

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Spirit Lake Elementary School

Note From the Principal



This year has been filled with incredible growth, dedication, and meaningful accomplishments across our school community. From strengthening instruction to deepening relationships, every step has been intentional and student-centered.

We have maintained a strong and consistent focus on high-quality math and reading instruction. Through collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and targeted support, our staff has worked to ensure that every student continues to grow academically and build a solid foundation for future success.

A cornerstone of our work has been the implementation of our Culture Playbook. By focusing daily and monthly on our core values, we have created a more unified, positive, and supportive environment for both students and staff. This intentional focus has helped shape our school culture, reinforcing expectations and celebrating the behaviors that make our community strong.

In addition, we placed an emphasis on the themes from The Anxious Generation, recognizing the importance of supporting student well-being in today's world. We engaged families through outreach opportunities and offered a school-wide book study to deepen our collective understanding. These efforts have helped strengthen the home-school connection and provided valuable tools for supporting our students both academically and emotionally.

Alongside these initiatives, we focused on creating more engaging learning opportunities for our students. Classrooms have come alive with hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and real-world projects that make learning both meaningful and fun. Whether through outdoor science experiments or student-led presentations, students have been encouraged to actively participate, think critically, and take ownership of their learning.

All of these efforts are part of a larger vision to help our students succeed and to build a strong, supportive school community. Each initiative this year has been thoughtfully designed to strengthen instructional practices, improve student outcomes, and foster a positive learning environment.

The progress we've made is a reflection of our shared commitment to continuous improvement and our dedication to making a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

Jessica Vancura

'25-'26 Highlights

Winter Blast

Fall Blast

YMCA Reading Buddies

Music Concerts

BRAWL

Live hatching baby chicks

Field Trips

Pen Pals

Arnolds Park Culture Day

Reading Around Community

Academic Scores

Winter Open House

K-8 Art Show - 3rd Grade Art Show

3rd Grade Community

Connections

PreK Field Trips

Outdoor Classroom Experiences

Fundraising for Playground

Attendance

2021-2022 94%
2022-2023 95%
2023-2024 95%
2024-2025 96%

2025-2026 96% ★

Count Day Enrollment

2021-2022 531
2022-2023 537
2023-2024 563
2024-2025 547

2025-2026 538 ★

Behavior Referrals

2021-2022 65
2022-2023 41
2023-2024 46
2024-2025 24

2025-2026 32 ★



Throughout this school year, we were proud to run 16 different intervention groups, each lasting approximately six weeks. These targeted groups allowed us to meet students where they are and provide focused support to help them grow and succeed.

We are so proud of the hard work and progress our students have made!



Student Demographic Information

White-	484 Students
Black-	13 Students
Hispanic-	25 Students
Native American-	1 Students
Asian-	2 Students
Pacific Islander-	1 Students
Special Education-	97 Students
Low SES-	170 Students
Title 1 Reading-	92 Students

2024-2025

White-	521 Students
Black-	18 Students
Hispanic-	23 Students
Native American-	3 Students
Asian-	7 Students
Pacific Islander-	2 Students
Special Education-	93 Students
Low SES-	177 Students
Title 1 Reading-	84 Students

2025-2026

Teacher Information

2023-2024

Full Time Faculty- 38

Shared Faculty- 5

Support Staff- 1 Office Manager, 1 Office Assistant, 36 Associates, 3 Custodians, 2 Nurses

2024-2025

Full Time Faculty- 39

Shared Faculty- 7

Support Staff- 1 Office Manager, 1 Office Assistant, 36 Associates, 3 Custodians, 2 Nurses

2025-2026

Full Time Faculty- 39

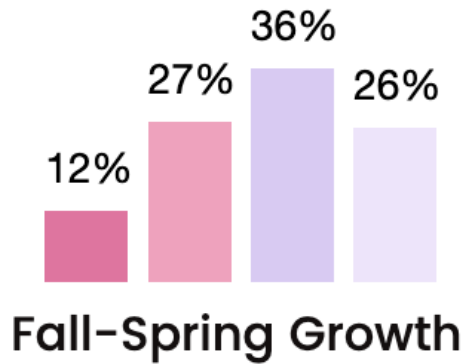
Shared Faculty- 5

Support Staff- 1 Office Manager, 1 Office Assistant, 36 Associates, 3 Custodians, 1 Nurse

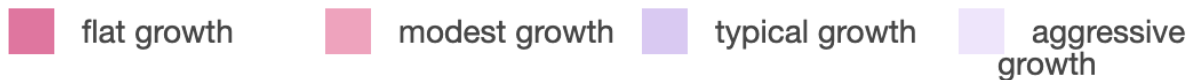
aReading Growth Data



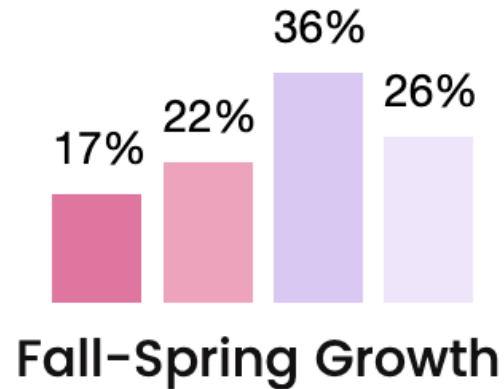
2024-2025 School Year



Student Growth %ile:

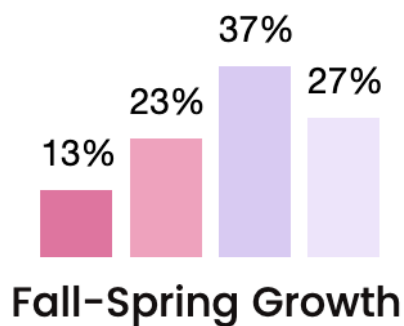


2025-2026 School Year



aMath Growth Data

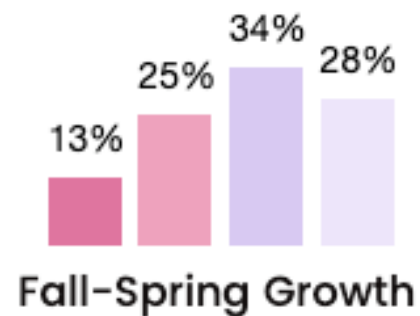
2024-2025 School Year



Student Growth %ile:



2025-2026 School Year



2025-2026 ISASP GOALS



3. From SPRING testing 2025 to SPRING 2026 SLES, we will decrease the number of students who are non-proficient as measured by the ISASP assessment for the 2033 Cohort group (currently 3rd) and 2032 Cohort (currently 4th grade).

2024-2025	2025-2026
17% not proficient for the 2033 cohort 17% not proficient for the 2034 cohort	

2. From SPRING testing 2025 to SPRING 2026 SLES, we will decrease the number of students who are non-proficient as measured by the ISASP assessment for the 2034 Cohort group (currently 3rd) and 2033 Cohort (currently 4th grade).

2024-2025	2025-2026
22% not proficient for the 2033 cohort 10% not proficient for the 2034 cohort	

I wanted to share a quick summary of the upcoming changes to ISASP reporting for 2026, as this will impact how we interpret scores this year.

Beginning after the Spring 2026 ISASP administration, Iowa will move to four new performance levels for English Language Arts, Reading, and Math: Below, Approaching, Meeting, and Exceeding grade-level expectations. Science will follow with the same structure beginning in Spring 2027. These new levels are being aligned to the updated 2024 Iowa Academic Standards and are intended to provide a clearer picture of student learning and a better understanding of whether students are meeting grade-level expectations. Iowa will also no longer use the term “Proficiency,” as they felt it was less clear for families.

One important piece to note is that we will not receive the actual cut scores or full meaning behind these performance levels until later this summer. Educators and stakeholders will meet in June and July 2026 to complete the standard setting process and establish the cut scores that define each level. Final district and state reports will not be available until August 2026. Because of this restructuring, 2026 results will not be directly comparable to previous years. While we can still use scale scores to track growth and student growth percentiles will remain unaffected, the new performance levels themselves will not align with past reporting systems.

This means we have our scores, but we won’t fully understand the new designations or what they mean until the updated reporting is finalized later this summer. I wanted to share this information as it will impact how we review, interpret, and communicate student performance data moving forward.

Meet Our New Members For 2026-2027 School year!



SHELBY MAHR
ART

**GRACIE HAMM-SPECIAL
EDUCATION**



MOLLY STROM-
1ST GRADE

GREG HIEMSTRA-
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Glance into Next Year:



SPIRIT LAKE ELEMENTARY

August 18th	Beginning of year Meeting/ Brisk AI Training
August 19th	Community Day & CPR in PM
August 20th	Intake Conferences/Beginning of Year Prep
September 21st	Literacy Work AEA- PD Day-Intake Conference Early Out
October 19th	AI Training- Conference Prep
November 13th	Literacy Work AEA
December 23rd	IPDP Day FLEX
January 18th	Winter Blast Prep
February 12th	IPDP Day FLEX
February 15th	Conference Prep & Literacy Work AEA
March 12th	AI Training/ ISASP Training
April 19th	Prep
May 24th	End of Year Wrap Up

SPIRIT LAKE ELEMENTARY

SPIRIT LAKE ELEMENTARY

Dates to Remember 2026-2027

AUGUST 10th - Intake conference sign up sent out
 AUGUST 18th - Staff reports for the year
 AUGUST 20th - Intake Conferences/ New Student Orientation
 AUGUST 24th - First day of school TK-4
 AUGUST 28th - Arnolds Park Day
 SEPTEMBER 1st - First day of School for Preschool
 SEPTEMBER 3rd- Picture Day
 SEPTEMBER 25th- Homecoming
 OCTOBER 16th- Fall Blast
 OCTOBER 19th & October 20th- Fall Conferences
 NOVEMBER 19th- Elementary Evening Concert (TK-4)
 DECEMBER 23rd- JANUARY 4th- Winter Break
 JANUARY 15th- Winter Blast
 FEBRUARY 15th & 16th- Spring Conferences
 MARCH 8th- KDG/ TK & Preschool Open House
 MAY 6th- Spring Day Concert (TK-4)
 MAY 21st - Last Day