

# THE CHARGER

## FCCLA dominates district competition

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Of the twenty-three members competing in STAR events, fifteen of them qualified for the State Leadership Conference in April.

Ten of the members competing were also freshmen, with five qualifying for state competition.

"It was a great learning experience as a freshman in FCCLA," freshman member Kara Hafenstine said. Hafenstine qualified for state with her partner freshman Sydney Holthaus. They competed in Chapter-In-Review Portfolio.

FCCLA also had its District D elections the following week. Freshman candidate Kaelyn Conrad was selected as the district's president.

"I spent a lot of time preparing for elections," Conrad said. "I wrote my speech, studied FCCLA facts and had some of my friends ask me interview questions that the judges might ask."

Conrad is also the first freshman from WHS to become elected as District D president.

"Some of my duties include deciding a district theme for next year and organizing the 2019 Fall Leadership Conference," Conrad said. "I'm also really excited to get to know the other officers, and represent our district at the state competition."

The club is also selling Alma Bakery cookie dough to raise funds for the cost of State Leadership Conference and the banquet in April.

## Alderman a National Merit Finalist

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Senior Madison Alderman has been named a National Merit finalist for 2019.

She was first named as semifinalist last fall.

"When we took the PSAT as juniors, it was like the application to become a semifinalist," Alderman said.

Alderman completed an essay, resume and found references to become a finalist.

Being a finalist could mean scholarship money. There are 15,000 finalists and about half should receive scholarships.

"It's a highly respected, sought-after honor by students whose academic achievement is exceptional," principal Jan Hutley said. "There are rigorous requirements and students must maintain those requirements throughout their high school careers."

## BORN TO RUN



First grade student Briggs Ibarra runs at Alma Elementary School during running club. The club runs inside when the weather is too cold. Running club is one of three clubs started at AES this year. Photo by Emma Alderman.

## Running club encourages active lifestyle

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The track became filled with elementary children and teachers on January 7 as the Running Club by the Alma Elementary School began.

The Running Club was started by a group of teachers who wanted to give their students an opportunity to have an after school activity while teaching them life lessons. As part of the Leader in Me program, the students expressed their opinions about not having enough activities after school.

"Being active, healthy, creating a family environment, and making a positive attitude towards running is our goal," Alma Elementary second grade teacher Melissa Castillo said.

The club begins with everyone gathering together and stretching before heading out together to-

wards the track. Runners receive a string to be attached to their wrist after every lap completed. At the end, the amount of strings are used to determine the completed distance. The runners can then see if they had made their goals for the day.

"We hope to teach them how to set goals and how to improve themselves while not competing with others and beginning healthy habits," Alma Elementary kindergarten teacher Sara Alderman said.

The Running club joins along the two other clubs created this year, Robotics and Reading club. Offering different types of activities as well as being one of the first clubs of the school introduced a few challenges. Organizers said having a large turnout made organizing these clubs difficult.

"It went smoothly. It was exciting to see everyone from all kinds of ages from the community," Al-

derman said.

Many of the young runners found that the club was fun and anticipated on running with the club whenever they could. "I think it's really fun because I just like running a lot," fourth grade student Adalynn Miller said.

"I try to get one more lap every time," fourth grade student Colby Taylor said.

The club meets Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30.

"They seemed to look forward to it all day, they were smiling about it. There was lots of encouragement from everyone and support," Castillo said.

Running will take place at the track, or inside the elementary school if weather is deemed too cold.

"Anyone is invited to join us at the track," Castillo said. "Even though it is called a running club, it's not just running, it's moving in general."

## AES book club encourages reading for fun

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Alma Elementary School has started a book club to encourage a love of reading.

The voluntary and is offered to third and fourth graders.

Third grade teacher Emily Hess started the club this year. At the beginning of the school year, the elementary teachers came together and brainstormed ideas that they were passionate about.

"I always liked reading and I thought it would be nice to focus on reading for enjoyment instead of for school," Hess said.

Students have only had one meeting so far. The meetings are once a month on the last Tuesday

of the month lasting from 3:40 to 5. At this meeting out of the ten third and fourth graders that signed up, nine showed up.

For the first meeting the members discussed their first book, "Wolf Hollow" by Lauren Wolk, had snacks and played games. It was an open discussion and Hess said they had a lot to say.

"I liked playing games, especially 'I have, who has' with the book," third grader Sasha Willier said.

The members do have to purchase each book that the club decides to read, which was made clear when forms were first sent out. Hess hopes that in the future she can get the books donated or for less now that she knows how

many members there are.

Along with discussing the book at the first meeting, the club also talked about the future for the club. They figured out what future books they wanted to read and they also started to plan a school wide bookmark contest. With the contest, all kindergartners to fourth graders will get to design a bookmark that the members will judge. Then the winner's bookmark will be printed for the entire school to enjoy and use.

Hess also hopes that she can get the club involved with the community. She thought about the possibility of a book drive, so students have books to read during the summer.

### OPINION

## WHS Pep Club needs to try harder

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Wabaunsee has the worst student section in the Mid-East league.

When the team travels to other schools the first thing you notice is the many students in the student section cheering for their team. On a few occasions, the other teams have student sections that travel with the team. The Wabaunsee student section is very weak compared to other area schools. The handful of students attending every game just sit on their phones while the team is playing.

When the student section gets into the game it makes the game more fun for the players and fans. Nothing is more fun than being out on the court and having the crowd get super excited over anything that happens. Hearing the roar of the crowd just gets the blood pumping.

The rest of the crowd can be as weak as the student section. During time outs and breaks, the cheerleaders do their best to get the crowd going, but it doesn't always work. Standing to clap might seem like a lot of effort after a long day, but if you aren't there to support the team, what is the point?

With around 50 players on both of the basketball teams, there could be around 100 students in the pep band and the student section. Students can start by cheering with the cheerleaders and standing when the band plays. Even if no one around you is standing and cheering, be the person to stand and get everyone around you to stand. It starts with one person to break the 'awkwardness' and get everyone else to do it.

We have home games on Thursday and Friday to get the crowd prepared for the possible home game next Tuesday in the first round of Sub-State.

Let's be honest, nothing else is happening in Alma, Kansas. Come out and support the teams. You might have some fun.

## The Charger Staff

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