

# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

October 2019

Dear Staff, Students and Community,

I am humbled and honored to be a member of the Iowa Valley family!

I was so impressed with the community, staff and students when I interviewed last spring and those impressions have only been reinforced over the past months. The kindness and passion I have experienced in our conversations inspires me every day to lead the Tiger Nation. My priority will be to listen and learn as I meet with staff, student groups, numerous alumni, and community members.

Iowa Valley has a well-deserved reputation as one of the finest school systems in the state. I will vigorously promote our proud past and promising future. The strength and vitality of our communities benefit greatly from your dedication and professionalism.

I look forward to building relationships with staff, students, and parents and engaging in rigorous academic discussion. We must continue our steadfast mission of providing transformative

learning experiences that inspire students to embrace challenge and engage in critical inquiry and creative thought. We must continue to be vigilant about recruiting and retaining the finest staff and embracing individuals of all backgrounds and experiences so they may further enrich the fabric of our communities.

Iowa Valley has a remarkable and academically rich school and community, I am pleased to be your advocate and I appreciate the viewpoints and contributions of others. I encourage each of you to broaden your capacity for knowledge and exploration. We are a student-centered learning organization, and need to leverage our strengths and seek to embrace future opportunities.

I wish each of you continued success in your learning, discovery and engagement. Your contributions are vital to the district's success. Go Tigers!

Sincerely,

Mark Olmstead, Superintendent

## Special Points of Interest:

- Oct. 4 Homecoming
- Oct. 5 Homecoming Dance
- Oct. 8 FFA fruit sales starts
- Oct. 16 No School
- Oct. 19 & 20 HS Play
- Oct. 29 1 pm Early Dismissal
- Oct 29 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf.
- Oct. 30 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf.
- Oct.30-31 FFA National Convention

## Fifth Grade News

The students in fifth grade are off to an exciting start to the school year. We reviewed our Tiger Pride expectations for the upcoming year. The fifth grade class participated in some teambuilding activities at the beginning of the year. As we work through our reading unit we will continue to practice fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension skills. During Tiger Time we continue to work on our reading comprehension through reading the following shared novels: *Old Yeller*, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, and *Holes*. In math we are working with place value and writing/comparing deci-

mals to the thousandths place. In social studies students are learning about globes and maps through hands-on activities dealing with longitude/latitude, direction, symbols, and scales. Students are studying Earth's physical systems in science, and will be discussing ecosystems and food webs in the upcoming weeks. Many fifth graders are showing their school spirit by cheering on the Tigers at football games. We hope that the weather stays favorable for the season. Go Tigers!

Amy Jacobson & Ross Karsten

## Teacher Leaders at Iowa Valley



Iowa Valley is starting its fifth year of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System. Through this system, teacher leaders take on extra responsibilities, including helping colleagues, analyze data and fine tune teaching strategies, as well as instructional coaching and co-teaching. We opened up the positions last spring and received a great response, so we now have some teachers who changed roles, some who let their position end, and a nice group of teachers who are new to these leadership roles.

The Iowa Valley Teacher Leadership Goals:

- 1) To attract and retain effective teachers,
- 2) To promote collaboration,
- 3) To reward professional growth and effective teaching, and
- 4) To improve student achievement.

The new leadership roles were adjusted two years ago and include:

- 6 Lead Teacher (3 at each building)
- 2 Technology Coaches (1 at each building)
- 2 Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Coaches (1 at each building)
- 6 Model Teachers (3 at each building)
- 1 Mentor Teacher (district wide)
- 1 Instructional Coach (district wide)

The overriding philosophy of this state-wide system comes down to this: Improving student learning requires improving the instruction they receive each day. There is no better way to do this than to empower our best teachers to lead the way.

Our 2019-2020 TLC Leadership Team includes: (Teacher and grade level or content taught)

**Lead Teachers** - Danielle Smith (Jr High Resource), Dan Sovers (Jr-Sr High English), Tom Megchelsen (HS Science), Kaley McElvain (Title I Reading), Debra Henry (3rd Grade), Greg Jergens (4th Grade)

**Technology Coaches** - Mindy Driscoll (Jr-Sr High Social Studies), Stacie Christner (K12 Teacher Librarian & At Risk)

**PBIS Coaches** - Ashton Linnell (Jr-Sr High Business/TAG), Ryne Christner (Elementary PE)

**Model Teachers** - Jackye Bowlin (HS English), Ashton Linnell (Jr-Sr High Business/TAG), Marcia Kilgard (Jr-Sr High Agriculture), Debra Henry (3rd Grade), Ross Karsten (5th Grade), Courtney Weaks (6th Grade)

**Mentor & Induction Coach** (through Grant Wood AEA) - Jennifer Hamos-Miller

**Instructional Coach** - Patty Miles

We have really changed the dynamics of this leadership team from five years ago and every year has brought new ideas and reflection from the year before. We are all looking forward to a great new year of learning and collaborating and are excited about what year five will bring.

For more information about the Teacher Leadership & Compensation system you can contact Iowa Valley Schools or you can go to the Iowa Department of Education.

Submitted by Patty Miles (Instructional Coach)