

ARGOS *Schoolhouse*™

Corporate Publication of Argos Community Schools

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What makes Argos Community Schools one of the best kept secrets in Indiana? Find out in this issue of the "Argos Schoolhouse." Shown is Samantha Umbaugh.



Superintendent's Message

Welcome to Argos Community Schools!

Argos Community Schools is one of the best kept secrets in Indiana. We are a rarity. All of our schools were recently rated as "A" schools by the Indiana Department of Education. Our pre-K to 12 is home to almost 650 students. We have a tradition of providing quality instruction to all students so they can achieve success in learning. With our staff focused on helping students reach higher levels of achievement, Argos Community Schools is committed to delivering exceptional educational programs for all children. Our goal is to maintain excellence to ensure the success of every child. Argos Dragons take pride in our school and strive daily to exemplify our motto: Where Kids Come First!

In 2009, and again in 2012, U.S. News and World Report recognized Argos High School as one of "America's Best High Schools" in the School Matters section. This is quite an honor with fewer than 500 schools nation-wide receiving this distinction. Our investments in our schools have paid off. Our staff is truly some of the best in Indiana. Our 42 creative and dedicated teachers work hard every day so they are better prepared for the classroom. Our teachers care and are investing in our kids' futures.

Argos Community Schools strives to create a blended learning environment for our students. We encourage our staff to provide opportunities for students to communicate, collaborate, critically think and be creative in order to prepare our students for college and careers. With the inclusion of our 1:1 technology initiative and the integration of PLTW courses in all grades, we are paving the way for our students to be productive citizens as they succeed in work, life and citizenship with the skills and knowledge needed for the future. Our unified vision for learning ensures our students' success in a world where change is constant and our learning never ceases.

Come and experience what Argos Community Schools has for you and your family! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me today!

Educationally Yours,

—Michele Riise, Superintendent of Schools



At Argos Community School Corporation, we strive to prepare students for success in a changing world and give them opportunities for a lifetime of learning. Shown are Ellie Brown and Chloe Overmyer.

1:1 Technology at Argos Inspires Student Success

Argos Community Schools is a 1:1 district. This means every student in the corporation has a device to use at any time the teacher feels it should be incorporated into the class. Students in kindergarten and first grade have a Nexus 7 Tablet. Students in grades two through 12 have the Lenovo N21 Chromebook. The teachers use Google Classroom and GoGuardian as tools for the classroom.

Google Classroom allows teachers to setup classwork and assignments online. Students are able to turn in their homework via the internet to teachers using Google Classroom. This is a giant leap for schools to reach students eventually at home in the need of e-Learning Days. E-Learning Days can be used as a full school day if students miss a day due to bad weather. Argos Schools are currently using the planned e-Learning Days as of right now. Argos' hope is to be able to use e-Learning Days in the future on demand in the coming years. This means that if the school closes due to weather, the students would do their classwork at home on the missed day.

GoGuardian is the software used to filter the internet on and off site. GoGuardian also offers teachers a monitoring service. This allows the teachers to view what the students are doing in their classrooms. For example, if little Johnny is to be doing an assignment and the teacher sees he is looking at ESPN, the teacher is then able to click off the website and get Johnny back on task. The software also allows the teacher to lock all the devices and make a certain webpage show up on the students' devices.

Argos Schools upgraded the wireless system across the corporation in November 2015 to support the large demand of devices and information needed. They also upgraded the internet service in December 2015. This allowed more bandwidth per student. Argos Schools will also be upgrading the bandwidth up to 500Mbps (megabytes per second) over the summer. This will put the schools at 650Mbps of combined bandwidth for students to use. That is almost a 1Mb per student!

Argos Schools is also implementing a second Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Lab over the summer. PLTW is a curriculum based on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Argos Schools focuses on these areas together, not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively.



All of Argos' schools were recently rated as "A" schools by the Indiana Department of Education. Shown are Kadya Baughman, Maddox Brady and Mrs. Thomas.

Project Lead the Way Leads Students into Academic Success

Argos Community Schools will always strive to attain the highest academic ratings in Marshall County to reflect the dedication of our administration and faculty, in addition to highly-involved parents and students. As an "A" corporation, Argos Schools continues to explore all options available to our students, including clubs that compete at the national level, varieties of organizations focused on community service, internships and work-based learning opportunities, competitive athletic teams, as well as Project Lead the Way (PLTW) or STEM experiences for all grades.

In our seventh grade PLTW course, Design and Modeling, students follow the design process to problem solve and let their creativity shine. Students learn how to sketch objects from various viewpoints, dimension their sketches and use Computer Aided Design software (CAD) to model their ideas prior to any prototypes or scaled models being constructed. This course helps students learn about the designed world and their part in it.

Automation & Robotics is currently an eighth grade PTLW course. Students follow the Design Process to solve problems. In this course, students gain an understanding of how gears and mechanisms work. The next step is learning to code using a program in a similar computer language to what the professionals use. Finally, students combine their building and coding skills to construct projects which move with the press of a button or flick of a switch. Through our PLTW classes, our staff imparts important skills to our students at a young age in order to inspire our students to excel, guiding them to their future careers. Argos Community Schools has the ability to change the lives of its students.



Quality education means not only putting students first, but giving them the best tools for their success and encouraging them to do their best each day. Shown is Faith Beam.

FFA Succeeds in Competitions

The Argos FFA has had a busy past few months! The Parliamentary Procedure team competed in the district contest, with the senior team and the novice (freshman) team both finishing in second place. The top two teams advanced to the Section Contest, which was hosted by Argos. Both teams competed well and we are proud of our students.

Argos also had two Forestry teams that came in first and second place at the Area contest and both teams advanced to State, where one of the teams finished third in the State. This year, we also had a Crops team for the first time. Our Crops team competed well in the Area contest, coming in fifth place and they did an admirable job in the State contest, as well. The FFA also hosted their annual Fish and Chicken Fry on Jan. 15 and had a great turnout, feeding around 800 people.

Dragon Pride Extends to the Community

Argos Community Schools has the involvement and support of everyone in the Argos Community. The community is vested in maintaining not only our school facilities and fields but the programs, clubs and athletic opportunities our school is able to offer. Argos has a history of being that small community with big town pride. We have recently begun a tradition of honoring our veterans during a ceremony called the "5th Quarter" after our high school basketball games. It is a great way to celebrate our community and bring people together.

"Let's Go Dragons" is the chant you always hear at the Argos basketball games within our newly renovated Phil Weybright Gym every Friday night. Walking through the hallways of Argos Schools, you will experience the excitement and enthusiasm of its students, staff and administration as they engage in a world-class education while displaying their Dragon Pride. In our 2016 Winter Spirit Week, students participated in a Sweats Day, a Penny Drive, Favorite College/Team Gear Day, Hat Day, Food Drive, Mismatch Day, and School Colors Day to show their school spirit. We are proud of our community, proud of our school, and proud to be Dragons!



Our goal is to provide opportunities for students to communicate, collaborate, critically think and be creative in order to prepare them for college and careers. Shown is Dyllan Stockberger.

You're Invited!

The Board of Education of Argos Community Schools conducts regular meetings on the third Monday of every month. You are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact the Administration Office in advance at (574) 892-5139 for verification.

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Feedback Is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, Argos Schoolhouse, 410 N. First St., Argos, IN 46501, or call (574) 892-5139.

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Argos Dragons take pride in our school and strive daily to exemplify our motto: Where Kids Come First! Shown are Morgan Dunlap and Cristian Roque.



Experience what Argos Community Schools has for you and your family. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us today! Shown is Aerial Bryan.