

AC/GC Newsletter

December 2020



Superintendent's Update

SBL & G

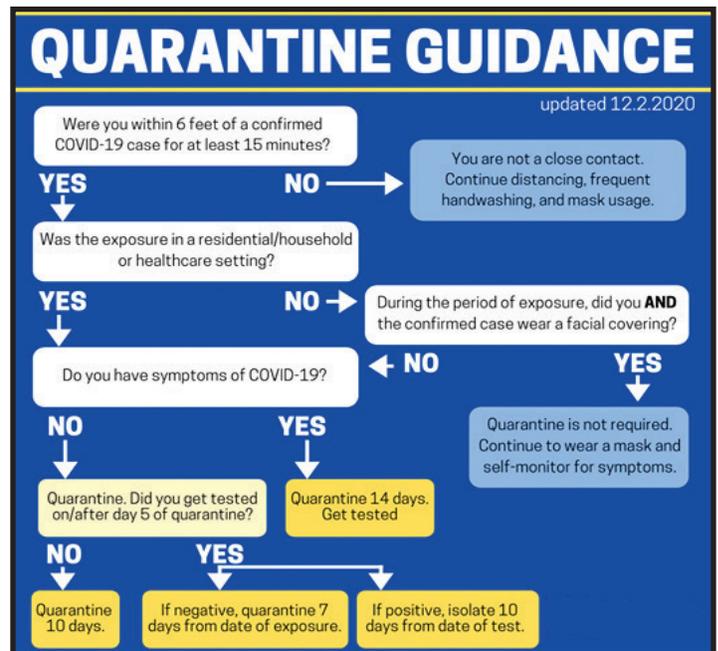
We feel that the most important aspect of grading is feedback (for students and parents) and SBL&G (Standards-Based Learning & Grading) provides the clearest means of communicating what our students know and can do. Our goals associated with our study and implementation of SBL&G are three-fold:

- Provide better feedback to teachers, students, and parents
- Provide guidance for teachers and students regarding content and activities
- Provide consistency between teachers

There are some significant mindshifts associated with changing from traditional grading to SBL&G. The most significant change is moving away from an accumulation of points. Instead, the focus is on mastery of standards and concepts. Teachers and students know the learning targets and instruction revolves around mastering those targets. As a result, averaging grades is more restricted. Students have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery. If you have questions about your student's grades or the teacher's grading procedure, please contact the teacher.

COVID-19 Update

Our two-day remote learning experience went very well. Thanks to our students for prioritizing their learning and participating in the Zoom and Google Meets hosted by teachers. Thanks to parents who reinforced and supported their children's attendance. Thanks also for providing our teachers and administrators with feedback specific to your family's experience with remote learning. IF we need to institute



remote learning in the future, we will be able to provide a better experience for all. Finally, special thanks to our teachers and staff. Our remote learning went so well because teachers and students had practiced how they would meet and access information online during remote learning.

The CDC has issued new quarantine guidance. Anyone that has a close contact with someone (within 6 feet) without a mask will need to complete only 10 days of quarantine instead of 14. Those that have done 10 days of quarantine may return to school. **ALL PERSONS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A POSITIVE NEED TO MONITOR SYMPTOMS FOR 14 DAYS REGARDLESS OF QUARANTINE PERIOD. IF THEY BECOME SICK THEY SHOULD NOT COME TO SCHOOL OR GO TO WORK. IF THEY BECOME SICK DURING SCHOOL OR WORK, THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY GO HOME.**

The masking guidance is still in effect meaning that

Counselor's Corner

School Counseling Department Update

The ACGC School Counselors have been meeting every other week collaborating on a variety of topics. We regularly discuss the school counseling expectations set forth by the American School Counseling Association and are working to develop a comprehensive K-12 curriculum to help all students reach their full potential.

In September, the school counselors worked together and developed a district-wide protocol for responding to suicidal ideations by students. Threats of suicide or self-harm will always be taken seriously. We have a process in place to screen students and get them the help that they need.

October was National Bullying Awareness Month. The school counselors regularly met to discuss ways to educate students on how to recognize bullying, ways to handle bullying, and how to seek out help if they are a target of bullying. "Unity Day," a national awareness day, was October 21st. The school counselors created activities and encouraged students to wear orange to remind them of the importance of inclusion.

Another big event in October was Red Ribbon Week, which always occurs during the last full week in October. A variety of activities were available throughout the week to help remind students of the importance of staying safe and drug free. Drug awareness was further emphasized with fun dress-up days throughout the week.

In November, the school counselors continued to implement district-wide activities, including World Kindness Day, when students discussed how to be kind and include others. On Veteran's Day, local veterans were honored with a parade through Guthrie Center and around both schools. The high school also viewed a slideshow about the history, purpose, and importance of this special day. The high school and the GC Elementary teamed up to gather toys and food for Guthrie County's New Opportunities. The collection of toys and food will benefit many families in the upcoming holiday season.

December and January are looking to be equally packed full of new and exciting school counselor-led

initiatives, including the importance of volunteering, mentoring, and organization. Our school counselors offer programming for all students, to help them develop to the best of their abilities and be responsible members of our community.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future district-wide activities, please contact Sarah Nott at the AC Campus, Thad Tussey at the high school, or Jayne Rouse at the GC Elementary. We are looking forward to continued collaboration in the months ahead.

Helpful Hints from the Technology Department Free Online Study Resources

Moving from high school to college can bring with it a number of challenges. Not only do you need to apply yourself in acquiring the knowledge and skills your school is offering, but you need to refine your study habits to make sure you get the most out of your time. Students now have a wealth of resources on the internet that can be accessed from the comfort of their device. These resources help in everything from improving time management to producing study materials. Whether it's time management, digital flashcards, self-made quizzes, study games, or other educational tools, these sites and apps can help students of any age get ready for upcoming tests, all for the low price of absolutely free.

<https://www.goconqr.com/>

GoConqr is a great online tool that allows students to create different study aids, including mind maps, flashcards, quizzes, study planner, a collaboration tool, and a way to track how much you're learning. You can also access over 3 million crowd sourced resources so you can take advantage of what other students are making too.

<https://quizlet.com/>

Another tool for creating quizzes, flashcards and the like, Quizlet is used for learning of all ages and is suitable for just about anyone. The games in particular are a novel and creative way to help you hone your skills and thoroughly learn a subject.

Technology Hints/See Page 3

<https://evernote.com/>

Studying can sometimes cover several different platforms, but with Evernote, all of your notes, information, and research can be together in one place. It allows you to make notes and access them on various devices wherever you are, but also allows other people to edit and add their own notes, which is great for group study sessions.

<https://www.studyblue.com/>

StudyBlue connects students through similar learning goals and subjects, allowing them to share and access flashcards, study guides, and more. StudyBlue can even connect students in specific classes, letting them message each other and collaborate on projects. It has an attractive, simple-to-use interface across various devices with over a massive 350 million user-generated digital study aids to use.

<http://www.marinaratimer.com/>

this site is dedicated to increasing productivity. Inspired by the Pomodoro method of productivity—working for 25 minutes and then taking a 5-minute break, with a 15 minute break after an hour. It does, however, allow you to make a custom timer to fit how you want to work.

<https://www.studystack.com/>

StudyStack allows users to create flashcard sets and use what others have already made. Categories for flashcards include geography, business, medical, math, history, languages, science, and more. You can even create your own customized cards.

<http://schooltraq.com/p/home/>

Organization is often key to succeeding in formal learning environments like college, and this site allows you to utilize a digital planner to ensure that you stay up on essential due dates. An alternative to the traditional paper agenda, this site ensures you never lose your schedule as it syncs up between your phone and computer.

<https://www.grammarly.com/>

Writing doesn't come naturally to all of us, but it's a necessary part of studying. If your writing can do with a bit of assistance, Grammarly can help make sure that your studying and resulting work are correct. The add-on for browsers is easy to use and will help correct your writing, teaching you where your work can be improved.

<https://www.hippocampus.org/>

If visual stimuli help you approach your study time

better, then Hippocampus may be for you. It's a free website that has around 6,000 pieces of multimedia content across various subjects, including maths, sciences and humanities.

<https://tinycards.duolingo.com/>

Want to study easier on the go or whenever you have a free moment? The Tinycards app by Duolingo has an extremely wide variety of available flashcards, from the periodic table to Greek philosophers to animals in Antarctica. And since it's by Duolingo, there are also tons of flashcards dedicated to different languages.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Khan Academy is an option for those who want to study and learn more outside the classroom. This free resource presents you with class options tailored to your education level and interests. You can find information on basic geometry, electrical engineering, organic chemistry, microeconomics, personal finance, and more.

<https://www.udemy.com/>

Udemy is a resource where you can find courses on various topics to increase your learning. These are proper, paid-for courses, so you might have to try and squeeze them around your studies or you could try and find courses during your holidays. A great way of furthering your knowledge or trying something new.

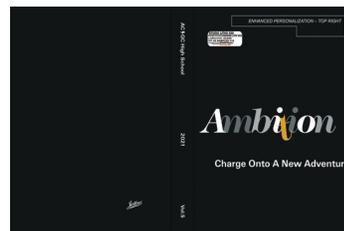
<http://howtostudy.org/>

This website gives you information on the best ways to study for a particular subject, whether that's mind mapping, lists, visual learning, etc. It also has a number of study guides and advice across various learning topics.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Gutenberg offers over 50,000 ebooks free to download. This includes some all-time classics, including works by famous authors such as Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and Oscar Wilde.

2021 Yearbooks



Available now at www.jostensyearbooks.com
or by contacting Mr. Coop at AC/GC High
School. Only \$55 until Feb. 19, 2021!

Superintendent's Update/Continued from Page 1

if both parties are wearing a mask they will not need to be quarantined. The 10-day isolation period for all positive cases is still also in effect.

Governor Reynolds reported that Iowa will soon begin receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Medical professionals will be the first to receive the vaccines, followed by long-term facility residents and staff. While universal availability is still a ways off, limited availability of a vaccine is a great step forward. Please continue to follow mitigations steps: Wash your hands often; wear a mask any time you are within six feet of persons not in your household; and socially distance yourself from others whenever possible.

Fitness Facility

Construction continues to progress on the new fitness facility. The outer structure is nearly complete and new signage will arrive next week. We were hopeful to begin the new year in our new facility. Unfortunately, the project will not be completed by month's end. We are still waiting for the elevator to arrive (mid-January) and need to complete the interior mechanical and electrical work. The new completion date is estimated to be mid-February.

We appreciate those of you who have purchased the old equipment. We had hoped for you to take delivery after the new year. However, we will need to hang onto it a little longer so that our student athletes can continue to work out until the fitness facility is completed. Thank you for your patience and support.

Subs Needed

Across the state, school districts are always in need of substitute teachers and bus drivers. With COVID concerns this year, we are having an even tougher time finding subs. Governor Reynolds has provided temporary options to allow more individuals to substitute teach including, 20+-year olds with college experience, student teachers, recent college grads, and recently retired educators. For more information, call me at school at (641) 332-2972 or (641) 746-2241 or visit the following link: <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/Substitute%20Information%207%20Oct%2C%202020.pdf>



Guthrie Center Elementary



Students, staff donate toys and food to bring Holiday Cheer

The AC/GC High School and the Guthrie Center Elementary hosted their annual Betty Williamson Holiday Toy and Food Drive Nov. 9 - Dec. 1. All donated items were delivered to Guthrie County's New Opportunities, Inc. to help put a smile on faces of families that are in need this holiday season!



AC/GC Junior High

5th Annual AC/GC Christmas Tree Ornament Order Form



The AC/GC Junior High Student Council will be selling AC/GC Christmas Tree Ornaments. The limited-edition keepsake metal ornaments will be painted by the Student Council members marking the 5th year of AC/GC! The money raised will be used to help fund community projects and social activities for our students. The cost is \$15.00. Payment is due with your order. Orders will be taken until December 14, with a delivery date of December 22. Please email Mrs. Ruhland at aruhland@acgcschools.org with any questions. Thanks so much for your support and Merry Christmas!

Limited Edition AC/GC Christmas Tree Ornament Order Form

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of ornaments ordered (\$15.00 each): _____

Deliver to: A-C Elementary GC Elementary AC/GC Junior High AC/GC High School

Paid by: Cash or Check Check # _____

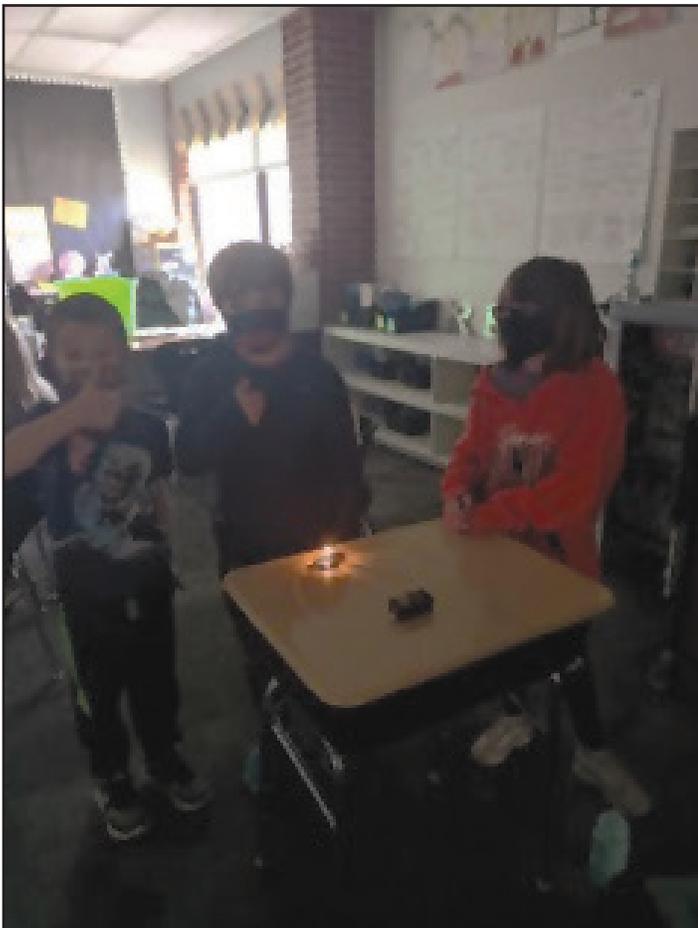
Please make checks payable to: Adair-Casey Schools Orders Due December 14.

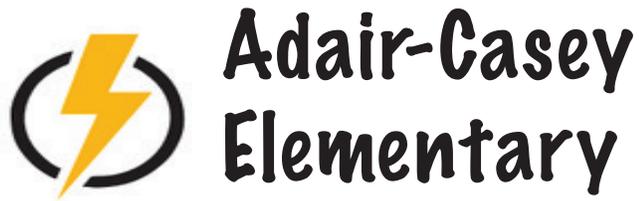


Adair-Casey Elementary

STEM in our Fourth Grade Classroom

The fourth grade students at Adair-Casey Elementary are enjoying learning more about the scientific process this year. They are using hands-on materials to explore the concept of energy. They learned that the starting height of an object affects its energy. The higher the starting position, the faster an object will move downward. They also created a model to describe how electric currents flow in circuits. The students enjoyed seeing their lights glow and their buzzer systems work in these closed circuits. An additional fun activity for the students was to explore the engineering process using balsa wood airplanes. They designed and tested their airplanes. They evaluated their success and engineered a new design to test again. The students will continue to learn about Human uses of energy this semester.





Adair-Casey Online Scholastic Book Fair

By MEGAN FARNSWORTH
Adair-Casey Media Specialist

Thank you, families, for supporting the Adair-Casey Elementary Scholastic Book Fair. The purchases from the fair will enable many books to be added to the elementary and junior high libraries. Some of the new titles include *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End*, *Cat Kid Comic Club*, and *I Survived the California Wildfires, 2018*.

The staff would also like to thank the AC/GC Booster Club for their generous donation for the teachers. Many books were purchased for classroom libraries as well as multiple copies of titles for use with literature circles and reading groups.

The online fair was a new experience, and I hope that we will be able to hold our annual in-person Buy One, Get One fair this spring.

**Have a story idea?
Let us know!**



Email us at acgcnewsletter@acgcschools.org



DeWitt named to Honor Band

Allie DeWitt, AC/GC 7th Grader, was selected to participate in the 2020 Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band.

She will perform in concert with students from across Southwest Iowa in Council Bluffs in March 2021.



New AC/GC Staff

Lensch takes reins as new HS principal

By OWEN DINKLA
Staff Reporter

When thinking of school, many people think of their favorite teacher, principal or other adult that helped them. For the students at AC/GC High School, a new face has taken the position of principal.

When the position of principal opened up Ethan Lensch was right there to take the job. The former athletic director he was willing to sit down with and answer a few questions.

“You have to be a learner first,” Lensch said.

He loves to learn and reads constantly and wants to give that impression to every student here. Lensch said several reasons weighed in on his decision to take the position.

“My cause for accepting the principal job was that I saw the value in being a principal and administration. I also always wanted to be a principal as a kid.”

“Interacting with the other teachers and the students is the most rewarding part” he said.



New teacher inspires students

By OWEN DINKLA
Staff Reporter

Teachers influence us all. We all have someone to look up to, but in the case of Shelby Betz her teachers are the reason she wants to teach.

The new seventh grade teacher wanted to find a small school, but not too small. She looked at the AC/GC schools website and found all the qualities she was looking for. She described her qualities as someone who could change the schedule on

short notice and can be flexible. “I have leadership qualities such as I am able to make a plan and figure out how I am going to do that plan with all of my students for each day/class.”

Her teachers when she was in school is what inspired her to be a teacher. She said she has had some great teachers and some that were not so great. “Those great teachers made me want to be like them and help other students and the not so great teachers made me want to do better than them and be a good teacher for students.”

“The hardest part of my job is making sure all students have a place they can learn, and making sure all students are learning and understanding the class instead of goofing off.” She said when asked what the hardest part of her job is.

Betz previously taught at Woodward Academy for a few months before deciding to come teach at AC/GC Junior High.

“My favorite part of my job is when we get to have fun while learning.” She said when she was asked about her favorite part about her job.

Betz wants to be the teacher that students can look up to just like her teachers were.





Senior Spotlight

Kading makes impact during time at AC/GC HS

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Eli Kading is one of the several seniors at AC/GC and this is his time to be in our senior spotlight. The Sports and activities he is in are cross country, basketball, golf, baseball, FFA, FCCLA, Academic Team, Student Council, and Speech. Eli also lifts weights at the AC/GC Strength and Conditioning program in the morning. When I had asked Eli what one of his favorite parts of the year has been so far he had said that he had really enjoyed doing cross country this year with Coaches Colin Shawgo and Jacob Lacey. When I asked him what his most memorable moment throughout his



entire time in highschool he had said “Probably all the moments I’ve had throughout my basketball career. I will never forget them”

He is not sure what he wants to do for an occupation when he is out of high school quite yet. When I asked Eli what he will miss the most when he is out of highschool he had said “One thing I will miss is the relationships I’ve created with so many people. I don’t know how many of them will last when we all go our separate directions.”

In the near future he said that he can see himself in college as for the distant future he isn’t quite sure what he wants to do for a job when he is done with college he had said “In the near future, I see myself in college, and I don’t know about the distant future I’m just going to see where life takes me.”

The names of his parents are Megan and Lance Kading. His advice for younger people coming into highschool is to “do anything you can to stress yourself out as little as possible because life will go on no matter what.” He says his senior year has gone great so far and he is really enjoying his last year here.

Andersen plans future in education

By KYLIE CHANDLER
Black&Gold Editor

Jenna Andersen is in her senior year and looking toward the future. The daughter of Lynn Andersen and Jeremy Andersen, Jenna is working hard so she can go to the University of Iowa on her way to becoming an elementary teacher.

She is very ambitious and is involved with many activities, such as FCCLA, Leo Club, Science Club, volleyball, basketball, track, and softball. She enjoys her high school life, busy as it is.

“My favorite memory is making it to the International Science Engineering Fair as an observer when I was a freshman,” Anderson stated.

She is very optimistic about the year but stated that there have been a couple of struggles like not get-

ting the full “senior experience” or not being able to enjoy the little things in school like group projects and talking to friends. She continues to say that even though she hasn’t been able to enjoy the full traditional experience, “we have got a lot more freedoms than the past years.” One freedom has been open campus lunch. When asked what her favorite quote was, Anderson said, “Live life to the fullest because you only get to live it once,” which is by Maddi Jenkins. This quote was inspired by the Covid pandemic since there have been changes in our everyday lives compared to her junior year.

Her advice to underclassmen was, “Enjoy your high school career because it goes by fast and step out of your comfort zone because high school is a once in a lifetime experience.”



AC/GC High School

New Charger club an Iowa first

By KYLIE CHANDLER
Black & Gold Editor

New school year and a new group to join the mix at ACGC High School. This year we have a new club joining the mix called the Neuroscience Club. This club may seem like not a big deal but it is quite opposite. This club is the only one in Iowa and even the only one in the Upper Midwest region. Even though this club is brand new they do presentations weekly about discoveries and projects that are getting worked on at a national level. They also do some labs that go along with what they are talking about.

This club's adviser Alexa Groff says, "It's mostly student led and that I just supervise for the most part."

Club President Justin Reinhart says that he likes having the responsibility of making the presentation and stated that since this is a new group that they haven't talked much about events or fundraisers. Reinhart states that these meetings are held at 7:45 on Friday morning and that anybody is welcome to come in and learn or to join the club.

"We have a lot of fun and enjoy learning new things in the world of neuroscience," Reinhart says when asked



how things are going in the club so far.

Officers of this club include Vice President Taylor Carlson, Secretary Sydney Noland, and Treasurer Kelsey Carlson. The other members of the club are Jill Stevenson, Cara Caltrider, Audrey Franzen, EmmaKay McClain, Alaina Bunde, and Haley Cose as of right now. This year may be weird, but they are moving forward and making it the best year they can.

Charger FFA Takes On Chicken Project

By EASTON STRINGHAM
Staff Reporter

Whenever you think about FFA you always think about animals. When you think of farm animals you think of a chicken. Well for AC/GC High School the Ag classes decided to build a chicken coop. Ag Teacher Jim Calvert states, "That it is a chance for students to use their hands and use teamwork to get the project painted and completed and take care of the chickens." The woodworking class installed the roof, built the frame, cut boards, installed a door, installed windows

and built the wall. The ag students have painted the chicken coop like a barn to make it more appealing to the eye.

The chicken coop will be used to keep broilers (a chicken that is raised strictly for its meat) and sell them eventually when they are big enough. The ag class has raised the chickens since they were eggs in the incubator. The ag students have since then moved them out to the greenhouse until the coop is completed. Some students will be doing science projects on the chickens so they have a project for the science fair. The class hopes they can do more projects like this in the future.