

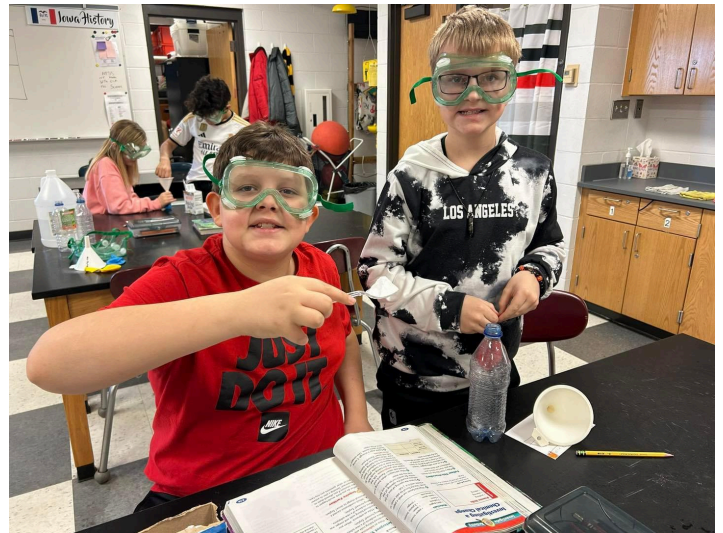
**Spirit Lake Middle School  
Principal's Year-End Report  
2023 - 2024  
Submitted by Terry Bruinsma**

The middle school experienced another fantastic year filled with numerous opportunities for learning and growth. The dedicated staff consistently challenges students in both academic and non-academic areas. They are focused on implementing our core values—trust, responsibility, relationships, positivity, encouragement, empathy, and respect—to better prepare students with practical, real-world skills. These essential qualities guide our teaching and learning in a 21st-century setting. Throughout the year, students witnessed the introduction of new initiatives, all while maintaining our high standards.



**Iowa Assessment Scores (ISASP):**

Iowa assessment scores this past year remained high and were similar to last year's score. Our overall scores continue to rise above the state average and show the high level of teaching and learning that is happening throughout our middle school. However, because we scored so well the previous year our growth numbers for this year were not as high. As we continue to assess how we can perform our best for these tests we look at different ways to prepare our students. Moving forward we will work to get more information about the tests out earlier as well as providing some incentives to students who perform well, both in proficiency and growth.





## **A Few Highlights from the school year:**

- **School of the Wild**

Once again, Spirit Lake Middle School, in collaboration with The University of Iowa, provided students with a week-long outdoor education experience called School of the Wild. This immersive program allows students to explore the outdoors in small groups, guided by experienced naturalists and teachers. The program received support from Lakeside Labs, The Methodist Camp, the DNR, The Nature Center, Iowa State Extension, and numerous other volunteers. Students participated in activities such as hiking, biking, high ropes courses, fishing, water quality testing, kayaking, outdoor cooking, and art. It was an excellent week of education, enabling students to connect with their local environment and discover its many offerings. We made great strides in year two of the program and we look forward to continuing this program in the future.





- **MS Talent/Art Show**

Spirit Lake middle school hosted the second annual art and talent show. Typically each year select students get their art work chosen for display at the Pearson Lakes Art center for the Dickinson County all school show - which is amazing!! However, this year we once again added an in-house Talent and Art show for all students in grades k-8. With the new space at the middle school we were able to host this new Talent and Art show and get people really excited about it. It was a huge success and was greatly attended by students and families. Our students' creative talents were on full display! We will certainly be doing this show again next year!



- **Spring Academy**

The middle school once again provided our students with a hands-on week of project-based learning in the Spring called Spring Academy. We have not incorporated Spring Academy into the last week of school. This change provided students and staff with better Spring weather and new opportunities for learning. It was also a great way to finish the school year. Students and staff gave positive reviews for this timing change and we suspect we will be doing it again next year.





## **Middle school Building Goals 2023 - 24**

**Building Goal:** Through the cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders our middle school will promote an environment that lives out our building's mission to *Positively Impact the Lives of Others.*

**Teaching and Learning Goal:**

- The middle school will continue to implement our success skills at all levels. We will reevaluate our middle school success skills and develop a simplified version of skills for each grade level.
  - Met/Ongoing - Grade level teams worked on the success skills deemed most important at their grade level. However, a re-evaluation of those skills will be done this summer to present new options and activities moving forward.
  
- Staff will plan and implement more learning opportunities that are accessible to students in a blended/flipped classroom model.
  - Met - Classroom teachers continue to develop materials for their online classroom platforms. Making these materials available to students/families at times outside of the traditional classroom setting provides for great flexibility, collaboration, and communication.



- A new reporting out system will be put in place that shows students progress throughout the school year based on more than just academic performance.
  - In progress/Ongoing -
- Continued implementation and expansion of our School of the Wild programming. We will continue to collaborate with the University of Iowa as well as local entities to provide a unique and purposeful learning experience.
  - School of the Wild was implemented again this year with great success. Each year classes/activities are evaluated to adjust for the following year. SOW will be happening Sept 24-27 2024.
- Spring Academy will be developed to take place the last week of the school year to provide a hands-on project based experience that will highlight the culmination of the school year.
  - Spring Academy again took place the last week of school. Classes offered to students were adjusted to fit the unique needs of each grade level. Feedback has been positive and will be used to continue this initiative in 2025.

### **Achievement Goals:**

#### Reading Goal for 2023-2024

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th-7th) achieving growth.
  - Overall achievement rose from 71% to 81% as a cohort model.
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency.
  - 5th - Not met (percent moved from 83% to 67%)
  - 6th - Met (percent moved from 68% to 82%)
  - 7th - Not met (percent moved from 84% to 77%)
  - 8th - Met (percent moved from 65% to 82%)

#### Math Goal for 2023-2024

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th-7th) achieving growth.
  - Overall achievement dropped from 82% to 80% as a cohort model.
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency.
  - 5th - Met (percent moved from 77% to 83%)
  - 6th - Not Met (percent moved from 90% to 79%)
  - 7th - Not Met (percent moved from 83% to 75%)
  - 8th - Met (percent moved from 74% to 85%)

#### Science Goal for 2023-2024

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th & 8th) achieving growth.
  - Overall achievement rose from 60% to 82% as a cohort model
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency 5th and 8th.
  - 5th - Met (percent moved from 60% to 64%)
  - 8th - Met (percent moved from 78% to 82%)

## **Proficiency Numbers:**

### ***Math***

2020-2021 - 71%  
2021-2022 - 86.5%  
2022-2023 - 82.3%  
2023-2024 - 81%

### ***Reading***

2020-2021 - 78%  
2021-2022 - 79%  
2022-2023 - 75.6%  
2023-2024 - 77%

### ***Science***

2020-2021 - 67%  
2021-2022 - 73.5%  
2022-2023 - 68.6%  
2023-2024 - 74%

## **Behavior Data:**

School Year	Total Referrals	Physical/Verbal Aggression & Harassment
2003-04	434	61
2004-05	466	63
2005-06	502	51
2006-07	646	52
2007-08	1640	188
2008-09	1323	218
2009-10	1108	149
2010-11	969	139
2011-12	307	50
2012-13	108	32
2013-14	119	23
2014-15	56	11
2015-16	50	12
2016-17	42	8
2017-18	48	8
2018-19	51	7
2019-20	53	5
2020-2021	35	5
2021-2022	57	7
2022-2023	61	8
2023-2024	68	6

Behavior referral numbers were similar to last year's data. It seems that our behavior issues happen more frequently in the second half of the school year as well as during unstructured times. Recess and lunch times can be tough for some students to maintain appropriate conduct. We are looking at adjusting recess materials and activities for next year along with appropriate resources for students during the very cold months. An adjustment to lunch grouping will happen for next year, putting 5th/6th together and 7th/8th together with common supervisors. This will provide more consistency during the lunch hour and free up our schedule more.

**Attendance:**

Seventeen years of attendance data is available for review. The average daily attendance (ADA) percentages are listed below.

*Average Daily Attendance:*

2007-2008	96.06%
2008-2009	95.92%
2009-2010	95.14%
2010-2011	94.90%
2011-2012	95.12%
2012-2013	95.06%
2013-2014	95.41%
2014-2015	95.04%
2015-2016	95.55%
2016-2017	95.49%
2017-2018	95.62%
2018-2019	94.83%
2019-2020	95.74%
2020-2021	95.85%
2021-2022	92.56%
2022-2023	92.8%
2023-2024	93.51%

## **Dropout Data for the Spirit Lake Middle School - Grades 7 and 8**

### **Dropout Data**

Grade	#students		#Dropouts		# of IEP's	# of IEP D. O.
	M	F	M	F		
7	46	41	0	0	12	0
8	61	31	0	0	13	0

### **Demographic Data:**

#### **Student Enrollment:**

Grade	Male	Female	Total
5	40	46	86
6	54	44	98
7	46	41	87
8	61	31	92

Total = 363

### **Student Demographic information:**

White - 325, 87%

Black - 2, .53%

Hispanic - 25, 6.72%

Native American - 1, .27%

Asian - 1, .27%

Multiracial - 18, 4.84%

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 0, .0%

Special Ed - 49 .18%

Talented and Gifted - 42, .13%

### **Faculty/Staff Demographic Information**

Full Time Faculty - 23

Part Time Faculty - 7

Support Staff - 1 ½ Secretaries, 10 Associates, 2 custodians, 4 kitchen staff

Faculty Degrees - Several Staff members have advanced degrees.

BA - 6

BA+ 15 - 5

BA+ 30 - 3

MA - 9

MA+ 15 - 1

MA+ 30 - 5

**Percent of faculty responsible for instruction who participated in professional development**

This past year we had 100% participation from our faculty in professional development. Every staff member attended professional development throughout the year although some staff members did not attend each day.