

PATHWAYS		TECHNOLOGY		FACILITIES	
Goal #1 Inspire Learning	Goal #2 Inspire Learning	Goal #3 Unlock Potential	Goal #4 Unlock Potential	Goal #5 Empower Achievement	Goal #6 Empower Achievement
<i>Articulate</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Involve</i>	<i>Build</i>
<i>Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.</i>	<i>Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.</i>	<i>Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.</i>	<i>Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.</i>	<i>Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.</i>	<i>Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.</i>

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Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Develop a framework for students to experience and successfully pursue post-secondary career offerings.	Begin baseline tracking and reporting of % college acceptance rates (2017-18) and graduation rates (2011-2017) in order to establish reliable benchmark targets and enhance program offerings. {Improve college acceptance and college graduation rates (post-secondary student success metrics)}
Review policies to ensure the District's theory of action for teaching and learning is articulated.	By summer 2017: Administration will work with Policy Committee to review, edit, and recommend policy changes, if necessary (Instructional Consistency).
Curricular alignment to essential knowledge and skills supported by a coherent and aligned assessment system.	K-4: In 2017-18, in the area of literacy (reading, foundational, literature, and informational text and writing) we will document unwrapped standards, student "I can" statements, and identification of priority standards (on report card). Once priority standards are determined, we will begin to work on developing assessments and rubrics that ensure priority standards are being learned by students.
	Grades 5-7: In 2017-18, common assessments will be created for each unit of study in all subject areas. The creation of a middle level report card based on standards will be developed. Common assessments and the middle level report card will be used for reporting purposes in the 2017-18 school year.
	Grades 10-12: By the fall of 2017, identification of priority standards will be documented (via PowerSchool) to ensure priority standards are being learned by students.
	High School: By 2017-18 the Linn-Mar High School Program of Studies will be updated to include Innovation Center and Iowa BIG. This allows for a more aligned curriculum for core courses, AP coursework and Kirkwood offerings.
	Special Education Programming: By the end of 2017-18, using Iowa's Specially Designed Instruction Framework, a core special education group will analyze the recommended key components and critical features to operationally define specially designed instruction in our district.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

IASB Policy Primer: Per the Iowa Association of School Boards, “the *Policy Primer* is an online, subscription-based service that provides a detailed description of changes that have been made to IASB sample policy documents contained in the *IASB Policy Reference Manual*. The *Policy Primer* is issued to reflect changes or clarifications in federal and state law or when a new policy is added because of demand regarding new issues in the field.”

The Board will host a second reading of the current *Policy Primer* recommendations and the Policy Committee’s recommendations for policies 403.1-403.16-R during their March 6th meeting. [Refer to Exhibit 701.1.](#)

Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support)

Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Individualized and data-driven instruction.	During the 2017-18 school year, all schools will plan for individualized academic interventions (priority standards/content) for all students regardless of need based on an understanding of child development and learning theories within PLCs 100% of the time as measured by team notes. PLCs will develop and implement differentiated classroom instructional opportunities (in specified areas per grade level) for all students. Measure: The use of common formative assessments to differentiate instruction.
	Explore opportunities to better communicate pathway opportunities for students through better articulation during instruction.
Each student enters school healthy and learns about/practices healthy lifestyle.	Develop a Health Curriculum Committee to review health education guidelines and determine district needs. Final recommendations will be made by June of 2017.
	Work with Community Relations on a communications plan to engage parents prior to students entering school regarding wellness and well-being of children to be completed in spring 2017.
Each student learns in a physically and emotionally safe environment.	Staff, students, and family members establish and maintain school and classroom behavioral expectations, rules, and routines that teach students how to manage their behavior and help students improve problem behavior.
	Schools teach, model, and provide opportunities to practice social-emotional skills, including effective listening, conflict resolution, problem solving, personal reflection and responsibility, and ethical decision making.
	Mental Health Needs: In 2017-18, continue partnerships and continue to explore additional family/staff education opportunities as they arise.
	Throughout the 2017-18 school year, Board of Education members will serve as PBIS "School Champions" and report school successes as part of regular board meetings in order to facilitate district-wide communication and support of the program.
	In 2017-18, schools will report goals, benchmarks and outcome data regularly through the Board Book to the Board and community.
	As a district focus on making connections with kids. Progress will be tracked via Gallup Poll and Olweus.
ALICE Trainings: begin classroom lessons, communication on training w/ staff, families, and community, active trainings to begin spring or early fall.	

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support)

Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.

ALICE Lessons: The Linn-Mar Schools have started student ALICE lessons. The lessons are teaching the students the acronym **A**lert **L**ockdown **I**nform **C**ounter and **E**vacuate. All the lessons are written for age-appropriate audiences. After spring break the schools will hold two controlled drills to practice evacuating (walking) to their safe spot. We would like to thank the Marion Police Department for their support with ALICE. We would also like to thank the Center Point-Urbana Community School District for allowing our administrators to watch their ALICE lessons and assisting us as we move forward in becoming an ALICE-trained district. Anyone with questions about ALICE are encouraged to contact their building administrator.

Parent University: Student Services will be hosting a Parent University at the High School on March 7th. The focus of the event will be *Making Connections in the Community*. The event begins at 6:00 PM and attendees should enter via Door #3 on the north side of the High School. Everyone is welcome, so plan on attending!

The evening's presentation will include a welcome and introduction followed by break-out sessions. Guest speakers will discuss: mental health, transitions and guardianship, autism strategies for at home, and the parents role in the IEP process.

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Promote understanding of total compensation at Linn-Mar and recognize compensation as a competitive tool to drive organizational results.	Conduct a thorough job analysis for each certified and classified position over the 2017-18 school year.
Provide ongoing professional development for teaching staff that supports core instruction, interventions and curriculum implementation.	Create and implement a three-year flexible, professional development plan; thoughtfully allocating state categorical funding to support PD plan. This plan will be shared with the Board of Education in the Winter of 2016-17.
	Throughout the 2016-17 school year, provide professional learning at each PDD on measuring the success of specific teaching strategies in an effort to identify and know how to utilize the most 'high impact' learning strategies. (Many resources can be used to do this including Hattie's Visible Learning and Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching).
Effective and efficient use of data.	By March 2017 we will develop a foundational understanding of Smarter Balanced Assessment with staff, students, and community and be prepared to implement Smarter Balanced for the 2017-18 school year.
	Explore dashboard (performance metrics) possibilities for % of students in AP/honors/IB; % of students who show academic growth on NWEA, FAST, Iowa Assessment; % of students who achieve IEP Goals; and other relevant "predictive gateways" for academic success.
Curriculum, instruction and assessment demonstrate high expectations for all students.	Using relevant achievement gap information, identify opportunities to increase the number of students performing at or above grade level in math and reading.
	Expand early literacy within the early childhood programs by using creative curriculum assessment information to drive instruction.
	Provide substantive support to enhance math and reading skills PreK-5.
	During the 2016-17 school year, identify all level 3 and level 4 questions used on all common formative or summative assessments within each course at the high school level.
	During the 2016-17 school year we will closely monitor and update our stakeholders as appropriate, federal and state initiatives including Smarter Balanced, ESSA, ELI and CASA.
	By the end of 2016-17, develop a K-8 standards based report card.

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge) *Continued*

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
<p>Becoming Deliberately Developmental about our staff as we shift from "Human Resources" to "Talent Management".</p>	<p>Research well-being and insurance models/best practices and explore community partnerships (Ex. Blue Zones) to improve Linn-Mar and community health and well-being, reduce health care claim costs from 5 year historical averages, and enhance productivity.</p>
	<p>Reduce employee workers compensation claims from 5-year average info.</p>
	<p>By spring 2017, develop integrated marketing and communications programs that position Linn-Mar as the district of choice for world class teaching, learning and student achievement. Develop and begin to execute and assess integrated strategic marketing and communications programs, both internal and external, to strengthen, promote and protect Linn-Mar’s brand identity, relevance, accomplishments and excellence.</p>
	<p>Explore opportunities to expand mentor programs for all employee groups and leverage their talent/knowledge to improve our overall performance.</p>
	<p>Work to create and maintain a predictable, respectful, compliant, labor relations environment, alignment and consistency with the overall employee relations strategy based on proactive and open communications.</p>
	<p>Research comprehensive and engaging performance management plans for classified and professional staff.</p>
	<p>Foster a positive, engaging, diverse and inclusive work environment while identifying and responding to the changing needs of the Linn-Mar community.</p>
<p>Cultivate a high achieving performance culture.</p>	<p>Revise recruitment strategy and branding program by late winter (2016-17).</p>
	<p>Always promote a school culture with the belief system of all students can learn.</p>

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge) *Continued*

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
<p>Strengthen leadership capability throughout Linn-Mar to promote high levels of performance and productivity and sustain excellence.</p>	<p>Make school building-level communication the major focus of the communication efforts.</p>
	<p>Provide training to district leaders to address all aspects of the employee life cycle.</p>
	<p>Begin to develop a leadership ladder (succession planning) throughout Linn-Mar in all employee groups with a focus on recruitment and retention.</p>
	<p>Identify employee skill gaps, provide opportunity for improvement/workout plan or coaching out (coach up or counsel out).</p>
	<p>School Board, district leaders, and building administrators continually seek to improve knowledge of upcoming trends in education and research on school improvement by having memberships to professional organizations, attending relevant conferences, and networking with other administrative professionals.</p>
	<p>School Board Policy Committee to develop and deploy Board Learning Plan and work to strategically align all board committee work under the Strategic Plan.</p>

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

February Professional Development Day:

The February 20th professional development day was highlighted by the following activities:

- Elementary: ALICE training, unwrapping standards, and content team work
- Middle School: Mental health awareness, Standards Based Grading, ALICE training, PBIS, technology, and content team work
- High School: Mental health awareness, professional goal writing, ALICE training, and PLC work

Teacher Leadership Professional Development: The teacher leaders continually participate in professional development opportunities focusing on Cognitive Coaching, the work of Pete Hall, Growth Mindset, Visible Learning, and more. Recently the coaches implemented chat sessions focusing on efficacy and the efficacy in our schools. [To check out more information on the Teacher Leadership Program visit their website.](#)

Teacher Job Fair: On Saturday, February 18th, the district hosted a Teacher Job Fair for secondary and special education applicants. Human Resources invited 25 teachers to come learn why Linn-Mar should be their "District of Choice". There were several informational sessions including, At-Risk programming, how to get involved as a Linn-Mar teacher, volunteer and community information, benefits, Teacher Leadership, and a panel discussion with topics such as culture, PBIS, BIG, Riff Room, PLC, etc. In addition, each teacher had the opportunity to interview with a Linn-Mar administrator. The event was a success and principals have or will be calling back several attendees for formal interview opportunities.

HR sent out a survey to the attendees and received positive feedback regarding the event and the timing (on a Saturday so there was no need to take a personal day). Our favorite quote from the survey: "I was thoroughly impressed with the fair in general. We're relocating and still house hunting. It confirmed that Linn-Mar is the district I want to send my children to even if you don't hire me. From a parent's point of view, you were very professional, appeared to always be striving to do better, and made me feel like my children would be pushed towards excellence."






A big thank you goes out to all of the staff who took time out of their Saturday: Dr. Shepherd, Kim Buelt, John Christian, Leisa Breitfelder, Kristi Hicks, Shannon Bisgard, Kevin McCauley, Erica Rausch, Karla Terry, Erin Watts, Debra Barry, and Matthew May.

Staff Safety Committee: During the February 14th meeting to the following topics were discussed:

- Safety snippets for March (de-escalation) and April (reporting of unsafe conditions)
- Safety Shout Outs: a video is being put together to promote with staff
- Snow and ice removal
- Building trainings on safety
- Review of staff safety rewards

Staff Wellness Committee: February topics focused on a staff kindness challenge (*Refer to kindness calendar on next page*), CPR classes, Live Healthy Iowa, and a class on making mason jar salads.

February 2017: KINDNESS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat / Sun	Sunday
		1 Smile and say hello to a total stranger 	2 Sincerely ask someone what you can do to help	3 Sing a co-worker's praises to their boss <i>They deserve it!</i>	4 / 5 Donate clothes to a local shelter 	5
6 Put your phone away and be fully present	7 Introduce yourself to someone you always see around	8 Collect spare change from your home/car and donate to a worthy cause	9 Text someone just to say good morning or good night	10 Bring your co-workers a special treat	11 / 12 Make winter survival kits for loved ones (teas, tissues, hand sanitizer)	12
13 Leave treats on your neighbor's doorstep	14 Send Valentines to your single friends 	15 Pick up trash at a park or a playground	16 Compliment someone who you interact with every day	17 Invite the person behind you in line to go first <i>Make their day!</i>	18 / 19 Leave your server a big tip when dining out	19
20 Leave your favorite book in a public place with a note	21 Make two lunches and give one away	22 Send someone a handwritten note of appreciation	23 Offer a homeless person your leftovers	24 Make sure everyone in a group convo feels included	25 / 26 Send flowers to a friend- just because! 	26
27 Eat lunch with someone new 	28 Join the bone marrow registry bethematch.org	<i>Pay it Forward!</i>				

District Handwashing Campaign: On January 20th HR started a handwashing campaign to help reduce absenteeism. Handwashing flyers were hung in staff bathrooms, and every week principals were sent a handwashing tip to share with their staff via newsletters, announcements and/or staff meetings, and Oak Ridge LMTV put together a video for staff regarding the proper way to use hand sanitizer. Due to another wave of illness making its way through Linn-Mar, we are extending the campaign through March 10th. Below seemed to be the staff's favorite flyer:

DID YOU KNOW...???

A recent study showed that only 31% of men and 65% of women washed their hands after using a public restroom. Every time a toilet is flushed with the lid up a fine mist containing bacteria such as E. Coli and Staph is spread over an area of six square meters. The area around sinks in public bathrooms is 90% covered in such bacteria.

Tip: Use your forearm to lift the faucet handle and/or push the lever for the paper towel dispenser. It's also a good idea to take your paper towel with you to the door to cover the door handle on the way out (germs are lurking on those touch points!).

Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Digital Content	Explore and clarify LM working definitions related to digital learning (blended learning, digital content, etc.) to establish a shared vision.
	Identify specific areas to provide district, building, and instructional support for technology integration and implementation.
	Review, update and curate our PreK-12 digital curriculum to ensure it is rigorous and relevant.
	Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LMHS 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course.
Digital Citizenship	During 2016-17 explore PreK-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum (i.e. CommonSense Media).
	2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship.
Digital Equity	Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decisions.
	Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.
	Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.
	By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a culture of individualizing learning needs.
Digital Pedagogy	Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specifically regarding online instruction.
	Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to improve online/hybrid courses.
	Explore potential resources and processes for future curriculum.
	Utilize Technology Instructional Coaches (TICs) to provide coaching support for teachers integrating technology into their instruction.
Digital Communication	Use annual staff/student/parent/community survey data to determine effective use of school website for consistent district and building level communication.
	Explore possibilities for better alignment and integration of systems used by parents (i.e. PowerSchool, TouchBase and Total Access).
	Promote current electronic communication services for staff to access relevant information regarding resources.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

Teacher Leadership Supports Classroom Technology: A recent collaboration between a classroom teacher, Technology Integration Coach (TIC), and Instructional Coach led to the successful implementation of additional technology in a first grade classroom at Linn Grove Elementary. Due to the collaboration of these three instructors, students are now using iPads during reading rotations, using Bee-Bot (robots) to enhance writing lessons, and the classroom teacher has benefited from the Teacher Leadership coaching model that she now uses to focus each aspect of her lesson planning. [View the full story by visiting the Teacher Leadership Blog Spot.](#)

Huntley Learning Initiative: Several teachers and administrators from around the district have, or will soon, travel to Illinois to visit the Huntley Community School District 158 to learn about their *Always Initiative* that focuses on 1:1 technology implementation, Blended Learning and PBIS at the high school level, and collaborative learning spaces. The Huntley 158 *Always Initiative* centers on authentic learning, anytime and anyplace, has become so well known as a pioneering effort that they have developed educational opportunities for other districts to visit and gain a deeper understanding of their process, what they offer the students, and roadblocks and successes along the way. [Check out more information by visiting their website.](#)

Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Internal Partnerships	Investigate and research district administration practices and processes to enable principals to focus more on instructional leadership.
	Promote opportunities for district employees to volunteer in classrooms.
	Explore and clarify the purpose and structure of district leadership meetings to align with strategic plan.
External Partnerships	Create conditions to provide transparent, accurate and accessible information through dashboards.
	Broaden opportunities for local businesses and historically underutilized businesses to work with the district.
	Explore opportunities for the city and local districts to share costs for shared services.
	Develop/nurture relationships and work with community partners and media to define, promote, expand and market signature programs.
	Begin to establish a network of information ambassadors.
	Enhance established partnerships with the business community, as well as nationwide, to broaden recruitment, wellness, volunteer and diversity initiatives.
	Promote external partners to join district committees and district staff participate in outside committee groups.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

Board Visit to Compass Alternative High School Program: During the February 22nd visit to Compass the Board heard about the initial stages of Compass adopting PBIS this year. Compass Supervisor Dawn Young and staff explained that they are just beginning the program. They have completed one round of training and have plans to incorporate more training and student leadership options as they move forward.

Board Visit to Wilkins Elementary: The Board heard about the following during their visit:

- Therapy Dog: Nick Mohwinkle, School Counselor
- PBIS: Katie Jackson, 3rd Gr Teacher, and Jessica Kozloski, Special Education Teacher
- Data-based Decision Making: Lori Manley, Instructional Coach, and Lisa Drinkall, 5th Gr Teacher

Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Facilities Restructure	During the 2016-17 school year the Board of Education, with feedback from community patrons, will approve a long-term facility structure plan that benefits all Linn-Mar students.
	Determine what the most appropriate and cutting edge learning environments look like at each of the grade level configurations and prioritize goals for the physical components for each of the environments.
	Establish a communication campaign to foster support and approval of district restructure needs.
	Develop a funding plan to support 10-year restructure plan, including the outline of a possible bond campaign strategy.
	Engage architects, engineers, demographers and other applicable services to assist in the planning and implementation of the facility restructure plan.
	Identify an off-site facility for Applied Innovation Center.
	Occupy Westfield addition.
Facilities Preservation	Address priority needs to improve district facilities by actively maintaining 10-year facilities and preventative maintenance plan, including identifying energy-saving opportunities.
	Develop a funding plan to support 10-year preventative maintenance schedule.
	Complete walkthroughs with principals, Crisis Committee members, and Operations & Maintenance to determine building needs in reference to safety and security.
Operational Resource Allocation	Work to optimize resources (buildings, personnel, programs, etc.) to ensure they are utilized efficiently and effectively.
	Explore procedures to effectively evaluate programs from a financial aspect to ensure resources are being utilized to full potential.
	Continually review categorical funding streams to ensure resources are being properly spent and that all expenditures are properly allocated.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

Facilities Committee: The next Facilities Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, March 8th in the cafeteria of Excelsior Middle School at 5:30 pm. The committee will tour Excelsior and discuss our progress with grade restructuring and facilities plans. On March 22nd the committee will tour our historic buildings (Bowman Woods, Indian Creek and Wilkins Elementary). The committee will assess and prioritize building improvement needs in April 12th. We continue our recruiting efforts seeking more parents to join the committee and have reached out to school administrators.

Program Placement Changes for 2017-18:

Due to the district's continued growth and challenges with space at each building, we have several programs that will be moved to best utilize what space we have available across the district. The new addition at Westfield Elementary will give us some much needed space at the elementary level. Boundary changes have been Board approved and about 120 students will move from Echo Hill Elementary to Westfield Elementary because of the additional space. The boundary change will open up additional space at Echo Hill for next year. To help address space issues at our other elementaries, the following changes will be made for 2017-18:

- One Early Childhood Blended Program at Linn Grove Elementary will move to Echo Hill
- One Early Childhood Blended Program at Novak Elementary will move to Echo Hill
- A new elementary autism program will be housed at Novak

FY2018 Certified Budget:

For the first time in several years the State Supplemental State Aid (SSA) percent growth was approved by the State Legislature prior to the district's budget certification date. Therefore, Linn-Mar's fiscal year 2018 proposed certified budget is based on a 1.11% SSA growth rate and a certified budget enrollment of 7,312.54 students, which is an increase of 114.6 students from the previous year. One of the main purposes of the certified budget is to establish a maximum tax rate for the District. For FY2018, the district is proposing a tax rate of \$17.37 per \$1,000 of valuation, which is consistent with the last two fiscal years. A public hearing and final approval of the FY2018 certified budget is set for April 10th. Iowa law requires the budget to be approved and filed by April 15th.

Construction Updates:

- ❖ High School: All major construction is complete. Work will continue on the punch list and some items on hold until contractors can schedule or obtain material.
 - Areas near completion:
 1. New Lecture Hall: Electrical connections to tables scheduled for March 2nd, overhead projectors will be installed by district, punch list items continue (carpet, vinyl tile, paint)
 2. Signage: Installation started on February 27th with completion scheduled for March 1st. Several signs need to be reordered due to room number changes.
 3. Conference Room: Completed.
 4. Print Shop: Completed. Some punch list work exists in the hallway/foyer near entrance.
 5. Speech Classroom: Completed and the room is now occupied.
 6. Door 16: New doors have been installed. Vestibule flooring is back ordered.
- ❖ Westfield: All work is completed in the five classrooms, technology lab, and reading and special needs classrooms. Punch list work continues with minor paint touch-ups, roof flashing, cabinet repairs, and cleaning. Occupancy of the classrooms will start prior to the spring break.

Achievements and Honors:



Good Citizens Honored: The Daughters of the American Revolution honored 11 high school students on February 19th with their Good Citizens Award. The award is given to students who model service, leadership, patriotism and dependability. Congratulations to Senior Annmarie Abodeely for being one of the 11 recipients!

Robotics Honors: Nolan and Sarah Velazquez were honored as two out of four Robotics Dean’s List finalists from Iowa. There were hundreds of applicants, 72 semifinalists, and 4 finalists. They are the first two ever to move on from Linn-Mar. The winners will be announced at the World Championship in St. Louis in April.

United Way Recognition: Congratulations to Jessi Pfaff, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, for receiving a special recognition from United Way of East Central Iowa. Jessi was recognized for the time and effort she puts into supporting the UWECI donation drive for the Linn-Mar Community School District!



KHAK Teacher of the Week: Congratulations to Kris Peterson, Music Teacher at Wilkins Elementary, for being named KHAK’s Teacher of the Week!

FFA Celebrates National FFA Week: Congratulations to the Linn-Mar FFA students for celebrating National FFA Week February 18-25. The students participated in PSA announcements on LMTV, decorated the High School with FFA posters, and sold FFA shirts in theROARstore. The students also attended the Alumni Conference in Ankeny on January 21st, the Leadership Workshop at Kirkwood Community College on January 12th, the Program of Activities Workshop in Ankeny on January 14th, the Temple Grandin Speaking Event in New Hampton on January 12th, and the FFA Legislative Symposium in Des Moines on January 31st.



LMHS Jazz Bands: The Colton Center Jazz Ensemble and Jazz I participated in the Tallcorn Jazz Band Festival on February 17th. CCJE finished 4th out of 16, 4A bands and special solo certificates were awarded to Nick House (alto sax), Riley Higgins (guitar), and Alex Stadtmueller (drum set). Jazz I won the second band class out of nine in their class. All four of our jazz bands participated in the Coe Jazz Summit on February 25th. CCJE finished 2nd out of 12, 4A bands with special solo acknowledgements being awarded to Riley Higgins (guitar). Jazz I won their classification and special solo acknowledgements were awarded to Adam Bergen (trombone).

Success Center Achievement: Congratulations to the Success Center students and staff for hosting the following events this year: Marion Chamber of Commerce Wake-Up Marion, their second annual Chili Cook Off, and their annual open house. [Check out more information on the Success Center by clicking on this link.](#)



MVC Conference Standings: Congratulations to the following teams!

- Girls' Basketball: 4th Place (7-6 Conference, 11-10 Overall)
 - Kamryn Finley named First Team-Mississippi Division Conference and All-Metro
 - Carly Spies named Second Team-Mississippi Division Conference and All-Metro
 - Ally Johnson and Lexi Freese received Conference Honorable Mentions
 - Lexi Freese and Haley Chmelicek received Conference All-Academic Honors
- Girls' Bowling: 1st Place (9-2 Conference, 9-2 Overall)
 - Congratulations to McKena Diercks who finished 4th at State
- Boys' Basketball: 4th Place (7-9 Conference, 10-12 Overall)
- Boys' Wrestling: 1st Place (6-0 Conference, 18-8 Overall)
- Boys' Swimming: 2nd Place (5-1 Conference, 5-1 Overall)
- Boys' Bowling: 4th Place (5-6 Conference, 5-6 Overall)
 - Congratulations to Alex Diercks who finished 2nd at State

Linn-Mar Speech Team: The Speech Team traveled to College Community High School on February 25th to participate in the IHSSA District Individuals Contest. Linn-Mar had 32 entries, with several students entered in more than one category. Nineteen students will move on to the State Contest in Vinton on March 11th.

Students who received a Division I rating:

- Grace Wensch in Prose and Literary Program
- Allie Mersch in Solo Musical Theatre and Literary Program
- Emma Geneser in Acting
- Gloria Hunt in Storytelling
- Katie Hidlebaugh in Expository Address and Radio news
- Cheyenne Mann in Storytelling and Poetry
- Sierra Christensen in Poetry
- Akash Gururaja in Spontaneous Speaking
- Jasmine Aquino in Improvisation
- McKenna Flood in Prose
- Maddie DeJong in Storytelling
- Alexander Pfaff in Radio News
- Sadie Staker in Storytelling
- Megan Hoppe in Poetry
- Erin O'Hara in Literary Program

Middle School Show Choir: The Excelsior Double Time Show Choir was awarded Grand Champion - Best Vocals at the February 24th Marion Masquerade Middle School Competition. Oak Ridge Ovation placed third runner up! Great job to our middle school Show Choirs!



Linn-Mar Foundation MANE Event: Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the annual LM Foundation MANE Event to be held at the Cedar Rapids Marriott on March 24th. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)