

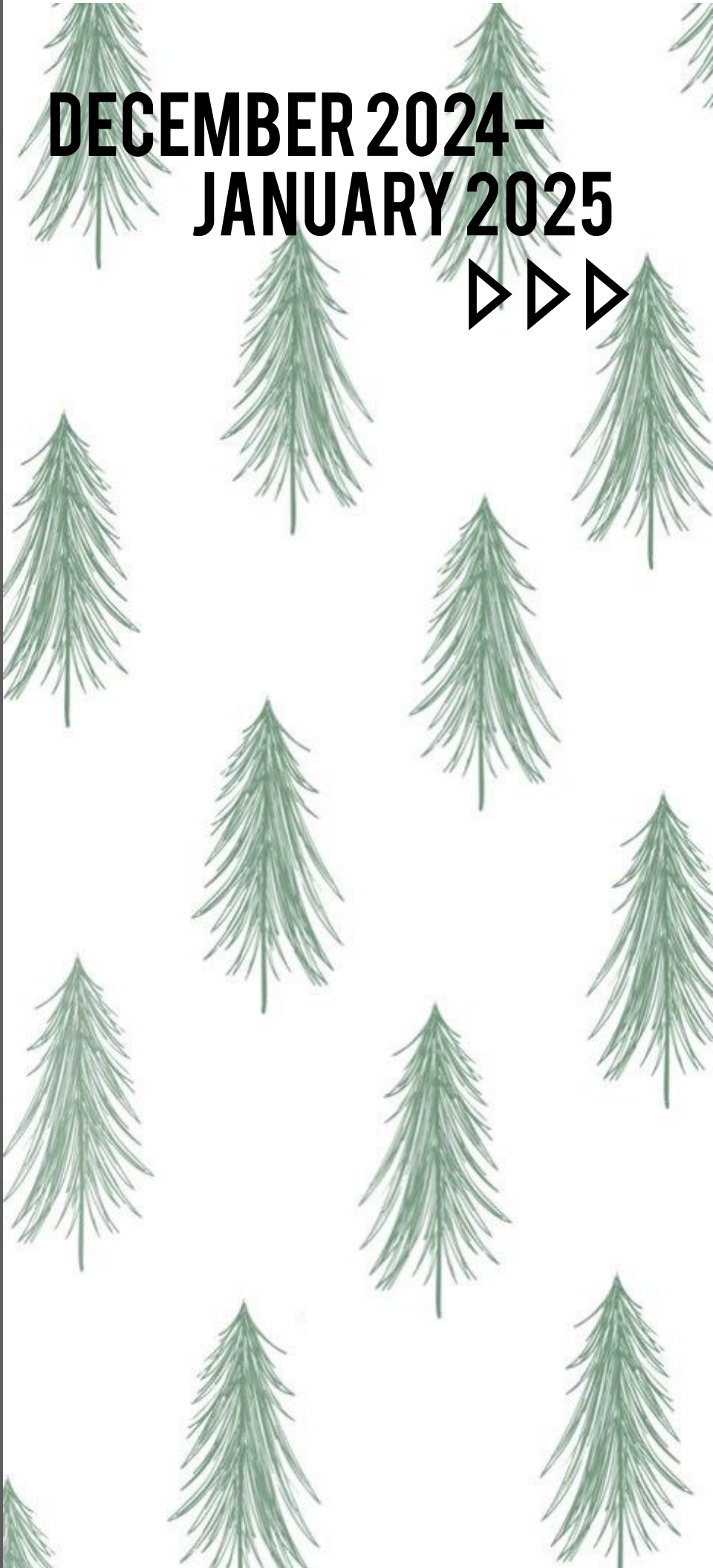
THE *Baxter*



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**DECEMBER 2024-
JANUARY 2025**



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 community do to support our Baxter Schools. We have transitioned from our fall activities into a busy schedule of winter activities, and I am extremely impressed by how involved our students are in everything from athletics to the fine arts. I am a firm believer that our students benefit from participating in a wide variety of experiences

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 6:00 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.

On the academic side of things, the state recently released the Iowa School Performance Profile. 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. I am happy to say that both of our buildings scored in the *Commendable* range, with the elementary and secondary scoring 5-6% above the state average. More detailed information 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 at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 20th for winter break and school will resume for students on Monday, January 6th at 9:00 AM. We will also have no school for students on Monday, January 20th, as our teachers have a full day of professional learning planned.

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

A MESSAGE
FROM

Mr. Harold

It's hard to believe we are down to the last few weeks of the semester. As I have transitioned to Baxter, the overall support and drive of our students, families and staff continues to amaze me on a daily basis. There have been many good times, but also challenging scenarios from time to time as well. Thank you all for encouraging and pushing me to be the best version of myself in this role. I am extremely grateful to be at Baxter Secondary!

With that said, there are always tweaks and adjustments that need to be considered. Two big items that continue to be discussed in the secondary building are moving toward a collective behavior framework that all staff agree upon and follow in the classroom as well as having a hallway management system to support all of our students. Our staff is exploring the **PROMPT** behavior management framework. This acronym stands for:

- P: Proximity Control
- R: Redirection Strategy
- OM: Ongoing Monitoring
- P: Prompt Expected Behavior
- T: Teaching Interaction

With any consideration of change, there comes an adjustment period. We will continue to look for ways to support all of our students and staff and more information will be forthcoming in the future around this work.

The second item I referenced is the pass system. This system would be electronic that would occur on the student devices when they would need to leave the classroom for the restroom, nurse, locker, etc. Students would be signed out and different configurations may be considered or implemented as a building to further ensure student safety. While I am not giving a lot of details in this regard, I do believe that we can further enhance our student learning by tightening a few things up as we progress.

Please don't read this the wrong way. Baxter is amazing and I feel that we are definitely trending in a positive direction, however, I just want to ensure that we continue to move the needle forward when it comes to our overall learning process.

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

Clay Harrold
Secondary Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MR. TRAVIS DEE

SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR

641-227-1409

TDEE@BAXTER.K12.IA.US

2024-2025

Counselor's Corner will provide information related to the personal/social, academic, and career development of our students. The counseling department provides services to students, parents, school staff, and the community in the following areas: core curriculum, individual student planning, and responsive services.

CICS – "SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES."

CICS supports 15 counties in Iowa and works to develop support for people with mental health concerns. You can reach Jasper County's service coordinator located in Newton at **641-841-1167**. CICS provides the following services as well as other services:

SERVICE COORDINATION: Each county has a Service Coordinator that can help you navigate services, apply for programs, and connect you with other resources that may be available.

CRISIS LINE: Support on the telephone, anytime, day or night, for people looking for help with their emotions or mental health. **855-581-8111**

WARMLINE: A phone line staffed by individuals with lived experiences who provide non-judgemental, nondirective support to an individual experiencing stress and needing someone to talk to. **844-775-9276**.

MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE: Teams of professionals provide on-site, mental health services for individuals or families experiencing a mental health crisis. They can respond wherever the crisis is occurring including where people live, work, attend school, or socialize. To access, call the Your Life Iowa Crisis Line 24/7 and request the mobile crisis team to be dispatched to your location. **855-581-8111**

COMMUNITY-BASED CRISIS STABILIZATION: Short-term (5-Day) services designed to stabilize individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in the community by providing daily psychiatric services where people live, work, attend school or socialize.

RESIDENTIAL-BASED CRISIS STABILIZATION: This service is similar to Community-Based Crisis Stabilization, but also provides a place to stay during a mental health crisis.

988-NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE: If you or someone you know is in crisis or simply doesn't know how to move forward, call or text 988.

(Information provided by CICS brochure)

FEDERAL STUDENT AID OPENS DECEMBER 1, 2024

To get ready to file the FAFSA, seniors and one parent should set up a StudentAid.gov account. This account is a username and password that you will use to fill out and sign the FAFSA form. Visit [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to set up your account.

FAFSA COMPLETION EVENT AT BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL DECEMBER 16 4:00-7:00 PM

ICAN is the state’s leader in supporting families with FAFSA and other college planning topics. ICAN leads FAFSA completion initiatives to coordinate financial aid events for more than two decades.

Baxter High School will be hosting a FAFSA Completion Event on **Monday, December 16** from 4-7 pm. ICAN FAFSA experts will be on site to support you with this process.

ACT TEST DATES 2024-25

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Late Fees After this Date)	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
December 14, 2024	November 8	November 22	December 6
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20	January 31
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16	March 28
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 26	June 6
July 12, 2025	June 6	June 20	July 4

A MESSAGE FROM

Mr. Hasselbrink

As we approach the holiday season and the halfway mark of the school year, I want to recognize the incredible happenings and accomplishments of our school. Family/ community partnership and support play a vital role in these successes, and we couldn't be more grateful for our Baxter community.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Last month we had our fall parent-teacher conferences and are thrilled to report nearly 100% participation! This outstanding turnout demonstrates the collective dedication and support to our students' learning and success. We appreciate our families taking the time to collaborate with our teachers and help partner in the success of their education.

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

Last week, the entire district came together for our Veterans Day Assembly. Students and staff honored those who have served with heartfelt tributes, performances, and reflections. It was a beautiful reminder of the importance of gratitude and respect.

BAXTER WAY TICKETS

Our students continue to impress us with their exemplary character! Through our **Baxter Way Tickets** program, we've recognized students who go above and beyond in demonstrating kindness, respect, responsibility, safety, and other key traits. These tickets celebrate the positive choices and actions that make our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

BAXTER ELEMENTARY GIVING TREE

Our annual **Giving Tree** is up and running! This tradition provides gifts to families in need during the holiday season. If you'd like to participate by donating or adopting a gift tag, please contact the school office. Together, we can make the holidays brighter for all.

WINTER CONCERT

Mark your calendars for our **Elementary Winter Concert** on **December 12th at 6:00 PM**. Our students will once again take the stage to perform holiday-inspired favorites. We can't wait to share the joy of the season with you!

ACADEMIC AND DATA-DRIVEN GROWTH

Our teachers and staff have been hard at work refining our curriculum to better meet students' needs. This includes:

- Updating priority standards to align with curricular resources.
- Developing and analyzing assessments to ensure learning for all.
- Utilizing new software tools for data collection and analysis.

These efforts directly support our mission to provide the highest-quality education for every student.

IOWA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE

We are proud to announce that Baxter Elementary has once again been rated "**commendable**" on the Iowa School Performance Profile! We outperformed the state average in nearly every rated category, a testament to the hard work of our students, staff, and community.

CHARACTER EDUCATION FOCUS

This year, we've been diving deep into key character traits, focusing on **kindness, respect, responsibility**, and most recently, **gratitude**. These traits are woven into daily lessons and interactions, fostering a positive and supportive school culture.

We are incredibly proud of our teachers, support staff, and students for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. As we continue through the school year, let's keep building on this momentum together.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Baxter Elementary family! Please follow the Baxter Elementary Facebook page to see pictures and videos of daily activities and happenings here at school.

With gratitude,
Zach Hasselbrink
Principal, Baxter Elementary

STUDENT



News



Baxter Schools **IMPORTANT DATES**

**DEC
12**

WINTER CONCERT

Elementary

**DEC
16**

WINTER CONCERT

Secondary

**DEC
20**

1PM DISMISSAL

Winter Break Start

**DEC 23
-JAN 2**

NO SCHOOL

Winter Break

**JAN
3**

NO SCHOOL

Teacher pd Day

**JAN
20**

NO SCHOOL

District Improvement

Empathy Overview

This month's focus is Empathy. One way to think about Empathy is "understanding and connecting with other people's feelings." Empathy is a practice that can help us grow strong relationships.

Empathy is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Kind**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

hello
DECEMBER

Conversation Starters

- What does Empathy look like to you?
- Is it hard for you to share how you feel with others? Why or why not?

EMPATHY

is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings

"Learning to stand in someone else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins."

Former President-
Barack Obama

IT'S GETTING COLDER!

TIME TO BRING OUT THE COATS,
GLOVES, & HATS!



SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR

Dear Families,

Get ready—the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! This is a great opportunity to connect with your child over the thrill of bringing home new books to dive into again and again. Studies show that kids read more when they choose books for themselves. And fostering a love of independent reading leads to a wide variety of benefits—including academic success and improved mental health.

Here's everything you need to know about the Book Fair:

Dates: Dec 9-13 During School Hours and During Elementary Concert
Dec 14 9:30-11:30 During Christmas Festival
Location: Library

There's even more info on our school's Book Fair homepage:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/baxtercommunityschool>

While you're there, set up a Book Fair eWallet, the digital payment account that allows your child to shop for books at the Fair without cash. Then share your eWallet link so friends and extended family can add funds.

When you fund an eWallet, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to a giving initiative called Share the Fair™. Your contributions directly support our students who need help buying books from the Fair.

Many of us still remember the rush of finding the perfect book at a Scholastic Book Fair. I hope you'll join your child at our school's Fair and share a reading experience they'll remember forever.

Happy reading,

Mr. Pickett

PS: Need one more reason to visit the Book Fair? Every purchase at the Fair benefits our school!

The Giving Tree

BAXTER ELEMENTARY

THE GIVING TREE IS UP EVERY YEAR JUST AFTER THANKSGIVING IN THE ELEMENTARY OFFICE. EACH "GIVING TREE ORNAMENT" REPRESENTS ONE BCSD STUDENT FROM A BAXTER FAMILY THAT NEEDS ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

Thank you!



WITH YOUR HELP & SUPPORT, THIS YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO — STUDENTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. WE ARE CONTINUALLY BLOWN AWAY EACH YEAR WITH OUR COMMUNITIES OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER. IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY—YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SOMEONE ELSE MAY BE GOING THROUGH. SO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, SUPPORT, AND KINDNESS— ALWAYS.





HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN **FIFTH GRADE**



We had a busy fall, we started with our annual field trip to Living History Farms, where we walked through farms representing the 1700s to the present day. Our favorite buildings to visit were the 1700's farm, the broom shop because he really "swept us away," and the 1800s farm with the livestock, aka "piggies". We have learned how to divide fractions and are moving into the standard algorithm for multiplication. We have finished our research papers on Benjamin Franklin and George Washington and moved on from our poetry unit. In writing, we are moving on to our family heritage projects and researching our country of origin! We will be heading to the Capitol in Des Moines and touring Terrace Hill at the best time of the year! We wanted you to know that we are learning about natural decomposers in our phonics units.

We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and winter breaks!
Happy Holidays from the 5th grade!

Written by:

Chesney Kaplan, Jeremiah Harris, Mason Whaley, Addi Brannen, Adan Johnston, Mackenzie DeGoey, Trinity Stanton and Jerry Warden



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

In October, 10 students traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the National FFA Convention and Expo!



HARDY'S REINDEER RANCH

On our way to the convention, we stopped in Rantoul, IL at the famous Hardy's Reindeer Ranch. Here we fed reindeer, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, and did the 10-acre corn maze!

BEASLEY'S ORCHARD

On the 2nd day of our trip, we went to Beasley's Orchard in Danville, IN. This is a 250-acre farm where we learned about specialty crop production, went on a hay rack ride, launched Apple cannons, and jumped on the big jumping pillows!



RODEO

After a fun-filled day, we went to the Three Hills FFA Command Performance Rodeo!



GREAT TIMES FAMILY FUN PARK

We spent a fun night of bonding at a Family Fun Park playing mini golf and racing Go Karts.



CONVENTION OPENING SESSION

On Thursday we spent a full day at the convention attending workshops, listening to speakers, and walking around the career show and expo center!



4TH SESSION TEMPLE GRANDIN

Our last morning before heading home we went to the 4th General Session to watch the famous Temple Grandin speak!

ACTIVITIES



News

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Baxter Bolt Winter sports programs have officially started! Reminder to follow Baxter Athletics on Facebook (Baxter CSD) for event updates, announcements, results, and more. For any questions, please contact Dennis Vaughn (dvaughn@baxter.k12.ia.us).

All sports schedules can be found via <https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/baxter>

HALL OF FAME:

The Baxter Hall of Fame Game will be held on Friday, December 13th. We hope that everyone can join us as we honor and congratulate the 2024 inductees between the Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball games. The Varsity Girls game will begin at 6pm, followed by the Varsity Boys game.

ALL DISTRICT FOOTBALL:

First Team: Offense- Wide Receiver/Tight End: Eli Dee, Offensive Line: Carter Smith, Utility: Perrin Sulzle

Second Team: Offense- Wide Receiver/Tight End: Stadan Vansice,
Defense-Defensive Line: Cael Wishman, Linebacker: Cainan Travis,
Honorable Mention: Cade Robinson, Grant Anderegg



**GOODLUCK TO OUR WINTER SPORTS
-BASKETBALL & WRESTLING-
THIS 2024-2025 SEASON!**



Baxter HALL OF FAME



BRAYDON AKER

- State record holder with 12 touchdowns in a single game
- Led all classes in the state in total TDs 68 and Passing TDs 52
- 1st team All-State Quarterback
- 1st ever recipient of the Mr. Bolt Award



JASON AKER

- 2014 IFCA 2A Assistant Coach of the Year
- Defensive coordinator for the CMB Raiders Football (2003-2016) 72-50, including three district championships
- Defensive coordinator for the Baxter Bolts (2017-2018) with a team record of 15-2 with a district championship and a district runner-up team
- Girls Track Coach for five years with multiple track meet championships, state qualifiers, and state place winners



WILL CLAPPER

- Football: 3x All-State, 2018 District Lineman MVP, 2019 Shrine Bowl
- Basketball: 3x All-Conference, career record holder in points (1350+) and rebounds (700+)
- Track: 4x State Shot Put (2x medalist), 1x State Discus, 2017 Drake Relays Shot Put
- Played football at Iowa State University

ED SCHMIDT

- Four sport letter winner for Baxter Bulldogs
- President of Baxter Rec, CMB Boosters, and Baxter Bolt Boosters
- Coached Rec Football, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Soccer, and High School Softball
- Served as Grounds Keeper of the Sports Complex for five years



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES WILL BE HONORED AT OUR HOME BASKETBALL VS GMG ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH.



Camryn Russell TAKES IT ALL AT 2024 STATE DIVING!



After placing 5th at last year's state diving meet, Camryn was motivated and worked hard to increase the difficulty of the harder dives in her list and to clean up the lower difficulty dives. The increase in difficulty and honing her simpler dives resulted in higher judges scores and ultimately higher dive totals, where every hundredth of a point counts. That was clear in the results from the state meet, where Camryn edged out the second place diver, Kamila Swanson from Iowa City West, by 1.35 points. Camryn also went undefeated this season throughout all her dual and invitational competitions! That is not a common occurrence, but was also a feat accomplished by her former teammate, Trista Thompson. Trista was the 2022 diving state champion and currently dives for the Panthers at UNI.

This season, we've worked on her front 1 1/2 pike, trying to adjust the path of her arms as she lines her arms up to enter the water to result in a cleaner, less splashy entry. Another dive we've spent significant attention on is her back 1 1/2 pike. The timing and direction of her kickout with her legs and also the path of her arms and the alignment of her body when she enters the water has been a little variable, so we've worked to make this more consistent so she can hit the dive more frequently.

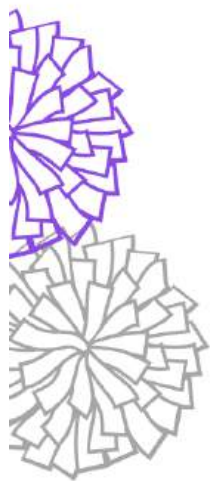
In addition to increasing her dive difficulty, Camryn worked hard to become more comfortable at the end of the season by doing lots of repetitions of those harder dives, especially throughout the last month of the season. This was significant in her preparation for state. With such a short season, one of the really important factors in achieving end-of-season success is grinding through the beginning and middle of the season to gain more experience doing those harder dives in practice and also in competitions. If divers don't perform their dives often or at all in practice, it's much harder to perform them well in competition with the added pressure of performing by yourself in front of competitors, judges, and spectators. Camryn was mentally and physically prepared to perform all 11 dives at the end of the season without the stress of not having practiced her dives much. Doing a lot of repetitions in practice helped to prepare her to still perform dives well even if her approaches or take offs weren't ideal.

At the state meet, Camryn performed a very solid 11-dive list. She was led by as much as 15 points after round six, but was overtaken after Kamila performed a very good 9th round dive. Camryn slightly missed her 7th and 8th round dives to open the door. Camryn was trailing by five points after rounds nine and ten. Her last dive was a 5134D, front 1 1/2 somersault with 2 twists, a dive that she learned early this year. She competed this dive early in the season, but had some trouble with it. She decided to add it back into her list for regionals, and it was her highest scoring dive at the regional meet. Camryn had to hit this dive to have a chance of winning. Kamila performed the same dive with one less twist. This meant that Camryn was already at a degree of difficulty advantage by 0.4 points. Camryn dove before Kamila in the diving order. She hit the dive for 53.3 points! Then, we had to wait for Kamila to dive. Kamila needed to achieve more than 48.65 points, or 7.5s from the judges, to take the top position. Waiting for the scores seemed like an eternity! It was close, but she only received 47.3 points for her final dive. Looking at Camryn as the scores showed on the scoreboard, I don't think it resonated that she had actually won! It was an exciting moment to share with her!

I'm super proud of everything Camryn has achieved and the supportive teammate she is on the swim and dive team. It can be hard to join a team with people you don't know initially, but she's grown in many ways and is a positive leader, teammate, and athlete on our combined Grinnell-BGM-Baxter swim and dive team. I'm so glad I have the opportunity to coach Camryn and her teammates. I know she's a wonderful role model for the swimmers and divers in the Grinnell, BGM, and Baxter communities, but especially in the Baxter community. What a special leader to have for her peers and those younger than her to look up to her and all her hard work.



BAXTER BOLTS *dance team*



The Baxter Dance Team competed at the ISDTA State Championships on **December 5th**.
The girls performed three routines at State including hip-hop, kick and pom.
Freshman Sydney Hibbs also be competed in the state solo championships!

The Baxter Bolts Dance Team would like to thank everyone for always being so supportive and cheering them on! You can look for the girls to perform at some home basketball games coming up this winter as well as their winter show that will be announced soon!



Sydney Hibbs: Solo - 2ND PLACE
Hip Hop - STATE CHAMPIONS!
Pom - 4th Place, Division I
Kick - 5th Place, Division I



Come catch the Baxter Dance team performing during halftime of our Bolts Basketball home games!
December 13th
December 17th
January 24th

Digital not your thing?

**WANT A PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER INSTEAD?
FILL OUT THIS FORM & MAIL IT BACK TO US!**

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PLEASE MAIL BACK TO

BAXTER CSD

ATTN: MRS. MOORMAN

PO BOX 189

BAXTER, IA 50028

**IF YOU ALREADY RECEIVE A PAPER COPY-
YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT THE FORM AGAIN!**

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

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BAXTER, IA 50028**