



THE PIRATE CHRONICLES

May
2026

SUPERINTENDENT'S
MESSAGE

Finishing the Year Strong at Alburnett CSD

From the Superintendent's Desk: Closing the Year with Confidence

As the green returns to our campus and the days grow longer, we find ourselves at the peak of another incredible spring here at Alburnett CSD. This season is always a whirlwind of activity, but it also provides an opportunity to pause, reflect, and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students and staff.

Wishing the Class of 2026 Continued Success

I want to extend a massive congratulations to our graduating seniors! Watching this class grow, learn, and lead has been an absolute privilege. They have left an indelible mark on our halls through their academics, arts, athletics, and character.

To our graduates: remember that you will always have a home here at Alburnett. Thank you for your leadership and for setting such a positive example for our younger Pirates. We cannot wait to see how you change the world. Go make some waves!

Pirate Pride in the River Valley Conference

Our spring sports seasons are wrapping up, and to say our student-athletes represented us well would be an understatement. We have seen outstanding success across the board in the River Valley Conference this spring. Our boy's soccer team has earned a #2 seed and will host a playoff game on the 27th starting at 7:00. Our boys track team won the River Valley Conference and both the girls and boys teams are competing at state.

Our Pirates competed with grit, sportsmanship, and unparalleled determination. Thank you to our dedicated coaches, parent volunteers, and our amazing booster club for supporting our athletes every step of the way. You all made this a spring season to remember!

Honoring Two Incredible Educators

While spring brings new beginnings for our seniors, it also brings a bittersweet transition for our district as we say goodbye to two foundational members of the Alburnett family. This year, we are celebrating the retirements of **Jeff Hau** and **Jeff Miles**.

Between them, "The Jeffs" have dedicated decades of service, wisdom, and passion to our schools. They have shaped the minds of countless students, mentored fellow staff members, and consistently gone above and beyond to make Alburnett a better place.

Thank you, Alburnett community, for your unwavering support throughout this school year. Let's finish these last few weeks strong and head into a safe, and restful summer.



Go Pirates!

John Zimmerman Superintendent, Alburnett CSD

Read On...

Elementary News

As we close the book on the 2025–2026 school year, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by! Summer with children is exciting, memory-filled, and sometimes a little daunting as parents try to balance fun, structure, and relaxation. As we head into summer break, I wanted to share a few thoughts on supporting learning and development during these important months.

Boredom can be beneficial.

The pressure to keep children constantly busy during the summer can feel overwhelming — I feel it as a parent, too! However, some unstructured time (away from electronics) can be incredibly valuable. It is often in those quiet moments that imagination blossoms. Boredom can spark creativity, independence, problem solving, and innovation in ways a packed schedule sometimes cannot.

Conversations are crucial.

Reading with children over the summer offers countless benefits, but the conversations surrounding reading are just as important. Ask questions, make connections, and encourage children to talk about what they are reading. The same is true in everyday life — having kids summarize their day, explain activities, or share opinions helps strengthen communication skills, vocabulary, and confidence.

Everyday tasks teach lifelong skills.

Including children in the daily routines of a household — meal planning, cooking, laundry, cleaning, or yard work — teaches lessons that cannot always be learned from a book. These experiences help build responsibility, independence, teamwork, time management, gratitude, and a sense of pride in contributing to the family.

Never underestimate the value of play.

Children are never too old for board games and card games! What may seem like a simple game of UNO can help develop strategic thinking, sportsmanship, patience, and connection with others. Two favorites in our house are Blink and Tapple.

Thank you for an incredible school year. It has been a privilege to partner with you in supporting our students' growth, learning, and success. Wishing all of our Pirate families a memorable, relaxing, and joy-filled summer!

— **Bailey Wright, Alburnett Elementary School Principal**



Photo by Alburnett Mass Media

PBIS Fun

We wrapped up the school year with our final PBIS assembly, celebrating students for their positive behavior, hard work, and what it means to be a proud Pirate! Students were excited to welcome Mr. Shucks, mascot of the Cedar Rapids Kernels, who shared information about the Kernels' summer reading program and encouraged everyone to keep reading all summer long.

Our elementary students also reached an incredible milestone by collecting 6,000 PBIS tickets, earning the top PBIS prize — an exciting Color Run celebration at the Martin Complex!

We'd like to give a shout out to our PTO and the Alburnett Foundation for funding the Color Run and snacks!



In Case You Missed It...

Here are just a few exciting, recent stories you might have missed from Alburnett!



We had the chance to celebrate so many talented choir students at our recent concert.



FFA held a plant sale to support student conventions and hands-on learning.



We celebrated the class of 2026

Photos by Alburnett
Mass Media



Don't miss out on stories like these!
**Follow Alburnett on Facebook,
Twitter, and Instagram!**

Middle School News

As another school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank our students, staff, parents, and community for all of the support that helped make this a great year at the middle school. It truly takes everyone working together to create a positive environment for our students, and we are grateful for the partnership we have with our families and community.

This year brought many opportunities for learning, growth, activities, and memorable moments. Our students continued to rise to the challenges that middle school brings academically and socially, and our staff remained committed to helping students succeed each day. We appreciate the encouragement and support from parents throughout the year and are thankful to be part of a community that values education and supports our schools so well.

This time of year is always exciting, but it also comes with mixed emotions. We are sad to see such a wonderful group of 8th graders move on to high school. They have been great leaders in our building and have made a positive impact on our school culture. While we will certainly miss them, we are excited to see what the future holds for each of them as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

At the same time, I recently had the opportunity to meet with our incoming 6th graders, and it was great to see their excitement about coming to the middle school next year. They are going to be a wonderful addition to our building, and we are looking forward to welcoming them this fall.

As summer begins, we hope everyone has the chance to relax, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. Throughout the summer, please continue to watch for important information regarding the 2026–2027 school year. We are already looking forward to another great year and are excited to see what next year brings.

Thank you again for a successful school year, and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

— Josh Henriksen, Alburnett Middle School Principal



High School Happenings

Celebrating a Year of Excellence, Growth, and Pirate Pride

As we close another remarkable school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students, staff, and community. This year was filled with growth, achievement, and memories that will have a lasting impact on our school community. Our students continued to demonstrate resilience, determination, and Pirate pride both inside and outside the classroom. Whether competing on the field, performing on stage, or excelling academically, they represented Alburnett with excellence.



Athletic Successes

This year was an exciting one for our athletic programs. Student-athletes across all sports demonstrated teamwork, dedication, and perseverance throughout their seasons. Several teams earned conference and tournament honors, while many individual athletes achieved personal bests and received recognition for outstanding performance and leadership. Beyond wins, our great coaches continued to help Pirate student-athletes build character, sportsmanship, and school spirit. The support shown by students, families, staff, and community members at games and events created an atmosphere that made our school proud.

Outstanding Fine Arts Programs

Our fine arts students showcased exceptional talent and creativity throughout the year. From band and choir concerts to an exceptional performance of Annie and art exhibitions, students inspired audiences with their hard work and passion.

Fine arts continue to play a vital role in helping students develop confidence, discipline, and self-expression, and we are proud of everything our students accomplished this year.

Academic Excellence

Academic achievement remains at the heart of everything we do. Students challenged themselves through rigorous coursework, career exploration opportunities, and extracurricular academic activities. Many students earned academic honors and participated in leadership organizations. 3DE continues to create real world opportunities and experiences for students to build their professional capacity.

Our teachers continued to create engaging learning experiences that encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration. We also celebrated the growth of students who worked hard every day to improve, overcome challenges, and achieve their goals.

This year's graduating class leaves behind a legacy of leadership and determination, and we are excited to see the impact they will make in the future.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on this school year, we are reminded that success is built through partnerships between students, families, staff, and the community. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment to Alburnett!

We wish all of our students and families a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another year of opportunity, achievement, and Pirate pride.

Have a wonderful summer!

—Thomas Trainer, Alburnett High School Principal





9.5 JAEI Case Overview

In this 9.6 case challenge, students worked to answer the question: How can Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa better communicate about the JA Dream Accelerator within the company? Students explored the importance of effective communication and analyzed challenges such as email oversaturation, information overload, and limited meeting times.

JAEI Case Challenge Winners!

Aayden B., Tyler G., Cash E.



9.5 Award Winners

Competency: Cash E.

Behavioral Indicator: Edyn W.

Mindset: Conner B.

All - Star: Aaven B.

All - Star: Ella R.

Educator Spotlight

Mr. Vawter

Students nominated Mr. Vawter for the 3DE™ value:

They Win. We Win.

"He encourages us to keep trying, even if the math gets hard. I appreciate how he makes his class a space where it's okay to make mistakes and to learn from them."

9.6 Delta Case Overview

In the this case challenge, students worked to answer the question: How can Delta Air Lines improve the airport gate experience? Students developed solutions focused on increasing comfort, convenience, and efficiency in gate areas. The project culminated in a competition against College Community, where Alburnett took come the winning trophy!

Delta Case Challenge Winners!

Jenna S., Robyn F., Cole M., Jackson S.



9.6 Award Winners

Competency: Jenna S.

Behavioral Indicator: Karson P.

Mindset: Ella L.

All - Star: Robyn F.

All - Star: Ellie B.

Educator Spotlight

Mr. Winter

Students nominated Mr. Winter for the 3DE™ value: Choose Joy. Have Fun.

"Even while being productive and getting things done in class, Mr. Winter makes sure that every student is having fun, and finds new ways to make people smile everyday."



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10.5 Award Winners

Competency: Eliana C.
 Behavioral Indicator: Juliana B.
 Mindset: Izzabell B.
 All - Star: Adah F.
 All - Star: Payton S.

Educator Spotlight

Mrs. Harrell

Students nominated Mrs. Harrell for the 3DE™ value of:
They Win. We Win.

"She truly cares about the students on a personal level. She is often quick to offer her support and concern if someone seems upset."

10.5 Built by Pros Case Overview

These two teams were selected to represent us at the interschool competition, where they faced off against College Community. They answered the question: How should Built By Pros create consistent communication about the event it is promoting? (The hiring fair)

Built by Pros Case Challenge Winners!

Team 1: Lauren W., Payton S., Breighlyn F.
 Team 2: Natalie K., Myleigh F., Will C., Liam C.
 (This team finished as the runner-up to Prairie!)



10.6 State Farm Case Overview

In this 10.6 case challenge, students explored the question: How can an insurance company like State Farm help teens become more focused drivers to prevent crashes? Students examined the causes and dangers of distracted driving, especially among teen drivers, and evaluated current safety efforts such as education programs, safe-driving apps, and community partnerships.

State Farm Case Challenge Winners!

Isabella B. and Lakyn P.



10.6 Award Winners

Competency Award: Brianna G.
 Behavioral Indicator: Kaitlyn K.
 Mindset: Riley D.
 All - Star: Myleigh F.
 All - Star: Aaden G.
 All - Star: Liam C.

Educator Spotlight

Ms. Smith

Students nominated Ms. Smith for the 3DE™ value:
Many Voices. One Team.

"She checked in with students whenever we did 3DE. She made sure that each person felt heard and understood what we were doing for this case challenge."

Info Before We Head Into Summer

2026 - 2027 Registration Information

School registration information for the upcoming school year will be released in early August. Families are encouraged to stay tuned for updates by checking the district website for the latest details and instructions.

For more information, please visit alburnettcsd.org/parent-student-info/registration in Early August.

Save the Date

Alburnett will be hosting an All School Open House on August 19, 2026. This is an invitation for all Alburnett students and families, PreK through 12th grade (ages 3 through seniors).

Alburnett teachers and staff are excited to welcome everyone on **August 19th from 3:00–8:00 PM.**

If you are unable to attend, student school photos will also be taken on the first day of school for K–12.

Event Details:

- 8/19/25 | 3:00–8:00 PM – Alburnett Community Schools Elementary Gym: Open House & Family Night
- 8/19/25 | 3:00–8:00 PM – High School Gym: Student Picture Day
- 8/19/25 | 5:00–8:00 PM – High School: In-Person Registration Assistance

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Also consider shopping online for your back to school purchases. Alburnett's shop can be found on educationalproducts.com/shoppacks and are open now until June 16th. This resource saves families money, and supports the school.

Keep Informed About Alburnett Camps, Events and Summer Sports

Stay informed about all the great opportunities happening at Alburnett this summer, including athletic camps, summer sports, and community events. We hope you'll come out to support and cheer on our Pirates all summer long and into the next school year!

Alburnett Bound (For Summer Sports)
gobound.com/ia/schools/alburnett



For info on Athletic Camps, go to:
alburnettsports.com



**Have a Great
Summer, Go
Pirates!**

