

21 Updates strengthen Tripoli district



**TROY
HELLER**
TRIPOLI SUPER-
INTENDENT

"We are extremely proud of the direction the Tripoli School District has gone and what we have achieved over the last several years. Our school district is the hub of our community."

Over the last 10 years, Tripoli has updated several academic areas to improve our environment and the ability to provide more offerings for our students and community. The district added on to our current library, which is on the south side of the Middle School/High School.

This includes two sixth grade classrooms and the Iowa Communication Network (ICN), which is used seven out of eight periods a day for college-level courses through Hawkeye Community College and NICC.

Three years ago, our district added a new science room addition and updated our technology lab and English classrooms. Two years ago, we added a two-room preschool addition onto our elementary building. All of these additions have provided 21st Century technology and facilities that we can all be proud of.

We are now in the process of teaming up with the Tripoli City Council (community) to add on a multi-purpose facility with a competition gym, locker rooms and a weight room. Along

with this new addition, we are planning on updating our current locker rooms and Industrial Technology (shop) area. Our goal is to begin this project in the summer of 2012.

We are in the early stages, but the committee (consisting of city personnel, community members, students, and school personnel) is very positive and excited about the possibilities.

The good thing about these new additions is that the district is updating our facilities without raising

any taxes beyond what the district was already receiving. Our tax rate is 13.97/1000, whereas the state average is near 15.3 percent.

As we all know, technology is an evolving process. We are extremely excited to be researching the possibility of 1:1 computers or a computer check-out program for our six-12 student body with a possible start date of the fall of 2012. However, we are also proud of what we currently offer to our PK-12 students.

In the elementary, we have hubs in each class-

room, a library lab, and two mobile labs with 20 computers in each. In the MS/HS, we house four computer labs of 20 or more computers and two mobile labs with 35 computers.

Our classrooms have LCD projectors and whiteboards available to our staff and students. We are always trying to move forward with our 21st Century technology goals.

Even though we have had a 10-percent-across-the-board cut, and there are possibilities of zero percent allowable growth and enrollment may decline in the next couple of years, financially, Tripoli School District

is in really good shape.

The Tripoli School Board and administration have done a wonderful job of forecasting these budget cuts without jeopardizing academics and staffing, allowing for a great education for our student body in a small district where class sizes are suitable for learning.

We are extremely proud of the direction the Tripoli School District has gone and what we have achieved over the last several years. Our school district is the hub of our community and will continue to be the main focus in our community in the years to come.

room, a library lab, and two

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