

Amana Elementary

Newsletter

Friday, November 8, 2019



Naturalistic Instruction Practices!

Boy...now that sounds fancy doesn't it?! As many of you who have had a preschooler know, we have an amazing educator in Ms. Rachel along with a great team of support in Ms. Heather and Ms. Lizzy (apparently there is an unwritten rule about preschool staff going by their first name).

Ms. Rachel is implementing a program called LEAP. A highly engaging instruction around teaching students to initiate not only play type activities, but also learning, peer mediation and all kinds of great social interactions. It's really a process that would be highly successful at all levels and all ages. Reflecting on today's social climate, I think a good number of adults would benefit as well.

More to come on LEAP! Today I want to share a great informational piece on Naturalistic Instruction Practices and how we all can implement some of the practices both in school as well as home.

The big idea is to use responsive, naturalistic learning opportunities for young people. Sounds fancy, but it's really simple when we think about it. Essentially, it's telling us to provide a variety of natural experiences for our young people and to involve ourselves in the play the students engage in. I would also insert the word learning in place of play. I make no apologies when I say our young people are showing negative consequences to being raised digitally. Screen time has significantly decreased interaction time, responsibility time not to mention lowered our students resolve in overcoming boredom and other less preferred tasks such as school! Again, that's another topic for another Friday Note.

This Naturalistic Instruction Practices encourages us to observe our children in activities and help identify what our children are capable of and to highlight interests. We need to provide opportunities for our children to participate in a wide variety of activities that match their interests and capabilities. We need to pay attention to how our children interact with other people as well as objects (and I would

add environment). When the child initiates a behavior, respond promptly and positively. I would add, who among us would deny a cup of tea given to us by a young person. Who among us would deny a child's request to play catch! Naturalistic Instruction encourages us to take turns with the child, imitate the child's behavior and actions, acknowledge the child's behavior, make positive comments, or provide descriptive praise (This might be my big takeaway).

Ms. Rachel and crew are amazing. In a short 10 minute visit, I can witness these characteristics along with layers of academic work in literacy, math and science. I can observe multiple opportunities for young people to enhance their learning through positive interactions. And the fun part of being principal of Amana Elementary, is that I get to see very similar (yet different) environments all through the building. People are never too young and it is never too late to genuinely interact with young people! And the next time a young person says, "watch to play catch?" or "want a cup of tea?" or "want to play outside?" or "want to hear me read?" or "want to read my story?" our collective answer should be yes!

Full article, and it really is a short read, can be found here ([click link](#)).

Ben Macumber, Principal

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Friday, Nov. 29 - No School
- Monday, Dec. 16 - K-2 Concert, 6:30 PM; 3-5 Concert, 7:30 pm
- December 23 - January 3 - Winter Break

Dropping Off Students

Students who do not ride the bus should not be dropped off prior to 7:45 AM. We prefer to have students dropped off by the doors next to the cafeteria. Students should go directly to the cafeteria. This is an attempt to keep our students safe and supervised. At no time should students PreK through 3rd grade be heading to their locker unless accompanied by an adult.

Do not leave your car unless you are parked in a designated parking spot. Buses need to be able to pull through both the loop in the front of the building by the flag pole and the area near the cafeteria. If cars are parked in these areas the buses are not able to pull through and stay on schedule.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the drop off areas clear and safe when students are coming to school in the morning.

CCA Illness Policy

Please report your child's illness and please review the following guidelines about student illnesses:

- Please notify the school if your child is going to be absent or tardy for any reason.
- If the absence is due to an illness, please let us know your child's symptoms (i.e. nausea, vomiting, fever, headache, sore throat, cough, rash, body aches, etc.).
- If your child sees their healthcare provider for the illness, please let us know the outcome of that visit and if your child was diagnosed with a contagious disease. This will help us track illnesses, identify outbreaks, and allow us to notify the health department if a reportable communicable disease is identified.

- If your child is ill and has a fever (100 or higher), they should not return to school until they are fever-free for 24 consecutive hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications.
- If your child is vomiting, they should not return until they have not vomited for 24 hours.
- If your child is being treated for a contagious bacterial infection (i.e strep throat), they should not return to school until 24 hours after antibiotics are started and until they are fever-free for 24 consecutive hours without the aid fever-reducing medications.

The school nurse or office personnel will evaluate students who become ill at school. If it is determined that the child is too sick to remain in school, a parent/guardian will be called and asked to come and pick the child up.

Thanks for your help in adhering to these guidelines that will help keep our school healthy and decrease the risks of spreading contagious diseases.

Are you dressed for the weather?

<p>60° and Above No jacket.</p>	
<p>45° to 59° Jacket or sweatshirt only.</p>	
<p>25° to 44° Jacket, hat, & mittens</p>	
<p>24° and belowor Snow Jacket, hat, mittens, boots, & snow pants.</p>	

Art and Library Request!

Amana Elementary Families,

We need your help! In the next few weeks, we will be working on a collaborative project in art and library class. All students will be working together to create a 10-foot mural. We are in need of lots of MAGAZINES!! If you have magazines that you don't want, please send them to school with your child or drop them at the office.

Thanks so much!


Ms. Campbell and Mrs. Fox



AMANA ELEMENTARY

Thanksgiving Assistance

As Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, we have a wonderful opportunity for our CCA families. Life Church is teaming up with Fareway to provide all of the Thanksgiving essentials and reduce the financial burden the holiday can bring. Interested families will receive a gift card from Fareway's Meat Department. Recipients can select any meat of their choice and can choose the closest Fareway location to pick up their meat. If you and your family feel this would be helpful, please email or call our School Counselor, Kelsey Koffend, (kelseykoffend@ccaschools.org or 319-622-3255) by Friday, November 15th so we can arrange the food accordingly.



Volunteering in Our District

Whether you find yourself with free time on your hands, a desire to spend time with young minds, or welcome the opportunity to help others, we welcome volunteers to aid our classrooms and schools throughout the district.

- Why volunteer?
 - If you hope to visit your child's classroom, attend field trips or work in any capacity with a group of students, there is a state requirement and guidelines to ensure the safety of our students
 - Volunteering gives you the opportunity to get to know the teachers and the staff and support your child's learning goal.

Where can you lend a hand?

- Read stories to children and listen to them read.
- Share your unique talents and crafts in the classroom.
- Help in the classrooms, in the library, during fundraising activities, on field trips....the list is endless!

What are volunteer guidelines?

- Make sure the time to volunteer time is agreed upon with the classroom teacher. Out of respect to the teacher and instructional time, unannounced visits can't be permitted.
- Volunteers are required to sign in/out at the office and wear a visitor tag.
- Student expectations remain the same when visiting a classroom.
- To help minimize distractions, siblings will not be permitted to join you (exceptions can be made for parties only).
- We ask that volunteers use the time to be of assistance to the class or teacher. In the event there is a need discuss issues with the classroom teacher, a different time to conference can be arranged.

What are a volunteer's responsibilities?

- Arrive on time- please call the office if you are not able to help or to reschedule your time.
- You will work under the direction and supervision of building staff.
- Anything you see or hear concerning a student or staff member should not be shared with anyone else, ask yourself, would I want someone talking about my child or myself in that way?
- If you do have concerns with anything you see or hear from a student or a staff member, please contact the building principal.
- Model caring, patience, perseverance, respect cooperation and tolerance- children learn from what they experience.
- Your volunteer materials are good for 5 years, after 5 years, you will need to fill out the paperwork again

I want to Help, how do I get started?

- If you want to volunteer in the District, you will need to reach out to Sue Wilber in Human Resources to begin the process by filling out background check paperwork.
- Once your background check is complete, Sue or the building secretary will let you know and you will be free to volunteer.

On behalf of CCA schools, thank you for your interest in volunteering. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sue Wilber (319-828-4510) or email at suannewilber@ccaschools.org

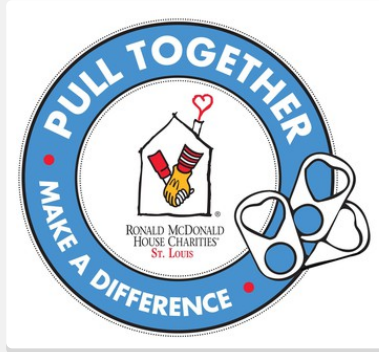
The Backpack Program

We participate in a program called The **BackPack Program**. This is a partnership between HACAP and the CCA Community Schools. The **BackPack Program** provides a food pack of kid-friendly, non-perishable food for children on the weekends and during school breaks. This is a **FREE** program, without cost to families. It is also kept completely **confidential** – only the counselor will be aware of participating families. If this would be helpful for you and your children, please contact Kelsey Koffend by phone at (319) 622-3255 or by email at kelseykoffend@ccaschools.org. There is a limited number of spots available, so it is important that you call or email to get your child's name on the list.

Shoes That Fit

Shoes That Fit is a program that provides shoes to children in need. **If your child needs new shoes this year and this program would be helpful to you, please contact Kelsey Koffend** by phone at (319) 622-3255 or by email at kelseykoffend@ccaschools.org.

Help Support Our School



Ronal McDonald House Tabs



Box Tops for Education



Register Tapes for Education

Register Tapes for Education

We are excited to inform you that we are participating in an incredible program that allows us to earn FREE classroom equipment and supplies! Here's How You Can Help! • Shop at Big G Foods, Marengo from September 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020 • Save your receipts and send them to school with your child • Your receipts will earn us points for free classroom equipment, donated by the store!

InTouch

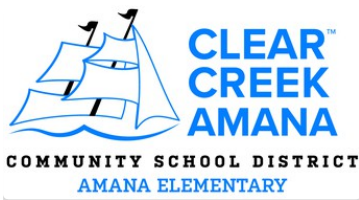
Lunch accounts and other payments.

Volunteering

We appreciate volunteers, please go this volunteer link for more information.

Digital Backpack

Your connection to CCA and community events, camps, fundraisers and more.




Amana Elementaty

Ben Macember, Principal


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319-622-3255

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 (319) 622-3255

 ccaschools.org/AE

Non-discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Clear Creek Amana Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, 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 educational 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 Robertson, 327 S. Augusta Avenue, Oxford, IA 52322, 319-828-4510.