

## The Marshall-Putnam 4-H Hosted Holiday Centerpiece Workshop For Families Dec. 20

On Saturday, December 20, Marshall-Putnam 4-H hosted a holiday centerpiece workshop for local families. With guidance from local Master Gardeners, participants created beautiful, seasonal works of art to take home and enjoy.

Workshop supplies were supplemented by a \$250 Thrivent Action Team community grant. Terry Lueders applied for the grant and took the lead in organizing and facilitating the workshop.

Following the 4-H portion of the event, Master Gardeners from Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam created additional centerpieces. The centerpieces were delivered to show appreciation to our local MSW organization. The group then concluded the day by holding their Christmas party.

To learn more about 4-H opportunities, contact the local Extension Program Coordinator, Anne Scheel, at [amscheel@illinois.edu](mailto:amscheel@illinois.edu) or 309-364-2356.



Master Gardener, Barb Dalbach, helps 4-H'er Joey Vinyard create his centerpiece.

## Fieldcrest Knights Finish Fourth At The Annual State Farm Classic

After winning their first two games at the annual State Farm Classic, the Fieldcrest Knights ran into two powerhouses on Monday, dropping both games to finish a very respectable fourth place in the 16-team small division bracket.

In their first game on Monday, the Knights came up against undefeated and the eventual small school champions Quincy Notre Dame.

The Raider defense limited the Knights to just 7 field goals for the game as they jumped out to a 15-5 first quarter lead and stretched that to 28-14 at the half, eventually pulling away to the 52-26 win.

Layten Gerdes and Drew Overrocker led the Knights with 7 points apiece.

In the second game on Monday, the Knights came up against another tough opponent as they dropped a 62-38 decision to Normal U-High.

The Knights hung tough in the early going, taking a 17-13 first quarter lead. That lead was erased when the Pioneers used a 17-8 second quarter advantage to take a 30-25 at the half. The Knights managed just a field goal and a free throw from Layten Gerdes in the third quarter as the Pointwrs drew out to a 47-27 lead heading into the fourth quarter enroute to the 62-38 win.

Layten Gerdes and Kash Klend-

worth added double figure scoring for the Knights with 12 and 11 points respectively.

Fieldcrest will get back to regular season play this week when they play host to the Fisher Bunnies on Tuesday, January 6. They will be back on the road on Monday, January 12 when they travel to play Roanoke-Benson then turn home on Tuesday, January 13 where they will host Prairie Central.

QUINCY ND 52, FIELDCREST 26			
	FG	FT	PTS
Bryden Lohr.....	0	0-0	0
Braaden Hahn.....	0	1-2	1
Lucas Anson.....	0	0-0	0
Kash Klendworth.....	0	5-7	5
Layten Gerdes.....	2	3-4	7
Ethan Vallazza.....	0	0-0	0
Aiden Alexander.....	0	0-0	0
Eli Gerdes.....	3	0-0	6
Drew Overrocker.....	2	2-2	7
Lucas May.....	0	0-0	0
Kayden Eilts.....	0	0-0	0
TOTALS.....	7 (1)	11-15	26
FIELDCREST (8-3)	5	9 6	6-26
QUINCY ND (9-0)	15	13 9	15-52

NORMAL U-HIGH 62, FIELDCREST 38			
	FG	FT	PTS
Braden Hahn.....	3	1-1	7
Lucas Anson.....	0	0-0	0
Kash Klendworth.....	3	2-4	11
Layten Gerdes.....	3	5-5	12
Ethan Vallazza.....	0	0-0	0
Aiden Alexander.....	0	0-0	0
Eli Gerdes.....	2	1-1	6
Drew Overrocker.....	0	2-2	2
Lucas May.....	0	0-0	0
Kaiden Eilts.....	0	0-0	0
TOTALS.....	11 (5)	11-13	38
FIELDCREST (8-4)	17	8 3	10-38
NORMALU-HIGH (10-4)	13	17 17	15-62

## New Laws: Illinois Education Measures Focus On Immigrant Rights



Illinois immigration rights advocates demonstrate outside the Illinois Statehouse

by Peter Hancock, Capital News Illinois  
Immigrant rights and artificial intelligence were two of the hot-button issues that influenced public education in 2025. They are also the subject of new education-related laws that will take effect at the start of the new year.

The rights of noncitizen students, including those who are not lawfully present in the U.S., rose to the top of the education agenda as soon as President Donald Trump was sworn in to his second term in January.

The day Trump was inaugurated, the Department of Homeland Security rescinded a Biden administration policy that had limited immigration enforcement actions in or near "sensitive locations" such as schools, playgrounds, child care centers and school bus stops.

Two days later, Illinois Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders issued what he called "non-regulatory guidance" to local school officials, urging them to adopt policies spelling out how and when their staff should cooperate with federal immigration officials carrying out enforcement actions or seeking information from school officials.

At the Statehouse, the Democratic-controlled General Assembly also took action, passing bills intended to extend more legal protections to noncitizens living in Illinois.

**School program participation**  
Among those was House Bill 3247, which passed the General Assembly in the final days of the spring session in May and was signed into law Aug. 15. It prohibits schools from excluding or discouraging students from attending school

or taking part in school programs based on their immigration status or that of their parents or guardians.

"In the face of federal threats to our schools and students, our communities came together and organized to demand that our state leaders stand up for education for all Illinois children," Lawrence Benito, executive director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, said in a statement after the bill's final approval.

"While the right to safe and free public education remains under attack from Trump and leaders in other states, Illinois has the opportunity to continue to uphold our values."

The law specifically prohibits schools from requesting or collecting information from a student, their parents or guardians about their citizenship or immigration status unless the information is required by state or federal law.

It also prohibits schools from disclosing information about their immigration or citizenship status to any other person or entity, including immigration and law enforcement agencies, unless required to do so under federal law.

In addition, starting July 1, schools that violate those prohibitions can be sued in civil court for actual damages.

### Scholarships and immigration status

Another new law expands the types of publicly funded scholarships students can qualify for regardless of their citizenship or immigration status.

Illinois law already extends eligibility for state-funded student financial aid such as the Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, to any student who meets Illinois residency requirements. House

Bill 460, which was signed into law in August, expands that to include programs administered by local units of government.

**Artificial Intelligence in college**  
The rapid deployment in recent years of new technologies like ChatGPT, Copilot and Gemini has raised a host of new questions for educators. Should students be allowed to use them in lieu of doing their own reading and writing? And should schools themselves be allowed to use them in lieu of human instructors to lead classes?

### Illinois lawmakers addressed some of those questions.

House Bill 1859 requires community colleges to ensure that faculty members who teach courses must be actual people who meet the qualifications to hold their positions. It also provides that colleges may not, in lieu of a faculty member, use AI programs "as the sole source of instruction." It does, however, allow faculty members to use AI as a teaching tool in their classrooms.

"Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool that can enhance both students' and teachers' capability to learn and teach, but it cannot replace an instructor," Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid, D-Bridgeview, the bill's lead House sponsor, said in a statement. "This legislation clarifies that college courses must be taught by real people, not AI."

### AI at elementary and secondary schools

Lawmakers were less specific about how AI should be handled at the elementary and secondary education levels. Instead, they directed the Illinois State Board of Education to develop broad guidelines.

Senate Bill 1920 directs ISBE to develop statewide guidance for districts and educators on the use of AI in K-12 settings. That includes a basic explanation of what AI is and how it works as well as descriptions of how it can be used in the classroom "to inform teaching and learning practices while preserving the human relationships essential to effective teaching and learning."

The law also directs ISBE to include guidance on the impact AI systems and applications could have on student data privacy, on best practices for teaching students about responsible and ethical uses of AI, and the dangers of "unintentional and disparate biases against special populations" (Continued On Page 4)

## Marshall County Court News

**LAND TRANSFERS**  
Grantor: Cheryl J. Farwell-Duckworth. Grantee: Cheryl S. Duckworth. Section 29, Township 12N, Range 9E, Govt Lot --NE, Notes S 1/2, 80A. Executors Deed.  
Grantor: John W. Kovatch, Marcia D.Kovatch. Grantee: Michele Piquard. Taylors Add to Wenona, Block 6, Lot 1. Warranty Deed.  
Grantor: Sheriff of Marshall Co. Grantee: Wells Properties Inc. Section 29, Township 30N, Range 1E, Govt Lot --SW, Notes Pt, 038A. Sheriff's Deed.  
Grantor: John Bruell Ind. Exec.

Grantee: John Bruell. Varna (Original Town) Block 3, Lot 2. Hoyts 2nd Add to Varna Block 3, Lot 13, Notes N 75'. Executors Deed.  
Grantor: Sheriff of Marshall Co. Grantee: Federal Natl Mtg. Assoc. Wenona (Original Town) Block 19, Lot 14, Notes W 60'. Block 19, Lot 15, Notes W 60'. Sheriff Deed.  
Grantor: Keith D. Debolt. Grantee: Janette Beach, Steven Beach. Varna (Original Town) Block 31, Lot 12, Notes E 1/2. Block 31, Lot 13, Notes E 1/2. Block 31, Lot 14, Notes E 1/2. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Charlene North, Leonard North. Grantee: Mark Gula, Mike Gula. Bonds 1st Add. Block 26, Lot 5. Notes Ex W 50'. Quit Claim Deed.  
Grantor: Marshall Co. As Tr. Grantee: Ronald Lance, Tarry Lance. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 135. Quit Claim Deed.  
Grantor: Marshall Co. As Tr. Grantee: Seweryn Jarog. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 1732. Quit Claim Deed.  
Grantor: Marshall Co. As Tr. Grantee: Michael Wildey. Lake Wildwood Development Lot 1800. Quit Claim Deed.

**TRIVIA Night**

**Saturday, January 17** Doors Open at 4:30  
**Rutland American Legion**



**Bring Snacks and Dress in your White Trash Attire**  
**Proceeds go to Truck n For a Cause Truck Show for Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans**  
Pre-Register Your Spot! \$20 Per Person  
Contact: Julie Chromchak at (815) 530-6300 to Pre-Pay Julie  
Denise Wilcox at (815) 252-6742  
Venmo Denise-Wilcox-11 or Cash App \$DeniseWilcox3