

# THE HURRICANE

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Reminder: we collect pop cans/bottles (NW corner of the school), Hy-Vee receipts, and Box Tops for Education to help benefit our student activities fund. We also collect pop tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.  
Thank You!





# The Hurricane



[www.albertct.k12.ia.us](http://www.albertct.k12.ia.us)

Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

September/October/November 2016

## **1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER – BY MRS. SARAH VOYLES, AC-T PRINCIPAL**

The school year is off to a great start, and that is in large part to the great faculty at AC-T. This year we have many familiar faces, yet many new as well. Throughout the newsletter you will be introduced to the new faces. We are excited with the experience that they bring to our school and have enjoyed helping them to become part of the great traditions that make up Albert City – Truesdale.

We have had a very busy start to our school with many fun activities, including our annual Grandparent’s Day and Veterans Day programs. These are a great opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and a great way for our students to learn to be responsible and respectful students in front of our guests. Thank you to those who are able to make those experiences memorable for our students.

Other traditions that we continued this year were the



homecoming parade and a fantastic fire prevention presentation. We were lucky

enough to have the Albert City firefighters come to school to demonstrate how quickly they can put on their gear. Of course, they tested my skills as well! I’m thankful that they are the ones who would work so quickly to get here if we ever needed them. After our competition the fire fighters demonstrated using their equipment to free someone if they were trapped in the car. It was very interesting for our students to see. Thank you to the Albert City firefighters for taking time out of their day to let us watch this demonstration.

This year we continue our Watch DOGS program that invites ‘Dads’ Of Great Students to school to spend the day volunteering their time. This program is open to dads, grandpas or any other father-figure

who would like to spend the day at school. If you have not signed up and would like to, please contact the school office.

This year we also continued our Maker Day experiences for our



students. To change it up, we invited the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Sioux Central to join us for a day. This was a great opportunity for our students to work with their future classmates, while working on STEM activities. For the past few years AC-T has created these days with the help of Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency as well as our own staff. This year we had the unique opportunity to have the ISU flex truck as well as other volunteers from the ISU extension to add to the number of presenters for the day. They were able to provide a demonstration on a 3D printer as well as some virtual reality technology. The students were completely immersed in hands-on activities for the two days, with them wanting more.



A large change for our school this year is in the curriculum that we are using for our math instruction. Last year our teachers studied the book Number Talks by Sherry Parrish which led to implementation of a 5-10 minute number talk taking place in our classrooms 3-5 days a week. Number

talks encourage the students to gain mental math strategies to create a deeper number sense that will help them in their math work. Through this process, it was found that it was a time for a change with our math curriculum. After careful consideration of the Iowa Core and what best practice of teaching math states, we settled on a new curriculum. Our teachers have really dug in with learning the new curriculum. It is challenging for the students and is really working to stretch their thinking!



Our teachers have also been studying the book The Next Steps in Guided Reading by Jane Richardson. The book digs in to teaching small group

reading and builds on what our great teachers have been doing for years with their small group instruction. This framework has enhanced our reading program to ensure that our students are getting what they need when it comes to reading instruction. It has been a lot of fun to watch the students continue to grow in their reading as the year goes on.

Another big change that is coming out of the Iowa Department of Education is the adoption of the Smarter-Balanced assessments. These assessments will replace our Iowa Assessments that we currently take each year starting next school year. You can read more about it on the last page of the newsletter.



If you have a chance, head to their website and try out some sample problems. It will be a much different assessment than we are used to, but are looking forward to using the information to inform our instruction.

We are looking forward to more exciting things throughout the remainder of the year. To stay up to date on the things going on at school be sure to check out our website at [www.albertct.k12.ia.us](http://www.albertct.k12.ia.us) and like us on Facebook.

## **PACT FUNDRAISER**

The PACT group at AC-T has been working hard on coming up with new ways to serve the students and staff at AC-T. We are happy to announce that we will continue to do our bake sale at the Winter Concert on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone willing to donate some baked goods for the bake sale would be greatly appreciated. This bake sale helps us do things throughout the year for the great students of AC-T. **Please have your baked goods to the school by the start of the concert that night.**

We are also adding a raffle to this night as well. PACT has teamed up with the wonderful and generous businesses in our community to put together themed gift baskets to be raffled off. These baskets include:

### *Basket 1- SUMMERTIME BLUES*

- Family Pool Pass to the Albert City pool
- Beach towels

### *Basket 2- DECK THE HALLS*

- Holiday décor
- Gift Certificate to Pocket of Posies

### *Basket 3- FAMILY NIGHT*

- Fridley Theatre Movie Passes
- Fridley Concession bucks
- Free pizza at Crossroads
- Popcorn and candy

### *Basket 4- BOYS WILL BE BOYS*

- Gift card to Bomgaars
- Men's "stuff"

### *Basket 5- PAMPER ME*

- \$20 Gift Certificate to AC Salon
- Spa Products
- \$10 Gift Certificate to Grand Central

We will be selling raffle tickets at the Winter Concert on December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to be at the concert but want to purchase raffle tickets, starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> you can contact the school for information. We are selling 1 raffle ticket for \$5, 3 for \$10 or 8 for \$20.

We want to thank the following businesses for their generous donations towards these baskets: Ag Partners, AC Salon & Massage, AC City Hall, Pocket of Posies, Crossroads, Valero, Shandy Home Improvement, B&B Chlorination, and Wyfells Hybrids-Matt McCarthy.

Don't forget to "like" AC-T PACT on Facebook!  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AC-T PACT!



## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Update by Mrs. Elsen**

My name is Natalie Elsen, and I am the new 6th grade teacher this year! I am blessed to have the opportunity to work at AC-T with a wonderful staff and great students! So far this year, 6th graders have been working hard on several different projects and concepts in every content area. In math, students have been working on dividing fractions. In science, students just got done with their cell cities, where they had to build a town and different components of the town represented parts of a plant cell. Now, we have moved on to physical properties and chemical reactions of different substances. In reading, students have a 40 book challenge. They have to read 40 books by the end of the year, and they have to read certain amounts of books from different genres. My hope through the 40 book challenge is for them to obtain a love of reading in order to become life-long readers. Lastly in writing, students are writing persuasive essays on major world issues as well as citing their resources using MLA. Some examples of topics that students are

researching are infectious disease prevention through vaccinations, deforestation, military draft, gang violence, overuse of social media, women's rights to education around the world, and horse disease prevention. I have a great group of students, and I can't wait to see how much they improve this year!



## **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE HAPPENINGS BY MRS. HUSKAMP**

My name is Kelsey Huskamp. I am the new second grade teacher here at AC-T. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year teaching. I spent the past 6 years at Sioux Central. My husband and I live on a farm 4 miles east of Albert City. We have one son, Wyatt, and are expecting our second child in February.

In October, Mrs. Voyles and I went to a Science Standards training. While we were there, we met with a lady from the ISU Extension office. She talked to us about pollinator gardens that she was supplying around the state. We decided that AC-T would be a great place to receive one. Once we received the plants, we decided a good location for them would be by the ball fields. We then proceeded to plant them. Each student got to have a turn digging a hole and putting a plant in. The kids all seemed to enjoy this activity. Now, until it freezes, we get to water the garden weekly.

In the new Next Generation Science Standards, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is the only grade that talks about pollination. With our garden, we will be able to see the bees and butterflies that come to pollinate it and may even get to see the life cycle of a butterfly.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW  
& IMPROVED WEBSITE!**  
[www.albertct.k12.ia.us](http://www.albertct.k12.ia.us)



PRESCHOOL  
FUN!  
BY: MRS.  
HANSON

Preschool is now in full swing and we are loving every minute of it! Hello! I am Mrs. Hanson the Preschool Teacher here at AC-T! This is my first year teaching, and the students are really keeping me on my toes.

The Pre-K students really enjoyed going to the Pumpkin Patch in Alta the beginning of October. We have also been learning about pumpkins, bats, apples, leaves, and all things fall. Naturalist Katie has joined our room to talk about Monarch Butterflies and Bats. We are excited about the upcoming months and continuing to watch our students grow.



Albert City-Truesdale Elementary

## Winter Weather Information

With the winter season just around the corner, it is possible we may need to delay the start of school or cancel school for the day due to weather conditions that make travel to and from school dangerous. Our district makes the decision on whether or not to hold classes in cooperation with the administration at the Sioux Central Schools. Therefore, when Sioux Central starts late or cancels classes, Albert City-Truesdale will do the same. We will notify radio and television stations of these decisions as soon as the decision is made in the morning. **You may listen to KAYL/Storm Lake, KICD/Spencer or watch KTIV/Channel 4, or check Facebook.** You can also sign-up for text alerts through our office. Sioux Central also offers text alerts via their website:

[www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us](http://www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us)



## Special Education by Ms. Hobson

My name is Rebecca Hobson and I am the K-6 special education teacher at AC-T. I am originally from Nevada, IA

and went to UNI for my Elementary education/Early Childhood degree with Special Education. I taught for 2 years in southeast Iowa but recently got engaged and will get married in December!!! :) My fiancé teaches in Storm Lake so that is where we will be settling. I love being a teacher, to see the growth in my students and the love of learning on their faces! :)

We have been working hard in my room with saying sounds, producing words, reading, and making math concepts come alive. We are building upon words with our high frequency books as well as learning about sight words. In our classroom this month, we have learned about the pumpkin and how they grow. In math, we are producing seeds to pretend they are going to grow into pumpkins. My students are hard workers and have been learning in a fun and exciting way!

# Nurse Notes

Happy November! It is a privilege for me to spend every Thursday with our students and staff...

~Lice often go back to school with our students. You usually cannot see if someone has head lice without parting the hair and looking all over the scalp, so it can be impossible to know if the person sitting next to you might have them! All of our students have their own locker at school, and we make sure children here do not share hats, hair articles, head phones, or anything that goes on the head, but please be teaching your children these things as well. It's a good idea to check every head in your household weekly, looking for lice and their eggs. Besides prevention, finding them early is key!

~Just a reminder: Children with vomiting or a temp of 100.0 degrees F or higher are not allowed to be at school, and cannot return to school until those symptoms are gone for 24 hours (without use of a fever-reducing medication). Bodies need rest to heal!

~As we start to see more illnesses this season, please remember that not every illness requires an antibiotic. Many are caused by viruses, and antibiotics are only useful in bacterial infections. While antibiotics do save lives and are needed in some situations, not every sore throat, bronchitis or ear infection requires one. Overuse of antibiotics, or using them when they are not needed, causes bacteria to become resistant to current antibiotics. Make sure you ask your doctor if an antibiotic is even needed, or what else you can do to feel better. If you are prescribed an antibiotic, make sure you take it until it is gone, according to the directions. Saving a few pills for "the next time" just creates stronger bacteria.



**6**  
SMART  
FACTS  
ABOUT  
ANTIBIOTIC  
USE

-   
Antibiotics are **LIFE-SAVING** drugs
-   
Antibiotics only treat **BACTERIAL** infections
-   
Some ear infections **DO NOT** require an antibiotic
-   
Most sore throats **DO NOT** require an antibiotic
-   
Green colored mucus is **NOT** a sign that an antibiotic is needed
-   
There are potential **RISKS** when taking any prescription drug

Talk to your clinician about when and how to safely use antibiotics  
[www.cdc.gov/getsmart](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart)



Please feel free to call or email anytime. Happy Autumn!

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712.843.5416 ~ [jolson@albertct.k12.ia.us](mailto:jolson@albertct.k12.ia.us)

# News from the 6th Grade

## **Braeden Cormany by Trevor Ehlers**

Braeden Cormany is my neighbor and I have known him since preschool. He has been one of my best friends since then. I think we always will be that way. He has 4 family members in his life. Bryson and Ryan go to the same school with him and his mom and dad. Bryson is in preschool (4), Ryan is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (9) and Braeden is in 6<sup>th</sup> (11). Braeden's favorite subject is Science and P.E and his favorite part of school is seeing his friends. His favorite quarter of the school year is the first quarter because he likes seeing his friends again from last year. His favorite sports that he is in are football, basketball, and soccer. He wants to go to college at Iowa State University and he wants to be an engineer or a teacher. Braeden Cormany is a good guy and I hope he stays like that to other friends and I.

## *Jenna Abbas by Andrew Anderson*

It is the year 2025. I see Jenna getting off a boat. I ask her "why were you on a boat?" She said "I got stranded on an island because of a challenge to live on an island for a week but it turned into a year. I brought mac and cheese, a back pack, a radio, a book, water, paper, a pencil, an iPad, a marker, and my dog Charlie." Then I said "wow what do you plan to do now?" She said "well I have a bucket list: become a doctor, win a longest hair contest, by the way my hair is 31 inches long. Then do some art, Eat mac and cheese from Albert City Truesdale School, play war ball in PE, and watch the Cinderella movie." That is a lot I say. "It is a lot." says Jenna. "I haven't seen you in a while. How old are you? "About the same as me 20, 21?" Yup 20. "Well I will see you at the longest hair contest."

## **GREGORY ANDERSON BY SARAH CHRISTENSEN**

It's the year 2018 on a Wednesday at church. I met a kid. His name is Gregory Anderson. We played Dodge Ball. He was on the opposing team. We didn't aim for each other until he closed his eyes, threw the ball, I wasn't looking and Bam! The ball hit me and I was out. Across the gym Gregory yelled "I'm so sorry." I said in my head at least he's nice and caring. Then the teachers hollered "go to your classes and get started." Gregory sat by me and we rolled our pencils back and forth and back and forth until the teacher asked us a question and we guessed and got it wrong. I asked out of the middle of nowhere "how many pets do you have and what are their names?" Greg said "I have a dog, his name is Jack." "Cool I live on a farm I can't count all mine." Then I asked "how old are you" "he said "I'm 12". I kept asking questions like "what are your favorite activities to do at your house?" "he said "umm I like sledding, sledding is awesome!" Then afterwards my mom stopped by to pick me up and I said "can I go to Greg's house?" so my mom and his mom said yes and Greg and I said "yay!" The next morning it was time for school. We walked to school and I asked Greg "what is your favorite school subject?" he said "Science." Greg was wearing Nike and I was wearing Under Armour and I asked him

"what's your favorite brand?" He was like, "let me think, Under Armour and Nike." We were at the door and he said out of nowhere "my favorite sports are Basketball and Soccer." I said "you said that out of nowhere." It is lunch, and I am like "what's your favorite food?" He said "Roast Beef, Mashed potatoes and gravy. That's a good meal it's really good" I agree, it is so good." I said "my last question for you is "how long have you been going to this school?" He said "I have been here for 7 years I joined in kindergarten." I said "Oh cool I love this school I hope you enjoy your last years at Albert City Truesdale Elementary School."

## ***Erin Daly by Taylor Melby***

One day, I came home from school. I found old photos in my room from second grade. Then, I looked at my class pictures. I looked at all my BFFs (Best Friends Forever). The first person I saw was Erin. It brought up a lot of memories from back in the day. I remembered all the fun we had outside playing tag, jump rope, ball tag, and dodgeball. We still play some of them, but we play a new game called drop tag. Erin and I talked about a lot of things at recess like Erin has five siblings. I asked Erin questions and these were the answers. I asked her "how many people are in your family" she answered "8" and Erin has one dog name Ms. Molly. I asked Erin what she likes to do in her free time. Erin said she likes to play on her phone and her favorite app is musical.ly. I asked Erin "what does she like most about school." She said "seeing her friends." I asked her what her favorite subject in school is. She said "Math." I asked Erin what her favorite color was because, she knows mine. Hers is lime green and her favorite top three football teams are ISU, Broncos, and Texas Longhorns. I asked Erin "what are her three favorite sports". She said "basketball, softball, and swimming". The final question I asked is what are her top movies and T.V. shows. Her favorite movies are Cinderella and Middle School and her favorite T.V. shows are Haters Back Off, Cupcake Wars, and K.C. Undercover. We talked a little bit more. That's all I have for you today.

## **MAKINZIE MILLER BY GREG ANDERSON**

It was 2028. It was our 5 year high school reunion. I had not seen Makinzie Miller in a long time. I remembered that I interviewed her in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The first thing I asked her was what her name was and she said "Makinzie" and I also asked her these questions when I interviewed her. I remember that she had 6 people in her family: 4 siblings and two dogs and two cats. Her favorite color was lime green and her favorite restaurant was KFC. Her favorite TV show was "The Walking Dead". She also liked to text for fun and her favorite book was Under the Watson's Porch. Then I asked her how long she had been going to AC-T she had been going to AC-T for 8 years. So that is what I remember about Makinzie Miller.



## ***Mrs. Jessica Hanson by Braeden Cormany***

Mrs. Hanson is our new Pre-K teacher. Here are a few things about her. She is currently 22 years old. She is also married. Her favorite food is ice cream. This is her first year teaching and she wants to keep teaching because it is her dream job. She went to ISU and her favorite team is ISU. Her place she would love to go to is St. Lucia. She has two brothers and three sisters. Her favorite book is The Kissing Hand. My little brother Bryson is in Pre-K and I think she is doing a great job.

## ***Mrs. Natalie Elsen by Reagan Wolff***

Hi my name is Reagan Wolff, and I'm in 6th grade and Mrs. Elsen is my 6th grade teacher and here's a bit about her.

Mrs. Elsen and Jared were getting married and she decided to move to Newell because he already had a job at Newell Fonda High School. Mrs. Elsen told me she likes teaching older grades and there was a job open at AC-T so she took the job here. Mrs. Elsen said she has no kids because she just got married. She also said she has four family members counting herself. Natalie said she went to UNI, and she played these sports: volleyball, cross country, basketball and soccer. Her favorite books to read are Amish Love Stories she said smiling, and kind of laughing. Mrs. Elsen has been a teacher two years. She does not speak any other languages. Natalie lived in Jacksonville Florida, near the northeast corner, right on the border and two hours away from Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Elsen is a cool teacher and I've had a fun start even though it's only the beginning!

## ***Mrs. Amy Stepec by Berkley Johannsen***

I was at the movie theater with my children when I thought I saw someone familiar in the darkness. Then I realized it was my long lost sister! Just kidding; it was Amy Stepec. A teacher from AC-T who taught fifth grade. I said hello after the showing and we talked for a little while. I asked her a few random questions like when she got married; she said,

"I married my dear dear husband on July 20, 2002."

I also asked "What do you like to do now days?"

"Oh, I like to repurpose old furniture, I like to shop till I drop, and I like to be outside doing things."

I said "Oh, that's nice! By the way that made me think of this - what's your favorite animal?"

"I love golden retrievers; they are the best animal ever!"

Next, I said "Oh well there are lots of golden retrievers in all the different countries in Europe."

Then, Amy said, "Oh My Gosh! Seriously I want to go to Europe soooo bad!"

"I also hear they have the best apple crisp ever! They even put ice cream on it."

"This is crazy apple crisp is my favorite dessert! This is such a coincidence."

All of a sudden one of my kids comes up and says.

"Mommy can we go home and play Blockus pretty please?"

Amy said "that's funny that's my favorite game to play with my four kids."

I said "This is getting a little creepy maybe we should go."

Amy said "No this is more fun than playing golf in the fall! I used to play that with buddies back at UMD just so you know."

After that, I said I got to get my kids to bed but I have one more question.

"Okay shoot."

"When you were little what was your childhood dream job?"

"I know it's a little embarrassing I wanted to be a flight attendant."

"That's not embarrassing; I know quite a few people that work on planes."

Then my children pulled me out all while I was yelling "it was good to see you again!"

## An Interview with Mrs. Huskamp by Jenna Abbas

It was the year 2025 when Kelsey Huskamp was strolling through Target when she saw Jenna Abbas, a student she knew. They started talking and asking questions like, "Where did you work before AC-T, did you go to college, and what is your favorite book?" She said "Oh well yes, I went to college! I went to Northwestern and my favorite book is Click Clack Moo: The Typing Cows and I worked at Sioux Central before AC-T." Then I asked, "Why are you buying those?" She said "I'm buying a book, Skittles, and a blanket because those are the three things I would bring on a field trip." Then I said "Why are you buying those blue markers?" She said "My husband, son and I are doing a project: one because I love to hang out with my family after school hours, and two my favorite color is blue." So then I asked her "What are you going to eat for supper?" She said "I'm eating my favorite meal spaghetti." After we talked for a little longer, I asked her "What's your favorite song and what's her favorite thing about working at AC-T?" She said "ANYTHING country and I love getting to see the teachers and students all day." Then she looked down at her watch and said "Oh my, I'm so sorry! I would wish we could talk longer but I have to pick up spaghetti for supper tonight! Talk to you later!"

## Mrs. Anna Davis by Preston Harder

Let me introduce you to our new band teacher Mrs. Davis. She taught me how to play the Digeridoo. She went to Luther College. She played the flute in college. She is also married with no kids. She is staying at AC-T because we're awesome! She likes the Hawkeyes. She can play the flute very fast. This is not the only place she works; she also works at an orchestra place. She has one brother and one sister. She likes rainy weather if she ever goes on vacation. We like our new band teacher.

## Ms. Hobson's Life.....By Makinzie Miller

Ms. Hobson is our new special education teacher at our school. She really likes her job here at AC-T, she believes our students here are very respectful. She also loves her job because she gets to impact student's lives every day, to make them successful in life. She has always wanted to become a teacher and has always had a great respect for students. She says her job is very exciting and enjoyable. I asked her if she would ever like to have a different job. She said that she doesn't think so that she has always been led to be a teacher and can't imagine doing anything else. She has always been a teacher and even worked as the same kind of teacher at her old school. She has also always lived in Iowa and is getting married soon! She even plans on starting her own family someday but until then she is one of our teachers at AC-T, Ms. Hobson.

## Interview with Mrs. Katie Wenell by: Angel Pineda

**Hello, my names is Angel Pineda. Let me introduce you to Mrs. Wenell. Born October 31, 1982 She has been an art teacher in Laurens, Spencer, and is currently my art teacher at AC-T. Before I went to this school I went to Laurens-Marathon school, and she was my art teacher there to. She has been an art teacher for 11 years. She has two children. She has always wanted to be an art teacher. What really wanted to be an art teacher when she was encouraged by her high school art teacher. She also has another talent besides art, singing. Before she was an art teacher she cleaned houses, worked at a hospital, and in college, worked In the visual resource room. Mrs. Wenell is the best art teacher I have ever had! Good luck working at AC-T!!**

## New Custodian - Irene Zabala by Erin Daly

It was the year 2030. I was with Irene Zabala. We had a TV show to go to. We were in the car. I asked her a lot of questions. Like have you ever been a janitor before? She answered, " Yes." That is why she is the best janitor ever. What month is your birthday maybe I can come with you? Her month of her birthday is July if you want "she said" you can join me if you want." "Did you go to college I was surprised I was told no she is smart I was so jealous I had to go to college?" What state were you born in?" She was born in California. "What did you want to be when you were little?" "I was told a police officer she must of changed her mind or something." "How many kids do you have?" "She has five kid's four girls and one boy." "What is your favorite ice-cream?" "I was told mint chip I love mint chip too." "What's your worst injury?" "She broke her arm in two spots." "Do you have glasses?" I figured that it would be a yes. Now, we are at the TV show / interview. We walked in and asked "what we are doing today?" The TV show host showed us and said," Are you ready to get in the car and take the interview?"

## Mrs. Brenda Rivera By: Emily Salazar

It was the year 2016 when I was shopping in Wally World aka Walmart when I saw Mrs. Rivera shopping with her three children so I stopped by to say hi. She told me she got married in the year 2010 and I congratulated her and asked her," where do you live?" And she told me," I grew up in Michigan and then I moved to Fonda, Iowa and now I live here in Albert City." I was so surprised and she also told me she worked at Sioux Central and then chose to work at AC-T as a para professional. She did not plan on working here but she took the job anyway. I also asked," have you traveled out of the country?" She has, to Mexico and she also has two siblings too. I asked if she had animals and she does not have any animals. I also asked one last question, is it fun to work at AC-T and she loves it. I guess she chose to become a Hurricane!

**Keep up with your AC-T school happenings! Listen to the KAYL (101.7FM) School Spotlight at 7:25 AM on the following dates: November 30<sup>th</sup>, January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>!**



# A New State Assessment for Iowa: SMARTER BALANCED

## ALL STUDENTS FUTURE READY

Iowa adopted statewide standards in English language arts and math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic skills and content necessary for success beyond high school.

Because we raised the bar for what we expect students to know and be able to do, we also must change the way student progress is measured through state tests. In the 2017-18 school year, students in grades three through eleven will take the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

## Smarter Balanced Assessments Will Replace Iowa Assessments

While the current state assessment has a long history, Iowa will transition in the 2017-18 school year to the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Smarter Balanced better meets the needs of our teachers and students and measures real-world skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and writing.

## Smarter Balanced Provides Meaningful Information

The Smarter Balanced Assessments provide a more detailed picture of student learning by providing specific information on which skills students have mastered and where they need additional support. They also help ensure that students are on track for the next grade and, eventually, postsecondary education and the workforce.

## Participation in Annual Assessments Matters

Annual assessments are just one measure of student achievement that should be combined with other measures, including teacher reports and student grades, to provide a complete picture of student progress.

Having your child take the state assessment provides policy makers and educators with information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources are needed.

Our district is committed to fewer, fairer and better tests for all students.

## SMARTER BALANCED

- **Better reflects** what is being taught in Iowa classrooms.
- **Gives a more detailed and immediate picture** of the skills each student has mastered.
- **Challenges your child to think critically** and solve real-world problems.
- **Goes beyond multiple-choice** and asks your child to explain his or her answers.
- **Provides accurate information** on whether your child is on track.

## STAY INFORMED

Your child's teacher can provide more information about his/her academic performance.

### Smarter Balanced:

Iowa updates: Get the latest information on the assessment transition at <https://iowacore.gov/content/smarter-balanced-assessments>

Practice Test: Take the practice test at [www.smarterbalanced.org/as](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/as)