

The Titan Way

Issue # 1

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Middle School and High School Information & Important Dates

With the new start time comes adjustment. Student at the middle school and high school now have to be ready 5 minutes earlier than last year. So far this year we have had a smooth transition into the change. Most students are here before that time anyways.

Elementary Spotlight

This year the Elementary tried something new on the first day of school. They took part in an “In-take Day”, which is a full day open house where students and parents can come in and get comfortable with their classroom. This was an opportunity to take care of any needed paperwork. According to the elementary staff, this was a great experience and was very well attended.

Teacher Spotlight



Marc Benedict is in his 32nd year of teaching. He enjoys performing in and directing Community Theater, gardening, and doing research science. He also enjoys supporting teachers in all aspects of their teaching. Mr. B. has been married to Sofia Benedict for 26 years and has a son, Zach, who is in grad school Majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State.

Map Testing will begin next week with the **High School** starting on Thursday, September 8th & Friday, September 9th. **Testing Schedule:**
Thursday (9/8): 8:20- 11:04 Reading and Language
Friday (9/9): 8:20- 10:30 Math and Science

Middle School will start on Tuesday, September 13th & Wednesday, September 14th. **Testing Schedule:**
Tuesday (9/13): 8:20- 11:04 Reading and Language



Titan Athletics

With the new school year comes the start of the fall athletic season. Both the Volleyball and Football teams have already been in full swing. So far this season the Titan Volleyball has had matches against: Newell-Fonda, Southeast Valley, South Central Calhoun, and Storm Lake St. Mary's. Despite their record, the girls are working extremely hard to improve in every area. With only 1 Senior on the team, this team is very close and has the desire to get better. Their next home match is in Graettinger on September 8th at 7pm.

The Titan football team played their first game on August 26th vs. 10th Ranked Glidden-Rolston, winning 52-12. The Titans came out right away with something to prove. After losing a lot of talented seniors the Titans had a lot of holes to fill this past off-season. They seemed to fill those holes on Friday night. This group of kids knows that they have to work hard for their goals.

Friday September 2nd the football team traveled to Northwood for their game. Despite roughly a 2 hour drive, the Titans come out on fire again, winning 38-14.

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TITAN LIFE

This last week the high school students had a chance to participate in an in-depth college/career/financial-literacy event to better prepare students for life after high school.

Freshmen focused on becoming successful students and translating those habits into employable skills. They filled out applications, created resumes and cover letters, and then participated in two mock interviews with professionals from area businesses. They were also able to tour two local businesses here in Graettinger. The highlights from touring EPS and Shavers included seeing teamwork in real life and understanding how they will really use Geometry in the workplace.

Sophomores toured businesses throughout the Iowa Great Lakes Corridor and Spencer, including the Spencer Hospital, TecTon Industries, and Pearson Lakes Art Center. Highlights included seeing the new Spencer Birth Center, machines that build things for NASCAR, and art produced by Ruthven-Ayrshire Alum Danielle Clouse. Students were shown that taking risks is important and thinking outside the box is a necessity. The sophomores also listened to two sessions of career panels, participated in mock interviews, and updated cover letters and resumes.

Juniors toured businesses in Emmetsburg and Algona, including POET, SBEMCO, and American Power Inc. Students really enjoyed the two personality and leadership workshops presented by Iowa Lakes. After their career panel, they reflected on how everything fit together and how to search for colleges that would best prepare them for careers they would enjoy.

Seniors had their first taste of personal job shadows at businesses that fit their career inventories. These took place in Emmetsburg, Estherville, Algona, Graettinger, and Spencer. Highlights included students participating in surgeries at veterinary clinics, shadowing nurses at local hospitals, and seeing what accountants really do. They also participated in a financial simulation coordinated by Hamilton called The Game of Life. Students realized that it is expensive being an adult and that it really is important to start saving now because surprise expenses pop up from time to time.

TLC: (Teacher Leadership and Compensation Program)

The Graettinger-Terril and Ruthven-Ayrshire School Districts have joined all school districts throughout the State of Iowa in the Teacher Leadership and Compensation Program (TLC). The TLC is funded through a state grant. Teacher leaders will take on the responsibilities of helping colleagues analyze data and improve student learning through coaching, co-teaching, and professional development.

Members of the Graettinger-Terril and Ruthven-Ayrshire leadership team have attended training brought to us by the National Institute for Excellence in Education. Team members include Becky Masters, Diane Benjamin, Marc Benedict, Nicole Jungers, Amy Sikora, Stefanie Kirk, and Corey Boe. The administration team for GT-RA of Andrew Woiwood, Jeremy Simington, Chris Myers, and Jon Josephson will guide the TLC and give input and support as needed.

Becky Masters will fill the Master Teacher role. Becky has been employed with the Graettinger-Terril District for 34 years. The Master Teacher is released from the classroom to plan, research, interpret data, and observe classroom strategies in the Graettinger-Terril and Ruthven-Ayrshire School Districts. Mentor Teachers will be practicing strategies and coaching teachers to help improve student achievement. The Mentor Teacher in the Graettinger-Terril Elementary building will be Diane Benjamin. Diane has been in education for 20 years. Nicole Jungers and Marc Benedict will be the mentor teachers in the Graettinger-Terril Middle School and High School building. Nicole has taught 2nd grade and MS Language Arts in the Graettinger-Terril Schools. Marc has taught Middle School and High School Science for 32 years. The Mentor Teachers in the Ruthven-Ayrshire building are Amy Sikora and Stefanie Kirk. Amy has been in education for 25 years. Stefanie has been in education for 17 years. Both Amy and Stefanie are also adjunct professors at Buena Vista University. Corey Boe will be the Technology Integrationist for both the G-T and R-A districts. Corey is entering his 9th year in education. He will be assisting teachers in integrating technology into their classrooms.