



Hansen Elementary

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Developing caring, responsible, active, self-directed lifelong learners.

Principal's News

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I am confident we will once again have a tremendous school year as we work together to achieve our vision of providing students with exceptional learning experiences!

Through our PLC structure and MTSS framework we are able to meet the individual needs of our Hansen students. We administer consistent common formative assessments and use those results to help guide our instruction. On a daily basis students are given intervention and /or enrichment in both reading and math. Through this process we have created a culture that focuses on each student and each skill.

In addition to ensuring high levels of learning, we intend to make the culture our building extraordinary. We know that in order for our students to achieve at high levels, they must first feel safe and cared for! We do this by living our vision and belief statement of PRIDE as well as providing leadership opportunities through our Hansen ambassador program. We believe that every student has gifts and talents and it is up to us to encourage and support students in their goals!

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year! Thank you for the support you show your children and our school!

Feel free to contact me anytime you have a question or concern! My door is always open!

~Mrs. Tara Estep, Hansen Principal

UPCOMING

DATES

NO SCHOOL PD Day	9/16
Safety City (Kindergarten)	9/20
Farm to School (K-2)	9/23
4th Grade to GBPAC	10/11
PTA Meeting 6:30PM	10/11
Picture Re-Takes	10/13
Halloween Parade	10/28

We have Hansen PRIDE!

Positive

Ready to Learn

Insist on our Best

Dependable & Respectful

Encourage Others



Welcome to our new associate principal, Mrs. Katie Johnston! Mrs. Johnston comes to us from Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools where she spent 8 years as a 1st grade teacher and served the district last year as an Instructional Coach. Mrs. Johnston has been active in Hansen classrooms this school year introducing herself and getting to know students. Mrs. Johnston serves Hansen Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "I'm excited to get to know our Hansen students and families! My door is always open for questions or concerns and I'm always just a phone call or email away!"

Workshop Model Implementation

This year all Cedar Falls elementary teachers are working to implement a new structure for teaching literacy—the workshop model. This approach to teaching literacy allows for short, focused lessons highlighting behaviors of effective readers and writ-

ers. Students then have the opportunity to practice applying these habits in their independent work with support from their teacher.

All teachers are planning their lessons using the units of study designed by Lucy Calkins, a renowned

expert on literacy instruction. Teachers participated in professional development last spring and before school this fall to learn lots of tips and tricks for making the implementation of this model a success!

Hansen SMART Goals

Each year teachers at Hansen develop goals in four areas. These goals must be focused and attainable. The Cedar Falls Community School District uses the acronym SMART.

- S-trategic
- M-easurable
- A-ttainable
- R-esults based
- T-ime specific

We have building goals in the area of Reading, Math, Professional Learning Communities, and Culture. In addition, teachers have grade level goals that support our building goals!

Our culture goal for the 2016—2017 school year is as follows:

By May 2017, 93% of our students will answer that they feel accepted by other students at school all or most of the time as measured by the How I Feel About School Survey.

We plan to achieve this through the promotion of our student leadership program, Hansen Ambassadors. Students will be able to serve as Student Ambassadors to contribute to the activities at Hansen, carry out specific tasks, and demonstrate leadership and Hansen PRIDE!

In addition, we have continued focus on bullying prevention and student acceptance and discuss these things at our daily Morning Meetings. We will continue to build our happy, positive climate!

Farm to School Kick Off

This year Hansen students will once again be participating in the Farm to School program! Twice a year students have the opportunity to sample produce from a local grower and learn about the health benefits of the vegetables they try. To kick off our year students learned

about the different health benefits of tomatoes. Parent volunteers visited our classrooms with samples of cherry tomatoes for students to enjoy. As you can see from the excited students in our photo, the tomatoes were a hit!



Welcome to our new Hansen staff!

We are thrilled to welcome some new faces to our teaching staff at Hansen this year! Please welcome (from left to right): Kathleen Reed (Special Education), Katie Zylstra (2nd Grade), Analise Junker (6th Grade), Sarah Burgart (2nd Grade), Megan Janssen (4th Grade) and Christy Amundson (Kindergarten). Not pictured: Shelley McCumber. These new staff members are excited to serve students and building relationships with our Hansen families!



Instructional Coaches

We are excited to have two instructional coaches working with our Hansen staff this year! Jill Schulte has been working with teachers to implement their new Lucy Calkins units of study and improve their instructional practices overall. She's also been helping teachers gather resources and analyze student reading progress. Joe Carney is our Instructional Technology Coach and works with teachers to help them use technology to improve student learning. To assist teachers in getting to know their classes, Joe has been facilitating "breakout" experiences. During these lessons students work collaboratively to complete a series of challenges. Instructional coaches are part of a statewide initiative to provide more local opportunities for teacher leadership. We're excited to work with Jill and Joe this year to create the best possible learning experience for students!



These Hansen kindergarten students celebrated Arts Education week (September 11-17) by creating masterpieces using crayons, texture plates and oil pastels! Thank you to all of our fine arts teachers for helping Hansen students have engaging, well rounded school experiences!



9/11 Remembrance

Hansen students and staff met on Monday in remembrance of those who were lost on September 11, 2001. In addition, we recognized Constitution Day that falls on September 16th. It was a great chance to talk about our country, citizenship, and Hansen PRIDE. It

was wonderful to hear 600 students singing the National Anthem and saying the Pledge of Allegiance in unison. This was an incredible representation of the tremendous school community that we have here at Hansen!



Hansen Elementary

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District calendar

<http://cfschools.org/>

Stay Connected!



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<https://www.facebook.com/HansenArtRoom>

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@TaraEstep
@k_l_johnston



Website

www.hn.cfschools.org

Attendance

It is critical that students are in attendance and on-time to school. In an effort to support students and parents, CF School District will implement consistent procedures. If a student has a high number of unexcused absences the school district will send home letters regarding the missed days and importance of school and may request a meeting with parents and the county attorney. Look for further information and policy to come home via Friday emails.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Online Fliers

<http://www.cfschools.org/fliers>



PTA News

The second year of Farm to School is in full swing! This program supports our Blue Zone School designation by providing our students with healthy snacks and the opportunity to learn about our local economy, farming, and produce.

This Fall parent volunteers will serve snacks at school from local farmers, so make sure to ask your kids what they think about the cherry tomatoes!

Contact the school if you would like to volunteer or learn more about this awesome program!

Question for PTA? Contact them at:

hansenelempta@gmail.com

Getting Email?

All Hansen families should be receiving a weekly email sent each Friday. If you are not receiving the weekly announcements, please contact the office at 553.2775.



Thanks to Mr. Sliwinski, Mrs. Holt, and Hansen Garden Club for our incredible gardens!

Contact Mrs. Estep

I am happy to talk with you anytime about our school! If you have comments, concerns, or questions please don't hesitate to call, email, or set up an appointment.

319.553.2775

Tara.estep@cfschools.org

