

Spartan Scoop

Who Will Make the World a Better Place? Spartans Will.



Student Arrival Times

A reminder about student drop-off times in the morning. If your child is eating breakfast, he/she may arrive at 7:50 and enter the school building. If your child is not eating breakfast, he/she may arrive at 8:00 and enter the building.

There is an 8:00 arrival bell and an 8:15 tardy bell letting students know they need to be in their classrooms.

And We're Off...

Summer has come and gone, and we have already finished our first few days of school. It is easy to get excited about all of the great things that will be happening at Grundy Center Elementary this year!

One noticeable change is the faces you see in our hallways. Over the summer, we have hired five new teaching positions. New to our hallways are Addi Smith in kindergarten, Melissa Walters in third grade, Miranda Rekers in fourth grade, Geselle Steenhoek in music, and Sherry Rizzuto as the counselor. We are very fortunate to have these individuals join our team at Grundy Center Elementary!

Second grade just keeps getting bigger. Over the summer, we gained six new second grade students causing two large classes to split into three! We now have three sections of every grade inside our walls.

Another great addition for our elementary is the implementation of

the state Teacher Leadership and Compensation System (TLC). Jan Lindeman has stepped away from her third grade classroom to assume the role of Student Achievement Coordinator. That role involves many duties, but specifically addresses student achievement through grade-level Professional Learning Community (PLC) time, general education interventions, and teacher professional development. Jama Johnson has added to her duties the role of mentor teacher. She works with beginning teachers



and those who are new to our school. She implements a variety of supports including the Iowa Teaching Standards and Criteria and beginning teacher Love and Logic training. Title 1 and Reading Recovery teacher, Sue Graham, adds to her day the role of lead teacher. She will be a major support for guided reading and running records implementation with the assistance of AEA 267. We also have Tara Liston, Meghan Norman, and Emily Strohbehn taking on the roles of peer coaches. They will be studying best practices in teaching literacy and possible school-wide positive behavior programs, and bringing those ideas to the team next fall for possible implementation.

I am very happy to announce that we will be continuing our character education program at the elementary. We are going to do this with a little twist this year. Kids Club will involve teachers collaborating with small groups of students for 20 minutes, two times a month. The themes of the meetings will be based on using good character and becoming productive citizens in our community.

Grundy Center Elementary will host a morning of amazing collaboration with teachers, principals, and librarians from all over the state. The second annual Think In 2016 will be on

VIRTUAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Broadway actor, Hayley Podschun, will again be working with students via Skype for the Virtual Artist in Residence program. Our goals are for her to make connections with what students are learning in the classroom and to open their minds to the world outside of Grundy Center along with the fine arts. Last year, Hayley visited Grundy Center Elementary. While it is not yet known if she will be able to visit again, we will keep our fingers crossed!





Football Game Expectations

I am so glad many students are able to attend home Spartan football games. Here are a few reminders for students:

Students may play on the grass to the east of the stands **during halftime only**. Touch football is permitted, but no tackling or piling on other students.

Students should stay seated in the bleachers during the game and not run around.

Be respectful of others. Watch the game and cheer on the Spartans!

Use the restroom and get concessions during quarter and halftime breaks.

Students are not allowed to be under the bleachers.

Students are allowed to sit on the first row of bleachers, but not stand at the railing. Keep the walkways clear.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Saturday, September 17 and will again feature children's book guru Mr. John Schumacher. John is a highly sought after children's book speaker and is the Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic Books. Think In 2016 is a joint effort of Grundy Center, Aplington-Parkersburg, and Gladbrook-Reinbeck Elementary Schools.

We are again celebrating One Book, One Community. The featured book for this year is, The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. Our goal for the program is to emphasize literacy and promote a book both adults and children can read and talk about.

Principal Book Talks will begin this month! I look forward to spending time with all students in each grade level one at a time to promote books through book talks, book trailers, and read alouds. Our first book will be, The Blowfish Book by Jessica Olien.

You can follow some of the latest news of Grundy Center Elementary on Twitter @MrBSammons and on my blog On The Bright Side at MrBSammons.weebly.com Thank you for supporting our school!

Sincerely,

Brian Sammons

