



The "PACK" Newsletter October 2010

Inside This Issue:

- Shari Lohrmann-Proper Study Skills
- Lora Darling-Irwin Elementary Bookfair To Be Held
- Picture Retakes: Irwin and Manilla Pre-K-8th grade.
- Mr. Blankman-New Middle School Science Teacher
- Band Members To March in Fiesta Bowl!
- Reading Is Fun-Mrs. Riesz
- From The Desk Of: Mr. Wall
- Iowa School Alert Sign-up-Mrs. Langel
- Hammrich's Howl-Mrs. Hammrich
- IKM-Manning FFA Pumpkin Carving Contest!
- Elementary Guidance Off To Great Start-Holly Borkowski
- Pepsi Refresh Everything Projects
- Student Achievement Reports-Denise Wall

Brush-up On Those Study Skills!

Middle School is the time in a student's life when he/she becomes more and more independent. Being responsible for and completing school work on their own is one of the ways that students show this independence. As students progress through the middle school, it is important that they develop good study skills. Study skills are things that students do that help them learn.

At school, students practice several study skills. Listening skills, organizational skills, note taking skills, the skill of studying a book to learn information, memorization skills, and resisting politely when someone talks to you in class are a few study skills that are practiced during the school day.

Students can also work on some study skills at home. First of all, the homework area should be quiet. It should be available regularly. There should be a comfortable chair and a

desk or table. There should be enough room to organize materials. The area should be well lit. It should be cool and well ventilated, and it should be neat and free of clutter.

Homework should be done at the same time every day. The student should work at the same place every day. The student should choose a quiet place away from distractions. Students should keep an assignment notebook. The most difficult and longest assignments

should be done first. Short breaks should be taken. Finally, when work is completed it should be put in a folder to return to school the next day.

As a parent, your child needs you to be interested and involved in his/her academic progress. Your children must, however, be responsible for their own grades, attendance, and behavior. Make certain that your children know that their academic progress is important to you. Discuss classes and set goals at the beginning of each grading period. Offer to help with homework, but don't give more help than is needed or wanted. Listen to your child about what's happening in school. Encourage your student to be involved in activities at school. Monitor activities and jobs to make sure your child is leaving enough time to be successful in school. Most importantly, work with the school by knowing that teachers, counselors, and principals are there to help your child get the best education possible.

Study skills are important for all students. If students have strong study skills, they will learn more. If students have weak study skills, they will learn less. We, families and school staff, need to work together to develop good study skills in our students. Our students will then have the skills necessary to achieve to their greatest abilities.

Bookfair To Be Held In Irwin

The Irwin Elementary Bookfair will be held October 28th – November 4th.

Special Family Nights will be held during Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-8 p.m. on Oct.28 and again on Nov. 4.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes for Irwin and Manila students, (Pre-K-8th Grade will be on October 8th.

Middle School Hires New Teacher

I am pleased to have been hired as the new Middle School science teacher and look forward to my future with IKM Manning. My name is Jim Blankman and I've been a resident of Manning since 1998. My wife, Paula, works in Denison at Crawford County Savings Bank as the Chief Financial Officer. We have 3 children. Trevor is a sophomore at IKM-Manning, Nathan is in the 4th grade, and Isaac is 3 years old and attends the Manning Childcare Center. I graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, held several positions outside of teaching in science related fields, and then received an education degree from Buena Vista University.



My teaching career started at Ar-We-Va Community Schools where I taught science in grades 6 through 12.



I am teaching 7th grade Life Science and 8th grade Earth Science at the Middle School in Manilla. We have just finished learning the process of experimentation in both 7th and 8th grade. The 7th grade students developed a procedure to determine if Sweet Acidophilus milk has a different taste than regular milk. Ask the 7th grade students to share the results of their experiment with you.



In the 8th grade we are using the scientific method to observe several small experiments in the laboratory. Students tested their hypothesis as to whether a raw egg could bounce. Students learned about chemical reactions by dissolving the shell of the egg. After the shell dissolved, students dropped the raw egg from a specified distance. If the egg survived, students developed an experiment to determine the maximum height at which the raw egg

would bounce without breaking. The results were very interesting. Ask the Earth Science students how far they could drop an egg and still have it bounce.



Band Members Selected To March in Parade



Four High School Band members will be traveling to Tempe, Arizona over the Winter Break to march with the Southwest Iowa Honor Marching Band in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. This elite marching band is made up of the best marching band students from Southwest Iowa. Auditions were held last May and rehearsals were in Red Oak during July. The four students from IKM-Manning who will attend are: Sarah Langel, daughter of Bill and Ann Langel, Anna

Dentlinger, daughter of John and Mary Dentlinger, Kelli Struve, daughter of Don and Brenda Struve, and Matt Vonnahme, son of Mike and Pat Vonnahme.

Anna is a freshman this year, and Matt is a sophomore. Both Sarah and Kelli are seniors this year. These four students will leave with the other Honor Marching Band students on December 29th and come back from Tempe on January 2nd. More information on parade time and TV stations showing the parade will be posted later.

These four students and their parents are also holding a raffle to help raise funds for these students to attend this event. The raffle will be on December 17th at the High School Winter Concert in Manning. The prizes for the raffle are a 32" flat-screen Toshiba HD TV, and a Boston Acoustics Sound System. This sound system is an AM-FM radio, alarm clock, CD player—and has docking ports for an I-Pod system. The Boston Acoustics Sound System is similar to the Bose sound system. Tickets are \$3.00 each or four

tickets for \$10.00

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at all home football games (their table will be set up under the bleachers), or you may contact any of the parents for tickets. Please help these four students represent our IKM-Manning School and Community in Tempe!

Say Hello To Mrs. Reisz!

Hello! My name is Molly Reisz. This is my fourth year as the seventh and eighth grade reading teacher at the IKM-Manning Middle School. I live near Denison with my husband, Cory. We have two children, Emma, who is six and Owen, who is 18 months. We are expecting our third child near the end of January.

During the course of the year the students in my classroom will be reading several books of their choice. As they read they discuss their book with me on a regular basis. Then, when they finish their book, they do a book talk with me to discuss their thoughts and

feelings on the book. The students not only enjoy being able to choose books that they are interested in, but also recommending books to other students.

Along with independent reading we also work on strategies and elements of the reading process throughout the year. When doing this we use short stories and easy to read articles and practice applying the strategies and elements. After the strategy or element is familiar and more comfortable to the students, the students are able to apply their new knowledge of the reading process to their independent reading book choice.

I look forward to continuing sharing books with my students throughout the school year and helping them grow as readers.

From the Desk of Mr. Wall

By the time you read this we will be almost as quarter of the way through this school year. It is amazing how fast the year goes. I want to take this opportunity to

invite you all to check out my webpage on the IKM-Manning school website. I have attempted to collect a variety of information there that would be useful to parents and students alike. You can get to the page off the IKM-Manning webpage (www.ikm-manning.k12.ia.us) or use the following URL to go directly to my page: <http://brianwall.weebly.com/>. Be sure to check out my Announcements page (a blog) for important and timely information for parents and students.

For this article I want to share some information with you about parental involvement. We have great teachers at IKM-Manning but parents/guardians will always be a student's first and most influential teachers. Your involvement with your child's education will have a major impact on their academic achievement. Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey of Vanderbilt University has presented a model for positive parent involvement. An abbreviated version of that model follows:

What helps students learn? Students must...

1. Feel **confident** they can succeed;
2. Be **internally motivated** to do well in each class;
3. Know how to **regulate** their own learning; and
4. Know how to **ask for help**.

3 steps to help your child learn:

Step 1: The 3 most important messages parents can give their children

- You need to **try hard**
- **Homework** is very important
- **School and education** are very important

Step 2: WHAT parents can do to help their children learn

- Discuss your **values**, goals, expectations, and aspirations.
- Learn more about how to help your student **learn at home**.

- Maintain clear **communication** with your children's teachers.
- Learn more about how to be involved in learning **at school**.

Step 3: HOW parents can help their children learn

- **Positively** encourage your child in all their academic efforts.
- **Model** ways your child can be academically successful.
- **Reinforce** your child when s/he does something well.
- **Teach** your child.

It should be noted that children's perceptions of the influence of parental involvement at these various steps are positively correlated when non-intrusive and respectful. This becomes increasingly important as children reach middle and high school because of their need for

autonomy and independence.

(Adapted from the work of Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey by Ron Mirr, Iowa PIRC)

Would you like to be notified directly when school is cancelled?

Sign up for Iowa School Alerts — a FREE e-mail notification service provided by the State of Iowa! IKM-Manning Schools is a participant in the Iowa School Alerts program, which means you can sign up to receive free e-mail notifications when classes for our district, or a particular school building, are to be closed, dismissed early or started late due to weather or other circumstances. It is also a way to receive updates on meetings or special events happening in the schools.

How to Sign Up

Click on "Sign Up!" in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the "Enterprise A&A" screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another

online application), there's no need to create another one. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration. Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on "My Subscriptions" to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for. Once you've selected a school, you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you'd like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.) That's it! After signing up you will receive e-mail notifications directly from the school whenever classes are cancelled. You can review your alert settings and all current

notifications for the state at any time by visiting the Iowa School Alerts website:

<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>.

Step by step instructions are located on the school website at

<http://www.ikm-manning.k12.ia.us/District/IowaSchoolAlerts/iowaschoolalerts.html>

HAMMRICH'S **HOWL!**

We have had a great start to the new school year! One of the biggest changes in our building is the addition of 6 new SmartBoards, which can be found in each classroom from kindergarten through 4th grade. These interactive whiteboards are mounted on the wall and can be seen with a short throw projector directly above it. SmartBoards allow teachers and students the ability to work with educational software for demonstration purposes as well as hands-on involvement. It's a great technology tool that teachers are beginning to incorporate

into their lessons on a regular basis.

Our building had several renovations over the summer. The computer lab and one of the first grade rooms were updated with new carpet as the old was looking rather shabby. We also removed a wall between two rooms in order to make our library more spacious. Now an entire class can easily check out books and take the time to read within comfortable surroundings. Teachers have also been using the library when available for classroom activities that require more space. It's been a great addition to the elementary.

Thanks to a federal grant, our kitchen has a new walk-in freezer to keep foods fresh for our school lunch program. It was great to get this assistance for as is usually the case ...everything ages at about the same time and needs replacement. Last, but not least, the girls' bathroom on the main floor received a major "face-lift" including new stalls, fresh paint, and of course, a new mirror. The girls think it is "really neat."

So, we are off and running as we work at making this one of the best years ever. Enjoy the fall weather and gorgeous colors that come along with it.

Parents we look forward to seeing you at our next major event, which is Parent/Teacher conferences (October 28th & November 4th).

Mrs. Hammrich

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

October 12th – 2 hour early dismissal for teacher professional development

October 19th – 2 hour early dismissal - End of 1st quarter

October 28th – 1 hour early dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences

November 4th - 1 hour early dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences

Pumpkin Carving Contest

The IKM-Manning FFA will be hosting a pumpkin carving contest. There will be two categories, painted pumpkins, and carved. The carving and

painting will take place on Thursday, October 14th from 4 till end, and will be grilling hotdogs and hamburgers at 7. The judging will be at the home football game the following night. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Please come help support our FFA chapter and have some fun carving pumpkins.

Elementary Guidance Classes Off And Running!

The elementary guidance classes have gotten off to a great start this school year! In the early grades (preschool through kindergarten) we have worked on good friendship skills. Students have practiced sharing, taking turns, and saying kind words when playing with each other. Students in grades first through fourth are working on being responsible students, which looks different at each grade level. In first grade the focus is on listening! We play listening games, talk about how our whole body needs to listen, and practice good listening skills. In

second grade we also work on being responsible at school such as when and how to ask the teacher for help, why we need to take our backpack and folder to and from school each day, and what we need to do when the teacher gives us assignments. In third and fourth grade this extends into homework and good organization skills.

October is the month in which we celebrate Red Ribbon Week. In guidance class the focus is on ways to keep our bodies safe and healthy. Some of the other topics we will learn about include fire safety, safe people who can give us medicine, stranger danger, healthy foods, exercise, Internet safety and things that harm our bodies. Please check your child's take-home-folder, as I will include notes about our lessons so you, as the parents, can follow up on safety issues at home. The upper elementary students also work on refusal skills when dealing with peer pressure.

Wolves are TRRFCC! This year we are going to spend several lessons

throughout the year focusing on character educations. The six pillars of education we will learn about are TRRFCC!

(Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship) The 3rd and 4th graders have already had lessons learning about the character pillars and why these are important traits to think each and every day. The 4th graders even designed pillars for each of the traits to remind all of us to think about being a person of great character.

IKM-Manning Schools Pepsi Projects Currently in the Top 100

Thanks for all of your support in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Project during the month of September. There are only 4 days left to vote and currently Awesome Automation is ranked #63 out of 256 and Project Wolves is ranked #68 out of 256. The school hopes to keep these rankings so the two projects will roll over to the October voting with the top 100 ranked projects. So

once again the school will be asking for you support in continuing to vote everyday for the 2 projects during October. There are direct links to the projects off of the school homepage located at <http://www.ikm-manning.k12.ia.us>

You can also text your vote. Send a message with 102059 to Pepsi (73774) for Awesome Automation and 102054 to Pepsi (73774) for Project Wolves.

IKM School District Student Achievement

Measures of Achievement

The IKM Community School District uses a variety of ways to measure student achievement. Our goal is to create a picture of the knowledge and skill of each student that is as accurate as possible. To do this we use district-wide assessments (ITBS/ITED, NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, DIBELS), classroom projects, quizzes, discussions, homework, reports, and tests. This type of student achievement information helps us understand individual student progress toward district standards and benchmarks. Data from District-Wide Assessments as well as State and Local Indicators of Achievement are part of the District's Annual Progress Report (APR). Portions of the APR will appear in newsletters throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Complete copies of the APR are available in the Superintendent's office.

State and Local Indicators of Achievement

	2008/2009	2009/2010
Attendance Rate		
Average Daily Attendance Grades K-4	NA	96.25%
Average Daily Attendance Grades 5-8	NA	96.19%
Average Daily Attendance K-8	96.46%	96.21%
State Average Daily Attendance K-8 Goal	95.8%	95.8%
Dropout Data		
Dropout Rate, 7-12	0%	0%
Statewide Dropout Rate, 7-12	2.16%	NA
Dropout Rate, 9-12	0%	NA
Statewide Dropout Rate, 9-12	3.15%	NA
Female Dropout Rate, 9-12	0%	NA
Male Dropout Rate, 9-12	0%	NA

Effective schools research indicates that high attendance is an indicator of potential student achievement. School attendance is an indicator of school and later career success.

The IKM Community School District had a 0% dropout rate (Grades 7-12) during the 2008-09 school year. Dropout Rate is calculated by the Iowa State Department of Education. The most current data is from the 2008-09 school year. Data from 2009-10 was calculated according to district records. State data may vary slightly.

The IKM School District began whole-grade sharing with the Manning School District during the 2008-2009 school year. Since that time, the IKM district no longer serves students in grades 9-12. Therefore, graduation data as well as postsecondary plans are no longer a part of the data collection in the IKM School District.

Early Childhood Local Indicators of Achievement

Kindergarten DIBELS Spring 2010			
	Low Risk	Some Risk	At Risk
Letter Naming Fluency	67%	29%	4%
Nonsense Word Fluency	67%	25%	8%
	Established	Emerging	Deficit
Phonemic Segmentation	92%	4%	4%
1st Grade DIBELS Spring 2010			
	Established	Emerging	Deficit
Phoneme Segmentation Fluency	94%	6%	0%
Nonsense Word Fluency	61%	33%	6%

In addition to Average Daily Attendance and Dropout Data, the IKM Community School District uses DIBELS early literacy data as a local indicator of student achievement. The district believes a comprehensive, research-based reading program that includes literacy skills instruction, practice, and assessment can help more students become proficient readers. In Kindergarten and 1st grade, DIBELS assesses student progress with early literacy skills.

Manning School District Student Achievement

Measures of Achievement

The Manning Community School District uses a variety of ways to measure student achievement. Our goal is to create a picture of the knowledge and skill of each student that is as accurate as possible. To do this we use district-wide assessments (ITBS/ITED, NWEA Measures of Academic Progress, DIBELS), classroom projects, quizzes, discussions, homework, reports, and tests. This type of student achievement information helps us understand individual student progress toward district standards and benchmarks. Data from District-Wide Assessments as well as State and Local Indicators of Achievement are part of the District's Annual Progress Report (APR). Portions of the APR will appear in newsletters throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Complete copies of the APR are available in the Superintendent's office.

State and Local Indicators of Achievement

	2008/2009	2009/2010
Attendance Rate		
Average Daily Attendance Grades K-6	(AK-4) 96.98%	(AK-4) 96.91%
Average Daily Attendance Grades 7-12	(9-12) 93.17%	(9-12) 91.97%
Average Daily Attendance K-12	NA	93.79%
State Average Daily Attendance K-8 Goal	95.8%	95.8%
Dropout Data		
Dropout Rate, 7-12	0.37%	NA
Statewide Dropout Rate, 7-12	2.16%	NA
Dropout Rate, 9-12	0.71%	1.16%
Statewide Dropout Rate, 9-12	3.15%	NA
Female Dropout Rate, 9-12	0%	1.44%
Male Dropout Rate, 9-12	0.81%	0.83%
Graduation Data		
Number of Seniors	66	76
Graduation Rate	94.12%	93.42%
State of Iowa Graduation Rate	87.21%	NA
State of Iowa Graduation Rate Goal	90.3%	90.3%
Postsecondary Plans of Graduating Class		
Intend to Pursue	93.75%	94.37%
Core Program Completion of Graduating Class		
% Graduates Completing Core	100%	100%
College Entrance Scores (ACT)		
% Graduates Taking ACT	65.6%	62.0%
% Graduates (who took ACT) Scoring 20 or Above	83.3%	84.1%
% All Participants Scoring 20 or Above	79.69%	75.38%
Concurrent Enrollment (formerly known as Dual Credit)		
% Senior Participants	71.2%	65.8%

Effective schools research indicates that high attendance is an indicator of potential student achievement. School attendance is an indicator of school and later career success.

Manning Community School District had a 0.71% dropout rate (Grades 9-12) during the 2008-09 school year. Dropout Rate is calculated by the Iowa State Department of Education. The most current data is from the 2008-09 school year. Data from 2009-10 was calculated according to district records. State data may vary slightly.

Graduation Rate is calculated yearly by the Iowa State Department of Education. The most current data is for the

graduating class of 2009. Data from 2009-10 was calculated according to district records. State data may vary slightly.

Core Program is the recommended core college preparatory curriculum. This curriculum includes 4+ years of English, 3+ years of Mathematics, 3+ years of Social Studies, and 3+ years of Science.

Students who intend to go to college generally take the American College Testing Program (ACT) Exam to meet entrance requirements. A score of twenty or higher on the 36-point scale indicates probable success in college.

Concurrent Enrollment course data is based on the number of seniors who participate in at least one dual credit course. The student who successfully completes a Concurrent Enrollment course receives DMACC credit as well as IKM-Manning High School credit toward graduation requirements.