

## Underwood Experience 2023/2024

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer! Our calendar this school year will look different than it has before. We are counting student hours instead of days so you will notice there are fewer days, but the students are still getting in the required time according to the State of Iowa. Professional development for Teachers will be full days once a month. We believe that by allowing for a full day of professional development activities we will be able to provide more opportunities for our staff to improve upon our already great teaching for all students. Go to our website to view the [2023/2024 district calendar](#) located under district information.

We have made a significant update to our technology infrastructure. A cabling project utilizing a federal grant along with local dollars has allowed us to increase our connectivity by 10 times. This is the first phase in the needed update to our internet speed. In the future we will begin to update our wifi access points to continue to have a viable technology infrastructure for the delivery of our education for all students.

If something unusual happens and there is a need to change our normal school day, please tune to the following radio or television stations: KFAB in Omaha (1110 AM), KNOD in Harlan (105.3 FM), KMA in Shenandoah (960 AM), KMTV in Omaha (Channel 3), WOWT in Omaha (Channel 6), and KETV in Omaha (Channel 7). In addition, we send out communication through our student management system, JMC. This enables school personnel to notify all households and parents within minutes of an emergency or unplanned event that causes a late start, an early dismissal, or a school cancellation. If you have not signed up for this service and are interested in participating, please contact the principal's office in the building where your child or children attend.

Students whose families meet the guidelines of free or reduced lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible to have their student fees partially or completely waived. In addition, students who are homeless or whose families are experiencing temporary financial hardship should contact school officials regarding fee reductions or fee waivers at the time of registration on Monday, August 8, 2022. A partial or full fee waiver does not carry over from year to year. It must be updated annually. Students qualify as being homeless if they are sharing the housing of other people due to the loss of housing because of economic hardship, are awaiting foster care placement, or have been abandoned at a hospital. In addition, students are considered homeless if they are living in a car, a public park, an abandoned building, a bus station, or are migratory and are living in any of the circumstances noted above.

The school district annually involves parents in the development of its Title I plan, the process for the review of its Title I plan, and the process for the improvement of its Title I plan. For more information regarding parental involvement in the development of the school district's Title I plan, please contact the elementary principal at 566-2326.

Parents/guardians in the Underwood Community School District have the right to learn about the following information regarding their child's teacher's qualifications: state licensure status, special endorsements for grade/level taught, and baccalaureate or graduate certification or degree. If the school district must utilize the services of a long-term substitute teacher for four or more weeks and the substitute does not have the specific licensure for the content area being taught, the school district will notify the parents of the students involved in writing. For more information, please contact the Office of the Superintendent; Underwood Community School District; P.O. Box 130; Underwood, Iowa 51576 (Telephone: 712-566-2332).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years-of-age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. Those rights are as follows: (1) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the school district receives a request for access; (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading or in violation of the student's privacy rights; (3) The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and (4) The right to inform the school district that the parent or eligible student does not want directory information to be released. A parent or eligible student must make such a request annually to the building principal by September first of each school year. Directory information is defined as follows: name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, email address, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities or sports, weight, height, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most previous school or institution attended by the student, photograph and likeness, or other similar information.

The Underwood Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas: business education, family and consumer science, industrial education, and marketing education. In these career and technical education programs, as well as all programs in the school district, it is the policy of the Underwood Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, socioeconomic status, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. For more

information or for concerns regarding educational programs and activities, contact Andy Irwin, Equity Coordinator. For more information or for concerns regarding employment practices or civil rights grievance procedures, contact Andy Irwin; Underwood Community School District; P.O. Box 130; Underwood, Iowa 51576 (Telephone: 712-566-2332).

## The Underwood **Elementary School** Experience

It's been refreshing to see all the students and teachers back for the 2023-24 school year! Over the summer we have worked to improve the aesthetics of our front entrance in order to make it more inviting for students and families. This year's elementary theme is "Exploring the Great Unknown." Our building goals this year will be to provide more opportunities for student engagement through conversations, critical thinking, and technology. The implementation of our goals actually began at the end of last year and will continue this year through new technology applications and our new elementary STEM cart! Our staff is also working to streamline communication and connect families to their student's classroom activities through Seesaw (prek-2nd) and Google Classroom (3rd-5th). I am looking forward to seeing what "great unknown" learnings our students will experience when given the opportunity to create new ideas through project driven lessons.



(New STEM cart from ScaleUp grant!)



(Students using the new STEM Cart to make a Wiggle Bot)

### Special Dates in September

- Sept. 4: NO SCHOOL-Labor Day
- Sept. 4-8th: Homecoming Activities
- Sept. 18th: No School/Staff PD Day



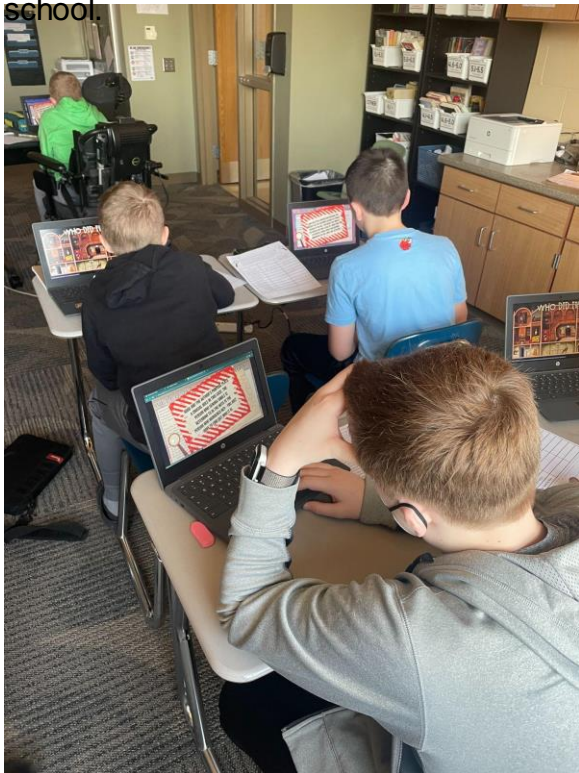
(1st graders learning the Seesaw program)

Respectfully,  
Nicole Murray

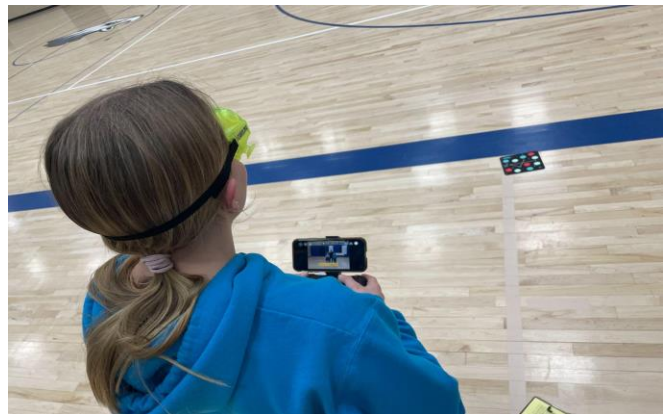
## The Underwood Middle School Experience

Crazy think that summer has come and gone and we are already into a new school year. Our middle school goals for this year are to maximize student engagement and to focus on building relationships. As we all know, middle school can be a daunting time for our students as they start to set their path to high school. Our hope is that by building connections and engaging all students we can make the transition a memorable one for all students!

We do have a few new faces in our building! Mrs. Sondag and Mrs. Ambrose have moved up from the elementary. Mrs. Sondag will be teaching 7 / 8 grade reading while Mrs. Ambrose will be teaching science. Our last new face to the middle school is Shelby Schwaller. Mrs. Schwaller will be teaching 5-8 special education at the middle school.



Above: 7th grade students working on their true crime unit



Top Right: Students in TAG working with drones

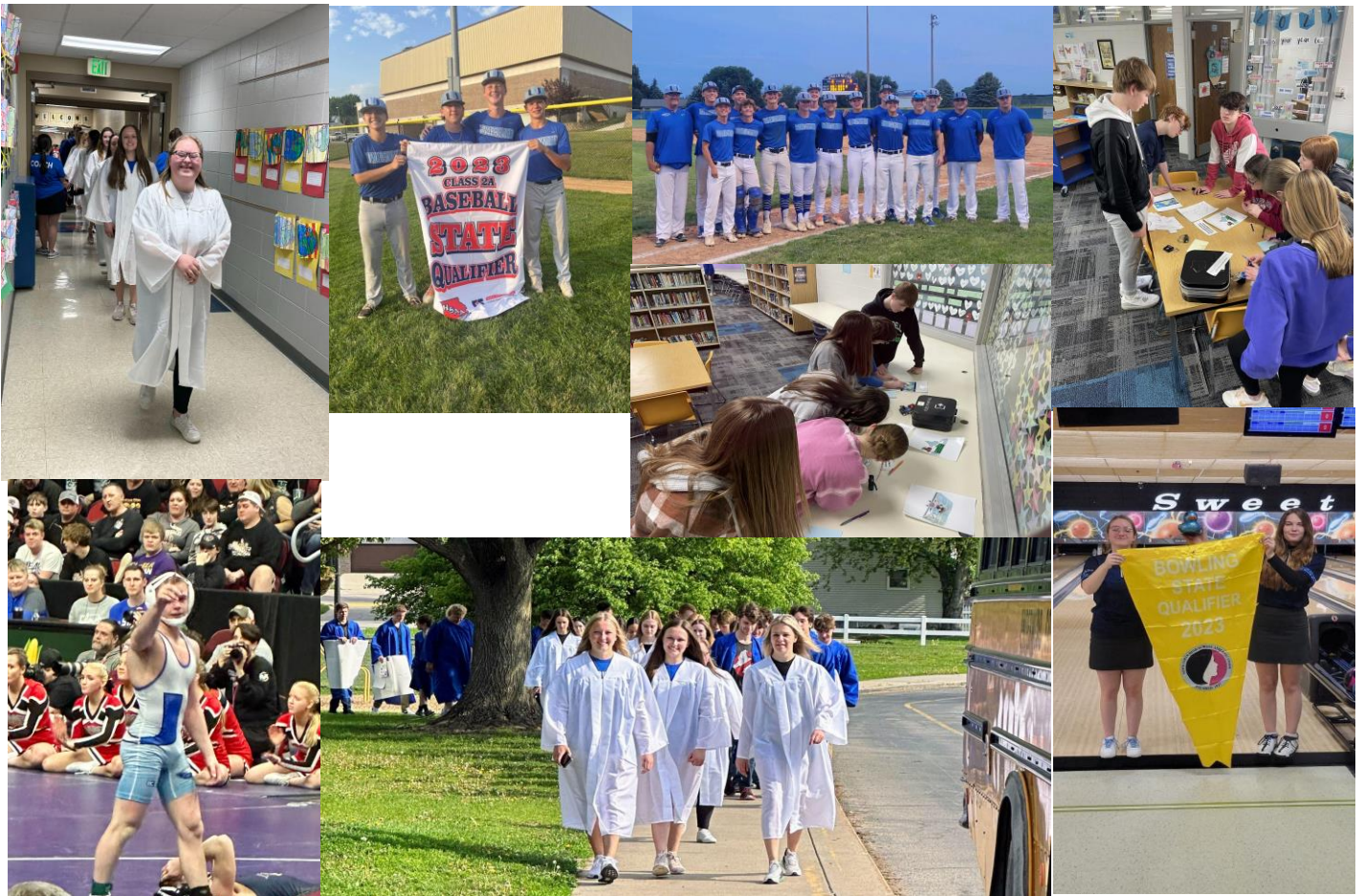


Bottom Right: 8th grade students quizzing Mr. Hamilton as they attempt to secede from the MS

Go Eagles!  
Tyler Hamilton

## The Underwood High School Experience

The Underwood High School Experience is all about engagement and getting involved. Studies show that students who are more active in school have better attendance, better grades, and better organizational skills. Those traits are key to success in life. This year teachers will be designing lessons and activities that maximize student engagement, asking them to use critical thinking skills to problem solve. Our world is more and more based on technology every day, so teachers will be finding more advanced ways to utilize technology to prepare students for the future. We'll have three new faces in our building this year: Britt Hermsen will be teaching science, Ryan Miller will teach instrumental music, and Page Wiese is moving up from the middle school to teach English.



# The Underwood **Activity** Experience

The 2022-2023 school year was very good to Underwood Athletics and Activities. We saw many teams achieve high levels of success! Thanks to our coaches and athletes for their tireless dedication and continuing to achieve at the highest level! Below is a picture of our state runner-up baseball team. The baseball team made school history this summer as they achieved the program's first ever win at the state tournament. The boys would go on to win two games before falling in the state championship!



This year we will begin navigating the transition to online ticketing and the other services offered through Bound. We will utilize Bound for ticketing, calendars, activity registration, as well as many other things. Our hope is that Bound will be a one stop shop for all things Underwood related. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions as we navigate this change!

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Welcome To Your Underwood High School Sports Headquarters! Software that brings your community together!

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With Bound, your school and team websites look great right from the start, with no work required on your part. It's like ESPN for your school!

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