



A Special Supplement to **The Graphic-Advocate**



# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## SCC Elementary designates pick up, drop off spots during expansion

By Tyler Anderson  
The Graphic-Advocate Editor

On a mild, clear Friday afternoon, construction crews are diligently putting the collective nose to the grindstone on the eastern end of Rockwell City. Equipment rolled from the southern side of the campus to the former front entrance, as new walls have begun to rise at that location.

Two “Road Closed” signs are posted on Brower Street, in between East Lake Street and East Main Street, to keep traffic at a safe distance from the grounds.

It’s evident that South Central Calhoun Elementary School is undergoing a much-needed facelift.

It is a \$4.8 million project, formulated after public hearings, reviewing bids and plenty of discussion, passed by the SCC Board of Directors in March. Since then, construction crews have been on the premises, laying down the ground and utility work.

At their present rate, according to school officials, the work will all be enclosed by wintertime.

The target date of completion for the Elementary Expansion project – which will encompass a new gymnasium, more classrooms, preschool area and administrative offices – is set for August of 2020.

Temporarily moved over to SCC Middle School on the other side of Rockwell City due to the construction, SCC Elementary Principal Nicole McChesney has been just as active as those donning the hard hats. With the new school year looming, McChesney has been hard at work, despite a change of scenery.

Even though McChesney has been preparing for the first day of classes, which begin on Friday, she has had quite a few good looks of the expansion so far.

“A lot of the early work wasn’t necessarily visible, but with the walls going up, you can see the progress,” McChesney said. “It’s pretty exciting. They’ve been waiting on some steel beams for the prefabricated walls that are coming in, so once those cranes and trucks get in there, we can alle-



This “Road Closed” sign keeps incoming traffic at bay during the SCC Elementary expansion project, which was passed by the SCC Board of Directors in March. [Tyler Anderson/The Graphic-Advocate]

viate Brower Street a little bit.”

According to McChesney, the walls will come up after school begins.

“The construction company has indicated that they’re still on track with their original schedule, and will be closed in for winter,” McChesney said. “So then, they’ll start the interior work.”

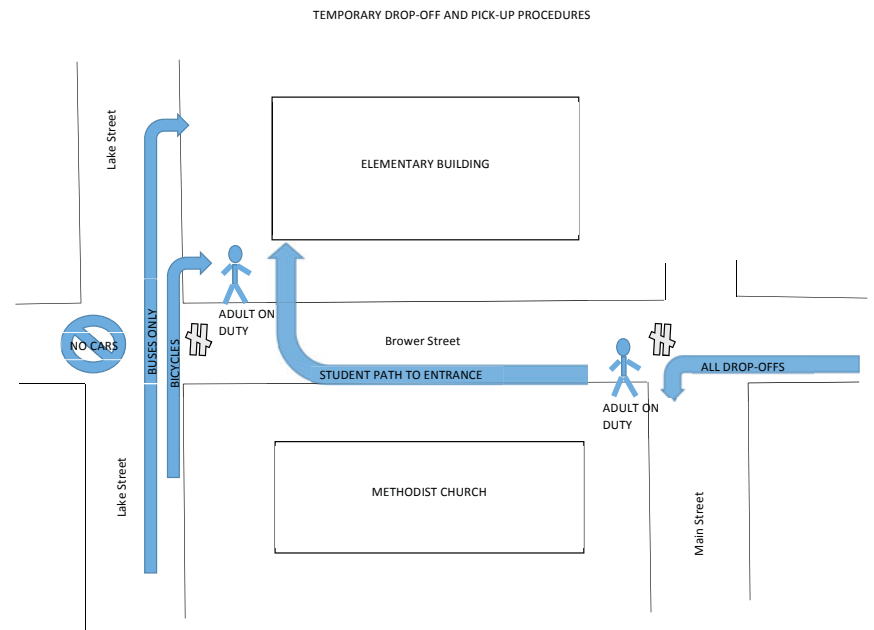
Until the opening of the new addition, parents and students will have to navigate around the construction zones.

To provide those with a safe access point to drop off their kids, McChesney and the SCC school district have provided a map of drop off spots, bus routes and bike parking to amend any sort of confusion. The temporary drop-off and pick-up procedures were formalized on August 8.

Parents are advised to drop off students at the northwestern corner of Main and Brower, on the southeast side of the Rockwell City United Methodist Church. There, an adult on duty will escort kids along the front of the church to the north side of the elementary school building.

“We’re really hoping to separate the bus traffic from the car traffic,” said McChesney. “We can keep things moving along and nobody is in line for a long time on their morning commute.”

Then, the supervisor will lead students down the western side of Brower Street, across the north end of the blocked off



Pictured is the map for the drop-off and pick-up procedures for South Central Calhoun Elementary in Rockwell City during the construction of the new addition. The new expansion will be finished in August of 2020. [Courtesy of South Central Calhoun CSD]

street and into the northwestern entryway.

“The door will be open right there, and kids won’t have to cross traffic,” McChesney said. “The adult on duty will have kids walk down the church side of the road, away from any of the construction work. Then, there’s a crosswalk and they walk right into the north door.”

Buses and bicycles will roll along Lake Street, before buses stop near the northeastern entryway of the building. Young bicyclists will have a bike rack at the northwestern corner of the school, with an adult on duty.

According to McChesney, student safety is the main concern for the new procedures.

“We hope people cooperate and we hope to not have a lot of car traffic during the drop-off and pick-up times,” McChesney said.

Lastly, it has been a long time coming for

the school building, which has been relatively unchanged for the past two decades.

Due to the growth of the younger side of the SCC student population, the expansion project is there to create more breathing room for students.

“We’re excited, because we’re going to be able to meet the needs of our students so much better,” McChesney said. “From the nurse’s office and the counselor’s office to the gym and the additional classrooms, we’ll ease a lot of the crowding that’s going on.”

With one year away, all SCC Elementary can do is to be patient and maneuver around the work in progress.

“I believe that we’ll get through this year by saying ‘it’s just for a year,’” McChesney said before providing a small laugh. “It’s just for a year, and then we’ll be in great shape.”



  
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Construction is in full swing at SCC Elementary School in a photo taken on August 9 in Rockwell City. With most of the groundwork finished, the walls will rise following the start of the new school year. [Tyler Anderson/The Graphic-Advocate]




The corner of Main Street and Brower Street is the drop-off point for parents who are dropping off their kids during their morning commute. An adult on duty will guide students along the United Methodist Church side of the street before crossing the street at the northwestern door of the elementary school. [Tyler Anderson/The Graphic-Advocate]

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# UI offers college preparation advice for high schoolers

IOWA CITY – The countdown to preparing for college begins now.

In addition to facing even more challenging classes, you also will take important college-entrance exams, assume greater leadership roles in your extracurricular activities, and possibly finalize your college plans.

The admission counselors at the University of Iowa offer these suggestions:

**Choose your classes carefully.** Make sure your course selections are in line with the core classes needed for college admission. Work with your high school guidance counselor and review the recommendations in an online guide created by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, for college-bound students.

**Keep your grades up.** If necessary, expand the amount of time you devote to studying. Remember that the grades you earn this year will be the ones college admission officials will see when you apply.

**Earn college credit by exam.** Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) testing may help you earn college credit before you arrive on campus. For example, Iowa accepts a variety of Credit by Exam options.

**Consider an early start.** Many schools, including Iowa, accept applications from students who wish to take college courses while still in high school (see Nondegree Students). These courses can be used to reduce the number of classes you need to take once you get to college or to satisfy a college's high school course requirements. Visit our Transfer tips for College Credit Earned While in High School

**Take the PSAT, even if you do not plan**



**to take the SAT.** The PSAT, a practice test for the SAT college entrance exam, can qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship, National Achievement Scholarship and National Hispanic Scholarship.

**For juniors, take the ACT or SAT in the spring.** Taking the test during the spring of your junior year allows you to take the test again in the summer before or the fall of your senior year if you're not happy with your score. These standardized test scores are heavily considered by most college admission officials. Therefore, prepare well. Your high school counselor can recommend books, web sites, and classes to help you prepare.

**Narrow your list.** Attempt to narrow your list of prospective schools to between three and five by the end of the year. If your list is longer, it becomes difficult to keep track of admission procedures and deadlines.

**Apply for admission.**

Apply to the three to five colleges or universities you like the best. Check web sites and applications for specific application deadlines. Also, review how on-campus housing applications are pro-

cessed and how housing is assigned.

**Establish an e-mail account.** Create an email just for your college admission correspondence, and check it often. Make sure your user name is appropriate for correspondence with college admission professionals.

**Search for scholarships.** Use the web, and if you plan to attend any sort of insti-

tution of higher education, look for scholarships to find ways to help pay for your education. Keep in mind that many scholarships have application deadlines relatively early in the fall of senior year. Utilize resources available through your local library, web sites, your high school guidance office and your parents' employers.

**Assemble your application materials.** Start compiling your application materials in the fall, especially if the application requires a recommendation from a teacher.

**Study financial aid terms and procedures.** Attend a financial aid information session at your high school, if possible, and develop a strategy for finding scholarships. Be wary of scholarship search services that charge a fee. Instead, use various web search engines and discuss opportunities with your high school guidance counselor.

**Arrange campus visits.** Visits to prospective colleges are critical at this point. Review your priorities, attend college fairs and find time to research your options.

**Enjoy high school.** Take advantage of your last year (seniors) and last two years (juniors) in high school and keep studying!

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# Five new teachers join South Central Calhoun CSD

**By Tyler Anderson**  
The Graphic-Advocate Editor

At the tail end of August, five new faces will join the ranks of the South Central Calhoun Community School District.

Of those five new teachers, there is youth as well as experience. Three of the five will call SCC Elementary their office for the 2019-2020 school year, while one will set up shop at SCC Middle School and another will lend their guidance to students at SCC High School.

Two of the five have more than 20 years of experience in the classroom, while one is in her second year. Another will be a new face at SCC Elementary and SCC Middle School, while the latest addition to the high school faculty is fresh out of college to teach business.

The Graphic-Advocate was able to visit with all of the new teachers ahead of the beginning of school, which is scheduled to begin on Friday."

## SCC ELEMENTARY Wanda Bruxvoort

**What is your position with SCC?** Title 1 Reading Teacher.

**How many years have you been in your profession?** 20 years.

**What brought you to SCC?** "I was a substitute teacher for the district during the 2012-2013 school year and have been watching for an opening in the district I was qualified to fill. I am excited to work with such a dedicated staff, who I know already works hard for their student's academic

success."

**What's your favorite part about what you do?** "My favorite part of my job is watching students grow through the year. My favorite part about teaching Title Reading is working with several students throughout the day at a variety of grade levels."

## Laura Franzmeier

**What is your position with SCC?** Level 2-3 Special Education.

**How many years have you been in your profession?** "This is my second year."

**What brought you to SCC?** "They had a position that would allow me to specify in the endorsement I have. They also have a good reputation and the teachers have great things to say about SCC!"

**What's your favorite part about what you do?** "My favorite part about teaching is having those break-through moments. When a student finally learns something or is able to complete a task they have been working on is the best feeling when you have helped them get there."

## Brandon Hersom

**What is your position with SCC?** Elementary Physical Education and Middle School Health.

**How many years have you been in your profession?** "This is my first year of teaching."

**What brought you to SCC?** "I grew



teaching."

**What brought you to SCC?** "I was looking for a new challenge and an opportunity at SCC in my area of instruction became available. My husband and I live in Rockwell City, and it will be so nice to teach in the community that we live in. I am very excited to start this new adventure at SCC."

**What's your favorite part about what you do?** "My favorite part of teaching is the students. I enjoy watching them learn how to problem solve and how to make real-world connections. It is great to see a student at the moment when he/she gains a level of understanding and 'gets it.'"

## SCC HIGH SCHOOL Brady Dicks

**What's your position with SCC?** Business at SCC High School.

**How many years have you been in your profession?** "This is actually going to be my first year at SCC."

**What brought you to SCC?** "So, I graduated from Buena Vista University this past May. There, a professor knew that a business teaching job was going to open up here, so I applied. It was my first and only interview. When I got the call, I didn't want to wait around."

**What's your favorite part about what you do?** "Business is so important to everyday life. The reason why I got into teaching is to see the difference that I can make in kids' lives and to see how I can positively impact their future success. Hopefully, that future success applies to success in life, too."

up in Pomeroy and my wife grew up in Pocahontas and we've always wanted to come back to the area after college. We were lucky enough to both get teaching jobs in the area this year and I am very excited to start teaching at South Central Calhoun!"

**What's your favorite part about what you do?** "My favorite part of what I do is seeing the kids succeed and have fun. I love seeing kids with smiles on their faces while moving around and being active. I love to teach kids new activities and games they can enjoy and learn from. I look forward in making an impact in all of my students lives in this school."

## SCC MIDDLE SCHOOL Jill McGinty Dawson

**What is your position with SCC?** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math.

**How many years have you been in your profession?** "This will be my 25<sup>th</sup> year

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# The Graphic-Advocate to aid needy teachers, students

**By Tyler Anderson**  
The Graphic-Advocate Editor

Early on a Friday morning, the South Central Calhoun Community School District will warm up their buses, put on numerous pots of coffee and make final preparations for the beginning of the upcoming school year.

While teachers and students will break out new pens, pencils and sheets of paper, not all instructors or students can be so lucky. Sometimes, the budget only allows a parent or new teacher to stick to the bare necessities.

To aid those who are making their dollar stretch as best as they can, The Graphic-Advocate is there to lend a helping hand.

Beginning on Sept. 21, the Lake City office – located at 121 N. Center Street – will accept donations of either supplies or money to help needy teachers and students.

“We know the teachers give a lot of themselves, as does their resources,” said Toni Venteicher, Vice President of Mid-America Publishing and marketing consultant for The Graphic-Advocate. “If we can be a place to bring in donated supplies – or if people would like to donate money, so that teachers can use our printing resources, we will advocate that for them.”

The Graphic-Advocate will work in conjunction with teachers to local businesses to provide printing resources throughout the school year.

The Graphic-Advocate will not just stop with a one-time drop off of supplies to the three main campuses of the South Central Calhoun school district. Instead, the newspaper that serves Calhoun County will do multiple drop offs throughout the 2019-2020

school year.

According to Teach For America corps, there are 17 items that are highly recommended for donations for teachers. The most notable are antibacterial wipes, tissues, hand sanitizer, white board markers, pens and pencils, storage bins, magnets or clips.

For high school students, the best items to donate are new or lightly used backpacks, regular pencils, colored pencils, pens (black, red and blue), highlighters, pocket folders, TI calculators, college ruled loose leaf three-hole paper, three-ring binders and USB flash drives.

The recommended items to donate for middle school students are new and gently used backpacks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pens, rulers, TI calculators, USB flash drives, one subject spiral notebooks, loose leaf paper, three-ring binders, folders and combination locks.

Recommended supplies for elementary school students are new and gently used backpacks, pencils, pencil boxes, crayons, markers, erasers, gluesticks, four ounce containers of glue, five-inch blunt tip or point tip scissors, one subject notebooks, zipper binders, folders, loose leaf paper, tissues and hand sanitizer.

“Along with wanting to provide supplies for our teachers, we don’t want to forget about the most important commodity of any school district – the students,” Venteicher said. “By helping our teachers and students, we not only help out SCC, but we also help out our community.”

The Graphic-Advocate is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday, or you can give the office a call at (712) 464-3188.



# ISU: 10 tips for easing into a new school setting

AMES – The first day of school is fast approaching, and many families may be facing a transition to a new school.

Careful preparation for beginning at a new building or a new district can help minimize effects on children – academically, socially and emotionally, said Cheryl Clark, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Clark specializes in family life issues and offers these tips to help children get used to their new setting.

**1. Attend school orientations or open houses.** These events are planned to ease children into the new environment. Sometimes just seeing what the new school looks like relieves stress. This is a good opportunity to meet teachers and see classmates.

**2. Make friends early.** Before school starts, if possible, sign up for sports teams or attend events where students can meet others who go to their school.

“Once the school year begins, encourage

your child to join clubs or extracurricular activities,” Clark said.

**3. Model the behavior you want to see in your children.** Introduce yourself to the new teacher or principal. Get involved in parent organizations and meet other parents. You can be a strong role model for how to venture into new spaces.

**4. Get school supplies based on lists furnished by the school.** Selecting their own backpacks, lunchboxes or other supplies gives children a sense of control on the first day. Having the supplies specified by the school can ease jitters that might otherwise happen by not having the appropriate materials.

**5. Talk about it.** “Ask questions such as ‘What are you most excited about for the new school year?’ and ‘What are you most worried about?’ Reassure your child that other students have the same feelings,” Clark said.

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Keep in mind that how you frame the experience will impact your child, so emphasize the transition as a chance to learn new things and meet new people.

**6. Do a trial run.** Take your child to the bus stop, drive to the building or practice the walking route ahead of the first day of school. Set your departure time and plan backwards, allowing plenty of time for a healthy breakfast.

**7. Rest up!** In the days leading up to this transition, set routines so your child gets enough sleep. “Not getting enough sleep

can increase stress, make concentration difficult and just simply leave your child grumpy,” Clark said.

**8. Prepare the night before.** Set out clothes. Pack lunches and backpacks. Any prep done the night before can reduce the chances for last-minute emergencies.

**9. Be patient.** Children may be quieter, more challenging or just not themselves during this transition. Give them a little time and space to adjust to the new setting and let them know that home is a safe space for sharing their feelings.

**10. Keep tabs.** “If your child shows signs that the transition isn’t going well, talk to school personnel,” Clark said.

Guidance counselors and school psychologists can give advice for difficult situations. Signs to watch for might include changes in eating and sleeping patterns, separation anxiety or refusing to go to school.



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# Boy, do I have advice for you, incoming college students!

What's up, Liger Legionaries?

In this special edition of The Liger's Den, I wanted weigh in on the upcoming school year. But since we touched on the expansion in Rockwell City, the new teachers at SCC Elementary, SCC Middle School and SCC High School along with how The Graphic-Advocate can help out local teachers and students, I wanted to do something for the college students out there.

I know there are plenty of SCC alumni around here who are going to Iowa Central Community College, DMACC, Iowa Western CC, Iowa State, Dordt University and Northwestern College.

Believe it or not, I used to be in your shoes five years ago. Believe it or not, I only graduated from West Texas A&M University in May of 2015.

It seems not too long ago, but it also seems like an eternity has passed since I've made the walk across the podium to shake hands with former WTAMU President Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Mallard (the Dean of my department) and my friend Ed (the student body president).

Dang, I guess I was quite a popular – for a day, at least.

But there were things that I attained from my time at Iowa Central (which was eons ago) and as a Buffalo (WT's beloved mascot) that you could easily apply to your own college setting. Once you get into a school, whether it's public or private, community college or university, these rules can apply to every school.

Without further ado, let's get into it.

**Go to class.** Seriously, this is the easiest thing you can do when you're on campus. By going to the first day, you get a valuable piece of material called a syllabus.

The syllabus is the premise, list of lectures and assignments and expectations from the class. It also explains the means to attain that high grade that you want.

Also, places like Iowa Central and (I believe) DMACC have attendance policies. They want you to go to class. Like, really bad.

But it's because they want you to succeed there.

**Read the syllabus.** The syllabus is your best friend with benefits, and it's no joke. Most instructors and professors live and die by it, and it gives you the impression of what is coming up in the class.



## THE LIGER'S DEN

Special Edition!

It also tells you what's coming up in the class, like exams and crucial projects.

Some syllabuses are small, while others are like reading a novella. But they are super valuable on when your assignments are due and when your semester tests are.

**Hit the ground running.** This one is simple, but it's a biggie. By attending your classes and following what your professor/instructor wants in the syllabus, be sure to ace your easy classes in your freshman year. Seriously, don't take them for granted.

By passing your easy classes with A's, you start off your college run with an easy 4.0 grade point average. This gets you on the Dean's List and President's List of your college or university. That's something that you can add to your resume.

Another big thing is that it's easier to start off with a 4.0 GPA and come down a little bit, rather than starting off with a 2.0 and having to work your way up. By acing your easy classes in your freshman year, should you run into a challenging class by your junior year, you can afford to escape the class with a C – which is a passing grade in most places.

By doing that, you remain on the Dean's List, graduate with honors and make yourself look really good to your future employers.

**Don't be a lone wolf.** The more new friends, acquaintances and contacts you can make in college, the better. Make friends early, abide by The Golden Rule and don't cast judgment on anyone else.

Your fellow classmates are often just as wide eyed and skittish as you. By loosening up, being confident and appearing like a sociable person, others will flock to you.

Join clubs, play rec sports, go to cheer on the school at intercollegiate athletic events

and give "the Greek life" of fraternities and sororities the ole college try. They're far from what's portrayed in movies such as Revenge of the Nerds.

The only major con with frats and sororities is that they're friends you have to pay for.

By making friends and contacts in college, you're finding future colleagues who can and will vouch for you when you submit resume to your future employers.

Get involved. It helps you in the long run.

**You don't have to study for hours on end.** This is one that I never understood from the people I've met in college. Sometimes, it's easier to let yourself breathe when you're cranking away on big projects and studying for that big exam at the end of the semester.

What worked for me is to get your homework done (and you will have homework), study in 90-minute sessions, conduct group study sessions and allow your brain to breathe every now and then. You don't have to pull off all night cramming sessions, but make use of your study time and work time efficiently.

Just don't run yourself ragged. You'll never be able to catch up.

Also, your long-term memory is much better at pulling up information than your short-term memory. That kind of philosophy is what landed me a 3.4 GPA. Not too shabby, if I say so myself.

**Keep your professor/instructor in the loop!** Hey, life happens. Sometimes, you're sicker than dog, or something has happened to where you have to race home and miss a few classes.

As long as you let your professor know and be honest with them, they'll understand. Give them a heads up via email, or drop into their office during their office hours and ask them for advice on assignments.

They're human, just like you and me. More importantly, they want to see you succeed.

My favorite professor (Dr. Butler Cain, who's now a big deal at the University of



Once upon a time, Tyler went to Iowa Central. Once upon a time, as in this photo was taken in 2007. Holy guacamole, look at that hair! [From the Tyler Liger Archives]

North Alabama) used to go grab something to eat with my friends and I all of the time. I was able to sit down with professors and have great conversations with them, and manage to keep in contact with a few of them following graduation.

It's another one of those Golden Rule things, but a lot of professors are insanely cool people.

**Have fun!** This one is the most important, and fun doesn't mean hitting up the drinking establishments once you reach the legal age of 21. By being yourself, making friends, being efficient with your studying habits and keeping your instructor in the know, you're golden.

Keep in mind, college can be the best four years of your life, as you transition from childhood to becoming a functioning adult. You can go to class in just your t-shirt, basketball shorts and slippers or you can treat it like a job.

It's not about how you look, it's about your confidence in yourself and your mental approach to the college game. But it does help to pack plenty of antiperspirants, too. Haha!

There are plenty of other points of advice that I can give, but these bulletpoints will help you get started when you step foot on campus.

Until next time, Liger Legionaries!

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