



THE PIRATE CHRONICLES

November
2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S
MESSAGE

Gratitude and Growth at Alburnett CSD

A Letter from Alburnett's Superintendent

Welcome back, Pirates! We're excited to begin another school year, and we're looking forward to all the great things our students and staff will accomplish. As we start the year, we want to update you on a few things and share some of the highlights from our first few weeks.

A New Chapter for Our Newsletter

We're excited to announce that we're moving to a digital newsletter format this year! We'll be sending four issues throughout the school year to keep you informed about all the exciting things happening at Alburnett. This new format allows us to share more timely and dynamic content, including photos and videos of our students and staff in action.

Growing Stronger Together

Our student population is growing. Our official enrollment is 886 students from PreK through 12th grade! This growth is a testament to the strong community we have here at Alburnett. We're proud to provide an excellent education for all our students, and we're excited to see them thrive in their new and returning roles. The start of the school year has been off to a positive start, and it's been a joy to see our students and staff reconnect and get back into a routine.

Showcasing Our Talents

This year, we'll be highlighting the many talents of our students and staff. Be on the lookout for features from various staff members who will share all the great things happening in their classrooms and departments via social media as well as utilizing our district website.

Additionally, our newly formed communications team has been hard at work partnering with Grant Wood AEA to find new ways to showcase the incredible work happening in our district. We're excited to share these stories with you throughout the year! Hopefully you have noticed an increase in showcasing the great things happening at Alburnett CSD.

Thank You, Alburnett Community!

Finally, we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our students and staff so far this fall. Your attendance at events and your ongoing encouragement make a world of difference. Your partnership is invaluable, and we're grateful for your continued support.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,

John Zimmerman, Superintendent



With gratitude, we celebrate the incredible community of support that surrounds our school. Together, we've built a strong, caring family that makes every student, staff member, and family feel valued and connected.

Read On...

Elementary News

The year is off and rolling, and what a first quarter it has been! Here at Alburnett, we frequently refer to “all means all.” We want to ensure we are meeting the needs of every learner however that may look. Each fall, we have reading and math screeners from the state that help us to determine which students are on track and which students need extra support to meet their grade level standards.



The Math Counts Act is a new law put in place for this school year, and it fortunately encompasses things we have already been doing. If a child scores below benchmark, we do additional testing to learn what the child knows and does not yet know. Then, we meet as a grade level team to determine how we can build in those missing skills through an intervention.

This may be the teacher working with the child extra during work time, giving the child different practice problems to start the day, the student being re-taught content after the lesson is over, or any other number of options. The intervention is documented, shared with the family, and progress is monitored regularly. Every 4-6 weeks, the team reconvenes to see if the plan is working and make adjustments as needed.

With the law, there will now be a parent portal for families to follow along with the progress as they wish through the state website, Panorama. We are excited to have this additional layer to partner with families to help every student succeed!

Bailey Wright — Elementary Principal



PBIS Celebration Fun!

Last week, our students celebrated reaching their PBIS ticket goal with some exciting grade-level rotations!

- JK-1st Grade: Bingo, a dance party, directed drawing, and Halloween headbands.
- 2nd-3rd Grade: Movie rotations where students got to choose between three fun films.
- 4th-5th Grade: Bingo, Pictionary, and a mummy wrap challenge!

Our next goal is 6,000 tickets by November 21st, and we've hung a giant turkey in the hallway to track our progress!

A big congratulations as well to all of our Good News Phone Callers for the beginning of the year! Alburnett teachers have been busy recognizing students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviors and make us proud every day.

Keep up the great work, Pirates!



What's Happening at the Middle School?



At Alburnett Middle School, we know that helping students succeed means more than teaching math, reading, and science—it's about helping them grow into well-rounded, capable young people who are ready for whatever comes next. That's why we focus on four key attributes that we know make a difference both in school and in life: being Persistent, Respectful, Responsible, and Trustworthy.

Throughout the year, teachers take time to check in and reflect with students on their growth in these areas. Students receive feedback several times during the year, giving them a clear idea of where they are and how they can continue to improve. This helps them take ownership of their learning journey and see that success isn't about being perfect—it's about learning, growing, and trying again.

What We Focus On

Persistent

We want our students to keep going, even when things get tough! Being persistent means putting in consistent effort, bouncing back from challenges, and keeping a positive, problem-solving attitude. A growth mindset helps students see mistakes not as failures, but as opportunities to learn something new.

Respectful

Respect goes a long way in creating a positive school community. Students show respect by listening carefully, using kind words, and being open to different ideas and perspectives. We also emphasize taking care of our spaces and materials—showing pride in our school environment.

Responsible

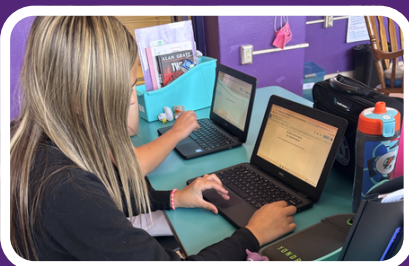
Responsibility is about being prepared, on time, and ready to learn. Our students are encouraged to manage their time wisely, complete their work, and take ownership of their actions. When students take responsibility for their learning, they gain confidence and independence.

Trustworthy

Trustworthiness means being honest, reliable, and doing what's right—even when no one is watching. We encourage students to communicate openly, follow through on commitments, and act with integrity in all situations.

By focusing on these four attributes, we're helping students develop the character and skills they'll need not just for middle school, but for life. At Alburnett Middle School, we're proud to partner with families in this important work—because when students learn to be persistent, respectful, responsible, and trustworthy, they're building a foundation for lifelong success.

Josh Henriksen | Middle School Principal



High School Happenings



It has been an exciting start to the school year in high school! 3DE, the innovative new program we implemented last year, has advanced another step to include both 9th and 10th grade. This model provides incredible opportunities and experiences for our students to collaborate and partner with local and national businesses to connect the material and skills they learn in the classroom to real world settings. Our 9th graders have completed their first 2 cases with Credit Unions Nationwide and Mount Mercy University while our 10th graders have completed their first 2 cases with Freddie Mac and Worley Warehousing!

This fall presented a great opportunity for a cross curricular partnership. Our Geometry in Construction Class (GIC) collaborated with our Musical Theater Class and Fine Arts Department to design and build the sets needed for our musical Annie. Both groups of students did a tremendous job in the design and the final build!

Thanks,
Thomas Trainer, High School Principal



High School Activities Update

The fall season has wrapped up, and our athletes represented Alburnett with pride both on and off the field. Competing this year as part of the River Valley Conference, our Pirates embraced the challenge of new opponents and showcased the toughness and teamwork that define our school. They battled through every match, every mile, and every moment of competition with true Pirate Pride. A huge thank-you goes out to our seniors for leading the way and setting the standard for what it means to be an Alburnett Pirate.

- **Cross Country**
- **Football**
- **Volleyball**
- **Football Cheer**
- **Poms**

Our JH teams also completed their first year in the River Valley Conference. Volleyball participated in 9 matches for both the 7th and 8th grade. JH Football Played 6 games in both the 7th grade and 8th grade. And our JH Cross Country got to participate in 8 meets.



State Recognition

We proudly acknowledge our athletes who advanced to the state level this fall!

- Cross Country qualifiers 2025 State qualifiers:
 - Morgan Wickman 10th, Hayden Gustafson 12th, Logan Ossman 12th.
- HS Varsity Football Team - 2025 State Playoffs:
 - **Alburnett Football Roster**
- State Solo Poms Qualifiers:
 - Trinitee Burris 10th, Sydnee DeBrower 10th, Addison Eighme 11th, Taryn Moore 10th
- The Football Cheer Team attended the State cheerleading competition on Nov. 1st:
 - Marie Candler 11th, Liyah Potts 11th, Molly Bauercamper 12th, Eliot Myers 11th, Mya Heather 11th, Amelia Finley 11th, Bree McCusker 12th, Zoe Steen 12th, Robyn Finn 9th, Evelyn Ford 9th



Pirate Pride

3DE Kickoff Culminating Events

3DE at Alburnett is now in full swing! The first two culminating events happened last week, this time with 9th and 10th grade. 9th graders had their culminating event first on October 27th. Their 9.2 case challenge had them partnering with Mount Mercy University to propose a non-profit with a shared initiative: Elevate the Community. Aaven Behrens, Tyler Gerhold, Jenna Sarazin, and Ily Hayes won the 9th grade culminating event.

On October 29th, the 10th grade had their presentation. They partnered with Worley Warehousing LLC - helping them choose the best forklift to invest in. Their presentation was in an infographic format rather than a slideshow. Pictured are Issac Borrett, Henry Bohl, and Josey Rollinger won the 10th grade Culminating Event.

Article Submitted by: Josey Rollinger

Photos by: Beckett Flannagan and Melani Ellis



Alburnett student KJ, once selectively mute, found his voice through the 3DE program, growing from quietly participating to confidently presenting in front of peers and business professionals. With the support of his teacher and classmates, KJ gained the confidence and communication skills that now empower him to lead as a 3DE Ambassador and prepare for life beyond high school.

[Read more in this article on the 3DE website](#)

Celebrating Retiree, Alburnett Custodian Jenice Richardson

In October, we celebrated the retirement of our longtime custodian, Jenice Richardson. After more than 20 years of dedicated service to Alburnett, Jenice has made a lasting impact on our school community. We wish her all the best as she enjoys her well-earned retirement!

Students gave her [**a big round of applause**](#) to celebrate her retirement.



NHS Induction

Congratulations to all of this year's new National Honor Society Inductees. (Photo taken by Alburnett's Mass Media students)



PBIS Success

Alburnett Elementary students kicked off their first PBIS assembly of the year in September! During this assembly, students set a goal to collect 3,000 tickets to recognize their positive behaviors by Oct. 24th. Our elementary students succeeded in reaching this goal! Their next goal is 6,000 tickets by Nov. 21st!



High School Activities Preview

Now, we shift our focus to the winter season — ready to carry that same Pirate energy into the gyms, onto the mats, and beyond.

As our winter programs get underway, our student-athletes will be preparing for exciting competitions this season: Here is the list of the activities and Practice start dates:

- Girls Basketball: November 10th
- Wrestling Cheer: November 17th
- Boys Basketball: November 17th
- Boys Wrestling: November 17th
- Boys Bowling: November 17th co-op W/Marion

We are eager to support our athletes as they represent Alburnett with commitment, teamwork, and Pirate pride all winter long. If you are interested joining one of these sports, you may go to Alburnett's BOUND WEBSITE gobound.com/ia/schools/alburnett

Parents must have a BOUND account before registering their student for an activity. If you already have an account and have connected your account as the guardian of your students account , you may log in and register your child for activities.

For help with this, please reach out to the teams coach or the AD's Secretary, Alaina at awagner@alburnettcsd.org

Helpful Links:

[Registering Your Student for an Activity \(For Parents and Guardians\)](#)



Stay Up To Date

Stay connected with what's happening at Alburnett! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) for the latest school updates, event highlights, and heartwarming moments from around our district. You'll also find important announcements like school closures and weather alerts. Join us as we celebrate our students and all the great things happening in Pirate Nation!



facebook.com/Alburnettcsd



instagram.com/alburnettcsd



x.com/Alburnett_CSD



Tickets for Alburnett High School's production of Annie are NOW officially available for purchase!



Please follow the link to purchase your tickets and reserve your seats for this year's show!

Order Tickets:

our.show/anniealburnett

Shows will be held on:

- Friday, November 14th 7:00PM.
- Saturday, November 15th 7:00PM.



We are so excited for you to see all of the hard work the students have invested in this year's show. Thank you for supporting our students and music programs at Alburnett!

Calendars

November Events (Go to gobound.com/ia/schools/alburnett for more information)

Nov. 10 — Girl's 7th and 8th Grade Basketball @ Monticello MS

Nov. 11 — 10 - 11 a.m. Veteran's Day assembly

- Blood drive hosted by Alburnett Lions Club
- JH Boys Wrestling (4:30 - 7:30 @ North Linn)

Nov. 12 — 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Athletic Booster Club Meeting

Nov. 13 — 12-8 p.m. High School RVC Band Festival @ West Branch HS

- Girl's 7th and 8th Grade Basketball @ Home

Nov. 14 — 7-10 p.m. Fall Musical, Alburnett CSD presents Annie

Nov. 15 — 7-10 p.m. Fall Musical, Alburnett CSD presents Annie

Nov. 17 — 4-7 p.m. JR High Boys Wrestling Meet @ Home

- Girl's 7th and 8th Grade Basketball @ Beckman Catholic HS
- 6-7:30 p.m. Alburnett School Board Meeting

Nov. 18 — 5-8 p.m. Varsity Girls Wrestling @ New Hampton

Nov. 19 — 6-8 p.m. Alburnett Foundation Meeting

Nov. 20 — 6-7:30 p.m. Varsity Girls Basketball @ Union HiS

- 7:30 - 9 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball @ Union HS
- Girl's 7th and 8th Grade Basketball @ Cascade HS

Nov. 21 — 2-8 p.m. Varsity Girls Wrestling Invitational @ Independence HS

Nov. 22 — 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Youth Boys Basketball Tournament @ Home

Nov. 24 — 4-7 p.m. JR High Boys Wrestling @ Maquoketa HS

- 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Jamboree @North Linn HS
- 4 - 9 p.m. Varsity Girls Wrestling Invitational @ West Liberty HS
- Girl's 7th and 8th Grade Basketball @ West Liberty MS

Nov. 26 - 30 — Thanksgiving Break, No School



Mark Your Calendar

Here's a quick preview of events to come. Stay tuned for more information!

Dec. 4 — Grades 5 - 12 Band Concert

Dec. 10 — Alburnett Foundation Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 11 — Grades 6-12 Choir Concert

Feb. 7 & 8 — Alburnett Archery Tournament @ 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 19 — Kindergarten and 1st Grade Concert

Feb. 24 — Middle School Band & Choir Concert

March 6 & 7 — Coffee House

April 11 — Trivia Night Hosted by Alburnett Lions Club @ 5:00 p.m.

April 12 — Concrete Dance Company Rehearsal

April 16 — 2nd & 4th Grade Elementary Concert

April 24 — Set Up for Jr/Sr Prom

April 25 — Prom Grand March & Dance

Lunch Menu

Alburnett Lunch menus can
now be found at

alburnettcsd.org/nutrition

Menus subject to change.

