

Summer 2025

CN NEWS

Welcome Back! The first day of school is Aug. 25!



The Colo-NESCO Community School District is committed to guiding and nurturing the academic, emotional, physical, and social development of all students, while promoting lifelong learning and citizenship in today's rapidly changing world.
#RoyalWay

Colo-NESCO Elementary

407 N Center
Zearing, IA 50278
641-487-7411
Mike Boeve, Principal

Colo-NESCO MS/HS District Office

919 West Street
Colo, IA 50056
641-377-2282
Marc Snavelly, Superintendent
Brandon Kelley, Principal

Colo-NESCO Schools Upcoming Events

- Aug. 20 Back to School Night / 5-7 pm
5 th Grade Orientation/ 5 pm
7th Grade Orientation/ 6 pm
- Aug. 25 First Day of School
- Sept. 1 Labor Day / No School
- Sept. 2 Preschool Starts
- Sept. 8 Picture Day K-11
- Sept. 22 Homecoming Week Begins
- Sept. 24 Preschool Picture Day
- Oct. 7 Picture Retakes

Mondays: Our "Late Start" Days /10 am

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The Great Grandchildren of Elbert Sobotka with the tree the family donated



Jan Sobotka Sabin and Jerry Sabin with the Sobotka children: Jackie, Rick and Sandy

Sobotka Family Donation

The family of former superintendent Elbert “El” Sobotka recently donated a bench and tree for the CN Elementary in his memory. Sobotka was superintendent for NESCO and then Colo-NESCO from 1968-1992. THANK YOU to the Sobotka Family for this memorial gift!

Summer Days with Jack Dubberke



Jack will be a third grader this fall at Colo-NESCO and will have Mr. Mumm. “He is going to be a good teacher,” says Jack.

This summer Jack has been going to the Zearing Library program. “We usually make crafts and play with toys.”

Jack passed his swim lessons this summer! His cousins, Tate and Casen, went with him to the pool.

Jack likes to “hang out” with his cats and kittens at home. Jack showed his 1 year old cat, Orange Cheeto, in the pet show at the county fair. “I had to just hold onto him and not let go. And then I had to talk about him.” Jack says Orange Cheeto is big for his age and “usually likes to sleep on my lap.”



From Our Superintendent

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

I hope everyone has found some time to relax this summer. It seems like from year to year, we wrap up one school year and then transition right into a new one. This year is no different. The 2025-2026 school year will begin soon. Online Registration has already opened up.

I am starting my fifth year as Superintendent here at Colo-NESCO. This will be my second year as the Shared Superintendent with Collins-Maxwell. I believe the first year of this sharing agreement went well. This would be a good time to mention the other sharing agreements we have in place. Aside from sharing a superintendent with Collins-Maxwell, we also share a school business official (SBO), human resource director, and transportation director. We also share a career counselor with Ballard. All of these positions allow us to just pay half of the salary for each of these positions, but they also generate operational sharing dollars from the state. We also share a technology director with Collins-Maxwell that does not generate operational sharing dollars. If you ever wonder why we share positions, it is because of the financial incentive set by the state.

We will continue to keep a strong focus on our Strategic Plan that was developed by the Colo-NESCO School Board and our Staff. That plan focuses on three main topics which include Student Learning and Achievement, District Culture, and Resource Management. There are various sub-topics under each of these that includes key activities, action steps, and outcomes. This plan is referenced frequently, and we are striving to meet the outcomes tied to the Strategic Plan. There is a heavy emphasis on Student Achievement and Learning. Data is carefully analyzed, and it is a top priority that we are doing our best to meet the various needs of our students. This plan will be reviewed this fall.

When you come back in the buildings, you will see various facility upgrades. Just to name a few, the track/stadium project in Colo has gone well and is nearing completion. This is going to be a wonderful addition to the District. We also installed new phones in both Colo & Zearing and did a lot of updates to our network systems in both buildings. A new life skills classroom is currently being constructed in Colo. Aside from these larger projects, there were many small projects that have been completed as well.

To end, the beginning of each school year brings a new level of excitement. The first day of school will be on Monday, August 25th. I know our staff will be ready to welcome students back into the buildings. Until then, take some time to relax and enjoy the rest of the summer. I am going to continue to work hard to keep moving things forward to make Colo-NESCO the best school it can be. If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached by email at msnavely@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us or by phone in Colo at (641) 377-2284.

Sincerely,

Marc Snavely
Superintendent

Please Note: Due to rising printing costs, this will be the final copy of CN News sent to your home. A link to the seasonal newsletters will still be available on our website and on CN Facebook. If you would still like a paper copy, please give Sandy Cutler a call at 641-487-7411.

COLO-NESCO STADIUM BRICK FUNDRAISER

Purchase an engraved brick to support Colo-NESCO's new athletic stadium and track project. \$250 will buy an engraved brick that is displayed at the entrance of the stadium. 400 bricks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no limit on the number of bricks purchased per person or family.

Return this form and payment to Travis Owens or the Colo-NESCO High School office.

NAME :

CASH

EMAIL:

CHECK

PHONE:

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In the space above, write up to 24 characters, including spaces, on 2 lines to be engraved on a brick



TRACKING - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
DO NOT FILL THIS SECTION OUT

BRICK NUMBER: _____

Message from...

OUR 5-12 PRINCIPAL

Dear Colo-NESCO Students and Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well as we continue our efforts to create the most focused and engaging learning environment for all students.

Starting this upcoming school year, our school will be using Yondr bags during school hours. Yondr bags are secure pouches that students will place their phones in at the beginning of each school day, locking them away safely while still keeping them in the student's possession. At the end of the day, students will have their bags unlocked by a staff member to access their phones as they leave campus.

Why are we using Yondr bags?

This past spring, the Governor signed into effect HF 782, which prohibits cell phone use in the classroom. Research shows that reducing cell phone access during instructional time increases focus, academic performance, social interaction, and overall well-being. Our goal is to ensure that classrooms remain distraction-free and students remain fully engaged with learning and with each other.

How does this process work?

- Upon arrival, students will place their phones in their assigned Yondr bags and lock them.
- Students will keep their locked Yondr bag with them throughout the day.
- At dismissal, designated staff will unlock the bags so students can retrieve and use their phones after school.

What if I need to contact my child during the day?

In case of emergencies or important messages, please contact the main office at 641-377-2282 and we will ensure your child receives the information promptly.

We understand this is a change, and we appreciate your support in our commitment to a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions. Please discuss the importance of this policy with your child and encourage them to comply fully.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brandon Kelley @ 641-377-2282 or (bkelley@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us). Thank you for your partnership as we continue to prioritize your child's academic success and well-being.

Sincerely,
Brandon Kelley

On May 29 at a staff reception, the following CN employees were recognized...

Years of SERVICE

Colo-NESCO Staff 2024-25



First Year "Survivors": Pictured with Supt. Snavelly are Aaron Mumm, Abigail Jones, Alex Brock, Jackie Hawley and Reilly Hayworth. Not Pictured: Michele Case, Jenna Gilbert and Janeal Penning



Five Years: Mr. Snavelly with Masey McGee



Dianne Brown is recognized for 18 years and Dee Carlson is leaving CN after 8 years.



Ten Years: Mr. Snavelly with Nicole Dobson, Jess Owens, Kara Kinser and Kelsie Engelken

Our most sincere gratitude and best wishes to our 2025 retirees! A couple of Loyal Royals here... teaching for a combined 76 years at NESCO and Colo-NESCO!



Retirees: Lisa Hill and Kathy Bendixen (not pictured: Rita Foley, HR Director)

Thank you very much

Colo-NESCO 2025 Graduate Scholarships / Awards



Cerra Muntz was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to attend Hawkeye Community College by the Colo-NESCO Community School Educational Foundation. Cerra will wrestle for them next year. The Foundation was established by the Colo-NESCO Board of Education to provide a vehicle for people who want to donate to the future education of our students. The Foundation Board acts independently of the school board and the primary means of funding is through your tax-deductible gifts which also may be eligible for Endow Iowa Tax Credits. Pictured: John Fuller is presenting the scholarship to Cerra.

(Submitted by the CN Foundation Committee)

Other 2025 Scholarships / Awards:

Des Moines Register All-State Academic: Erynn Dulaney

Governor's Scholar Recognition: Annabelle Heller

E. Wayne Cooley Scholarship: Cerra Muntz

Bernie Saggau Award: Hunter Hardin

John Philip Sousa Award: Annabelle Heller

CN Memorial Scholarship: Erynn Dulaney

Colo Fire & Rescue Scholarship: Aiden Muschick

Blue Collar Scholarship: Lucas Daggett & Colton Niemeyer

Shelly Huntrods Tuttle Memorial: Erynn Dulaney

CN Booster Club: Molly Angell, A. Heller, Hannah Matteson, C. Muntz

Don McIntosh Scholarship: Ivy Jamison

DAR Good Citizenship Award: Abigail Kettwig

Bankers Trust Scholarship: Annabelle Heller

Shaffer Auto Body Scholarship: Colton Niemeyer & Gannon Short

WO Women's Club Scholarship: E. Dulaney & C. Muntz

League of Women Voters: Erynn Dulaney

Central State Bank: E. Dulaney & Jadyn Niemeyer

Students' Awards from their Respective Schools:

Lucas Daggett: DMACC Skills Competition & Masonic Lodge Scholarship

Erynn Dulaney & Annabelle Heller: DMACC Valedictorian Scholarship

Hannah Matteson: Waldorf Pillars Scholarship (full tuition)

Cerra Muntz: Hawkeye CC Athletic & Academic Scholarship

Alexis Peterson: Pell Grant & Isave29 Award



Annual Notices

The following annual notices are posted on the District Website at colonesco.org under the "District" Tab.

The notices include information on the following:

Asbestos Directory Information
Educational Equity Policy Statement
District Discipline Policy Statement
Harassment & Bullying
Equal Employment Opportunities (Affirmative Action)
Iowa Sex Offender Registry
Military Recruiter Access
Video Surveillance
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
Homeless Information
Colo-NESCO Community School District Assignments
Open Enrollment
Special Education Delivery Plan
Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act
School Bus Safety-Kadyn's Law
Teacher Qualifications
Tobacco/Nicotine Free Environment
Use of Video/Audio Cameras on School Buses
Student Records
Code 102.E1 Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
Code 102.E2 Continuous Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
Corporal Punishment, Restraint, and Physical Confinement and Detention

TAKE TIME TO

Welcome

OUR NEW STAFF!

Kendra Breitsprecher ... High School English

Olivia Carlson... Elementary SPED

Tela Dudley... High School Associate

Brandi Evans... Shared AP/School Secretary

Miranda Ervin... Human Resources Director

Andrew McCormick... 5-12 Band Director

McKenzie Niemeyer... First Grade

LIL' ROYALS PRESCHOOL

COLO-NESCO COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESCHOOL OPTIONS

*3 Year old Preschool Half/Full Day Option
* 3 Year old is subject to availability
(child must be 3 years old before September 15, 2025)

*4 Year old Preschool Half/Full Day Options
(child must be 4 years old before September 15, 2025 to receive Statewide Funding)

*Priority given to in district students
*Possible Scholarships available !

CURRICULUM:

REALLY GREAT READING, S.M.A.R.T., AND CREATIVE CURRICULUM.
OUR CLASSROOMS ARE SET UP WITH THE FOLLOWING LEARNING CENTERS:
DRAMATIC PLAY, SENSORY, BLOCK, LISTENING AND READING, ABC, MATH, SCIENCE,
ART AND WRITING CENTERS.



SCAN ME

TO ENROLL

SCAN THE QR CODE OR
VISIT
COLONESCO.ORG



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
PRINCIPAL, MIKE BOEVE
MBOEVE@COLO-NESCO.K12.IA.US
641-487-7411

2025 Softball Season Highlights ...submitted by Coach Sutton

Softball season officially started in early May, while most of our girls were still actively involved in spring sports. These girls put a lot of time and effort going from spring sports to softball practices for the first few weeks! Games began after Memorial Day and ran past the Fourth of July. It is a whirlwind of a season, keeping the girls busy everyday! The Lady Royals finished 6th in Iowa Star South, with an overall record of 4-22. We picked up wins over Boyer Valley, North Tama, Coon Rapids-Bayard, and WACO. There were many other close games throughout the season. With only 13 girls out for softball this season, many underclassmen stepped into big roles alongside our five seniors. Comparing last year to this year, the team improved in the categories of batting average, on base percentage, runs and stolen bases. Congratulations to all our award winners and record breakers this season. We will miss the leadership of our five seniors who were great role models for all future Royals and look forward to continuing to improve this offseason as we move toward next season!

Academic All-State: Annabelle Heller & Cerra Muntz

Honorable Mention:
Landrey Harris



All Conference
Selections:

2nd Team
Pitcher:
Annabelle
Heller



2nd Team Catcher:
Cerra Muntz



1st Team Infield: Jadyn Niemeyer
2nd Team Outfield: Molly Angell

CN Record Breaker:

Molly Angell
All-time career
stolen bases
Single-season
stolen bases

Molly



FCCLA
Nationals

Orlando July 2025

Four Colo-NESCO Students Represent at FCCLA National Leadership Conference

Lily Stalzer
Haylee Jackson
Cerra Muntz
Annabelle Heller
Kelsie Engelken



Annabelle Heller, Cerra Muntz, Lily Stalzer, and Haylee Jackson represented the Colo-NESCO FCCLA chapter at the National Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida, from July 5–11. The event brought together over 10,000 students from across the country for a week of competition, leadership development, and career exploration.

Annabelle and Cerra showcased their skills in Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events. Annabelle earned a Silver Medal in the Interpersonal Communications event, while Cerra received a Bronze Medal in Sports Nutrition.

All four students took part in student-led workshops and had the opportunity to connect with professionals at the career and industry expo, gaining valuable insights and experiences throughout the week. A highlight for the students during the event was attending the Knowledge Bowl competition and the Fashion Show.

Submitted by CN FCCLA Sponsor, Kelsie Engelken

COLO-NESCO BASEBALL

Season Recap by Coach Owens

The Colo-NESCO baseball team ended their 2025 season with a 7-14 record. The Royals started their season with 2 wins over Melcher Dallas and Mormon Trail, tallying 39 runs total in those first two games. Their next win came against GMG at home in Zearing where they won a back and forth game 11-9. This gave them a 3-2 record heading into week 3. Week 3 presented a lot of challenges for the Royals. They played three very good teams in Baxter, North Tama, and Janesville. The Royals led all 3 games that week but were unable to close, resulting in a 3-loss week. The Royals responded the next week, winning 2 of its 3 games. The wins came over Clarksville (2-1) and Rockford (16-2).

The Royals last two wins came against Dunkerton (9-2) and English Valleys (8-6).

It was no secret that the Royals were a young team, with only 4 upperclassmen as starters. The Royals had to replace a big piece from last season in Drew Banks, who won 5 of the 7 regular season games for the Royals a year ago on the mound. Sophomore Jonas Porter led the way for the Royals on the mound this season. He ended up with 4.12 ERA, 1.41 WHIP, and 45 Ks. Cody Walker was also essential on the mound for the Royals. He ended the season with 4.72 ERA, 1.95 WHIP, 36 Ks, and a .202 BAA.

Hunter Purvis set the pace for the Royals at the plate. He ended the season with a .322 average, .512 OBP, and 23 runs scored. Brady Handsaker and Landon Gjerde were big bats for the Royals. Both were top 3 in RBIs while Handsaker added a HR to his totals.

All Conference players included: Landon Gjerde (Second Team Infield), Brady Handsaker (Second Team Outfield) and Jonas Porter (Honorable Mention)

All Central Iowa District players included: Jonas Porter (Second Team 1st Base)

The Royals return 8 of their 9 starters next season as well as many other players who contributed this season for the Royals. The future looks bright for Colo-NESCO as they look to maximize their potential and get over the 10-win mark for next season and compete for a conference title.



2nd Team Outfield
Iowa Star Conference



Second Team All-District
1st Base
HM Iowa Star Conference



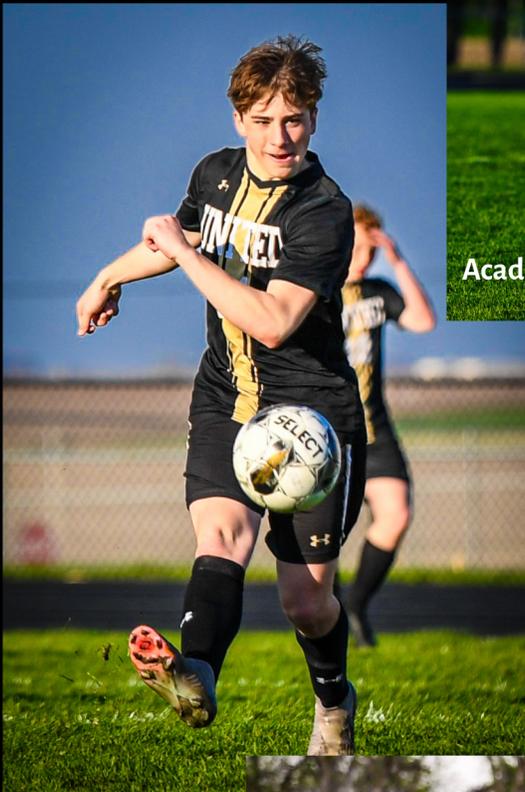
2nd Team Infield
Iowa Star Conference

POSTSEASON ACCOLADES

United Soccer



Jack Seyller
2nd Team Forward
Heart of Iowa Conference



Cerra Muntz
Academic All State

Erynn Dulaney
Academic All State
2nd Team Forward
Heart of Iowa Conference



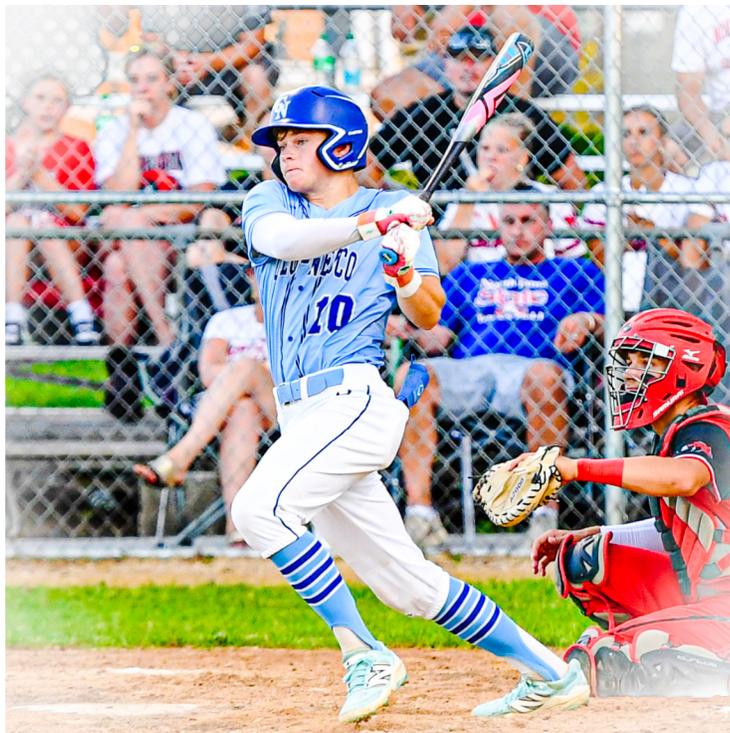
Annabelle Heller
Academic All State

Colo-NESCO student Landon Gjerde is keeping the pedal to the metal.

There is no “off-season” for this 4-sport athlete... Landon returned recently from a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he participated in the Kohl’s National Invitational Scholarship Camp for kickers, punters and long snappers. With his final high school football season right around the corner, Landon is seizing opportunities to improve. What began as a fun little family trip to the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, became a great opportunity for Landon to learn from others and compete with the best. Landon is a kicker, linebacker and running back for the Royals.

Gjerde also had a chance to extend his baseball season. He was selected to participate in the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Junior Showcase July 27 at Southeast Polk. The Junior Showcase gives Iowa baseball players a chance to be seen by college scouts and interact with other Iowa athletes.

Gjerde Embraces Summer Opportunities



Landon Gjerde at camp in Gatlinburg

When he’s not on the field, Landon has taken on other leadership roles. He is the senior class president at Colo-NESCO and also is a National Honor Society member. Landon graduated from Rising Leaders Academy this past spring, which was a year-long experience that laid the work for Story County students to interact with community leaders and institutions and learn about community issues.

Landon is the son of Derek and Jessie Gjerde of McCallsburg.

Congratulations on your achievements, Landon, and good luck during your senior year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STATE TRACK QUALIFIERS



Elizabeth Erickson
800 M / 1500 M



Jack Angell
110 Hurdles (7th place)
& 400 Hurdles

2025



Mark Bower, Jack Angell,
Breckin Clatt & Reece Fultom
Shuttle Hurdle Relay



Administration & Management

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marc Snavely - Superintendent | msnavely@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Brandon Kelley - MS / HS Principal | bkelley@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Mike Boeve - Elementary Principal | mboeve@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Bill Lytle - Building & Grounds | blytle@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Traci Nessa - Business Manager | trnessa@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Sheryl Gilmore - Director of Food Services | sgilmore@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Ken Leighty - Director of Transportation | kleighty@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Beth Heller - Director of School Improvement | bheller@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |

School Board

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joel Niemeyer - President | jniemeyer@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Brad Kohlwes - Vice President | bkohlwes@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| John Fuller - Board Member | jfuller@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Katy McKinney - Board Member | kmckinney@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Wyatt Perisho - Board Member | wperisho@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Anna Sheets - Board Member | asheets@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |
| Justin Walker - Board Member | jwalker@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us |

Colo-NESCO Community School
919 West Street
Colo, IA 50056
ECRWSS

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Permit 15
Colo, IA 50056

Postal Customer