

SPORTS & SCHOOL

Wapello schools have unfilled positions

By SHANNON SALAZAR
Director of Instruction, Wapello schools

WAPELLO — Schools across the country have struggled to fill certified positions the past few years. Wapello is no different. Just this year, the district had openings in Spanish, art and music that were not filled. This forces a district to get creative on how those courses are offered and taught.

In the high school, Spanish I - III is being facilitated by Imagine Learning. This company provides us with an actual teacher who teaches our students asynchronously. Students have a daily goal of content to complete, and the teacher grades the work and gives feedback to our students about their skills and work. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions of the teacher and have access to live tutoring when needed.

We have a Spanish-speaking paraprofessional in the classroom daily who is able to help students as needed. This system is updating constantly and has videos, interactive games and speaking portions that teach our students.

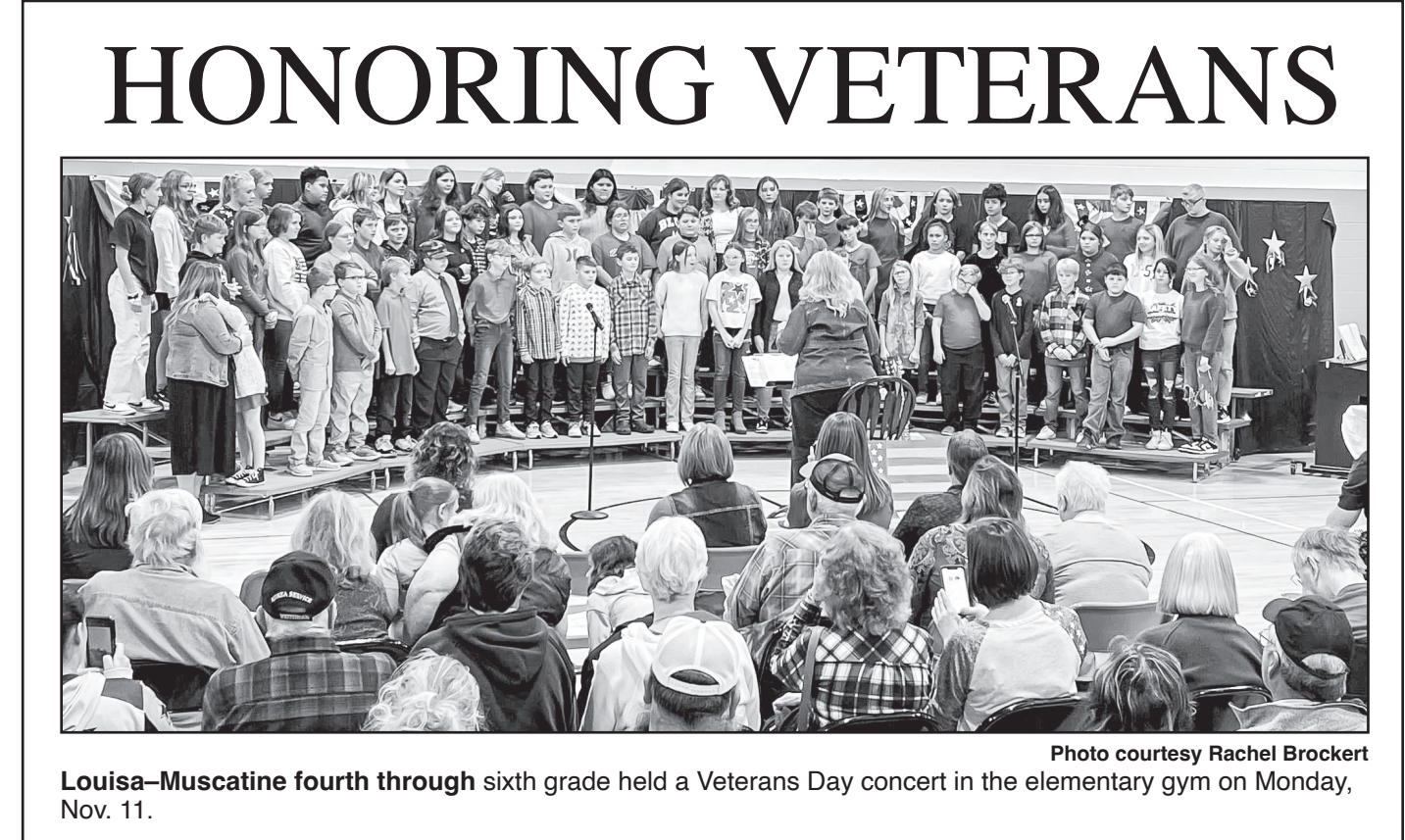
At the elementary level, classroom teachers have stepped up to teach art during the specials rotation. Students have studied abstract art, artists like Pablo Picasso, collaborative posters, step-by-step drawings and seasonal crafts, to name a few.

Teachers have done a great job making sure art is a priority, and students are loving seeing the creative side of their classroom teacher.

Middle school teacher Sam Hellberg has taken on the task of teaching sixth grade art during first semester. Students have done an All About Me collage. They have explored the Fighters for Freedom series of paintings created by William H. Johnson, analyzing his artwork as well as learning about the people in the painting and what they've done for equality throughout American history.

Students created survivor story leaves in remembrance of those lost on 9/11. They have also compared realistic, abstract and non-objective artwork. Students explored pop art with ice cream cones and historical figures. They even had a competition to see who could turn Ms. Hellberg into the best zombie!

Music is in its second year of not having a certified teacher at the elementary. Last year, classroom teachers covered music. This year, Tricia Lanz has been teaching music under the supervision of Jennifer



Louisa-Muscatine fourth through sixth grade held a Veterans Day concert in the elementary gym on Monday, Nov. 11.

Photo courtesy Rachel Brockert

Swope, 5-12 band instructor. The lower elementary grades have been following an age-appropriate curriculum that involves lots of singing, dancing and fun rhythm games. Students in grades three through five worked hard to prepare a Veterans Day program that was presented on Nov. 11.

At the secondary level, Mrs. Swope has covered high school choir and band the past two years. This takes some creative scheduling to make sure it is all covered in addition to middle school band. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Swope working hard to build and sustain both programs!

During first quarter, Mrs. Lanz came to the secondary building to teach sixth grade music. Second quarter is a tag-team effort by Mr. Brown, Mr. Johnson and myself. The three of us are putting our musical talents to the test with a wide variety of musical activities, including using AI to create songs, Chrome Music Lab, bringing in guest musicians and viewing classic musicals.

Our goal is that students develop an interest in and appreciation for music and that encourages them to continue participation in high school!

If you have any further questions about any vacancies in our district or anything related to curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (shannon.salazar@wapellocsd.org) or phone (319-523-3241

ext. 1209). Thanks for reading!

W-MU school board holds meeting Nov. 13

WINFIELD — The Winfield-Mt. Union school board meeting was held Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in the library. Members present were Klay Edwards, Aaron Cummings, Matt Nelson, Jason Remick, and Rob Quinn. Motion Nelson, second Quinn to approve consent agenda. All ayes.

Motion Quinn, second Remick to approve the Oct. 9 minutes. All ayes.

Motion Cummings second Remick to nominate Edwards as president. All ayes. Oath administered.

Motion Remick, second Quinn to nominate Cummings, vice president. All ayes. Oath administered.

Motion Cummings, second Nelson to approve the 2024 annual report and audit report. All ayes.

Motion Cummings, second Quinn to approve Ahlers Law Firm for district legal counsel. All ayes.

Motion Quinn, second Nelson to approve the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. for regular board meetings. All ayes.

Motion Cummings, second Quinn to approve Pilot Grove Savings Bank as official depository with \$3 million limit. All ayes.

Motion Quinn, second Remick to approve the Winfield Beacon, Mt. Pleasant News and Wapello Morning Sun Newspapers for publication. All ayes.

Motion Cummings, second Quinn to approve consent agenda. All ayes. The board accepted the resignation of Charity Fowler, paraeducator, and approved hiring Leslie Wilson, junior high girls assistant basketball; Dave Norcross and Scott McCarty, co-junior high boys basketball.

Motion Quinn, second Remick to approve 507.9 Wellness Policy and waive second reading, and Committee Regulations. All ayes.

Motion Nelson, second Quinn to approve Johnson Control PSA for \$28,224. All ayes.

Motion Cummings, second Quinn to approve Giese Roofing for the band/shop roof retrofit for \$62,470. All ayes.

Motion Nelson, second Quinn to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

The Winfield-Mt. Union School Board met for a work session Nov. 13 following the annual meeting at 6:42 p.m. Members present were Edwards, Cummings, Nelson, Remick and Quinn. Superintendent Pat Coen discussed the steps he's taken for the superintendent search for next year. Several options were presented, and statewide data was reviewed. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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