

# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

## Education: A Community Partnership

### “The Wheels on the Bus”

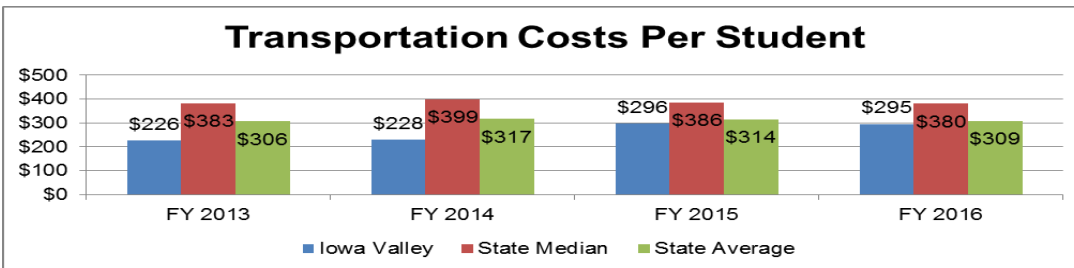
Before the school day even begins, our school bus drivers prepare their daily trips for a safe ride to and from school for each of their riders. A few of the drivers’ responsibilities include the following: practicing daily pre- and post-bus inspections, providing a bully-free zone for all riders, implementing evacuation plans, keeping vehicles clean, creating a positive environment, logging fuel consumption, filling vehicles with fuel, and alerting the transportation director when maintenance is needed. Drivers have a huge responsibility behind the wheel for 178 days out of the year while, at the same time, reaping the wonderful rewards of establishing a relationship with each rider, knowing that they are the first person to greet students in the morning and to say good-bye at the end of every day. Thanks, transportation team, for providing safe trips for our children!

We are proud of our Iowa Valley transportation team:

- John Schnebbe- transportation director
- Rick Frimml- transportation supervisor
- Krystal Schailer- assists with routes, schedules, transportation report, certifications, etc.
- Regular route drivers- Rick Frimml, Jack Patterson, Naomi Ward, Carrie Becker
- Lift bus driver- Becky Loffer
- Special trip drivers- Joe Kriegel, Richard Schmidt, and Ben Wagner
- Substitute bus drivers- Nate Karsten, Ray Cooling, Darrell Haack, Joe Loftus, Mike Malloy, Andy Rowe, and Jim Sauerbrei



Do you know that Iowa Valley Community School District buses put on approximately 49,000 miles during the school year? IVCS D spends \$295/pupil from General Fund, which is \$14/pupil less than the state average.



[www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us](http://www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us)

### April 2017

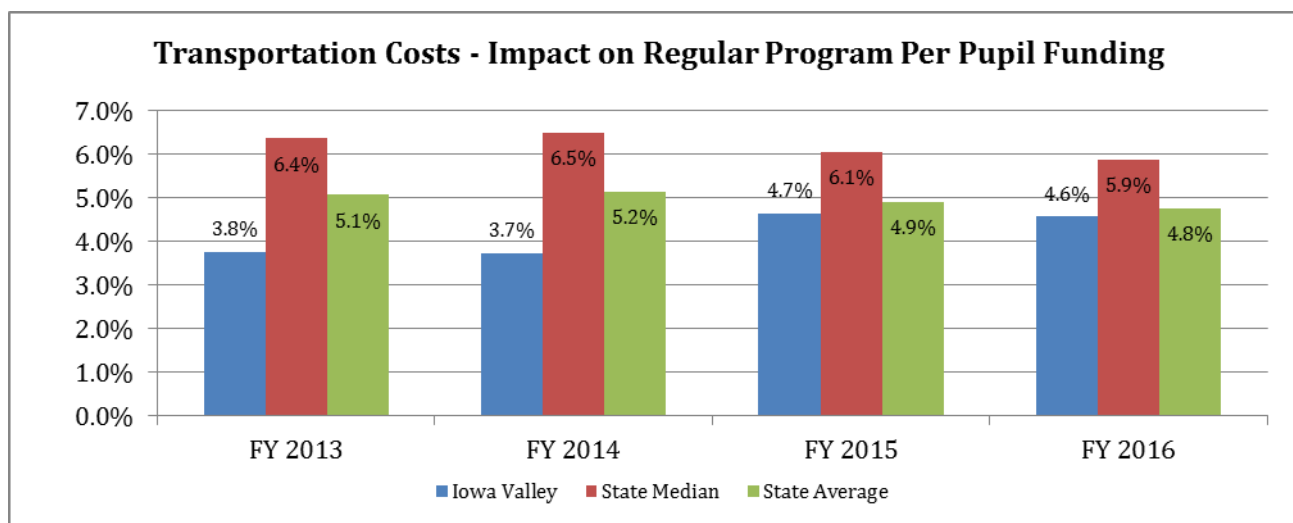
#### Special points of interest:

- Apr. 3-5 Elementary Baseball Camp 515-755 pm
- Apr. 4 Pre-kindergarten Parents Meeting 530-630 pm
- Apr. 4 FFA Banquet 6 pm
- Apr. 5 Early Dismissal 1 pm
- Apr. 6 Kindergarten Round-up
- Apr. 6 Elementary Science Fair 6-7 pm
- Apr. 10-11 FFA Leadership Conference
- Apr. 10 JV-V Girls Track Meet
- Apr. 11 JV-V Boys Track Meet
- Apr. 12-17 No School
- Apr. 18 JH Track Meet
- Apr. 19 Grades 7-12 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 pm
- Apr. 19 9th Grade Transition Meeting 530-630 pm
- Apr. 19 Financial Aid Meeting 630-730 pm
- Apr. 20 Foundation Baked Potato Supper 545-645 pm
- Apr. 20 Grades 4-6 Spring Concert 7 pm
- Apr. 22 Prom

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SF 455 (formerly SSB 1124) is being proposed as a possible solution to the inequities of high transportation costs for rural school districts. This bill is a 10-year phase-in plan, which will eventually create \$128 million to be used for transportation costs. \$86 million will be generated to equalize per pupil costs for higher-than-state-average school districts. With additional transportation funds, we can then use our General Funds for classroom activities, supplies, and salaries rather than items such as bus maintenance and fuel costs.

**Estimated Transportation Funding Proposal Impact for Iowa Valley**

Phase-In Year	Fiscal Year	Supplementary Weighting	Funding Amount	Per Pupil Funding Amount	State Aid	Property Tax
1	18	1.78	\$ 11,893.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 10,556.00	\$ 1,337.00
2	19	3.56	\$ 23,787.00	\$ 43.99	\$ 21,112.00	\$ 2,675.00
3	20	5.33	\$ 35,680.00	\$ 65.99	\$ 31,670.00	\$ 4,010.00
4	21	7.08	\$ 47,574.00	\$ 87.99	\$ 42,221.00	\$ 5,353.00
5	22	8.82	\$ 59,467.00	\$ 109.98	\$ 52,778.00	\$ 6,689.00
6	23	10.56	\$ 71,360.00	\$ 131.98	\$ 63,326.00	\$ 8,034.00
7	24	12.28	\$ 83,254.00	\$ 153.97	\$ 73,883.00	\$ 9,371.00
8	25	13.99	\$ 95,147.00	\$ 175.97	\$ 84,428.00	\$ 10,719.00
9	26	15.70	\$ 107,041.00	\$ 197.97	\$ 94,985.00	\$ 12,056.00
10	27	17.39	\$ 118,934.00	\$ 219.96	\$ 105,526.00	\$ 13,408.00



Mrs. Donita Joens,  
Superintendent of Schools



## Remember Earth Day

This April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the 47<sup>th</sup> year that the world has celebrated Earth Day! Earth Day demonstrates support for the environment. This year, 193 countries will participate in celebrating Earth Day! We have begun celebrating by reading the book, *The Lorax*. Second grade students then came up with ways in which they could help the environment. After brainstorming these ideas, each student wrote a

paragraph outlining the things they could do to support the Earth. Some ideas that were discussed were: recycling bottles, cans, and paper, limiting electronic use, picking up trash, reusing and upcycling materials in a new way, turning off the water while brushing teeth, planting a garden or trees, and biking or walking when possible. We hope you join in to observe and participate in Earth Day

2017!

Mrs. Pat Kooiker and Mrs. Susan Zozaya

Second Grade Teachers

## Career Products

The fourth and fifth grade students participated in Career Products and Processes at school on Friday, March 17. This was an opportunity for the students to learn about some career options that exist in our community, as well as the education / training that it takes to perform these jobs. Our guidance counselor Ms. Thiessen, in cooperation with the Workplace Learning Connection, arranged for professionals

from different career fields to come to our school and discuss their jobs with the students. This is the third year Iowa Valley Elementary students have been participating in career readiness initiatives. It is a small step in preparing our students for the future and encourage them to think on a larger scale about the path they will take beyond the walls of the elementary building.

Mr. Curtis McAtee,

Fourth Grade Teacher

## Sixth Grade News

This year our sixth grade science class received a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) grant and that we used to purchase one STEM kit which was taught for two to three weeks. We just completed our kit the first week of March which was called *Just Passing Through: Designing Model Membranes*. The goals of this program are to increase children's technological literacy (technology is defined as a thing, system or process human-made designed to solve a problem, it is not just electronics), increase educators' abilities to teach engineering and technology, increase the number of schools in the U.S. that include engineering in the elementary schools, and lastly to conduct research and assessment to further these goals. Look for information coming home for the STEM camp that Iowa Valley will be hosting for a

week in June!

In February, we kicked off our big Youth Market Place project. The Youth Market Place is a program that teaches students economic skills and helps them realize that entrepreneurs do not have to be adults. Students work in small groups, creating a business and a product to sell during the event. Not only are students creating the products, they are also spending time writing a business plan, advertising, and calculating income/expenses. Even though this fits into the social studies curriculum, many different subject areas are tied into the project. While working on the Youth Market Place, students learn directly from guest speakers who we consider to be experts in the areas we are learning about. The most recent guest speakers we heard from are representatives

from Keystone Savings Bank. They help the students a lot during the process. For example, they help with the loan process and what it is like applying for a loan. Students are working very hard on this project and there will be some great products being sold! We hope to see you there!

Mrs. Connie Howar and Ms. Courtney Camp,

Sixth Grade Teachers



## A Culture of Literacy



If you haven't heard the term "culture of literacy", I'm sure you will. It's not a new term, but with all of the educational changes and schools being held more accountable for all students in reading, math, science and behavior, it is an important concept that all stakeholders should know.

Actually, it's a very simple concept. Literacy is the ability to read and write but, more importantly, students who practice and become avid readers also have a competence or knowledge of reading and writing in specific areas of study. Not only do we want our students and children to read and write well, but to be able to apply that reading and writing knowledge in everything they do.

When we attain a culture of literacy, we not only teach children to read and write in the reading and language arts classes, but we also teach them how to read in science, math, social studies, music, business, and any other subject area where reading is present - which is everywhere.

The difference in these other areas of study is how to read the information. If you remember reading story problems in math, or biographies in social studies, or lab reports and charts and graphs in science, you may not have understood the information as well as when you read that fictional story just for fun. That is because when you read science and math textbooks, you have to read and process differently than when you are reading for fun. This reading process involves different skills and strategies.

So when you sit down to put together your new electronic sound system and you have to read the instructions, you may use a step by step processing skill. That skill was probably learned in school in one of your science or math classes. It is a reading skill that not all students understand, because they haven't learned how to break apart or "chunk" their ideas as they read.

Reading and writing is one of the most important skills anyone can possess. If you practice and make it a habit whenever and wherever you are, and help others to experience the joy of learning, you are creating a culture of literacy which will be passed on to the next generation of farmers, doctors, car mechanics, or teachers.

Mrs. Patty Miles  
K12 Instructional Coach

