

Urbandale Viewpoint

OUR VISION: Urbandale will be a school district that brings learning to life for everyone.

May 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Board of Education2

Superintendent.....3

Karen Acres Construction.....3

Student Registration3

Adventuretime Fall Reg3

Excellence Award (cont'd)4

Community Education5

Education Foundation.....5

Educator of the Year6

Honoring Our Retirees7

School Highlights..... 7-13

Activities Highlights 14

Dates To Remember 15



Urbandale Receives Governor's Performance Excellence Award

On March 31, 2016, Governor Terry Branstad, Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (IRPE) Executive Council and the Iowa Quality Center honored the Urbandale Community School District with the prestigious Silver Leadership Level award at the Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration and Conference held at the Meadows Center in Altoona. The IRPE is Iowa's National Baldrige-based process designed to recognize role-model organizations in education, manufacturing, nonprofit, healthcare and business. Of the 103 applications that have been received over the past 15 years from Iowa school districts, organizations and businesses, UCSD is the only Iowa school district to be recognized at the Silver Leadership Level. Other award recipients include Firestone Agricultural Solutions, Iowa Donor Network, D & B Agro Systems, Ltd, Americas Small

Business Development Center Iowa and Fairfield Community School District.

"The purpose of the state of Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence process is to recognize role model



organizations that complete a rigorous organizational assessment leading to sustainability and maintaining a future focus on performance excellence," said IRPE Executive

Director Gary Nesteby. "The leadership in these businesses has made a commitment to attaining higher levels of performance by receiving feedback from volunteer examiners willing to spend over 140 hours of assessment time to help build quality and competitiveness in Iowa-based organizations."

Six years ago, UCSD began the exceptional and challenging journey

Continued on page 4 ...

Photo: Urbandale High School students Maya Sims, Cameron Canada and Zaiyah Quirk presenting at the Governor's Recognition of Performance Excellence Celebration and Conference. Photo courtesy of Draeger Photography.



URBANDALE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Photo: UCSD Board of Education Katherine Howsare, Aldrich Cabildo, Graham Giles, Chris Gunnare, Cate Newberg, Aaron Applegate, & Tanya Ruden.

From the Board of Education

Where does the time go! It seems like just yesterday we were starting another school year and now we find ourselves just a few weeks from the school year coming to a close.

The 2015/2016 school year has been another great year. As a board we are excited by the work of our administrative team, teachers and support staff. Their hard work is making a difference in the lives of each and every child in the district, helping us accomplish our mission: Teaching All—Reaching All!

I'd like to highlight a few of the accomplishments over the past year:

- Congratulations to the 330 students and families celebrating graduation; good luck to all of you.
- Congratulations to Steve Bass, our new superintendent, who has done a great job in his first year in the district. It's a good feeling to know the district continues our tradition of having great leadership in the superintendent seat!
- Student achievement continues to improve over the last 3 years. Look forward to seeing these continue to improve as a result of the hard work each and every day by our students, our entire staff and volunteers of the district.
- Financial stability, even with state aid growth well under inflation, the district has worked hard to ensure we work to ensure solvency to the district so we can continue to invest in the education of our students.
- The recent approval of the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL) vote (Feb 2015) has allowed us to start the remodel of Karen Acres Elementary; we are excited to show the community the finished product later this fall.



On behalf of the entire board, we thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Chris Gunnare
President of the Board of Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chris Gunnare	President
Cate Newberg	Vice President
Aaron Applegate	Director
Aldrich Cabildo	Director
Graham Giles	Director
Katherine Howsare	Director
Tanya Ruden	Director

DISTRICT INFORMATION

District Mission:
District Vision:

Teaching All—Reaching All
Urbandale will be a school district that brings learning to life for everyone.
District Administrative Office
11152 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322
Ph: (515) 457-5000 Fx: (515) 457-5018
UrbandaleSchools.com

Contact Us:



From the Superintendent

I'd like to share a few highlights of my first year in Urbandale. First off, I have met amazing people in the school system and across the Urbandale community.

In addition to attending a great many of our student activities, I visit each school in the district every week. It is important to me to get to know our students and

staff. From these visits, I get to witness first hand some of the innovative learning opportunities our students get to experience. But just as important as great teaching, I get to visit with many of the students on each visit. As a firm believer

in building positive relationships, these visits are the best part of my days.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say



“thank you” to everyone for making me feel welcome to the district, for your patience and understanding, and for your support to the school district. Urbandale

understands the

mantra that it does take a village to raise a child. I look forward to working with you for years to come.

Sincerely,
Steve Bass

Karen Acres Construction Update

Summer construction plans will be extremely busy for Karen Acres! The administration area and gymnasium are starting to take shape and work will continue to completion this summer. Classrooms for grades 2, 3 and one section of kindergarten have already been completed, leaving the other section of kindergarten and both sections of grades 1, 4 and 5 to be completed during the summer. Other renovated areas to be finished this summer include the media center, special education,

ELP, guidance and ESL. The office will be open to the public during the summer months of June and August, but all other parts of the building will have prohibited occupancy. Both MAC Camp and Summer Reading Camp will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. All renovations and additions should be finished by Friday, August 12, 2016. We're looking forward to welcoming students and families to a newly remodeled building this fall!

ADVENTURETIME FALL REGISTRATION

Adventuretime Family Services offers before and after school programming for preschool through fifth grade students in the Urbandale Community School District. Registration began on May 3rd and will be open through July 29, 2016. Please note: after July 29th, each student's account will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee. [Click here for registration information](#). Have a fantastic summer!

2016–17 School Registration



Online registration for returning students due May 26, 2016

Student registration for the 2016–17 school year has begun! Email notifications have been sent to families and letters sent to families without email access. If you have not received information regarding [registration of your returning student](#), please contact Sandy Walters as soon as possible.

The deadline for completing online registration for returning students is **Thursday, May 26, 2016.**

We have received over 1,800 registrations in only three weeks; which is approximately 45%. We'd like to have all returning students registered for this coming fall prior to leaving for summer break.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact Sandy Walters. THANK YOU to families who have already completed your student's online registration. It is very much appreciated!

Sandy Walters
Student Data Manager
(515) 457-5011

walterss@urbandaleschools.com

Urbandale receives top state award

Continued from page 1.

of implementing a systems approach for continual improvement in order to re-engage learners, help them to feel a sense of purpose in their learning and provide them the tools they need to become independent learners. By adhering to the rigorous standards established by the Baldrige framework, standards that the most successful organizations across the nation use to achieve high

performance, Urbandale is able to more fully align goals throughout the entire District—from the student level, to the classroom level, to the building level, to the district level, to the Board level—with one clear aim: to systemically advance student achievement.

“The IRPE process and Baldrige Framework have been instrumental in creating and sustaining UCSD’s systemic approach to continual improvement,” said UCSD Director of Quality and Continual Improvement Denise Wood. “The reports from the examiner teams have provided UCSD with the feedback necessary to continue our system improvement efforts.”

Receiving the Silver Leadership Level award in 2015, marks the third consecutive year UCSD has been recognized for achieving greater and greater levels of performance excellence. Although the awards are indeed a great honor, they are not the reason the District maintains its focus on continual improvement—that reason

can only be found in the positive impact continual improvement is having on student engagement, achievement and success. The District is tracking a trend in improved Iowa Assessment scores,

innovative approach.”

In addition to receiving the Silver Leadership Level award, the District was invited to present at the IRPE conference.



Photo: Board members, administrators, educators and students with Governor Terry Branstad as the District receives the 2015 IRPE Silver Leadership Level award. Photo courtesy of Draeger Photography.

UCSD led a presentation entitled, “Creating Opportunities for Employees to Enhance an Organization’s Leadership System,” while Urbandale students led a presentation entitled, “Iowa Quality Center Student TEAMS” sharing about their recent

among other indicators of student proficiency, which coincides with the District-wide implementation of continual improvement.

“The work and initiatives we implement in the Urbandale Community School District create a unique way of operating a school system,” said UCSD Superintendent Steve Bass. “We continue to see higher achievement and engagement rates as our students and staff connect more closely with this

experience learning and implementing critical problem-solving and continual improvement tools in order to determine the best approach for solving an existing business challenge with executives from Bridgestone and Heartland AEA. As District educators and students will tell you, continual improvement is much more than a set of tools, it’s a paradigm shift in education that empowers students to try, to fail, to learn, to make changes, to try again and to continually improve on their personal pathway to performance excellence.



Urbandale Community Education: Summertime Fun!



Urbandale Community Education (UCE) has a busy summer ahead! We've got plenty of fun and educational camps and classes offered through the Summer Camp Series, Camp Invention, Youth Enrichment League and Mad Science.

The long running Summer Camp Series provides a variety of athletic camp opportunities including basketball, soccer, football, volleyball, cross country, track, cheerleading and fundamental speed and strength. Camps, instructed by the UHS and UMS coaching staffs for each activity, are open to both genders and a variety of ages.

[Camp Invention](#) returns to Urbandale High School for the third year on June 20–24. The camp, inspired by the greatest innovators of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, encourages children to be confident in their natural ability to dream and create. Register online at [CampInvention.org](#).

New for 2016 is the Youth Enrichment League and Rounded Minds. [Youth Enrichment League](#) provides STEM concept learning offerings to include Lego X Olympic Decathlon, Project Runway, Destination Mars and Extreme Mobile Electronix. [Rounded Minds](#) focuses on building strong bodies and minds with the benefits of natural bilingual learning.

For more information on all the Urbandale Community Education offerings, visit our newly redesigned [UrbandaleCommunityEd.com](#) and view our [Summer Brochure](#). Questions? E-Mail Scott Krava at scott.krava@j-hawks.com

3rd Annual Brad Peyton Memorial Golf Tournament

URBANDALE
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



Hyperion Field Club

Monday, June 27, 2016

Register to play, join us for dinner, or donate a silent auction/raffle item!





UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com

Sponsorship Opportunities

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Join the Urbandale Education Foundation for the [2016 Brad Peyton Memorial Golf Tournament](#) taking place at Hyperion on Monday, June 27th.

You can participate by registering a foursome, making a dinner-only reservation, sponsoring the tournament and/or donating a silent auction/raffle item.

Funds raised will help support student scholarships, educator grants, and alumni connections in the Urbandale Community School District. Go J-Hawks!

UrbandaleEducationFoundation.com

Karli Keithahn Receives 2016 Urbandale Educator of the Year Award

On April 28, 2016, the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce presented the Educator of the Year Award to Urbandale Middle School Math Teacher Karli Keithahn during a surprise presentation at an all-school assembly. Keithahn has been teaching seventh-grade math at Urbandale Middle School for five years and just recently completed her Master's in Professional Education.

Keithahn begins with the assumption of competence for all students as she believes in their capacity to learn at high levels. She has redesigned her classroom into a learning system whose aim is continual improvement. Students feel comfortable learning at their own pace, providing feedback for how to improve the classroom system and demonstrating their learning with the knowledge that Keithahn is a partner in their education. This sense of partnership and unwavering support for each of her students is not only reflected in the positive comments students share about her class, but is evident as students demonstrate proficiency on their essential standards.

"I am so happy for Ms. Keithahn in being recognized as the Urbandale Educator of the Year," said Urbandale Middle School Principal Loren DeKruyf. "She is an outstanding teacher who has a highly engaging math classroom. While Karli makes math fun to learn, she also maintains high expectations for all of her students resulting in high levels of learning. Congratulations, Karli!"



Photo: Urbandale Chamber presenting Karli Keithahn 2016 Educator of the Year Award. Front row: UMS Principal Loren DeKruyf, Chair of the Urbandale Chamber Matt Nuetzman, Karli Keithahn and President of the Urbandale Chamber Tiffany Menke. Back row: Urbandale Chamber Director of Investor Relations Mary Harken, Mark Courter, Rasheila Dolleman, Vice Chair of Urbandale Chamber Lori Gelhaar and Director at Large of Urbandale Chamber Ben Buenzow. Photo courtesy of the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce.

"It was a huge honor to be recognized by the Urbandale Chamber," said Keithahn. "I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to come to work each day and do the job that I love! It wouldn't be possible without the support and encouragement from my co-workers and administration!"

In addition to being highly respected and admired by students, Keithahn is also seen as a trusted peer and confidant by colleagues. Her exceptional capacity for collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and leadership is positively impacting the culture and climate. She serves on multiple committees supporting Urbandale Middle School and the District, and is an involved Urbandale Education Foundation Board Member.

The Urbandale Community School District congratulates Keithahn on receiving the 2016 Educator of the Year Award and is thankful for her extraordinary dedication to her students and colleagues.

Join Our Team



Teaching All—Reaching All

If you'd like to make a positive difference in the lives of Urbandale students. If you enjoy building relationships and helping others reach their potential. If you'd like to feel part of a team that values your contribution—you're in the right place!

Check out our current Career Opportunities today!

Honoring Our Retirees

Esther Burgett

Second Grade Teacher
Olmsted Elementary
44 years

Linda Ennen

Reading Teacher
Rolling Green Elementary
29 years

Mark Tiby

Physical Education Teacher
Jensen & Valerius
Elementary Schools
24 years

Cindy Craig

Special Education Teacher
Olmsted Elementary
13 years



Mary Scieszinski

School Nurse
Jensen & Olmsted
Elementary Schools
10 years

Metro West Learning Academy Highlights



Experimenting

Students had a fantastic time experimenting at the Science Center of Iowa during a field trip for Callie Budden's Math Class. Aligning curriculum with field trips provides students an excellent opportunity for experiential learning while having fun along the way! Photo: Sam Kuykendall, Jack Vukelich, Haylee Rosenstengle, and Logan Cotrell.

Justice System

Students had an opportunity to learn more about our justice system during a tour of the Polk County Jail while on a field trip for Chris Covington's Social Studies Class. Students enjoyed gaining greater insights into law enforcement. Photo: Brandon Thronson, Spencer Ruhlow, Zacara Roberts, Haylee Rosenstengle, and Jada Williams.



Government

Iowa State Senator, Jeff Danielson, shared about the many functions of our government during a tour of the Capitol while on a field trip for Chris Covington's Social Studies Class. For some students, this was the first time visiting the Capitol so it made for an extra special day. Photo: Kyle McGhyghy, Logan Cotrell, Jack Vukelich, Ajdin Islamovic, and Lauren Steffensmeier.

Jensen Elementary Highlights



Valentine's Surprise

Ms. Kokemuller and Mr. Pettit partnered with their students' parents in order to decorate their student's desk and surprise them on Valentine's Day! It was a great morning as students were happily surprised when they walked into their classroom. So many smiling faces!



After School Clubs

Jensen students have the opportunity to participate in after school clubs that meet weekly. The clubs are a great way to learn about a new activity or topic and build friendships while doing so. Students can choose to participate in the following clubs: Running Club, Walking Club, Photography Club, Young Writers Club, Book Club, Lego League, Craft Club, Dance Club & Box Tops Club!



Music Performance

Our 4th and 5th grade music program was February 2, 2016. After many hours of practice and preparation, students had an opportunity to perform at the UHS Performing Arts Center. It was a truly special performance and we thank our families for all of their support!

Karen Acres Elementary Highlights



Professional Collaboration

Karen Acres and Jensen hosted teachers and administrators from Ballard Community Schools on April 15th and 18th so they could observe effective literacy instruction in action while using Reading Wonders literacy materials as a tool. The teams learned more about what types of work students were engaged in when they weren't receiving instruction in small group, what the flow of the literacy block looked like, and how teachers fit in the five big ideas of literacy

each day. Those five big ideas for K-5 include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Ballard staff were able to take advantage of the opportunity to get outside of their walls to see all the great work going on around them. Collaborative practice is something all of the UCSD teachers enjoy!

The feedback the teams received from Ballard included the following:

- amazed by all the data collected and how it is made public to students to impact progress in a safe learning environment
- impressed with the mission statements in every room to help guide and reinforce learning and goals
- all students seemed to be SO engaged in their work even while teachers were meeting at tables with small groups

- impressed with the structures and routines in place in the classrooms from the very youngest of learners all the way to 5th grade
- impressed by the knowledge of the Wonders resource and how teachers seemed to know how to adjust and best meet kids needs while still staying on pace with the materials
- super positive classroom climate; all students seemed so comfortable talking about what they were doing and learning

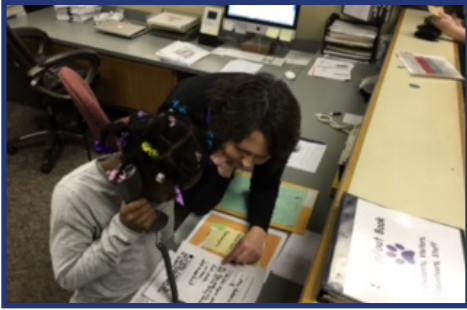
Daily Announcements

Students have taken on the important responsibility of reading the morning announcements each morning. The fifth grade students start the year off by

Continued on page 9 ...

Karen Acres Elementary Highlights

Continued from page 8.



modeling for the younger students, and as the year continues, students in grades 4, 3, 2, 1 and kindergarten get to the read them over the intercom. Announcements include birthdays for the day, hot lunch menu, "shout outs," and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. VanRoekel, the school secretary, assists students by having them practice the night before and by helping them to get out their jitters right before reading them for all to hear!

Spring Running Club

During the 2015–16 school year, the students at Karen Acres have had the opportunity to participate in a fourteen week running program. Students are able to jog on the Karen Acres track during lunch recess while parent volunteers tally laps for each student. Students are able to earn mileage tokens for every five miles completed. Students who complete 50+ miles will be rewarded with a trophy and students who complete thirty days of the program will be invited to an end-of-year pizza party.

This program is a way to increase physical fitness levels, improve academic performance, and promote self-esteem. Students have taken advantage of the nice spring weather and participation has increased tremendously during the spring session.

Check out the mileage totals below!!

Mileage after 10 Weeks

- Kindergarten = 278 Miles
- 1st Grade = 566 Miles
- 2nd Grade = 615 Miles
- 3rd Grade = 417 Miles
- 4th Grade = 285 Miles
- 5th Grade = 368 Miles



Olmsted Elementary Highlights



Webclickers

Students in 4th and 5th grade are given the opportunity to join an after school club called Webclickers. Lead by 4th grade teacher Julie Crowley and 1st grade teacher Angie Sime, there are 48 students involved this year who meet on alternating Wednesdays. Each year the students select a new technology skill they wish to learn. For the 2015-16 school year, Webclickers have focused on using the application iMovie to make movie trailers about Olmsted.

STAR Clubs

All Kindergarten through 5th grade students meet in multi-age groups called STAR Clubs to learn together, give input about school events, build relationships with students and adults outside their classrooms, and have fun. Each STAR Club has approximately 15 students and two adult leaders. When students are assigned to a STAR Club, they remain in that same STAR Club each year until they leave us after 5th grade. Recent STAR Clubs have been focused on students



coming up with behavior expectations for four different areas of the building—hallways, lunchroom, restrooms, and recess. Students were asked what being **Safe**, **Trying their best**, having a positive **Attitude**, and being a **Respectful** citizen would look like, sound like, and feel like in these four areas. Students also shared what an appropriate voice level would be for each of the areas. Olmsted staff has been reviewing the ideas shared by students as we make decisions about behavior expectations in the building. When students are able to share their ideas about appropriate behavior, they have a sense of ownership and understanding about what is happening and what is expected.

Continued on page 10 ...

Olmsted Elementary Highlights

Continued from page 9.

Fun Run Fundraiser For Playground

The Olmsted PTO held a Fun Run on Friday, May 6th at 1:30 p.m. at the UHS Frerichs Field. The Fun Run was an opportunity for students to participate in a sponsored event where they received



t-shirts, race bibs, race bags and post-race refreshments.

In addition to being a fun event for students, it was also a fundraiser to raise money to create a more engaging playground space at Olmsted.

Check out our [Playground Fundraising section](#) to learn more about lending your support for new playground equipment at Olmsted!



Rolling Green Elementary Highlights

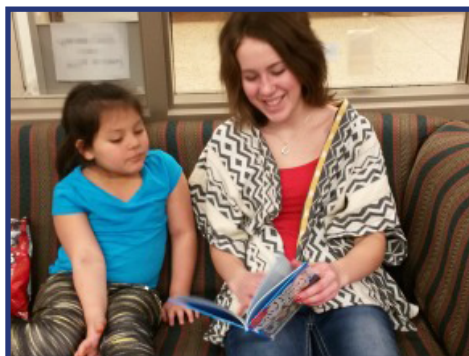


Vendor Fair

The Rolling Green Vendor Fair gave students a chance to showcase their talents by developing a product they'd like to sell. We saw so many creative and engaging ideas—future entrepreneurs indeed!

UHS Tutors

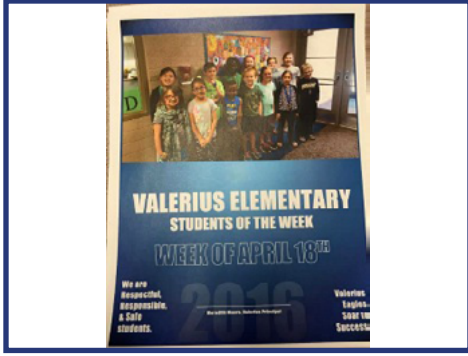
Rolling Green students enjoyed partnering with Urbandale High School tutors for extra help with homework management and study skills. Having an opportunity to work with high school students has been a wonderful experience and a great way to connect our younger Urbandale students with our older Urbandale students. J-Hawks through and through!



Watch D.O.G.S.

The Rolling Green Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program is a huge success! We're thankful to our Rolling Green Dads who have been involved with this program for several years as it's definitely having a positive impact on our school culture. Thank you Rolling Green families!

Valerius Elementary Highlights



Student of the Week

Each week, teachers now choose a responsible, respectful and safe student to be the Student of the Week for their class. Students are given certificates with their pictures on it to take home, a fun prize, and they get to wear a medal all week! Here's an example of the certificate students bring home. Way to go!

Literacy Night

On April 26th, Valerius hosted our first Literacy/Science Night! The "Let's Go Camping!" themed night was filled with literacy and science-themed sessions with classroom teachers, along with a yummy campfire dinner. Thank you to all Valerius students, families and staff for making this night so special!



Cultural Day

On May 23rd, Valerius will host Cultural Day: a day filled with activities and lessons from people all around the world and different cultures. Students will gain greater understanding and insights into the many wonderful ways in which we are unique. This is a picture from last year and we're so excited to see what this year's event will bring in just a few short weeks!

Webster Elementary Highlights



Visual Arts Night

On March 31st, Webster held its first Visual Arts Night. Families were treated to a dinner of loose meat sandwiches, chips, and cookies as well as some amazing art work! Each hallway at Webster was filled with artwork on display from each and every student—even the preschoolers. There were cartooning classes led by our own professional artist on staff, Buck Jones, and drawing classes led by our Webster art teacher, Sara Lenhart.

Students could also participate in other activities like adding their own designs to one of two graffiti walls, doing "marble art", and having their photograph taken as a famous work of art (i.e. Mona Lisa, The Scream, and The American Gothic). Origami was offered as families made paper cranes and participants could also take part in a collaborative art project, "Exquisite People".

"Pay It Forward" Day

Friday, April 15th, was our annual "Pay It Forward" day at Webster. Each year, students at the school take on a project to help others outside of our own community. This year the students in kindergarten through 5th grade went to Meals From the Heartland in different shifts with their "Buddy" classes to package meals. Preschool students at Webster added their original artwork to messages that will be sent out with the

meals. Prior to the 15th, students worked to collect funds to purchase the supplies for the meals by purchasing M&M Mini's tubes and filling them with quarters. The students collected almost \$4000.00 for the supplies at Meals From the Heartland. Then, on April 15th, with the help of parent volunteers and staff members, students packaged enough meals to feed 42,768 people!



Continued on page 12 ...

Webster Elementary Highlights

Continued from page 11.

Famous Iowans Wax Museum

Fourth grade students at Webster held their annual "Famous Iowans Wax Museum" on Wednesday and Thursday, April 20th and 21st. The students chose a famous Iowan about, did report and then their selected fourth graders the part of brought props with their to the "Wax then invited to Webster gym button" in front to hear about the Iowan being portrayed. The fourth graders' families as well as the other grade levels at Webster were all invited to attend the museum.



Urbandale Middle School Highlights



UMS Theatre

Urbandale Middle School Theater presented their third annual spring play on April 28th, 29th, 30th and May 1st. This year's production was titled "The More The Scarier", written by Pat Cook and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. in Englewood, Colorado. The cast included 16 students with a crew of 14 students including stage managers, make-up, costumes, sound and lights, and props. The cast and crew would like to thank all of the people who supported the production, including their parents, family members and community members. The production could not have been a success without their volunteered time, props, food and emotional support!

Annual Variety Show

We had another great variety show this year! Our students once again showed us how talented they are. Students were able to enjoy the show at the Performing Arts Center at UHS. Acts involved singing, yo-yoing, Irish dancing, baton twirling, lyrical dancing, clogging, and a performance by a student band! It was so much fun to watch them shine in front of the whole school!



Photo: Mollie Walters performs during UMS Annual Variety Show on March 10, 2016. Photo courtesy of Merle Laswell/Des Moines Register.



Photo: Sophia Ringl, Karli Keithahn, Mykenna Cole, and Wyatt King.

Urbandale Educator of the Year

Here's what UMS students had to say about Math Teacher, Karli Keithahn, being named the 2016 Educator of the Year:

"I like it how we take notes. She is very organized and it helps me learn better and understand it more. She is a very nice, sweet teacher," said Sophia Ringl.

"Keithahn really connects to the kids and she makes learning fun and easy. She is nice as well," said Mykenna Cole.

"She makes hard lessons really easy. She is also super nice," said Wyatt King.

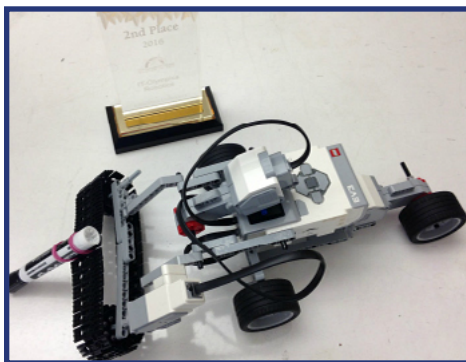
Urbandale High School Highlights



UHS HyperStream Club members Blaine Price, Austin Lamm, Riley Stuart, Ethan Spidle and John Clapham.

IT Olympics

On April 29–30, 2016, high school students from across the state gathered in Hilton Coliseum at Iowa State University for an opportunity to demonstrate their exceptional coding, design and collaboration skills during the renowned 2016 IT Olympics. Students competed in three areas: a sumo-style competition where one pre-built robot tries to push the other robot off a circular mat, a real-time robot challenge where students must build a robot that can write the words, "It is fun!" (pictured below) and a robot that can climb stairs, as well as present a community service project promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in their local area. At the conclusion of the competition Team Urbandale, also known as Kylo-RAM, finished with a strong second place—the highest place finish by an Urbandale team in the history of HyperStream. Plus, teammate Riley Stuart was selected by Workiva of Ames as the recipient of the IT Olympics Student Leader Award and a \$1,500 scholarship. [Check out UHS HyperStream robots in action.](#)



Students Solve Business Challenges

Critical thinking, group collaboration and effective problem solving skills are fundamental for 21st century learners and are at the core of the fourth-annual Langford/Iowa Quality Center Student TEAMS (Training in Evaluating, Analyzing, and Measuring Systems) training where UHS students partner with business executives in order to solve existing challenges. Two groups of students participated in training sessions over the course of two days where they learned critical problem solving tools and how to systematically improve work processes. One group of



Aubrey Brueschke, Zaiah Quirk, Raj Oberoi, Maya Sims, and Cameron Canada presenting at Bridgestone.

students then partnered with business executives from Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations to better understand an existing manufacturing challenge while a second group of students partnered with Heartland AEA to examine a challenge dealing with varied school use of digital technology. Both groups applied what they learned through the Student TEAMS training in order to present a solution to Bridgestone, Heartland AEA and District leadership.

"TEAMS was incredibly helpful," said UHS student Raj Oberoi. "We've learned about the PDSA problem solving classes in school, but actually applying it to a real problem that Bridgestone had was incredibly helpful and fulfilling to see how our hard work paid off."

Great work being accomplished by our students! Well-done!

Students Advocate For Kids In D.C.

Perhaps one of the most noble and humbling feats in a life well lived is the choice to use one's voice to advocate for those whose voices may otherwise go unheard. This has been the quest of three UHS students: Mercedes Hendricks, Mariah Breeze and Sarah Luke, who traveled to Washington, D.C., to join over 175 advocates—including 65 high school and college students from 25 states—in order to urge lawmakers to focus on giving children a strong start in life by supporting early childhood education programs in the U.S. and by investing in key health and nutrition programs that save the lives of moms and kids around the world. This passionate and dedicated team of change-makers participated in the 2016 Invest In Kids Advocacy Summit on April 10–12, 2016. The Advocacy Summit is hosted by Save the Children and Save the Children Action Network.

"Washington, D.C., was a great experience and it was amazing to see our hard work be put into action and see that our voice really can make a difference," said Mariah Breeze.



Parent Stacie Hendricks with students Sarah Luke, Mariah Breeze, Mercedes Hendricks in Washington, D.C. participating in the Invest In Kids Advocacy Summit.

We're incredibly proud of these dedicated and passionate students who choose to use their voice to bring about positive change as they represent Urbandale High School, the state of Iowa, and an entire generation of emerging leaders. We look forward to learning more about causes that are important to them and value their contributions in our district, community and nation.

Activities Highlights

Bowling

- * Urbandale Boys Bowling Team won the Class 2A State Championship.
- * Jacob Mellott was named to the Des Moines Register's All-Iowa Bowling Team.
- * Alec Reseland was named to the Class 2A, First Team All-State, Bowling Team.
- * Jacob Mellott placed 2nd and Alec Reseland placed 6th at the State Bowling Tournament.
- * Megan Hess was named to the Class 2A, First Team All-State, Bowling Team.

Cheerleading

- * Urbandale Cheerleaders placed 12th in the State Competition.

Jaywalkers

- * Urbandale Jaywalkers placed 4th in Kick and 5th in Jazz at the UDA Regional Competition.

Drama / Speech

- * Alex Cottington was nominated for All-State Speech.
- * Justin Forkpa, Alex Cottington, Christina Hickman, & Ashley Correa received Division I Ratings at the State Speech Contest.
- * Three groups received Division I Ratings at the IHSSA State Large Group Competition. These included:
 - * Ensemble Acting—Last Minute Adjustments by Rich Orloff - Alex Brown, Keegan Cottington, Bruna Crossetti, Joshua Flory, Sreeja Vepa
 - * Solo Mime—Happy Birthday, Bounty Hunter - Elise Kerr
 - * Group Improv—Maslin Boten, Belden Bremser, Ami Uribe

Wrestling

- * Austin Lamm, Alex Newberg, and Cody Pearson qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament.

Swimming

- * Stjepan Fiolic was named to the Des Moines Register's All-Iowa Swim Team; in addition, Fiolic was named the Captain of the Academic All-State.
- * Stjepan Fiolic and Ben Kramer placed in the State Swim Meet. Fiolic placed 2nd in the 100 and 200 Yard Freestyle; Kramer was 13th in the 200 Yard Freestyle and 24th in the 100 Butterfly. The duo combined on the 200 and 400 Freestyle Relay Teams to place 3rd in each.

Vocal Music

- * Studio 2016, Urbandale's Varsity Show Choir, was named Grand Champion at three of four winter competitions.
- * Urbandale Singers performed at the ACDA North Central Conference in Sioux Falls, SD.

Instrumental Music

- * Jonah Penningroth and Bobby Kaman were accepted into the 4A Iowa All-State Jazz Band.

Congratulations!

- * Dan Davis named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Coach of the Year for Girls Cross Country Coaches in Iowa.
- * Gretta Richardson named Class 2A State Bowling Coach of the Year.
- * To date, 5 Urbandale Athletes have been named to the DM Register's All-Iowa Teams: Caleb Bright-Football, Julia Noah-Girls Cross Country, Sami Hillmer-Volleyball, Jacob Mellott-Boys Bowling, & Stjepan Fiolic - Boys Swimming.

District Dates To Remember

May 18	Volunteer & Substitute Appreciation Reception 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. UHS Cafeteria
May 19	Last full day of class for Seniors
May 24	Senior Barbecue, Walker Johnston Shelter House, 12:00 p.m.
May 25	Senior Awards Program, UHS Performing Arts Center (PAC), 9:00 a.m.
May 26	UHS Commencement, Knapp Center Drake University, 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Last day of school for students (Note: Due to a weather-related cancellation earlier this year, the last day of school has moved to May 27th)
May 30	No School & No Adventurertime (Memorial Day)
May 31	Teacher In-Service Day & No Adventurertime
June 1	Adventurertime Family Services Summer Program begins
June 6	Board Meeting, Urbandale City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
June 15	Rolling Green last day of school for students.
June 16	Rolling Green Teacher In-Service Day.
June 27	3rd Annual Brad Peyton Memorial Golf Tournament presented by the Urbandale Education Foundation; Hyperion Field Club, 11:00 a.m.
July 4 & 5	No Adventurertime
July 4	Urbandale 4th of July Parade and Celebration
July 11	Board Meeting, Urbandale City Hall, 5:30 p.m.
July 21 & 22	Rolling Green New Teacher In-Service
July 25 & 26	Rolling Green Teacher In-Service
July 27	Rolling Green first day of school for students (2016–17)
August 11 & 12	No Adventurertime
August 15 & 16	New Teacher In-Service
August 15–22	No Adventurertime
August 18 & 19	Rolling Green No School (Teacher In-Service)
August 17–19 & 22	Teacher In-Service
August 23	First day of school for students (2016-17)

Congratulations to the Urbandale High School Class of 2016! We are so proud of you and send you best wishes for a fantastic future!

Educational Equity Statement

No student enrolled in the Urbandale Community School District shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the District's programs on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion, marital status (for program), ethnic background, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, age (for employment) or socio-economic background (for program). The policy of the District shall be to provide educational programs and opportunities for students as needed on the basis of individual interests, values, abilities and potential. If you have questions please contact the District office at 11152 Aurora Ave, Urbandale, IA or call 515.457.5000. The District's Equity Coordinators are Dr. Keri Schlueter, Coordinator of Student Services; Mark Lane, Director of Human Resources; and Crista Carlile, Director of Teaching and Learning.

