

HHS positively influences other schools

by sophomore Madeline Santman

Hudson High School, whether it be through its students or faculty, is making a difference in the Cedar Valley.

In many high schools and universities across the country, students can participate in special courses, May Term, near the end of their final semester. At Hudson, it's called "Pirate Term", which began in the spring of 2013.

According to 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken, when West Marshall heard about the experiences Hudson students were having through Pirate Term at an NICL conference, "They were intrigued."

"[They] wanted to give their students the same opportunity, so they reached out," said Dieken.

"Pirate Term was the framework that West Marshall used to design our May-Term," said West Marshall high school principal Kristian Einsweiler, who was a 2005 graduate from Hudson.



Sophomores Felicity DeVries, Jada Gaskill, Emily Ingamells, and Kiara Ingamells visit Hansen's Dairy Farm during the 2018 Pirate Term "Restaurant Experience". Junior Payton Stuart paints his project during the 2018 Pirate Term "Pirate Pickers".

photos courtesy of Stacey Lyons and Junior Brooke Busch

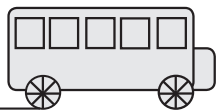
"It's been an amazing addition to our high school, and Hudson High School and Pirate Term had a major influence on our implementation."

Months later, in the spring of 2018, West Marshall started their first year of May Term. Students built boats out of cardboard, made movies, managed a baseball organization, ran a food truck, and explored fitness. Stu-

dents were also provided with the chance to meet engineers, visit with lawyers, experience newsrooms, and see, for many, their first major league baseball game in Minneapolis. This year, West Marshall plans to add a scuba-diving course into their own May Term.

Said Dieken, "We always want what is best for our students, and when things go really well, other schools do take notice."

Hit the Brakes!



by junior Sophie Selenke

Parents trust the busing system to get their students safely to and from school activities. However, sometimes buses get packed, and that safety may be compromised.

For example, on Dec. 18, the high school choir took 50 members to River Hills in Cedar Falls to carol. "It was definitely a squished ride," said choir teacher Casey Tecklenburg about the 64 passenger bus.

At first glance, there doesn't seem to be an issue: 50 students on a bus that's to hold 64. Those capacity numbers, though, can be misleading.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, such capacity numbers are "based on sitting three small elementary school age persons per typical 39-inch school bus seat".

AZcentral, a part of the USA Today newspaper and network, cites that an average elementary student weighs about

59 pounds while a high school student can weigh anywhere from 100 pounds to over 200.

So, when buses used by the district are supposed to transport students of all ages- that is where the problem can occur.

However, this is not the case every time. Bus driver Kevin Murray explained that overcrowding could also occur based on the time of year, making spring the worst.

Said junior Jake Burgett, a boys track member, "We barely have enough room for all the guys and girls on one bus when traveling for track meets."

Busing is especially tricky when there are multiple events in one night. For example, on April 18, the junior high track team took two buses to Belle Plaine.

On the same night, both boys and girls track teams took different buses to Grundy Center and Denver. The girls JV and varsity soccer also took a bus to the Hudson complex, while the boys

and girls golf teams took a bus for themselves to Dike-New Hartford.



Hudson choir students cram onto the bus on their way to carol at River Hills in Cedar Falls in December.

photo by freshman Caroline Mitchell

What do you like about Pirate Term?



"I like it because you get to have more fun and joke around with students in a different way. It is getting out of the classroom and doing something different."

-high school math teacher Nancy Uden



"It is a nice way to finish the school year. It is nice having a fun last week and not trying to cram for tests and studying."

-sophomore Joe Britton



"It is great for students, because it gives them the opportunity to learn in a non-traditional setting. It is short, but it engages the students. I also like it, because it is at the end of the year. It is a good way to wrap up the school year. It's like finishing off with a bang."

-high school social studies teacher Paul Simmer

With some spring teams being as small as 15, such as boys and girls golf, and as large as 60, such as junior high track, multiple teams on a single bus goes back to the original problem: crowded buses.

Superintendent Tony Voss gives another possible reason to busing issues- lack of available bus drivers. While school may be able to rent or borrow another bus from different schools, drivers for those buses are harder to find.

"When an athletic team has to leave before school (is out), usually a driver isn't readily available [since they are on regular bus routes]," said Voss. "As soon as we get a driver, as long everyone is sitting, the drivers have to leave immediately to get teams to the events on time."

Voss said, despite all these challenges, student safety and comfort remains a priority.

Said Voss, "I believe it is our wish that the students are comfortable [on bus rides], and we will do what we can with our resources."

Did you know?

43% of students polled said they have had to sit or stand in the bus aisle while riding to an event.