



# Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx

## Montezuma wrestling is coming up quick

Braves coach Josh Kriegel on the upcoming season.

**By Brayden Stockman**  
As the Montezuma basketball team prepares for another season, so does another winter sport: the boy's wrestling team. New student wrestlers and a new head coach in first-year Montezuma teacher Josh Kriegel mean this will be a great year for the Montezuma wrestling team. Kriegel is ready for the new season, and is excited to have the experience as a coach of the wrestling team, after assistant coaching football during the fall. Kriegel, who graduated from Coe College, began working as a P.E. teacher and varsity wrestling coach this

year as a replacement for Jared Hermann. This is Kriegel's first year of teaching after college. "[I decided to coach wrestling] because I participated in it in high school, and I had great coaches when I was in high school. I felt that teaching and coaching go along with another, so I want to see my athletes succeed in something outside of school." Kriegel has already been working hard with the wrestling team this year. The first wrestling practice was on the 13th of November. There were also 3 weeks of open mat practices before practice began, where wrestlers could practice against others

and improve their skills. There are nine wrestlers on the high school team, and Kriegel says, "I like seeing familiar faces, because I coached football before." With working hard on the wrestling team comes excitement for the upcoming season. Kriegel says that he is looking forward to, "Seeing my wrestlers grow over the next couple of months, because wrestling is definitely a grind-out sport and it's a lot on my wrestlers." He also says that over the course of the wrestling season he wants to see his wrestlers' goals grow as the season progresses, as they realize what they can do through their ex-

perience over the season. The wrestlers aren't only practicing for themselves, though. They have eight meets over the course of the winter season. Their first meet is at Belle Plaine on November 30th, after a couple of weeks of practice, and meets proceed into early January. Kriegel says, "I'm just really excited to get this season to start. I think we have a couple of guys who are ready to make their expectations a reality." The wrestling team's home meet will be held on January 4th in the North Gym, and the team would greatly enjoy the presence of the community to encourage the wrestlers.



JOSH KRIEGEL, above, is the new head wrestling coach for the Braves. Kriegel wrestled in high school, and was inspired by his high school coaches, who he felt imparted character and wisdom on him.

File Photo

## Cats may be the best animal ever created

**By Carrie Jennings**  
When you think of the most popular pet in America, what animal first comes to mind? Dogs? Fish? Those are logical answers, but cats are actually the most popular. That depends on what you mean by "popular," though. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, though more households in America own dogs, there are more cats owned as pets than there are dogs. This is because people who own dogs on average only own one, while people who own cats on average own at least two. Despite their undeniable popularity, cats often get a bad rap for, basically, not being dogs. Most feline-dislikers will agree with the common cat stereotypes. They will believe the animals to be mean, solitary creatures who do not care for their owners. However, anyone

who has known many cats will know that that simply is not the case. In actuality, cats can be quite playful. They generally love to play with toys like toy fishing poles and cat dancer toys. They are also quite agile, loving to jump around and exercise. Cats are also the perfect size to be great cuddling companions. Most kitties would love to sit and curl up in their owner's lap, resting and purring away after a long day of play. I have even owned a few cats who enjoyed to climb up to and curl up on my head. Another great thing about kitties are that they are very easily litter-trained. Though cat owners often complain about having to clean out litter boxes, doing that is much easier and saves much more time than having to take a dog outside whenever they need to go. Once they are litter-trained, cats rarely

have accidents on furniture or floors whereas dogs can have accidents often if their owners do not take them outside whenever they need to. Dogs are quite needy creatures, too. Cats, on the other hand, are typically much more independent. Though they love to cuddle and spend time with their owners, they can also be left alone for long periods of time and be perfectly fine as long as they have food, water, and a clean litter box. Cats are content with just being around their owners. They like to be petted, but they do not require it constantly like most dogs do. This is ideal for some owners who do not have time to play with their pets constantly. Another major stereotype about cats is that they can not be trained like dogs, but this is false. Cats can be trained to do simple tasks like not scratch furniture and to retrieve toys just like dogs. Cats also make good therapy animals for people with anxiety or PTSD. I have known many people who have owned therapy cats and said they were amazing companions. Overall, though cats are awesome, there is no way to definitely say that they are better than dogs. Like all animals, individual felines have their own personalities and can behave differently from other felines. However, I, as a crazy cat fanatic, love them all the same, and I truly hope that you will too after having read this article.



MOST POPULAR PET: Frankie the cat perches upon the lap of her owner, Carrie Jennings. Jennings is a cat person through and through.

Photo credit: Carrie Jennings

## DOGS VS CATS Opposing Editorials on the age old debate

**By Chase Talbert**  
Dogs have long been man's constant companion, since first man met wolf and gradually domesticated them to the companions we know today. Even though it has been thousands of years since then, even in Montezuma high school, this remains true to this day. My fellow writer, Caroline Jennings, and I surveyed twenty five students in both high school and junior high, with the following results: 19 of the 25 preferred dogs, 4 of the 25 preferred cats, 1 of the 25 preferred both, and 2 of the 25 preferred none. This data shows that there is a large majority of dog lovers within Montezuma, and a lot of their reasonings were simply because they thought cats were mean and uncaring in comparison to dogs. The minority of cat lovers reasoned that cats were better, because they are low maintenance and much quieter than dogs. The people that liked both or neither just need to make a decision. I prefer dogs to cats as well, hence the title of this article, but that's because my household or my very close family has always had dogs. I suppose this makes my views a bit biased, but I've had extended family with cats and kittens too. The cats, however, were always mean or not used to people, making them super skittish and not giving me a chance to really enjoy them. Dogs have more than showed themselves to be great companions, with

## Why dogs are the superior species

many national news stories being about service dogs saving lives. There are also security dogs and bomb sniffing dogs, dogs trained to put their lives on the line to protect the people that we care about. Dogs even look out for our health, by jumping and whining at us to go for a walk to get us both out of the house once in awhile.

Dogs are also much more caring than cats may be, if you've ever seen a dog and baby interact, it's only the cutest thing ever. Dogs and babies aside, canines are some the most loyal, caring, and protective animal companions a person could ever ask for. Maybe that's why we call them, "Man's Best Friend."



MAN'S BEST FRIEND: Cassidy Watts (12) poses with her dog, Bandit, during Public Speaking class. Watts is unabashedly a dog person.

Photo credit: Chase Talbert

## The Blue and White Staff



## Calendar of Events

Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
JH Wrestling @ English-Valleys - 4:15 pm	JV/V Girls Basketball vs Grand View Christian: Here - 6:00 pm	JH Wrestling @ Tri-County - 4:15 pm	JV/V Girls Basketball @ Pella Christian - 6:00 pm	No Activities	No Activities
	Saturday JV Girls BB Tournament: Here - 9:00 am				