



Fifth-Grade Students to Mulch Trees for Arbor Day Friday

Trees are the main focus of Arbor Day. They will be certainly the main item at the Treynor, Iowa Elementary School yard this Arbor Day, Friday, April 30.

82 students are in the Treynor Fifth Grade Class. It is the biggest class in the school, and the biggest class in Treynor history. These kids will be divided up into teams and with volunteer adult supervision. These kids will use 5-gallon buckets to carry two tons of clean wood mulch. The mulch will be placed around 44 trees on the beautiful school grounds, and also around the shrub rows and flower beds at the entrance to the school.

The “Mulch Madness” activity starts immediately after their school lunch at 12:30.

Teachers, and volunteers from the community, including Treynor Optimist Club, and Pottawattamie Master Gardener members will be supervising the teams. The “madness” is expected to take roughly two hours with lots of student hands doing the work.

“We are protecting the trees and shrubs so they will continue to grow well and beautify our school. By having the students involved, they will better appreciate the work it takes to provide the school grounds that they can enjoy daily. Eventually, they will go on to post-High School campuses, and see what great landscape planning is done.” said Optimist organizer, John Klein.

John has been working with Arbor Day at Treynor Elementary since his own kids were at the school in 1991. Now his son, Hans, is Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University, and he can come back to Treynor to see trees that he personally planted on the Elementary School grounds.

“Schools should be places of beauty, not just bricks and concrete. Trees, shrubs, and flowers add that beauty and give our students community pride in their hometown and in themselves.” said Klein.

Beautification of the school grounds has also helped with attracting parents who want to Open-Enroll their kids into the Treynor School District. Currently, one student in Treynor School out of every three is Open-Enrolled from outside the District. This “curb appeal” factor is an indicator of the quality theme of the school.

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The two tons of mulch comes from the Council Bluffs Recycling Center. Optimist members provide the trucking to Treynor. Menards and Home Depot stores have donated the buckets for the project. At Arbor Day 2022, the Fifth-Grade students will mulch the trees the Treynor High School building and athletic fields.