



Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

Education: A Community Partnership

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by Donita Joens, Iowa Valley CSD Superintendent

Senate File 2364- High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Schools

Governor Kim Reynolds signed SF2364 on April 11, 2018 last spring as a means of ensuring that schools develop high-quality emergency operations plans for all buildings, where students are taught, no later than June 30, 2019. Most schools already have a plan in place but, with this new legislation, it will require changes and a deeper look at all man-made and natural disasters. The high-quality plan will need to:

- Assess our current plan in terms of emergency planning, procedures, incidents, drills, building access, key controls, staff training, and facility design
- Address all threats and hazards including lock-down, evacuation, reunification, and shelter-in-place
- Include a clear understanding of safety operations

- Reach out to community partnerships to help develop the plan which will include law enforcement, emergency managers, staff members, parents, and medical/mental health personnel
- Assign roles and responsibilities
- Implement a process for continuous review at least annually
- Review the incident command structure
- Provide a means of obtaining reports of possible threats to the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or at school activities
- Remain confidential and not be a public record subject to disclosure under Chapter 22
- Include at least one emergency operations drill which may include, but is not limited to, table top exercises, walk-through trainings, partial drills, or full drills

Our latest real-life safety scenario was on Tuesday, October 9, when numerous tornado warnings invaded our area. Timing of these warnings was not ideal as it was at the end of our regular school day. However, we

have no control over the weather and it can change in a matter of minutes in Iowa. Keeping students and staff protected and safe is our top priority. For this reason, students will not be released during a tornado warning. Parents who are at the school should come into the building for best protection. After the warning, you may take your child(ren) home with you. There was some confusion on this and we will get this protocol “cleaned up” when we review our emergency operations plans for our school district.

Let’s continue to support one another in providing a safe and secure learning environment for all of our students at Iowa Valley Community School District. Working on this high-quality safety plan will empower everyone to act knowingly and quickly before, during, and after an incident should it ever occur. Knowledge is power.

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Special points of interest:

- Nov. 1 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 2 No School
- Nov. 14 1 pm early dismissal
- Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 Jr.-Sr. High Parent-Teacher Conferences

Elementary News

Happy Fall to everyone.

Welcome to cool crisp days, it's finally fall. We have been getting the year off to a super start. Students and teachers working their way into the second quarter already.

Special thanks to our art teacher Ms. Ewing for all of her work with tie dyeing shirts for homecoming. The process went smoothly. I also want to thank the high school students for all of their help with the project.

Homecoming was fun with buttons, pep rally, cookout and parade. It was a great week along with a Tiger victory!

Thanks to the Marengo Fire Department for taking the time to meet with all our students

for Fire Safety Week. Each grade attended presentations by our Marengo firemen.

Red Ribbon Week was observed during the week of October 22nd. Dress up days were a blast for everyone.

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place the week of October 29th. Please call the school if you have not scheduled your conference.

Book Fair will also be held at the elementary during the week of conferences. Hours will be posted and they will also be open both nights of conferences.



PTO will be kicking off Scratch cupcake sales the week of October 29th. YUMMY!!

Our PBIS Booster will be held November 5-16th for our students. Show your Tiger Pride.

PTO November 19th, 6:30 p.m. at the elementary.

Thanksgiving break November 21-25th.

Mrs. Cindy Miller, elementary principal

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

Second grade students have been learning about plants and insects in science since the beginning of the school year. We have observed mealworms, milkweed bugs, brassica plants, silkworms, and caterpillars! The students have enjoyed watching the plants and insects grow and change as they go through their lifecycles. Our young scientists have documented the changes using their science journals.

Mary Bulger, the Iowa County Natural-

ist, also presented a program called Spiders to compare and contrast insects and arachnids. Many students have also enjoyed observing insects at recess. Plants, insects, and spiders have also found their way into our guided reading groups.

What an exciting time to be in 2nd grade!

Mrs. Pat Kooiker and Mrs. Susan Zozaya



Fourth Grade Math

The fourth grade team is very excited about the new math series the school purchased. My Math is a well-organized program that builds on math skills that the students should come with. We began working on place value and rounding, then transitioned to estimation as well as addition and subtraction of whole numbers. It is very helpful for your child to know their math facts, as this makes what we are working on an eas-

ier process for them. There are many tools available to assist your child in learning these; from flash cards to online games and apps. Please encourage them in memorizing these.

Mr. Curtis McAtee



Social Studies standards: Year 2 of implementation

As standardized tests continue to focus on reading/ language, math, and science scores, social studies is making gains in promoting the importance of teaching students how to make informed decisions as members of a democratic society. The new social studies standards not only cover history, geography and government (like most adults remember their own school experiences), but it also incorporates global studies, economics, financial literacy and Iowa history at all grade levels. It also connects literacy standards.

Social studies teachers at Iowa Valley are attending workshops and beginning the implementation of the new standards in their classrooms. Students will be learning social studies in a whole different way. Besides content that may change from grade to grade, students will learn inquiry standards that they can apply to any subject. These anchor standards include:

- constructing compelling questions
- constructing supporting questions
- gathering and evaluating sources
- developing claims and using evidence
- communicating and critiquing conclusions
- taking informed action

The differences you might see in social studies classrooms are lessons outside of textbooks, incorporating literacy and technology into the learning, using primary and secondary sources and asking questions to understand the content. Students won't be memorizing dates and facts, but making connections to how they relate to other dates and facts.

Students will be able to answer their own questions or create new questions based on resource evidence. They will develop learning strategies that will help them adapt to today's ever-changing social circumstances.

Be watching for these changes in social studies classrooms across the district. This is year two of a four year implementation plan.

Model Teacher of the Month

Mrs. Amy Jacobson is our highlighted model teacher for the month of November.

Mrs. Jacobson is a seasoned elementary teacher who expects nothing but the best from her students. Whether they are researching a historical event in social studies, learning new math concepts, or trying to read difficult passages in language arts, she learns right a long with them when they ask the difficult questions.

With just the right amount of humor and fun, added to a learning environment that expects work to be done to the best of their abilities, she holds students responsible and accountable for their learning.

As a veteran teacher who has taught through several generations of students, she has seen many educational initiatives come (and go), but has maintained a compassionate and positive outlook to the field of education.

How does she do this? It all comes back to the reason all teachers stay in their profession... she cares for her students and wants them all to succeed.



Thanks for your dedication, Mrs. Jacobson, as the Model Teacher of the Month!

Submitted by Patty Miles

(Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach)