TROJAN TIMES

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT • NOVEMBER EDITION

A Message From Superintendent Wigle...

This marks the second year of the Trojan Times and the first of three editions for this school year. Our goal remains simple: to keep all of our residents informed and connected to the great things happening throughout the Fairfield Community School District. Whether or not you have a direct connection to our schools, we want to be the Destination District in Iowa.

As we wrap up the first trimester, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our students, families, staff, and entire Fairfield community. Your support makes a difference, and we are proud to share the many ways our students and staff are learning, growing, and making a difference each day. Please take a few minutes to read through this edition.

–Mr. Wigle | zach.wigle@fairfieldsfuture.org



Vision Statement:
A destination district where we all belong, learn, and grow!

Mission Statement:
We empower all students to achieve their highest potential through strong relationships, collaboration, and accountability.

District Goals:

Learn more about the District's strategic goals and the progress being made to strengthen our schools, support our staff, and create opportunities for every student to succeed.

DISTRICT GOAL #1
By the end of each academic year, 100% of graduates will graduate enrolled, enlisted, or employed.

DISTRICT GOAL #2
By the end of each academic year, 100% of students will demonstrate measurable growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math assessments through targeted instruction, differentiated support, and continuous progress monitoring.

DISTRICT GOAL #3
By the end of each year, 100% of our students and staff will report a strong sense of belonging based on district-wide survey results.

DISTRICT GOAL #4
Ensure long-term financial stability and transparency by maintaining key financial health indicators within target ranges, aligning expenditures with strategic priorities, and maximizing the effective use of all district resources.

DISTRICT GOAL #5
Ensure all district facilities are safe, modern, and adaptable learning environments that support student success and community use.

FCSD • NOVEMBER 2026

TROJAN TIMES

BUILDING CELEBRATIONS

Fairfield High School

The Fairfield High School Girls Tennis Team had an outstanding season under Coach Travis Dunkin, finishing the regular season undefeated at 8-0 and going 3-1 in the postseason. The team's only loss came at the state tournament against eventual state champions Boone, placing Fairfield among the state's top teams.

Other Activity/Athletic Highlights:

- Congratulations to the FHS football team on qualifying for the IHSAA Football Playoffs for the first time in 10 years! What an accomplishment!
- Congratulations to FHS freshman Ava Jones on qualifying for the State Cross Country Meet! We are proud of you!
- Congratulations to the numerous FHS students who qualified for All-State Choir! We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments!

WIN Time: Supporting Every Student

Fairfield High School is proud to share its new WIN (What I Need) time has already made a positive impact. Academic support has increased, and the school has seen fewer students earning Ds and Fs across all grade levels. WIN time provides additional teacher support for students who need it, along with enrichment opportunities for those ready for the next challenge.

Students can also use this time for ACT/SAT prep, scholarships, and college applications or participate in Adulting 101. Through weekly visits from community members, students learn practical life skills such as changing oil, understanding insurance, and exploring entrepreneurship.

Fairfield Middle School

Fairfield Middle School has had a busy start to the year! The school has improved its process for addressing missing assignments and added support to help students complete their work and access learning. As a result, fewer students have 10 or more missing assignments compared to last year.

FMS has also revamped its LIFT system for students in grades 6–8. LIFT provides students with extra support in reading and math, while offering enrichment and leadership opportunities for students ready to extend their learning. Students continue to receive academic interventions based on their needs, while those eligible for enrichment have new opportunities, including student action teams. These teams help with building projects such as updating bulletin boards, emptying trash, and planning service-learning activities.

During Trojan Time, students focus on academics, set improvement goals, and identify action steps to reach them. Families are encouraged to ask their middle schoolers about their goals and the steps they are taking to achieve them!

Athletics have also had a great start:

- Football: The 7th and 8th grade teams have competed in hard-fought games while building accountability and strong work habits both in school and on the field.
- Cheer: FMS cheerleaders have brought great spirit and enthusiasm in supporting the football team.
- Volleyball: The teams have enjoyed exciting matches and shown grit, even when facing challenges.
- Cross Country: Athletes have earned numerous personal bests, with the girls' team winning the conference meet!

A big round of applause for our FMS students!

Pence Elementary School

Pence Elementary is proud to showcase the accomplishments that come from being a Leader in Me school. All staff and students participate in school-wide leadership teams that add value to the school and community. These teams are getting started for the new school year, and Pence looks forward to the great things they will accomplish together!

One leadership team planned the Pence Family Engagement Night on November 5. Families were invited for an evening of fun, engaging activities with their children and a meal together.

Grade-level teams are also continuing their work through the PLC process, using formative student data to guide instructional decisions and determine next steps. This includes identifying how to respond when students have not yet mastered a skill. Through collaboration, intentional, data-driven instruction, and shared responsibility, Pence staff are working to ensure every student continues to grow.

Washington Elementary School

There is so much to celebrate at Washington Elementary! Students are already making exciting progress in reading and math. Each child receives instruction in a group that matches their learning needs, providing opportunities to build skills, practice, and grow. Their hard work and progress are worth celebrating!

Each week, staff members meet in professional learning communities (PLCs) to review student progress and plan meaningful lessons together. This collaboration helps teachers understand what each child needs and adjust instruction to provide additional support or new challenges.

Beyond academics, students are becoming more independent, building friendships, and growing in confidence. Through Leader in Me, they are learning to take responsibility, make thoughtful choices, and recognize the many ways they can be leaders each day.

Washington Elementary looks forward to connecting with families at parent-teacher conferences on November 16. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate each child's strengths, discuss progress, and work together on next steps. The school appreciates families' continued partnership in supporting student learning and growth!



FCSD • NOVEMBER 2026

TROJAN TIMES

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

FMS GO Bond Update

With voter approval on November 3, the District can now move forward with the proposed project, which will be funded through general obligation bonds and SAVE dollars.

The project is designed to address critical building needs while providing students and staff with a more modern, accessible learning environment.

"We are grateful to the community for its support and for recognizing the importance of investing in the future of our students and schools," Superintendent Zach Wigle said. "This is an important step toward addressing the long-standing needs at Fairfield Middle School. We appreciate everyone who took the time to learn about the proposal and participate in the election process."

Construction on the bus loop has already begun, with Phase I of the project scheduled to get underway this spring.





Financial Health Updates

In this issue, we will focus on Priority No. 3: Financial Health.

The District had a strong financial year in FY 2026, strengthening its financial position while increasing investments in teachers, classrooms, and students. Through responsible budgeting and careful management of taxpayer dollars, the District grew its reserves, maintained services, and avoided borrowing between funds.

Some key highlights include:

- Stronger reserves: The unassigned General Fund balance increased by $2 million (48.2%), reaching $6.2 million.
- Improved financial stability: The financial solvency ratio increased from 17.23% to 25.80%, exceeding the District's target of 15–20%.
- More cash available: Cash and investments increased by $1.76 million to $8.1 million, providing approximately 130 days of cash coverage.
- Greater classroom investment: Instructional spending increased by $1.15 million (8%), while wages and benefits increased by $1.27 million.
- Responsible spending: The employee cost ratio remained stable at 72.82%, moving closer to the District's 75% target.

These improvements were accomplished even as local revenue decreased by $588,079 (4.8%). The District maintained services, ended the year with $1.82 million more in revenue than expenditures, and increased its total General Fund balance by 38.8% to $6.52 million.

The District is in a stronger financial position, investing more in classrooms and employees while remaining responsible with taxpayer dollars. These results provide greater financial flexibility and a stronger foundation for serving our students and community in the years ahead.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Thanksgiving Break: November 25–29, 2026
- Winter Break: December 23, 2026–January 4, 2027
- FHS Conferences/Professional Learning (Other Buildings): January 18, 2027
- Teacher Quality Day (No School): February 19, 2027
- End of Trimester: February 26, 2027

Fairfield Community School District
403 S. 20th Street
Fairfield, IA 52556

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 32
Fairfield, IA

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

We currently have openings! Please visit this site if you are interested in any of these opportunities →

www.fairfieldsfuture.org