



| 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> |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate): | Page 2 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Page 3</i> |
| Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support): | Page 4 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Page 5</i> |
| Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge): | Pages 6-8 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Pages 9-10</i> |
| Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success): | Page 11 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Page 12</i> |
| Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve): | Page 13 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Page 14</i> |
| Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build): | Page 15 |
| <i>Updates on Progress:</i> | <i>Page 16</i> |
| Achievements and Honors: | Pages 17-18 |

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.

No updates at this time

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 Administrative Report 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.

Health and Human Development Committee: This group met on February 16th to finish working on the Student Wellness Policy. We focused on the third and final goal - *Schools will promote wellness through other school based activities*. Some of these activities include: integrating physical activity into classroom settings, communicating nutrition information with families, food marketing in schools, snacks in schools, school meals, and food safety. The Student Wellness Policy will now go to the Policy Committee for further review.

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.

Facilities Committee: An email was sent to the Facilities Committee on February 7th indicating the next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th. We are in the process of recruiting more parents to join the committee and have reached out to several building principals.

Website Update: Several punch list items have been resolved with the new district website. Issues resolved include: teacher site menus properly displaying on mobile devices, the ability to view previous and upcoming weekly events on the calendar page, and the upcoming events calendar on the homepage properly displaying all district events.

Winter FAST Results: As part of the Early Literacy Implementation Law, all of our students in kindergarten through 5th grade take the FAST assessment. FAST is a universal screener that helps us measure how students are doing in reading. Once again, our students have done a wonderful job on this assessment! The State sets a target of having 80% or more of students at proficiency by the end of the school year. As a district we have met that mark this winter! The chart below shows our grade-level scores and our district totals as compared to schools across the state of Iowa and in our region of the Grant Wood AEA.

| | District | Kind | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Linn-Mar | 80.06 | 84.44 | 76.27 | 77.18 | 79.54 | 80.27 | 82.61 |
| AEA | 70.01 | 74.82 | 67.47 | 69.80 | 68.49 | 70.97 | 70.74 |
| Iowa | 66.98 | 74.53 | 67.16 | 66.97 | 65.64 | 66.15 | 66.57 |

Board Policy Committee (Feb 9th):

- IASB Policy Primer updates from January were reviewed. The Primers are sent out periodically from the Iowa Association of School Boards whenever Iowa Code changes or other situations occur that warrant revising a sample policy. Policies 204.1 and 204.4 were revised to reflect the updated language suggested in the Policy Primer. *Policy 801.8 Financial Records* is a new policy that the committee is recommending for adoption based on the IASB Primer.
- Policies 403.1-403.16-R were reviewed; revisions recommended for 403.1, 403.7-R1, and 403.15.
- The committee reviewed the Board Operations Manual and the suggested changes were shared with the Board on February 20th along with the Committee Charge document. Once the Committee Charge is approved, each board committee will be asked to complete the document indicating their statement of purpose, committee composition, and commission. Through this process some committees may be deemed as superintendent or administrative committees as opposed to board committees. The various Committee Charge documents will be included as an appendix to the Board Operations Manual. It was suggested that the Board approve the operations manual on an annual basis at the same time they takes their annual oath of office. The manual will be used to share with potential board candidates in the future as well as with board members.
- Community recognitions were discussed. It was the consensus of the committee that a policy to cover this would be very difficult to manage and that this is better accomplished through the Linn-Mar Foundation or Booster Club.

Teacher Leadership Update: The Department of Education visited the district in October to observe Teacher Leadership coaches engaged in professional learning, watch teacher leaders in action, and discuss successes and challenges of the program. The DE also gathered information that could be shared with other TLC districts across the state. The DE has included their profile of the Linn-Mar District Teacher Leadership Program on the AEA professional development website ([AGORA](#)) as a reference to other districts. Debra Barry and Erin Watts, Teacher Leadership Program Coordinators, will present an update on the district's TL program at the April 24th board meeting. For more information on the Linn-Mar TL Program [visit their website!](#)



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 WiFi 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 website for consistent district/building 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.

No updates at this time

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.

Board Book: February 20, 2017

Updates on Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

Board Visit to Westfield: On February 10th the Board of Education visited Westfield Elementary where they were joined by a majority of the teaching staff. There were brief presentations on the following topics:

- Behavior Expectations Experiences, Year 1 of PBIS: Jenny Novak
- Specials (Art, Music, Physical Education) Experiences: Keelyn Kanz
- Library Experiences/MakerSpace: Deb Wegmann
- English Language Learners Experiences: Alicia Jessen
- Talented & Gifted Experiences: Natalee Havel
- 5th Grade Band/Orchestra Experiences: Kevin Makinster

Thanks to the Westfield staff for a wonderful visit and for sharing the great work going on within the school!

Board Coffee Conversation: On February 11th Board Members Patterson and AbouAssaly hosted the event at Oak Ridge Middle School. Coffee Conversations are not approached with an "agenda" per se, but allow the conversation to evolve organically. Here is a brief list of the topics discussed:

- School Supplemental Aid
- Chapter 20 and collective bargaining
- Restructure plans and planned renovation updates
- Iowa BIG and a school/business/community partnership model

Before/After School Child Care Providers: After gathering input from the building principals and meeting with our current childcare providers for before and after school care, we have updated the contracts and are renewing the rental contracts for three years beginning with the summer of 2017. The contracts are included in the consent agenda for Board approval on February 20th.

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.

5th Grade Planning Committee: A committee has been formed to study how 5th grade will look as we begin the transition from PK-5 buildings to offering PK-4 and 5-7 buildings. This committee includes a selection of current 5th grade teachers, building principals, and district administration. The first committee meeting was held on February 2nd and focused on brainstorming potential questions and topics that will need to be answered before the transition takes place. Once brainstorming is complete, the committee will begin the process of prioritizing the questions that need to be answered. As committee recommendations are finalized they will be presented to district administration and eventually to the school board. The next committee meeting will be held on February 23rd.

Finance/Audit Meeting: The Committee met on February 16th and discussed the following items:

- Reviewed monthly financial statements and daycare contracts with Hand in Hand and YMCA; all of which are on the consent agenda for approval during the regular board meeting on February 20th.
- Discussed the costs associated with a modular classroom to be located at Indian Creek Elementary for the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. The district received quotes for an outright purchase versus a leasing agreement for a used unit and a new unit; noting the used unit (2014 model) is a more economical choice. The recommendation would be to lease the unit for three years at approximately \$1,700 per month. There would also be upfront delivery and installation costs.
- Discussed the remaining actions the Board will need to take in relation to the bond refinance.
- Updates shared on the Tower Terrace project. Waiting for the 8' foot fence to be approved by the City Building Adjustment Committee. Once the fence is installed the road should be ready for use.
- Talked about the FY2018 certified budget noting that the proposed budget will include an overall tax rate similar to the current rate of \$17.38 per \$1,000 valuation. It was also noted that a FY2017 budget amendment will need to take place due to the bond refinance.
- Preliminary workers' compensation information was reviewed noting a significant decrease in the modification experience from 1.01 to a projected .71. This will result in significant premium savings once the district receives its renewal quote.
- The committee talked in length about Chapter 20 (Collective Bargaining) of the Iowa Code. Proposed bills and amendments to these bills were also discussed. The committee reviewed the union/association settlements that were approved by the Board on February 14th. It was noted that the primary focus for these employee groups was to preserve their collective bargaining contracts and associated language for at least another year. Once the State approves changes to Chapter 20, it will take time to understand all the implications and work through many of the details.

Achievements and Honors:



Jenks Named Iowa Youth Volunteer of 2017 Finalist: Senior Jennifer Jenks was named one of Iowa's two top youth volunteers of 2017 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. Jennifer will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip Washington, DC where she will join the top two honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events. During the trip, 10 students will be named America's Top Youth Volunteers of 2017

Boys' Swim Team Wins First District Title: The Boys' Swim Team won the Mississippi Valley Conference Boys' District Title. Cedar Rapids/Washington had laid claim to the district title for 53 years, since 1957. Linn-Mar won two individual events with Brycen Snell winning the 100-freestyle and the team of Matt Peng, Brycen Snell, Matthew Mather, and Hogan Myers winning the 200-freestyle relay. The Lions edged out the Warriors 380-373.5 to earn the district title. Congratulations to the swimmers and coaches!



LMHS Students Named Finalists for National Merit Scholarship Program: All eight of the LMHS semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship Program have been named finalists. National Merit Finalists are considered for scholarships in the spring of 2017. *Linn-Mar High School National Merit Finalists are: Nathan Bellows, Jennifer Jenks, Nolan Jessen, Cameron Kraklio, Jacob Lam, Alan Liang, Finlan Rhodes, and Kyle Tupper.*

Linn-Mar Varsity Poms Reach New Heights at Nationals:

The Linn-Mar Varsity Poms were named 4th in Jazz and 7th in Poms at the UDA National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Florida. The team competed in the Large School Varsity Division against other schools from across the country. This is the highest placement Varsity Poms has ever received in Jazz! In what has become a Linn-Mar tradition, the Varsity Poms also had a strong showing at Regionals held at the Mall of America in January.



High School Athletes Sign Letters of Intent: Six student athletes signed their college letters of intent February 1. Congratulations to the following students as they further their education:

- Griffin Freese: Track for Indian Hills Community College
- Christina Lincoln: Softball for Coe College
- Reese Phillips: Football for Upper Iowa University
- Allie Strottman: Soccer for University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee
- Daylen Canty: Football for Iowa Central Community College
- Neme Siaway: Football for Iowa Western Community College

Congrats Linn-Mar Wrestlers: Congratulations to the Lion Wrestling Team for winning the Mississippi Division MVC Wrestling Championship. Linn-Mar will be represented by two Alex Streicher at 160 pounds and Brayden Schultz at 195 pounds in the Class 3A match at the state wrestling tournament.

Linn-Mar Bowlers Going to State: Three Linn-Mar Bowlers have qualified for the State! Seniors Alex Diercks and Alexis Tschantz and Junior Mekena Diercks will represent the Lions at the Iowa State Bowling Tournament in Des Moines.

Contest Speech Makes a Strong Showing at State: The Linn-Mar Speech Team was represented by 10 large-group entries in the second round of competition this season. The Iowa High School State Speech Association State Contest for the Southeast District was held at Cedar Rapids/Washington on February 4th. Eight of the Linn-Mar entries represented the varsity team and two were from the freshmen team. The following groups achieved the highest rating possible and were given a Division I rating by a trio of judges:

- Ensemble Acting-Empathy: Cheyenne Mann, Erin O'Hara, Katie Hidlebaugh, and Sierra Christianson
- TV News-Crayon Tyme: Cody Lorenz, Jasmine Aquino, Jonathan Issa, Libby Moore, NellMari Barrios, Tia Lawrence, and Tyler Vivian
- Reader's Theatre-The Empty Chair: Cameron Wehmeier, Colleen Luksetirch, Emma Geneser, Emma Thompson, Isabella Dix, Moriah Tedrow, and Olivia Dickson
- Radio Broadcast-KUFO: Erica Peck, Jeff Elmer, Katie Hidlebaugh, Libby Moore, Luke Poellet, Melaena Holm, and Tia Lawrence
- Short Film-Silence: Alex Beaumier, Allie Mersch, Cody Lorenz, Erica Peck, Harrison Langfitt, John Herschberger, Luke Poellet, and Tyler Vivian



The following groups received a Division I rating from two of the judges and a Division II rating from the third judge, which resulted in a Division I rating overall:

- Freshmen Radio-KKAT: Alexander Pfaff, Cael Donels, Cael Sleezer, Ian Aquino, Isha Kalia, Kyle Kacena, Maddie DeJong, and Zach Fontana
- Short Film-Trick or Seat: Alex Brown, Imani Lightfoot, James Hecht, Jeff Elmer, Lee Hensley, Nick Miller, and Stephan Barksdale

Next year, Linn-Mar High School will have the honor of hosting the State Large Group Speech Contest on Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Interact Club Donates \$1,200 to Local Non-Profit: Members of the High School's Interact Club presented Deafinitely Dogs representatives (including Fury, a phantom standard poodle, and Mindy, a labrador retriever) with a check for \$1,200. Originally, the group's goal was to raise \$1,000, with an apple pie sale held in the fall. As a result of the donation the club was able to name the dog that would be purchased through the donation. The club chose MacIntosh as the puppy's new name, Mac for short.



Tom Belin Named Coach of the Week: Congratulations to Boys' Swim Team Coach Tom Belin on being named CBS2's Coach of the Week following the team's wins of both the conference and district titles.