



Corunna Public Schools • It's GREAT to be GOLD!

# The Communicator



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## Fattal's Forum

By Superintendent John Fattal

As you may have heard, Michigan has enacted a Third Grade Reading Initiative that requires all third grade students to demonstrate proficiency in reading prior to moving to the fourth grade. As a result, the state has invested a lot of time and resources into looking more closely at early literacy research and disseminating that information to local districts.

In response to this and in order to ensure that all of our students receive instruction on the foundational skills they need to acquire to become proficient readers, we have made some instructional focus changes and put many programs and services in place.

For example, during most regular days of instruction all K-3 students will participate in "What I Need" (WIN) lessons to work on solidifying skills they need in order to advance to the next level of reading proficiency. This looks different for different students depending on their strengths and needs. They may work with their classroom teacher or with one of our instructional specialists during this time.

In addition, students receive daily explicit, direct, and systematic instruction using lofty, research-based goals and expectations for students at each grade level. These "minimum expectations" follow for our kindergarten through 3rd graders:

• **K:** automatically know all letter names and sounds, orally blend and segment words, begin to demonstrate letter-sound relationships through phonetic spelling, and blend short vowel words

• **1st:** automatically read single syllable words; demonstrate letter-sound relationships through more advanced phonetic spelling; use new vocabulary words; comprehend stories and informational texts that are read aloud; orally manipulate words by adding, deleting, and substituting sounds; write legibly and for different purposes and audiences

• **2nd:** read regular multisyllabic words; demonstrate letter-sound relationships

through more advanced spelling; use new vocabulary words; comprehend stories and informational texts that are read independently and aloud; read grade-appropriate text fluently, orally manipulate words by adding, deleting, and substituting sounds; and write legibly and for different purposes and audiences

• **3rd:** Demonstrate more advanced spelling skills; use new vocabulary words; comprehend stories and informational texts that are read independently; read grade-appropriate text fluently, and write legibly and for different purposes and audiences

In short, we are working hard to make sure ALL of our students have the necessary skills to be successful later in their educational journey, and more importantly, once they graduate from Corunna Public Schools.

### Miscellany

**Board of Education Recognition Month:** The Corunna Public Schools' Board of Education will be recognized at the January 21, Board of Education meeting. More than ever, school boards are faced with the overwhelming charge of providing a quality education at a time when financial constraints weigh heavily on the health of school budgets. School board members take that responsibility and public trust very seriously, dedicating an enormous number of hours to their work both in and outside of board meetings. Attending school functions, preparing for board meetings, reading financial reports, agendas and proposals, and making a host of difficult and challenging decisions are just a few of the regular activities board members participate in through their service. I see our Board standing strong together and showing great fortitude and leadership as they continue to make decisions with the best interest of this district in mind. For that we owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

**Kindergarten registration:** Believe it or not, we are ramping up plans for next year, starting with kindergarten registration. You will start seeing information on our social

media sites and in future Communicators about kindergarten registration, which will be March 7 and 8, by appointment. Children learn at a young age, attending Corunna Schools, to think and help others. This year's kindergarten registration theme for the 2019-20 school year is NASA based... We are excited to start accepting appointments and to send families information about the outstanding kindergarten/Prest program devoted and centered around our early childhood community. Please call (989) 743-1579 for an appointment time to register your future Cavalier.

**"Beginnergarten":** We are also planning on a new program for our youngest Cavaliers, called "Beginnergarten". Beginnergarten will provide learning experiences and opportunities for children similar to the kindergarten classroom, using a modified kindergarten curriculum, taught at a pace and intensity dependent on individual readiness. This is not a replacement for preschool; it's a way of giving students the foundational skills to be successful. We have been averaging 40 students a year over the last five year of kindergarten students whose birthdays fall between June 1 and December 1. Many of those younger students would have benefited from a "kick start" to their education. Look for more information coming your way on this as well.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After graduating from GVSU and working at FOX 17 in Grand Rapids for a few years, Matt Burns made his way to Connecticut after accepting a job at ESPN. Working at the headquarters of the World Wide Leader for 5 years was an incredible experience, for Matt, but he decided to take a position at ESPN's office in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has been there for the last 2 years. He recently started a podcast, 3 Point Podcast, with two other Corunna alums that everyone should check out! It is available on iTunes.

Matt attended Corunna from K-12, and graduated in 2003 and later graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2008.

A couple years ago, 11 years after graduating high school, Matt reconnected with a former classmate and fellow CHS alum, Kellie Anderson, and they are now married with an almost 3-year-old daughter, Claire. Kellie is a highly successful sonographer with one of the major healthcare networks in the Carolinas region, and is continuing her education in the ultrasound field.



Matt said, "The first thing that always comes to mind when thinking about growing up in Corunna is community. I remember looking up in the bleachers at Nick Anness Field, or looking up in the stands from the court of any gymnasium we played in around Michigan during basketball season, and feeling a remarkable sense of support from our community. That feeling, and support, goes a long way for everyone involved, and makes people feel like they are a part of something special. I believe the value of supporting everyone in the Corunna community is instilled in everyone from a young age, and it shows in the pride that people from Corunna have to be from Corunna. I have gotten to know people not only from around Michigan, but around the world, through my time at university and working at ESPN, and that sense of pride and community is not something that everyone has with their hometown. It is not something people from Corunna should take for granted. Along those lines, the idea of teamwork was always evident to me through the years at Corunna. I grew up with a number of intelligent, talented people, and we all understood that when we worked together we could not only help our team succeed in the classroom and playing field, but help each other succeed individually. I have truly seen in my professional career how much stronger someone can be when they work well with others and recognize everyone on the team has talents that can contribute to the team's success, and I feel like growing up in Corunna taught me the value of teamwork."

Additionally, Matt said, "I am always so proud to talk about my friends and family from Corunna, and all the success they have had after high school and in their professional careers. I know the hard work it takes to achieve goals; I have seen the work people have put in to achieve their goals, and to have the success they have in their professional careers. It is no doubt that the success we had on the athletic fields and in classrooms growing up through our hard work and with the support of the community in Corunna has translated into our professional lives."

## Polishing the Gold

During the recent holiday break, district custodians were busy preparing buildings and facilities for the return of students. Many of the jobs completed require more time than the normal work-day provides. All classroom desks and floors were scrubbed and mopped. Classroom unit ventilators were replaced to extend the life of our system, improve indoor air quality and decrease the amount of energy the system uses.

Many of the areas such as locker rooms, kitchens, and bathrooms were cleaned using a Kaivac machine (Kaivac is a no-touch cleaning system designed to thoroughly remove contaminants in order to eliminate odors and reduce the risk of contamination. It incorporates an indoor pressure washer and a powerful wet vacuum into an integrated cleaning system).

Bulbs and ballasts were changed to ensure energy efficiency. A variety of repairs and general maintenance was done. Roofs and drains were cleaned of debris.

District buildings are shining, running more efficiently and prepared to meet the demands of staff and students. The district takes great pride in all of the Cavalier facilities and buildings. The recent bond passage provided many needed repairs and upgrades. It is, and has always been, important to the district to maintain facilities and buildings and create the best learning environment for students. Great job Custodial Team!



Cody Luchenbill is shown changing a classroom heating unit ventilator at Corunna Middle School.

## Corunna Coffee Bar



Upon returning from winter break, Corunna High School celebrated the opening of the Corunna Coffee Bar in the school media center. Students are enjoying coffee, hot tea, cocoa, and flavored lattes (their favorite is salted caramel!) The coffee station is currently open before school and is available

to students and staff alike. We are proud to serve our school community and are excited to see what comes next!

## Winter Wonderland Daddy Daughter Dance

January 29, 2019 at Corunna Middle School  
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Preregistration Only! Registration Forms and payment may be returned to the Administration Office (124 N. Shiawassee St., Corunna, MI 48817) or to a Corunna school office on or before Friday, January 25th. For planning purposes, we must know how many guests will be in attendance, therefore, no late registrations will be accepted.

**Cost is \$15.00 per couple (preschool-8th grade)  
\$5.00 for each additional daughter.**

Please return this registration form in an envelope along with cash or check (checks payable to Corunna Public Schools) to the administration office or to a Corunna school office labeled "Winter Wonderland Daddy Daughter Dance" on or before Friday, January 25, 2019.

**No registrations will be accepted after January 25th.**

Name of Child(ren) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

School Child(ren) Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Adult Accompanying Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes refreshments, music, 5 x 7 photograph from Hickory Lane Photography, and a small keepsake. If school is dismissed early or there is no school on January 29, the makeup date will be February 5. If a child is not a Corunna Public Schools' student, photograph must be picked up at the Administration Office after being notified. For questions or to request a copy of the flyer email: [pfriess@corunna.k12.mi.us](mailto:pfriess@corunna.k12.mi.us)

**Additional photographs may be ordered separately.  
Grandpas, uncles, father figures, etc. are all welcome!**