ANDREW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026



New Playground Equipment Brings Big Smiles to Preschool!

Our preschoolers have a new reason to get excited about outdoor play! Our new playground equipment was installed about a week ago, and the children are already loving every minute of it!

The new equipment features two slides, climbing features, interactive activities like a ball maze, a little house front for imaginative play, and even sound features. There is so much to explore, and the children are having a wonderful time discovering all the fun ways to play!

Beyond the excitement, our new playground provides valuable opportunities for learning and development. As children climb, slide, and explore, they are strengthening their gross motor skills, building coordination, and developing balance and body awareness. Playing alongside classmates also gives children opportunities to practice taking turns, sharing space, cooperating with friends, and building social skills.

Whether they are racing down the slides, exploring the interactive features, or pretending to play house, our preschoolers are learning through play every day. We are so excited to watch their confidence, friendships, and imaginations grow as they enjoy their new playground!

REMINDERS

Nov 4 - Parent Lighthouse Meeting

Nov 9 - School Board Meeting

Nov 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

Dec 21 - Jan 4 - Winter Break

Learning Today

TO BE LEADERS TOMORROW

ANDREW COMMUNITY SCHOOL - 13 S. MARION ST, PO BOX 230, ANDREW, IA 52030 (563) 672-3221

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Dear Andrew Families,

As November approaches and the temperatures start to change, this season reminds us how grateful we are for our community, the hard work of our students, and the strong partnership we share with our families.

Here is a look at what is happening at Andrew this month and a few key updates:

🇺🇸 **Honor & Gratitude: Veterans Day Assembly**
We invite our families and community members to join us as we honor the men and women who have served in our armed forces. Our PK–6 students have been practicing songs and preparing special presentations to express our gratitude to our local veterans. This is a powerful event that we look forward to every year!

- **Donuts & Juice/Coffee:** We planned our Veteran's Day celebration in the morning this year! We did this with the intention of inviting our veterans and their families to stop by for a breakfast of donuts and drinks with our students. We thought this might make the experience a little more interactive for everyone involved. Donuts will be served at 7:45 AM and the assembly will begin at 8:30 AM.
- **Veterans & Guest RSVP:** Please let your child's teacher know or call the main office so we can reserve special seating for you! Please indicate if you plan to be there for 1) donuts with the students, 2) the assembly, or 3) both.

📚 **Parent-Teacher Conferences & Growth**
Thank you to everyone who attended our recent parent-teacher conferences. Open communication between home and school is one of the biggest predictors of student success. If you ever have questions or wish to follow up on your child's academic or social progress, please never hesitate to reach out directly to their classroom teacher.

🧥 **Dressing for Cooler Weather**
With temperatures dropping, please make sure your children come to school with appropriate jackets, hats, and gloves for outdoor recess. We aim to get students outside for fresh air and movement as long as weather permits. Coats and accessories make a big difference!

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving season with your friends and family. Thank you for entrusting us with your children every day!

🗓️ **Important Dates to Remember (More information will be coming home soon)**

- November 4th → Parent Lighthouse Meeting 6 PM
- November 5th → Blood Drive, School Gym 2-6 PM
- November 6th → Leadership Assembly 12:45 PM
- November 9th → School Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- November 11th → Veteran's Day Breakfast 7:45 AM & Assembly 8:30 AM
- November 25 - 27 → No School - Thanksgiving Break
- December 2nd → Parent Lighthouse Meeting 6 PM
- December 3rd → Winter Concert: K-6
- December 4th → Leadership Assembly 12:45 PM
- December 4th → No Preschool

With gratitude,

Mr. Kirchhoff
Pk-6 Principal
brandon.kirchhoff@andrew.k12.ia.us

FIRST GRADE

"Bat Cave Day"

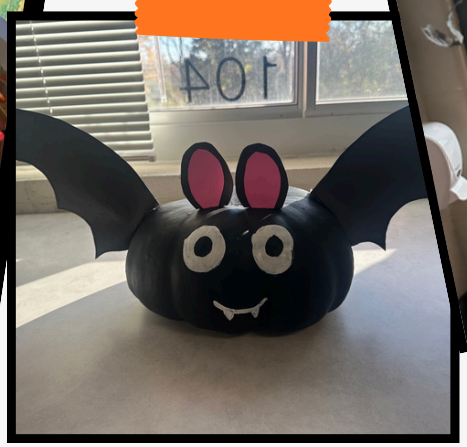
First Grade stepped into a whole new world during "Bat Cave Day," an exciting classroom transformation that turned learning into an unforgettable adventure. As students walked through the door, they were greeted by a dimly lit cavern complete with stalactites overhead and the soft, echoing sounds of bats filling the room. Clasping their flashlights, the young explorers navigated through math and reading activities in the dark, using their beams of light to discover hidden words and solve problems around the room. The immersive experience not only captivated the students' imaginations, but it also made exploring science and literacy hands-on, engaging, and remarkably fun.

















Fifth Grade Had a Wild Time at School of the Wild!

Our fifth-grade class had an incredible week participating in School of the Wild! Students spent time outdoors exploring nature, learning new skills, and discovering more about the world around them. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to learn about woodland habitats, observe their surroundings in prairies, and participate in hands-on water activities that brought their learning to life. It was a wonderful opportunity to step outside the classroom and experience learning in a whole new way!

School of the Wild was filled with fun, laughter, teamwork, and unforgettable memories. Our students did an amazing job participating, asking questions, working together, and embracing every adventure that came their way. It was so rewarding to watch their excitement as they explored and learned alongside their classmates. We are so proud of our fifth graders and are grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful experience. What a wonderful week of learning, growing, and making memories in the great outdoors!









Welcome to a Harmony-Filled Year!

NOTES FROM THE BAND ROOM



Hello Andrew Elementary families!

I am so excited to be joining the Andrew community as your new Band Director! While I may be new to Andrew, I've been leading bands for years, and I can already tell that this is a truly special group of students. We have had a fantastic start to the school year, and I am continually impressed by our young musicians' dedication and enthusiasm!

Our instrument lineup is wonderfully balanced this year between our woodwind and brass sections—and of course, we have a fantastic percussionist keeping us all in line with a steady beat!

Here is a quick look at what our students are working on in the band room:

- 5th Grade (Our Beginners): Our 5th graders are diving headfirst into the basics of musicianship! We are focusing on great posture, playing fundamentals like proper airflow and tonguing, mastering note and rhythm reading, and learning our very first performance pieces.
- 6th Grade (Our Returning Musicians): Our 6th graders are building on their foundation! Alongside refining posture, airflow, tonguing, and slurring, they are expanding their musical vocabulary with new notes, tackling more advanced rhythms, and rehearsing our upcoming concert repertoire.

🗓️ Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Performances
Our musicians are working hard to prepare for our upcoming community performances, and we can't wait to share our music with you!

- Veterans Day Ceremony (November 11th): A select group of students will have the honor of performing The Star-Spangled Banner to pay tribute to our veterans.
- Winter Concert (December 3rd): Save the date! The entire band will take the stage to perform a festive selection of holiday favorites and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Thank you for supporting your child's musical journey at home and encouraging them as they practice. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the students and families at Andrew Elementary, and I look forward to making wonderful music together all year long!

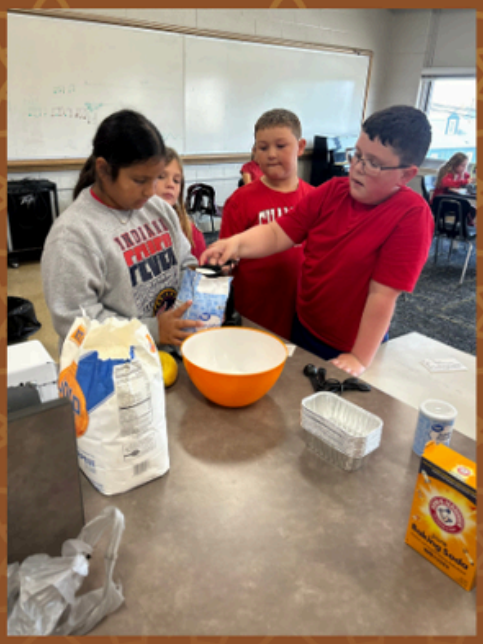
Musically yours,

Elizabeth Wold

Band Director, Andrew Elementary







Our 4th graders put their fraction skills to the test by making banana bread using a recipe from their math book!
They practiced measuring ingredients, adding and combining fractions, and working together to create a delicious treat. Math is even sweeter when you can eat your hard work!









#HomeBakingVibes #HealthyBananaBread



EMPOWERING STUDENTS IN ANDREW

BUILDING HABITS FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE



OUR GOAL

Students in Andrew are learning to **set goals and build good habits.** We help each student find the power to grow and make their dreams come true.
Our students are becoming **great leaders in their classrooms and community.**



LEARNING AND GROWING

SMART CHOICES & MANAGEMENT

- Learn to make smart choices
- Manage their time
- Take care of their schoolwork

PRACTICING ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Staying organized
- Listening to others
- Working together
- Solving problems

TRACKING PROGRESS

Students also track their goals and see how they're doing



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

In our classrooms, we celebrate their progress and show them how close they are to reaching their next goals.



A COMMUNITY OF GROWTH AND LEARNING SCHOOL

You are invited to a

VETERANS DAY Assembly

at Andrew School



Donut Breakfast



Begins at

7:45 a.m.

in the Cafeteria

Veterans Day Assembly

to follow at

8:30 a.m.

in the New Gym

DID YOU KNOW THAT TEACHERS KEEP LEARNING AND GROWING, JUST LIKE YOUR CHILDREN DO?

While students enjoyed a long weekend on Monday, October 19th, our teachers spent the day in professional learning to make this school year even better for your kids. Here's what they worked on:



MORNING: WRITING SKILLS

Teachers worked together to focus on writing—students will soon be working on writing stories about their own experiences or learning how to share their opinion within a writing sample. Teachers:

- Looked at the writing curriculum to find the best ways to teach students how to write step-by-step
- Organized writing tools and strategies so students know exactly what to use when they're working on a writing piece
- Created a complete plan that combines curriculum resources with proven writing strategies to help students from the very first brainstorm all the way to their finished piece

AFTERNOON: MATH FOR EVERY STUDENT

Teachers shifted focus to math and how to help each student learn at their own pace—whether they need extra practice or a bigger challenge. They:

- Found high-quality math resources and materials to help students who need extra support, as well as activities for students ready to move ahead
- Reviewed the math curriculum to add more targeted help for struggling students and fun challenges for advanced learners
- Planned how to use these new supports and activities during regular math class and during dedicated "What I Need" (WIN) time, when students get extra help based on what they need



WHAT'S NEXT

We're grateful for our teachers' hard work to improve their teaching and bring the best strategies into the classroom. Thank you for working with us to help your child succeed in writing, math, and everything else!


JOIN US FOR OUR
LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLIES!
LEADERSHIP IS THE GREATEST ADVENTURE!
ALL ASSEMBLIES START AT 12:45
BE PROACTIVE.
BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND.
PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.
THINK WIN-WIN.
SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD.
SYNERGIZE.
SHARPEN THE SAW.
FIND YOUR VOICE.
HABIT 1 OCTOBER 2
HABIT 2 NOVEMBER 6
HABIT 3 DECEMBER 4
HABIT 4 FEBRUARY 12
HABIT 5 MARCH 12
HABIT 6 APRIL 2
HABIT 7/8 APRIL 30
JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE LEADERSHIP AND GROW TOGETHER!

Your School Counselor



ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT: Chris Fee
PRINCIPAL: Brandon Kirchhoff
BUSINESS MANAGER: Adam Crigger

SCHOOL BOARD

PRESIDENT: Scott Gerardy
VICE PRESIDENT: Kaitlin Till
BOARD MEMBERS:
Courtney Veach - Brittany McCormick
Kelsey Veach

Andrew Caring Cart 2026-2027!

The Caring Cart is coming back for the 3rd year to spread kindness to the staff at Andrew, volunteers, and the Andrew community!

If you would like to donate to the Caring Cart to start off the school year, donations can be dropped off at Back to School Night in Mrs. Hilmer's classroom or anytime throughout the school year.

Popular items are Caffeined Drinks, chocolate, snacks, Pens, Post its, Anything that brightens ones day!

Students love sharing kindness with others and it is helping our students communicate with adults, show kindness, Patience, and so much more.

From the Kindness Crew





ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT: Chris Fee
PRINCIPAL: Brandon Kirchhoff
BUSINESS MANAGER: Adam Crigger

SCHOOL BOARD

PRESIDENT: Scott Gerardy
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Courtney Veach - Brittany McCormick
Kelsey Veach

ANDREW FREE LITTLE PANTRY

LOCATED ON THE PLAYGROUND
NEAR LITTLE LEADERS DAYCARE CENTER

WHAT IS THE FREE LITTLE PANTRY?

It is an outside pantry that contains free food for families that are in need of food.



IF YOU NEED FOOD, TAKE WHAT YOU NEED!

You are welcome to take items for your family. Open to all in need.

Non-perishable items, canned goods, fresh produce, dry goods.

IF YOU CAN DONATE, PUT FOOD ITEMS IN!

You are welcome to place food in the pantry at any time!

Drop off non-perishables, canned goods, dry goods, fresh items.

THANK YOU to all for supporting this important resource for our Andrew families! Your generosity makes a difference.

Helping Our Neighbors In Andrew

Andrew Community

Printed paper lmxt with recycled paper

SMALL TABS

=

BIG DIFFERENCE

Andrew School students are gathering tabs to donate to the **Ronald McDonald House**, which helps families stay close to their kids in the hospital.







School Breakfast







FRUITS: Fruit is available every day in the form of 100% fruit juice, applesauce and sometimes fresh fruit. It is important for kids' health, such as potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin C and folic acid.

PROTEIN: Some breakfast menus may offer items such as eggs, nuts, or meats to pair with whole-grain products.
Check out what Andrew Schools serves as your protein every day.

MILK: Kids and teens need the calcium, protein, and vitamin D found in milk for strong bones, teeth, and muscles.
We offer 2 kinds of milk every day.
Choose one!!!!

GRAINS: Starting every day the whole grains way gives kids and teens B vitamins, minerals, and fiber to feel fuller longer so they stay alert to concentrate at school.



VEGETABLES: Every breakfast does not include vegetables, but schools may offer them in addition or in the place of fruit.

WAYS TO DEPOSIT FUNDS INTO YOUR LUNCH ACCOUNT
~ JMC
~ Check
~ Cash

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits for the 2026-2027 School Year

Applications for Free & Reduced Meal Benefits for this school year are available on our website at **andrew.k12.ia.us.**
All Free & Reduced applications are kept confidential.
You can apply for Free & Reduced benefits throughout the school year.

2026-2027 Meal Prices
Breakfast - $1.75
Reduced - $.30 cents
Lunch - $3.00
Reduced Lunch - $.40 cents
Extra Milk $.50 cents



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST EVERY SCHOOL DAY AT ANDREW SCHOOLS. BREAKFAST FUELS LEARNING, PROVIDES BETTER NUTRITION AND SAVES TIME.

Andrew CSD is an equal opportunity provider



Be A School Wellness Champion

Parents, we need your help to make our school healthier!

Children spend most of their day at school. So, it's important that they have healthy foods and drinks while they are there. Good nutrition also helps kids learn better at school. Parents can help update the school wellness policy and put it into action.

4 ways parents can help:

1. **Join the school wellness committee.** The wellness committee meets once a year to discuss our current wellness policy and what we can do to make it better. You do not need any special training to be on the committee, just an interest in keeping our school healthy!



2. **Read the school wellness policy** at our website: **Andrew.k12.ia.us.**



3. **Support classroom and school events** to have healthy foods and get kids physically active. Keep the wellness policy in mind when planning what foods and beverages to have at events and celebrations.



4. For questions or to share how our school is doing with our wellness policy, please contact the school.



What is in our school wellness policy?

The full school wellness policy is online at: **Andrew.k12.ia.us.**

Interesting topics are:

- **Nutrition education** and **promotion**
- **Physical activity**
- **Other wellness activities** (walk/bike to school)
- **Nutrition standards** for all foods and drinks **sold** to kids at school
- Foods and drinks that may be **given** to students (such as at classroom celebrations or foods given as rewards for behavior)
- **Celebrations in the classroom** (healthy snacks vs unhealthy snacks)

We are always looking for new ideas to ensure that we continue to keep our school healthy.

Better Health = Better Learners

Andrew CSD is an equal opportunity provider