



HOLYOKE

DRAGON TIMES

Tapping Local Talent

Issue 1
11 Sept. 2020

By Layna Wear

HOLYOKE CO - What is the Homegrown Initiative? It is a term we have heard since school started. The Homegrown Initiative is a program funded by Colorado Succeeds, Colorado Education Initiative, and other donors. It pairs the communities and schools to create an opportunity for students to learn more about what they want to be and what they need to learn and know to do it. It was started by two Colorado education groups. They chose 8 towns to work on a grant. Mrs. Nelson did all the leg work to apply for the program grant. It was a new grant and Holyoke got it in June. It focuses on Educonomy: education and economy coming and working together. It's the community fostering education and education helping the community. The whole high school is involved and hope to eventually go down to the 5th and 6th grade level in Career Exploration. The purpose for this new opportunities for students is to give them a voice in developing their own unique pathways. They hope to give students new opportunities with hopes that when they leave, they will have their unique path to follow, whether it be being an author or teacher. This program will empower students to be in charge of their future. It will be implemented in phases. The school will be able to hold Career Fairs, Employment Fairs, and even allow businesses to come in and teach. The Homegrown Initiative will help prepare students for life after graduation by giving us the tools to be productive, to be successful, and to be who they want to be. The programs does not use school funds, all the money from the grant is going to be used for possible field trips, industry certificates, and Mrs. Maloney's position; it all comes from the grant. The Center of Innovation came out of the plan too. After visiting 4 other schools the committee realized they wanted a place where students, families, and the community could come together and work. The library, for those of you wondering, only took out nonfiction books and old dictionaries, which are now available on the internet. The teachers got to pick what they wanted and the rest are in storage until COVID-19 ends. The school does not know what they will do with the books yet. Mrs. Nelson saw a need for in the community for students prepared for more than just college and worked hard to get the grant for our school. The end goal is to make a difference for students and to grow the program.



New Principal

By Roz



HOLYOKE CO- This year in the Holyoke Junior/Senior High School we have a new principal, Mrs Powell. She has been an English teacher and counselor 16 years, but this is her first year as a principal. I had the opportunity to ask her a few questions about her teaching experiences, and the 2020-2021 school year. The first question I asked her was how her experience at HJHS was when she went and she said "My experience was probably different then because no middle school had the same clubs and things too." When I asked what plans Mrs Powell planned on making she said, "There is a new phone policy which took the whole team's focus. Dragon Pride, and the new seminar class is different from last year's ICAP the class in place of seminar. She was also a counselor at the school for 6 years and an english teacher here for 10. She liked being a counselor because it consisted of working with kids and helping with social and emotional needs and college. Being a principal is something new for her. She said "When I went to high school here I never thought I would be a principal," she is very passionate about her job. She has liked her experience so far since it has been busy and she enjoys watching students in classes and new learning, as well as interacting and spending time in person with the students.

Back at it Again

By Grace Whisenhunt



HOLYOKE CO- Mrs. Brown is one of the many new staff members in the Holyoke School District. She was inspired to join our teaching staff because teaching 8th and 9th grade students is a passion for her. Even though Mrs. Brown says this job is her "dream job," Holyoke is not the only school where she has taught. She had taught and substituted at 3 different public schools along with homeschooling . One of the differences she has between teaching her kids and teaching full classes are all the procedures. Mrs. Brown strives to adapt to each students' learning style, which she did not have to do for her kids. Because Mrs. Brown has kids who are now students at HHS, she feels she has developed personal relationships with her students who are friends with them. Mrs. Brown believes having these relationships is amazing. The transition from teaching in the city to our small town has been a challenge. She believes that the students in Holyoke are more familiar with each other, therefore are more comfortable in class. She also believes our agriculture community gives students a more "real" look at life. Mrs. Brown loves teaching in Holyoke and enjoys being able to connect with the students in personal ways.

WELCOME TO DRAGON COUNTRY!

1st Year Excitement

By Anessa Colglazier

HOLYOKE,CO - The 2020-2021 school brings a new social studies teacher to Holyoke Junior/Senior High School. "I like the small town and it's quiet." she said since moving to Holyoke from Colorado Springs. Mrs. Mehl attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She chose teaching as a profession because she likes to help others find true potential and achieve their goals. This is Ms. Mehl's first adventure in teaching. Ms. Mehl says she likes our school. She thought about teaching English and is certified to teach it, but she loves helping students learn from the past. Ms. Mehl likes it better in Holyoke because the students here have more dedication. She thinks "it's hard to hear with masks on" but she understands why we wear them." She wears a face shield everyday to school. Face shields aren't as hard to speak in because they are away from your face. Also, masks get hot inside if you talk a lot with them on. The classes she teaches are 7th,9th, and combined classes of 11th and 12th graders. Ms. Mehl has breaks unlike some teachers in this building.



Center of Innovation Leader

By Emma Sprague

HOLYOKE CO- Mrs.Maloney is the Home Grown Talents HTI coordinator, who also has an internship class. Mrs.Maloney teaches for 7 periods, so she has one free period at the end of the day, although her largest class only consists of 14 kids. She teaches all higher grades but she loves having all of the junior-senior high classes. The Home Grown Initiative is open for classes to go down there and work together. Having the Home Grown Initiative come together they had worked all last year to get the grant, which they had gotten in June, and the Home Grown Initiative became a reality, with having the internship class as a part of the plan. This all also came together by having everyone supportive along the journey although it came with some reconstruction. Mrs.Maloney has been with the school for 8 years as she had been a counselor here before. She went to college at UNC for her bachelor's degree then had gone to the University of Phoenix for her master's degree. Mrs.Maloney loves being back at the school and she has always wanted to be teaching and helping kids, she had known since she left the Holyoke High School for college. Her internship class is to help guide kids on where they want to go, even if they know where they want to go or what they want to do or not. Also if kids don't want to go to college for the career they want to pursue, her class is there to help guide them.



Just a Few Clubs Available at HHS

By Kenzie Rau

HOLYOKE,CO- In HHS we have 5 clubs. The clubs consist of FCCLA, FBLA, Robotics, FFA, and the Dragon Spirit Club. This article will be focusing on 3 of the 5 clubs, such as Robotics, FCCLA ,and the "Dragon Spirit Club". In the Dragon Spirit Club there are currently 53 members in grades 7-12. This group is trying to become student led instead of staff led. Members are currently voting on an official name for the club this week. This club is responsible for coming up with ways to communicate about school events, supporting students in things like knowledge/brain bowl, robotics, athletics, testing, musical try-outs, etc. Due to COVID they will not be meeting in big groups, but they are thinking about assigning different grade levels different tasks as a way of contributing to the club. Membership is not required to be part of the Dragon Pride club. Another club in the Jr/Sr highschool is Robotics. Robotics is a fall competition that usually has 10-15 members. This year the competition will look a lot different than last year due to COVID. They get one month to create a robot from raw materials. The teams normally compete in a tournament at NJC, but that will not be happening this year. They will most likely have a judge come and watch the robot perform its tasks without the other teams. FCCLA is another club offered. It stands for Family, Careers, and Community, Leaders of America. This club focuses on leadership and career development. They do many fundraisers to help the members attend state and national conference. FCCLA has something for everyone who wants to make a difference. They successfully sold almost 400 boxes of peaches!

Dragon Pride

By Ben Kleve

HOLYOKECO- Dragon Pride is a focus for our new principal, Mrs. Powell. She wants everyone to feel like they belong and are proud to be Holyoke Dragons. The Dragon Spirit club is a new club guided by several teachers on the staff with hopes of it becoming a more student led organization. So far we have seen Dragon Pride in action on the first day of school with "The Wall" game, the Dragon Pride wall and a poster contest between seminar classes. The Temporary name is The Dragon



Spirit Club but members will be voting on new names. The names that have been suggested are: Dragon LAP (loud and proud), Dragon Pep, Spirit Dragonets, Cheerleaders for Cheerleaders, Dragon Enthusiasts Spirit Club, Dragons, The Roaring Dragons Committee, Spirit Talkers, Wild and Proud, The Club to Plan Events, Dragon Spirit, Pep Club, Team Spirit, Big Green, Amigos, Dragon Spirit Club, Smells Like Team Spirit, The Hoard, Dragon Fire, or Swoop. Hopefully we will have a name soon and we will be seeing Dragon Pride displayed by students, teachers, staff members and eventually get the community involved too. "It is GREAT to be a Dragon!"

Spray, Spray, Wipe

By Dahiria Castillo

HOLYOKE CO- We're back in school, but safety is a priority. One way Holyoke Jr./Sr. High School is doing that is by having students wipe desks down with disinfecting spray and paper towels at the end of every class period. Students and teachers are now taking two minutes at the end of every class period to spray desks and clean them. The disinfecting spray is a chemical, Q.T. Plus by Hillyard, a brand often used by the school and hospital. This chemical helps fight 10+ bacteria such as salmonella typhi that affects the blood tract, 10+ viruses such as type A influenza and 3 fungi such as "trichophyton mentagrophyte," which is found in Athletes foot and Ringworm. The chemical, that is watered down, must be stored in a closed container such as a spray bottle. The school uses a spray bottle to store and use. To apply the chemical spray onto desk 6-8 inches away from the surface, the surface must remain wet for about 1-2 minutes according to Hillyard but the school wipes it away almost immediately to save time. After applying the chemical you must wipe it using a dry brush, sponge, cloth, or paper towel. The product must not be inhaled and wiped completely off the surface. It is all about staying safe so we can stay in school.



What's the Difference

By Teagan Martin

HOLYOKE, CO - Do you like seminar this year? Last year, seminar was called ICAP. In ICAP, students got to do homework, read, and do just a few lessons. Some lessons were about note taking and



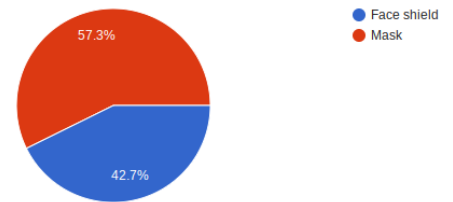
test taking. This year for seminar, we will do many different things. For each grade level, there is a different curriculum: time management, good habits, career interests, and job applications are just a few of the many topics covered this year. The students of seminar think that it is boring and a few people like it. Most students want to go back to ICAP. Sometimes we get to do homework, but we are mostly always working on something new. Every grade does

seminar, but each grade level has different lessons. When you are in 11th or 12th grade seminar, you learn about college and life outside of our school. In the other grades, we learn a variety of things like: career profile, presentation skills, determination, and healthy lifestyles. Those are only a few things that we will learn this year. While most teachers are on board, student buy-in is lacking. The goal for the new seminar is to give students real world life experience so they can be successful after high school.

This or That

By Mason Sprague

HOLYOKE, CO- Covering our face What is better; face shield or a Mask? Surgical masks are different than normal masks . They cannot be reused and sometimes it is harder to breathe in them. A mask or face shield are required in school buildings to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Masks cover a lot of the face and it covers people's happy smiles. Masks are not the best for people with glasses because when they breathe it fogs up their glasses. Masks also get your face hot and can get uncomfortable. They can be hard to hear through too, for example if police were chasing someone the mask would be hard to hear them yelling/talking through. A face shield would not cause as many problems, but they do echo and are hard to eat food with. Face shields can fog up just like glasses, but your face can't get hot or uncomfortable. Face shields do not help as much as masks because face shields stay in front of you so when you breath the air, it goes down unlike the mask that captures big expelled droplets. Face shields can block large particles from getting into your eye. For scientific reasons I sent a survey for Holyoke high school and out of eighty-nine people, fifty-seven percent liked masks and forty-two percent liked face shields. It is a necessity, but no one is really happy about them. Some people have Face shields and masks decorated with thier personalities and makes it all a little better.



Memes

The front of the bus: *sleeping, doing homework, on their phone*

The back of the bus:



me: it's fine i studied for this test
looks at first problem



"it is wednesday my gurls"



TEACHERS BE LIKE



Emailing teachers be like...

Me:

- *polite greeting*
- *multiple paragraphs*
- *perfect grammar*

Teacher:

"sure" -sent from my iPhone

When you fail a test but get the hardest question right

