

# COLLINS-MAXWELL

## Spartans Newsletter

Winter 2024

Hey Spartan Families-

The first quarter flew by for all of us at the MS/HS. Our fall sports are winding down and winter sports are gearing up. Our Spartan football team made the State Playoffs for the first time in Spartan history. Our Varsity Girls Cross Country team is the Iowa Star Conference Champs and finished second at the State-Qualifying meet to qualify for the State Cross Country Meet in Fort Dodge on Saturday, November 2nd. The Varsity Boys Cross Country Team is the Iowa Star Conference Runner Ups. The volleyball team had a great season and showed so much improvement throughout the season. Winter sports will be starting up very soon!

As we transition from fall to winter, I would to share some of the upcoming events and reminders.

- We are excited to launch our new website at [cmspartans.org](http://cmspartans.org). Go check it out if you haven't already!

- As winter weather approaches, remember to check our website for school closings.

- The CTE Advisory Committee will be meeting on November 4th at 5:30 in Maxwell

- Parent/Teacher Conference Night will be on November 7th from 4:00-8:00 in the Small Gym- all teachers will be in the gym and no appointment is needed

- The Variety Show is on November 9th beginning at 6:30 in the Small Gym

- Spartan Carnival at Maxwell on Friday, November 15th from 6:00-8:00

- We will dismiss at 1:48 on Tuesday, November 26th and No School November 27-29 for Thanksgiving Break

- MS/HS Winter Concert is Monday, December 16th

- We will dismiss at 1:48 on December 20th and there will be No School from December 23-January 1

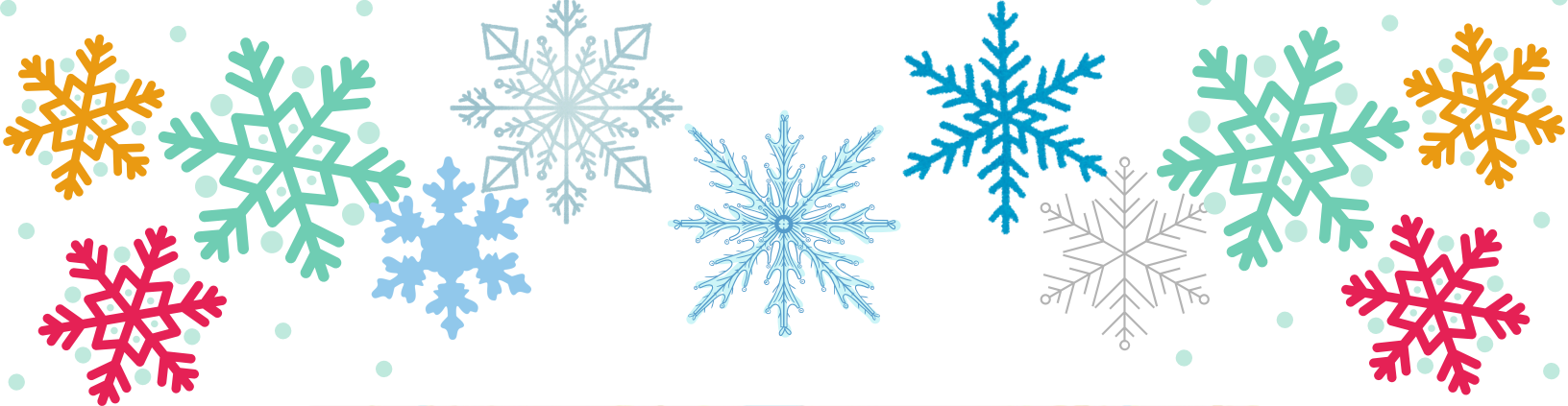
The energy and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff continue to inspire me each day. Remember, communication is key to our success. Don't hesitate to reach out to teachers or administration with questions or concerns. You can reach my office at 515-387-1115 x4105 or email [lfricke@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us](mailto:lfricke@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us).

Thank you for your continued support of Collins-Maxwell. Together, we're building not just educated students, but compassionate, capable young leaders.

Sincerely-  
Lori Fricke, Principal

We are off to a great start to the school year at Collins-Maxwell Elementary! Students have been working hard on academic statewide assessments as well as reviewing behavior expectations and Spartan PRIDE. We have had several exciting events already with Homecoming Week, our first PBIS assembly, and even some field trips! During our Professional Development Mondays, teachers have been looking at student FAST data and reviewing our Math curriculum and standards. They have been working hard to best meet the needs of all students. Please keep an eye on the Collins-Maxwell Community School District Facebook page for important information and pictures of fun events! Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your student's success!

Mrs. Plants  
Elementary Principal



# SPARTAN CARNIVAL

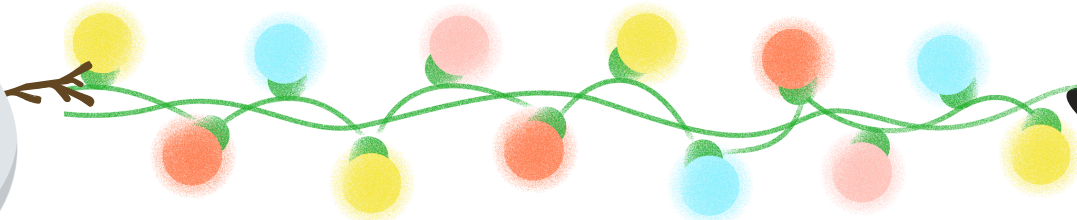
NOVEMBER 15, 2024 | 6-8 PM

LARGE GYM, MAXWELL

**Advanced tickets: 5 for \$1**

\*Will be available at the MS/HS Office,  
Elementary Office, or on the form sent home

**At the door: 4 for \$1**





# **SAVE THE DATE**

**There will be an informational presentation on a 4-Day School Week with a Round Table Discussion on Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Small Gym in Maxwell. More details will be coming soon!**



Please go to the school website to apply!!!

<https://www.applitrack.com/collinsmaxwell/onlineapp/default.aspx>



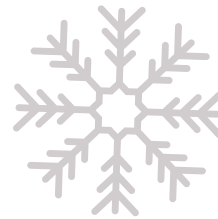
## Preschool News

The preschool class took a field trip to Dakins Lake in Zearing. They got to hike around the lake, hold wooly caterpillars, measure leaves, plant seeds, and play "I Spy"!



## Kindergarten News

In science, the kindergartners are learning about push, pull, and change in movement. One of the science labs students participated in was building a sail for a toy car.



They needed to construct their sail in a way that allowed their car to move the farthest. Students enjoyed being able to use their learned knowledge and creativity to construct a sail. After the experiment, we discussed what worked, what didn't work, and what could be improved. Students got to improve their design and test their new creation.

-Mrs. Ericson and Mrs. Hauptert



## Fifth Grade News



Fifth Grade has been busy already this year. Mrs. Davis and Miss Fisher's classes went to Hickory Grove to work on team-building skills. The students were challenged to think as a group and communicate with one another as a team. They were also taught orienteering skills (reading a compass) and learned about canoeing safety.



### Kindergarten/5th Grade Reading Buddies

Each Friday, Mrs. Davis's 5th grade class goes to Mrs. Hauptert's kindergarten class for reading buddies. Throughout the year, the 5th-grade students will read, play educational games (ABCs, matching, rhyming, numbers), and other activities. As the kindergarten students learn to read, they will start reading to their 5th-grade buddies.





# Homecoming Week

Homecoming 2024 was a wild time! Our theme this year was "Welcome to the Jungle," and the students carried that out through hallway decorations, chalk drawings at Spartan Stadium, posters in business windows, and cheers and dances at the pep rally.

On Sunday, we had a spirit walk that started in Spartan Stadium and ended in the gymnasium with a pep rally and coronation of our king and queen. This year's homecoming court includes Gianna Pitcherello, Lizzie Vaskova, Sydney Baldwin, Gavin Carnine, Nate Smith, and Deegan Dirx. Our royalty was Prince Rocco Meek, Princess Isla Oswalt, King Nate Smith, and Queen Lizzie Vaskova. The night was capped off with the high school girls competing in the Powder Puff football game.

Other activities during the week included Buff Puff volleyball for the HS boys, Battle of the Class Competition, a grill out, games and activities at the park and school, and High Five Friday where the Homecoming Court visited the elementary. Of course, the football game versus Baxter was a highlight, even though the Spartans came up short. The week ended with the Homecoming dance on Saturday night.





### HyVee KidsFit Wellness Week

Did you know kids need 60 min of movement every day? Mrs. Davis's 5th-grade class teamed up with HyVee KidsFit to make moving fun and rewarding in the classroom. The week of Sept. 30, the students stretched, did yoga, learned proper techniques, and got their bodies moving. The class averaged 340 minutes of movement each day at school. The top 10 classrooms will earn prizes.

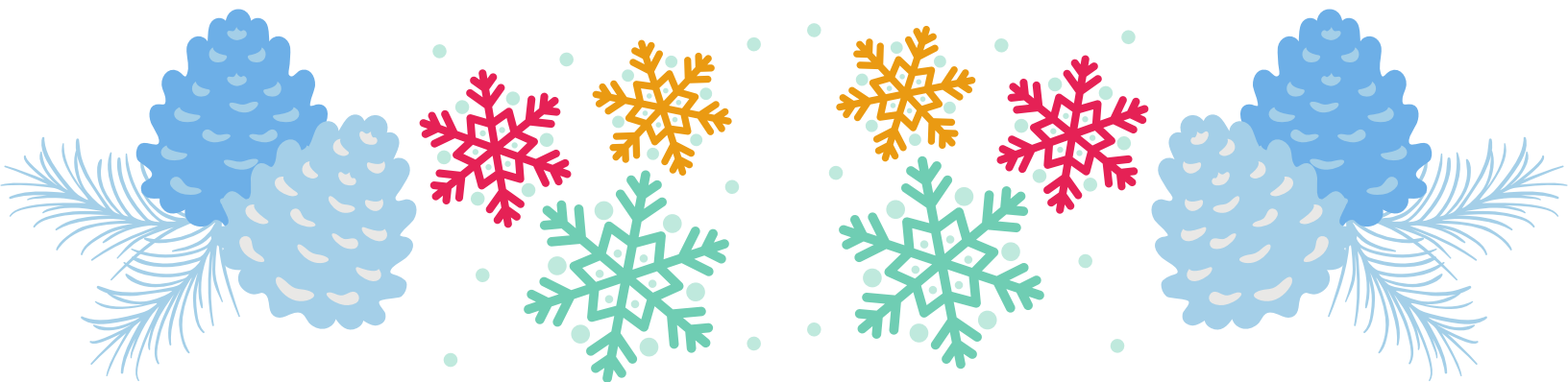


MS Student Council  
The middle school student council is off to a great start! They have been working hard to start the planning process for the MS Dance, service projects, and fundraisers. The students had such a great time last year visiting the Nevada Care Facility that they want to do it again and stay longer! I know the residents enjoyed visiting with our students and receiving their holiday cards and the students did such a great job interacting with them.

Currently, they are voting on the President, Secretary, and treasurer. What a great opportunity for parents and guardians to have a conversation about the election process (while our election process is on a very small scale, there are still great conversations to be had) We have three students running for any of those offices: Callahan Coffelt, Dayton Dirx, and Lillian Leslie. The entire MS is voting the last week of 1st quarter. Ask your student who their leaders are!  
~Melissa Robinson (MS Student Council Advisor)

SAVE THE DATE: MS Dance Friday, February 28,  
2025 6-9 p.m.  
The winning Theme: NEON

Middle School Student Council Members:  
Back Row: Callahan Coffelt, Lillian Leslie, Dayton Dirx, Bristol Courter, Kailyn Howerton  
Front Row: Zeva Hyde, Holly Reed, Kaylee Cornelius, Adelyn Dirx, Mashea Shoemaker



# MS. Rob's Math Update

**7th Grade:** Your students were given the task of rescuing Fred the Worm using only two paper clips and a life preserver made of gummy worms (life savers). The goal was to work together and find a way to maneuver the worm into the life preserver using the limited resources provided.



**8th Grade:** Your students were tasked to build the tallest index card castle they could by taking turns placing each index card. They could fold the index cards however they wished but couldn't tear them. The goal was to work together to keep the castle standing upright and working off of the person before them's ideas and work. This task requires great teamwork and patience!

Currently, 8th grade is learning about how to transform repeating decimals into fractions, root functions, and integer exponents! They are learning to work with partners and how to struggle to succeed! I am very proud of their accomplishments so far this school year.

Currently, the 7th grade is learning about integers and rational number operations. I am very impressed with their knowledge, ability to work together, and spunk in the classroom!



**Geometry:** Your students were given the task of building the tallest structure with toothpicks and marshmallows. The goal of this was to work together, keep the structure standing, take turns adding the toothpicks/marshmallows, and then it had to stay standing for 60 seconds after they let go! We had a few topple over.



**Pre-Algebra:** Your students were also tasked to build the tallest index card castle they could by taking turns placing each index card. They could fold the index cards however they wished but couldn't tear them. The goal was to work together to keep the castle standing upright and working off of the person before them's ideas and work. This task requires great teamwork and patience!

Currently, the Pre-Algebra students are Learning about the Real Number System: operations with integer and rational numbers, fractions, scientific notation, integer exponents, conversions, root operations, and comparing/ordering number forms.

The geometry students have learned more vocabulary for math than I think they knew possible! There is even more to come! They are learning to look at math differently through proofwriting. They are already well into their 2nd unit and will finish it the last week of the 1st quarter,.

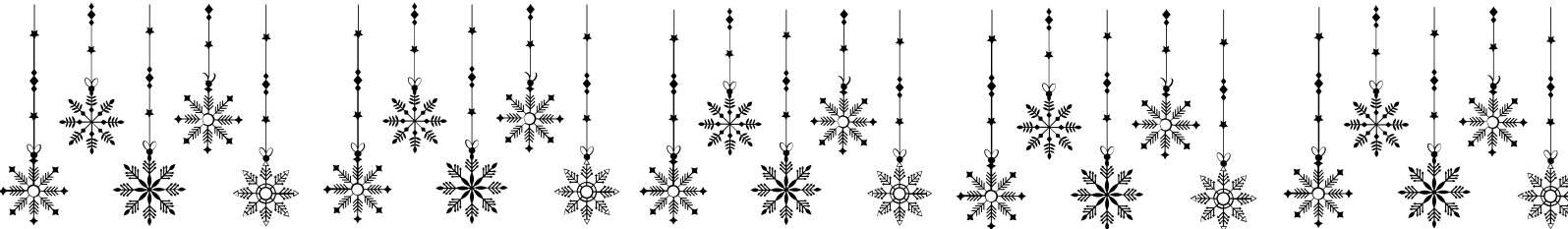




This year CM MS/HS has been engaging in Career Based Learning several Mondays per month. MS students have been working on career exploration and digital citizenship. These would include interest inventories, time management, discovering their learning style, and study skills and habits.

HS students are also working on Career Exploration with more of a focus on finding several career pathways that they would like to research and possibly pursue. HS students also are making choices on guest speakers that have volunteered to speak to our students. These speakers are sharing their backgrounds, college and training, daily work environment, and advice they have for HS students just starting out.

Career fields that have been presented are medical, farming, musician, banking, a feed business, bio-products, dentistry, chiropractic care, and real estate agent. We will have many more careers in the coming weeks and months. Speakers are organized by staff members and also by contacting the school themselves. If you are interested in speaking to students about your career, please contact the office or email Mrs. Fricke at [lfricke@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us](mailto:lfricke@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us).



Collins-Maxwell High School is excited to announce the launch of a new speech team for the 2024-2025 school year. The Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) officially recognizes the team. The team's coach, Christy Gard, is both an IHSSA-certified coach and judge who is passionate about creating an encouraging and safe environment for student to expand their communication skills. Starting with a dedicated group of six high school students, the program aims to grow significantly before the large group district competition in January. The team will focus on developing vital communication skills through a variety of speech events, including both large group competitions in January and February and individual competitions in March. Staff and parents can encourage all students, regardless of prior experience, to join and contribute to the growing program. The goal is to foster a passion for public speaking and a love for drama while building camaraderie among participants, ultimately creating a vibrant and dynamic speech team at Collins-Maxwell.



# COLLINS-MAXWELL CHRISTMAS TAG TREE



\*Forms may be picked up at Collins-Maxwell Elementary or MS/HS

The Local Food Pantry represented by all the churches in the Maxwell, Collins, and Farrar communities is responsible for the Christmas TAG Tree project. Sonja Plunkett, Katie Plunkett, and Karmen Plunkett are the representatives from the Local Food Pantry for this project.

If your family needs a helping hand this holiday season, please fill out the form and return it

\*BY Friday, NOVEMBER 22nd to the schools or mail it/call either of these representatives:

Karmen Plunkett Sonja Plunkett Katie Plunkett  
29219 660th Ave. 66150 325th St. 29125 660th Ave  
Maxwell, IA 50161 Maxwell, IA 50161 Maxwell, IA 50161  
515-681-3684 515-450-4290 515-351-7416



Returning the form by this date will ensure that your child/children will be a part of the TAG Tree. If you do not return the form by November 22nd, we cannot guarantee your family's participation in this project.

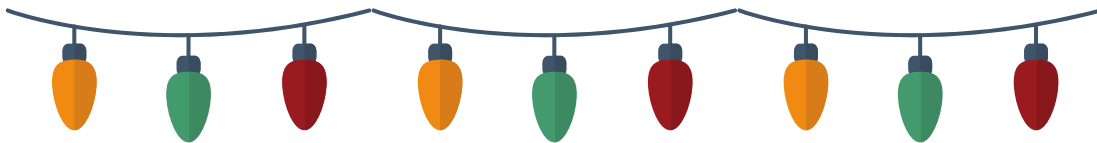
We can assist the children living in your home from infants through high schoolers who reside in the Collins-Maxwell CSD. To ensure privacy for your family, your child/children's name(s) will not be used; instead, a number will be assigned to your child/children. Please fill out the form completely with your name, phone number, and address. Make sure you indicate the sizes of all clothing and shoes.

You will be responsible for picking up your child/children's gifts on Tuesday, DECEMBER 17th, BETWEEN 4:00-6:30 PM at the Maxwell Presbyterian Church basement.

## THOSE WISHING TO PURCHASE GIFTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TAG TREE

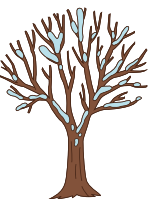
\*You are not expected to purchase everything on the TAG - these are suggestions.

Those who would like to help a local boy or girl may choose a "TAG" from a tree at the Exchange State Bank in Collins or the Maxwell State Bank in Maxwell beginning Wednesday, November 27th. All purchased gifts should be returned to the banks by Friday, December 13th.



You must meet the following criteria for your child/children to be on the TAG Christmas Tree:

1. You and your child/children must reside in Collins or Maxwell or attend Collins-Maxwell CSD.
2. The child/children must live in your house more than 50% of the time. (If child/children are in foster care, the foster family may receive the gifts for your child/children.)
3. If your child does not need an item, leave that space blank on the form (i.e. if your child does not need a winter coat, leave that space blank)
4. Do not expect to receive every item listed.
5. Gifts will be ready to pick up at the Maxwell Presbyterian Church basement on Tuesday, December 17th from 4:00- 6:00 PM.
6. If you have any questions, please contact Karmen Plunkett 515-681-3684, Katie Plunkett 515-351-7416, or Sonja Plunkett 515-290-4290.



We ask that you do not wrap your gifts. The families will wrap them. This will allow them to see the gifts you have so generously purchased. Anyone wishing to donate wrapping paper may leave it at the banks. We also ask that you put your purchased gift inside some kind of bag and staple the tag to the bag.

Circle one: Boy Girl Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing (if needed)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
Coat		
Shirts		
Pants		
Shoes		

Child's needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's wants:  
(each item listed needs to be under \$25 to be placed on the tree)

\*Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information will be kept private and used only for clarification purposes or sending a reminder call the day of pick up.

Circle one: Boy Girl Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing (if needed)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
Coat		
Shirts		
Pants		
Shoes		

Child's needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle one: Boy Girl Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing (if needed)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
Coat		
Shirts		
Pants		
Shoes		

Child's needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's wants:  
(each item listed needs to be under \$25 to be placed on the tree)

\*Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information will be kept private and used only for clarification purposes or sending a reminder call the day of pick up.

# Upcoming Events



- Nov. 6 - Athletic Booster Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00pm
- Nov. 9 - Variety Show @ MS/HS 6:30 pm
- Nov. 11 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher PD
- Nov. 15 - Spartan Carnival @ MS/HS 6:00 pm
- Nov. 19 - JH Girls BB vs BCLUW @ Collins 4:30pm
- Nov. 20 - School Board Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00 pm
- Nov. 21 - JH Girls BB @ Meskwaki 4:30pm
- Nov. 22 - JV/V Girls BB @ Woodward-Granger 6:00pm
- Nov. 25 - JH Girls BB vs Grand View Christian @ Collins 4:30pm
- Nov. 26 - Early Dismissal; 1:48 for MS/HS and 2:00 for Elementary
- Nov. 27-29 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Holiday



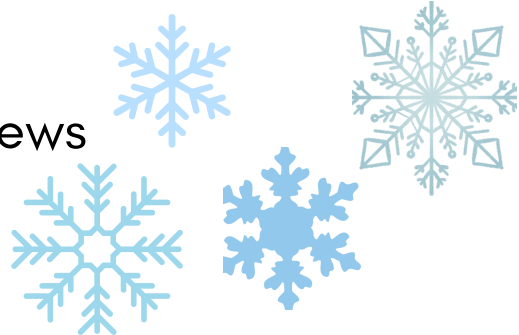
- Dec. 2 - JH Girls BB vs Meskwaki @ Collins 4:30pm
- Dec. 3 - JH BB @ Colo-NESCO 4:30pm
- Dec. 3 - JV/V Boys/Girls BB vs BCLUW @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Dec. 4 - Athletic Booster Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00pm
- Dec. 5 - Elementary Winter Concert @ 6:00pm
- Dec. 6 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ Valley Lutheran 4:00pm
- Dec. 7 - Maxwell Winter Market @ MS/HS 11:00am
- Dec. 9 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher PD
- Dec. 10 - JH Girls BB @ Baxter 4:30pm
- Dec. 10 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB vs Colo-NESCO @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Dec. 12 - JH Girls BB vs GMG @ Collins 4:30pm
- Dec. 13 - JH Girls BB @ Colfax-Mingo 4:30pm
- Dec. 13 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB vs North Tama @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Dec. 16 - MS/HS Winter Concert @ 7:00pm
- Dec. 17 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB vs GMG @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Dec. 18 - Collins Maxwell School Board Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00pm
- Dec. 20 - Early Dismissal; 1:48 for MS/HS and 2:00 for Elementary
- Dec. 20 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB vs Baxter @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Dec. 23 - Jan 1 - NO SCHOOL Winter Break

- Jan. 8 - Athletic Booster Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00pm
- Jan. 10 - PIE School Dance @ Elementary 6:00pm
- Jan. 13 - NO SCHOOL Teacher PD
- Jan. 14 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ Meskwaki 4:00pm
- Jan. 15 - Collins-Maxwell School Board Meeting @ MS/HS 6:00pm
- Jan. 16 - JH Boys BB vs Colo-NESCO @ Collins 4:30pm
- Jan. 17 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ BCLUW 4:00pm
- Jan. 21 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB vs Valley Lutheran @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Jan. 21 - JH Boys BB @ GMG 4:15pm
- Jan. 23 - JH Boys BB vs Meskwaki @ Collins 4:30pm
- Jan. 24 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ Colo-NESCO 4:00pm
- Jan. 28 - JV/V Gills/Boys BB vs North Tama @ Maxwell 4:00pm
- Jan. 30 - JH Boys BB @ Meskwaki 4:30pm
- Jan. 31 - JV/V Girls/Boys BB @ GMG 4:00pm





## Music Department News



### Homecoming- October 4th

The 7th-12th Grade had a spectacular performance of the National Anthem and School Fight Song at the Homecoming Football Game. Both bands have been working hard to prepare for their performances at the home football games.



### Iowa Wild Hockey Game Performance



On Saturday, October 12th, the 7th/8th Grade Choir sang O Canada and The Star Spangled Banner at the Iowa Wild's home opener at Wells Fargo!

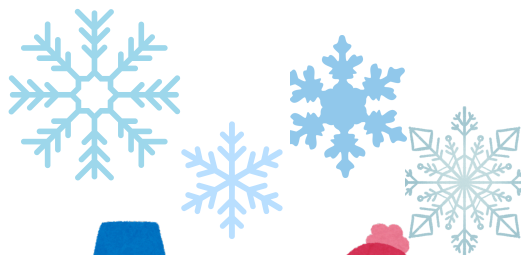


### Spartan Variety Show

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 9th! The Music Department will host the annual Spartan Variety Show.

Tickets go on sale in the MS/HS office on October 21st. Dinner tickets are \$15 each, and you will select your seat/table when you purchase your ticket. General seating tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. The meal includes a pasta buffet, breadsticks, salad, dessert, and beverages.

SPARTAN VARIETY  
SHOW  
**A NIGHT OF  
MAGIC**  
Nov 9, 2024  
Maxwell Small Gym  
Tickets on sale in the  
MS/HS office Oct. 21st.  
\$15 Dinner Ticket  
\$5 General Seating



If you have any questions about the music department, contact us at:

[bholliday@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us](mailto:bholliday@collins-maxwell.k12.ia.us)

Keep up to date with the Music Department by liking our Facebook page: Collins-Maxwell Spartan Sounds



**FOODBANK**  
OF IOWA

## BackPack Program™

Parent Information and Permission Slip

The Food Bank of Iowa's BackPack Program™ is designed to increase access to easy-to-prepare, single servings of food to school-aged children on weekends when school breakfast and lunch is not offered. The Food Bank of Iowa and PLACEHOLDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL would like to invite your child to participate in this exciting program!

Here's how it works:

1. Every Friday, your child will receive a sack filled with kid-friendly foods.
2. There is no fee for participating in the program. Families are only asked to provide feedback on the program by filling out annual surveys sent home with their child.
3. The program operates during the 2024-2025 school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Child & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling Name (s) & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** *Peanut Butter and other products containing food allergens may be included. If your child has food allergies, it is his/her responsibility to avoid eating those food items.*

Food Bank of Iowa • 2220 E. 17th Street • Des Moines, IA 50316-2114 • Phone (515) 564-0330 • [www.foodbankiowa.org](http://www.foodbankiowa.org)





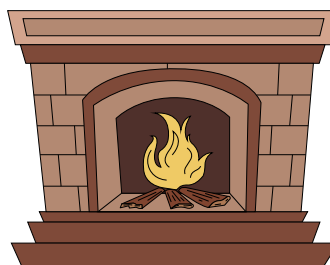
## It's Scholastic Book Fair time!

During conference night on November 7th, 2:30-7:30 pm, experience the limitless possibilities with your kids at the book fair. Every purchase benefits our school. With our money, we get rewards from Scholastic which get us lots of new books for FREE! It's a win for everyone! You can also shop online with delivery right to your door. It's open to everyone. Books DO make great gifts.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/collinsmaxwellelemschool>

**Don't forget to set up your student's eWallet account for cashless, stress-less shopping. Friends and family can even contribute funds!** Set one up here:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/collinsmaxwellelemschool>. #ScholasticBookFairs





# CM FCCLA CHAPTER

HOT COCO, COFFEE & COOKIES \$5

MAXWELL MARKET IN THE PARK WINTER EVENT

DECEMBER 7TH 11:00 - 3:00 PM



# The Athletic Boosters

Collins-Maxwell Athletic Boosters is an organization that is fully run by volunteers and donations. We support our athletic programs by purchasing uniforms, equipment, and support coaches in any way we can. We try to help encourage athletes in sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork by awarding different athletes with the "Athlete of the Month" award. The boosters are always looking for volunteers to help in different areas. Please let us know if you are able to help physically or financially. If you have questions please reach out to the booster club at [collinsmaxwellathleticboosters@gmail.com](mailto:collinsmaxwellathleticboosters@gmail.com) or visit the website using the CQ code to donate.



Athletic banquet coming up Feb. 24th  
6:00 PM

Everyone welcome to attend

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

**LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

The Collins-Maxwell Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following service areas: Agriculture, Business, Family, and Consumer Science (Culinary Arts). It is the policy of the Collins-Maxwell Community School District not to discriminate based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its education programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Lori Fricke, MS/HS Principal, 400 Metcalf St, Maxwell IA 50161, 515-387-1115, [lfricke@collins-mawell.k12.ia.us]

**Collins-Maxwell Board of Education:**

Jon Hand, Dawn Pasquariello, Cortney Schrock,  
Charles Bergmann, Katie Oswald