



# Central Lyon Middle School

## Newsletter

November 2016

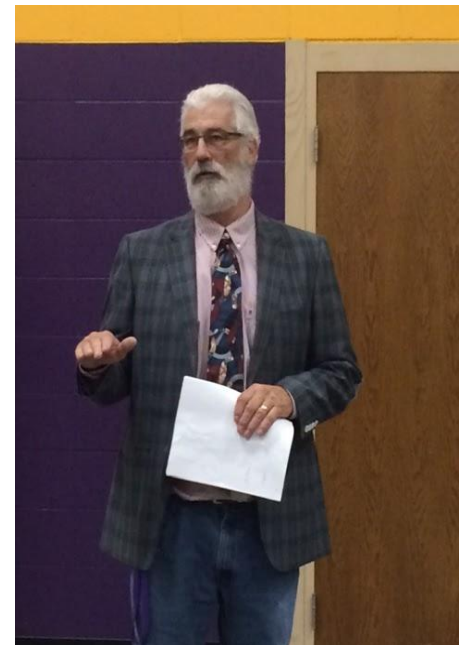
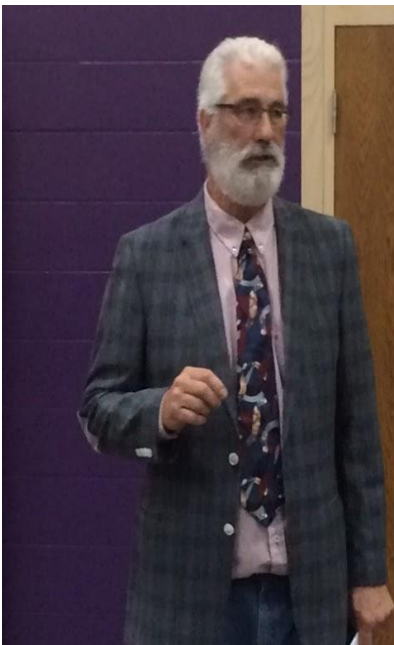
by Jason Engleman, 5-8 Principal

### **Middle School Mock Trial Event Held at Central Lyon**

This past Saturday Central Lyon hosted the Middle School Mock Trial Regional that saw 15 teams come to Rock Rapids for a chance to qualify to compete in the state event in the month of November. Central Lyon competed at both the 7th and 8th grade level and went a combined 4-0. Although we couldn't have asked for a better record, the 7th grade will miss out on making it down to Des Moines and currently our 8th grade team is on the preferable "bubble" with whether or not they will make it to state based on their point total.

There is no doubt, Mock Trial is a fun activity and event for all those participating and those spectating, however, Saturday's event was even more noteworthy because it was the last home event for our coach, Mr. Terry Van Berkum. Coach Van Berkum has been synonymous with the Central Lyon Mock Trial program for the past 26 years and this first quarter has been much of the same for Van Berkum preparing Central Lyon 7th and 8th graders to be at their best for the annual regional competition. Working around a multitude of other student activities, coach Van Berkum often used early morning practices and end of the day study halls to best educate and prepare his mock trial competitors. Mr. Van Berkum has had much success in his program over the years both at the Middle School and High School levels, but beyond the regional victories and state qualifiers; perhaps the biggest success has been the number of students he has had an impact on. He would tell you of his former team members, 7-10 of them went on to pursue a law degree, but the count is much higher for those he helped realize they were capable of succeeding in any field they chose to pursue.

Mr. Van Berkum is set to retire this year from Central Lyon, but he won't do so without being acknowledged for the many contributions he has made to our district; including our Mock Trial Program.



## ★ Students of the Month ★

8th Grade - Isabelle Schneidermann

7th Grade - Regan Van Wyhe

6th Grade - Dionne Jansma

5th Grade - Morgan Meyer



### Music Students Recognized

Last month a handful of 8th graders auditioned for Northwest Iowa Middle School Honor Band. Central Lyon was fortunate to have 3 of those individuals selected to this group; Isabelle Schneidermann, Lauren Langholdt, and Luke Rasmussen. Luke was also chosen as the first chair Alto Saxophone. These individuals will perform at Storm Lake on November 5th.

In addition, of thousands who auditioned across the state of Iowa, 8 Central Lyon students were selected to Iowa OPUS Honor Choir in Ames, IA on November 17th. Those selected include: 5th graders: Morgan Meyer, Gabrielle Rasmussen; 6th graders: Anna Van Aartsen, Anna Warntjes, Louise Meyer, 8th graders; Kiersten Arends, Lauran Langholdt, and Luke Rasmussen.

Congrats CL Students and Music Department.

### Important Dates

Oct. 31-Nov.4 - IA Assessments

Nov. 5 - NWIBA MS Honor Band

Performance @ Storm Lake

Nov. 9 - Early Dismissal

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Nov. 14 - School Board Meeting

Nov. 23 - Early Dismissal

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving (No School)

Nov. 25 - No School



## Parent Teacher Conference Appreciation

In the last week of October, Central Lyon hosted its Fall Parent Teacher Conferences. The Middle School is proud to announce that we had a 94 percent of our parents attend. This high percentage is something we celebrate as a building and as a district. Communication has been established as a high priority at CL, and having the opportunity for staff and parents to sit down to indulge in face to face conversations pertaining to students only benefits everyone involved. Thank you parents for attending conferences, it is much appreciated by our staff and your children!



## IA Assessments

This first week in November, Central Lyon grades (2-8) will be administering the annual IA assessments. The IA assessments serve a number of purposes for districts in Iowa including those found in the table below.

Purposes Supported by the Iowa Assessments	
Assessing the Iowa Core	A student's performs in the areas of reading, writing, math, science and social studies as defined by the Iowa Core
Proficiency Level Indicators	A student's proficiency level as defined by the state of Iowa
Growth Indicators	A student's growth over time
Relative Strengths and Weaknesses	A student's relative strengths and limitations
Comparing Student Performance to the Nation	A student's performance relative to other students in the nation
Informing Instruction	A classroom's performance to help inform changes in instruction

Although these tests are only a snippet of what a student actually knows and understands, this information is used to help assess our programs and allow our teachers and administrators the opportunity to make necessary adjustments to our curriculum to help all students succeed now and in the future.

While these tests are being administered we ask you, as parents, to help with the following:

- We ask that your child attends school all week. We ask that appointments and other leave requests be avoided during this week, if at all possible.
- Please make sure your child gets an adequate amount of sleep each night.
- We request your child eats breakfast each morning.
- We encourage you to help emphasize to your son or daughter the importance of these standardized tests.

### A NOTE OF



Thanks Rock Rapids Betterment & Denny's Sanitation Last month both organizations allowed our 8th grade students to refund cans collected by the patrons of Rock Rapids to help provide funds that will later allow us to pay for the opportunity to have a guest speaker to discuss first hand details of a curriculum we will be studying.

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Or visit our website:

<http://www.centrallyon.org/>

### Middle School Office Staff Secretarial Staff

Rhonda Menning: [rmanning@centrallyon.org](mailto:rmanning@centrallyon.org)

Kay DeGroot: [kdegroot@centrallyon.org](mailto:kdegroot@centrallyon.org)

### Administrator

Jason Engleman: [jengleman@centrallyon.org](mailto:jengleman@centrallyon.org)

Office Phone: 712-472-4041