel High School Graduation at High School Gym, 7 PM

MAY 31, 2016

- K-3rd Grade Field Day at Cornell Elementary
- 8th Grade Picnic, 12:15 PM

JUNE 1, 2016

- Last Day of School
- 8th Grade Graduation at Woodside, 8:30 AM

JUNE 6-10, 2016

STEM Summer Camp "Iowa Conservationist" at Woodside

JUNE 13, 2016

School Board Meeting at Saydel District Office, 6 PM

JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2016

STEM Summer Camp "CSI Polk County" at Woodside

AUGUST 1-5, 2016

STEM Summer Camp "Destination: SPACE!" at Woodside

AUGUST 19, 2016

Saydel Class of 1971 Reunion, Chuck's Restaurant, 5 PM

SAVE THE DATE

August 19, 2016

Saydel Class of 1971 Class Reunion (45 years!)

Location: Chuck's Restaurant

Social: 5 PM & **Dinner:** 6 PM

Please share this event.

Contact Karleen Taylor Pratt 515-577-9109 for details.



Financial Focus

Why can we build school additions, but not hire any additional staff?



**Report from
Business Manager
Ryan Eidahl &
Superintendent
Douglas Wheeler**

This is a perfect question to emphasize the complicated nature of school finance. In

these brief financial focus sections, our goal is to give some highlights of how your tax money is put to work for students. Last time, we discussed key financial indicators and tax rate. In this financial focus, we will touch on the concept of school funds by answering the above question.

To answer the title question above, one must understand the difference between the general fund and capital projects funds.

Each year, the topic of Supplemental State Aid (SSA) for schools becomes a hot topic. It is often set late in the legislative session. In an effort to ensure equity in educational services, the state sets a state-wide per pupil expenditure, this fiscal year, that allowable cost per student was \$6,514. The SSA amount for the coming year has been set at 2.25%,

meaning that in the coming year we can spend \$6,659 per student. This amount sets the general operating fund for a district. Simply put, the general fund is set by taking DISTRICT ENROLLMENT x PER PUPIL ALLOWANCE. Therefore, enrollment of the district drives available funds. The general

fund makes up the majority of the district budget, 72.5% of which is staffing costs. The remaining amount goes to operating the district, purchasing student supplies and other operational costs. Therefore, this amount limits the number of staff we can have.

Because districts have additional needs, the state of Iowa allows for other funds to be levied or collected from communities. One of these funds is the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). This is a healthy part of the Saydel budget due to the fact that it is based on taxable valuation and does not have a per-pupil restriction. However, this fund can only be spent on school infrastructure and improvements. Another revenue source comes from the state-wide penny sales tax (SAVE). We receive this money from the state based on enrollment, but it is also restricted in its use. The district utilizes these two funding streams for the majority of its construction and renovation projects.

Therefore, to answer our question “why can we build school additions, but not hire any additional staff?” can be answered in understanding the difference between allowable uses of different silos of funding. Our taxable valuation in Saydel not only allows for the lowest taxes in the Des Moines Metro, it generates more money in funds that can be used to enhance facilities. The following is a summary of some of the major district funds and the restrictions of those funds based on their intended purpose.

Fund:	Examples of Uses:	Examples of Restrictions:
General Fund	Main operating fund. Salaries, benefits, textbooks, equipment, supplies	Purchasing land, construction of buildings or capital improvements, modifying or remodeling school buildings or classrooms
Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)	Major repairs to building/infrastructure, building/grounds upkeep, major equipment	Staff salaries and benefits, instructional supplies, textbooks
Statewide Penny Sales Tax (SAVE)	Purchasing, building, furnishing, reconstructing, repairing, improving or remodeling a school and its sites.	Staff salaries and benefits, instructional supplies, textbooks



CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cornell Soon To Offer Premiere Early Childhood Program

Message from
Principal Brian Vaughan



Greetings from Cornell Elementary!

As many of you know, learning never stops for our students and staff at Cornell. We take great pride in trying to make learning relevant and fun every day for our kids.

This approach to teaching and learning is no different in our preschool rooms. Preschool

at Cornell is a vital step for our students in helping to prepare them for even greater success as they enter into their primary school years and beyond. In my first year I have talked with numerous families that have sent their children through our program and will attest that their children were so much more prepared for kindergarten after attending our preschool.

Research will tell you that the brain never grows and develops more rapidly and dramatically than in the first three years of life. It is at this time in life that we want to begin exposing them to those important learning experiences of interacting with adults and other children to continue to grow and develop that brain growth. For those that are not familiar with what our three and four year olds do on a daily basis in our preschool program let me share a bit with you about our program.

Cornell Preschool uses The Creative Curriculum for Preschool which is based on five fundamental principles. These five principles are:

- Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.

- The physical environment affects the type of quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

These five principles are used throughout the day as teachers guide student learning in child development. Child development is divided into the following four areas: social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.

It is because of the above stated that our district is making an effort to continue to grow our preschool program to be the premiere early childhood program not only in the area but within our state. In just a few short weeks we will begin the process of building an outdoor classroom area that takes learning and exploration of our students to a new level. We know that physical exercise and fresh air are important for young children's health and well-being.

With the addition of the outdoor classroom preschool students will be able to use their bodies in increasingly skillful ways including running, jumping, hopping, climbing, pedaling, and balancing. We are excited to extend our students' learning to the outdoor classroom where teachers can encourage them to explore and nurture their appreciation for the natural environment.

Thank you to all of you for your trust and support that you provide to our great school every single day. Our partnership in educating our students go hand in hand.

Go Eagles! ~ BE AWESOME TODAY!

We are excited to extend our students' learning to the outdoor classroom where teachers can encourage them to explore and nurture their appreciation for the natural environment.

We're on the Web: www.saydel.k12.ia.us

THE SAYDEL COMMUNICATOR

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Averie Thompson in Selfie booth.

CARNIVAL

The Cornell PTO ended the 2015/16 school year with the annual Cornell Elementary PTO Carnival. It was a fun event enjoyed by many families. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and donors - without all of your help, the carnival would not be possible. Here are snapshots from the Carnival which included a Selfie booth, spinart, sandart, face painting, balloon animals, duck pond, pop toss, temporary tattoo parlor, hot rod derby, fortune telling and much more.



Haley Weldon creating sand art.



Molle Sassman paints the face of Audrina Crane.



Sophie Johnson with Saydel pom-poms in the Selfie booth.



Addyson Mitchell and Taylor Kouski pose for Selfie.



Elyse Webb tells Maylee Knight her fortune.



PTO Carnival Raffle Prize Donors

Thank you to these businesses for your support! Your generosity is much appreciated!

Ankeny Community Theatre

Ankeny Diner

Angela & Henry Wood

Applebee's

Big Dog Billiards

Big O Tire

Brown Shoe Fit Company

Blank Park Zoo

Buffalo Wild Wings

Cafe Diem

Capital City Equipment Company

Central Iowa Pool & Spa

Dave's Jewelry

DeeZee

Edible Arrangements

Family Christian Store

Goode Greenhouses

Jethro's BBQ & Lakehouse

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Martinizing Dry Cleaning

Maurices

McCannic's Garage

Medicap Pharmacy

Montana Mike's Steakhouse

Omaha Zoo

Politos LaPizza House

Premier Bowling

Red Wing Shoe Store

Saydel Boosters

Scornovacca's Pizza

SkyZone

SportsClips

Springer Professional Home Svcs.

Staples

Starbuck's

Strawberry Patch

Ted's Body Shop

Therapeutic Massage Center

ThirtyOne Gifts (Melissa Tegatz)

Valley West Mall

Windsor Vacuum



Iowa Public TV's Peg & Cat Visit Cornell



The Cornell Library recently hosted two special visitors who were characters from Iowa Public Television. Stacie Stevenson brought Peg and Cat to visit with our pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students. After listening to two delightful stories about Peg and Cat, the students were given the opportunity to greet Peg and Cat with hugs and high fives. A special thank you to our middle school students, Katherine Tylavsky and Gabriella Neddermeyer who helped us by dressing as Peg and Cat.

Art Center Exhibits Saydel Student Works

An exciting highlight from the Art Room was the opening of our district art show at the Ankeny Art Center! This show displayed selected works from the high school, middle school, and elementary! The opening reception was a great turn out. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.





TAP Leadership Update

Message from
Executive Master Teacher Mary Salazar



TAP master and mentors teachers have been hard at work this year designing and delivering weekly cluster meetings for all K-12 teachers.

Building TAP Leadership Teams (made up of building principals, master and mentor teachers) began this work last summer by looking at student assessment data to identify trends. These trends in student performance were used to create school goals for increased student achievement. The design of these school goals ensures that each weekly cluster meeting is student-focused and data-driven, keeping student growth at the heart of all decisions made.

TAP Leadership Teams select specific student and teacher strategies to focus on during each cluster cycle of the year.



The System for Teacher
and Student Advancement

Each week, teachers work diligently on mastering these strategies with the goal of increasing reading achievement in all three buildings, in addition to increasing math achievement at Woodside and Saydel High School. Some of the skills covered in cluster have helped students: become more fluent readers, identify meanings of unfamiliar words, construct their own knowledge of math concepts, identify main idea, make inferences and draw conclusions.

As this school year comes to a close, TAP Leadership Teams will begin their work for the 2016-17 school year to ensure that we continue to provide high quality professional opportunities for teachers that result in continued growth for students.

Norwoodville Community Center News

The Norwoodville Community Center is located in the northeast side in the Des Moines neighborhood of Norwoodville. The center has a senior program for anyone 60 years and older. They are open 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday, and they offer a variety of activities, educational/wellness programs, live entertainment, parties, etc.

The center also serves lunch daily at 11:30 AM. On Monday through Thursday, the center serves meals to those in need. These meals are available to ANYONE in the community, **at no charge. Children, adults, seniors -- all are welcome. Dine in or bring containers to go for dinner.**



The Norwoodville Community Center is unique from other centers in Des Moines. It has a 10-acre park with full park amenities, a paved walking path, full playground, basketball courts, ball field, and two gazebos. Inside the main building there is a craft room, exercise room with equipment, Nintendo Wii, full equipped kitchen, puzzle area, health clinic and seating for 80 people.

Norwoodville seniors' pride themselves on being a laid back friendly environment. They offer activities every day, such as crafts, bingo, card tournaments, chair exercise class, Wii games, board games, movie, and arthritis exercise classes. The center also offers monthly foot care clinics, blood pressure checks, senior counseling, and nutrition education.

The Norwoodville Community Center is located at 3077 NE 46th Ave., Norwoodville.
If you have questions, you can call the center at 515-266-5794.





Healthy Schools: It's a Team Effort!

Cornell Elementary participated in a Team Effort two-hour workshop held by the Department of Education earlier this school year that provided training for elementary teachers and staff to support a school wellness environment through nutrition education and physical activity. Grant money was used to promote Farm-to-School activities by planting herbs and vegetables in our indoor tiered plant grower. Herbs included: basil, oregano, thyme and rosemary. Vegetables included: grape tomatoes, carrots, onions, peas and garlic. The herbs and vegetables were chosen based on popularity by the students and how fast the vegetables would grow after being planted.

To expand our wellness program in conjunction with reading, wellness books were purchased from Barnes and Noble for use at the elementary school library. Various topics included: fitness, nutrition and general wellness topics were elementary school age appropriate; some books were also purchased in Spanish.



Eagle's Nest After School Program students participated in planting the herbs and vegetables.



First grade students enjoying some of the new nutrition and wellness books at Cornell Elementary Library.



Harvest of the Month



Mango

Calories
107

Sodium
3mg

Fat
0g

Sugars
24g

Cut Back on Added Sugar

I am sure you've received the memo that cutting back on added sugar is one of the best things you can do for your health, something that is highly encouraged in the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans suggests added sugar intake should be less than 10% of a person's daily calories. (This does not include naturally occurring sugars, such as those found in milk or fruits.) Extra sugars not only add empty calories, spike blood sugar levels, and increase the risk of several other health issues but also dramatically increase your risk of dying from a heart attack.*

So now the question is: How do I cut back on added sugars?

- Be aware of what your ingredient label reads: agave syrup, brown sugar, fructose, honey, malt syrup, fruit juice concentrate, sucrose, cane sugar, and more are how sugars are labeled.
- Keep tabs on how much sugar you consume: Sugar doesn't need to be an all or nothing deal. Keep your daily total sugar consumption to 10 teaspoons (40g).
- Make fruit-flavored water by adding a splash of juice or fresh fruit.
- Satisfy your sweet cravings nutritiously: Avoid the chocolate, and head for the fresh or dried fruit. You may be surprised how well fruit satisfies your craving

*Published in April 2014 JAMA Internal Medicine.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH RECIPE—MANGO-RASPBERRY SMOOTHIE



- ½ cup Frozen or fresh mango, chopped
- ¼ cup Frozen or fresh raspberries
- ¼ cup Plain yogurt
- ½ cup Apple juice

Servings: 1

Combine all ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth.

Prep and cook time: 15 minutes

NUTRITION SNAPSHOT:
Per serving: 170 calories, 39g carbohydrates, 3g sugar, 4g protein, 42mg sodium, 5g fiber

Foodservice Office:

Visit www.saydel.k12.ia.us for menus and information

Email: sadlerjessy@saydel.net

Phone: 515.264.0866

Fax: 515.264.0869

Follow us on Twitter: @saydeldining

Build a Healthy Lunch



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2016-17 Schedule Changes at Woodside

Message from
Principal Joshua Heyer



Over the last several months, a committee of teachers has spent a significant amount of time analyzing the current Woodside schedule to determine how the current schedule impacts our ability to meet the needs of each student.

Through this process it was determined that changes needed to be made so students needs could be

meet. As a result, a new schedule has been created for the 2016-2017 school year. I am personally excited for the changes provided in the new schedule. I want to use this opportunity to highlight the major changes in the new schedule and the impacts this will have on the Saydel families and students.

5th-6th/7th-8th Structure

Previous years, Woodside functioned on three different structures. For the most part, 5th graders stayed with their primary teacher for core content instruction, 6th graders transitioned between two teachers for the four core subjects, and 7th and 8th graders changed each period to a new teacher (four overall). The new schedule has 5th and 6th graders transitioning between two teachers for the four content areas and 7th and 8th graders still changing every period. This allows Woodside to be an adequate transition from an elementary model to high school model in a gradually changing and purposeful structure.

Grading Periods

The new schedule eliminates trimester grading for 7th and 8th grade students related arts coursework. As a result, grading periods for the entire building will be consistent with quarter, semester, and year. The clear grading periods for all students at Woodside will allow for less confusion amongst students, parents, and teachers.

FLEX

A 30-minute period of time will be designated for each grade level to address the unique needs of each child.

Offerings during FLEX include special education, behavior intervention, math intervention, reading intervention, English Language Learners (ELL), and Extended Learning Program (ELP). A student in 5th grade can also elect to explore band and 6th grade students can explore band and choir. If a student does not need or request any of these FLEX options, additional explore opportunities will be available as well as guided academic time. FLEX will run on an A/B schedule allowing students the ability to get two personalized services. Student needs for FLEX will be reviewed and adjusted on a nine-week basis.

Related Arts/Electives

5th and 6th grade related arts will continue to function on a nine-week exploratory rotation. This is commonly referred to as an elective wheel. The courses in the nine-week wheel will be Visual Art, Spanish, General Music, and Life Skills. Wheel classes will run on an A/B day schedule. Opposite of the students related arts class will be Physical Education. Related arts and Physical Education classes will be approximately 60 minutes in length. 7th and 8th grade related arts structure is changing significantly.

In addition to Math, English, Science, and Social Studies coursework, each student will have two periods a day for non-core classes. These periods will also operate on an A/B day schedule for a semester. This ultimately gives a student four non-core classes per semester in which they can engage in exploratory learning (eight for the academic year). Of these eight blocks of time, the Saydel District is requiring students to select Physical Education each semester, Spanish for a semester, and Life Skills for a semester. The end result is students will have four remaining blocks of time to select the electives they desire to explore. Those courses include:

7th Grade

Band (2 blocks)
Choir (2 blocks)
Family Consumer Science
Art
Design and Modeling (STEM)

8th Grade

Band (2 blocks)
Choir (2 blocks)
Family Consumer Science
Art
Robotics (STEM)

Continued on page 11



Continued from page 10...

If a student does not elect to participate in band and choir, they will be enrolled in guided academic time every other day for a semester.

Summary

The brief overview of the new Woodside schedule provides you a summary into the major changes for next year. The changes have simplified our current reality while enhancing our ability to appropriately serve each student. More information will be communicated in the upcoming month on:

- 5th grade Band introduction
- 6th grade Band and Choir interest
- 7th and 8th grade elective selection for four open blocks

If you have any questions regarding the schedule changes for the 2016-17 school year, please contact me at 515-265-3451 or heyerjoshua@saydel.net.

Achieve 3000 Supports Student Learning

Woodside Middle School students are being offered an online opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills. Achieve 3000 is a research-based intervention for providing differentiated instruction that actively engages learners at their individual reading levels. Students are continually assessed, and the content is adapted accordingly to challenge students to increase their literacy skills. Vocabulary and nonfiction comprehension are the focus. Achieve 3000 is another way for Woodside to support student growth.

Rodney “Pop” Wright Speaks at Woodside

Former Drake University basketball star Rodney “Pop” Wright recently spoke to the Woodside student body about living a substance-free life. He shared a great message that made a big impact! During his presentation he asked every adult at the assembly to share some words of encouragement with the students. They spoke from the heart about why living substance-free is so important.



5th Grade Students Honored by Women’s Auxiliary VFW for Outstanding Essays



Earlier this school year the 5th grade students wrote Essays for our local women’s auxiliary of the VFW 9662. Essays are judged at the local, district and state levels and monetary prizes are given. Woodside had three winning essays and one essay that took second place at the state level. Deric Van Houten’s essay took 3rd place in the local level, Madison Rogers’s essay won 2nd place in the local level, and Emily Majerus’s essay won 1st place local, 1st place district, and 2nd place at the state level. Pictured from left, front row: Deric Van Houten, Madison Rogers and Emily Majerus. From left, back row: 5th Grade Teacher Erin Ogden, VFW Representative Elaine Podner, 5th Grade Teachers, Katie Mary, Mallory Stubbers and Marsha George.



SAYDEL HIGH SCHOOL

Engaging Students to Be Career & College Ready

Message from
Principal Kevin Schulte



As we see everyone's best effort throughout the year, we work to achieve everyone's best life. This has been evident from the student success that has been experienced throughout the year. We have seen significant growth from our students.

This spring we were able to increase the number of students scoring average or above for math and reading in five of six tests.

Percentage of change, from September to March, of students scoring in the average or higher range.

Grade	Math	Reading
9	+9%	-1%
10	+9%	+5%
11	+4%	+1%

This is a good testament to the work and learning that students are engaging in and teachers are facilitating. These academic successes are only a few of our accomplishments this semester:

- Dylan Coffin (12), Oscar Ruiz (12) and Klayton Keller (10) qualified for the state wrestling tournament.
- Nate Sepich (11), Katie Schmidt (10), Hannah Bowman (10), Rachel Bartleman (11), Kaci McKewen (12), Shelby Weber (11), Sarah Stocker (10), Lisa VanZandt (10) and Alitzel Rodriguez (11) were inducted into National Honor Society
- Student Council collected and donated 239 pairs of jeans to Teens for Jeans.
- 74 students were recognized for an academic letter during our spring academic awards assembly.
- 44 students were recognized for the most improved GPA during our spring academic awards assembly.

We continue to focus on developing the whole student as we hosted two new events this spring. We partnered with the Polk County Attorney's Office to help educate students on responsible digital citizenship.

Also, our iJAG planned a health, wellness and community resource fair. This event exposed students to over 35 community services that can meet a variety of needs from voter registration to mental health needs.

New Opportunities

Every year, we evaluate our course offerings for students and work to determine student needs and ways we can engage students to become career and college ready. For the 2016-2017 school year, we will be putting the following enhancements in place. Other schools in the state of Iowa will follow Saydel's lead by implementing High School of Business courses. For our second year of implementation, students will have an opportunity to engage in Principles of Marketing and Principles of Finance.

Our industrial technology program is undergoing a complete overhaul. We have been meeting with community leaders within the electrical field. We are constructing our introductory courses to help students develop the skills to be able to step directly into an internship/apprenticeship either during or after high school. Students will have an opportunity to take Skilled Trades 1 or Skilled Trades 2 to begin on this career pathway.

We will be furthering the rigor within our visual arts department by expanding our AP offerings. A number of students have signed up to take AP Studio Art for 2016-17.

Our family and consumer science courses will be making a shift from culinary skills. As we add two ProStart courses next year, our students will not only develop their culinary skills, but also engage in learning focused on the business aspect of restaurants.

These additional courses will provide our students with the opportunity to further set themselves to be successful after high school.

Graduation Update

This year graduation date will be different than in year's past. We will be hosting graduation in the South Gym on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 7 PM. This adjustment was made due to state calendar requirements. The district calendar committee determined this was the best date and time that would accommodate families and meet state requirements.



Members of the National Honor Society Eagle Chapter

Congratulations to the members of the National Honor Society Eagle Chapter. New members were inducted on March 29. Pictured front row (new inductees): Nathan Sepich, Katie Schmidt, Hannah Bowman, Rachel Bartleman, Kaci McKewen, Shelby Weber, Sarah Stocker, Lisa Van Zandt, Alitzel Rodriguez. Back row (current members): Caitie Fagen, Parker White, Advisor Mr. Brett Hersom, Kendall Walker, Brett Guy, Sam Bullock, Sadhika Patel, Melanie Gustafson, Hannah Van Houten, Breck Briley, Kendra Wickre, Anneliese Barton, and Megan Schmidt.

Student Government Group Donates Easter Meal



Saydel Student Government members had fun collecting items to put into a fabulous dinner basket for the adopted family within the Saydel district that may not have been able to celebrate in the Easter holiday without the members' support. The students donated all the items needed to serve a delicious meal.



Spring Activities Underway; Go Eagles!

**Message from
Activities Director & Vice Principal Adam Busch**



The spring sports season is underway and the Eagles are ready for the competition.

The boys' and girls' track teams have great numbers of athletes out this season and the golf and tennis teams are rolling along as well. Practices have been fun as the weather has been great!

Spring Activities

The boys and girls track teams both got things going early this year working in the hallways before getting outside. Our numbers look good again, including a huge turnout for our middle school track team. Our high school boys meet was April 14, the COED middle school meet was April 18, and our high school girls meet is on April 25.

Boys and girls tennis have been working hard getting prepared for the season. Both teams have multiple home dates for opportunities to see the Eagles in action. The Eagles sent two tennis players to state last year and look to continue to build off that success.

Soccer is underway as well. Saydel partners with DM East. DM East plays their home games at Williams Stadium just east of the high school.

We are always looking for volunteers and could use all the help you can give us! Please contact the Activities Office and sign up. We appreciate your time and effort. Many jobs are available and this is a great opportunity to get involved with Saydel Activities. Check out the Saydel webpage for schedules.

The golfers are hitting the course right now working on their game. The green grass and warmer temps brings the golf balls and clubs out of the closet. This year the boys look to improve on their finish in the HOIAC standings from a year ago and build upon the best team finish in school history. The group has a lot of experience returning and is looking forward to a great season.

Check out all schedules under the activities tab on the Saydel webpage.

HOIAC Art's Festival

Saydel participated in the annual HOIAC Fine Arts Festival March 3. Saydel was very well represented again, showcasing our amazing band, choir, and art students.

Visual art students Tiffany Youngbear, Nicolli Torres, Lisa Anderson, Sam Bullock, and Mikayla Becker were able to showcase their work throughout the conference.

During the festival, art students had the opportunity to view the ceramics studios at CASA in Ames and experience glass blowing at the Gaffer's Guild on Iowa State University's campus. Students were treated to their guest judge, Richard Heggen. Saydel art students showed many works with 10 of our pieces taking ribbons. (See photos pictured to the right.)

Choir students included Tori Trulove, Angela Pitt, Megan Schmidt, Alitzel Rodriguez, Esmeralda Ruiz, Sean Miller, Brett Guy, Joe Peer, Keely Woods, and Trent Guy. Jack Aagesen, Michael Adams, Rachel Bartleman, Anneliese Barton, Gabe Condon, Alex Edison, Kelsey Clark, Scarlet Hatchitt, Sam Hudspeth, Claire Kayser, Alex Scott, and Joe Voshell all participated in band.

Saydel Girl's Basketball

After losing 75% of their offense from last season's record breaking year, the Saydel Eagles girls' basketball team looked to reload, and continue its recent success. After an inauspicious start, the young squad was able to get things rolling in the right direction. The team was able to post



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an 8-6 record after Christmas Break, finishing the season 9-13. Although the overall record may not exactly show it, the Eagles were a very competitive squad this year. Of those 13 losses, three came in the final possession of the game, and in four other losses the team held a lead in the second half.

At the team celebration on February 28 the team presented the following awards: Cassie Chubb won both the MVP and Leadership Awards. Lesa Wicks and Katie Schmidt were co-defensive players of the year. April Knight won the team's Hustle & Heart Award, while Gracie Bear won the Team Spirit Award. Makenzie Pyles was voted Most Improved. Hannah Bowman won the 6th Man Award, while Brittany Irlbeck was given the Eagle Award. Freshman Darian Garcia was voted Newcomer of the year. First year letter winners were Hannah Bowman, Darian Garcia, Brittany Irlbeck, Katie Schmidt, Megan Schmidt, and Jayda Tolentino. Second year letter winners were April Knight, Makenzie Pyles and Lesa Wicks. Four year letter winner was Cassie Chubb. Senior Cassie Chubb led the team in most statistical categories including points (352), rebounds (263), blocks (39), steals (44), three point field goals (19), field goal percentage (43%), and free throw percentage (71%). Lesa Wicks led the team in assists, handing out 48. Wicks was also 2nd on the team in blocks with 24. Katie Schmidt was the team's second leading rebounder and thief. The sophomore grabbed 138 rebounds and had 37 steals. Makenzie Pyles tied Chubb for most three point field goals made, draining (19).

The season was full of records and milestones. Cassie Chubb established three new individual rebounding records. The senior grabbed 21 rebounds in a game, 263 in a season and 728 in a career. Chubb also became just the second female player in school history to score over 1000 points. She finished with 1081. The team also set two new records, grabbing 737 rebounds, and swatting 102 shots.

Members of the varsity squad coached by Stephen Glenn were Rachel Bartleman, Gracie Bear, Hannah Bowman, Destiny Butters, Cassie Chubb, Olivia Erdelt, Darian Garcia, Brittany Irlbeck, Ashley Kouski, April Knight, Makenzie Pyles, Katie Schmidt, Megan Schmidt, Jayda Tolentino and Lesa Wicks. Team managers were MacKenzie Anderson, Mckenzie Myers, and Kendra Wickre.

The Saydel Eagles Girls' basketball team had three players selected to the Heart of Iowa Conference All Conference Team. Senior Cassie Chubb was one of three players voted unanimously to the first team. Chubb led the conference in scoring, averaging 16.0 points per game. She was also the league's top rebounder grabbing 12.0 boards a game. Chubb was also amongst the conference leaders in blocked shots (2nd), field goal percentage (9th), three point

field goals (5th), and free throw percentage (2nd). April Knight was an Honorable Mention selection. The senior was second on the team in scoring, dropping in almost 5.0 points per game. Knight was third on the team in rebounds and steals as well. Knight was 20th in the conference in steals, and 10th in three point field goals made.

Joining Knight as an Honorable Mention selection was Katie Schmidt. The sophomore was second on the team in rebounds grabbing 138, and third on the team in scoring netting 87 total points. Schmidt was 9th in the conference in rebounds, 17th in assists, 15th in steals, and 8th in blocks. Besides her all-conference honors, Cassie Chubb brought home many other honors. The senior was selected to the Southwest Iowa All District Team, the Southwest Iowa Academic All District Team, the All Region 7 team, and the Iowa Girls Coaches Association all-star team. Chubb has also been nominated for many all state teams as well.

Wrestling

The Saydel Wrestling team started the year by showcasing our athletes with our first ever public wrestle offs. This was an exciting night for the wrestlers to earn their spots on the Varsity lineup in front of their family and fans. We then got down to business working hard in the practice room to prepare for our season.

The season started off slow due to not having a full Varsity lineup. Our wrestlers had to fight in every dual to compete at a team level. We saw many of our Varsity wrestlers consistently improve throughout the season as we expected. We also saw many of our JV wrestlers step up and fill in as needed whenever we asked. We got into a great rhythm in the middle of the season and won several dual meets. This includes beating a heavily favored PCM team in our gym. It took a complete team effort to pull out a 1-point victory against this team that had beaten us in a tournament the previous weekend. We were also able to turn the tables on Gilbert and defeat them the second time we met up after suffering a loss to them earlier in the season. With this, we accomplished one of our team goals for the year by going undefeated at all home dual meets. Unfortunately, in the last third of our season, we were again forced to fight for every team point we earned as we battled injuries and ineligibility issues. We ended the regular season with a team dual record of 14-16.

We will say goodbye this year to a fun group of seniors. Cory Harden has fought through numerous injuries this season, yet still found a way to compete each weekend and found ways to improve his wrestling. Oscar Ruiz has developed his technique and wrestling ability as fast as any of us have seen since coming out for

Continued on page 17



Activities: *Continued from page 15...*

wrestling for the first time his sophomore year. Ruiz is a great example of how putting in hard work, listening and trusting your coaches will help you improve and reach goals. Dylan Coffin has seen much success in his wrestling career. Coffin has battled his share of injuries and always found a way to fight through them. He was a great mentor in our wrestling room and worked hard to become a two-time state qualifier. We wish all of these young men much continued success as they embark on their next stages in life.

This season, we had an amazing managerial staff. These five ladies did anything and everything that was asked of them with smiles on their faces and never a complaint. This is a very important job and often not glamorous. We are fortunate in that we will have four of these ladies returning next year. Our only senior manager, Hannah Van Houten, will be continuing her wrestling manager career next season as she joins the prestigious Grand View University wrestling team. We wish Hannah the best.

Our team MVP was awarded to Klayton Keller. Keller consistently worked hard all season and wrestled well. He won some key matches and was a valuable asset to our team. He also led the team in Takedowns, Reversals, and Nearfalls. Our JV MVP was given to Nick Fagen. Fagan contributed on our JV and Varsity levels. He continued to work hard each week and build himself up along with the team. Oscar Ruiz was well deserving of our Most Improved Award this season. He worked hard all season and made necessary changes each week in practice to always take his skills to the next level. Freshman Dominick Kirkpatrick was our Courage Award recipient this season. Kirkpatrick filled in whenever we asked, often giving up some weight to help out the team as needed. He never shied away and was always eager to step up.

Our Iron Eagle Award was given to two people this season: Emily Harden and Devon Van Houten. Neither of these two missed a practice for any reason throughout the entire season. Devon Van Houten also received our Hardest Worker Award. Our post season wrestling consisted of us qualifying six of our Varsity wrestlers to advance to the District tournament - Klayton Keller (120 pounds), Oscar Ruiz (138 pounds), Devon Van Houten (152 pounds), Dylan Coffin (160 pounds), Trevor Sprague (170 pounds), and Hunter Jesse (HWT).

While all of these young men wrestled hard, only Ruiz and Coffin placed 2nd thus advancing to the Individual State Tournament. However, Klayton Keller placed 3rd in his bracket and due to the 2nd place wrestler becoming ill, Keller was allowed to move up

and fill in that spot so therefore earned his chance to join Ruiz and Coffin at Wells Fargo. Unfortunately, all three lost tough matches in the first two rounds at State and did not advance to the medal rounds. All three of these young men and an amazing fan section really represented Saydel well at Wells Fargo Arena.

Boy's Basketball

Varsity boy's basketball ended the year with a 2-20 record. The season was a variety of up's and down's. We started the year trying to catch up from a poor off-season. During the first half of the year we made huge strides. We consistently improved in every game we played in.

March 6 was our end of the season banquet. At the banquet there were several awards handed out. For the 9th and JV level we handed out the Eagle Award and the Most Improved Award. The varsity team has a Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, Eagle Award, and the Fulwider Award.

We define the Eagle Award as the student athlete that best embodies what it is to be an eagle. It goes to the student athlete who shows the best commitment, is the most dedicated, and always has a positive attitude. The Fulwider Award is in memory of the late coach Dan Fulwider. It goes to the student athlete who shows the same kind of passion for the game of basketball that Coach Fulwider demonstrated and lived by.

Cash Lee for the freshmen team was awarded the Most Improved Player. He came a very long ways throughout his first season of playing basketball. The freshmen Eagle Award went to Andrew Malone. Andrew is one of the most respectful and hard-working kids I have ever met.

Cody Boozell was recognized as the JV team's Eagle Award winner. Cody will do anything and everything that you ask of him. He has a great attitude and is incredibly responsible. Jackson Jarrell was the most improved player for the JV team. He made huge strides throughout the year. The biggest thing he developed was his outside scoring ability.

The varsity team had two All-Conference players. Kole Walker made 2nd Team All-Conference. Rece Martin was Honorable Mention All-Conference. Kole Walker was also recognized as the varsity team's MVP, and he received the Fulwider award. Rece Martin received the Most Improved Player Award. Cole Riddlebarger received the Eagle Award. All of these students worked very hard to earn these awards.

Congratulations to all these dedicated Saydel athletes!



iJAG Hosts Health, Wellness & Resources Fair

iJAG held its first annual Health, Wellness and Resource Fair at Saydel High School. It was a great success and will be held again in upcoming years. There were 28 vendors that participated. Some of the resources that students could learn about included foster care, grief services, health and safety, homeless youth services, dental hygiene, voter registration, healthy relationships, and much more.

Students were given a questionnaire handout to do a scavenger hunt to answer questions from the vendors that participated. Students who answered all the questions, were eligible to win a prize.



Congratulations Saydel High School Choir Students

Saydel High School choir students Megan Schmidt, Joe Peer and Angela Pitt received a Division 1 rating at the IHSMA State Solo/Ensemble contest that was held recently at Greene County High School.

Saydel Athletic Booster Memberships

Thank to the following businesses and individuals who support the Saydel Athletic Boosters through membership.

BUSINESS PLATINUM EAGLE

Chemorse
Rasmussen Group
Walker Construction & Painting
Goode Greenhouses
Power Systems
All Iowa Products
Rising Star Wholesale
Jason's Lawn & Tree Care
Karl Chevrolet
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BUSINESS GOLD EAGLE

Iowa State Bank
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BUSINESS SILVER EAGLE

Baker Group
Casey's General Store
Telesupport, Inc.
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INDIVIDUAL GOLD EAGLE

Doug & Lisa Wheeler
Kevin & Kelly Schulte
Brett Hersom
Randy & Joleen Stephenson
Rob & Shelli Stephenson
R.C. Madison
Dorothy Walter
Brian & Lori Bowman

INDIVIDUAL SILVER EAGLE

Zeke & Colette Philipsen
Judy Gustafson

STAFF DUAL ATHLETIC & MUSIC MEMBERS

Penny Smith
Dia Fenton
Sherry Keegan-Bayeur
Cheri Tingley
Eric Layden
Shawn Pavlik
Joshua Heyer
Linda Reid
Melissa Sensor
Amanda Stone
Jerry Young
Jenni McKee
Dave Braman
Adam Busch
Michael Puffett



School Boards Matter: Making a Difference for Iowa's Students

Saydel Community School District is joining other districts and communities across Iowa this May to thank our elected school board members for their commitment to public education.

Iowa School Board Recognition Month honors Iowa's volunteer school board members and recognizes that they are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring rich and diverse curriculum, to make sure all students are prepared for a bright future when they graduate.

The men and women serving Saydel Schools are Brian Bowman (president), Jennifer Van Houten (vice-president), Melissa Sassman, Henry Wood, Chad Vitiritto, Doug Kayser, and Roland Kouski, Jr.

“These men and women dedicate countless hours of volunteer time to provide the best possible education for our students, and we want to recognize that in this community,” said Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler. “As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. We proudly join community members and educators in saluting these public education advocates.”

The students from Saydel Schools are acknowledging the dedication and commitment of the Board in a variety of ways during the May Regular School Board Meeting. Special treats will be provided by Cornell Elementary art students, Woodside Middle School technology, art, and ELP students, and Saydel High School culinary students.

Our children benefit every day from the hard work and long hours contributed by our trustees. Serving as a crucial link between the community and classroom, this board is responsible for an annual budget of \$26 million,



Serving on a local school board is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of rapid change and financial uncertainties. These men and women are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They tackle a difficult job and shoulder enormous responsibilities. Overall, they represent you and take their leadership roles seriously by attending lengthy meetings; broadening their knowledge at conferences and seminars; and talking about the schools with business leaders, parents, and neighbors. Saydel School Board members front row, from left: Henry Wood, Chad Vitiritto, Doug Kayser. Back row, from left: Roland Kouski Jr., Brian Bowman (president), Jennifer Van Houten (vice-president), and Melissa Sassman.

1,327 students, 238 employees, and three buildings.

Please take a moment and tell school board members “Thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community.” Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.

“Even though we are making a special effort in May to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-long effort on their part,” said Mr. Wheeler. “They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to striving for the best for all of our students.”



Saydel Recognizes Community Partners

Saydel Community School District appreciates the many solid partnerships it has with community members, volunteers and school staff. In an ongoing effort to recognize these supportive businesses and individuals, each month the Saydel School Board presents certificates of appreciation during the regular monthly meetings. Dave and Julie Lilly, owners of Montana Mike's Steakhouse, were recently recognized for their support of the Woodside Students of the Month program. They are pictured below receiving their Certificate of Appreciation. From left: Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Julie and Dave Lilly, Woodside Principal Joshua Heyer and Saydel School Board President Brian Bowman.

Roland Kouski Jr. Takes School Board Oath of Office



Roland Kouski Jr. was sworn into his official position of Saydel Board of Director by Board Secretary Beth Vitiritto during the April 11 Saydel School Board meeting.



Polk County / Prairie Meadows Gives Back



The Saydel Schools appreciates the ongoing support from the Polk County Board of Supervisors and Prairie Meadows. This support is based on the number of students in our district and averages \$16,000 per year to support special district initiatives. The electronic signs at each building are the most visible improvement purchased with this additional funding. This year, safety upgrades including two-way radios, employee ID badges and the Raptor visitor check-in systems were purchased with these funds. We thank the Polk County Supervisors: Robert Brownell, Steve Van Oort, Tom Hockensmith, Angela Connolly, and John F. Mauro for their ongoing support as well as Gary Palmer, President & CEO of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, for making these funds available. Pictured from left: Saydel Superintendent Douglas Wheeler, Saydel Board Member Melissa Sassman, Robert Brownell, Saydel Board Member Roland Kouski, Jr., Saydel Business Manager Ryan Eidahl, Tom Hockensmith, Steve Van Oort, and Gary Palmer.



Saydel Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update



Message from Director Dr. Simone Alekno

On April 18, teachers participated in a full day of professional development. Teachers at the K-2 level trained all day on our new foundational reading skills program for iPads, which is called IRead. Teachers at the 3-12th grade levels participated in a morning session on how to better help students to be more aware of their learning

and formative assessment. In the afternoon, teachers attended sessions of their choice on many topics, including, technology, inquiry, vocabulary, and writing strategies. It was a great day of learning for teachers.

Cornell Fluency Night was a great success on March 29 with many families attending and all leaving with free books and cookies. Thanks to all who made the night a success. We will offer an additional night like this next school year.

Springtime is a busy time of year for curriculum, instruction, and assessment, as we start to wrap up the year with Iowa Assessments and start planning for next year.

Iowa Assessments -- Students tested their knowledge by taking the Iowa Assessments in April. However, educators across Iowa are still waiting for the state to announce full approval and funding of the new state assessments suite, Smarter Balanced, approved earlier this year by the Department of Education. As a district, we are proceeding and preparing as though we will be giving this new assessment in 2016-17 with the summative assessment in the spring and two interim assessments delivered in the fall and winter. The interim assessments will take the place of Children's Progress [CPAA] and MAP.

Chapter 62 Summer School Opportunity -- If you are the parent of a second grader, we will be holding an informational session regarding Chapter 62, the state's mandate to begin retaining third graders next school year. The meeting will be held May 10 at Cornell Elementary from 6 to 7 pm. We will discuss a summer school opportunity for second graders to strengthen reading skills.

STEM Summer Camps -- Saydel STEM Summer Camps will be held again this summer for students entering grades 8-10. These camps are free and fun, engaging and active. Breakfast and lunch are provided for students who participate. The programs for this summer will be 1.) Iowa Conservationist from June 6-10 where students will learn to improve our water quality and become a junior naturalist! 2.) CSI Polk County from June 27-July 1 where students will explore how we use science to solve crimes. 3.) Destination: Space from August 1-5 where students will realize our destiny as an interplanetary society. If your student is entering grade 8-10 and they are interested in participating in these hands-on STEM initiatives, contact Matthew Bannerman at 515-265-3451.

Grading for Growth -- Grading is changing at Saydel and we have been diligently communicating the impact of the new system to parents through informational sessions over the last few months. Thank you to those who have attended previous sessions. The final Grading for Growth session of the school year will be held May 12 at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm in the Saydel High School auditorium.

It's been a great school year at Saydel Schools. It is a pleasure to serve the unique learning needs of each and every student at Saydel. It's a privilege to watch them grow throughout the year. When they are successful in their endeavors, we all win.

Grading Is Changing at Saydel Community School District



Please attend **ONE** of the **Parent Information Sessions**

May 12, 2016
5:30 pm OR 6:30 pm
at Saydel High School Auditorium

Saydel is striving for 100% parent participation.

Sessions will review the same material covered in previous meetings.



A STEM of Great Things

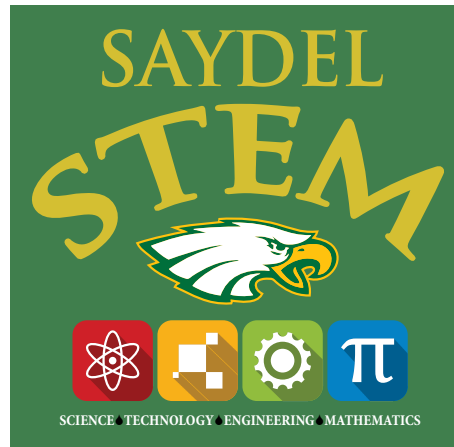
In the Saydel Schools, STEM (an acronym short for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) serves as more than a group of courses - it represents a way of learning centered around experience, inquiry, and curiosity.

It is also a way of seeing the world of work and opportunity that centers on equity and access for everyone. To grow and meet our goals as a district, both students and teachers need experiences that promote a STEM mindset across all their learning.

Saydel's teachers and students have had many opportunities to grow as STEM educators and learners this year. Starting last summer, and throughout the year, a team of teachers and teacher leaders from every building in the district attended the Peer Alliance for Gender Equity (PAGE) program at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Through their experience, these teacher leaders have brought critical ideas on improving access and equity, as well as promoting inquiry-based learning, to other teachers in their buildings. Saydel has had so much success in sharing these ideas across its district that the University of Minnesota research team working to evaluate PAGE asked to interview the participating teachers as part of their study. That research team will visit in late April.

In October, a team of middle and high school teachers and teacher leaders attended the fall joint Iowa Science Teachers Section/Iowa Council for Teachers of Mathematics conference at Valley High School in West Des Moines. Teachers learned about a wide variety of topics, including inquiry instruction, alternatives to flipped classrooms, and standards-referenced grading, all of which informed instruction in classrooms across the district.

In December, the Saydel High School science department attended the National Science Teachers Association



regional convention in Kansas City, MO. They explored the connections between engineering and science teaching, and learned about many of the ways modeling can be used in teaching science.

To grow and meet our goals as a district, both students and teachers need experiences that promote a STEM mindset across all their learning.

Students at Woodside Middle School participated in the FIRST Lego League competition again this year. School Board Member Doug Kayser, 7th grade math teacher Annie Gallaher, and STEM master teacher Matthew Bannerman coached the three teams that emerged from the unprecedented interest in the program. All three teams built successful robots, competed in competitions, and enjoyed themselves while learning about programming and engineering. Mr. Kayser's team, the Eagle Innovators, won an award for their work at the regional competition in Marshalltown.

Earlier this semester, the district elected to move forward with an ambitious plan to partner with local businesses and labor unions to add

an Electrical Careers Pathway to our Career and Technical Education coursework. The Electrical Careers Pathway, which will have a rolling implementation over the next several years, will join the High School of Business and the ProStart food service programs as CTE opportunities which provide students with a clear and immediate path to post-secondary career and vocational opportunities. The district and its community partners are very excited to move forward with this plan to expand the options available to students.

Saydel was again a recipient of a Scale-Up Award from Governor Branstad's Iowa STEM Council. The award supports our implementation of a new Project Lead the Way pathway, the Biomedical pathway, which joins both the Engineering and the Computer Science pathways at Saydel High School, and the PLTW Gateway program at Woodside Middle School, to expand the opportunities students have for learning about engineering, science, and all of their components.

Finally, Saydel's Summer STEM programs return for the second year in a row. For each of three weeks this summer, incoming 8th-10th grade students will have the opportunity to work with metro partners and teachers to learn about practical skills related to science and engineering. The programs will cover subjects such as improving the quality of our Iowa environment, solving crimes using science, and exploring the space beyond our planet.

Saydel STEM has had a busy and successful year! If you are interested in learning more about any of the programs described in this article, contact Saydel's STEM master teacher, Matthew Bannerman at bannermanmatthew@saydel.net. The district would like to thank all of the parents and partners in learning for making this critical work possible for educators and students.



Saydel Student Services & Special Education Update



Message from Director Julie McKibben

This school year allowed special education and student services an opportunity to focus on areas that would provide all students opportunities to work at their full potential.

The implementation of the Dashboard system and supports from Heartland AEA consultants

provided a tool for data driven decisions and allowed for individually based strategies to help close the gap within special education. Special education teachers and associates have been provided multiple opportunities for quality professional development that offered current, relevant curricular supports for meeting student's needs. The special education advisory committee will have one final meeting this spring to determine the focus of their work for the upcoming school year.

The English Language Learners (ELL) teachers have been focused on learning the new state assessment tool for testing ELL students. The English Language Proficiency Assessment 21 (ELPA 21) has replaced the Iowa English Language Development Assessment (IELDA) and our students will complete their assessments by mid-April. The training was quite rigorous and our teachers did a

wonderful job completing the process and were able to provide practice opportunities for our students.

They also just returned from the 50th Annual Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Convention where they were provided three days of wonderful professional development to provide the most current opportunities for our students. As well, we were fortunate to have Stephaney Jones-Vo, AEA ESL/Diversity Consultant, present to each building on supporting ELL students in an inclusion model.

Student services continue to create opportunities to support our students through their work on the Anti-Bullying/Harassment Campaign. Posters, video presentations, and guidance support has allowed each building to reach out to students on a daily basis. The Student Assistance Program representatives also attended winter conferences, setting up tables and providing literature on their services in all three buildings.

The MTSS teams have also been working hard as we continue our focus on restructuring the model. There has been a district-wide re-boot of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) with a kick-off assembly at Cornell this spring. The next step will include the alignment of classroom management systems across the district.

The Eagle's Nest Summer Program will be experiencing some temporary changes. The location this summer will be at Woodside Middle School, due to construction at Cornell Elementary. The program will be pairing with United Way to provide an optimal summer experience. Enrollment is open with packets online or in the building offices. Students in grades K-6 are welcome to enroll.

This has been a great year of change at Saydel. The teachers continue to amaze me with their excitement and love of education and their ability to reach all populations of students.



Pre-K to 6th Graders Welcome



SAYDEL Eagle's Nest Summer Program Is Back

June 6 - Aug. 12, 2016

LOCATION: Woodside Middle School

- *Field Trips & Outdoor Play
- *Bi- Weekly Themes
- *Academic Support
- *Fun With Friends
- *All Districts Welcome
- *Affordable (State Assistance Accepted)
- *Breakfast & Hot Lunch Served Daily

Contact Eagle's Nest Coordinator Christine Bailey for details:
515-244-8173, ext. 3207 or baileychristine@saydel.net

Saydel Community School District

"Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students"

FUEL UP™ FOR SUMMER FUN



Eat Smart. Play Hard.™

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FREE!

Summer Meals for Kids & Teens Open to ALL Children 18 & Younger

*Adults may eat for a fee at Woodside location.

June 6 - August 5
Monday - Friday

Woodside Middle School

5810 NE 14th Street, Des Moines

Breakfast: 8 AM - 9 AM

Lunch: 11 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

Sunnybrook Mobile Home Park

5975 NE Berwick Drive, Berwick

Lunch: 11:30 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

Questions?

Contact **Jessy Sadler**, Director of Food Services,
at 515-264-0866 or sadlerjessy@saydel.net

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SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
5740 NE 14TH STREET
DES MOINES IOWA 50313

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAYDEL SCHOOLS:

Cornell Elementary School

Grades PK - 4
5817 NE 3rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50313
515-244-8173
Mr. Brian Vaughan, Principal

Woodside Middle School

Grades 5-8
5810 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313
515-265-3451
Mr. Joshua Heyer, Principal

Saydel High School

Grades 9-12
5601 NE 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313
515-262-9325
Mr. Kevin Schulte, Principal
Mr. Adam Busch, Activities Director, Vice Principal

Saydel District Office (Adjacent to Woodside Middle School)
5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313
515-264-0866

Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools
Ryan Eidahl, Business Manager
Dr. Simone Alekno, Director of Curriculum
Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services
Jessy Sadler, Director of Food Services

SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian Bowman, Board President
Jenn Van Houten, Vice-President
Chad Vitiritto, Board of Director
Henry Wood, Board of Director
Melissa Sassman, Board of Director
Doug Kayser, Board of Director
Roland Kouski Jr., Board of Director

Superintendent: Mr. Douglas Wheeler
Board Secretary: Beth Vitiritto



School Board meetings are held at the
Saydel District Office on the second
Monday of each month at 6 PM

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to illegally 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 the district's **Equity Coordinator, Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; mckibbenjulie@saydel.net.**

Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street,
Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.