

Wildcat Echo

Issue 13
January 7, 2022

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Change in employability skills reporting coming your way

For several years, employability skills have been a part of the report cards. Throughout the years, the criteria has evolved as has the way of communicating students' demonstration of those skills.

Another change is being implemented started with the second quarter report cards. This change is part of one of the high school building's goal for the 2021-22 school year: Collaboratively, staff will work toward revamping employability skills to ensure that the grades given on report cards can be backed up with data collected.

The purpose of the employability skills is to give a realistic view of how the students are performing in various soft skill areas (perseverance, respect, motivation, responsibility and integrity). These are skills that may not be measured in academic standards but are clearly important to students' success beyond high school.

To make the scoring more clear for teachers, students, and students' families, the following changes will be made in the area of student scoring, starting with the quarter 2 employability skills report.

A = This is an area of strength for the student.

C = This is an area of that shows grade level peer expectations.

F = This is an area of concern for the student.

So, Wildcats, when you look at your report card next week, think about goals that you can set as well as skills that you can continue to demonstrate at a high level.

Students are encouraged to discuss scores with their teachers if they have questions about their scores.

Two Wildcats named to All-State Academic roster



Senior football players Devin Smith and Brock Trenkamp earned the prestigious honor of being named to the All-State Academic Team. Students earned this honor by being a senior and a starter, having a 3.7 or better cumulative GPA at the end of junior year, be involved in other extra-curricular activities, and be recommended by the head coach.

December ends with some holiday spirit



The air just felt a bit lighter the week of Dec. 20 around MV. At the home basketball game Tuesday night the dance team performed a holiday routine involving several extra dancers. Mid-morning Wednesday of that week, students took part in some games and a college panel featuring some recent MV graduates. (photo by Lesa Parmely)

Sports Connection

Davis, Schaul earn first place honors at North Linn

by Kaitlyn Nolan

All the way back in December, the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team had a meet at Starmont against the Stars and the North Linn Lynx on the 16th. The team pulled away with a win against Starmont, 42-36, but lost in a close one against the Lynx, 36-39.

Against Starmont, the team had six pins. Brendin Frasher, Tyreese Crippen, Michael Schaul, Aidan Salow, Nathan Beitz and Brady Davis all pinned their opponents. Devin Smith won by forfeit.

Most points came from forfeit in the match against North Linn, but Devin Smith did pin his opponent in 1:15.

That following Saturday, the 18th, MV traveled to North Linn for the North Linn Varsity Invitational. MV finished sixth overall with 97 points. Results were as follows:

6th at 138: Tyreese Crippen

1st at 152: Michael Schaul

Lost in the 3rd. Cons at 160: Kobe Peters



Senior Michael Schaul assesses his opponent in the finals of the North Linn tournament. (photos by Lesa Parmely)

4th at 182: Aidan Salow

3rd at 195: Nathan Beitz

1st at 220: Brady Davis (all pins in under one minute)

3rd at 285: Devin Smith

Thursday night the Wildcats wrestled at home against Alburnett and Ed-Co. Results will be in next week's article.



Senior Devin Smith gets wrapped up with his North Linn opponent at the Dec. 16 meet.

Pep band pep



Senior Michael Van Meter plays the bass with the pep band before break.

Conference play keeps boys busy

by Chantel Crowley

Before we went on break, the MV boys basketball team played against top-ranked North Linn Dec. 17, where they lost 40 to 97.

Top scorers included Avery Holtz with 11, Kody Hoeger with nine, and Brock Trenkamp with six. Lance McShane scored four, Lucas Orcutt and Toby Grimm scored three each, and Landen Deutmeyer and Brock Daack scored two each.

For assists, Hoeger and Holtz had seven each. Seven rebounds were made each by Hoeger and McShane, four were made by Trenkamp, and three were made by Daack. Two rebounds were made each by Holtz, Orcutt, and Grimm, and one was made by Deutmeyer.

The boys' next game was a home game Dec. 21, where they played against Central City. They won 65 to 37.

Orcutt scored 19 points, Holtz scored 18, and Hoeger scored 13. Trenkamp scored six points, TJ Cook scored four, Noah DeVore and McShane scored two each, and Daack scored one.

For rebounds, nine were made by Trenkamp, seven by McShane, and five each by Orcutt and Hoeger. Cook and Daack had three rebounds each, Deutmeyer and Grimm had two each, and DeVore and Grimm had one rebound each.

Four assists were made by Holtz, two by McShane, and Grimm, Orcutt, and Trenkamp made one assist each.

After we returned from break, the boys' next game was Jan. 4 at Alburnett where they lost 31 to 62.

Top scorers included Hoeger with 12, Holtz and Trenkamp with five each, Orcutt with four, Cook with three, and McShane with two.

For rebounds, Hoeger and Orcutt had five each, Holtz and Trenkamp had two each, and Grimm and Cook had one each. Grimm, Orcutt, and Deutmeyer had one assist each.

The boys' next game will be on tonight against Starmont.



Brock Daack

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Amanda Mohr

What event are you in for speech? I'm in choral reading and ensemble acting.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I love that large group speech allows me to build connections with people I wouldn't otherwise talk to.

What have you learned through this event? These events have taught me to not be afraid to step outside of my comfort zone and think outside the box.

Who is your speech role model? I honestly don't think that I can choose just one person. All of the seniors and coaches are truly my role models who make me want to push myself further and take what I am doing to the next level.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge ensemble acting. Even though this is my first year in it, I have really begun to love the category and how the performers can be creative and create unique characters.



Name: Keziah Ambundo

What event are you in for speech?

Improv and Ensemble acting

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I love working with the people in my groups. It's always so much fun and such a great environment to be a part of.

What have you learned through this event? Large group speech is essentially teamwork, and it's so important to learn how to work together in order to succeed.

Who is your speech role model?

All of my coaches. They're so good at what they do.

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

I would judge one act or improv because their my favorite events



Athletes of the Week

Name: Lucas Orcutt

What position do you play?

Post

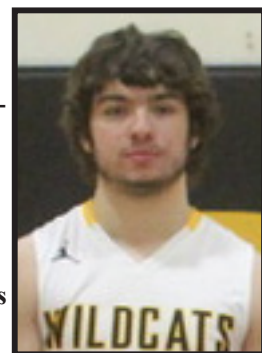
What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The games

What's something about the sport that others may not know about? It's more

physical than people think

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Getting to play traveling basketball and getting to meet some really cool people

Who's your basketball role model? Meyers Leonard because he stands for the national anthem



Name: Kaitlyn Nolan

What do you enjoy most about dance team?

Easily the people I get to surround myself with at practice and the fun laughs shared.

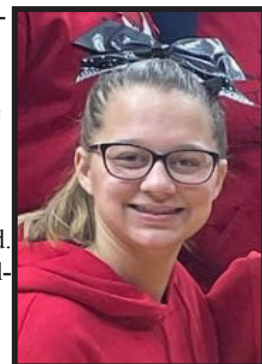
What's the hardest part of it?

For me personally, the hardest parts are individual counts and loosening up.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? I really liked the Christmas dance that we did with the student section because of how fun it was to practice with more people.

What's something about dance most people don't realize? A LOT of time goes into dance team members to both learn dances and choreograph the dances that we perform for the school.

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use? A hip hop routine to "The Magic Number."



Girls basketball moves to 7-4 record

by Toby Grimm

Before the break, the girls basketball team played the Lynx of North Linn resulting in a tough loss by a final score of 60-35.

On the scoring side, Kylie Chesnut led with 11 points, followed up by Erin Knipper with 6, right next to Caelyn Sands and Bianka Ronnebaum with 5 each, and lastly was Haley Ronnebaum contributing 4.

Defensively, Chesnut also led in rebounds completing her double-double with 10 rebounds, followed by Carissa Sabers, who had 4, next to both Ronnebaums and Ella Mensen who all had two. Carissa Sabers was on top of the steals column with 3, followed by Mensen with 2, and ending with Chesnut and Bianka Ronnebaum with 1 apiece.

Following the tough loss, the team bounced back with a thrilling win over the undefeated Central City Wildcats by a final score of 43-42. The team got a stop on the final possession to secure the win and great momentum going into the break.

Offensively, Sabers led with 11 points, just ahead of Chesnut, who had 10, next to Mensen with 8, followed by Knipper with 6, and ending with Liz McDowell, Kennedy Rausch, Bianka and Haley Ronnebaum with a pair each.

On the other side of the ball, Chesnut led in rebounds with 7, next to Bianka Ronnebaum who had 6, followed by Sabers with 5, and rounding it up by Mensen, Haley Ronnebaum, and Knipper with 3 apiece to gain the teams sixth win on the season.

Coach Huber noted that the team is gaining a lot of valuable experience because of all of the close games that the team has competed in. Coach Huber said that he has been happy with the team's attitudes and attention to detail.

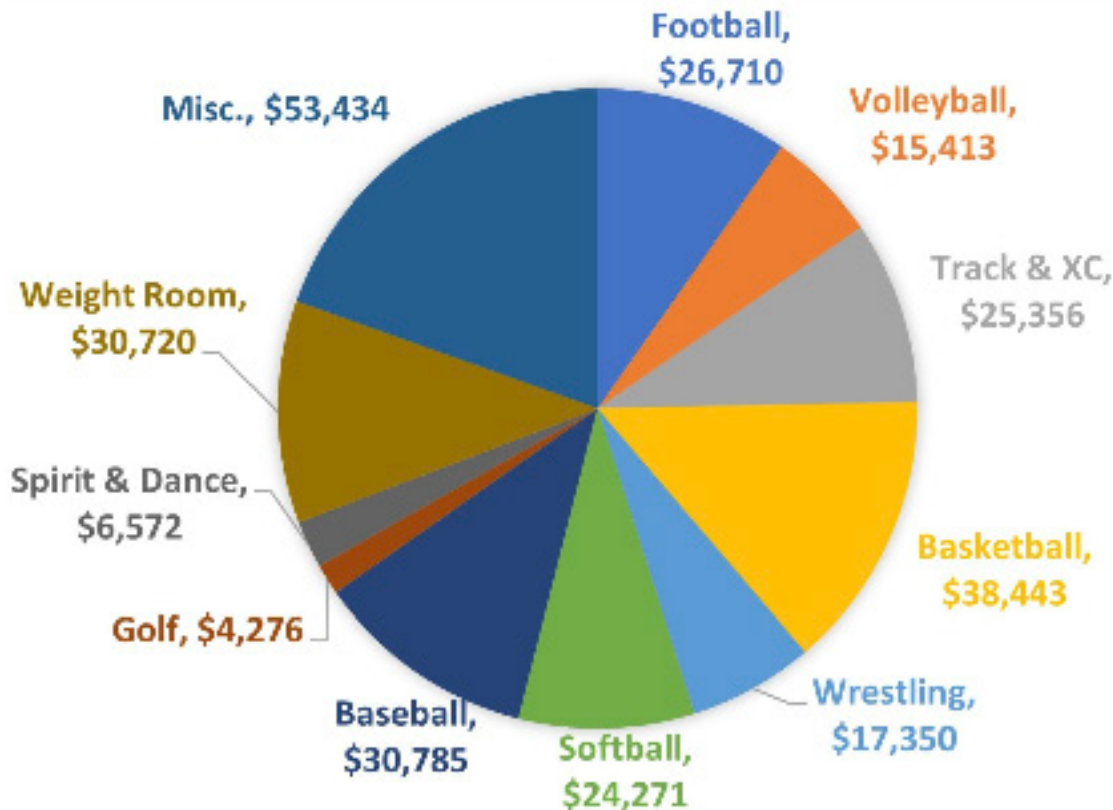
On Tuesday night the Wildcats took on the Alburnett Pirates in another exciting victory that they won in overtime by 1 with a final score of 43-42.

Tonight the team is at home to face the Starmont Stars. The stats for that game will be in the next Echo.



Caelyn Sands looks to make a play in the game against East Buchanan. (photo by Lesa Parmely)

Athletic Boosters provide over a quarter million dollars in last five years



In a recent Facebook post, the MV Athletic Boosters shared a breakdown of how they have assisted various MV program: "After a pandemic-stricken 2021, this new year seems to be a perfect time to reflect on some positives in the world. Your commitment of time and money to our student-athletes and programs is something to be proud of. Your donations, shifts in the concession stand, helping at tournaments, etc. have provided \$273,330 in support to our athletic programs the past 5 years. These generated resources have provided a multitude of items for our student-athletes. A short sample of these items include uniforms, balls, bleachers, timing systems, weights, mascot, nets, mats, and helmets."

Meet the Freshmen



Eric, Lacy, Logan & Caden

Name: Logan Clemen
 Siblings: Kaela, Morgan, Trent, Gage
 Activities you plan to be in: Golf, baseball
 Favorite subject: Math
 Career aspirations: Welder
 Hobbies: Gaming
 Something cool about you: We made it to districts in baseball

Name: Lacy Reth
 Siblings: Tracy
 Activities you plan to be in: FFA
 Favorite subject: Math
 Career aspirations: Horse trainer
 Hobbies: Riding and training horses
 Something cool about you: I show horses at least once a month

Name: Caden Ronnebaum
 Siblings: 1
 Activities you plan to be in: Football, FFA
 Favorite subject: P.E.
 Career aspirations: Welder
 Hobbies: Farming
 Something cool about you: I drive the cleanest 2004 Chevy Cavalier around

Name: Eric Schollmeyer
 Siblings: Laura, Billy, Vincent, Jackson
 Activities you plan to be in: Play
 Favorite subject: Science
 Hobbies: Gaming, painting/drawing

—typist: Kaitlyn Nolan

Student of the Week Tyreese Crippen



You recently stopped to help Mrs. Jurgens when her car got stuck. What made you decide to stop and help?

I believe that you can never be too busy or too cold to stop and help someone in need of help.

When is a time that you remember being grateful for the help you were given?

One time that I was grateful for help would be when I got my car stuck in the snow and my grandfather helped pull my car out

What's one wish you have for our world right now?

That people would be more willing to go out of their way to help others in need instead of being so careless and selfish

Which is better: Mrs. Jurgens' cinnamon rolls or monster cookies?

Mrs. Jurgens' monster cookies are by far the best I would say!

Cutie

by Matthew Brehm

This cutie has brown hair and lives in Hopkinton. She is also a junior and happens to be involved with TEL. An interesting fact about her is that she is in the National Guard.

Our last Cutie was Josie Teymer.



Abstractions

by Matthew Brehm

The year was 1928, and Homer Dudley began looking for a solution to a problem many were facing: telecommunication issues. Long-distance phone calls were difficult and costly due to the high bandwidth it took to transmit the human voice. He needed something that would extract excess tones and leave only those necessary for intelligible conversation. Thus, the vocoder was born.



As with most inventions that produce unique sounds, the music industry picked it up, and it gradually rose in popularity in the 70s and 80s. If you are unfamiliar with it's sound, prime examples are in "Doin' it Right" or "Robot Rock," both by Daft Punk. The vocoder has an incredible ability within it: It blurs the line between robotic and human communication. Hearing its timbre, you know that it's a person singing, but you also know that technology is behind it.

The vocoder has forced me to wonder what defines vocal communication. For most of human history, this has involved expression of the raw, unedited voice. The vocoder, however, essentially strips the humanity from a voice and replaces it with digital signals. The sound that's created buzzes and scratches, crackling with electricity.

It brings up interesting questions about the future of vocals, as musicians have utilized the vocoder to produce a futuristic sound. However, it's not as far off as it might seem. Many smart devices already speak to us by plugging short samples of real human speech into algorithms to accurately pronounce new words, all while sounding very convincing.

Most smart devices cannot pick up whispers, though. They cannot sense the emotion or hear the words behind the words. With today's technology, they cannot replace the intricacies of natural human communication. There is an element of presence that only the unfiltered voice can produce.

As a species, we have many powerful abilities. Gifts like speech have the capacity to bring us closer to one another in a way that technology cannot replicate.