

Building for the Future

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Volume 10 Number 2
Hinton Community School
Hinton, Iowa 51024
October 2003

Opus Auditions

By Mrs. Mindi Thompson

Several 6th – 9th grade students at Hinton are auditioning for the Iowa Opus Choirs. There are four Opus choirs in Iowa: 5th-6th Grade Mixed Choir, 7th-8th Grade Girls Choir, 7th-8th Grade Boys Choir, and 9th Grade Mixed Choir. The choirs are made up of 180 students from the entire state. Students audition by tape and results are released in October. The Opus Choirs will be performing at Iowa State University on Thursday, November 20.

The following students from Hinton are auditioning:

6th grade- Tara Dunn, Daniel Grigsby, Allyson Howe, Stephan Koithan, Crystal Robinson, Josh Schreck, Amanda Schindler, Mackenzie Small, Tyler Stuerman, Bree VonHeeder

7th-8th Grade Boys- Austin Arndt, Ethan Bak, David Becker, Aaron Book, Michael Edgington, Kyle Huggenberger, HJ Jarmakani, Doug Koithan, Michael Mehrer, James Vondrak, and Kendall Wingert

7th-8th Girls- Courtney Brasselero, Allison Donnell, Kandace Eddy, Britni Freed, Kaitlin Gleason, Amy Lorenzen, Heather Pinney, Kylie Poss, Kari Ruchti, and Olivia Welch

9th Grade- Cheree Coffman, Alyssa Grigsby, and Rebekah Youtz

The students are under the direction of Mrs. Minda Thompson. Good luck to all the above students!

TESTING WEEK
OCTOBER 13-17
GET GOOD SLEEP...EAT A
GOOD BREAKFAST!

High School All-State Auditions

By Mrs. Mindi Thompson

Ten of Hinton's vocal music students will be auditioning for the Iowa All-State Chorus on Saturday, October 25 at Storm Lake. Six centers at different parts of the state hold auditions that day and 100 singers are chosen from each center for the large 600 All-State Choir. The All-State Choir performs on Saturday, November 22 at Iowa State University. The following students from Hinton are auditioning:

Soprano 2- Sara Meis, Blythe Mycka, Cheree Coffman

Alto 1- Mikelle Wankum, Brandie Johnson

Alto 2- Onna Behan

Tenor 2- Kris Dahlen

Bass 1- Andrew Huggenberger

Bass 2- Jonathan Youtzy

All of the above students attended the Briar Cliff All-State camp held August 4-7 at Briar Cliff College. The camp was directed by former BC director, Greg Fuller and a final concert was held on Wednesday evening, August 7 at the Cathedral of the Ephiphany. Over 200 vocal students attended the camp.

Good luck vocal students!



High School Track Girls win Distinguished Academic Award

By Ms. Sue Martens

Each year our 7-12 staff implements a new goal and action plan to improve the culture and climate of our building. For the past few years, we have focused on "Respect." This year we are expanding that theme and calling it B.E.S.T. – Building Each Student's Talents. For each quarter of the school year, we chose a different B.E.S.T. focus. Our first quarter focus is "BEST in Testing." During this quarter, we will present students and parents with tips on better test taking. We will use information from current brain research to give students an edge in improving their ITBS / ITED scores, ACT scores, and classroom test scores. Look for some ideas in other parts of this Blackhawk edition.

The other quarterly themes that we will focus on this year include: B.E.S.T. in Behavior, B.E.S.T. in School Work, and B.E.S.T. in Class. Look for ideas in future Blackhawk papers that will help you help your student to be the B.E.S.T.

Advisory Committee

By Mr. Al Steen

The new No Child Left Behind Legislation has created many new mandates for school districts. This year we will need to create a new five-year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Staff members and the advisory committee will work on the new plan. Due to the new legislation we need to create a "new" advisory committee. We have had an advisory committee for many years. The new committee will help set goals for reading, math, science, school climate, and professional development for staff members.

The Advisory Committee will meet 3-6 times this school year. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the superintendent's office at 947-4329.

By Coach Mark Wilson

Last season's highly successful Girl's Track team has garnered another award. The Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union has awarded the team the Distinguished in Academic Achievement award. This award is presented to girl's teams whose combined grade point average falls between a 3.61 and 4.0 GPA classroom work while actively participating in interscholastic athletics. Team members include Candice Whitney, BreAnn Schindel, Rachel Hawthorne, Jill Lacey, Megan Brown, Heidi Hageman, Bridget Yoerger, Sara Dehner, Alison Finch, Tara Christensen, Megan Hawthorne, Delainye Hardersen, Allysa Eickholt, Jenny Popken, Amber Bietz, Jamie Vanderkooi, and Kaylee Small. These students exemplify the excellence achieved by the young people of today and the future of tomorrow.

Congratulations to the team.

Thanks to all!

Mrs. Katie Galvin

A big thank you to all the families that donated items through the "Apple Program." At the end of last year, Mrs. Janet Held had each of the teachers write down items that teachers usually purchase with their own funds. She then wrote those items on apples and placed them on an "apple tree" for families to select and purchase for that particular classroom. We were overwhelmed with the responses that the classrooms experienced! Items donated have been: rulers, pencils, stickers, markers, notebooks, seed packets for science, free taco tokens from Taco John's, etc. Your support with this program is what makes Hinton a great place to teach and learn! Thank you!

T.A.G. – IT ISN'T JUST FOR RECESS!

By Mrs. Becky Steen

A new school year also brings new students and teachers to our district. As the new Talented and Gifted teacher, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and relate some information about the TAG program.

My name is Becky Steen, and although I've been in education for nearly 20 years, this will be my first year teaching TAG. My undergraduate degree is from the University of Northern Iowa, and I recently graduated from Buena Vista University with a Master's Degree in Guidance Counseling. Since I have been a substitute teacher in our school district for three of the last four years, I feel I have a good knowledge base of our students, staff and school system.

This year, the TAG program will continue to build on the foundation that has previously been established. It will include classroom enrichment for First and Second Grades and bi-weekly pull-out sessions for students in grades 3-6. Seventh and Eighth Grade students will also be served through pullout sessions as their schedules permit. This year we would also like to set aside some time to make contact with our High School TAG students. One of our goals will be to determine if High School students have the interest and the time in their busy schedules to participate in any enrichment activities. I look forward to building a schedule that will allow TAG students in grades 1-12 to enrich their curricular experiences.

The TAG program is a halftime position and one of the biggest changes for this year involves the weekly schedule. I will be in the building specifically for TAG on the following days, Tuesdays 8-4, Wednesdays, 8-12, and Thursdays 8-4. Please stop into the TAG classroom whenever you are in the building, or feel free to contact me at steenb@hintonschool.com.

TESTING WEEK
OCTOBER 13-17

Read the entire question before
answering.

Mission and Beliefs

By Mr. Al Steen

As we begin a new year, it is a great time to revisit our school's Mission Statement and our Belief Statement, as they are the guiding principles of our school district. Everything we do, every way we act, and every decision we make should be a reflection of these two statements. Our mission statement is: **A Community Dedicated To Developing Responsible Lifelong Learners Prepared For Future Challenges.** To me the key word in this phrase is community. We need the community, not just the parents, to be successful in our endeavor of educating the students of Hinton Community School District. It is great to see the number of community members without children present at our school activities. We welcome you and value you as our patrons. Please never hesitate to call on us if we can be of any service to you, your business, or your organization.

Let us take a moment to look at the eight belief statements and what they mean to us as a community and as a school district. These statements were developed by our school's advisory committee and approved by our school board several years ago.

**A committed community and parents are vital to a successful school.* This belief statement again points out the importance of the community and parents to our school. We will not be successful unless both of these groups are active and supportive of our district.

**High expectations need to be held for all members of the school and community.* High expectations relating to effort, behavior, and relationships with others needs to be demonstrated by our students, staff members and our community members. For our school to be successful we need to hold high expectations for all.

**Responsibility and respect are important within the school and community.* Our students, staff, and community members need to be respectful of each other while being responsible in our actions, thoughts, and words.

**An organized and safe environment enhances learning.* Our school will always provide a safe and orderly learning environment for our students. This will ensure students have the opportunity to excel within the learning environment.

**Education is a fundamentally necessary investment that develops individuals prepared for the worlds of family, work, and citizenship.* This belief statement challenges the community to remember that to develop and prepare students for the future; we must be prepared as a community to make the necessary financial investments required to accomplish this goal.

**All students learn in a variety of ways and at different paces.* This statement serves as a reminder to our staff that we must individualize instruction while striving to meet the needs of a variety of student learners. We can no longer teach one way, the same way, each and every day.

**Problem solving and critical thinking are essential life skills.* Students today must be critical thinkers capable of solving a variety of problems that will arise in their work and personal lives. As your school district, it is our responsibility to help your students become responsible, thinking individuals.

**Social skills and understanding of diversity are important.* We live in a fast-paced world that is changing and growing "smaller" every day. Our students and community need to understand and have the skills necessary to interact with an ever-changing diverse population.

It is our belief that we have an outstanding Mission Statement and outstanding Belief Statements. These statements will continue to be the driving force behind our teaching and our goal setting now and in the future.

Standardized Testing in October

By Mrs. Mary Daniels and Mr. Daniel Hudek

This month, students at the Hinton School will join students all over the nation in demonstrating their skills in reading, math, language, science, and social studies. Comparing the achievement levels of our students to students nationally helps the district evaluate programs and set goals. Test results are also reported to the State Department of Education as part of our district's school improvement process.

During the week of October 13-17, the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be administered to students in grades three through eight and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development will be administered in eleventh grade. The Iowa State Department of Education has selected the Iowa Tests as the assessment tool for demonstrating student skill proficiencies required by the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation. In addition to the Iowa Tests, many other methods are used to gain information about student growth. Hinton teachers measure student progress in grades kindergarten, first, second, and third with classroom-based reading assessments.

Students in grades three through eight will also take the Iowa Collaborative Assessment Modules in reading and mathematics in the spring. High school students are involved in career-related assessments as well as college entrance exams. All of these components of the assessment program help school professionals make curriculum decisions that will most effectively meet the learning needs of students.

Students are urged to get a good night's rest and eat a nutritious breakfast during testing week. Parents with questions about any of the tests their students will take are urged to contact Mrs. Mary Daniels (Dk-6 Counselor) or Mr. Dan Hudek (7-12 Counselor) at 947-4328.

HINTON STUDENTS
A HEAD ABOVE THE
REST
TESTING WEEK
OCT. 13-17

Early Dismissals

By Mr. Al Steen

The Hinton Community School will have nine two-hour early outs during the 2003-2004 school year. During these early outs, the teaching staff will be working on curriculum development. Our curriculum development process has created Content Standards and Benchmarks in all subject areas, however time is needed to continually work on revisions and updates. The nine two-hour early outs will give curriculum committees time to:

- Create Content Area Vision/Philosophy/Purpose statements
- Review and update Content Standards and Benchmarks.
- Create performance descriptors or objectives for benchmarks
- Continue to focus on standards and benchmarks in unit planning
- Develop a K-6/course specific learning chart
- Align their teaching with their assessment

The two-hour early outs will be on:

October 15
November 5
December 10
January 21
February 11
April 21
May 12

**BEST IN TESTING
OCTOBER 13-17
ITBS-ITED**



Picking Up Students at School Dismissal Time

By Mr. Al Steen

Parents we need your help! At school dismissal time, our students riding busses exit the building through the south exit. Our busses are loaded south of the building.

Please do not drive around to the south to pick up students. For safety reasons we must restrict the traffic on the south side of the building during dismissal time. Any student that is being picked up should exit from the front of the building.

Parking spaces are available in the front of the building for parents that are picking up their children. Please use these spaces and instruct your children to exit from the front of the building when they are not riding the bus.

With your help, we will be able to ensure that we have a safe and orderly dismissal for all of our students.

School Web Page

By Mr. Al Steen

Have you had the time to check out the school's web page at <http://hintonschool.com>? This is an outstanding web site containing a great deal of school news and information.

On this site, you will find the school calendar, schedule of events/activities, staff information, board minutes, Annual Progress Report to the community, course descriptions and much more.

The web site contains e-mail addresses of all staff members employed by the Hinton Community School District. This is an outstanding tool for our parents to use to communicate with our staff. Please do not hesitate to contact staff members with questions, concerns, and compliments. Your input is always appreciated.

Dear Parent,

Did you know that the plastic in each printer cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, or that 1.5 million cartridges go to landfills each month?

Our school is a participant in Green School Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our school. We collect empty printer, fax, and copier cartridges. Please feel free to send students to school with your used cartridges to be deposited in the Green School Project collection bin.

In addition, your work place can help our school by recycling their used cartridges. Green School Project will provide you with collection bins, prepaid Fed Ex labels, and shipping materials free of charge. If you think your place of business might be interested, visit www.greenschoolproject.com and click on "sign up now" and then "companies." Our school will receive the cash for every cartridge you recycle!

We can also recycle old cell phones so feel free to bring those in as well.

Thank you in advance for your help and please contact Janet at 947-4428 if you have any questions.



Parents: Welcome back to school! This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Campbell's Labels for Education™ program, and with your help, the Hinton School School can make this year the best ever. The Labels for Education program is a great way to earn FREE merchandise for our school, and Campbell makes it so easy to redeem labels.



Earn FREE stuff for your school!

It's as easy as



Roll your mouse over the kids to see how Labels for Education works.

Participating in the program is easy — simply save labels from Campbell products and send them to school. Some of the products eligible for redemption in the program include:

- Campbell's® soups
- Campbell's Supper Bakes® meal kits
- Franco-American® SpaghettiOs® pasta
- Prego® pasta sauces
- Swanson® broths and canned poultry
- Pace® salsa and picante sauces
- V8® vegetable juices and V8 Splash® juice drinks
- Campbell's® tomato juice

- Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
 - Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
 - Campbell's® Foodservice products
- Triple your efforts by asking your friends and family to collect labels on behalf of our school. Community members can pledge their support by making a Community Label Pledge at labelsforeducation.com. Simply invite friends and family to visit the website, and click into the "Community Label Pledge" link. Here they can make a

voluntary pledge to donate Campbell product labels to our school. If you have any questions, or would like to help with our Labels for Education collection drive, please contact our program coordinator, Janet Held, at 947-4428. Don't forget to visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete listing of participating products and more information about the program.



First Grade Open House

By Mrs. Diane Culver and Mrs. Jan Heimgartner

Parents of First Graders found someone besides their child sitting at their desks the night of Open House. First Graders made heads resembling themselves and brought their favorite shirt to put over their chairs.

Parents were treated to a scavenger hunt with their child. They found the principal's office, nurse's office, the lunchroom, music room, library, and the gym. Students in Mrs. Culver's room guessed how many giraffes she had. Students in Mrs. Heimgartner's room guessed how many Winnie the Pooh's she had. Both classrooms had wonderful attendance! Thank you again to all of the parents for making your child's Open House a success.



Hinton Playground Project

By Mr. Pete Stuerman

The playground extravaganza continues to grow. On August 22 and 23 a group of parents and community members assembled forty feet of continuous twisting, balancing, and climbing equipment. The new equipment is intended to build upper body strength and conditioning.

Thanks and appreciation goes out to all of the people who have donated time, equipment, and expertise to our playground. Thank you for the donations and support which are vital to the Hinton School Playground Project. The playground committee continues fundraising to enhance the facilities for our students.

Future projects include sand tables and slides. If you would like to help either manually or financially, please call the school (947-4428).

