

NOV.  
2019



# SCENE 415

A newsletter for the patrons of Hiawatha Schools.



*Reading Teacher Stacie Newell works with kindergarten students.*

## Students get targeted support through new W.I.N. program

Every day, teachers work hard to differentiate instruction for each lesson for their students, but, in spite of their best efforts, gaps can form – as not every student learns concepts the same way.

“Especially in elementary school, developing a solid foundation is as vital to constructing future learning for students as a building’s strong foundation is to its structure,” said Paul Carver, Hiawatha Elementary School (HES) principal. “A challenge for educators is that students are unique in both their strengths and where those gaps may have formed.”

Because of this, HES started W.I.N. (What I Need) Time, where teachers develop those missing skills specific to what each child needs. While an endearing name, this is a focused and dedicated time where students are sorted into groups, based on which skills have been identified for targeted instruction.

“W.I.N. Time is specifically designed to meet the needs of all students,” said Stacie Newell, HES reading teacher. “Each student has an opportunity to learn and grow at their own pace. Teachers and staff collaborate with each other to facilitate these opportunities. HES is just at the beginning stages of this process. As a building, we are very excited to see the progress of our students and staff, as we continue with our journey.”

As part of the process, W.I.N. screeners are conducted three times a year in the fall, winter and spring – to serve as a “dipstick” in time and provide a longitudinal method in which data is collected. Students’ scores are analyzed by a team of teachers, interventionists, special education teachers and administrators to gain perspective on which students show a greater need in reading and/or math, Carver said.

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## A LOOK INSIDE

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## Superintendent's message

Autumn has arrived in Hiawatha! As we enjoy the beautiful fall foliage, I want to highlight some important work being done in our district.

In my first message, I shared details regarding USD 415's Board goals. In this issue, I am highlighting "Student Learning and Success." Naturally, this is our district's number one goal. It spans the entirety of the PreK-12 learning experience and addresses comprehensive development and the opportunity to learn. The indicators for this goal are future readiness, kindergarten readiness, instructional quality and equity, and whole child development.

As part of this, last year, Hiawatha Elementary School started a public preschool program for 4-year-olds. It might surprise some to know that our students begin their K-12 learning career with a wide variance in experiences, skills and overall readiness – and there are often huge differences in development and readiness to learn. Our new program is designed to enable more kindergarteners to enter our system prepared to be successful.

USD 415 schools also helped our seventh- through 12th-grade students prepare for their futures by developing individual plans of study. Each student's plan promotes career awareness, exploration of related learning activities and development of a pathway.

Our district is also developing partnerships with local businesses and entities to provide job-shadowing and internship opportunities. Each school also is engaged in whole child development through character education and social-emotional learning to help students develop self-regulation and soft skills, which promote growth and academic success.

As you may recall, the lead story of the last issue of *Scene 415* focused on teachers learning new strategies to help struggling readers. This is aligned to our tiered-support programming that focuses on skill development, so all students have access to required learning. Our schools now utilize a universal screener to help our teachers pinpoint skills, strengths and deficits for each student and to customize interventions for students demonstrating needs.

For USD 415, the goal of "Student Learning and Success" begins prior to kindergarten and is about meeting each student's academic and social needs – and intervening when the student struggles. And it is about ensuring each student is future ready and is Red Hawk Ready.

Lonnie Moser  
Superintendent



## Revived Business Roundtable creates opportunities

A year ago, Hiawatha School District USD 415 leadership felt like it was missing out on a crucial opportunity for the district – the chance to connect students with the local business community.

In an effort to reengage these businesses and form partnerships with them, the district decided to revive an old committee – the Business Roundtable – with membership from district administration, career and technical education teachers, and a dozen business and industry leaders. Once the committee was reformed, Roundtable members set the group's purpose and goals.

The Business Roundtable now meets quarterly with the mission to help provide students with the skills necessary to be productive adults, said Lonnie Moser, USD 415 superintendent.

"To assure this mission is accomplished, the Roundtable members work with students, teachers, fellow members of the business community, and the Hiawatha USD 415 Board of Education and administration to promote a partnership that fosters community support for the development of our

youth," he said. "This mission aligns with the district's Community Engagement goal. That goal speaks to fostering community partnerships for the benefit of students and our community partners."

One member of the Business Roundtable, Andy Pederson, has seen firsthand the benefits of such a partnership for USD 415 students.

"Students completing internships with Pederson Feed have been able to learn the basic skills related to a local agronomy career," said Pederson, the company's owner-operator. "They've learned computer software application and have been able to work on projects from start to completion. Exposing our students to opportunities in our community in various fields is critical not only for our students but for Hiawatha."

Moser agreed the collaboration among the Roundtable members is guiding students toward paths of success.

"Recreating this committee aligns with our Community Engagement goal and promotes a collaborative relationship among the schools, community businesses and employers," he said.

"Community partnerships provide invaluable learning opportunities for our students. Those opportunities help to focus students' future plans and those partnerships help our students make solid decisions regarding their transition from high school to college and into the workforce."

*"Roundtable members work with students, teachers, members of the business community, and the Hiawatha USD 415 Board of Education and administration to promote a partnership that fosters community support for the development of our youth."*



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**Nov. 25 | HES  
Family Night,  
5:30 p.m.**

USD 415 recognizes family participation in the school improves student outcomes and performance. So, join us for a fun-filled family night of games, crafts and much more. All family members are welcome to attend.



**Nov. 25 | National  
Honor Society  
Induction, 6:30 p.m.**

Join Hiawatha High School as it recognizes this year's National Honor Society students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character in an induction ceremony.

**Nov. 27-29 |  
Thanksgiving Break,  
No School**

USD 415 will close for the Thanksgiving holiday, with classes resuming Monday, Dec. 2. We wish the USD 415 family a Happy Thanksgiving!



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The next step is to complete diagnostic assessments to dive deeper into the specific skills students should have mastered. For example, if a first-grade student showed a need in reading, a diagnostic would be given and the results might show the student has a skill gap in letter sounds.

"W.I.N. Time, with this very small group, almost individualized teaching, has started to demonstrate an improvement in our students' reading ability," said Heather Maze, HES teacher. "As we have started to progress monitor, especially in the Tier III groups, we have seen growth of one or more skill levels, with some students being able to jump two or three skill levels above where they were previously at. We are filling the gaps more effectively."

While W.I.N. is not intended to replace core instruction in reading or math, it adds an element of intentionality and focus geared toward patching needed skill gaps that exist.



*Heather Maze works with a small group of third-graders.*

## **AROUND THE DISTRICT**



*Congratulations to Jill Hrencher, seventh-grade math teacher, for being named the October Hiawatha Ford USD 415 Teacher of the Month. The winning teacher gets to drive a free car for a month, courtesy of Hiawatha Ford. Savage Paden, Hiawatha Ford representative, and Kyley Gatz, middle school principal, surprised Hrencher with this recognition. Pictured from left to right: Paden, Hrencher, Gatz and Red Hawk.*



*The Hiawatha teaching staff was treated to a luncheon during the November 1 Professional Development Day.*

**Hiawatha Schools  
USD 415**

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