



PREPARING THE PACK

NEWSLETTER

Harris-Lake Park Community School



FALL / WINTER 2023
ISSUE 1

PREPARING THE PACK

Preparing the pack with passion and purpose.

Preparing our children in education with passion and purpose of leadership and service refers to the intentional and holistic approach to nurturing the next generation's skills, values, and mindset. This educational philosophy aims to instill in young learners a deep and genuine enthusiasm for taking on leadership roles and serving their communities and the world at large.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THIS APPROACH INCLUDE:



Passion

Fostering a love for learning and a genuine interest in exploring various fields of knowledge. Encouraging students to discover their unique interests, talents, and passions, which will serve as the foundation for their leadership and service endeavors.



Purpose

Helping students identify a sense of purpose beyond individual achievement. This involves teaching them to connect their interests and talents to the betterment of society and the world, emphasizing the importance of contributing to the common good. Providing an environment for ALL students to learn and develop to their maximum potential – mentally, socially, emotionally and physically – so they become lifetime learners and active citizens in our communities.



Leadership

Fostering a love for learning and a genuine interest in exploring various fields of knowledge. Encouraging students to discover their unique interests, talents, and passions, which will serve as the foundation for their leadership and service endeavors.



Service

Instilling a strong sense of empathy and compassion, along with the understanding that leadership is not about personal gain but about using one's abilities to serve others. Encouraging active engagement in community service and social responsibility.



Development

Nurturing not only cognitive skills but also emotional intelligence, ethical values, and character development. Preparing students to navigate complex ethical dilemmas and make principled decisions as leaders and service-oriented individuals.



Long-Term Impact

Focusing on the long-term development of leaders and servants who can create positive, sustainable change in their communities and the world. Encouraging students to think about the lasting impact of their actions and decisions.

EMPOWERING OUR CHILDREN

Harris-Lake Park Community Schools seeks to empower our children to become responsible, ethical, and socially conscious leaders who are committed to making a meaningful difference in the world, while also finding fulfillment in their personal and professional lives. Creatively, because we are the wolves, we use the term "Pack" when we talk about our students. Wolves run in packs, which means they stay united in their hunt. This conveys the idea that we see our students as a cohesive, collaborative group working together towards common goals, much like wolves in a pack.

CURRICULUM

The program is titled, *Wolves Den*, and allows for dedicated time to focus on the areas listed below. The *Wolves Den Curriculum and Credits* are a board approved graduation requirement from H-LP.

At Harris-Lake Park HS we believe it is important to prepare students for College and Career Readiness. we have a dedicated curriculum, which is taught on Wednesday's to meet the needs of our high school students in these areas: Leadership, Service, Character, Personal Wellness, 21st Century Skills, and Financial Literacy.

Post Secondary Readiness Statistics

We are continually looking at data to support initiatives and make changes to better our students for life after school.

2019 DATA

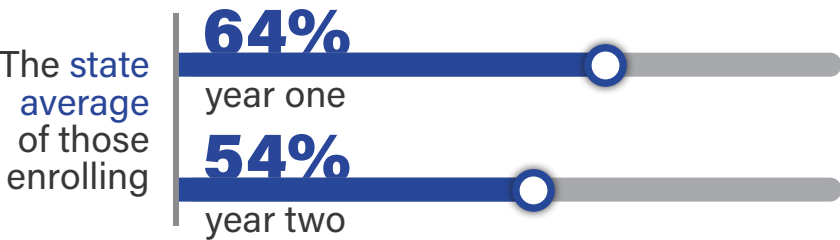


75% of Graduates were enrolling within one year to a postsecondary institution

AND



66% persisted for year two



Did you Know?



89.86% of students are proficient in English Language Arts

state average is 70.84%



74.45% of students are proficient in Mathematics

state average is 64.97%



79% of H-LP High School students participate in extracurriculars

72% participate in two or more



SCHOOL BOND UPDATE

It is the role of the school district to inform you of the project and its' scope and not to advocate for you to take a position one way or the other.

November 7th

Save The Date

Please note that there will be a community meeting that will provide information on the bond referendum vote.

OCT 30

6:30PM
MS/HS
Auditorium

Representatives of the H-LP Board of Education and Administration, FEH Architecture, and Piper Sandler public financial services will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Brings all educational facilities to one campus • Allows sharing of space so less new space is built
New construction updates all systems/equipment • Better safety/security • Better traffic and pedestrian flow around site • Dedicated playgrounds with ADA equipment • Natural lighting to all instructional spaces • Efficiency of maintenance and staffing • Significant energy efficiency upgrades and cost savings

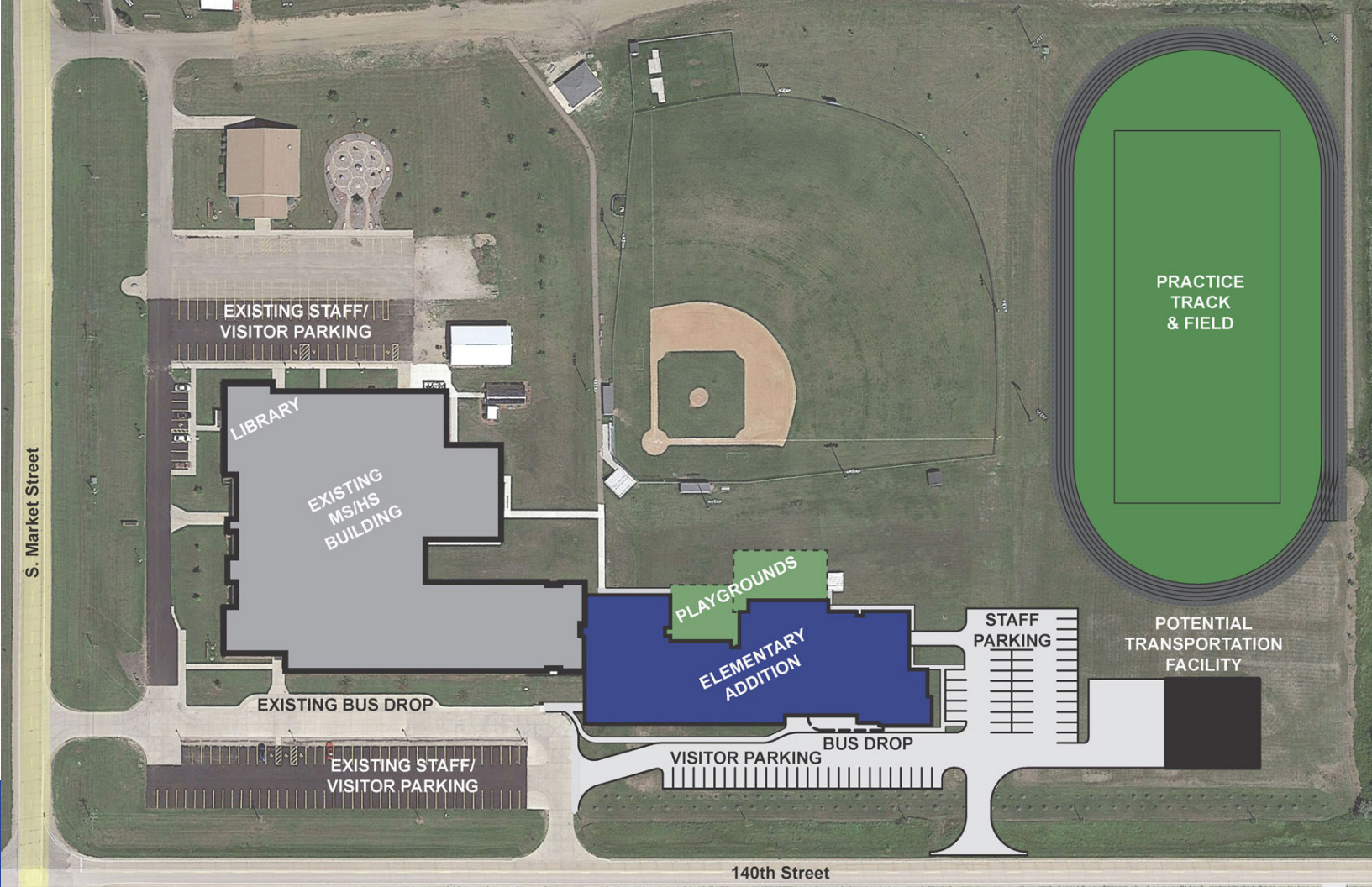
Benefits Of A One-Site Campus



SCAN TO
HEAR FROM
GARY RICHARDSON



Renderings By: FEH Design



STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

With these vision statement and goals, the district is well-equipped to welcome in a one-campus facility with a successful passage of a bond referendum, scheduled for November 7th.

The Harris-Lake Park Community Schools has adopted the following vision statements as developed by the Board of Education:

- We will be a model of excellence in all that we do
- We will provide an environment that is safe, clean, attractive and inviting to students and community
- We will achieve a 100% graduation rate
- We will develop strong working relations and partnerships with community and school
- We will provide a relevant, high-quality education to prepare our students for future endeavors
- We will be a district that maintains independence while providing sustainable and productive opportunities for students
- We will honor achievement and promote pride in ourselves, in our community, and in our school



The district faculty and staff of each building, have developed the following district goals, that serve as a blueprint for teaching and learning at Harris-Lake Park:

Integration of Technology

- Equipping students with 1:1 devices
- Allowing students to engage and create mentally
- Supporting teachers in instruction and student engagement

Purpose and Passion

- Creating student choice
- Allowing students to find their purpose and passion
- Promoting Lifetime Learners

Collaboration

- Working together
- Engaging community
- Targeting all students to learn and to develop to their maximum potential

Wolves Den

- Working together, socially, emotionally, and physically
- Pursuing self-interests and real-world exploration through financial literacy, leadership, personal wellness, and 21st century skills

Culture with Surprise and Delight

- Being intentional about the small aspects of culture
- Celebrating success of quality people and committing to excellence
- Trusting.....communicating

WHY HARRIS-LAKE PARK

What teachers and parents are saying about why Harris-Lake Park is the best school in our area.

Northwest Iowa's best kept secret

"Not long after I began teaching at Harris-Lake Park, I heard someone refer to the Harris-Lake Park School District as "Northwest Iowa's best kept secret." I didn't know the person who said it, but I have always loved that description because, while no one wants their district's success to be overlooked, it makes Harris-Lake Park sound like a hidden gem, a treasure just waiting to be discovered. It is that feeling—that pride in being part of something surprisingly extraordinary—that brought me to H-LP, and has made me want to stay.

Full disclosure: Before I applied to the Harris-Lake Park school district, I had never even heard of this community. I grew up in South Dakota, so my ignorance might be excused, but I have since discovered that it is not uncommon for people—even lowans—to be a bit perplexed about where Lake Park is at, and to assume it is just another small rural community like any other. I admit that that was my expectation, as well. But, surprise! From the moment I stepped into the school building for that first interview, it was apparent that this school district was different. I couldn't even put my finger on what exactly created that impression, but it was overwhelmingly positive, and it became the measuring stick by which other school districts I visited were evaluated. I recognize now that what I sensed, and still sense, was a confidence and a belief that the school was not only capable of remarkable things, but was actually accomplishing them. I don't think you need to spend much time here to realize that Harris-Lake Park's greatest strength is its community. This is first and foremost a community that is tremendously proud and supportive of the school district, and the individuals in it. They demonstrate this over and over again in the ownership they take and the investments they make to continue the district's legacy. My own children can provide countless first hand examples of the ways in which the community has celebrated, encouraged, and supported them in their activities and accomplishments, and I know they are far from unique in this regard. You won't find that level of personal interest and support in larger school districts or even in a lot of smaller ones. It is thanks to this community that Harris-Lake Park continues to thrive as a small rural district when so many others have failed. There is a palpable understanding between the community and the school district that one will not exist without the other, and they share not just a desire to be exceptional, but an expectation that they will be.

After so many years of teaching in this district, I have clearly developed a bias, so perhaps mine cannot be the most objective testimonial. I met my husband here and we raised and educated our children in this district. It has been a central focus in our family for a lot of years. I'm certain I'm not alone, however, in believing that our school district is something special, a district with an unwavering expectation for excellence, and in that regard, Harris-Lake Park truly is a treasure"

Kathy Greve
K-8 General Music, 9-12 Director of Choral Activities



Easy Choice - Why Harris-Lake Park

"Choosing to live and work in the H-LP school district has been an easy choice. We are a family at H-LP, always helping each other in times of need. The culture of integrity and hard work at H-LP influenced me to raise my three kids here and they have easily transitioned and succeeded in their postsecondary options after high school. I appreciate the loyalty of our administration. They have worked to improve the school district by providing opportunities for high quality professional development and continually sought out and implemented new resources for our students."

Daryl Meyer
H-LP CSD



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Lisa Carstensen / Vice President
Ebony Rahe / Director
Jamie Reverts / Director
Chad Hibma / Director
Gary Richardson / Superintendent
Greg Hiemstra / MS / HS Principal
Mike Thompson / Elementary Principal
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