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Baxter

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DECEMBER 2025-
JANUARY 2026



**A MESSAGE
FROM**

Mr. Petersen

As we approach the winter and holiday season, I want to express my gratitude for all that our families and communities do to support our Baxter Schools. It has been a busy school year that has been full of change as we have transitioned to our four-day instructional week. As we approach the half-way point in the year, we are thankful for all of the parental and community support that has made this a successful transition. We will send out another survey to garner feedback from our parents, staff, and community in January, and we look forward to your input.

As we enter the winter months, I want to just remind all of our families on our procedures involving winter weather. As a district, our goal is to have any decision made by 5:30 AM at the latest. We will communicate all closings, early outs, and delays through a variety of sources that include JMC, the district Facebook page, and the following television stations: WHOTV 13 and KCCI. If we have an early out due to weather, there will be no afternoon or evening activities. If we have a late start due to weather, there will be no morning activities. This pertains to all grades PK-12th. Students safety will always be at the forefront of the decision making process, and the district will err on the side of caution in winter weather situations. We understand there may be times where the decision doesn't fit the needs of every family due to the geography of the district. In those instances, please keep your student at home if you feel that is best. Please also notify the district that you are doing so.

It is also the time of the year that the Iowa Student Performance Profile is released by building and district. This measures district performance on a number of measures including proficiency on the ISASP, growth on the ISASP, attendance rate and growth, graduation rates, and postsecondary readiness rates. Once again, both of our buildings and our district scored in the *Commendable* and were all above the state average. This is great news for our district and something our students, parents, and staff should be proud of! More detailed information about these rankings can be found at iaschoolperformance.gov.

I am hopeful our students and families will have a relaxing and energizing winter break. On that same note, a reminder that school will dismiss on Tuesday, December 23rd at 3:35 PM for winter break and school will resume for students on Tuesday, January 6th.

I want to wish every one of our families a happy holiday season! Thank you for continuing to make Baxter a great community and school. We appreciate your partnership and continued support!

Educationally,

Chris Petersen
Superintendent



Baxter Public Library



WEBPAGE:
baxter.lib.ia.us

FACEBOOK:
Baxter Public Library

EMAIL:
library.baxter@gmail.com

PHONE:
641-227-3934

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

There's always something fun happening at the library! Whether you're looking for story time, games, or a good book chat – we've got something for every age and interest.



WEEKLY EVENTS:

CRIBBAGE CLUB

(October–March)

Mondays at 4:00 p.m.

Join us for friendly competition and great conversation as we play one of the most classic card games around!

PUBLIC STORY TIME

(Ages 0–5)

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Little ones will love stories, songs, and early learning fun with friends!

AFTER SCHOOL FUN

(Grades 1–5)

Wednesdays from 3:45–4:30 p.m.

Crafts, games, and creative projects to brighten up your midweek afternoons.

WINTER EVENTS:

PIZZA & PUZZLE NIGHT

Thursday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Grab a slice, gather your team, and see who can finish their puzzle first!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the season with festive treats, crafts, and holiday cheer for all ages!



MONTHLY EVENTS:

ADULT BOOK CLUB

First Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy good books and great company as we discuss a new title each month.

CHAPTER CHATTER & PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUBS

Second Tuesday of every month

3:45–4:30 p.m.

Get ready for lively book discussions and fun activities!

📅 Upcoming meetings: November 11th & December 9th

STORY-TIME SATURDAYS

Tales for All Ages

Third Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

A weekend story time for the whole family to enjoy together.

LEGO & CHESS CLUB

Last Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

(Pre-registration required)

Build, strategize, and play! Perfect for students in grades K–8.

Note: In November, we'll meet from 3:45–4:30 due to the school schedule.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS!:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00-6:00

Wednesday & Thursday: 12:00-5:00

Saturday: 9:00-12:00



Can't make it during regular hours?

Take advantage of our hold service, available to all patrons! City residents can also enjoy our delivery option for added convenience.

January 2026

Baxter CSD Menu	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><i>Inclement Weather: Please remember if the school calls for a 2-hour delay, breakfast will not be served!</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Breakfast: 7:25-7:45 a.m. preK-12 \$1.90 Adult \$2.20 Milk only \$.70 -Alternate entree (cereal, pop tart, etc.), fruit, juice, & milk choice offered daily.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Lunch: K-5 \$3.00 6-12 \$3.10 Adult \$5.20 Milk only \$.70 -Alternate fruit & milk choice offered daily. -Alternate entree (deli sub, chef salad, etc.) and ala carte "smart snack" items may be made available to MS/HS students.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Questions for the kitchen? Call or email: Tasha McPherson Food Service Director (641) 227-1134 or tmcpherson@baxter.k12.ia.us</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Menu is subject to change.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</i></p>	January 6	January 7	January 8	January 9
	Orange Chicken, Rice Broccoli Roasted Edamame Mandarin Oranges Mini Krispy Treat <i>B: French Toast Sticks</i>	Mini Corn Dogs French Fries Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit <i>B: Yogurt & MuffinTop</i>	Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Fresh Veggie Apple, WG Roll <i>(New breakfast item!)</i> <i>B: Sausage & Cheese Pancake Sandwich plus a hash brown!</i>	Cheese Bosco Sticks Marinara Cup Romaine Salad Fresh Veggies Fruit Slushie <i>B: Donut</i>
	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16
	Crispito, Cheese Sauce Romaine Salad Cucumbers Pears <i>B: Breakfast Pizza</i>	Breaded Chicken, Bun French Fries Roasted Chickpeas Berry Cup <i>B: Cinnamon Roll</i>	<i>(New Recipe!)</i> Beef Stroganoff, Roll Green Beans Baby Carrots Banana <i>B: Breakfast Sandwich</i>	Deep Dish Pizza <i>Pepperoni or Cheese</i> Romaine Salad Fresh Veggies Fruit Slushie <i>B: Donut</i>
	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23
	Cheese Omelet Pancakes, Hash Brown VBlend Juice Peaches <i>B: Trix or Cin. Toast Crunch Muffin</i>	BBQ Rib, Bun Potato Wedges Baked Beans Pineapple <i>B: Grab & Go Parfait</i>	Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta, Breadstick Broccoli Baby Carrots Grapes <i>B: Breakfast Sandwich</i>	French Bread Pizza <i>Pepperoni or Garlic Cheese</i> Romaine Salad Fresh Veggies Fruit Slushie <i>B: Donut</i>
	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30
	Walking Taco Refried Beans Pepper Strips Applesauce <i>B: Breakfast Pizza</i>	Cheeseburger, Bun French Fries Fresh Cauliflower Orange <i>B: Cinnamon Roll</i>	Chicken Tenders, Roll Mash Potato & Gravy Baby Carrots Craisins <i>B: Breakfast Sandwich</i>	Retro Square Pizza <i>Pepperoni or Cheese</i> Romaine Salad Fresh Veggies Fruit Slushie <i>B: Donut</i>

A MESSAGE
FROM

Mr. Harold

The winter season is definitely here! While we have had what feels like a ton of snow for December at this point, thankfully, we haven't had to miss any full days. Let's hope that trend continues into the second semester!

Speaking of the semester, with the conclusion quickly approaching, I always like to take time and reflect back. I'm very proud of the positive growth we have made. Coming into a new school year with a variety of changes that went across both our student and standards referenced grading handbooks, there's always a feeling of unease about how those changes will come together. We implemented all kinds of new procedures aligned to our incident progression and made significant changes to both our grading scale and process for re-assessments. That's just a few of the many changes that took place, but they were big ones! Both our students and staff have embraced these adjustments and things are coming together.

There have been a variety of measures that Deputy Josh has implemented that we will continue to focus on. An immediate change that was implemented is the visitor badge required to be worn by any visitor coming into the building. I'm very happy to report that anyone I personally have checked into the office has responded positively to being asked to wear a visitor badge. Par for the course in Baxter, the support has been overwhelmingly understanding. Thank you for taking these adjustments in stride and making our building an overall safer place.

To the wonderful families that we have in the Baxter School District, thank you for allowing each of our staff to educate your student(s) on a daily basis. While some days are not always easy to navigate, I feel there is a silver lining even on the hardest of days. When those days have occurred, families have reached out to teachers, myself or whomever would be the go-to contact. More times than not, we're able to work together and set a productive stage that allows us to move forward. Let's keep that a trend also as we move into 2026 and beyond.

Please don't hesitate to reach out! Happy Holidays!

Clay Harrold
Secondary Principal

**A MESSAGE
FROM**

Mr. Hasselbrink

As we head into Winter Break, it is a great opportunity to rejuvenate and reflect. Rejuvenate by spending time with family and friends, fill your time with things that make you happy and bring you joy. Reflect on the year that's gone past, hang on to the memories, and seek opportunity for growth in the coming year. We will do that at Baxter Elementary. We will cherish the year and look to the future for ways to continually improve and provide a setting that encourages high levels of learning for all students.

Over the past few weeks, our elementary school has worked to spread holiday cheer, hope, and joy to our community. Our annual Giving Tree helped provide presents for twenty of our families, hopefully helping them have a memorable holiday. Our elementary students also engaged in a canned food drive and were able to donate to our food bank. Our Guidance special students also wrote letters to Blank Children's Hospital patients to help bring hope and joy during the holiday season. These small acts help provide warmth and joy while displaying characteristics we aim for our students to have.

On the academic side of school, we continue to work deeply to utilize the power of data in our decision-making. We have many partnerships that allow us to use data to reflect on and inform our instruction. Our teachers have engaged in professional development around data collection tools while utilizing software to meet the needs of all our students. We are consistently filtering to find new ways to grow and improve as a school. One piece of data that we annually review is our Iowa School Performance Profile. This summary of data includes standardized testing scores, along with other measures, to provide a rating for each school in Iowa. Our rating was "commendable" and above the state average. We will continue to use all forms of data to inform our decisions, while focusing on improvement and growth.

Our community's ongoing support and dedication have been invaluable in making these aspirations a reality. I am proud of the strides we've made as a school. Our partnership with families and the community has enabled us to celebrate numerous milestones, from academic achievements to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment that supports our students' growth and development. Our commitment to providing quality education and development remains strong, thanks to the dedication of our incredible teachers, staff, and engaged parents.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions. Here's to 2026!

Zach Hasselbrink

PK-5 Principal/AD

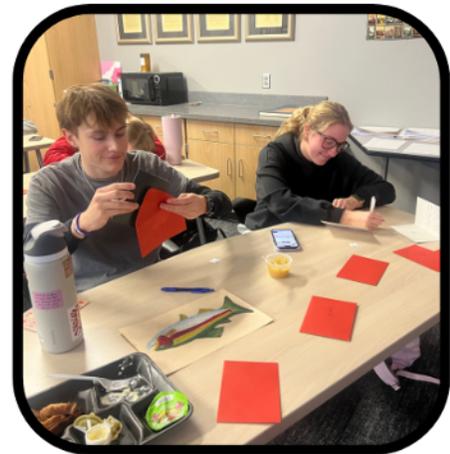
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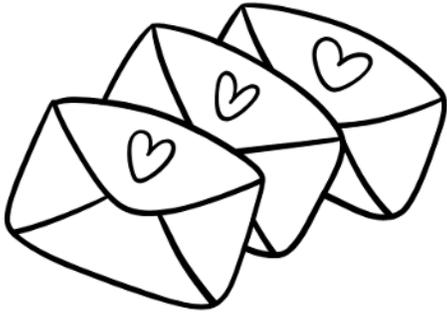
News

Student Council

High school Student Council members participated in writing holiday letters as a project this winter. These letters were addressed to various Park Centre and Newton Village residents in Newton. We'd like to thank the RSVP Program at the Iowa State University Extension Office as well as Baxter Heating and Air and State Savings Bank who helped to make this project happen! We can't wait to continue with various projects to come in 2026!



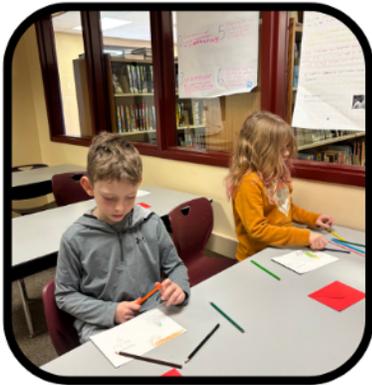
Baxter Elementary Gives Back



During the first week of December, Baxter Elementary also held a food drive. This food drive was a chance for our Student Leadership Team to plan and see through an idea they came up with. The Student Leadership Team was able to deliver all food drive items collected to the Baxter Food Pantry!

Thank you to all who helped and donated items!

Also during the month of December, Baxter Elementary focused on Empathy through their Character Strong curriculum in guidance. Students learned that empathy means to understand and connect with other people's feelings. During student's guidance times in December they took time to write holiday cards to children who may be hospitalized at Blank Children's Hospital during the holidays. Our students continue to think of many ways that we can give back to our community both near and far. We cannot wait to see what 2026 brings!



ACTIVITIES



News

2025 BAXTER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

COLE DAMMAN

2020 Bolts Graduate



JEFF FLORA

1985 Bulldog Graduate



JOE FLORA

1988 Bulldog Graduate



CARTER NELSEN

2020 Bolts Graduate



BAXTER FALL ACTIVITIES SPOTLIGHT

Camryn Russell

1-Meter Diving State Champion

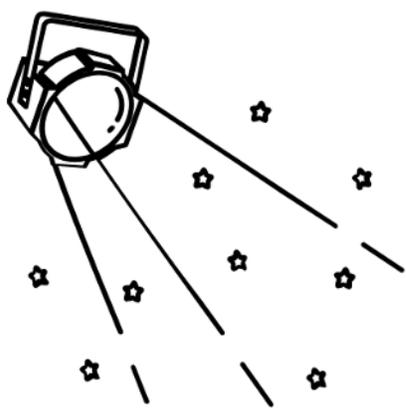


BAXTER BOLTS CROSS COUNTRY

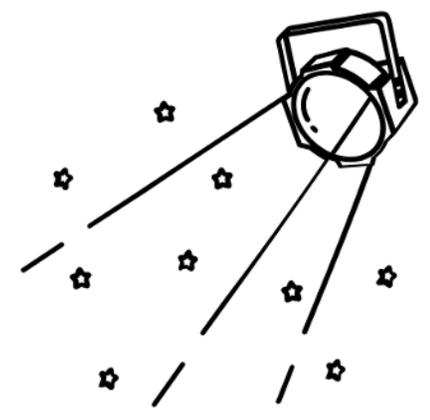


Maddux Tuhn

State Qualifier



BAXTER FALL ACTIVITIES SPOTLIGHT



continued...

BAXTER BOLTS DANCE TEAM



*Alivia Boike
Alyvia Burdless
Sydney Hibbs
Tayler Iverson*

Sydney Hibbs
CLASS I STATE SOLO CHAMPION!



**Congratulations to our
CLASS II STATE POM CHAMPIONS!!**

Division I in all 3 routines
4th place in Hip Hop
6th in Contemporary

*Briah Mortenson
Marley Payne
Gwen Tichy
Coach Nicole Burdless*

Please join the BDT on Saturday, January 17th for the annual Winter Show!

Alyvia Burdless, Alivia Boike, Briah Mortenson, Gwen Tichy, Sydney Hibbs, and Tayler Iverson will be performing as All Iowa Honor Dance Team members during the championship game of Girls State Basketball! Please stay tuned for more information!

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR WINTER ACTIVITIES **LET'S GO BOLTS!**



BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT --- PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTICE SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. In order to fulfill obligations under Section 504, the Baxter Community School District has the responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability should knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system.

The Baxter Community School District has the responsibilities under Section 504, which included the obligations to identify, evaluate, and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent/guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to file a grievance and to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to:

- 1) Inspect and review his/her child's educational records;
- 2) Make copies of these records;
- 3) Receive a list of the individuals having access to those records;
- 4) Ask for an explanation of any item in the records;
- 5) Ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; and
- 6) A hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact the Equity/Section 504/ADA Coordinator for the State St., Baxter, IA 50028, (641) 227-3103.

Baxter Community School
202 E. State St.
P.O. Box 189
Baxter, IA 50028

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 13
Baxter, IA 50028
CAR-RT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tyler Akins
Ray Hauser
Ashley Kucera
Julie McWhirter - Board Secretary
Jon Northrup
Chris Petersen - Superintendent
Cory Robinson - President

**BOXHOLDER
BAXTER, IA 50028**