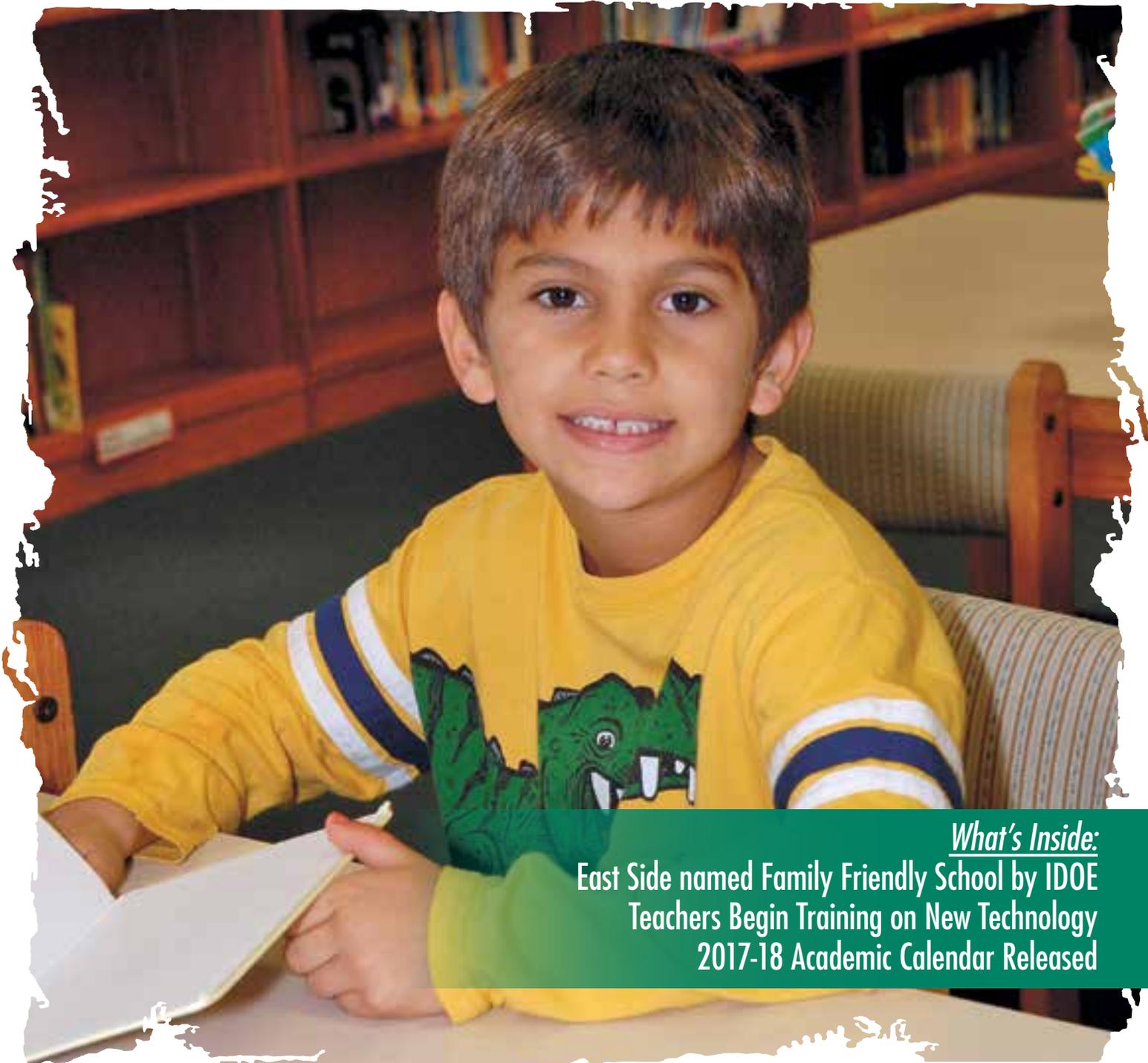


Concord Community Schools

CONCORD

Connection™

Corporate Publication of Concord Community Schools WINTER 2016-17



What's Inside:
East Side named Family Friendly School by IDOE
Teachers Begin Training on New Technology
2017-18 Academic Calendar Released

What makes Concord Community Schools so great? It's our staff and students. Find out what makes our students focused and determined to succeed, and how our staff helps to make sure of their success, in this issue of "Concord Connection."

Superintendent's Message

What a great fall semester for Concord Community Schools! As I have walked through the halls of our schools, I have seen hard working teachers, students and staff. It is all possible because of you, our support system at home and throughout the community.

There has been a lot of talk about the future of CCS, followed by progress in both the strategic plan and construction plans. After compiling data and outlining the framework, our strategic plan was drafted in October and revised in November. Input and reactions have been gathered from our teachers, staff and stakeholders, and the Strategic Planning Committee made the necessary adjustments that were recommended and agreed upon by all parties. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received thus far.

Throughout December, more adjustments will be made and the Board of School Trustees are expected to review and approve the plan by the end of December. As implementation begins, we will continually monitor its progress, utilizing the systems and processes we have created to regularly review and make mid-course adjustments as needed. CCS believes that our current strategic planning initiative will help us create a world class learning organization that is characterized by a high performance culture.

Not only are we moving forward with our new strategic plan, we are also moving forward physically, through the reconstruction of our Concord High School tennis courts and updates to all of our K-4 school building roofs.

I continue to be humbled and honored to be part of the Concord Family!

—John Trout, Superintendent, Concord Community Schools
Twitter @Concord_Schools



Visiting the Art Gallery at Concord Junior High

The art gallery at Concord Junior High is full of work by the talented students in Art I, II, III and IV. Covering the mediums of drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, digital photography and sculpture, some of the works of art will make their way to the Scholastic Art Awards competition later this year. Students may view the gallery during their lunch period, and the public is welcome to schedule a viewing time during regular school hours. Please call the office to arrange a time to visit.

Over the years, students have won numerous awards at the local, regional and national levels. Visual Art Instructors Mary Amador and Neil Boston, who are in their 25th year of teaching at CJHS, have worked hard to make Concord Junior High students and their work stand above the rest. For 20 of the last 24 years, our students have had more work accepted than any other school in the Northern Indiana-Southwestern Michigan Region. We are so proud!

Students Complete High School while Earning College Credits

College bound? Dual credit classes save students time and money by allowing them to complete college coursework while still in high school. Offered mostly to juniors and seniors, students must meet prerequisite PSAT or Accuplacer test scores to be eligible for the credits. Concord High School partners with Ivy Tech and other Indiana colleges to provide over 34 different opportunities for students to get ahead and save time and money in college. Many of the classes fit into daily schedules with students taking one of the classes at CHS, taught by CHS teachers, or at the Elkhart Area Career Center. Concord High School begins scheduling for the 2017-18 school year in December.

Taking dual credit classes allows students to fast-track their required general education classes in college, saving time in their schedule to focus on their major classes. Dual credit classes taken through Ivy Tech are provided at no charge to students, which account for nearly all of the courses available to students. Students should talk to their counselor to learn more about which classes are offered and which Indiana colleges participate in the program.

Some of the dual credit courses available are:

- Early Childhood Education
- Human Development
- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Principles of Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- United States History
- French III
- French IV
- Automotive Collision and Repair
- Computer Networking
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Health Careers
- CNA Preparation
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Veterinary Assisting
- Graphic Design
- Advanced Speech (coming 2017-18)
- English Language & Composition (coming 2017-18)



The many faces of the Concord Junior High Art Gallery.

East Side named Family Friendly School by IDOE

Concord East Side Elementary School was honored to receive, for the second year in a row, the distinction of "Family Friendly School" by the Indiana Department of Education. This designation is a testament to the hard work of the staff to build a relationship with families and the community.

We believe our job is to serve the community and to build a foundation of learning for the students who walk through our doors each day. We strive to build a culture of learning, a culture of respect, a place where home and school work together and a place where people want to be. Some of the ways we have reached out to the community is by having adult English classes for our non-English speaking community and housing Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts meetings. We help the larger community by supporting the Potter's Marathon for Riley Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Leukemia Society in recent years. We work with our students to let them know they can make a difference in their community and in the lives of other children. With the help of our East Side PTO, we also have provided activities for the community like Family Movie Night and the East Side Carnival.

The local community has helped support East Side as well. The Lions Club has worked to provide dictionaries for our third grade students annually. They also help with vision screenings for our students. Faith United Methodist Church has provided adult mentors to work with our students and to support their learning. Bethel College sends teachers from their education program throughout the year to work with our staff and students. This mutually benefits both Bethel and East Side as we get to work with future teachers, and they get to learn from our staff and help support our students' learning. We also partner with the High School Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education Program and have had a number of aspiring teachers work with our staff. It is a rewarding feeling to know that we are helping to prepare the next generation of teachers.

We believe that great things will happen by building a school that supports the community and with a community that supports our school.

Delays and Cancellations – Stay in the know!

Winter weather is here! Concord Community Schools will post information on delays and cancellations to the district social media pages first, followed by television announcements. Follow our social media pages for accurate and timely information.

On days where there is a delay or closing, a red bar containing necessary information will appear on our websites. If there is not a delay or closing, the red bar will not be visible.

Our local news outlets:
<http://weareclosedtoday.com>
 WSJV-TV - www.fox28.com
 WSBT-TV - www.wsb.com
 WNDU-TV - www.wndu.com

Teachers Begin Training on New Technology

Since the much-appreciated vote to approve our referendum request from taxpayers in May 2014, Concord has been moving ahead toward 1-to-1 computing for students. While it may seem that other districts have passed us by in providing these kinds of resources, we have been able to watch and learn from their initiatives. There are five main components to our plan: plan for blended learning, prepare our infrastructure, provide professional development for staff, prepare students and parents for blended learning and evaluate our progress to make adjustments.

Throughout 2015-16, we have been able to improve many of the resources used by teachers and students. We have partnered with Tierney Brothers to install projection and audio systems in classrooms. We have worked with Dell to replace very old student laptops and computers in labs. Through a partnership with Five Star Technology Solutions, we have worked with our principals to

help them be better instructional leaders in their buildings, and now we're beginning to focus on training teachers for blended learning classroom experiences as experienced by our students. We have moved many of our previous paper documents into the Google cloud, and we have learned a lot about using the G Suite of Google apps for education in our collaborations and teaching. Kevin Edwards, Director of Technology, and his staff are executing plans to improve the range and the speeds of our wireless networks. We are also looking at some different vendors to bring faster internet to Concord.

The District Wide Technology Committee has embarked on a book study about blended learning, and has been looking at Learning Management Systems (LMS) where teachers will store digital content and students will work on assignments. We are planning to have a group of teachers try out different LMS options and different student devices in the second half of this year. If things continue to go well, we plan to distribute individual student devices in grades 7-12 during Summer 2018. Then we will take another step in Summer 2019 and provide devices to students in grades K-6.



Food collected during the drive will go to Church Community Services.

Student Council Food Drive

Concord's student council has been busy counting cans collected during our Student Hunger Drive. The committee chairs, Trevor Pollock, Will Boyer and Erin Greising, planned the event, which included a hallway competition and a promotional video to encourage students and staff to bring in items. The monetary component, One Dime at a Time, collected over \$1,000 on Oct. 10. The money and food will be donated to Church Community Services.

2017-18 Academic Calendar

The School Board has approved the academic calendar for the 2017-18 school year. We encourage all of our families to reference this information when planning upcoming vacations.

Aug. 14.....	Teachers Work in Building Half Day
Aug. 15.....	Pre-school Session/Staff Full Day
Aug. 16.....	First Day for Students
Sept. 4.....	Labor Day (no school)
Sept. 27.....	CHS Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 24.....	K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 25.....	K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 26-27.....	Fall Recess (no school)
Nov. 22-24.....	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 21.....	K-8 Semester End
Dec. 22-Jan. 6.....	Christmas Recess
Jan. 8.....	School Resumes after Christmas Recess
Jan. 15.....	Martin Luther King Day (no school)
Jan. 17.....	CHS Parent Teacher Conferences
Feb. 16-19.....	Mid-Winter Recess/President's Day (possible make-up day)
March 30.....	Good Friday (no school)
April 2-6.....	Spring Recess
May 28.....	Memorial Day (offices closed)
May 31.....	Last Day of School
June 1.....	Employee Recognition
June 4.....	First Day of Summer School
June 4-6.....	Snow Make-up Days
June 7.....	CHS Commencement at 7 p.m.

You're Invited!

You are invited to attend meetings of the Board of School Trustees of Concord Community Schools. These sessions are generally conducted the first and third Monday of each month in the Community Room of the Education Center, 59040 Minuteman Way, Elkhart. For more information, including meeting times, contact the Education Center at (574) 875-5161.

Board of School Trustees

Randall Myers.....President
 Catherine Tahmassebi..... Vice President
 Kami Wait.....Secretary
 Jennifer Davis Member
 Tim Yoder Member

Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, *Concord Connection*, Concord Community Schools, 59040 Minuteman Way, Elkhart, IN 46517-3499 or call (574) 875-5161.

Our Phone Numbers

Education Center..... (574) 875-5161
 Concord High School..... (574) 875-6524
 Concord Junior High School..... (574) 875-5122
 Concord Intermediate School..... (574) 830-0300
 East Side Elementary (574) 875-8517
 Ox Bow Elementary (574) 875-8538
 South Side Elementary (574) 875-6565
 West Side Elementary (574) 293-2531

Statements of Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity

It is the policy of the Concord Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, religion, national origin, handicap or age. CCS is in compliance with all federal statutes including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Office of Civil Rights and nondiscrimination regulations as applied to public schools, Title IX, and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act. Copies of statutes are available on request from the Superintendent's Office.



There's something to smile about at Concord!



Concord Community Schools
 59040 Minuteman Way
 Elkhart, IN 46517-3499

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Our Website Address www.concord.k12.in.us

Facebook

- District.....www.facebook.com/ConcordCommunitySchools
- High School..... www.facebook.com/MinutemenCHS
- Junior High..... www.facebook.com/ConcordJuniorHigh
- Intermediate..... www.facebook.com/ConcordIntermediate
- East Side..... www.facebook.com/ConcordEastSide
- South Side..... www.facebook.com/ConcordSouthSide
- Ox Bow..... www.facebook.com/ConcordOxBow
- West Side..... www.facebook.com/ConcordWestSide

Twitter

- District..... @Concord_Schools
- Athletic Department.....@Cminutemen
- High School.....@MinutemanCHS
- Junior High..... @ConcordJH
- Intermediate.....@Concord_IS
- East Side.....@CES_EastSide
- South Side.....@Concord_SS
- Ox Bow.....@Concord_OX
- West Side.....@Concord_WS

Instagram

- District..... CCSSocial
- High School..... CHSSocial
- Junior High..... CJHSocial
- Intermediate..... CISSocial
- East Side..... CESSocial
- South Side..... CSSSocial
- Ox Bow..... Concord_Ox
- West Side..... CWSSocial

Podcasts

<http://static.theflypod.com/episodes/concord-community-schools-4/>

All-School Calendar, 2016-17

Dec. 22..... K-8 Semester End
 Dec. 23-Jan. 6..... Christmas Recess
 Jan. 9..... School Resumes after Christmas Recess
 Jan. 16..... Martin Luther King Day (no school)
 Jan. 18..... CHS Parent Teacher Conferences
 Feb. 17..... School in Session (Snow Make-Up Day)
 Feb. 20..... President's Day (no school)
 April 3-7..... Spring Recess
 April 14..... Good Friday (no school)
 May 24..... Last Day of School
 May 25..... Employee Recognition
 May 26..... Snow Make-Up Day
 May 29..... Memorial Day (offices closed)
 May 30..... Snow Make-Up Day
 May 31..... Snow Make-Up Day
 June 1..... Snow Make-Up Day
 June 1..... CHS Commencement at 7 p.m./First Day of Summer School