

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us

Education: A Community
Partnership

“Welcome Back”

Welcome back to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Education is unique in that there are beginnings and ends to our year, unlike some other professions. I have had over 30 “first days” with students and I still have a hard time sleeping the night before the school year begins. The first day of school is an exciting time for everyone!

Student Registration

Student registration will continue to be online. If you do not have access to a computer and/or internet, there will be registration available at the High School on Monday, August 8, from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM at Central Office and Media Center.

Free and Reduced Price Lunches

Federal regulations dealing with free/reduced price lunches are shown in this newsletter. If you feel that your child may be eligible for free or reduced price lunches, please complete the enclosed form and return it at registration on Monday, August 8, at the High School. Application forms will also be available throughout the school year in each building office.

First Day of Classes

School will begin for students on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Please find enclosed the 2016-2017 school calendar and note that snow buffer days are designated on the calendar.

Welcome New Staff Members to our Tiger Family

We are excited to have several new staff members this year and are still in the process of hiring staff for a few other positions. Please take a few minutes to introduce yourself to this new staff member and welcome them to our excellent school district.

Ross Karsten- 5th Grade Teacher

Several staff members, who have been in our district before, will be taking on new positions. These staff members are:

Stacie Christner- Alternative School Teacher

Greg Jergens- Head Girls Track Coach

Cody Snitker- Head Football Coach

Dan Sovers- Assistant Football Coach

Ben Wagner- At-Risk Coordinator

Martin Wieck- Assistant Football Coach

Curtis McAtee-4th Grade Teacher

Let’s work together to make this a fantastic 2016-2017 school year for everyone at Iowa Valley Community School District.

Mrs. Donita Joens, Superintendent



Aug-Sep 2016

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Special points of interest:

- Aug 8 walk-in registration 9a-7p @ HS Library
- Aug 15 9-12 grade Chromebook meeting 6pm @ HS
- Aug 22 Elem. Meet & Greet 5-6:30 pm
- Aug 22 7th Grade Orientation 6:30 pm
- Aug 22 7-12 grade New Student Orientation 7:30pm
- Aug 23 1st Day of School
- Sep 5 Labor Day no school
- Sep 14:00 Early Dismissal
- Sep 28 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 pm for grades 7-12

School Safety is Top Priority

As we begin our new school year, we want to reassure everyone that your child's safety is our top priority. As a result, one change we will be making at the Junior/Senior High School is in regards to doors. Doors will be open until 8:20 AM. After 8:20, all doors will remain locked throughout the day with the exception of the main office door on the south side of the building. All students and parents will need to enter this main office door and report immediately to the High School office to check in. The Elementary will continue with their protocol of keeping all doors locked throughout

the day with the exception of the main office door as well. Our safety resource team will be re-visiting our district's safety plan this year to ensure a safe and secure educational environment for all students and staff members that meets current standards.

Mrs. Donita Joens,
Superintendent of Schools

Multicultural and Nonsexist Equity Education Opportunity

At Iowa Valley Community School District, all children who are enrolled in the schools will have an equal opportunity for a quality public education without discrimination regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, religion, personality traits, or physical and/or mental ability or disability.

The education program will be free of such discrimination and provide equal opportunity for the participants. Integration of minority populations will occur throughout the education program and the school system. The education program shall encourage knowledge of, respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups as well

as men and women to society. It shall also reflect the wide variety of roles open to both men and women while providing equal opportunity to both sexes.

Inquiries regarding compliance with equal education opportunity shall be directed to the superintendent, by writing or calling: 319-642-7714 Donita Joens, Superintendent

Chapter 103

Notice: Corporal Punishment, Restraint, and Physical Confinement and Detention

State law forbids school employees from using corporal punishment against any student. Certain actions by school employees are not considered corporal punishment. Additionally, school employees may use "reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain" to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons or property.

State law also places limits school employees' abilities to restrain or confine and detain any student. The law limits why, how, where, and for how long a

school employee may restrain or confine and detain a child. If a child is restrained or confined and detained, the school must maintain documentation and must provide certain types of notice to the child's parent.

If you have any questions about this state law, please contact your school. The complete text of the law and additional information is available on the Iowa Department of Education's web site: www.iowa.gov/educate.

Special Needs Services

Additional support services are available to assist teachers and families when concerns arise with students. These services include our building staff (special education teacher, counselor, nurse, etc.) and Grant Wood Area Education Agency staff (psychologist, social worker, consultant, speech-language pathologist, occupational and physical therapist, work experience coordinators, etc.)

Teachers and families may use input on an informal basis or request formal assistance in identifying strategies to address a concern, in carrying out these strategies, or in monitoring individual student progress. These services are available for all students by teacher or parent request through the counselor at the student's school.

Open Enrollment Date Deadlines

There have been changes to the state regulations on open enrollment requests from parents. Parents of children who they are requesting to be open enrolled out of the school district must notify the sending and receiving district no later than March 1st of the school year preceding the first year desired for open enrollment. Parents of children who will begin kindergarten in the school district are exempt from the March 1st deadline. Parents of children who will begin kindergarten must file by September 1st. Open enrollment papers are on file at the district administrative office.

Homeless Coordinator

The Homeless Coordinator for Iowa Valley CSD is Donita Joens, Superintendent, for more information or assistance you may contact him at 359 E. Hilton St., Marengo, IA 52301, telephone (319) 642-7714 .

Jr.-Sr. High News

And we're off!

Welcome back students, staff as well as parents to Iowa Valley Jr-Sr High School! The 2016-17 school year has begun and it's hard to believe that within 9 short months this senior class will exit our doors for the next leg of their "journey of life!" But before that happens there's still a lot of learning to do not only for our seniors but everyone in the building and that includes me. Someone once told me that you should never go through any day without learning something new, and as far as I can remember that has happened for me. Sometimes I've got to look really hard for that "new learning" while at other times it just happens. We started our fall off with welcoming a "new" type of football to our school and that's 8-man, with our first game being held at our home field versus Clarksville on the Friday before school had even started which is called a week 0 game. Something new indeed and something that our district decided to do after much discussion and consideration of our options way back last December. I think it's been a great change for us and something that will increase our likely hood of success as we move forward.

Onto our new year! We started off another great year here at Iowa Valley by greeting our new 7th graders, and even though this group is a little larger one of my goals still remains to know all of their names first and last by the end of 1st quarter. So I tell them I'm not "creeping on them" if I simply ask them to state their names either in the hallway or at lunch, just trying to learn their names and then I'll find out a little more about them as they are learning in their various classrooms. It just is exciting to see their faces the first week of classes and the "newness" in their step and look as they enter the building and establish their "thing" as they progress through the year. So far students have responded in positive ways to the "new" ideas and expectations of faculty and staff at Iowa Valley!

As you probably know by now we've added Chrome-books for all our staff and 9-12 students in the building and as far as I can tell these devices will be a great addition to our building and continual learning will only increase! Our 6-8th graders will continue to use the iPads but as we turn the calendars over to 2017 we'll begin to look at how we want to proceed with those students as well.

Speaking of new our administrative team read the book by Jeff Olson "*Slight Edge*" this past spring and if you haven't read it or haven't heard of it, get it in your hands. Check out the Marengo Public Library as I'm sure our director Mrs. Jackie Jordan has it on the shelf, unless of course it's checked out. This book talks about getting a slim/extra or *slight edge* in what we do each and every

day and how we can make our lives so much more enjoyable simply by doing a little extra. Whether it's reading as little as 10 pages a day, but doing that extra each and every day. Since I've been involved in some type of education for the past 40 some years, reading has been part of my life, but if you're someone who normally doesn't read try it and again start small and before you know it you'll be on your way to the slight edge philosophy!

As we continue to look at ways of making ourselves the best we can we must not forget to empower those around us, maybe ask for help or simply getting involved in any community event is a great way to be involved. As a wise person once said, "it takes a village to raise a child" our community continues to "invest" in our students and be supportive partners to all students in the Iowa Valley School District! I like our start and I like what is going on at

Iowa Valley Jr-Sr. High School! Until next month, GO TIGERS!

Mr. Shawn Kreman,

Jr.-Sr. High Principal



Summer Work

Our custodians work hard all summer to freshen things up for the upcoming school year. Thanks to Doug Sims, Tim Reihmann, Rich Cobb, and Megan Kaestner for their expertise in cleaning, polishing, painting, fixing, sweeping, designing, scrubbing, etc. to make our district look fantastic!



Putting on a new coat of paint in
the industrial technology shop



Helpers with the new goal posts

Summer Lunch Program

A special thanks to Janet Emerson, Krystal Schaier, and volunteers from the Marengo Ministerial group who made the first-ever summer lunch program run so smoothly! Their help provided lunch to around 50 students daily from June 6 through July 8. This program will continue to grow and provide free lunches for all students!



Registration Information

E-registration in PowerSchool will be available July 25th for parents to complete. Information and forms are available on the school's website www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us.

All 9th – 12th grade students and parents are required to attend one of the mini-sessions held on August 8th, August 15th or August 22nd. 1:1 Device Requirements for 9th – 12th grade include: a parent must accompany student to mini-session, e-registration must be completed, you must have fees/fines paid to take Device home from school, and student must have 1:1 Device agreement signed in PowerSchool. 1:1 Device Requirements for 6th – 8th grade include: e-registration must be completed, you must have fees/fines paid to take Device home from school, and student must have 1:1 Device agreement signed in PowerSchool. Online payments for meal accounts, fines, and fees can be made at www.PayForIt.net.

Monday, August 8th from 9 am – 7 pm

Mrs. Schaier will be in the central office for those who need to pay fees and/or fines, and to put money in your student's lunch account.

Mrs. Grafft will be in the High School Library to assist parents and students who need assistance logging into e-registration.

Ms. Thiessen will be in her office to assist with any scheduling questions.

Mr. Kreman will hold mini-sessions in the High School Auditorium on the Chromebooks at 10 am, Noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, and 6 pm. The mini-sessions will allow students to become comfortable with the device prior to school starting. Also, they will be able to log into their school email account and verify passwords. Devices will be handed out the first day of school.

Athletic Physical, Concussion, Free & Reduced application, and Dental forms will be available at the **central office** or you may print them from the website.

Monday, August 15th at 6 pm in High School Auditorium

Mr. Kreman will hold a mini-session on the Chromebooks.

Mrs. Grafft will be available to provide e-registration assistance at the high school library.

Mrs. Schaier will be in her office for those who need to pay fines/fees and put money in your student's meal account.

Monday, August 22nd

Elementary Meet & Greet – at the Elementary from 5 pm – 6:30 pm

7th grade orientation – in the High School Auditorium at 6:30 pm

New Jr/Sr high school student orientation – in the High School Auditorium at 7:30 pm

Mr. Kreman will hold a mini-session on the Chromebooks.

Mrs. Grafft will be available to provide e-registration assistance at the high school library.

Mrs. Schaier will be in her office for those who need to pay fines/fees and put money in your student's meal account.

More information and forms are available on the school's website www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us.

School starts Tuesday, August 23rd.