

the change up

New PE teacher makes program changes

by sophomore Sophie Selenke

People are creatures of habit. We wake up at the same time, we eat the same breakfast, and we take the same route every day. We like our routines.

So it stands to reason, the changes that are happening in the physical education (PE) department, due to a sudden retirement, are being met with some opposition.

The man behind these changes is Sean Leonard, who previously student taught in Hudson and coached Hudson Boys Basketball from 2009–2012.

Leonard taught physical education in Janesville for the past two years but was anxious to return to Hudson and make a change-up.

Some changes have been less accepted than others. For instance, a new grading policy has been implemented, based on dressing out, participation, being on time, and attitude.

The most controversial change has been regarding the make up policy. If a student misses PE class, the time will have to be made up before school, during a study hall, or after school.

Leonard feels this policy is fair. “If

you missed school, you would make up a math class, right? It’s like making up a math class, but you can’t take your homework home,” said Leonard.

Making up PE could be an issue for many students. Most don’t have a study hall during the day, have sports practices after school, and/or have band and vocal practices in the morning.

“For me, I don’t have any study halls, so this (policy forces) me to schedule a study hall instead of what should be

important classes just so I can make up PE,” said freshman Kylee Sallee.

Leonard notes that not every missed class will have to be made up. Students will not have to make up PE if it is missed for a school event, a family death, or an excused injury.

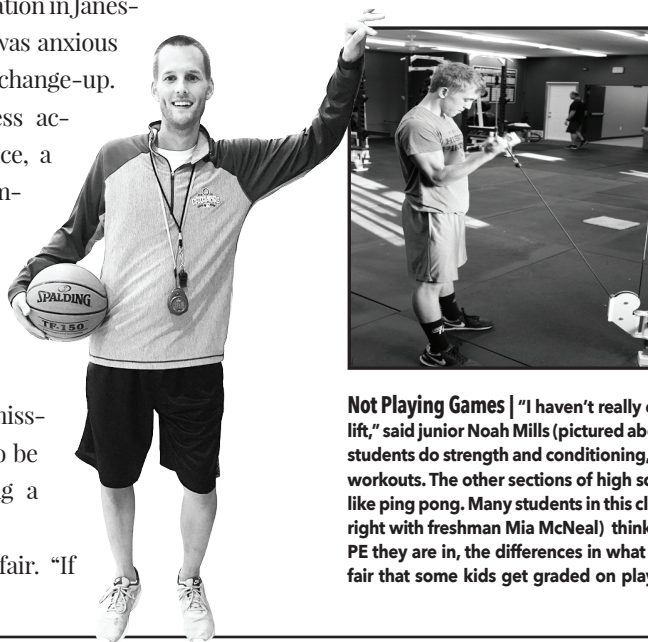
While students like Sallee have struggled with changes in the program, sophomore Jake Burgett welcomes them.

“I like it because (we learn more) and have more fun,” said Burgett. “It’s also better because we are being more active and having to condition.”

Another change in the program is the amount of money spent. Since the beginning of the school year, Leonard has spent \$2,000 from the general fund, approved by activities director Kevin Wurzer, on “much-needed equipment” such as frisbees, basketballs, volleyballs, badminton equipment, pickle balls, Can Jam, and golf kits.

By reaching out to the community through social media, Leonard has also gained two ping pong tables and 50 golf clubs through donations.

Leonard hopes that eventually students will get used to the changes and see his goal for his classes: “Students should see the benefits of having a healthy lifestyle while having fun doing it.”



photos by senior Olivia Kolterman

Not Playing Games | “I haven’t really experienced PE because I have it first hour so I just lift,” said junior Noah Mills (pictured above, left). Leonard (pictured far left) said in Period 1 students do strength and conditioning, such as circuit training, yoga, weightlifting, and ab workouts. The other sections of high school PE do more games and recreational activities like ping pong. Many students in this class, like freshman Kylee Sallee (pictured above, far right with freshman Mia McNeal) think that because they cannot choose what section of PE they are in, the differences in what the classes do is inequitable. Said Sallee, “It’s not fair that some kids get graded on playing (games) while we get our push-ups graded.”

High school provides additional help for students after school

by sophomore Grace Schwenneker

The high school is now offering a separate After School Program (ASP) for high school students.

The school board felt the need for this change, primarily for the convenience of the students to stay in their own building and to avoid the embarrassment of having to report to a program with students as young as fifth grade.

High school social studies teacher Paul Simmer is overseeing the program, which meets in his classroom every day after school.

On Wednesdays, one of Simmer’s University of Northern Iowa students, Hanna Hix or Spencer Westhoff, is available to help students while Simmer is at professional development.

If students need help in specific classes, UNI

students will be brought from the middle school to tutor.

The program aims to provide opportunities for all students to succeed. At-risk coordinator Jeff Bell, who oversees the K-12 ASP Program, said, “Our number one goal is to reach students needs and push students into the process of graduation.”



Simmer conferences with senior Cole Lauterbach during class.

photo by sophomore Hailey Sciley