

## MVHS earns Commendable rating on state report card

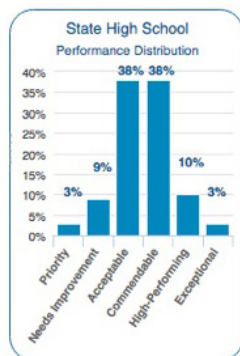
by Emily LaGrant

At the end of last year, Maquoketa Valley received a rating from the state to help show schools statewide where they lie in comparison to each other and where improvements should be made. Maquoketa Valley was garnered a Commendable rating, an honor for our school.

Each school can be given six different rankings in the following order: Priority (making up 3% of schools), Needs Improvement (9% of schools), Acceptable (38% of schools), Commendable (38% of schools), High Performing (10% of schools), and Exceptional (3% of schools). The Commendable rating stands at an above average placement in comparison to other schools districts.

This rating, given by the Iowa Department of Education, bases itself on numerous categories of achievement including, to name a few: proficiency, college and career ready growth, expected annual growth, attendance, and closing the achievement gap.

**Commendable**



Rating: **Commendable**



Understanding our ranking and the reasoning behind each category placement is crucial, according to Mr. Tuetken. "This is good information to have, but conversations are necessary to know what people are looking at when they see these scores," he said during an interview.

Our achievement in each category varied immensely for a variety of reasons. Our College and Career Ready Growth sat at 38.9% while our proficiency stood at 86.9%, a substantial gap between the two.

According to Mr. Tuetken, some of our lowest categories such as College and Career Ready Growth were because of our high achievement. When students take standardized tests, benchmarks are expected to be met. However, in many of our students' cases, strong previous scores caused the benchmark to be nearly impossible to meet next time around. In some cases, students would grow but the score would be one or two points below the benchmark. "If the score isn't met then it doesn't count," said Mr. Tuetken.

The same goes for the Closing Achievement Gap category, where we sit with a 47.4%. When such a vast amount of students are succeeding in the classroom and bypassing state benchmarks, it be-

comes difficult for special needs students to catch up, even if those students are already beyond proficient, which many of them are.

Not every number needs an explanation, though. Our student body is proficient 86.9% of the time, graduation rate sits at a strong 98.3%, while attendance has a 94.8%. These numbers speak for themselves.

So where does our school go from here? The answer lies in continuing to help students rise above and beyond what the benchmark is. It's also about our continuous efforts in instruction and extracurriculars, both of which help push students to succeed.

"[The rating] helps focus areas, but also acts as a good conversation piece between students, faculty members, and families," stated Tuetken.

It's obvious Maquoketa Valley is heading in the right direction. A Commendable rating helps cement that. With continuous effort from our entire school population, Maquoketa Valley can continue down its path of success. Students, keep it up. Staff, thank you for all that you do. And most of all, Wildcats, be proud of all that you've accomplished.

*"[The rating] helps focus areas, but also acts as a good conversation piece between students, faculty members, and families."*

*—Mr. Tuetken*

# Lady Cats stay busy before break, back at it in 2016

by Kristi Goedken

Before Christmas break, the Wildcats went on the road to take on the Buccaneers of East Buchanan where they got a 63-14 road win. Leading the team in points was Brianna Mensen with 21 followed by freshman Sam Wall with 16 points and Payton Ries with 10 points.

"We changed some things for this game to see if we could get off to a better start. It must have worked because we really came out of the gates with a lot of energy. We played hard, we competed every possession and we shot the ball pretty well," stated Coach Moenck. "It's nice because we have nine kids who are really contributing a lot of different ways. Most of all we're really moving and sharing the ball well. Sam came off the bench and gave us a nice boost of energy."

The Monday night before Christmas break, the Wildcats geared up to take on Central Elkader on our home court in front of a full gym. Elkader was a great team looking for a win. The Wildcats put it on Central Elkader early and never slowed down. The girls tallied another win to their record with a 62-36 win.

Brianna Mensen led the offensive end with 17 points. Sam Wall had 12, Megan Mensen 11, and Kristi Goedken 8. On the defensive side, Shannae Hoeger pulled down 9 boards. As a team, the Wildcats had 17 steals that were used to stretch their lead and gain another win before break.

"Elkader came into this game 7-2," stated Coach Moenck. "We knew they were good and are a very well coached team. I was so proud with how our team is progressing and coming along. They're really starting to figure things out on both ends of the floor. Kristi really shot the ball against their zone which really helps our perimeter players get good looks. When we play like that we're going to be a tough out."

The next night our Wildcats hosted the River Hawks of Easton Valley in their final game before Christmas break. Even though the girls played the night before, every member brought intensity again to help gain another win with a score of 61-26. Sam Wall had 14 points, Brianna Mensen 11, Megan Mensen 8, and Payton Ries had 8. The team also had 11 steals total and capitalized to increase their lead and gain the win.

Coach Moenck stated, "This was



Sam Wall brings the ball up-court in the December game against Easton Valley. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

a great test for us. Playing two good teams on back to back nights, playing three games and five nights we were going to learn a lot about our team and their toughness. I was very proud of our kids. They battled through. We had a lot of kids battling sickness and never once did they complain. I was very pleased with the way we rebounded the ball and how we were physical underneath the hoop. We have to continue to grow in certain aspects but toughness is the major one we need to get better at. I thought this game we got a lot tougher. The only negative thing about this game was that it was leading into break after we have been playing so well. We have a ways to go but I like where we are at right now."

Tuesday night the Wildcats traveled to North Linn to take on the Lynx in a hard fought battle. After 32 minutes, the Wildcats didn't come up with the outcome they were hoping. The Lynx won the battle and the game with a final score of 48-41. Stats will be in next week's issue.

Tonight the JV girls/boys and varsity boys travel to Alburnett. Go out and support them! Tomorrow afternoon the varsity girls travel to the US Cellular Center to take the Alburnett in Rivalry Saturday at 2:00 in the afternoon! Hope to see everybody there! Go Cats!

## Varsity, JV partial squads compete at NL

The last major wrestling meet for the Wildcats was Dec. 19 when the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team took part in the North Linn Lynx Invitational. The team had 6 wrestlers competing in the varsity side of the tournament and 7 in the JV side.

Individual results for the varsity tournament is as follows: Mitch Smith 4th place at 145 lbs, Cole Kruse 3rd place at 160 lbs, Dylan Wright 4th place at 170 lbs, Alec McDowell 3rd place at 182 lbs, Eric Heims 5th place at 220, Tanner Parmely withdrew due to injury. The team finished in 8th place out of 13 teams with 75 points.

The guys competing in the JV-tournament were Canyon Richardson, Justin Krapfl, Carson Wright, Robert Hildebrand, Cody Gibbs, Jordy Downs and Kaleb Kruse.

Coach Andrews had this to say about his team's performance: "Overall I was very happy to see the progress the guys have made thus far this season. Although we still have a ways to go we are definitely moving in the right direction. All the guys that were able to finish the day in the varsity side all placed well above where they were seeded. This is what we try to accomplish in tournaments like this were we only have six or so guys competing. I am also excited for the guys that competed in the JV portion of the tournament. All those guys won at least one match and most two and worked very hard to accomplish this."



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Brittany Sabers*



**You recently made a quilt for a Christmas present. Why did you choose to make one?** I chose to make the quilt because I am taking fashion design and I thought the idea of a picture quilt was really cool. I thought Alec would like to have that to remember his junior year of football and I thought it would make a good Christmas present.

**What kind of problem-solving skills did you have to use to make it?** I had to manage my time with homework because I spent my study halls and any chance I had to work on the quilt instead of using the time to work on homework. Mrs. Downs was extremely helpful. She spent a lot of her time helping me get the quilt done, but there are also many other students in the class and while she was busy with other students there were times that I tried to figure out what to do on my own or find help from someone else. I don't know what I would've done without Mrs. Downs!

**What's the most valuable skill you learned from making it?** I think a valuable skill that I learned was patience. It seemed like it took awhile at first to see it all coming together. Having to rip out seams and re-sew things several times can be frustrating, but in the end it is very rewarding.

—Brittany was nominated by Mrs. Downs

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Faith Hunt

Activity: Speech

**What event are you in for speech?**

I am in Reader's Theatre and Choral Reading for large group.

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?**

My favorite part of large group is that I have been able to get closer with people I never really talked to before.

**What have you learned through this event?**

I have learned that it's very important that you are able to work with people you may not like.

**Who is your speech role model?**

My speech role model is Emily LaGrant. I consider her a role model because when she performs or just talks in front of us freshmen during mentoring, she has so much confidence. I feel like no matter she presents she always takes it seriously and does her best.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?**

I would want to judge improv because it's unexpected and the performers always seem to make the audience laugh.



**what's up?**

by Emma McDowell

### What was your favorite Christmas present?

Megan Rausch- Polaroid camera

Kara Leibold- Giant teddy bear

Olivia Hoeger- Polaroid camera

Evan Hoefer- Xbox 1

Raven Eatman- Laptop

Cody Hunter- Keyboard

Riley Sternhagen- Tenergy beanie

Abe Miles- Shoes

Brooke Wilson- Lifeproof case

Blake Hogan- stuff for my apartment

Anna Coleman- a puppy

## Athletes of the Week

Name: Shawnae Hoeger

Sport: Basketball

**What position do you play?**

Post

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?**

I love my team. We work together very well on and off the floor.

**How does this year's team differ from past teams?** Actually getting to play with my team is what makes it different than past years when I was injured.

**What's your favorite drill in practice?**

Wildcat Transition

**What's your least favorite drill?**

Kentucky Shooting Drill

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?**

Watch game film and get pumped up in the locker room with music.

**What did you eat for breakfast?**

Cinnamon Roll

**What's the best motivational song out right now?** Haha, it's not really appropriate for the Echo, but another one is "Take it to the Head"



Name: Cole Kruse

Sport: Wrestling

**What weight are you wrestling at this year?** 160

**What are your goals this year?**

make it to state

**What's the hardest part of wrestling?**

Sprints after a live match.

**What's something about wrestling non-wrestlers may not know?**

You get two pounds after Christmas.

**What's a great warm-up song?**

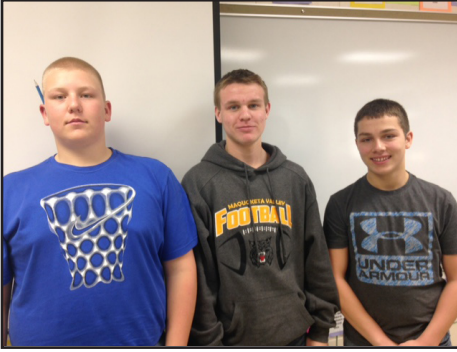
"My House"

**Do you have any pre-meet traditions?**

Eat a peanut butter jelly sandwich.



# Meet the Freshmen



**Adam, Evan & Daniel**

Name: Evan Hoefer  
 Siblings: Mackenzie  
 Activities you plan to be involved in: football, basketball, baseball, track  
 Favorite subject: science  
 Career aspirations: to work in construction  
 Hobbies: sports, being outside, hanging with friends  
 Something cool about you: Football is my favorite sport.

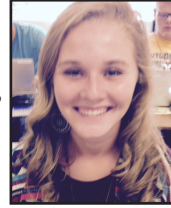
Name: Daniel Hunter  
 Siblings: Andrew and Allen Birt  
 Activities you plan to be involved in: football, basketball, track, baseball, maybe speech  
 Favorite subject: Math  
 Career aspirations: something in mathematics  
 Hobbies: fishing  
 Something cool about you: I have family all over the country.

Name: Adam Goedken  
 Siblings: Kristi and Ryan  
 Activities you plan to be involved in: basketball, FFA, and Speech  
 Favorite subject: Math  
 Career aspirations: become a farmer  
 Hobbies: farming and building stuff  
 Something cool about you: I like hogs.  
*—typist: Kristi Goedken*

# Angie's Angle

by Angie Wilson

**"Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game."  
 ~Babe Ruth**



I fear snakes.

When I was little I would check the end of my bed to be sure snakes weren't slithering around by my feet while I sleep. I know, it was crazy. But it is my fear. I am afraid of a handful of things, as you probably are too. Everyone has fears, even those with the toughest gimmick.

The only problem with everyone having fears is the ability to use it as an excuse to settle for something or someone that you are not. I fear hitting my head one more time and adding another concussion to my medical record. Some may fear saying "hi" to that long time crush or fear saying what you want to say based on other's opinions. We all are guilty of allowing our fears to prevent us from taking chances in life and enjoying new experiences.

My challenge to you to not allow those fears to become a roadblock when down the path of life.

# Cutie

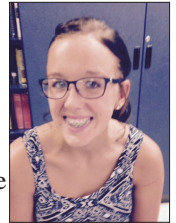
by Nichole Lucas



This week's cutie is a senior from Earlville. She has blonde hair and brown eyes. She has two brothers and can be found playing in the band.

# Do's and Don'ts of Being Back

by Shaylyn Trenkamp



Welcome back, Cats! Hopefully you had a fantastic, recharging break and are super ready to seize this next semester. No?

Oh, well no worries! These tips and tricks will help you get back into academic shape!

Do refresh your memory. Take some time -- it doesn't have to be a lot -- and study up on where you last left off in your classes that will continue through next semester. For new classes, get mentally prepared for the challenges they may provide.

"Don't stop believing! Hold on to that feeling..." of the freedom of break. Let it motivate you to stay strong for the second half of the year! After all, it's all in the JOURNEY... :)

Do grab your school spirit back out of the closet! Put wrestling meets, basketball games, speech competitions and more on your calendars for 2016. And when you show up, don't forget your WILDCAT PRIDE.

Don't assume that New Year's Resolutions are overrated. Although they are often abused this time of year, resolutions can be handy throughout the entire year. For example, maybe you would benefit from creating a list of goals for yourself for next semester. Or maybe you just need to make a reminder for tomorrow, telling yourself to seize the day. Work to improve yourself in a realistic and healthy way.

Do use the side-effects of winter break to your advantage. Pay attention to your sleeping habits! Keep making time for the things and the people who you love! Make each day a holiday in its own way!

Don't forget how amazing you are. Smile and remember your importance in the world. If you've got that covered, help others remember theirs. Spread kindness every day, and you will make the world a better place.

Do stay healthy and attack every new day with a refreshed determination. As Rob Schneider says in many Adam Sandler selections, "You can do it!"



# Binge Worthy

This week we introduce to you the newest feature in The Wildcat Echo: Binge Worthy. Juniors Amanda Fortman and Rebekah Hill will give you the scoop on what movies, TV series and novels are worth your time!



Rebekah & Amanda:

**Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell:** The fresh writing of Rainbow helps captivate the life of Cath, a college freshman. As she struggles with boys, her twin sister, her fanfiction writing, and life in general.

## Best Buds



**Ryanne Flanagan & Anna Coleman**  
by Nichole Winter

**How long have you guys been friends?**  
Since the beginning of the year.

**Nicknames for each other?**

Ryanne- Anna

Anna- Ry or just Ryanne

**What is your favorite thing to do together?**

Ryanne- Drive around and eat

Anna- Eat, and we like to drive around a lot too.

**What is your favorite thing about each other?**

Ryanne- I can talk to her about anything.  
Anna- She's really funny, and I like her handwriting.

Rebekah:

**One Tree Hill:** The witty cast of OTH sucks you in and makes you feel like a part of their friends and family. And I mean, Nathan and Lucas Scott aren't too bad to look at.

**Delirium by Lauren Oliver:** The first book in the series takes you on an adventure following the life of Lena. She overcomes her past and changed her future all for the "disease" of love.

**Quantico:** This new ABC TV show follows the lives of FBI recruits and agents. The storyline is engaging and the characters are intriguing and keep you guessing until the last minute.

Amanda:

**The Ridiculous 6:** This Netflix original movie is definitely worth the time. It's hilarious and probably not for the whole family. I could watch Taylor Lautner for hours.

**They All Fall Down by Roxanne St. Claire:** It's a privilege to be number five, until the first four are dead. This book has its twists and turns the whole time and keeping you guessing to the end.

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens:** This new chapter in the Star Wars franchise was a great addition. The blending of new and old characters brought together new and old generations.

## Mrs. Richter returns to MV

by Riley Kay Sternhagen

Welcome back, Wildcats! Christmas break is over and while you've been settling back into your classes, you might've noticed a new face in the halls. It's a new semester, Cats, and we're once again welcoming a new teacher.

Tina Richter works as the new study hall monitor here at MV. After graduating from Maquoketa Valley, Mrs. Richter chose to attend Kirkwood. She wasn't quite sure what she wanted to become, so she chose to work towards a liberal arts degree, knowing that it would be useful in many different job opportunities. She previously worked in an office in Manchester.

About MV, Mrs. Richter says, "I really enjoy seeing the students' different personalities."

Outside of school, Mr. Richter and her husband of eleven years, Bob, have two daughters who attend Maquoketa Valley. Emma is in sixth grade, and Grace is in second grade. When she's not working,






Mrs. Richter enjoys reading, landscaping and attending country and rock concerts. Mostly, though, she enjoys relaxing. When asked for a fun fact about herself, Mrs. Richter answered, "I graduated from MV. It seems like it wasn't even that long ago."


Now that you know a little about our newest addition, don't be afraid to pop in and say hello. After all, everyone knows a student's favorite class is study hall.


# The Cat Box Hall Smarts


opinions, ideas and random thoughts from the staff of The Wildcat Echo


 A double meow to Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dunlap as they prepare for babies in their lives! 


 A meow to the end of the semester and no classes on Monday.



 A furball to people who skip practices, meetings, and deadlines.

 A meow to our new feature this week. Brava, Amanda and Rebekah!

 A furball to this awkward winter weather. Rain? Fog? Strange.

 A furball to North Korea allegedly having a hydrogen bomb.

 A meow to the sophomores getting to tour Kirkwood today.

 A mixed meow/furball to the area drug busts. Good work, law enforcement, but we feel for the innocent family members affected. 

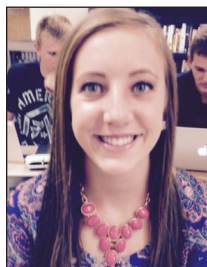
## Good for two



**Brock Hillers puts up two against Easton Valley. The Cats lost 57-73. This past Tuesday they took on undefeated North Linn and lost 40-84. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)**

by Shawnae Hoeger

Welcome back! This edition of Hall Smarts consists of an abundance of phobias. Let's see if who knows about different phobias listed below. This week's contestants are Natalie Neuzil, Megan Wulfekuhle, Gabriella Guetzko and Evan Hoefer.



1) Thanatophobia  
Natalie: Thank yous  
Gabriella: ghosts  
Megan: antlers  
Evan: than  
Answer: fear of death

2) Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia  
Natalie: hippos  
Gabriella: hippos  
Megan: hippos  
Evan: alphabet  
Answer: fear of long words

3) Emetophobia  
Natalie: emo people  
Gabriella: aliens  
Megan: iguanas  
Evan: emet  
Answer: fear of vomiting

4) Pediophobia  
Natalie: pedophiles  
Gabriella: spiders  
Megan: feet  
Evan: pedophiles  
Answer: fear of dolls

5) Pogonophobia  
Natalie: pogo sticks  
Gabriella: penguins  
Megan: jumping  
Evan: pogo sticks  
Answer: fear of beards

Well, this week was very tricky. Each contestant received 0 points, but I'll give each of them 5 points each for his or her effort! :-). Hopefully next week will be much easier!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of January 11, 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

1. HS Vocal to Dorian Festival at Luther in Decorah (Van Leaves @ 11 AM - Back on Monday @ 11:30 PM)
2. Mini-WR Practice - HS WR Room - PreK to 4th 4-5 PM / 5th-8th 5-6 PM

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

1. NO SCHOOL - All Centers - Teacher Work Day
2. HS JV/V Wrestling at Cascade - 5:00 PM (Bus Leaves at 3:15 PM)
3. MV Fine Arts Boosters Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 5:30 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

1. HS JV/V Girls & Boys Basketball - HOME - C.C. - JV starts at 4:45 PM / V starts at 6:15 PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

All HS, MS & Elementary Employability Skills & Grades to be done & in Power School by Noon  
7th & 8th Homework Assistance - After School until 4:00 PM - Mrs. Grimm's Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

1. HS JV/V G & B BB at Ed-Co - JV 4:00 PM / V 6:15 PM (JV Bus @ 2:50 PM / V Bus @ 4:10 PM)
2. HS JV/V Wrestling at N.L. (also with Lisbon & Midland) - 6:30 PM (Bus Leaves at 4:40 PM)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

1. Backpacks Sent Home at High School, Middle School, and all Elementary Centers
2. College Planning Meeting - HS Auditorium - 5:30 PM / Financial Aid Meeting - 7:00 PM
3. Mini-WR Practice - HS WR Room - PreK to 4th 6-7 PM / 5th-8th 7-8:15 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

1. HS V Wrestling at Cascade - 9:00 AM (Bus Leaves at 6:15 AM)
2. HS Speech to TRC Lrg Grp Contest at Alburnett - 9:00 AM (Buses, Suburban & Trailer Leave at 7:15 AM)
3. HS JV/V G & B BB - HOME (PINK OUT Night) - West Delaware - JV @ 1:00 PM / V @ 3:00 PM
4. Dollars for Scholars Soup Supper - HS Cafeteria - Noon until 4:00 PM



# ***THIS is MV***

*photos by  
Flavia Xavier*

