Principal’s News

Dear parents and guardians, I hope you had a peaceful start to the New Year! This is a time to reflect on our goals, make adjustments toward meeting them and celebrate successes while having fun.

We are having our First Annual Math Carnival on Thursday February 8th from 5:30-7:30PM. Free dinner with fun and games for all ages! We are bringing our community together for a genuinely positive experience with mathematics. There will be games, prizes, free food, and a variety of hands on math experiences! This event is open to students and families of all ages. Interpreters provided. We are excited to show everyone the great things going on at Humboldt!

Pre-register for a prize at: https://tinyurl.com/HumboldtMathCarnival. You do not have to pre-register to attend, but if you do, there will be a special drawing and a ticket bonus as soon as you arrive!

Humboldt is again applying to be a Restorative Practices pilot site within St. Paul Public Schools. Though we didn’t receive the grant last year, morally I must act. I need to intentionally increase our interventions to reduce the suspension rate of our Black, Latino, Native and multi-racial students. This fall we added one full time teacher to assist with improving our student to student, teacher/student/admin to student/teacher/admin. We are intentionally working to improve our culture and it is paying off by reducing out of school time while improving relationships.

As principal, one of my roles is to create pathways for our students which will reap long term rewards. An Associates of Arts degree costs over $7,000 at Century College. Did you know that a student at Humboldt High School can earn their Associates of Arts degree while a Humboldt High School student? Students can take College In the Schools courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and received a 3 or higher on the AP exam and take a two Post-secondary Enrollment Options courses to earn their Associates of Arts degree at Humboldt. Students can become a Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Responder, or earn multiple college credits toward a Welding or IT degree at St. Paul College. When our remodel is completed, students will also be able to get SafeServ certified, to prepare students for hospitality management careers.

We are planning a sampler class for next year’s eighth graders to expose students to our IT, medical, agriculture/welding and culinary pathways. We want to make sure our students take advantage of the opportunities to maximize their earning potential after graduation. Humboldt students can save over $7000 in tuition costs by earning college credits at Humboldt.

Our building remodel is progressing mostly as expected. We have had a delay in receiving the window shipment, therefore we won’t be moving into the new building at spring break. We will take over the entire new building in August. Though the windows have been delayed, workers are still able to compete tasks to remain on schedule.

The snowstorm and resulting school closure on January 23 caused us to reschedule our Winter Wonderland field trips until February 21, 2018. Please sign and return your child’s field trip permission slip by February 14 to ensure a seat on the bus.

We are in the midst of school choice season, so please be you complete an application for any children which will be enrolling from other schools to Humboldt. Students currently enrolled at Humboldt will automatically be re-enrolled at Humboldt next year unless a School Choice application is completed.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing you at our Math Carnival on Thursday February 8 from 5:30-7:30PM to share a meal and have fun with math!

National African American Parent Involvement Day

National African American Parent Involvement Day is Monday, February 12th. Humboldt is excited to invite all our parents to celebrate this event with us by shadowing your student for the day!

There will be special events to honor the day and lunch will be provided for all that are in attendance. We are excited to see you for all or some of the school day on the 12th.

Please reach out to Natalie Kemp with any questions: 651.744.4399
Counseling Corner

All Students
Students will be selecting their classes for next school year very soon. Please be in the lookout for more information to come out regarding the updated course catalog so students know ahead of time what they are selecting for electives courses. Also, be sure to communicate with your child’s current core subject teacher (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) your desires regarding accelerated/advance classes.

Anti Bully Reminders
Throughout Middle School students have continued to be reminded about how to report bullying through communication with staff and adults whether it’s in person, email or our Listening Locker. Furthermore, students have learned more skills on how to stand up against bullies and to advocate and support their friends.

8th Grade
Students learned through an interactive activity why getting a high school diploma matters due to the average income of someone in the state of MN based on their level of education. They learned about the coats of paying bills, job opportunity and steps to be successful in not only high school, but also life in general.

6th Grade
Students learned how to make time to do homework, organize their thoughts and their notes, and how to connect with the appropriate people to get help when needed.

7th Grade
Students learned healthy and calm ways to deal with conflict including speaking to an adult, avoiding posting things on social media and respectful word choice.

Upcoming
Middle School College Visit
We are in the process of setting up our 1st ever Middle School College visit at Century College. The college visit will allow students to experience a college campus, look into college classes and learn about the opportunities and experiences that they can receive in college.

11th grade
Humboldt students will be taking the ACT test on Wednesday, February 27th at the Neighborhood House. Students will be bused there. The ACT test is a test that students need to take to get in to a four year college. All 11th graders in the district are taking the test on this day.

Hello Humboldt Family!
Parents, why wait for conferences to learn about your child’s progress? Everything you need is found in Schoology. You can look up student grades, homework, and class information using the Schoology app or schoology.spps.org website. If going to another app or website does not interest you, then have a daily or weekly digest emailed to you. Information about your user name and password to Schoology can be found on our homepage or you can call the school office.
We are spending a lot of time this school year fixing keyboards and iPad screens. Please remind your child to have their keyboard connected to the iPad because that is how it stays protected. The keys may fall off the keyboard or the screen will break from not being protected in their backpack.
Thank you and encourage your child to be safe when using technology!

Marc Patton
Humboldt iPad Manager

Tech News

8th Grade
Students learned through an interactive activity why getting a high school diploma matters due to the average income of someone in the state of MN based on their level of education. They learned about the coats of paying bills, job opportunity and steps to be successful in not only high school, but also life in general.

6th Grade
Students learned how to make time to do homework, organize their thoughts and their notes, and how to connect with the appropriate people to get help when needed.

7th Grade
Students learned healthy and calm ways to deal with conflict including speaking to an adult, avoiding posting things on social media and respectful word choice.

Upcoming
Middle School College Visit
We are in the process of setting up our 1st ever Middle School College visit at Century College. The college visit will allow students to experience a college campus, look into college classes and learn about the opportunities and experiences that they can receive in college.

11th grade
Humboldt students will be taking the ACT test on Wednesday, February 27th at the Neighborhood House. Students will be bused there. The ACT test is a test that students need to take to get in to a four year college. All 11th graders in the district are taking the test on this day.

Hello Humboldt Family!
Parents, why wait for conferences to learn about your child’s progress? Everything you need is found in Schoology. You can look up student grades, homework, and class information using the Schoology app or schoology.spps.org website. If going to another app or website does not interest you, then have a daily or weekly digest emailed to you. Information about your user name and password to Schoology can be found on our homepage or you can call the school office.
We are spending a lot of time this school year fixing keyboards and iPad screens. Please remind your child to have their keyboard connected to the iPad because that is how it stays protected. The keys may fall off the keyboard or the screen will break from not being protected in their backpack.
Thank you and encourage your child to be safe when using technology!

Marc Patton
Humboldt iPad Manager
Sports Corner

Humboldt held a wrestling parent night when they played Como on Thursday, January 24. The Humboldt wrestling team won the match 36-33.

Mr. Huhner, high school math teacher, noted that, “our Hawk wrestlers were gentlemanly and gracious the whole time; whether they won or lost their individual match, they were respectful of their opponents before and after the result. It takes a big person to not gloat or celebrate in front of an opponent whom you just beat, and an even bigger person to genuinely congratulate an opponent who just beat you. I was really, really impressed. Once again, I was reminded of how awesome our kids are, especially when on the bigger stage. Congrats to Brad, the whole coaching staff, and all the wrestlers themselves on a great night.”

Mr. Novachek, our wrestling coach, would like to thank some of our staff members who represented families of our student-athletes at our wrestling family night. “Big thanks to Ray Gonzalez, TJ Austin, Andrew Lor, Dan Liljedahl, and Dave Mer gens for being there for our kids. It meant the world to them.”

We would also like to thank Ms. Nthole and the Humboldt Future Farmers of America (FFA) for creating and providing the carnations for wrestling parents.

How To Report Absences

Attendance Line
651-744-5533
Parents/guardians needs to send a written note with child stating the reason for the absence.

Please Keep In Mind:
Since September, families have been receiving Tardy Alert letters about your child. If your child has 5 or more combined tardies to school, a tardy letter will be mailed home. Please continue to encourage your child/ren to be on time to school and class to avoid letters and truancy action.

We’ve had a lot of freezing temps and snow this winter. However, students are expected to attend school every day and on time unless the district declares a snow day or cold weather day closure. You can access school closures on the spps.org website. Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date with the school to receive notifications regarding school closures.

Student Choice in our Middle School Libraries

SPPS Middle School Libraries were awarded a grant for $6,125 each to buy new books for their libraries. The catch? We cannot spend a penny of that money without the help of our students!

Students in grades 6-8 will choose books for the library after reading and writing a review to post in Destiny, our library catalog system, (mylibrary.spps.org).

For every review a student writes, they can pick out a new book for our school library AND be the first one to read it AND a name plate will be put in the front of each book with the name of the student who chose it.

Please encourage your middle school students to take advantage of this great opportunity!
Compas’ Artist in Residence Program

Last year, Ms. Behnke’s students worked with poet Frank Sentwali through Compas’ Artist in residence Program. This is the third year we were able to offer this amazing experience to students here at Humboldt: the first two years from grants Ms. Behnke wrote and this past year from funds allocated by Principal Sodomka to our ELA Department.

For the third year in a row, we had writers from our residency published in Compas’ annual anthology of student writing. And, for the second year in a row, one of our writers won scholarship money as a result of their writing.

Please congratulate the following three winners when you see them:

Kathy Yang “I Wish” a spoken word poem about her grandfather’s passing (now grade 12, piece from grade 11).

Lay Lay “The Roots Within Us” - a touching spoken word piece about where we come from (now grade 9, piece from grade 8, winner of The Lilian Wright Award for creative writing for Grade 8/scholarship award).

Htoo Eh Say “Ruined Childhood” a spoken word piece highlighting the difficulties of being a teen (now grade 9, piece from grade 8).

Kathy also represented Humboldt at Compas’ annual student awards banquet where she performed her piece.

Thank you for your continued support of our amazing Humboldt writers. Hopefully, we will be able to bring this kind of high-quality experience back to Humboldt this year.

Link Crew Update

Link Crew leader, Morgan Behnke, represented Humboldt and Saint Paul Public Schools at the State Capitol for the “Speak Your Mind: Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Model Assembly Session January 4-7. Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) is a youth development program emphasizing the Y’s four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Morgan’s proposal did not pass the lower subcommittees at the State Capitol, but she was actively involved in the governmental processes working with student delegates from across the state for the three days of the program. Thank you for positively representing Humboldt and our student leadership programs, Morgan.