



TITAN TIMES

RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuning in to the Science of Music



Call it magic or call it science. Mr. Tim Nielsen uses science starting with the kindergarten students. Then, each year, more skills are added and, as if by magic, students are moving, playing instruments and singing all at the same time.

According to Nielsen, who has taught at Ruthven-Ayrshire for 33 years, learning music is like learning anything else. It is a process that he breaks down starting with the youngest students. Kindergarten students start with a simple pat and clap. Later, they add speech which teaches them to keep the beat and speak while keeping the beat.

It is a process that starts with actions. Later instruments are added starting with basic skills and adding more difficulty. By the time students are in third grade, they can keep a beat on an instrument while adding their voice to sing a song.

As students progress, the work gets more difficult. Students are taught to improvise and create parts on their own such as a melody or rhythm.

"I have never run across anyone who, without a little bit of effort, can't do something with music," said Nielsen. "Everyone can play the keyboard instruments. Everybody walks, so everyone has a sense of rhythm. Everyone walks to a beat; it is steady whatever their beat is."

In elementary school, most students pick up songs by rote, meaning the teacher sings it and the students sing it back to them. "We do work on learning notes and how to read music. By

fifth grade they have sheet music and most of the students will pick it up over time."

One of the challenges in teaching music is when students lack focus. "They can do things with their hands, but they are so used to video screens, that it is hard for them to improvise or make something up. We do a lot of movement and a lot of dancing. If they are focused and they watch the steps, they can have a lot of fun with it."

One method of teaching music is the Orff approach, which is to incorporate elements of play with singing, dancing and playing percussion instruments.

When students start to use instruments, they are taught to work in pairs to get the big instruments from storage. They are also taught the proper use and care, so they don't break the instruments. On the xylophone they have learned to understand how the bars coordinate with musical notes. Students take turns playing the different instruments as well.

"We work on a lot of cooperation and we work on being nice

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FEBRUARY 2023



Mr. Tim Nielsen works with kindergarten students as they pat and clap.

to each other, too. Music can utilize and enhance classroom concepts like the alphabet for the youngest students."

Stories are also read in the music classroom which can help to bring books alive.

"Teaching the littles is really fun," said Nielsen. "When you get a class that cooperates and dances together, that is a lot of fun."

"Music activates everything. They have to separate their hands, their brains and their mouths and do it all at the same time. It is not a mindless activity. They have to engage and think about it so they are able to do more than one thing at a time. It lights up parts of their brain that video games do not. Being engaged like that turns on more of the brain."

Nielsen is proud of the support that the music program gets from the school. "We have things that other schools do not have. We have been able to purchase some instruments from PACGDC grants, but overall, our music program is well supported."

Musical Instruments

Brass: This includes trumpets, trombones, tubas, and French horns

Keyboard: Pianos, synthesizers, and organs

Strings: Instruments such as violins, mandolins, guitars, and cellos

Percussion: Examples include drums, xylophones, and cymbals

Woodwinds: Flutes, clarinets, and saxophones are examples

Parts of Music Instruction

Music: Students learn how to read notes of a staff, identify the bass and treble clef, identify the key signature, and the time signature.

Beats: Students learn how to feel and count the beats in the music, so they can properly identify when individual notes should start and end.

Rhythm: Students identify the rhythmic patterns that are created and woven around the basic beat of the song.

Pitch: Identifying pitch is the ability to differentiate the sound of one note from the other. Young students use a numbering system to learn notes, then graduate to solfeggio (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do) as students mature.



Cooperation and team-work is part of the science of music.



Students must learn to take care of the instruments and are quick to understand adjusting the xylophone.

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A Path to Give Back Led Pavel Buravtsov from Russia to R-A

In 2020, Mr. Pavel Buravtsov got the idea to come to Iowa to teach and to work. Ten years ago, he attended Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls and says he was lucky at that time to meet good people in Iowa who helped him during his stay in the U.S.

"I feel like all people in general, should give back to society, or to our neighborhoods, or to our communities where we grew up or to those who have helped us," said Buravtsov. "What is a better way to raise the next generation of nice Iowans? That is why I am here. I want to give back. I am learning a lot here, too."

Buravtsov said he was open to the possibilities of teaching in Iowa. "The administration here and Mr. Josephson came back to me several times and were very insistent and supportive to bring me here. Since they were the most insistent, I chose to come here. And my wife wasn't too much against it," he laughed. "I hope my wife will like it. It will be a very new experience for her. She has always been in the big cities either in the U.S., Colombia, or Russia, so it will be quite new and quite interesting."

The student body here is quite different compared to his previous experiences. "There is a big socio-economic difference which leads to different behavioral patterns, different communication patterns and different collaboration patterns. I still need to get to know the kids and their parents which will help me establish a closer rapport with them."

Most recently, Buravtsov was teaching at the Anglo-American School of Moscow, an International University where he has taught since 2020. He earned his Associate Degree while at Ellsworth and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Microbiology at South Dakota State University in Brookings. In Iowa, he did student teaching at Des Moines and Urbandale.

He was attracted to earning a degree in the U.S. and Iowa offered less expensive options to start working on his degree.

"When I first came here, it was a good cultural shock for me. I grew up in Moscow and it was something quite different. I do like to experience different things. I like the sense of community in Iowa. Everyone said that people in Iowa are nice, and I experienced that, too. I experienced the welcoming nature of people in Iowa."

Buravtsov says he wants to be able to share his experiences with students so they can understand the world is not only Ruthven and not only Iowa. "There are many possibilities for them. Fortunately for them, they are growing up in a country where they have many more opportunities compared to children of other countries. I want to deliver the message that they should explore and try to see the people around the world as much as possible. I believe they will find out that we all want the same thing. We want to live our life in dignity with the

ones we love and to have a little bit of money to spend on the weekend."

Buravtsov arrived here January 11 with a three-year visa in hand. He is working on making a smooth adjustment both personally and professionally. There are lots of things to adjust to. Thanks to local support, he was able to get his internet started and a bank account set up on his arrival.

The plan is for his wife, Lu, to arrive at the end of June. She is currently teaching at the International University in Moscow.

"I believe there are three parties in education: the teacher, the student, and the parents. We have to work as one to get the full potential out of children and

what they can do with their future. Not that they will become scientists or researchers, but we need to work together to make sure they understand that education is not just for this period of time, but it is a lifelong process. If they learn the strategies to acquire information, it will be easier after school. It is about developing the thinking process so they can acquire the new skills in the future much easier."

According to Buravtsov, public education in Russia is free but there are private schools also. "The difference now is that the public schools are more under the control of the government with the government pushing their agenda. Schools there are more rigorous. In terms of science or math, what a 9th or 10th grader learns here, they learned at the middle school level there. Somehow the educational system in the U.S. is a little behind Russia, but once they get to the university, it is much more valuable than a degree from a Russian University."

At the International school, subjects are taught in English and instructors and students work on the International Baccalaureate program. This gives students an international diploma. Buravtsov says it is very rigorous and challenging with a very diversified body of students. The university was established for the kids of officials and for families who come to work in Moscow.

For Buravtsov, his professional priority is getting the science curriculum and classes better organized. He is eager to establish a curriculum that will align with the National Science Standards throughout all the grades.

Another goal is to make the classes more hands-on with additional science experiments. "We want to be able to not just talk about it, but to engage them with more experiments," he said.

Personally, he would like to get involved in the community, and may consider organizing an activity for students outside of school. But for now, his focus is on his students.

"I need to persuade students that a growth mind-set is important. Learning is a lifelong process and I hope I can be an example."



Investment of Time Now Cuts College Costs Later



Students at GTRA are taking advantage of the chance to earn college credits while in high school. The partnership program with Iowa Lakes Community College has 18 R-A students participating this semester. Taking college credit classes not only saves money, but it can make the transition from high school to college easier because students are exposed to the expectations and processes used at college.

Students can choose programs from the Emmetsburg or Estherville campus. They can earn credits through face-to-face or online classes. The program is open to students starting their freshman year and all costs are covered by the school district.

Kendra Hough is the High School Partnerships Coordinator, and she says a second option for students is to attend the Career Academy. "This program allows students to get a head start on their college degree with technical training courses. This is geared to students who want to go into a technical program like welding, power sports or automotive," said Hough. "Students attend campus classes daily from 8 to 10 a.m. and are hands-on in those programs right along with the college students. These students will more than likely come into that program full-time when they graduate from high school."

Hough says that she has had a few G-T students earn their associate of arts degree before they graduated from high school. "That is 64 college credits that they have earned at no charge to them."

Parents should understand this program is available to students because of the long-term savings. Parents and students should work with the school counselor to discuss what the options are. Many students will start with a one-credit course and then move up to a three-credit course in the following semester.

"Even if students aren't sure what they want to do for their future, they can start with some of the basic classes. We do the advising piece as well. For students who plan to go on to a university, we can help match up courses that will transfer to their field of study."

Currently all of the students are taking their classes online, but the time management needed can be a challenge. Hough explained, "Students need to submit assignments on time. Kids are good with technology, so it is more the time management where students can struggle."

Parents who understand the financial value of college credits are eager to see if it is a good fit for their student. The current cost per credit at ILCC is \$196 for a face-to-face class or \$208 for an online class. Most classes are three credits adding up to a cost of \$654. "Some students, for example, who know they are going into nursing, will take the prerequisites while in high school so after graduation they can get right into the nursing program. The savings can add up," said Hough.



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Each class has a ten-day trial period, so if a student changes their mind, they can drop the class without it showing on their transcript. If they wait until longer it will show on their transcript as a withdrawal (W) which can affect future financial aid and the school district will be charged fully for the class.

"The school counselors are really good at monitoring the work of the students and we work together to help the students be successful," said Hough.

Parents or students who want to consider adding a college course next fall, should talk to Mr. Matt Borchers. He will work with the student on a schedule and filling out the required paperwork.

Other opportunities to learn more about campus life are the many on-campus events that introduce students to Iowa Lakes programs. These include the campus visit days, Agriculture Day, Aviation Day and Health Expo and others.

Iowa Lakes offers Career Academy Courses in the following interest areas:

Emmetsburg Campus

Agriculture Production Technology
Automotive Technology
Boat & Watercraft Technician
Construction Technology
Farm Equipment & Diesel Technology
Hotel & Restaurant Management
Power Sports & Power Equipment Technology

Estherville Campus

Aviation & Airport Management
Computer Programming
Criminal Justice
Electrical Technology
Engineering Technology
Environmental Studies
Graphic Design
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology
Human Services

Titan Success

On the Boards

#1 Drew Schnell
1000th Career Point
Jan. 27

#10 Max Hough
1000th Career Point
Jan. 27



On the Mat



Trista Guinn,
110# 6th place
First Girls
Wrestling State
Tourney Feb. 3



Jordan Saul
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170# Jan. 12

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Josh Bader joins GTRA as SBO

Josh Bader is no stranger to GTRA. In his previous position as an associate financial officer with the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency, he oversaw financials for both districts prior to 2018.

After ten years with the AEA, he has now joined both districts in the position of School Business Official, or SBO.

He attended the University of Northern Iowa where he earned a Bachelors Degree in accounting and minored in finance.

He has experience in public accounting and spent a lot of time doing audits of different industries. "That work gave me a lot of experience in how to analyze financial statements and I was exposed to different methods of accounting. I saw the government side as well as non-governmental entities. It was very interesting.

"I looked back to the time when I worked with the schools and I enjoyed that more than the finance at the AEA. As an accountant, it is more fun because it is much more complex," he said.

The role of an SBO is complex. The position requires competency in accounting, budgeting, payroll and benefits, financial reporting and the management of accounting systems. There are also regulatory procedures, school policies, school and employment law to understand.

Bader describes the job as multi-faceted. In the end, it is overseeing the finances, preparing financial statements for the administration and the school boards, and participating in negotiations and budgeting. There are also federal and state dollars to report on along with answering employee questions about payroll, benefits and health care.

"And there is the custodial aspect as well. Which is overseeing how we are managing the money such as making deposits in a timely manner, having controls in place and handling money in a proper way.

"I like the complexity and the challenge. I also enjoy having the staff and relationships in a school district setting. I get to see the resources being used within the district and get to interact more with the staff.

In his first six months, he will focus on organizing the financial processes, reporting and records.



Bader will split his office time between Ruthven and Graettinger locations.

"School finance has helped me to recognize that the school is one of the major businesses in a community. It is important that communities keep schools because of the size of the entity."

Superintendent Marshall Lewis said, "We are fortunate to add Mr. Josh Bader to our Titan Nation family. The opportunity to work as a member of the GTRA team and focus on the fiscal health, processes, and planning are benefits for Mr. Bader, Titan Nation, our communities, and the students we serve."

"My role as an accountant is not to make decisions, but to facilitate the decisions that are made by the school boards and administration. My job is to inform them so they make the best decision possible. It is important to give quality data and information."



HOME PLATE

Peanut Butter Snackers

Easy for kids to make and great for on-the-go snacks

- 1/3 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1/3 cup quick-cooking oats
- 2 tablespoons graham cracker crumbs

In a small bowl, combine the peanut butter, honey and vanilla. Stir in the milk powder, oats and graham cracker crumbs. Shape into 1-inch balls. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

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Snow Day Make Up

May 22-23-24-25

have been added to the calendar
for missed snow days

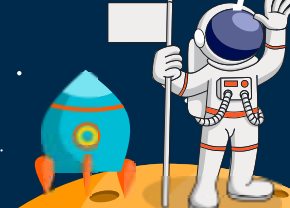
National **FFA WEEK**
FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023

The FFA motto:

"Learning to Do, Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live, Living to Serve"

Monday: National Day of Service; Tuesday: Alumni
Day; Wednesday: Ag Teacher Appreciation Day;
Thursday: Give FFA Day; Friday: Wear Blue Day

Astronomy Word Search Puzzle



SATELLITE
ROCKET
ASTRONAUT
STAR
UFO
COMET
ALIEN
ASTRONOMER
MOON
MARS
SUN
SPACESHIP
PLANET
METEOR
CONSTELLATION
GALAXY

C	M	A	R	S	P	B	Q	I	O	L	P	S	L
O	C	R	L	R	L	G	W	S	N	I	U	A	O
M	O	O	U	X	A	I	T	O	H	A	F	T	A
E	N	C	Z	W	N	H	O	S	N	S	O	E	C
T	S	K	U	E	E	M	E	G	N	T	R	L	H
F	T	E	P	D	T	C	N	U	L	R	G	L	I
Q	E	T	F	E	A	M	E	T	E	O	R	I	W
B	L	C	M	P	T	L	L	G	I	N	Z	T	V
Y	L	F	S	A	L	K	M	A	U	O	I	E	D
Z	A	S	S	L	V	X	D	L	Q	M	U	Y	E
K	T	T	U	I	F	I	S	A	M	E	V	Z	H
B	I	A	N	E	Z	Z	L	X	E	R	I	F	Y
B	O	R	K	N	M	H	V	Y	Y	R	C	H	Z
Z	N	W	A	S	T	R	O	N	A	U	T	W	Q

DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday, Feb. 15

9 a.m. Wrestling boys state tournament

Thursday, Feb. 16

9 a.m. Wrestling boys state tournament

4 p.m. Basketball JH girls at home

Friday, Feb. 17

No School

9 a.m. Wrestling boys state tournament

Saturday, Feb. 18

9 a.m. Wrestling boys state tournament

Monday, Feb. 20

No School

4 p.m. Wrestling JH boys and girls at WB-M

Tuesday, Feb. 21

4 p.m. Wrestling JH boys and girls at Spirit Lake

Wednesday, Feb. 22

2:30 p.m. Early out

Tuesday, Feb. 28

4 p.m. Wrestling JH boys and girls at Spencer

Wednesday, March 1

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, March 2

7 p.m. High school Pops Concert at GT Gym

Thursday, March 9

9 a.m. Track IATC varsity girls indoor championships

Friday, March 10

9 a.m. Track IATC varsity boys indoor championships

7 p.m. High school play at Terril

Saturday, March 11

7 p.m. High school play at Terril

Tuesday, March 14

2:30 p.m. Early out

3 p.m. Parent-teacher conferences

Thursday, March 16

2:30 p.m. Early out

3 p.m. Parent-teacher conferences

Friday, March 17

No school

3:30 p.m. Track varsity boys and girls BVU Open at Storm Lake

Wednesday, March 22

2:30 p.m. Early out

Monday, March 27

4:30 p.m. Track, varsity co-ed relays at South Central Calhoun

Wednesday, March 29

2:30 p.m. Early out

Monday, April 3

4:30 p.m. Track varsity boys at South Central Calhoun

4:30 p.m. Track varsity girls at Southeast Valley

Tuesday, April 4

7 p.m. MS Show Choir Concert

Wednesday, April 5

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, April 6

No school

4 p.m. Golf varsity/JV boys/girls at Alta

Friday, April 7

No school

Monday, April 10

No school

4 p.m. Golf varsity boys at Gowrie

4 p.m. Golf varsity girls at Lake City

Tuesday, April 11

4:30 p.m. Track varsity boys at Southeast Valley

Thursday, April 13

4 p.m. Golf varsity/JV boys/girls vs. SL St. Mary's at home

4:30 p.m. Track varsity boys at Estherville

4:30 p.m. Track varsity girls at North Iowa

4:30 p.m. Track JH boys at Algona

4:30 p.m. Track JH girls at Emmetsburg

Friday, April 14

Solo/Ensemble Contest TBA

Monday, April 17

4:30 p.m. Track varsity co-ed relays at North Union

Tuesday, April 18

4:30 p.m. Track varsity co-ed relays at Spirit Lake

Wednesday, April 19

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, April 20

4 p.m. Golf varsity/JV boys/girls at Newell-Fonda

Friday, April 21

4:30 p.m. Track JH co-ed at Okoboji

Saturday, April 22

7 p.m. Jr/Sr prom

Monday, April 24

4 p.m. Golf varsity/JV boys/girls vs. Sioux Central at Hillcrest

4:30 p.m. Track JH girls/boys at North Union

4:30 p.m. Track varsity co-ed relays at Alta-Aurelia

Wednesday, April 26

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, April 27

Drake Relays

4 p.m. Golf varsity boys/girls quad at West Bend

4:30 p.m. Track JH co-ed at Pocahontas Area

4:30 p.m. Track varsity co-ed relays at North Union

Monday, May 1

10 a.m. Golf TLC girls at Lakeside Municipal

10 a.m. Golf TLC boys at Lake Creek

4:30 p.m. Track JH boys/girls at Emmetsburg

7 p.m. High school band/vocal concert at GT gym

Tuesday, May 2

4 p.m. Track TLC boys/girls at East Sac County

Wednesday, May 3

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, May 4

4 p.m. Golf TLC boys quad at Five Island Golf Course

4 p.m. Golf TLC girls quad at Hillcrest

Friday, May 5

4:30 p.m. Track JH girls/boys at Manson-NW Webster

5 p.m. Large Group Music Contest TBA

Monday, May 8

4:30 p.m. Track varsity co-ed relays at Sioux Central

7 p.m. RA middle school band/vocal concert

Tuesday, May 9

4:30 p.m. Track JH co-ed at Newell-Fonda

7 p.m. RA elementary concert

Wednesday, May 10

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, May 11

4 p.m. Track varsity boys/girls district

Friday, May 12

4 p.m. Track JH co-ed meet at Pocahontas Area

Sunday, May 14

2:30 p.m. R-A Commencement

Monday, May 15

5 p.m. Baseball JV vs. Central Lyon at Rock Rapids

7 p.m. Baseball varsity vs. Central Lyon at Rock Rapids

Tuesday, May 16

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. North Iowa away

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. H-M-S at home

May 22-25: Make up for snow days

Monday, May 22

5:30 p.m. Softball JV vs. H-M-S at home

7 p.m. Softball varsity vs. H-M-S at home

Tuesday, May 23

5:30 p.m. Softball JV vs. H-LP at home

7 p.m. Softball varsity vs. H-LP at home

7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. H-LP at home

All activities subject to change.
Spectator guidelines vary
by location. Please view our
website for updates.



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Ruthven Rams return to Ruthven for Retirement

Lisa (Fread) and Craig Markley are both graduates of Ruthven and have recently returned to enjoy their retirement. Lisa is a 1981 graduate and Craig graduated in 1983, the first year of consolidation with Ayrshire.

They both grew up in Ruthven and although they were in school together, they didn't really get to know each other until they were both working at the Thunderbird.

After graduation, Craig attended Buena Vista College for four years. He earned a degree in banking and finance and started working as an intern for the DOT in January of 1987. By May he had been offered a full-time job at the DOT office in Ames. With his bride and daughter, Kayla, the family found a townhouse and moved to Ames. Except for a short lay-off period, Craig spent his entire career at that office eventually becoming the director. The job meant overseeing 50 full-time and 50 part-time workers.

"We did traffic counts, the state map, trail maps, anything that was mapped. And oversaw over \$50 million in grants, among other things," said Craig.

After having their son, Cody, Lisa decided to have a daycare while the kids were young. "But thirty-five years later, I retired from daycare," she said. "I had kids of kids that I babysat when they were young."

"I was ready to retire and ready to come back to Ruthven full-time. When we bought our place at the lake, it was our intent that we could be here for our parents after we retired. But, my folks passed away five and six years ago, and Craig's dad passed away in December."

In 1999, they bought property from Mike and Sandy Markley on Fillenworth Beach on Lost Island Lake. In 2013, they built their new home that looks out on the shores of the lake.

"This is home, Ruthven is home," said Lisa.

Craig added, "Everyone knows us here and we know them. Even after being gone for 35 years, we came back and took off where we left off."

The Markleys admit that the culture of Ames was much different than Ruthven.

"I like the sense of community we have here. People don't hesitate to help others when needed," said Lisa. "Everyone is family here."

"Ames was good to us and we made a lot of friends there. Our kids and grandkids are there, so we get back there. But, I like the lake and the people of Ruthven," said Lisa.

Lisa believes Ruthven-Ayrshire School offers more one-on-one attention to each child. "In Ames, our kids had over 400 students in their class. You get more one-on-one attention here and probably a closer group of friends. I liked our small school. We had a better chance to participate in sports and other activities."



Lisa and Craig Markley at their home on Lost Island.

ities. If you went out for a team, you made the team. I still have relationships with some of my teachers, like Mrs. Burras who was my Spanish teacher, we still stay in contact with her. I have also reconnected with one of my basketball coaches."

Craig says his shop class provided skills that he used in both his professional and personal life. "In shop we built a lot of things and I used those construction skills at work for building and planning and I used them when we built our home."

"I still get together with five or six of the girls I graduated with," said Lisa. "We have life-long friendships that we made while we were in school here."

The Markleys won't let Lost Island sand gather under their feet. They are active members at United Methodist Church and both are ready to lend a helping hand when needed. Lisa serves as president of the Lost Island-Ruthven Betterment Association with Craig joining in to help with many of the activities.

Learning
Today for
Living
Tomorrow

Newsletter published by the Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School District. Articles and photos by Connie J. Reinert, Beyond Broken, unless otherwise noted.

