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# COLLINS - MAXWELL

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## Celebrating our past Success and future Opportunity



Let me start by saying it's been an **honor to serve the district** and I'm looking forward to another year of building for the future of Collins-Maxwell. This newsletter **highlights the momentum and tremendous opportunities** for all students at Collins-Maxwell. This wouldn't be possible without

the **support of the community, dedication from our staff and principals** and a **focused Board of Education**. Thanks to all for making this a reality!

Sincerely,  
Ottie Maxey, Collins-Maxwell  
Superintendent

### WINTER 2017 ISSUE

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## SCALE Program - Coming This Fall!

SCALE, a **STEM BEST Program**, in partnership with DMACC, is a new program to offer students opportunities with the help of Ames-area business partners. This program will allow our students to work with students from other districts and develop business/industry mentorships, explore career opportunities, and enhance professional skills through **industry-based work environment and authentic experiences**.

There will be four programs that our students can take part in: Business, Technology & Communication, Health and Human Services, Renewable Energy and

Biosciences, and Engineering. Students will attend high school for a portion of the day and the SCALE program for a portion of the day

This program **provides Collins-Maxwell students opportunities the overwhelming majority of students in Iowa DO NOT HAVE!** The collaboration between Story County Districts, DMACC and Story County business and industry is **visionary in preparing students for post-secondary success**, bolstering Story County workforce development, and utilization of the tremendous assets DMACC provides the region.

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## Academic Highlights – Middle/High School

### NEW AP Courses

For the 2017-18 school year, we will be offering **AP United States History** and **AP English Language and Composition**. AP classes are more rigorous, and students can earn high school and college credit. **Colleges love seeing AP classes on student transcripts!** We are also in early discussions with DMACC to ramp up our Ag program by offering some **Ag classes for DMACC credit!**



### 1:1 technology

We continue to be excited about the opportunities that our 1:1 technology initiative provides students. Our Elementary students & teachers take advantage of **classroom-stocked iPads** to enhance their learning experience while our Middle & High School students are each provided with a **MacBook Air Laptop**.

*Did you know? Collins-Maxwell's graduation rate (96.7%) and number of graduates attending post-secondary schooling (75%) are both above the state average!*

### New Curriculum

We continue to be focused and dedicated on providing the best resources for our teachers and students to achieve success in the classroom. This past year the district **invested over \$80,000** to implement a new Reading curriculum across all grades (K-12), and we're excited with the progress being made. Next fall we will be **investing in our Math curriculum for grades 6-12**.

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## Academic Highlights – Elementary School

### PBIS and Early Academic Interventions

This fall we will launch Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports **building-wide**. PBIS will help develop systems of positive and proactive school-wide and individual interventions that: **promote positive learning environments, create positive culture, teach and reinforce positive behaviors, and prevent problem behaviors**. Collins-Maxwell Elementary will use PBIS in three areas: Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports for academics and behaviors, school-wide behavioral system, and creating a shared values regarding the school's vision and purpose.

PBIS will enhance our current work already dedicated to early academic interventions by offering better tools and resources to identify, track, and intervene early. **Early intervention is the key to future success!**



*Elementary students take advantage of classroom iPads to enrich their learning and collaboration experiences.*

### Elementary Therapy Dog

A therapy dog will be joining us this fall to assist all students at Collins-Maxwell Elementary. The purpose of the **therapy dog is to address the social/emotional needs that our students exhibit**, specifically students who are diagnosed with Autism, Down Syndrome, or behavior disabilities. We will also be using our therapy dog to **provide motivation and reinforcement for all students** in our building.

### Pre-School Program

The preschool program has adopted and meets the **Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards**, administered by the Iowa Department of Education. The Iowa Early Learning Standards are used to guide expectations for the children and instructional practices. Instruction utilizes Teaching Strategies for Early Childhood's Creative Curriculum, and students are assessed using the GOLD Assessment Tool.

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# Clay and Lavonne Robison Educational Grant



The Clay and Lavonne Robison Educational Grant was established to provide assistance toward post-secondary educations for graduates of Collins-Maxwell. **Every student that applies for the Robison Grant is awarded scholarship money!**

## Did you know?

*The Robison Trust Family Scholarship has provided an average of **\$80,000 EVERY YEAR** for seniors pursuing post-secondary education!*

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## Athletics

The Fall of 2017 will bring a new chapter to Collins-Maxwell athletics. The school recently revealed our new mascot, **Spartans**, and is gearing up for participation in the **Iowa Star Conference** next year. Coaching positions are currently being filled and Fall sports schedules are being assembled, including 8 man Football.



Jack Cheville (Sr) and Carter Fricke (Jr) pose with the new school mascot, LEO, at the Alumni Basketball games January 14<sup>th</sup>. **The event raised over \$20,000 for Spartan athletics next year!**

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## Community Partnerships

### Partners in Education (PIE)

PIE is a group of **engaged parents, teachers and community members** who want to be more involved in the education of elementary students. PIE sponsors several programs at the elementary including RIF (Reading is Fundamental) and the School Carnival. Proceeds from all PIE events are invested back into the Elementary.

### Elementary Community & Family Events

Inviting community and family members into the Elementary school to celebrate monthly events throughout the year is something the Elementary started doing last year. **These events have become very popular and something the kids look forward to every month.** Upcoming events are highlighted in the last page of this newsletter.

### Music Boosters

The purpose of this group is to support the needs of the music departments by organizing annual fundraisers and the "Dinner Concert" (formerly know as the Lasagna Dinner). All music parents are encouraged to participate and are invited to attend the next meeting.

### Collins-Maxwell Athletic Boosters

The purpose of the Collins-Maxwell Athletic Boosters is to support, encourage, and advance the Collins-Maxwell Middle & High School athletic programs. With their 501c3 status approved, all donations to the club are now tax deductible. Check us out on Facebook or our website as we will be planning several more events throughout 2017.

[www.collinsmaxwellathleticboosters.com](http://www.collinsmaxwellathleticboosters.com)

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# Facility Improvements Planned for 2017

In addition to unveiling new colors, logos and a mascot, work is happening behind the scenes to ensure our athletic facilities are ready for the transition to the Collins-Maxwell Spartans. In February, the Board will hear a presentation from our architect detailing a list of projects and costs for consideration. The report will be comprehensive and include more than just athletic facilities. That said, given the upcoming transition, many of those athletic projects will likely rise to the top of the list.

Part of the transition is “rebranding.” This simply means replacing the Raider brand with the Spartan brand. This involves painting, signage, and graphics strategically placed throughout the facilities. This work is underway and will take place over the summer, so we start the year as Spartans.

Additional projects being presented in February will include both interior and exterior enhancements at both facilities (Collins and Maxwell). Some of the highlights of the presentation will include:

- Renovated and updated Science classrooms in Maxwell
- Enhanced athletic facilities (both locations)
- New roofing, ceilings, and carpet in Maxwell
- Mechanical and electrical improvements in Maxwell

FFA program has been aggressively pursuing fundraising for their new Greenhouse. With approximately 50% of the money already raised, the Greenhouse will become a reality for Collins-Maxwell students in the fall of 2017. The greenhouse use will not be limited to the FFA program and all students will be able to take advantage of this additional Science facility.

At the Elementary in Collins, fundraising has kicked off for a \$30,000 addition to the Playground. We have already raised 25% of our goal with plans to finish fundraising and start construction in the 2017-2018 school year.



*Did you know?*

*The FFA Program has raised over \$35,000 for the new greenhouse to be constructed in the fall of 2017!*

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## Key Upcoming Dates

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** - Collins Maxwell CSD Board Meeting

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** - Annual FFA Breakfast

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** - PIE Elementary Carnival

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** - Open Enrollment Deadline

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** - Dinner Concert (Lasagna Dinner)

