

MUSTANG NEWS

MARCH 2019

Jeff Dicks, Superintendent

From The Desk of Mr. Dicks

School Funding Signed by Governor

Thank you to the Iowa Legislature and Governor Reynolds for signing the school funding bill for FY2020. The State Supplemental Aid(SSA) was 2.06% as approved by both the House and Senate. I thank them because of the timeliness of setting SSA. This is critical as we will be approving our budget for next year by April 15th. It allows us time to plan for staffing needs while knowing what we will receive.

The second part of the funding of education is adequacy. Annually our costs increase anywhere from 1.5% - 3% depending on what happens with diesel and gas prices, how hard of a winter or how much we utilize our air conditioning in the fall and spring, as well as health insurance increases, numerous curriculum needs, and new State mandates that sometimes go unfunded.

The last 2 years SSA has been 1% and 1.12% respectively. So while 2.06% is much better, I am not sure the test of adequacy is being met. I am also aware that the budget at the State level has had some challenges, and I try to be understanding of all the needs across our state. I believe education is foundational in nature for the development and support of many other things in the State. Without a strong education system, it affects the promotion of our State to attract new businesses, support existing businesses with employees, and promote overall growth and development. I am biased on the impact of a sound education but it does support many of these areas.

We can weather low SSA because of the position that Newell-Fonda is in from many years of

budget management, but it is getting tighter and tighter each year.

Important: Give Us A Call

It is extremely important that if your student is ill that you make the call to let the school know. During normal winter conditions, we especially want to account for all of the students in a timely fashion. We appreciate your communication for the safety of all kids.

Snow Days

Thank you for your support of having school on February 18, President's Day. This allowed us to get one of our 6 missed days made up. We are also looking at April 17th for students and April 22nd as a makeup PD day for our staff. We will communicate our plans for snow make-up days as soon as they are known. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we grind out this tough stretch of winter.

A rectangular box with a thin green border containing the handwritten name "Alynn Coppock, HS Principal" in green ink.

February was a month filled with music contests, speech competitions, and basketball games. The Jazz Band continues to perform well during their competition season. They recently attended the Morningside Jazz Festival and are hoping to qualify for the Iowa Jazz Championships at the NWIBA Jazz Contest in LeMars. The speech team wrapped up their large group season with a great showing at the State competition and now 12 students are preparing for the individual speech competitions. District Individual Speech was supposed to be held on February 23rd in Fort Dodge, however, was rescheduled due to the weather. Individual Speech Night will be held at Newell-Fonda on March 5th at 7:00 p.m. if anyone would like to check out these talented students. I would also like to congratulate the boys basketball team on a great season. Their hard work and determination was fun to watch. Finally, congratulations to the girls basketball team for qualifying for the State Tournament and we wish them the best of luck at Wells Fargo!

On February 6th all juniors took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). As an aptitude test, the ASVAB measures the strengths, weaknesses, and potential for future success of each student. The ASVAB also provides the student with career information for various civilian and military occupations and is an indicator for success in future endeavors whether the student chooses to go to college, vocational

school, or a military career. The results of the ASVAB were shared with the juniors last week, so be sure to ask your student about them.

During February we also celebrated FFA Week. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday, and encompasses February 22nd, Washington's birthday. FFA Week gives members a chance to educate the public about agriculture. During this week, members taught our elementary students about agriculture, attended the FFA Sub District Contest, drove their tractors to school, served an appreciation lunch for members, parents, and staff, and then ended the week with Ag Olympics. It was a great week to celebrate the importance of Ag education, and we definitely appreciate all the FFA does for our school and our communities.

I would also like to mention that Sammie Bovero, as part of Mrs. Beth Olsen's Foods Practicum class, is starting a Friday morning coffee shop, Hug-A-Mug, for staff. Staff members can pre-order specialty coffee during the week and then pick it up on Friday. There will also be a delivery option available, thanks to members of the FCCLA. Sammie will also be serving smoothies, cookies, and other breakfast goodies. It's a great way for Sammie to not only practice her culinary skills, but also learn what it takes to successfully run her own business!

Finally, I would like to remind you that Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on March 11th and 12th from 4:00-7:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to discuss your student's progress with his/her teachers before the end of the school year. Also, for those parents who have students playing a spring sport, the pre-season parent meeting will be March 5th at 5:30 p.m. Once again, thank you for all you do to support your Newell-Fonda student.

Dick Jungers, PK-8 Principal

March means that Spring is just around the corner, and it also means that the 3rd quarter of school is quickly coming to a close. I will be addressing some things that parents can do to help students to be more successful at school, and some events that we all can look forward to as the school year is winding down.

Parents of elementary students who help their student with homework would benefit by creating an after school routine to ensure their child's success at school. Spending 5-10 minutes reading with your child, and an additional 5-10 minutes working on homework each day would go a long way in developing successful learning habits. Having your child read their take home book to you is one example to achieve this. Another good idea is to pick a day to visit the Newell or Fonda Public library to select books for your child to read.

As your child enters 4th-8th grade that routine becomes even more important as they are entering the age of being more socially active and they also have more activities going on. An after school routine is very important to help them organize their time at home so that they can be successful with their academic progress. Encouraging your student to continue to read and to work on programs like IXL math go a long way in developing the overall academic success of your student. If your student does not have homework, it is always a good idea to encourage them to read for 30 minutes to an hour to keep working on their reading skills, and to develop life-long learning habits.

Parents also need to take time to ask their student how their school day went. Keeping those conversations positive while helping your child to communicate the happenings of their school day goes a long way in developing an interactive positive relationship, but it also creates a safe opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings. As parents we don't want to overreact to information, we want to encourage them to share out, and help them sort through the events they experienced during that school day. When students share problems we want to encourage them to think of solutions that they can control to solve the problems. We don't want to get in the habit of solving problems for them we want them to think through the appropriate steps to resolution. Here is an article link to highlight some of those key points.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news/talking.html>

Mark your calendar as Grandparent's Day is on March 28th. It will be another fun filled day for grandparents to come and spend time with their grandchildren. This is always a very exciting time for all people involved. We also want to remind parents that this will coincide with our Spring Concert. We will also have the book fair for students to have the opportunity to purchase books.

Finally, as summer quickly approaches, we will again be planning on Summer School for students who qualify. If you have any questions please check with your classroom teacher or Mrs. Boevers for more information.



Staff updates

Jill Johnston, Special Education

Since I started teaching here three years ago, it has been so fun watching students grow and building relationships with them throughout the years. What I love about this school is that I

get to see students I have previously taught in the halls and watch them grow, all while getting to know the younger students.

The students I work with this year have been so fun. It has been awesome to watch them achieve their goals and become successful in the ways I knew they would be! I also work with amazing associates that are willing to always step in as needed. We have a great group that are a huge part in our students' success. I am so thankful for them and the support they provide both the students and me.

The middle school had Maker Week again this year, which is always a blast. My group built and programmed Lego MindStorm Robots again because it was such a hit last year. We are fortunate enough to borrow these from the Buena Vista County Iowa State Extension Office so I want to thank them again for this opportunity. The students paired up and followed the instructions to put the robots together on the first day. They flew through this so they were able to also learn how to program the first day. On the second day, I held competitions to see who could learn how to program the quickest. Examples of these were make the robot move in a straight line, move backwards, stop at two points, stop at three points, move in a square, and move around lines of tape. The students had to learn this so they could decide how to program their robots in the best way on the third day. On the third and last day, the students got to battle each other. This is always the students' favorite day of the week. We had a bracket to keep track of who won, and it was neck and neck at the end. Overall, we all had so much fun with the robots!

I can't believe that it's already March — this year has flown by! I can't wait to see the

success Newell-Fonda students will have the rest of the year!

Cassie Fjerstad, 6-8 Social Studies

Every year brings so many exciting opportunities and experiences in social studies. In March, Iowa Supreme Court Justice Susan Christensen will visit the Newell-Fonda middle school students. This will be a great opportunity to see one of our government officials in real life.

In 6th grade we are focusing on world geography with a mixture of world history in there. Coming back from Christmas break we have been focused on Ancient India and China. This year we tried a new real world application with China and looked at the idea of censoring and book banning throughout history. One of the ancient Chinese leaders banned books, and the students participated in a fishbowl activity discussing censorship in schools. Our focus in India will be the creation of Hinduism and Buddhism. The Rome and Greek units are usually students favorites, and we will focus on foundations of governments and mythology.

My favorite 7th grade unit this year was our work on media literacy. One of the new additions to our social studies standards is focusing on evaluating sources and looking at perspectives. It's always interesting to look at historical things from generations that are so far removed from things. We looked at documents from the Civil Rights era, and the perspective of the students is even different from mine. A lot of discussions take place in social studies about what was *normal* at one time and how these things shift over time. Students have become better at looking at sites to see if they are credible and know how to detect bias in all sources. One of my favorite resources for all classes is a site called Newsela. All students in the middle school have access to this through Google Apps. These are excellent news articles that are fair. The website can also alter your reading level to make things more challenging, or to help make things easier to understand. Some articles can even be translated to Spanish. It's a really neat site that is completely free--and has a wide variety of topics.

In 8th grade we started the new semester learning about our government. We focused a lot on the Bill of Rights and the adoption of our Constitution. The 8th graders will get to analyze some Supreme Court cases that directly involve students and their rights. We use sites like Sheppard Software and iCivics to help us learn about our government in a more game based way. iCivics is a free website that has many games on various topics of our government. We play "Do I Have That Right?" to practice the Bill of Rights amendments, and "Branches of Power" but all of the games are great ways to strengthen knowledge about our government. This is one of my favorite units, and it is fun to have discussion and debates with the students to really push their thinking. Every year I'm amazed by how involved in politics our students want to be--which is so fun to see! We wrap up 8th grade with the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Feel free to "follow me" on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), both will have pictures and updates of what is happening in my classroom!

Marcia Kay, Guidance

It all starts with a dream.

When you were growing up, what did you want to be?

Students start developing their 4 year plan in 8th grade. This requires them to write down on paper the required classes, as well as selecting electives they may choose to take during their freshman and subsequent years. Classes they consider taking should reflect areas in which they would like to learn more about. Another consideration should be classes that help them explore potential future choices of careers after high school. A multitude of career paths are available for all students. Some of the options are listed.

- Work force
- Apprenticeship
- Certificate in technical trade
- Diploma in a technical area
- Degree from a 2 year college
- Transfer from a 2 year college to a 4 year institution
- 4 year private college or university
- 4 year regent university
- Military
- Other... Some students never fail to surprise me with their ingenuity ☺

Since “one size” does not fit all students for their future success, all students need to have conversations with their parents about areas of strengths and interests, financial considerations, whether post-secondary schooling is necessary and how many years if it is necessary.

College representatives come to Newell-Fonda to share information and explore the benefits of their colleges/universities. These include both 2 year institutions as well as 4 year private colleges/universities and Regent universities. Also, industry professionals have come in with Lunch and Learn talks or presented in particular classrooms. They have explored school to work options.

All dreams start with a thought, that should develop into conversations, that must evolve into decisions and actions. Start those conversations today.

Beth Olsen, FCS

The Family and Consumer Sciences department is busy this semester with many hands on projects.

Both the Foods and Advanced Foods classes are working on culinary skills. Our main focus at the beginning of the semester is Food Safety. We tend towards the industry standards and learn high level safety standards. Many students go home and adjust their families food preparation tasks to increase safety and at the very least aren't eating raw cookie dough after



learning about salmonella. The Advanced students test their skills against the Iowa Food Handler Certification, a certificate they can take with them into the industry. Upcoming units in the Foods class include Fruits and Vegetables where we will practice knife skills and preparation tasks. In Advanced Foods we will be moving into our Meats unit. Thank you to the Iowa Pork Producers and Iowa Beef Producers who offer grants to offset costs of these products.

Food Practicum, which is the third level of culinary classes at Newell-Fonda, puts skills to use running a School Based Business, a coffee shop. We open the shop Friday mornings for staff and have been learning about business plans, stocking supplies and food preparation. We offer espresso based coffee drinks, baked goods and blended drinks such as smoothies and frappes. This class has also planned and executed in house catering jobs. We hope to share what we are learning with the wider public soon.



The Iowa Central class being offered this semester, ECE 221: Infants and Toddlers, is a student favorite. Juniors and Seniors in this class can expect lots of hands on work at Mustang Child Care. It's great to be able to use that facility as a lab for the class and we can observe the concepts learned in class in real life. Recently students planned and put into action a story time about Valentines Day. Thank you to the day care staff for allowing our students to come over to complete observation assignments, play and enjoy the kids. It's really fun to see the bonds being formed. High school students in this class earn both high school and college credit.

This semester is time for 7th grade Exploratory. These students get the opportunity to come for FCS twice a week and learn a little bit about FCS and get some hands on learning. We focus on laundry, managing a sewing project and child development in our time together. Families seem to enjoy the At Home Laundry Project where students take their classroom learning home and complete a load of laundry on their own. We are looking forward to partnering with an elementary class to complete both our child development and sewing project standards. In the first semester 8th graders worked on standards in food preparation and interior design.

The other classes in the FCS department this semester include Fashion Design where creativity is in full demand. Students in this class learn the basics of fashion, design and construction and then put their skills to use creating sewing projects for their benefit or

community service. The Health Class is working through a unit on Substance Abuse and we have had several engaging discussions about the destruction drugs bring to families. We have been using pieces of a video series called “The Truth About Drugs” to learn more details. The piece on Opioids and Prescription Painkiller addiction has been particularly interesting in light of current trends.

February was National Career and Technical Education month where we celebrated the work CTE teachers are doing, giving students opportunities to take classroom learning from their core content and apply it to life. Think of all the math students do in the culinary or fashion classes, all of the science involved in baking something or the history we discuss in any child development conversation, how car seats and regulations have changed! Here is some additional information about CTE courses and their benefit to Newell-Fonda and the larger economy.

CTE is at the forefront of preparing students to be “college- and career-ready.” CTE equips students with:

- core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities
- employability skills (such as critical thinking and responsibility) that are essential in any career area
- job-specific, technical skills related to a specific career pathway

According to ACTE (Association for Career and Technical Education) CTE Meets Individual and Community Economic Needs:

- According to the BLS, of the 20 fastest growing occupations, 14 require an associate degree or less. Furthermore, of the 20 occupations with the largest numbers of new jobs projected for 2020, 18 require on-the-job training, an associate degree or a postsecondary credential. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition)
- Sixty-seven percent of respondents in a 2011 manufacturing skills gap study indicated that they are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers overall—with 12 percent reporting severe shortages and 55 percent indicating moderate shortages. CTE plays a vital role in helping American business close this gap by building a competitive workforce for the 21st century. (Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute, Boiling Point? The Skills Gap in U.S. Manufacturing, 2011)
- A person with a CTE-related associate degree or credential will earn an average of at least \$4,000 more a year than a person with a humanities associate degree—and those with credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare

can average almost \$20,000 more a year. (Jacobson et al., Pathways to Boosting the Earnings of Low-Income Students by Increasing Their Educational Attainment, 2009)

- According to the state of Washington, for every dollar spent on secondary CTE students, taxpayers will receive \$9 back. (Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, 2011 Workforce Training Results)

(From: https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/What_is_CTE.pdf)

Katrina Thomas, Art

Here we are again, working fast and furiously to get ready for all the spring events that we have in art. We are just about to start fourth quarter and our Twin Lakes Conference Art Contest in Fort Dodge at Iowa Central Decker Auditorium is just around the corner. Students will put their best work from this year out in the Commons for teachers to help vote on the top twelve pieces that will go on to represent Newell-Fonda at contest on March 12th. I firmly believe we have some contenders for Best of Show this year, so I am super excited to show off what our students have done. I will also be posting the entire display to our Facebook page "Newell-Fonda Artists". If you want to stay updated on which pieces make it to contest and how we do, make sure to follow our Facebook page. We will also be posting information soon about our second annual Fine Arts Gala! If you missed our inaugural year, last year, make sure to mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 28th. The event will be open to the public and showcase student accomplishments and awards in all the Newell-Fonda Fine Arts. Refreshments will also be provided!

Lastly, something new and exciting this year for high school art students is that it is now easier to fit art into busy class schedules. If your student is in high school and has been in art before, you may have seen their classes listed as Foundations, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, or Photography. Now, classes are listed as just Art. The nice thing is we have set it up to allow students to still have the opportunity to take a class in the media they are interested in but we do it on an individual basis. So, instead of only having one period when the media they want to take is offered, I can basically have each student in each class doing their own individualized curriculum. Each class has six projects per semester, and I align the project order for each media to follow the same standards no matter what media the students choose to work on. For example, all project ones for every media address National Visual Art Standard 1: CREATING. For each semester, project 1s focuses on techniques to find creative inspiration, use appropriate reference material, and meet copyright compliant expectations in art making. At the beginning of each semester, students choose their media of focus, and then they follow the individualized project progression that gives them ideas and guidelines to meet the standards in their individual area of interest.

So far, it seems like these changes have made it possible for more students to be able to take art. It has been fun to have some larger classes this year. I think more kids in the class, means more eyes on their work, which equals more feedback for them during the process and

during critiques, and ultimately the students produce better work because they are challenging each other. I feel like the projects overall this year are exceeding the norms, and I am excited to keep seeing our program grow.

Lisa Christiansen, Preschool



Preschool Registration for the
2019 - 2020 School Year



Tuesday, April 2, 2019

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

in the Newell-Fonda Preschool Room

This registration is “come and go” and only takes about 10 minutes. Future preschoolers are welcome to attend, but it is not required. There will be an Open House in the fall for them to meet their teacher and see their classroom.

Children must be 4 years old by September 15, 2019
to attend preschool.
