Greetings Gilbert Alumni! My name is Lindsey Beecher, and I am currently serving as the superintendent of the Gilbert district. I have been here for a year and would like to take this opportunity to fill you in on all of the things that have been happening at your alma mater. It is an exciting time to be a Tiger as we continue to grow, while still trying to maintain that small Iowa school feeling. Our enrollment could be approaching 1400 students this year (this is just an estimate and won’t be finalized until October), so depending upon the year you graduated, it is probably larger than when you attended.

In order to keep up with this growth, we have begun to build a new high school. It is really beginning to take shape, so if you have driven through Gilbert lately you will have seen it off to the right of the present middle school. The building will house up to five hundred students, with area to grow should that become necessary. The building will be equipped with the latest technology to enhance academics and will allow us to offer more curriculum choices for our students. We will have a state of the art auditorium that will seat six hundred audience members for a variety of performances or classes. Our new gymnasium will seat eighteen hundred Tiger fans for our sporting events. We are also working on a plan to complete the entire complex with all of the additional athletic facilities, but that is in the planning stages at the present time. We are looking at an August 2013 completion date and will start the 2013-2014 school year in the new building. We will move the third through fifth grade into the old high school building following some renovations at the same time. The elementary will then house the preschool through second grade, and the middle school will have grades sixth through eighth. We will keep you informed as we come close to the opening of the school, as we will have an open house to welcome all the current and past students to tour the building. You may go online at anytime to view the progress up to this point and in the days to come at [www.gilbert.k12.ia.us](http://www.gilbert.k12.ia.us).

Should you stop by the school, you will probably see some new faces. We have had several retirements over the last couple of years of teachers you had while attending here. The following teachers are now enjoying their retirement: Jean Saveraid (TAG), Paul Jelsma (4th grade), Donna Holtan (6th grade), Cynthia Van Gerpen-Henn (P.E.), Sue Loonan (Copy Assistant) Rosalyn Brandt (Title 1 Reading), Maribeth Madden (2nd grade), and Marcy Good (English). Many are still in the area and, hopefully, you will have an opportunity to visit with them some time.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Gilbert Community School District. Please feel free to stop in for a visit and see for yourself all of the exciting advancements taking place at your school.