

# BIGGER & BETTER

by sophomore Sophie Selenke

On May 20, 43 seniors will graduate. That is the same number of students the district has gained since October 1. This rapid expansion is expected to continue, and Superintendent Tony Voss is ready.

"The two biggest problems for school districts are declining enrollment and growing enrollment," said Voss, "and I would much rather have the second of the two."

That is a good thing, because that is exactly what Hudson has: a growing population.

Every year, to determine the size of the district, the administration looks at the incoming kindergarten class numbers. Typically the district splits the kindergarten class into two sections.

But, at the April 16 board meeting, Voss said they are planning for three sections of kindergarten next year because the numbers are up. At the same meeting, he said he sees four-section classes in Hudson's future.

But Voss, who predicts an increase of 2-2.5%, said growth is

## Hudson Community School District prepares for expansion

dependent on other factors.

"Enrollment projections are unknown, partially based on new housing developments and partially based on current cohorts," explained Voss.

Still, this growth does not come without challenges. Having more students means needing more space. Luckily, Voss and his administrative team have already started working on a solution.



photo courtesy of Jolietta Yoder

School board members David Ball, Traci Trunck, Karyn Finn, and Brenda Klenk examine a possible expansion layout with the superintendent Dr. Tony Voss at the April 16 school board meeting.

In a 20-year plan, they have outlined additional changes that will be made throughout the district. These could include new elementary classrooms, a bigger gym with a common area, and new class wings.

The long-term plan could also include a new building on "the Hudson campus".

While statistics continue to show evidence for this steady advancement, some fear that the school may grow too big. Voss, on the other hand, believes that the district has the ability to accommodate the growth that is the result of the strengths of Pirate Nation.

Said Voss, "Frankly, I believe the student population is increasing because of our good student population, good reputation, good teachers, and good location."

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photo by Junior Payton Sternwood



### HHS set to grow in 2018-2019

Principal Jeff Dieken explains preparations

by sophomore Grace Schwenneker

- The high school population will increase by at least 20 students.
- A new English teacher was hired to teach three sections of Junior English so English teacher Alison Puls can offer one more section of Sophomore English to accommodate what is the largest class currently in the district.
- The new teacher will also teach Composition and Western Civilization for Hawkeye Community College credit.
- Tables will be added to the lunchroom.
- Parking spots will be added.

## Pirate Term returns

by sophomore Abby Gaudian

For the sixth year, grades 7-12 will get a unique educational experience through Pirate Term.

"(Pirate Term is about) seeing things through a different lens and providing different opportunities for the students," said 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken.

**"It's fun, and I get to learn new things about what I love to do."**

- sophomore Mattie Myli

Dieken got the idea from some high schools and colleges around the state.

Some colleges, like Wartburg, offer May Term for courses or more academic learning trips. Hudson, however, chose to use this special time to provide more hands-on learning experiences that students don't necessarily get in an academic class.

**"I don't like that we are stuck with one teacher the whole time."**

- junior Megan Sigmund

According to Dieken, Pirate Term has evolved from Year One in many different ways. Teachers continue to put more emphasis on learning outcomes. They are also working on becoming more efficient at organizing, finding resources, and adding learning outcomes.

For a list of this year's Pirate Terms, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yag42f5f>.



photo courtesy of Scuba Experience Pirate Term

Students in the 2017 Scuba Experience Pirate Term pose in the UNI WRC pool.

### Ideas for future Pirate Terms:

**"I would like to see students experience a little bit of every Pirate Term group, if they want."**

- freshman Samantha Bauler

**"I would like to see more overnight trips during Pirate Term."**

- freshman Jessica Regenwether

research by sophomore Klaire Krapfl