

Building for the Future

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Hinton Community School
Hinton, Iowa 51024
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School Improvement Focuses on Respect

By Mrs. Mary Daniels

Students learn better, when they feel comfortable in their surroundings. Educators have known this for years. Being comfortable involves more than having a chair and desk that fit. It also has to do with how students are treated and how they treat others. A part of our School Improvement process involves the staff and administration in setting annual goals as we work toward a long-range goal to “maintain and improve the climate and culture of the Hinton Community School, ensuring a safe and orderly environment.”

Last year, the K-6 program annual goal was to “reduce the incidents of disrespect and student conflicts as reported from May 2001 to May 2002.” A ten-item questionnaire was given to all students in grade kindergarten through six each month, beginning in May 2001 and ending in May 2002. Throughout the school year, efforts were made to teach and enforce playground rules, hold discussions about respect and responsibility, teach assertive ways to deal with conflict, and develop a sense of empathy among students. Data collected at the end of the school year showed a 30 percent reduction in the number of reported incidents of disrespect and conflict. This year, the Blackhawk Code (Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe. Be Prepared.), will be taught as the foundation for an emphasis on character development throughout the curriculum.

Last year’s annual improvement goal in grades 7-12 was to “reduce the incidence of disruptions from May 2001 to May 2002.” Teachers had shared a concern that too many

students were missing valuable classroom or study time due to the use of hall passes. They also discussed the need for alternatives to the intercom for delivering messages around the building during class time. By the end of May 2002, data indicated that the email system had replaced the intercom for many messages and hall passes issued by teachers were down by 28 percent. The result is more time on task for students, and fewer disruptions to the learning environment. This year, monthly themes will address various aspects of character development, incorporating a character-building “word of the week” to be emphasized by adults and students.

The school improvement process will continue this year. New goals will be developed and action plans implemented, as we remain committed to a safe and orderly environment that facilitates high academic achievement for all students.

Survey Results

By Mr. David Attrill

During school registration this August, a survey on technology uses was taken. Here are some of the data. The families that have a computer at home were 97 percent with 85 percent having Internet access. This tells us that our community is using computer technology at home.

One disappointing fact was that only 35% have been on the school’s web page. It is a goal this year to get everyone to check and take advantage of this source of information. The school is able to get out changes in activities, lunch, and school closing to you.

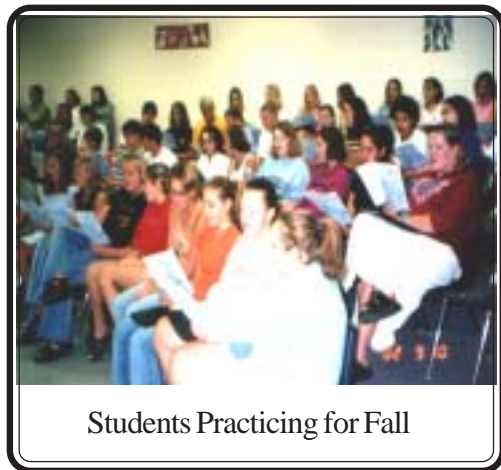
Two comments that were made often were adding the school closings for weather on the page and changes in the lunch menu. As of today, this has been done for you. The very first place that school closing will be posted is here.

Comments are always welcomed.

Fall Concert Date changed

Mrs. Minda Thompson

The Hinton Music Department will present "From Pop to Patriotic" on Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM in the school gym. The date was changed due to an unforeseen conflict. The concert will feature the JH Band, JH Chorus, HS Band, and the HS Chorus. The HS Chorus will be featuring two numbers written by Joseph Martin. Details about the HS Sound Waves upcoming invitation to the National Show Choir competition in Branson, Missouri will also be highlighted. Admission will be charged: \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, and preschoolers are free. Come and support the music department!



Students Practicing for Fall

Superintendent's Update

By Mr. Al Steen

Have you checked out the school's web site at hintonschool.com? It is an excellent source for up-to-date information. A good example is the school calendar. Our DECA Club did a great job putting together a yearlong school calendar. The only problem is that schedules and dates do change due to unforeseeable circumstances. The school calendar on the web page is updated daily. Simply look on the left side of the home page and click on the daily school calendar to view the updated changes.

The Hinton Community School District's annual report can also be found on the web page. The annual report is a great source of information relating to our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. The report shows our progress on standardized test scores in reading, math, and science. If you desire a hard copy of the report, please contact our office at 947-4329 and a copy will be sent to you. Copies are also available at various businesses throughout the community.

Every five years every school district within the state goes through a Comprehensive Site Visit from the Department of Education. The purpose of a Department of Education site visit is to help improve the level of learning, achievement, and performance of all students so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce. Our school district will have a Site Visit November 19-21. The site visit team members will interview various parent groups, student groups, and community members. If you would like to participate in the site visit, please contact Al Steen, superintendent at 947-4329.

The new school year is off to a great start! We are very fortunate to have wonderful students, a caring staff, and a community that cares about their school district. We will continue to work together to meet our mission of being **A Community Dedicated To Developing Responsible Lifelong Learners Prepared For Future Challenges.**

Library 2002/2003

By Mrs. Lori Minnard

The 2002/03 school year is off to a great start in the library. There is one big change from the past years. This year the discovergarden - third grade will be receiving instructional library time once a week. During this time the students will receive either a short library lesson or a story and have the opportunity to check out books. The lessons will cover topics such as how to act in the library, how to use the library more efficiently, and literature appreciation. I believe that this type of knowledge is important at an early age so, as the students get older, they become more confident and independent library users. I also think it is very beneficial for students of all ages to be read to. Not only does this model the joy of reading for the students, but it also introduces them to new books and subject areas. After the first week of instructional library time, I am very happy with the way the students have responded. They were well behaved and enjoyed our first lessons and stories together. I am looking forward to the rest of the year.

Audition for All-State

Mrs. Minda Thompson

Six HS vocal music students will be auditioning for the Iowa All-State choir. This 600-member choir will present a concert along with the All-State Band and Orchestra in Ames in November. Auditions will be held on Saturday, October 26 in Storm Lake. The students auditioning are: Sarah Lohafer, Mikelle Wankum, Daneill Moser, Colleen Gerow, Kris Dahlen and Onna Behan

All six of these students attended the Briar Cliff All-State camp, which was held on August 4-7 on the Briar Cliff Campus. The final concert was held on August 7 at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux City. There were 200 students involved in the summer camp.



Pictured top to bottom:
Kris Dahlen, Onna Behan, Colleen Gerow, Mikelle Wankum, Sarah Lohafer, Daneill Moser

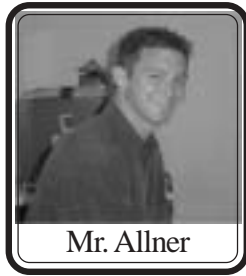
Moving Back to the Midwest

By Mr. Matt Allner

Since this is my very first article to be published in the school paper, I would like to start by expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the community of Hinton. This appreciation is both for the opportunity to be a part of your educational system and a part of your community. The move that my wife, daughter, and I made this summer to the mid-west has brought about a lot of change in our lives, but we have found these changes to be very welcoming. The only thing I am working hard on with the members of the Sioux City Council is the possibility of replacing the Missouri River with an ocean. What do you think?

Having been a Sioux City native and having a father who has been teaching at Akron-Westfield for 28 years, I have learned quite a bit about Hinton. What I have learned about Hinton from my father, and my own experiences, is that it is a town that prides itself on its school, athletic programs, and being extremely friendly to everyone. I remember when I was kid; the week of the Hinton/Akron football game was probably the most anticipated and anxiety-filled week in our household. My dad would be so excited about the game that he would get me all worked up. Unfortunately, I was pulling for Akron, but what I always remembered about the game was the rivalry, the tradition, the respect, and the anticipation for competition.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be a part of this Hinton tradition. Although I know Hinton and Akron will not cross paths at the varsity football level this season, other athletic rivalries will be present. Nonetheless, I have heard so many wonderful things about this school and community from both family and friends and in my first three weeks teaching and I have seen all those positive comments supported by people here. My wife, who is native to Wisconsin, also agrees that she too loves the friendliness and family orientation that is prevalent in the Hinton



Mr. Allner

community, and that it reminds her of where she grew up as a kid.

As the school year moves on, I hope to provide the school with the excitement that many others have brought to me over the years. Many friends, family, teachers, and coaches have made my life such a wonderful experience that I hope to share a part of it with the students, staff, and families of Hinton. I look forward to a wonderful year both as a science teacher and as a coach. I also welcome any experiences and talents you may possess that might contribute to my efforts in the science classroom and in the athletic arena.

Hinton Parents Association

The Hinton's Parent Association is made up of parent volunteers that meet on a monthly basis. The HPA raises money to purchase items needed by the school.

Some of the items the HPA has purchased this past school year are:

- Subscription of the Wall Street Journal for the library
- Music CD's for the grade school music program
- Paperback books for the high school English program
- Ziploc Baggies for the First and Second grade classrooms
- Dry Erase Markers for the grade school classrooms
- 4 box fans for the grade school classrooms
- The second Harry Potter book on tape for the Third grade
- Shaving cream, used games and playing cards for the Fourth grade centers
- Balls for the playground
- \$400.00 in Kleenex for High School, Junior high and Elementary school classrooms
- Film and film processing for all teachers
- Electric pencil sharpeners and electric staplers for teachers
- Daily planner for Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade classrooms
- Donated food and worked the chuck wagon at the Rodeo Reading Stampede
- Donated dinner for school staff

for parent teacher conferences

- Donated food for school staff for teacher appreciation.

These are just some of the purchases made this last school year through the fund raising efforts at the football tailgate party and our school carnival. It is with the help of many volunteers and donations from parents and businesses that makes these events success.

The HPA welcomes all parents to come to the meetings and help with the various activities that are planned for this school year, including our new fall fundraiser. Watch for the reminder flyers to come home with your child this school year and we hope to see you at the meetings.

Hinton Parent Association Officers for the 2002-2003 are:

President: Lisa Schindler
947-4817

Vice President: Sharon Ryan
947-4723

Secretary: Angela McCalmont
947-4236

Treasurer: Laurie Schroeder
947-4663

Please feel free to call any HPA officer with any questions or concerns.

Tri-State College Fair and College Night

By Mr. Daniel L. Hudek
Guidance Director

Two excellent opportunities will be available for Hinton High School students and parents on October 6 and 14th. The Tri-State College Fair will be held on October 6 from one to four on Sunday afternoon. The session will be informal and students and parents can drop in at anytime over the course of the afternoon. In addition, financial aide sessions will be provided on the hour and half-hour for both students and parents. LeMars Community High school will provide a similar opportunity for students on October 14. The college night will be from 6:30 to 8:00 in the gym of Lemars Community School, the same drop-in format will be used.

Representatives of over a hundred colleges, technical schools, specialty school, and the military will attend at both sites. It is "a do not miss" opportunity for people to garner information on many different educational opportunities.

If you have questions concerning this or other guidance information, please call Dan Hudek at 947-4328



Mr. Robert Held Presenting to Mr. Al Steen

MidAmerican Donates to Hinton School

By Mr. Al Steen

MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company encourages employees to be involved with helping others through volunteer work.

MidAmerican has created the MidAmerican Global Days of Service program, recognizing employee outstanding volunteer work.

The Global Days of Service program exemplifies MidAmerican's support for employees' service to their communities. For each hour of volunteer work that employees performed between April 12, 2001, and April 12, 2002 a share of the \$250,000 Global Days of Service fund is contributed to the community organization on behalf of MidAmerican and the volunteering employee.

MidAmerican is pleased to present Hinton Community School with a check for \$1,01.35 on behalf of the volunteer work provided by Robert Held.

The Hinton Community School is very grateful to MidAmerican and Robert Held for the outstanding donation. The donated funds will help support the school district's educational programs.

Junior Magazine Sales

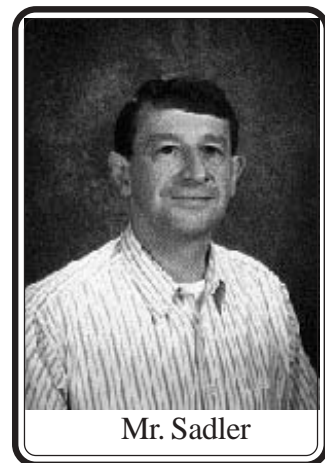
By Mr. Wayne Sadler

Each year our junior class sells magazines to raise money for the Junior-Senior Prom and their graduation. They are usually able to raise between \$3,000 and \$4,000. I guess there must be a lot of you who realize it is nice to see the profit from the magazines you read go to a good cause.

As one of the sponsors of the junior magazine sales, I would like to say thanks. The juniors are having another successful year. It is only with the support of all the community, who chose to buy their magazines from the students here at Hinton that this is possible.

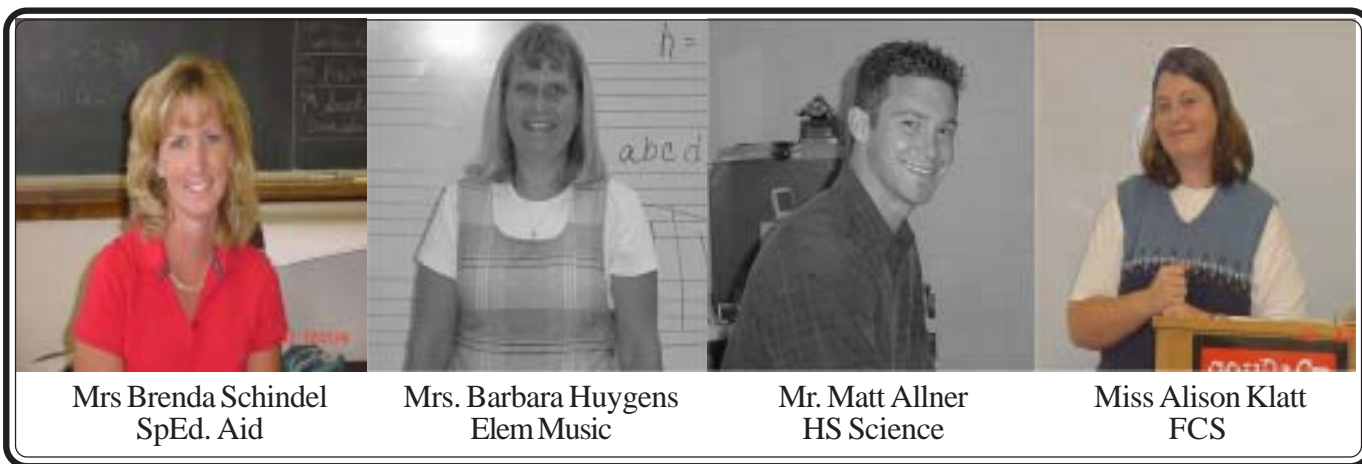
I would like to commend all the juniors for the effort they are putting forth this year. Sales can be very time consuming, but they are doing a great job. Special thanks need to go to our captains: Mallori Gray, Amy Held, Brian Held, and Peter Coffin; and managers: Mallori Gray, Kyle Hays, Tasha Kruse, and Jill Lacey. They are putting in extra hours counting money and magazine orders. It is a big task, and could not have been done without them.

Thanks again to the students and community on a successful sale.



Mr. Sadler

New Staff "WELCOME" to Hinton Community School



Mrs Brenda Schindel
SpEd. Aid

Mrs. Barbara Huygens
Elem Music

Mr. Matt Allner
HS Science

Miss Alison Klatt
FCS