

WILDCAT PAW PRINTS



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From Dr. Wells

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WEDNESDAY FOR
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RECORDER KARATE!!

**WINDOW MURAL FOR
DOWNTOWN**

Welcome Back!

On behalf of the Hamburg Community School District I would like to welcome your children back to school! I really appreciate you allowing your children to attend our school. We have wonderful students, caring staff, and a dedicated community. I feel very blessed to be part of the Hamburg experience.

I wanted to provide you a brief update on issues facing our school. First, I am a shared superintendent this year with Essex. My mornings and Fridays are in Hamburg. My afternoons Monday thru Thursday are in Essex. I am enjoying my time in Essex but miss the time with the Hamburg students and staff. Our hope is we can build a good relationship with Essex and share high school staff in the future. On January 23rd, we will go to Des Moines to present to the Iowa Board of Education and ask for our high school back. I will be sharing more information with you on ways you can help us accomplish this goal.

We hope to begin the construction on the safe/secure front entry. The flood has caused this project to be delayed but hopefully by the start of the new calendar year the project will be done. The project will give us new offices, safe/secure building entry, and a lobby area.

We now have our own print shop which can make posters, flyers, and vinyl window clings. Skylar Ross is the director of the print shop and will have a group of students in Maker Space on Friday filling orders.

Lastly, we are starting to build a house for a family who was impacted by the flood. The house will have 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. It will be located at the corner of Main and S Street. If you would like to help the students work on the project, please contact me.

I leave you with the words of Ginger Zee, "No matter the natural disaster I've covered, whether it's a wildfire or flood, I always come back with a much greater perspective". We have been through a great deal the past twelve months, thanks for being there and supporting our community and school. If you have any questions, please contact me at mwells@hamburgcsd.org. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Blessings,

Dr. Mike Wells

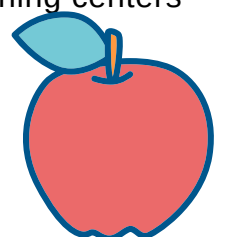
Preschool - Mrs. Williams

The Preschool is off to a great start! There are 9 students in the morning four year old class, and 13 students in the afternoon three year old class. We have spent the last few weeks learning our schedule and daily routines. We are working on making friends and getting along with others.

We are practicing the alphabet, and we will focus on one letter each week. We will also learn shapes, colors, and work on counting. Each day we enjoy going to different learning centers in our classroom!

Last week we learned about our senses. We listened to different sounds, used our noses to smell, and our hands to touch different textures. We also used our eyes to locate different items in the classroom.

Each day we work on identifying and writing our names. This would be a great skill to work on at home! We are looking forward to the Fall season and many fun learning activities!



Kindergarten - Mrs. Brandt

The Kindergarten class started the year with 20 students. We have 7 girls and 13 boys in our class. After one month of school the Kindergarteners are getting into the school routine. The students know if we have Art or Music that day. Please remember to send a pair of socks and tennis shoes to school if your child is wearing sandals on P.E. days. With the room being cool your child might need a sweatshirt to leave at school.

In Reading we are working on recognizing and writing the ABC's. Some students have started matching capital to lower case, sounding out letters, and practice writing the letters. We had our first site word "like" to read. We have our very own Reading books to try and learn to read.

In Math we are working on counting (up to 30) and recognizing numbers (1 to 10). The students also are working hard on addition to 5 and counting out items 1 to 1 correctly. The students have a Math journal that they work on writing numbers after counting out items from their counting collection.

In Writing we are working on writing our names correctly. Please encourage your child to write lower case when writing their name and not all capital letters. I sent home a copy of Handwriting Without Tears guide. If you need another copy please let me know.

In Social Studies we have worked on ways to be nice to our friends. We have talked about the school the school rules and class rules. During group we have learned about feelings and how it hurts when we are mean to our friends. We have been talking about "Bullying" and that our classroom and the school is a "No Bullying School".

We will be going to the Library every Monday and checking out a book. If your child has not returned the book by the following Monday then they will not be able to check out another book. We have Show-N-Tell every Wednesday. Please encourage your child to bring something so they can practice speaking in front of a group. I sent home a note about Show-N-Tell.

First Grade - Mrs. Hendrickson

It was nice to meet all of you during Back to School night. The kids have been really excited about our classroom. First grade is an ILC classroom (Integrated Learning Classroom). We are learning many new things with technology. First graders have met Botley and Bee-Bot our coding robots. Another program we are working with is Osmo. They are picking up on Osmo faster than I am. It is amazing how engaged and focused the students are during this time without getting frustrated.



We started our year with 11 children. We gained 2 new 1st graders at the start of the year. Their names are Adalind Gregg and Eden Libertore. Roni Hayes is in our classroom for part of the day. She will be helping out in the classroom in many different areas, assisting with small groups and one on one situations. Carrie Harris also assists us during our Language Arts block.

In Reading, we have been working on short a, i and o vowel sounds. The students are working hard putting these sounds together to form new words. Many of us have started reading Accelerated Reader books. I have "guesstimated" the level of book where I have placed your child. Please let me know if you feel these books seem too hard or too easy for your child. I look forward to October, when many of us will be tested to find out what our current reading level is.

In Math, we have been investigating numbers and how they relate to each other. We have talked about the +1 and +2 number strategies and are beginning to look at subtracting. Counting on and counting back are another strategy students are being introduced to. First graders continue to work with counting collections. We are reviewing 1 to 1 correspondence and will begin looking at other ways to record our collections. Take time in the evening to work on number recognition and counting on and counting back from a series of numbers. Not having these basic skills, puts children at a disadvantage.

Please read with your child each night. Let your child listen to you read, so they hear fluency in books. Listen to your child read to practice new skills they are learning.

I have begun sending home Spelling lists. Please study their words nightly with your child. On Friday, if they bring their Spelling list signed by an adult and pass their test they will receive a special treat.

2nd Grade - Mrs. Gregg

Greetings from 2nd grade! There are 13 students in our class and we have been busy this past month. In reading, the students have been reading a variety of realistic fiction and nonfiction texts that emphasize the importance of friendship and helping others. During our math class, we have been practicing our doubles facts, ways to make a ten, counting coins and number strings.

If you stop by our classroom, you will see a variety of different vegetables growing. The students planted their seeds and have been watching them grow. We will be helping out in the greenhouse this school year and will soon be transplanting our vegetables to the greenhouse.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Durham Museum on Tuesday, September 24. The students will rotate through three programs: All Aboard, Pioneer Life, and Historic Schoolroom.

3rd Grade - Mrs. Welch

The third grade class is off to a great start this year. There are 12 students in the class, 8 boys and 4 girls. We have a new student in our class and she is Millie Ripley. I would like to welcome everyone to our third grade classroom!

In Reading class, we are learning new skills to help us become better readers with our Reading series. We continue to read from our Accelerated Reading books daily and the third graders assignment is to read at least 10-20 pages at home each night. Our goal for each month is to earn at least six points so everyone can make the 50 Point Club and the end of the year. Thanks for your help with this.

In Math class, we have started the year with multiplication. We will be learning multiplication facts using repeated addition and arrays. Please practice these skills as well as basic addition and subtraction facts with your child.

Each week we will have a Spelling word list for the students to practice. A test will be given on Wednesday. If the student gets all the words right, they will not have to take the test again on Friday. A web site the third grade class can go to practice the weekly spelling words is www.spellingcity.com then look for our weekly list under Mrs. Welch's name. Don't forget to study.

4th Grade - Mrs. Duncan

What is your favorite part about 4th grade so far?

Caylee: I like the classroom and Mrs. Duncan, and that I get to see my little brother in PE sometimes.

Alexa: I like having all the technology!

Hannah: I like Mrs. Duncan and how she teaches.

Rebecka: I love math!

Jaxson: I like Mrs. Duncan.

Kyra: That we get to use big computers.

Bram: I love the math! And all the fun stuff. And everything else.

Emersyn: We have a lot of fun!

Keagan: I love the spinning chairs.

Hailee: That I still have all my friends with me.

Savanna: I get to see Mrs. Shull more and the spinning chairs.

Lucy: We get candy for doing good work.

Owen: I like the spinning chairs.

Jayla: We get to do recorders in music.

Ava: I love all my friends.

Xavier: Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Shull

Cole: I love lunch!

Emily: Being with my friends.

5th Grade - Mrs. Fann

Fifth grade is off to a roaring start! In math, students are reviewing their multiplication facts and practicing long multiplication and division. In reading, they are back to practicing reading fluently and comprehending stories at the fifth grade level. In science, they have started a unit on energy. They have new vocabulary words such as photosynthesis, herbivore, omnivore, and carnivore. In Iowa History, they are reading about the waterways surrounding Iowa and the natural resources found here.

The fifth graders would like to share what they look forward toward most this year.

David is excited to play Prodigy.

Braden is excited for Prodigy.

AJ is excited for the egg drop project.

Blayne is excited to visit the Capitol building.

Ashlyn is excited for all the field trips.

Chloye is excited for being at a new school.

Hunter is excited to be inside the Capitol building.

Aiyana is excited to play with Ika.

Ely is excited to go to Des Moines.

Nevaeh is excited for hanging out with the class pet.

Misha is excited for all the fun and games.

Bryan is excited to go to the tippy top of the Capitol.

Reilly is excited to see all his friends.

Hannah is excited for all the field trips!

Bella is excited for band!

inspire

6th Grade - Mr. Peters

I am so excited to be in a self-contained classroom again. I have been blessed with a wonderful group of 6th graders this year. We are starting to figure each other out, and growing together as a big family. We are going to have a great year.

If I had you as a student, you know that I love to teach math. Our current math series is Connected Mathematics. We have new challenges that are going to be tough for the average 6th grader, but I know this group can handle it. This book doesn't mess around.

We are currently hitting factors and multiples hard. GCF and LCM along with factor strings, prime factors, order of operations and the Distributive Property have already been touched this year. If you want a math problem that will stretch your brain, I recommend the locker problem. Ask your child about this one.

I am very impressed with our reading series "Journeys". Each week we have an integrated reading, English and spelling section. Our reading story comes from an excerpt of a book that might be perfect for your 6th grader. Every day we do something related to our story.

World Geography and our science have started off the year with similar topics. They both are helping us explore the Earth. Mapping the Earth's surface, natural resources, geography themes and branches of geography have been discussed during this early part of our school year. Eventually our Integrated Science book will take us to exploring life's classification and structure of both plants and animals. Our World Geography will go around the world with the physical geography, history and what the country looks like today of the major countries of the world.

Resource - Mrs. Shull, Behavioral Intervention

Bedtime stories for kids – A thing of the past?

Once upon a time bedtime stories were a way for families to bond at the end of the day, snuggled up reading together before going to sleep. However with so many other things available now, T.V, I-pads, video games, bedtime stories for many families are a thing of the past.

Fearless

I was honestly shocked when reading a study, (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/sep/11/children-bedtime-stories-on-wane-survey>) which reported that just 64% of families with children under seven read to their children before bed. For many parents who are too busy, or too stressed at the end of their work day, letting children fall asleep to technology is becoming the norm. I'm not against all technology, in fact in this day and age screen time can be helpful if used in the right way. However there is a time and place, and there are so many reasons why bedtime stories for kids are more important.

Bedtime stories have been part of our routine since my children were born. Even before they could understand what we were saying, or notice any pictures on the book, we would sit with them every night before bed and read a story. 3 is the magical number in my house- 3 books before bed. It takes about 10-15 min to read 3 board books, and a lot of the time it's the same stories over and over because they love them so much.

Here are 5 reasons you should end the day reading with your kids; bedtime stories help to create routine, reading together helps build your child's vocabulary, bedtime stories increase your child's imagination, bedtime stories every night help to create a stronger bond, and reading every day creates good habits.

(<https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/caroline-hartwell/reading-to-children>)

Children learn a lot from us, and rely on us to create good habits. Reading bedtime stories to your children, it sets them up for a lifetime of a love for reading..

"Imagination is more important than knowledge.
Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

-Albert Einstein



American History & English - Mrs. Dovel

Wow! The first few weeks of school have flown by! Here's a sneak peek for you!

In history class, the 8th grade students have been studying the Great Depression. A few terms from this unit include: FDR, the New Deal, President Hoover, Hooverville's, the Dust Bowl, Black Tuesday, John Steinbeck, jazz, Harlem Renaissance, Babe Ruth, WPA, CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) migrant workers and fireside chats.

The highlight of this unit was watching CINDERELLA MAN, the true story about ex-boxer, James Braddock who works as a laborer during the Depression but gets a chance to fight the heavy-weight champion, Max Baer. This rags-to-riches story depicts the difficulties for families during the Great Depression.

In English classes, students are reviewing the parts of speech, Six Traits, and writing skills. Topics this week include: coordinate and subordinate conjunctions, coordinate conjunctions in simple and compound sentences, and subordinate conjunctions in complex sentences. One of the quick writes for the week was: What's more important: being healthy or having lots of money. Quick writes are activities students focus on for ten minutes and include the grammar topic of the day. In this case, it was demonstrating the use of correct coordinate and subordinate conjunctions, commas, and compound sentences in the quick write.

The 8th grade English class also finished the unit OF MICE AND MEN, written by John Steinbeck. The class read the novel and watched the movie. John Steinbeck wrote many novels depicting the difficult times in America during the 30's. Understanding THEME was our literary focus in this unit

As you can see, the junior high is off to a busy start!

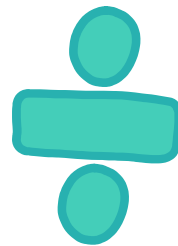
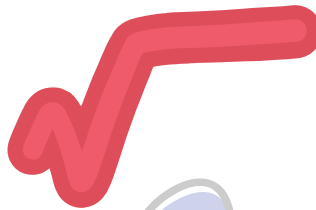


Algebra - Mrs. Hall

The new year is underway, and we are almost halfway through the first quarter! This year, there are again two levels of Algebra being taught: Pre-Algebra and Algebra I.

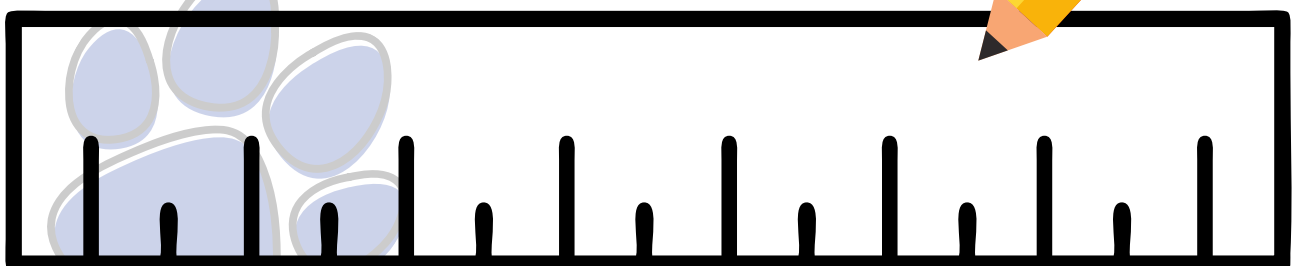
There are seven seventh-grade students in Pre-Algebra. This class is an introduction to Algebra, and covers topics from the first half of an Algebra I course. These students have reviewed the order of operations and simplified algebraic expressions. They are now adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers, and will soon be multiplying and dividing them.

The Algebra I class has eight eighth-graders this year. These students spent the first three weeks reviewing the following topics from last year: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing positive and negative numbers, solving linear equations, using laws of exponents, and multiplying polynomials. They are currently working with two-variable equations, and graphing points and lines on the coordinate system.



Middle School Science - Miss Martin

This school year has started off great. The students are coming with positive attitudes and commitment to making this a great year. We have started off our science year by going over classroom norms, getting to know each other, journal writing, and the foundational skills they will need to know/have for science this year. I am looking forward to continuing the year on a positive note. Feel free to come and stop in and see what we are up to!



Middle School Math - Mrs. Wright

Another new year is here! It has been great to see everyone's smiling faces again. The kids were excited to start the year with an Escape Room Activity. The activity promoted having a growth mindset. One key to success is having a positive attitude. Believing that you will be successful eventually will always get you one step closer to your goal.

All the students have been working hard and moving quickly through their first math unit. The 8th graders have been challenged with starting the year by analyzing graphs and data. They are learning about different kinds of equations, starting with linear equations. They will be comparing and contrasting different types of equations throughout the year. The 7th graders have been challenged with starting the year with some geometry. They are measuring angles and discovering shapes that can be used as tessellations, using them to tile a flat surface in a design.

I am excited to see what this school year brings. Every year I teach the same things, but I am always learning new techniques and problem solving methods from our great students. Let's have a great year!

Elementary Music - Mrs. Emberton

Welcome back to school!

The preschool, kindergarten and first grade classes are starting out learning about steady beat, slow beat and fast beat. They get to play the rhythm band instruments to try to keep up with the beat. We also have a few favorite music games to demonstrate the speed of the beat. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders started right off in their music textbooks and are learning the basic fundamentals of music. The 4th graders have bought their recorders and they are practicing hard to earn that first white belt in Recorder Karate. The 5th graders have also received their instruments and are realizing that playing a horn takes a lot of practice! Fortunately, the 6th graders are with them this year and are willing to help them. Please encourage them to practice at home.



MS Band & Chorus - Mrs. Emberton

Our J.H. Chorus is 24 strong with a pretty good balance of sopranos, altos and baritones. We started the year rehearsing music for the conference J.H. vocal festival. The festival will be held in Essex on Monday, October 28 (more on that next month.) We are also singing the songs from "Annie" since we plan to attend the show on October 9. Please send ticket money with them by Monday!

The J.H. Band also has a nice balance: 3 flutes, 1 clarinet, 2 alto saxes, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones and 3 percussionists. We are working our way through the 2nd lesson book, discovering we forgot a lot over the summer break! The band is also playing some concert music--some of their choices and some of mine. Our first concert will be the Christmas concert in December.

Art - Mrs. Wells

Elementary students have been using ocean-themed projects to review the elements of art. We have been creating art focusing on line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space. All elementary students will have the chance to help paint a mural in the art room. Each student will paint a small sea creature on our mural wall.

Middle school students have also been reviewing the elements of art, and learning some tricks to make their drawings and paintings stronger. Students are applying some of their new knowledge into making murals in different places around school. The students in seventh hour art had the chance to paint a window mural in downtown Hamburg to help the town look it's best for popcorn day.

Non-discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Hamburg 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, Dr. Mike Wells, 309 "S" Street, Hamburg, IA, 712-382-2703, mwells@nishbd.org.

Statement of Assurance Related to Highly Qualified Teacher Assignments

If, due to circumstances out of the districts control, a substitute or replacement teacher will be assigned to your students classroom or class for a period of time of four or more consecutive weeks and that teacher is not highly qualified in accordance with federal and state laws then the district will notify you of the situation. It is the intention of the Hamburg Community School District to provide 'highly qualified' teachers in all areas to the best of the district's ability throughout the school year. Hamburg: Parents or guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 382-2017 or sending a letter of request to Office of the Superintendent, 309 "S" Street, Hamburg, Iowa 51640.