

# THE SAYDEL COMMUNICATOR

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

## Superintendent's Message

Mr. Douglas Wheeler



Saydel Families & Community:

I hope this message finds you rested and relaxed as we enter another new year. In this issue of the Communicator, you will learn about more exciting opportunities provided by our district and the hard work our staff and students do every day in our buildings. For this issue, I want to update our parents and community of two important upcoming developments, but first I want to highlight just a few things you will read about in this issue of the Communicator.

While this is far from an exhaustive list, before giving two quick program updates, I want to recognize just a few successes achieved so far this year. For the second year in a row, each building has received a three(3) rating on the TAP value-added measure of assessment performance. This means that each of our buildings provided in excess of one year of growth on our standardized and interim assessments. In addition to academic success, our athletic teams continue to build momentum. Highlights include the best season our football team has experienced since the 1990s and a three-time state cross-country qualifier. Our fine arts programs continue to demonstrate excellence with two all-state musicians and strong showings at marching band competitions. In addition, eight alumni were honored by induction into the Saydel Athletic Hall of Fame. Our students also continue to achieve individually in our classrooms and volunteer their time in the service of others. Enjoy reading about these and other successes in the following pages.

### Community Education

This past September, the Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) was passed. This \$0.135/\$1,000 levy allows for the creation of a community education program for Saydel. The goal of this program will be to foster community connections to our schools through programming and access to district facilities. While the levy does not take effect until next October, we are hard at work developing this program. A community education advisory council of 15 members representing various programs, age groups and locations within the district was appointed in November to lead the development of this new and exciting program. This group will meet with the district opportunities committee until July 1 when the new community education program launches. This Advisory Council is excited about offering opportunities for all ages and functioning to serve the needs of our community. To track the progress of this committee and learn more about the timelines established to develop community education, please visit the "Community Ed" link on the quick links located on the district homepage.

### New Assessment For Iowa Students Coming Next Year

As a life-time Iowan, I remember sitting down to take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. At the time I took this test, many other states also participated. However, in the years since No Child Left Behind, many states have moved to their own standards and state-level assessments, leaving Iowa

*Continued on page 2*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message, Pages 1-2

IBEA Honors Saydel Students & Staff, Page 3

Cornell Elementary School, Pages 4-5

Woodside Middle School, Pages 6-7

Saydel High School, Pages 8-9

Annual Notices to Parents, Pages 10-14

Saydel Hires Two New Administrators, Page 15

Financial Focus, Pages 16

Food Service Update, Pages 18-19

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update, Page 20

Special Education & Student Services Update, Page 21

Building & Grounds Update, Page 22

Saydel District Recognitions & Upcoming Events, Page 23

## 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*

as the only state relying entirely on Iowa Tests (now called the Iowa Assessments) to measure performance on a yearly basis. This use of the Iowa Assessments is set to end with this April's administration.

Two years ago a state taskforce of the Iowa Department of Education recommended the adoption of the Smarter Balanced Assessments to serve as our yearly measure of proficiency in math and reading, grades 3-11. This recommendation was made because it was determined that the Iowa Assessments do not adequately measure the skills and knowledge taught in the Iowa Core. All districts in Iowa have adopted the Iowa Core as of the 2014 school year. The Iowa Core focuses not only on concepts and knowledge, but strongly addresses skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving. This assessment (much like when I took the ITBS) is used by several other states, giving a clearer picture of the performance of Iowa Children. Iowa leads the nation in both ACT and graduation rate, but continues to lag in the area of overall student achievement because our measurement is not aligned to what we are teaching by law.

Unlike the Iowa tests, the Smarter Balanced Assessments are computer adaptive, meaning that the student receives questions based on their ability to correctly answer other questions. This means that all the students in a grade level do not answer the same set of questions on a bubble sheet. The test asks students to not only answer questions, but support their answers, including manipulating items on the screen. In addition, to the April testing, the Smarter Balanced Assessments offer

aligned interim assessments that can be given twice a year prior to the April testing window. I strongly encourage you to learn more about Smarter Balanced Assessments. A simple Google Search for Smarter Balanced Assessments will take you to their website where you can learn more about the test and even view some sample questions. The Iowa Department of Education also has a variety of information on their website at [www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov).

The move to Smarter Balanced Assessments will benefit our students in several ways. First and foremost it is a fair assessment of what they are learning and what we are required to teach. Additionally, the results provide a clearer picture to students, teachers and families about where the student is in their learning. As a one to one (1:1) computing district grades 3-12, our district has the necessary infrastructure to give these tests and benefit from the information it provides quickly and efficiently. The availability of the interim assessments allows us to streamline our formal interim assessment process by abandoning some current assessment measures in favor of processes aligned to the April test.

It is my pleasure to overview the above items and introduce this issue of the Communicator. Thank you again for your support of our children and the Saydel Community Schools.

Yours In Service,

Douglas Wheeler  
Superintendent of Schools

## Saydel Booster Memberships

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

### BUSINESS PLATINUM EAGLE

Chemorse  
Rising Star/All Iowa Stone & Gutter  
The Results Group, L.L.C.  
Iowa Demolition Inc.  
R Rogers Septic LLC  
Jason's Lawn & Tree Care  
Goode Greenhouses  
Teddell Electric

### BUSINESS GOLD EAGLE

Heartland Chiropractic & Wellness Ctr.  
Capital City Equipment Co.  
Iowa State Bank  
Affinity Credit Union

### BUSINESS SILVER EAGLE

Walker Construction & Painting  
John Sandin Painting  
Decarlo Demolition Company  
Seth Wicks Construction  
Schneider Graphics  
Xtreme Liners of Central Iowa

### BUSINESS GREEN EAGLE

Struthers Brothers Kawasaki-Suzuki, Inc.

### INDIVIDUAL GOLD EAGLE

Doug & Lisa Wheeler  
Kevin & Kelly Schulte  
Roland & Shari Kouski  
Randy & Joleen Stephenson  
Kevin Farnsley  
Doug & Susan Cline  
Rollie Madison  
Brett Hersom  
Ric Powell

### INDIVIDUAL GREEN EAGLE

Roland & Shari Kouski  
Brian & Diba VanHouten

### INDIVIDUAL SILVER EAGLE

Missy Burr  
Joshua & Denna Heyer  
Ruth Kouski

### INDIVIDUAL PLATINUM EAGLE

Corey Myers  
Scott Myers  
Kelly & Tana Sprague

### STAFF DUAL ATHLETIC & MUSIC MEMBERS

Jerry Young  
Penny Smith  
Cheri Tingley  
Caleb Hales  
Dia Fenton  
Melissa Sensor  
Kyle Luttenegger  
Julie Rolf





## IBEA Honors Saydel Students & Staff

The Iowa Business Education Association held its annual fall convention at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Urbandale on October 23-24, 2016. IBEA is a statewide professional organization for business teachers that promote business education to students, parents, and businesses within the local communities of its members. This state organization is affiliated with the National Business Education Association and the North Central Business Education Association, which provide curriculum materials, standards and benchmarks, and legislative representation for business teachers throughout the country and eight-state region.

Saydel Community School District Superintendent Doug Wheeler, Saydel High School Principal Kevin Schulte, and Traci Lendt of Wells Fargo were awarded the Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award is given to individuals who offered extensive support toward programs in business and technology education. Doug Wheeler, Kevin Schulte, and Traci Lendt were selected based on their role in supporting the new High School of Business program at Saydel High School.

HSB is a national business program designed much like a college business administration program, with a focus on project based learning, local business ties, and career readiness. It is a large task to implement a new program, courses, and training; requiring support of administration, parents, and local businesses. This investment shows the importance of Business and Career Education in the high school setting. Without the support of forward thinking leadership we would not have programs like HSB.

Also honored during the program for 15 years of service was Rebecca Knowler, Business Education teacher at Saydel High School. Outstanding business students honored were Cody Boozell, Josh Green, and Cole Vitiritto. Congratulations to these award winners.



DOUGLAS WHEELER



TRACI LENDT



CODY BOOZELL



JOSH GREEN



COLE VITIRITTO

### 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](mailto: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.*

### The Promise of Iowa Campaign

Each year as the legislature comes into session and the topic of education funding arises, the media is flooded with information about our Iowa Public Schools. Iowa Schools serve over 480,000 young people in 333 school districts. The Iowa Association of School Boards launched The Promise of Iowa campaign to tell the story of Iowa's public education system.



In Saydel and across the state our students achieve at high levels under the supervision of caring staff. The Saydel School Board has signed on to support this effort to tell the true story of our schools and our children. You are encouraged to get involved by finding out more information at [www.promiseofiowa.org](http://www.promiseofiowa.org).





## CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Awesome Things Are Happening At Cornell

Message from  
Principal Brian Vaughan



It is with much enthusiasm that I share with you the happenings around our great school the last couple of months.

It did not take long for our staff and students to get into the routine of “how we do business” here at Cornell. We call this “The Eagle Way.” In accordance with our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) expectations, when

we are doing things The Eagle Way, we are being Safe, Open-Minded, Accountable, and Respectful (SOAR).

Our students are recognized daily for the great choices they are making in all areas of our school and by all staff members. Our teachers track the number of SOAR slips students receive and keep a running class total. For every 200 SOAR slips earned by a class, they get to have something special and enjoyable for a day. Some examples this year have been: additional recess, wear your pajamas for a day, bring your favorite game, and bring your favorite electronic to name just a few. To this point our students have received over 14,000 SOAR slips as a school.

I could not be more proud of the positive choices and leadership that our students display on a daily basis.

To go along with our individual and class recognitions, we have monthly school-wide celebrations as well. So far this year our kids have enjoyed getting outside at the end of September for popsicles and an assortment of outdoor activities. They also were treated to popcorn and a movie in the gym in October. A HUGE shout out

to the Cornell PTO for their support in providing funds and volunteers for helping to make these school-wide celebrations possible.

We had an amazing turnout for our Ribbon Cutting and Open House on October 25.

We officially opened and began utilizing the new preschool outdoor classroom and playground, as well as teaching classes in the new fourth grade wing. Our fourth graders have

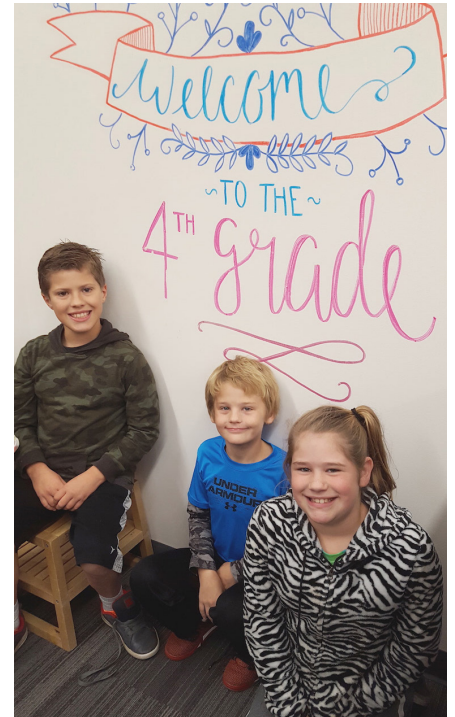
thoroughly enjoyed the use of the open classroom space outside of their new rooms. They have also enjoyed the natural lighting, flexible seating options, touch screen TV monitors, and white board tables. In addition, as part of the new outdoor playground, our preschool students now have access to a school house, track to ride trikes, instruments, and more. Our preschool staff and students took full advantage of the great fall weather to get out and enjoy this new space.

I am looking forward to a strong finish to our year. We have much to do and accomplish yet this year, but I know with the great students and staff that we have, we will accomplish great things!

Thank you to all of you for the trust and support you provide our great school every single day. Our partnership in educating our students goes hand-in-hand. I hope that you have a great month ahead!

Go Eagles!

**BE AWESOME TODAY!**



**EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP;  
LEARNING FOR LIFE**

We're on the Web: [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)





## *Cornell Students Cut Ribbon to Officially Open New 4th Grade Addition*

The Open House and Ribbon Cutting celebrating the new addition at Cornell Elementary was held October 25. It was exciting to share this new space with our supportive public.

Students who cut the ribbon were Gunner Vanderpool, Emma Plascencia, Gerardo Perez Aviala, Jacob Goode and Kynlee Booth. Assisting the students were School Board President Brian Bowman, Board Vice President Jennifer Van Houten, Principal Brian Vaughan and Superintendent Douglas Wheeler.







## WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### School Year Reflections

Message from  
Principal Joshua Heyer



It is hard to believe we are approaching the midway point for the 2016-17 school year. As I reflect on the first half of the school year I remember how busy we have been at Woodside. The year has been filled with incredible learning experiences for students and staff. I would like to take a moment to highlight some

of the events that have taken place this year.

**For students...**The start of the year has been filled with learning experiences that reach beyond the classroom. It seems each week a special event is taking place for Woodside students. Highlights for each grade include:

- 5th grade- Trip to Junior Achievement to participate in Biztown
- 6th grade- Trip to Drake University and the Science Center of Iowa
- 7th grade- Trip to the Blank Park Zoo
- 8th grade- Trip to Iowa State University and the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge

In addition to these grade level experiences, all students participated in homecoming celebrations, Scholastic book fair, red ribbon drug awareness week, pink out cancer awareness, financial literacy Pennies to Pay Checks and Gooding rock concert and various PBIS celebrations.

We look forward to building on the momentum gained by the events that took place at the beginning of the school year by connecting our students to more internal and external opportunities the second half of the school year.

**For staff...** Each Wednesday morning late start is devoted to professional development for our staff. Woodside has used this time to look at ways to include technology in daily instruction, unpacking of content standards to enhance learning experiences

for students, and exploring activities to increase college and career readiness at the middle school level. On October 7, staff had a full day of professional development to focus on these important topics. Moreover, multiple staff teachers have attended local and state education conferences to strengthen their teaching practices. I am proud of each of our teacher's dedication to grow professionally and demonstrate what it takes to be a life long learner to our students.

#### Winter Athletics Split Season

Woodside is participating in a split season concept for winter athletics for 7th and 8th grade this year. A split season allows student athletes the chance to participate in multiple sports with reduced conflict. The goal of a split season



is to increase participation in sports by allowing students the opportunity to try new extra curricular activities. Wrestling and girl's basketball began in the first part of November and will conclude near winter break. Boy's basketball began



in December and will conclude in February. The district will continue to review participation numbers as well as other winter opportunities for our student athletes so the split season is a success.

**THANK YOU**  
**Brown's Shoe Fit Co.**  
**in Ankeny, IA**

Your partnership with Saydel Community School District to provide shoes for some of our students is much appreciated!





## Snapshots Captured at Woodside's Recent Events



The Nashville-based rock band Gooding performed at Woodside and gave a message on financial literacy and making smart financial decisions in life.



Pennies to Pay Checks event was fun and educational!



One of the Red Ribbon Week themes at Woodside Middle School was "Say Boo to Drugs" and students could wear costumes to school.



Students and staff enjoyed shopping at the Book Fair.



It was a Pink Out at Woodside Middle School! Students and staff wore pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.



Students enjoyed dressing up during Homecoming Week. This theme was "dress like your grandparent day."





## SAYDEL HIGH SCHOOL

# Targeting Success at Saydel

Message from  
Principal Kevin Schulte



Happy New Year from Saydel High School!

Whether it is the holiday season, start of the school year, summer or anytime of year, it is always good for us to identify where we need to focus our time and energy.

We know emotion can drive changes that take place in schools, politics or any realm

of our everyday lives. While this emotion is valid, it is always important for us to continually revisit research and evidence of effective practices. These research-supported characteristics are the areas we need to continually focus our efforts to ensure we are targeting the right work. There are several studies that highlight aspects of successful schools. Two studies stick out in my mind, Marzano's, *What Works in Schools*, and Bergeson and Davidson's, *Nine Characteristics of High-Performing Schools*.

This is how Saydel High School is addressing these characteristics to make us successful:

- **Curriculum (What we teach)** - Marzano calls this a guaranteed and viable curriculum while Bergeson and Davidson refer to it as, curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned with state standards. At Saydel High School, we have spent significant time this year developing tiered learning targets. This work helps us ensure we are challenging students to meet the Iowa Core standards. This happens because the learning targets are the connection to the daily classroom instruction and the defined Iowa Core Standards.
- **Collaboration** - Both studies highlight a need for collaboration and collegiality. On a weekly basis at Saydel High School we have two hours dedicated to professional development. Within this time we work in small teams toward common goals defined by our student need.
- **High Expectations** - High standards and expectations for students also tie closely

with our curriculum. Through our work with curriculum we are clearly defining the high level of learning expected of students. Our high expectations also extend to behavior of students. These expectations help to ensure a safe and orderly environment at school.

- **Focus** - We are continually striving toward our mission, "Everyone's best effort for everyone's best life." This mission helps us bring focus to things like determination and effort, which often times are the largest factors in an individual's success after high school.

***Research on effective practices will continue to guide our work as we continue to make Saydel High School the best in the state.***

- **Family and Community Involvement** - Over the past year we have focused efforts on increasing and opening the lines of communication to families. We have worked to develop and send monthly newsletters, but most importantly the amount of teacher to parent and parent to teacher communication has increased significantly. This helps develop the partnership for us to all work in the same direction.
- **School Leadership** - I work to continually learn and grow with my knowledge of effective practices. Our building leadership expands well beyond my work. Our academic and behavior interventionist has led efforts with our follow through with high behavioral expectations. Our master and mentor teachers have taken the lead on our focused professional development as well as providing effective feedback to teachers. This shared leadership is essential for our continued growth.

Research on effective practices will continue to guide our work as we continue to make Saydel High School the best in the state.

Thank you for your continual support of our school.





## Saydel Students Doing Great Things

- David Parker (senior) qualified for his third straight state cross-country meet. David competed against the state's best runners in Fort Dodge.



DAVID PARKER



ANNELIESE BARTON



JOE PEER



DEVIN PORTER

- Anneliese Barton (senior) was selected as an all-state instrumentalist on the French horn. She performed at the all-state music festival in November.
- Joe Peer (senior) was selected as an all-state vocalist for the second consecutive year. He performed at the all-state music festival in November.
- Devin Porter, senior, signed a letter of intent to attend college and play baseball at Iowa Central Community College.
- Marching Band was named Grand Champions at Fort Dodge, placed 2nd at Ankeny and earned a division 1 rating at State.
- The football team finished the season 5-4. This is the best record in over 20+ years.
- Saydel Student Government organized a blood drive that resulted in donations that could save up to 63 lives.
- Saydel art students raised funds through the sale of their artwork through the Art Market at Jordan Creek.
- Eight individuals were inducted into the Saydel Athletic Hall of Fame: Taylor Tague (Class of 2016), Ross Martin (2016), Emma Bowman (2015), Clayton Sommers (2015), Liz Miklus (2015), Casey Roberts (2015), Grant Sherman (2015), Jake Sherman (2014), and Jim Gebhart (38 years as Activities Director, Teacher and Coach).



## Connecting With The Saydel Community

Each teacher has committed to connecting their classroom in some way beyond the high school building. Thus, we are looking for businesses and individuals to connect to our classrooms.

Please contact Kevin Schulte ([schultekevin@saydel.net](mailto:schultekevin@saydel.net)), high school principal, if you are interested in connecting with our students and classrooms. Some examples that are already in the works:

- Area electricians collaborating with our industrial technology teacher to drive student learning experiences.
- Guest conductors for our music courses.
- Mercy College collaboration with our iJAG program to develop a health fair.
- Raygun owner speaking to our marketing class.



## Annual Notices to Parents for 2016-2017

Each year, various state and federal laws, as well as Saydel School Board policies, require a variety of annual notification to parents. Many of the following notifications can also be found in student/parent handbooks, or on the district website.

### **Level 1 Investigator: Abuse**

It is the policy of the district that school employees not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, toward students. Any district employee who commits such acts is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge.

It is the policy of the district to respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by district employees by investigating or arranging full investigation of any allegation, and to do so in a reasonably prudent manner. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. All employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigating process.

### **General Education Interventions**

Each Local Education Agency (LEA), in conjunction with the Area Education Agency (AEA), shall attempt to resolve any presenting problem or behaviors of concern in the general education environment prior to conducting a full and individual evaluation. In circumstances when there is a suspicion that a child is an eligible individual, the AEA, in collaboration with the LEA, shall conduct a full and individual initial evaluation. Documentation of the rationale for such action shall be included in the individual's educational record.

Each LEA shall provide general notice to the parents on an annual basis about the provision of general education interventions that occur as a part of the agency's general program and that may occur at any time throughout the school year.

General education interventions shall include consultation with special education support and instructional personnel. General education intervention activities shall be documented and shall include measurable and goal-directed attempts to resolve the presenting problem or behaviors of concern, communication with parents, collection of data related to the presenting problem or behaviors of concern, intervention design and implementation, and systemic progress monitoring to measure the effects of interventions.

If the referring problem or behaviors of concern are shown to be resistant to general education interventions or if interventions are demonstrated to be effective but require continued and substantial effort that may include the provision of special education and related services, the agency shall then conduct a full and individual initial evaluation.

The parent of a child receiving general education interventions may request that the agency conduct a full and individual initial evaluation at any time during the implementation of such interventions.

### **Equal Educational Opportunity**

Saydel Community School District does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, marital status, socioeconomic status, or abilities/disabilities in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and Title XII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendment, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Iowa Code #216.9. Students are educated in programs which foster knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society.

Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district's Equity Coordinator Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; mckibbenjulie@saydel.net; 515-264-0866. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0201, 515-281-4121 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL, 60661.

The district, in its educational program, has a process to assist students experiencing behavior and learning difficulties. Building response to intervention (RTI) teams, facilitated by building administrators and/or school counselors are responsible for this process. Representatives from the area education agency may also assist the district in this process. Parents wanting access to this process should contact the principal or counselor.

### **Notice Concerning Highly Qualified Teachers/ Professionals**

Parents and guardians in the Saydel Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. You may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your students in a Title I program or if your school operates a school-wide Title I program.

Parents and guardians may request this information from the office of the superintendent by calling 515-264-0866 or sending a letter of request to:

*Saydel Community School District Office*  
5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines IA 50313

Saydel Community School District ensures parents will be notified in writing if their child has been assigned or has been taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified.





## Homeless Students

In accordance with 281 IAC Chapter 33 Iowa Administrative Code, the Saydel Community School District is required to give written notice to homeless children and families if the district is going to deny access to their educational programs. Homeless children and families may obtain free legal services by contacting: *Legal Aid Society of Polk County*  
1111 9th Street – 3rd Floor, Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-243-1193

Chapter 33 of the Iowa Administrative Code defines “homeless child or youth” as a child or youth from the age of three years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

- A child or youth who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement;
- A child or youth who has primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
- A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs “1” through “3” of this section.

## Iowa Concussion Legislation

Effective July 1, 2011, Iowa law requires that students in grades 7-12 who participate in extracurricular interscholastic activities, cheerleading and dance; and their parents/guardians; must sign a copy of the acknowledgement form and return it to their school.

Students cannot practice or compete in those activities until this form is signed and returned.

In addition, please note this important information from Iowa Code Section 280.13C, Brain Injury Policies:

1. A child must be immediately removed from participation (practice or competition) if his/her coach or a contest official observes signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury in an extracurricular interscholastic activity.
2. A child may not participate again until a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain injuries has evaluated him/her and the student has received written clearance from that person to return to participation.
3. Key definitions:
  - a. “Licensed health care provider” means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or athletic trainer licensed by a board.
  - b. “Extracurricular interscholastic activity” means

any extracurricular interscholastic activity, contest, or practice, including sports, dance, or cheerleading.

## Open Enrollment

Per Iowa Code 282.18 open enrolling is a process that allows parents/guardians residing in an Iowa school district the option of enrolling their children into another Iowa school district. There are two deadlines that must be kept in mind when considering applying for open enrollment. March 1 is the deadline for open enrollment grades 1-12. September 1 is the deadline for kindergarten open enrollment.

By Iowa state statute, unless Saydel Community School District can show insufficient classroom space, the district must allow open enrollment into the district if the application is received by the established March 1 and September 1 deadlines. Students seeking open enrollment after the March 1 and September 1 deadlines must first secure release from their resident district and sufficient classroom space must be available. Saydel Schools can accept open enrollments after the deadline if the student has been released. The Saydel Schools can choose to end acceptance of all new open enrollment requests at any time after the deadline.

For more information:

- To obtain an open enrollment handbook, application or for more information, please refer to the Iowa Department of Education website.
- Contact the Saydel District Office with open enrollment questions, 515-264-0866.

## Handbooks & Board Policies

Each year, students receive a copy of the student/parent handbook for their grade-level, and handbooks and school board policies are posted on the district website at [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us). Parents are strongly encouraged to review the handbook and policies of the Board of Education with their student so both understand the regulations and expectations of the district for students. Handbooks include many important annual notices and information about policies students and their parents are responsible for knowing and understanding. Ignorance of the contents of the handbooks and policies of the Board of Education excuses no one from complying with these regulations.

## Corporal Punishment, Restraint and Physical Confinement and Detention

State law forbids district employees from using corporal punishment against any student. Certain actions by district employees are not considered corporal punishment. Additionally, district employees may use “reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain” to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons or property. State law also places limits on district employees’ abilities to restrain or confine and detain any student. The law limits why, how, where, and for how long a district employee may restrain or confine and detain a child. If a child is restrained or confined and detained, the district must maintain documentation and must provide certain types of notice to the student’s parent. If you have any questions about this state law, contact your student’s school. The complete text of the law and additional information is available on the Iowa Department of Education website: [www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov).



## Free & Reduced Meals Program

If your total household income is within the limits set by the federal government, your children may be eligible for either free or reduced-price school meals. If you qualify for free or reduced-price meals, you may also be eligible for food assistance benefits from the State of Iowa, Department of Human Services (DHS).

If you need an application or information about free and reduced food guidelines, please contact the district Food and Nutrition Services Office at 515-264-0866. For information about state food assistance benefits, contact 877-937-3663 (877-YES-FOOD), or apply online at [www.yesfood.iowa.gov](http://www.yesfood.iowa.gov).

## 2016-17 Free & Reduced-Price Meal Guidelines

If your total household income is within the limits listed in the table below, your child/children may be eligible for either free or reduced-price school meals. If your child/children qualify for free or reduced-price meals, you may also be eligible for food assistance benefits from the State of Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).

How does my family qualify?

Household Size	Total Household Income Paid:				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$916	\$846	\$423
2	\$29,637	\$2,470	\$1,235	\$1,140	\$570
3	\$37,296	\$3,108	\$1,554	\$1,435	\$718
4	\$44,955	\$3,747	\$1,874	\$1,730	\$865
5	\$52,614	\$4,385	\$2,193	\$2,024	\$1,012
6	\$60,273	\$5,023	\$2,512	\$2,319	\$1,160
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$2,832	\$2,614	\$1,307
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$3,152	\$2,910	\$1,455
For each additional family member add	\$7,696	\$642	\$321	\$296	\$148

## Section 504 – Notice of Rights

Section 504 is a federal statute that prohibits discrimination based upon a disability. Section 504 covers eligible students for accommodations that enable them to work or learn. The great majority of academic accommodations should take place in the general education classroom. A school team knowledgeable of the student determines, with evaluation data, if the student meets eligibility criteria.

Saydel Community School District does not discriminate in its educational programs and activities on the basis of a student's disability. If it has been determined that your child has a qualifying disability for which accommodations may need to be made to meet his/her individual needs as adequately as the needs of other students, as a parent, you have the right to the following:

- Participation of your child in school district program and activities, including extracurricular programs and activities, to the maximum extent appropriate, free of discrimination based upon the student's disability and at the same level as students without disabilities;
- Receipt of free educational services to the extent they are provided students without disabilities;

- Receipt of information about your child and your child's educational programs and activities in your native language;
- Notice of identification of your child as having a qualifying disability for which accommodations may need to be made and notice prior to evaluation and placement of your child and right to periodically request a re-evaluation of your child;
- Inspect and review your child's educational records, including a right to copy those records for a reasonable fee; you also have a right to ask the school district to amend your child's educational records if you feel the information in the records is misleading or inaccurate; should the school district refuse to amend the records, you have a right to a hearing and to place an explanatory letter in your child's file explaining why you feel the records are misleading or inaccurate; and
- Hearing before an impartial hearing officer if you disagree with your child's evaluation or placement; you have a right to counsel at the hearing and have the decision of the impartial hearing officer reviewed.

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identify 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 the policy, please contact Equity Coordinator Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; [mckibbenjulie@saydel.net](mailto:mckibbenjulie@saydel.net); 515-264-0866.

## Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to contest placement of a controversial record in the student's education records. Parents or eligible students may ask Saydel Community School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or a violation of the student's right to privacy. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent of eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a meeting with a





district employee who is not directly interested in the outcome. Additional information regarding the meeting procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when they are notified of their right to the meeting.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. An exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, faculty member, staff member, member of the Board of Directors, or others acting on their behalf who the superintendent has determined to have a legitimate educational interest in obtaining access to information in a student's education records. This may include outsourced law enforcement and security units contracted with the school district. A legitimate educational interest exists when the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to inform the district that the parent or eligible student does not want the district's designated directory information, as defined below, to be released to the public. To object to the designation and release of certain student records as directory information, the parent or eligible student must notify the principal in writing, prior to August 1 of each school year (or two weeks from the date of enrollment in the district if such enrollment occurs after August 1), of the information not wished to be released. This objection to the release of directory information must be renewed annually.

Examples of school or media publications include; but are not limited to:

- A playbill showing our student's role in a drama production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Sports activity sheets such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members
- Newspaper articles or television news stories
- Photos, podcasts, videos or information posted on the District website
- Athletic or activities team photos or class photos
- Website articles

Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The Saydel Community School District has designated the following student information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Curriculum (major field of study)
- Section/Team
- Year in school
- Participation in recognized organizations, activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams

- Degrees, awards and honors received
- The most recent educational institution attended by the student
- Photographs, audio recordings and video recordings of the student
- Date of attendance at the school district (general periods of time during which an individual attended or was enrolled in an educational agency or institution)
- Student work

Any information not designated by the district as directory information will be considered an educational record under FERPA and may not be released to the public without parental or eligible student consent. Two federal laws require local school districts receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed to the military recruiters without their prior written consent. (1) If you do not want the district to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by August 1.

5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

***Family Policy and Compliance Office***

***U.S. Department of Education***

***400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605***

6. The district may share information contained in a student's record with officials of the juvenile justice system if such information will assist in their ability to serve the student. These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

Your student's information will be used as defined above unless you choose to opt-out.

If you have no objections to use of your student's information as defined above, no further action is necessary and you do not need to fill out the form.

If you object to use of your student's information as defined above and you do not want your student's directory information included in class lists, yearbooks, school programs, brochures, athletic programs, newspaper articles, and other publications such as are noted above, please request and fill out the opt-out form. The form should then be returned to your child's school no later than August 1.



## Student Media Interviews

During the course of the school year, students may be interviewed from time to time by newspaper, television, radio or other reporters in regard to projects, activities and other school events. This is considered a part of the district's directory information consent policy (Student Records), along with photos, video, audio recording and other media.

If you object to your student being interviewed in this manner, you should deny Photo Use Permission in your student's profile in PowerSchool and electronically sign the photo status update.

## Parents' Role During Emergencies

The best action parents can take in an emergency is to stay close to their phone and e-mail and to monitor local radio and TV reports for regular updates and instructions.

- Do not report to your child's school during emergency situations. Law enforcement officials will not allow entry to the school site during a lockdown or shelter-in-place.
- Avoid calling the school or the district offices during the emergency.

Notification and Communication: The school district is committed to providing parents and guardians with the latest and most accurate information available. In most cases the district will post information on the district website. In some forms of emergency, the district may also send automated phone

and e-mail messages and use news media outlets to distribute information.

Parents should monitor official emergency information updates using the district's website, automated call/text system, and local media. In today's world, students will be texting and calling parents immediately. Be aware that information you receive from your child may not always be accurate as they may only have a portion of the information; ensure the information you are using is official and comes directly from Saydel Community Schools.

- Emergency notification system: The automated calling/e-mail/text system used by the school district can store a primary home phone and e-mail address, as well as up to four additional phone numbers per parent and one additional e-mail address per parent.
- School Emergency Response Protocols: A school crisis can take a number of forms including an environmental event, such as a chemical spill or gas leak; a weather emergency, such as a tornado warning; or an intruder in or near the school. The nature of a school crisis dictates whether school officials will put in place a lockdown, shelter-in-place, evacuation, or any combination of two of these protocols, as a means to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. To ensure timely communication, please make sure your contact information at the school is up to date.

## Employee & Family Resources Student Assistance Program (SAP) Service Summary

Employee & Family Resources is dedicated to helping students and their families manage life's challenges so they can reach their full potential.

Licensed mental health counselors and clinical workers are available to assist all students and family members experiencing the stress of life's ups and downs. Services are free and are strictly confidential.

### Concerns may include:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Emotional or mental health
- Family or relationships
- Bullying or peer conflict
- Substance abuse



**EFR EMPLOYEE & FAMILY RESOURCES**

### Convenient In-Person Appointments

Up to three (3) visits per year, per separate issue with qualified counselors. Referrals to additional services if needed. SAP offers services in Spanish and interpreting as needed at no cost to the student or family.

### 24 Hour Support

For immediate support from counselors, call 800.327.4692. Day & evening appointments are available Monday-Friday



## Saydel Hires Two New Administrators

Saydel Community School District is pleased to announce the appointment of two new administrators.

Melissa Crosse is the new Director of Activities and Community Education for Saydel Schools. She will assume her new responsibilities in early February 2017.



**MELISSA CROSSE**

Melissa currently serves as the Health & Physical Education Department Chair and Athletic Director at North Grand High School, located in Chicago, IL. As a Chicago Public Schools teacher and administrator, Melissa has experience working with students, teachers, staff, and administrators to create a cohesive and successful athletics program. Melissa takes pride in her inclusive style of leadership and believes collaboration, ambitious programs, and strong community engagement are critical to increasing student achievement.

Melissa will be entering her 12th year in education when she assumes responsibilities as our Director of Activities and Community Education. After serving as a high school classroom teacher for six years, Melissa advanced to her position as Department Chair after obtaining her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. In recent years Melissa has served as North Grand's Athletic Director in addition to her departmental and classroom responsibilities. As an active member of the Instructional Leadership Team, Melissa played a pivotal role in enhancing her school's metrics in regards to test scores, attendance, student gains, and college enrollment.

In addition to the school's academic advancements, activities and athletics have flourished during Melissa's tenure as well. She was instrumental in establishing school spirit and a sense of pride at an emerging school in an ethnically diverse community. As Athletic Director, her focus has been to implement an athletics program that builds student relationships, promotes community engagement, and offer programs that complement the needs of her students.

"This was a highly active and careful search," said Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler. "We were looking for a dynamic, energetic leader with great ideas for engaging students. During an on-site visit to her school, I saw a caring and highly organized leader who puts students first and has earned the highest respect

from her colleagues and the coaches she leads. I have full confidence that Melissa will enhance our already strong programs and bring new and creative ideas to maximize student outcomes in fine arts and athletics."

Alex Stubbers has been hired as the new Associate Principal at Saydel High School. Alex will assume his new responsibilities beginning with the 2017-18 school year.



**ALEX STUBBERS**

Alex was born and raised in Ankeny, Iowa, where he also graduated from high school in 2002. After high school, he attended Northwest Missouri State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies Education. He started his teaching career at PCM High School in Monroe, Iowa, where he taught and coached for eight years. During this time, Alex began obtaining his Master's in educational leadership at the University of Northern Iowa. He graduated in 2015 and began serving as the Academic and Behavioral Interventionist at Saydel High School.

After finishing his Bachelor's Degree, he moved back to Iowa and married his high school sweetheart, Mallory Stubbers. Mallory is also an employee at Saydel, working as a fifth grade teacher at Woodside Middle School. Mallory has worked at Saydel for 10 years now at both Norwoodville and Woodside buildings. The couple has two daughters Lydia, age 6, and Hannah, age 3, who both attend school at Southeast Polk. Additionally, the family has a 13-year-old pug named Maggie who enjoys sleeping and chasing her tail.

"Over the past year and a half, Alex has been an integral part of Saydel's development of our system to support students. His work ethic has been admirable and essential for our continual growth. Most importantly, he has a genuine care for our students which can be seen through his daily interactions," said Principal Kevin Schulte.

Alex is looking forward to working with Saydel students and staff in his new position. He stated, "There are many things I am looking forward to continuing at Saydel in my new role. I am most excited about continuing to build relationships with staff and students while providing high quality educational experiences. My goal is to support Mr. Schulte and the staff while developing an efficient Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process that encourages 'Everyone's best effort, for everyone's best life!'"





# Financial Focus

Report from Business Manager Ryan Eidahl & Superintendent Douglas Wheeler

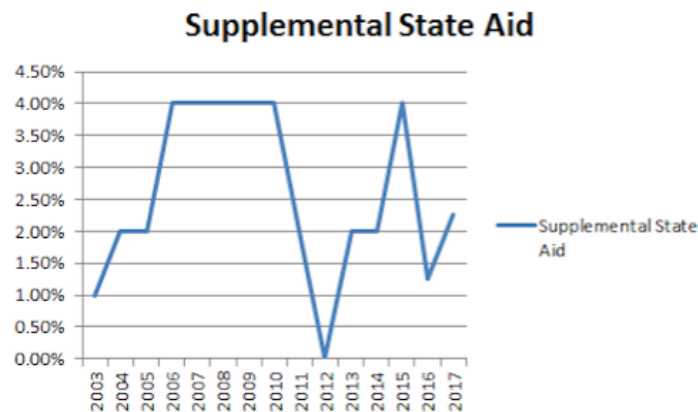
The topic of this financial focus is a discussion of the interaction between enrollment, state aid and what this means for new money to cover district operational expenses. Each year as the Iowa Legislature goes back into session; they are required by law to set the two-year funding level for education within 30 days of the Governor releasing his/her budget proposal. The law also requires this amount to be set for two years.

The last several years the funding has not been set by the 30 day deadline, which puts school districts under pressure to make financial decisions based on worst case scenarios until the funding is settled. In this brief overview, we will attempt to give a clearer picture of why setting this level both on time and adequately is so important as well as why your voice matters in advocating for public education.

In previous financial focus articles, we have discussed the basic principle that funding is tied to enrollment. We have also discussed that revenues (levied through taxes) can only be spent within the requirements of that levy. For example, the money that can be used to renovate school sites cannot be used to purchase educational materials. The state supplemental aid sets the amount of growth in per pupil expenditure each year.

This level sets our general fund for the district, from which we operate buildings, hire staff and purchase instructional materials. This year the dollar amount per pupil used to set general fund budgets in school districts is \$6,659 per student enrolled. Chart A shows the history of this percent increase (as set by the Iowa Legislature) over the last 15 years.

Chart A – Supplemental State Aid History



The 15-year trend is a 2.57% per year growth. With current estimates regarding state revenues and past legislative action in similar conditions, state aid for education is estimated to be between 0 and 2 percent for the upcoming year. A 2% increase

in aid looks different for districts with declining enrollment since fully realizing this increase is based on enrollment. In short, a district with declining enrollment will not have a full 2% new money available and may even have less money than the previous year depending on the enrollment decrease. Chart B shows the 15-year enrollment trend for Saydel Schools.

Chart B – Enrollment Trends



Certified enrollment drives budgeting decisions. Certified enrollment includes only resident students (solid line), while served enrollment (dashed line) includes open enrolled students served by the district. Over the past 15 years, certified enrollment has decreased by 338 students, while served enrollment has declined by 154 students. We still open enroll IN twice the number of students who open enroll OUT, which makes open enrollment count for around 20% of our district enrollment.

This was a brief overview of the connection between enrollment and funding. Due to wise budgeting by the Board, we are able to weather these conditions in the short-term. However, several years of inadequate funding combined with shrinking enrollment has a cumulative effect on the school budget. This year we are anticipating receiving zero(0) dollars in additional funding over last year.

Our point in sharing this information is to encourage you to advocate for adequate funding of public education in Iowa in the upcoming legislative session. Funding has matched neither the operational expenses nor the increasing responsibilities of our public schools. Our goal as a district is to expand opportunities for students and work to be efficient in the delivery of these expanded services. Our public can help us by advocating for a minimum of 3.75% supplemental state aid. If you are interested in advocacy efforts or have any additional questions that we could not address in this short article, please contact Doug Wheeler [wheelerdoug@saydel.net](mailto:wheelerdoug@saydel.net).

If you are interested in contacting your legislator to advocate for school funding or other topics, you can easily identify your representatives by going to: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

# School Emergency Closing Information

2016-2017 School Year

## Emergency Closing Notes:

- ✓ For AM Delays, Eagle's Nest delays from its original start time
- ✓ For PM early release, Eagle's Nest will be open one hour after school dismisses
- ✓ If there is a delay, AM preschool will be cancelled
- ✓ Check the school website for information on practices and events for your child

### 1-Hour Delay Start Times

- ⇒ Cornell - 9:35 AM
- ⇒ Woodside - 8:45 AM
- ⇒ HS - 8:45 AM
- ⇒ Eagle's Nest - 7:00 AM

### 2-Hour Delay Start Times

- ⇒ Cornell - 10:35 AM
- ⇒ Woodside - 9:45 AM
- ⇒ HS - 9:45 AM
- ⇒ Eagle's Nest - 8:00 AM

Automatic e-mail / text alerts available from:

- [www.kcci.com](http://www.kcci.com)
- [www.who.tv.com](http://www.who.tv.com)
- [www.woi-tv.com](http://www.woi-tv.com)

## Emergency closing information will be communicated through the following:

1. School Messenger (voice & e-mail) by 6:00 AM the day of a closing
2. District Website
3. [www.facebook.com/saydelcscd](http://www.facebook.com/saydelcscd)
4. [www.twitter.com/saydelcscd](http://www.twitter.com/saydelcscd)

## We Notify the Following Television, Radio and Internet News Stations for Emergency Announcements:

WHO Channel 13  
KCCI Channel 8  
KDSM Fox 17  
KCWI Channel 23.1  
WOI Channel 5  
Kiss 107.5  
WHO 1040 Radio  
The Bus 100.3  
Alt 106.3  
KXNO 1460  
13Now Smartphone App  
The Des Moines Register

*Please note: While these sites allow us to communicate delays and cancellations, we are not able to provide details through these services. The most detailed information regarding how delays and cancellations affect events, practices, meetings etc. can be found on our website and school messenger broadcasts*

# Saydel Food Service Update



## Parents, we need your help to make our school healthier!

Children spend most of their day at school. So, it's important that they have healthy foods and drinks while they are there. Good nutrition also helps kids learn better at school. Our school wellness policy tells how our school is making the healthy choice, the easy choice for kids. Parents can help update the school wellness policy and to put it into action.

### 3 ways parents can help:

**1 Join the school wellness committee.** Our next meeting is at Saydel District Office from 4:30pm to 5:30 pm on January 25, 2016. The wellness committee will meet and work on projects to help make our school healthier. You do not need any special training to be on the committee, just an interest in keeping our school healthy!



**2 Read the school wellness policy** at <http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us>.



**3 Support classroom and school events** to have healthy foods and get kids physically active. Keep the wellness policy in mind when planning what foods and beverages to have at events and celebrations.



For questions or more information, contact: Jessy Sadler at 515-264-0866 or at [sadlerjessy@saydel.net](mailto:sadlerjessy@saydel.net)



### What is in the wellness policy?

The full school wellness policy is online at: [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)

Major topics in the policy are:

-  • **Nutrition education and promotion**
-  • **Physical activity**
-  • **Other wellness activities** (such as school gardens and walk/bike to school)
-  • **Nutrition standards** for all foods and drinks sold to kids at school
-  • Foods and drinks that may be **given** to students (such as at classroom celebrations or foods given as rewards for behavior)
-  • **Food and beverage marketing**

We are looking forward to working with you to ensure our school continues to be a healthy place that supports growth and learning.





# Get Straight A's With a Healthy Breakfast

Your child's attention, attendance and academic achievement improve with breakfast

- The proven benefits of breakfast for your child include:**
- Better overall nutrition and healthy body weight
  - Fewer absences and reduced tardiness
  - Higher scores on achievement tests



**Did you know?**

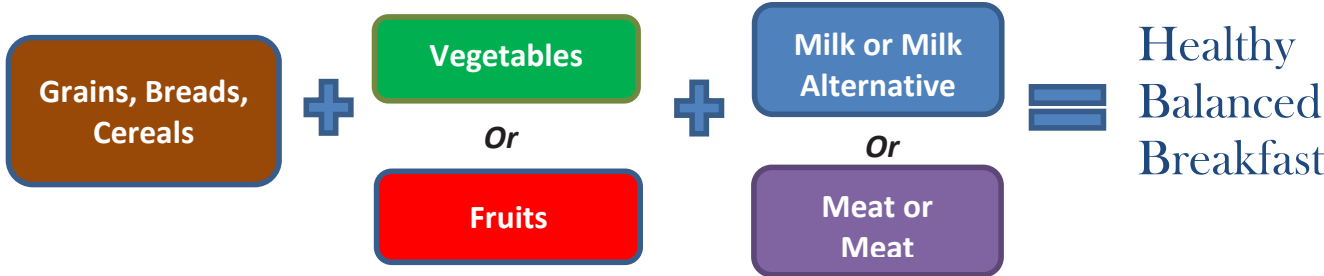
- ❖ Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
- ❖ Any child who skips or does not have access to breakfast can suffer learning and health problems.
- ❖ Eating breakfast gets rid of hunger symptoms such as being tired or sleepy, getting headaches or becoming cranky

**A Snapshot of a Saydel School Breakfast Menu**

Cereal assortment	Pancakes (Maple burstn or blueberry)	Poptart	Egg & Cheese on a WG bun	Cinni Minis
Graham crackers	Applesauce cup	Go-gurt	Banana	Straw
Raisins	Milk	Mixed dried fruit	Milk	Applesauce
Milk	Juice cup	Milk	Juice cup	Milk
Juice cup		Juice cup		Juice cup

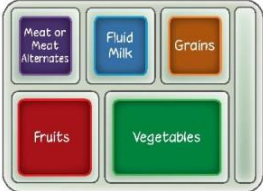
**Remember "3 out of 5" for a healthy breakfast**

Eating the right combination of 3 of the 5 food groups provides your children a healthy breakfast that will keep them energized until lunch, whether they are hitting the playground or actively learning in the classroom.



**Foodservice Office:**  
 Visit [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us) for menus and information  
 Email: [sadlerjessy@saydel.net](mailto:sadlerjessy@saydel.net)  
 Phone: 515.264.0866  
 Fax: 515.264.0869  
 Follow us on Twitter: @saydeldining

**Build a Healthy Lunch**



Betts JA et al. Is breakfast the most important meal of the day? *Proc Nutr Soc.* 2016 Jun 13:1-11.



## Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update

### Message from Director Mary Salazar



The Fall and Winter of 2016 has been a busy one for teachers in the Saydel Community School District in terms of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. All teachers have been working to ensure the content delivered to students focuses on student centered experiences and higher order thinking opportunities. Part of

that work has been done during our weekly professional development, called cluster meetings. Cluster meetings are led by the master teachers at each building. Our first cluster cycle of the year has allowed teachers to deepen their understanding of the TAP instructional rubric, which is comprised of 19 indicators of effective teaching practices, while also deepening their understanding of the Iowa Core standards they are teaching.

During the first cluster cycle of the year, teachers at Cornell, Woodside and Saydel High School have been creating tiered learning targets for the Iowa Core standard they teach. Tiered learning targets are teacher, student and parent friendly statements that identify what student performance looks like at four different levels of proficiency. A set of

learning targets for a standard focuses on what students are able to do at each level of proficiency.

Often, when a student does work aligned to a new standard for the first time, they more than likely will not demonstrate proficiency with that standard at first. With that in mind, teachers have been doing work to ensure that the learning opportunities they have designed for students allow students to work with the standard thoroughly enough to move through the various levels of proficiency until proficiency is achieved. The learning targets they have begun to create is aiding them in that work. Teachers are also reflecting on the assessments they plan to ensure students are able to demonstrate proficiency as outlined by the learning targets.

Creating tiered learning targets is not an easy task; the teachers in the Saydel Community School District have been working diligently during this first cluster cycle to ensure that they are providing the highest quality learning experience for students each day. Teachers will continue this important work of creating tiered learning targets for the remainder of the school year, even as we move on to other initiatives in our weekly cluster meetings focused around student achievement.

## Saydel Earns Food Service Silver Awards



The HealthierUS School Challenge is a USDA nationwide award program to recognize schools that promote and create healthier school environments through promoting good nutrition and physical activity. There are four levels awarded: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Gold Award of Distinction. There are 43 schools districts in Iowa that are part of the HUSSC. Saydel High School and Woodside Middle School were awarded the Silver Level Award. Saydel Food Service Director *Jessy Sadler*, pictured middle, is shown here presenting the awards to Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, left, and Woodside Middle School Principal *Joshua Heyer*, right.





## Student Services & Special Education Update



### Message from Director Julie McKibben

The first half of the school year has brought some exciting changes to our special programs. With the growth of our ELL program, new supports are in order. The ELL department has begun providing supports for our newcomer students in a sheltered instructional program. This program allows our ELL teachers to focus on intense English language instruction for an extended

time in a small setting. The department has also adopted additional curriculum and technology to support our ELL learners. Along with new curriculum, the ELL teachers and general education teacher representatives will be attending the TESOL Conference this spring.

The Special Education department is continually adding needed resources and tools to provide opportunities to close the gap. They had the opportunity to attend Wilson Training, IEP focus training, and an intensive instruction training on Really Great Reading. The adoption of reading curriculum and supplemental supports will occur at the start of the second semester. Along with training for our teachers, all associates have been provided monthly trainings with specific topic focus based on their feedback.

The most exciting change with our special programs this fall was the addition of Unified PE for our students with intellectual disabilities. Travis French, Physical Education Teacher for Woodside Middle School, took the initiative and has developed a wonderful inclusive program for both special education and general education.

Explaining this process, Travis said, "In early November a new program, called Unified PE, started at Woodside Middle School. The Unified PE program was created to ensure all students are able to access the Physical Education curriculum. Unified PE meets twice a week and incorporates students of multiple grades. Our 'peer helpers' in 8th grade work with students in 5th grade to accomplish different tasks. The tasks are designed to increase their motor skills, fitness development, and social skills. So far, the program has seen great success, with many bonds being developed between students and an increase in motor skill development. As the year progresses, we look forward to potentially expanding the meeting times and eventually integrating Special Olympics into the curriculum and activity options. A big 'thank you' goes out to all the students participating. They are the ones making the program a valuable experience for all involved."







## Buildings & Grounds Update

### Message from Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds Dan Willson



I wanted to share an update on progress being made on our Trail Project. We have done a lot of work on the trail along the north side of the high school.

Unless you live some what close to this area, you may not know about it. This trail has been there for decades in some shape or form, but over the years it has become over

grown. When I first came to Saydel and was shown this, it was little more that a short cut path for our maintenance staff to drive lawn mowers between the buildings. I was also told when it rains it floods along this area (which includes the baseball field) and stays wet for many days.

A couple of years ago the county did some work with flood control (Hamilton Project) that involved the sale of some of the high school's property. We decided at that time to earmark that money for drainage improvements for this area. The county needed an access road to the basin east of the high school, so a gravel road was built from the end of the little league parking at Woodside south to the basin area.



This opened our vision of having a trail that would connect all our buildings. So we sat down with County Public Works officials to see how we could have a trail that could be used by all and correct the storm drainage problems.

So with the help of Polk County Supervisors, County Public Works and Saydel Schools we were able to make the first phase of this happen. We have a pathway from Woodside to Saydel High School and west to NE 6th Street. The thought is that trail will continue on the west side of 6th ending somewhere at Cornell. And in the years to come, we hope to improve the trail with pavement and possibly connect it to a bike trail system or add some physical workout stations.

## Saydel Recognizes Lowe's Home Improvement



The Saydel School Board of Directors and Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler honored Lowe's Home Improvement recently. The managers from Lowe's in Altoona, West Des Moines, and Jordan Creek teamed up to donate items to Saydel Schools that will be used to make Emergency Kit Buckets for each school classroom. Dustin Timm, manager of Lowe's in Altoona, and Eric Love, manager of Lowe's in West Des Moines, attended the meeting and were honored for donating five-gallon buckets, duct tape, tarps, garbage can liners and sanitary supplies. Pictured from left: Saydel School Board President Brian Bowman, Lowe's Manager Eric Love, Lowe's Manager Dustin Timm, and Saydel Superintendent Douglas Wheeler. Lowe's Manager Todd Harris was unable to attend the meeting.





## Saydel District Recognitions

Saydel Community School District has recently presented some community members, volunteers and Saydel staff for their commitment and dedication toward the betterment of the school district. Shown here are photos taken from recent School Board meetings where these moments of recognition have taken place.



The Saydel School Board honored Corinne Nelson and Kirk Hartung at the October Board Meeting for their service and dedication to the Eagle Endowment Fund. They have both served as Eagle Endowment Fund Board Members for the past 14 years. Pictured from left: Saydel Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Corinne Nelson, Kirk Hartung, and Saydel School Board President Brian Bowman.



The congregation from Marquisville United Methodist Church donated five large baskets of school supplies to Cornell Elementary School. The Saydel School Board recognized the congregation for their support during the Regular School Board Meeting in September. Pictured from left: Saydel Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Church members Cyndee Davis, Emily Roepsch, and Mike Cormack, and Saydel School Board President Brian Bowman.

## Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 3, 2017**

Classes Resume

**JANUARY 5, 2017**

Woodside PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM

**JANUARY 4, 2017**

Music Boosters Meeting at High School, 6:30 PM

**JANUARY 14, 2017**

High School Winter Dance, 8 - 11 PM

**FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

Music Boosters Meeting at High School, 6:30 PM

**FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Woodside PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

Kindergarten Music Program at Cornell, 6:30 PM

**FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

No School, Professional Development Day

**FEBRUARY 20, 2017**

8th Grade Parent Meeting, Course Registration in High School Auditorium, 6 PM

**FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

HS Festival of Music Concert, 6:30 PM

**MARCH 1, 2017**

Music Boosters Meeting at High School, 6:30 PM

**MARCH 2, 2017**

- Ankeny Art Center Reception, 5 - 7 PM
- Parent Teacher Conferences, 4 - 8 PM
- HOIAC Fine Arts Festival at Green County, 6 PM

**MARCH 7, 2017**

Parent Teacher Conferences, 4 - 8 PM

**MARCH 10-17, 2017**

Spring Break

**MARCH 29-31, 2017**

Mobile Dental Clinic at Cornell Elementary

**APRIL 4, 2017**

Music Boosters Meeting at High School, 6:30 PM

**APRIL 22, 2017**

Prom at Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Altoona, 8 - 11 PM

**MAY 3, 2017**

Music Boosters Meeting at High School, 6:30 PM

**MAY 15, 2017**

3rd & 4th Grades Music Program at High School Auditorium, 6:30 PM

**MAY 17, 2017**

Senior Awards Night at High School, 7 PM

**MAY 21, 2017**

Graduation at High School South Gym, 1 PM

**MAY 25, 2017**

Last Day of School (pending snow days)

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
PERMIT NO. 57

ECR WSS EDDM  
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  
Melissa Crosse, Director of Activities/Community Education

**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  
**Mary Salazar**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment  
**Julie McKibben**, Director of Student Services, Special Education  
**Jessy Sadler**, Director of Food Services

## SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Brian Bowman**, Board President  
**Jennifer 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.