



# Hansen Elementary



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Meet Mrs. Swestka 2
- SMART Goals 2
- Farm to School 2
- New Teachers 3
- Miss Jen's Blog 3
- 9/11 Remembrance 3
- PTA News 4
- Attendance 4
- Social Media 4

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

## Principal's News

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I am thrilled to be starting my eighth year as Hansen Elementary Principal. We have an incredible school and I am confident you will find Hansen to be a caring, safe learning environment where staff are committed to providing your children with exceptional learning opportunities.

Last school year we were presented with the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Award. We were recognized with this prestigious award due to having some of the highest proficiency results in the state based on Iowa Assessments. In addition we received the 2017 Breaking Barriers Award from the Iowa Department of Education. We received this award for having the highest proficiency in the state for students with IEPs. This fall we were recognized as a Niche 2018 Best School in America with a ranking of fourth best elementary in Iowa.

While we take pride in our tradition of excellence at Hansen, we also know in order to continue to achieve our vision of educating all students at high levels, we must work diligently each day to stay on the cutting edge and implement best practice.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about our school. A new issue will be released the 15th of each month and will include information regarding our instructional practices as well as other information that you may find helpful. In an effort to stay green I will send this via email and will be accessible on our Hansen webpage. Please contact our school secretary if you prefer a paper copy and we can accommodate your request.

I wholeheartedly welcome you to another school year! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or comments about our school. Thank you for your support of Hansen!

*Mrs. Tara Estep*

## UPCOMING

### DATES

NO SCHOOL PD Day	9/15
Safety City (Kindergarten)	9/21
Farm to School (3-6)	9/22
Picture Makeup Day	10/6
5th Grade to DSM	10/6
PTA Meeting 6:30PM	10/12
Halloween Parade	10/27

**We have Hansen PRIDE!**  
**Positive**  
**Ready to Learn**  
**Insist on our Best**  
**Dependable & Respectful**  
**Encourage Others**



Welcome to our new associate principal, Mrs. Savannah Swestka! Mrs. Swestka comes to us from Iowa City Community Schools where she has spent the previous 8 years as a special education teacher, kindergarten teacher, special education coordinator, and elementary principal. Mrs. Swestka has been active in Hansen classrooms this school year introducing herself and getting to know students. Mrs. Swestka serves Hansen Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "I'm thrilled to be joining the Hansen family and look forward to working with you and your children! "

# 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-attainable
- R-esults based
- T-ime specific

Hansen's SMART Goals for this school year are as follows:

### Math:

By May of 2018 57% of students will be considered advanced as measured by Iowa Assessments.

### Reading:

By May of 2018 Hansen students will improve their reading fluency from 81.23% meeting benchmark to 83% of students meeting benchmark as measured by the FAST assessment.

### Culture:

By May 2018, 90% (increase from 88%) of our students will answer that Hansen students treat each other with respect all or most of the time as measured by the How I Feel About School Survey.

### Professional Learning Communities:

By May 2018, 97% of teachers will say "Got it" on question 17 of the Critical Issues Survey which reads, "We have taught students the criteria we will use in judging their work and provided them with examples."

## Farm to School!

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. Volunteers visited our classrooms with samples of cherry tomatoes for students to enjoy. Our kids enjoyed red, yellow, and orange watermelon!



# Welcome to our new Hansen staff!

We are thrilled to welcome some new faces to our teaching staff at Hansen this year! Please welcome: Back row L-R: Mr. Swanson (4th); Mrs. Bridges (Music); Miss Franklin (1st); Ms. Vonderhaar (3rd). Front row L-R: Mrs. Wildeboer (2nd/5th support); Miss Doty (4th).

These new staff members are excited to serve students and build relationships with our Hansen families!



## Miss Jen's School Counseling Blog

Miss Jen Alexander serves as Hansen's School Counselor and supports student's social and emotional growth. You can stay up to date on Miss Jen's teaching within the classroom as well as various resources by visiting her blog at the following site:

<https://missiencounselingcorner.blogspot.com/2017/09/water-wings-towel-rubber-ducky-nemo.html>



## 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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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

616 Holmes Drive

Cedar Falls, IA

50613

319.553.2775



### District calendar

<http://cfschools.org/>

## Stay Connected!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[Hansen Elementary](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Hansen-Elementary-1434534303434485/timeline/>

[Art](#)

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

[Twitter](#)

[@TaraEstep](#)



[Website](#)

[www.hn.cfschools.org](http://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

We are excited to announce that we are implementing a Farm to School Snack Program at Hansen! 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.

In the coming weeks, volunteers will be serving snacks at school from local farmers, so make sure to ask your kids what they think about the colored bell peppers!

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](mailto: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.**



**Eventually our goal is that our Hansen Gardens can both support our Farm to School program as well school lunches!**

### 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](mailto:Tara.estep@cfschools.org)

