

# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks Education: A Community Partnership



## And we're "ROLLING!"

Students and staff at Iowa Valley Jr/Sr High School began the 2016-17 school year on Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> and "stuff" around here just continue to "ROLL" in a positive way! We hosted our schools very first 8-man football game with a win over Clarksville 40-8, and our gridiron gang has kept it rolling. Their only loss thus far has been to #1 ranked Don Bosco of Gilbertville but the Tigers have managed to rack up 177 pts through 4 games, our annual "Pink Out" game this year will be Friday Oct 14<sup>th</sup> versus Lone Tree, which could be most likely the game to decide the district title! Our volleyball team continues to be "dominant" in their pursuit of another conference title, as they've now swept 23 consecutive conference matches! They look forward to regional play starting October 16<sup>th</sup>! I feel very fortunate to be in a school where students and staff enjoy being "busy and involved" and I'm saying that in a very positive manner. Students are busy in classes as well as staying active in extra-curricular activities. Hopefully we help "foster" and encourage them to be successful past high school and one of the most obvious ways

to enhance your chances to be in a career you truly enjoy is to get a "sample" of all activities and events that are offered while still in high school. That includes taking online classes, which includes our PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Option) and Academy (College and High School credit) courses, which are offered online or in a high school classroom.

Our seniors this year have begun to lead us in the right direction, and I'm encourage as they meet challenges "head on" and be stronger because of the strategies we use to better ourselves and our learning environment. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is nearly 16 years completed, and for us to best prepare our students for the global society we must challenge and expect more of them in order for them to be competitive individuals in our world. As a wise person once said, "it takes a village to raise a child" our community must continue to "invest" in our students and be supportive partners to all students in the Iowa Valley district.

October brings many more events to our building and our band and choir also kick off their

concerts later this month. Taking pride in what we do and efforts being made to carry us into the winter season. So far I like what is going on! Until next month, GO TIGERS!

Mr. Shawn Kreman, Jr.-  
Sr. High Principal



### October 2016

#### Special points of interest:

- Oct. 11 Fall Variety Show HS 6:30 pm Auditorium
- Oct. 17 No School
- Oct. 19-22 National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis
- Oct. 22-23 HS Play HS Auditorium
- Oct. 25 FFA Green-hand Fire Up @ Wellman

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## Teacher Leadership Jumps Into Year Two

As Iowa Valley begins their second year of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system, our teacher leaders have reflected on their leadership, surveyed teachers and students on how Year One ended, and came up with some new and inspiring goals. These goals were developed to increase personal leadership objectives set by each individual teacher leader; and to increase student achievement by learning new instructional techniques and strategies through our Leadership for Continuous Improvement (LCI) workshops that will be attended throughout the year.

Our teacher leaders continue to collaborate on many different levels of teaching, whether it's Professional Learning Communities (PLC) aligning

their content according to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or learning new frameworks and dimensions of science and technology through the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We are learning new technologies through Chromebooks, at the high school, and trying out new educational tools, like Learning Farm, at the elementary. Teachers and teacher leaders are working together to make sure all students are receiving the best possible education that can be provided.

Our teacher leaders (Technology Coaches, Model Teachers, Lead Teachers, PBIS Coaches, Mentor Teachers, and Instructional Coach) are working together to align the content and curriculum and strive to always

be lifelong learners and inspirational role models. We look at data and student needs to individualize learning in order to inspire and create educational activities that set high expectations for the challenges of today's youth to prepare them for college and careers.

Our teachers and teacher leaders have jumped feet first into Year Two of the TLC system, and are working to collaborate, communicate, and continue to bring Iowa Valley students to the level of success that each and every one deserve.

Patty Miles  
K12 Instructional Coach



## Fifth Grade News

It has been a busy and exciting start to the school year in fifth grade. We are settled into the year and into a regular routine. The exciting news is that we have a new teacher in fifth grade. His name is Ross Karsten. Ross is a graduate of Benton Community High School and the University of Northern Iowa. He lives on the family farm just outside of Marengo.

In reading we have discussed strategies that good readers use while reading. We are currently using these strategies as we read our first unit in our Journeys reading series. The theme of this unit is "School Spirit."

In social studies we are working on a globe unit. In this unit we

are doing hands on activities in the area of direction, symbols, scale, longitude and latitude.

The science unit the fifth grade is working on is Living Systems. In this unit, we are learning about the Earth's ecosystems and how both living and nonliving things interact. We have done hands-on work with food chains and food webs, and we will soon be constructing redworm habitats for composting.

The students will be taking the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Tests. These are standardized tests in the areas of Math, Reading, Language Usage, and Science.

The students who went out for

band have started fifth grade band. Mr. Long is excited to have so many fifth graders try band.

We continue to stress the importance of knowing math facts and use them everyday in our calculations. It helps with the students overall understanding of concepts such as fact families, number models, and mathematical equations.

We are looking forward to our field trip to Lake Iowa in October.

Mr. Ross Karsten  
Mrs. Amy Jacobson



## First Grade is on the Go!

School is back in session. In first grade we are learning how to sit in our new desks and follow “TIGER PRIDE” expectations. We are learning to hang on to our pencils and books when we open our desks. We are learning to respect our classrooms. We are doing a GREAT job! We have learned how to use a computer and type in our passwords. We have taken 2 tests and we are getting ready to start our Fall “FAST” testing this month.

All students need to try to eat a good breakfast and get a good night sleep so they can do their “BEST.” We are using the “I CAN” statements to

make sure that ALL students can say “I CAN” to the “BIG” ideas and concepts we are learning. We will have 4 visits with the DNR from Iowa Lake. We have talked with Caitlyn Savage the DNR representative and set up our activities. We will be learning about “Pollination”, “Native Americans”, “Animals In Winter” and joining the “Animal Olympics” in the spring at Iowa Lake on May 17th.

We will be scheduling out visits with our “CAKE” buddies at the Rose Haven Nursing Home. We always enjoy our visits with them. If you

are set up on Facebook with our first grade class (parents) you can see what we are doing in first grade. We will keep you posted. Until then we will be using our “TIGER PRIDE” to be responsible, be respectful, to be safe and to DO OUR BEST. Here is a picture of us showing our PRIDE.

Mrs. Polly Gunzenhauser

