

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us

Education: A Community
Partnership

“Welcome Back”

Welcome back to the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year! It has been an unusually busy summer with the new addition work being done at the Elementary. Things are really taking shape and our “Grand Opening” will take place this fall with an exact date/time to be announced soon. It will be a great time to celebrate all of the hard work, patience, flexibility, cooperation, and dedication that went into this dream project. You can feel the Tiger pride the moment you set foot into this beautiful new facility!



I hope everyone is optimistic for a rewarding school year. Summer staff members put in many hours hoping to make the start of the school year as seamless as possible because they truly care about your child(ren). The Tiger family will be working hard to provide a positive and caring learning environment for each of its students throughout the entire school year. Welcome back to the best year yet!

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 Wednesday, August 9, from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Jr./Sr. High School Media Center and Central Office.

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 Wednesday, August 9, at the Jr./Sr. 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 Wednesday, August 23, 2017. Please find enclosed the 2017-2018 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 these new staff members and welcome them to our excellent school district.

JJ Cooper- Industrial Technology/STEM
Teacher and Jr. High Wrestling Coach

Bailey Schrock- Jr. High Science/TAG
Teacher

Ami Thomas- Jr./Sr. High School Cook

Dana Van Otegham- Elementary Special
Education Teacher

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

Connie Boerjan- Moving from full-time to
part-time cook at the Elementary

Mylene Dougherty- Moving from part-time
to full-time cook at the Elementary

Let's work together to make this a fantastic 2017-2018 school year for everyone at Iowa Valley Community School District!



Mrs. Donita Joens, Superintendent

Aug-Sep 2017

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Special points of interest:

- Aug 9 walk-in registration
9a-7p @ HS Library
- Aug 21 Elem. Meet &
Greet 5-6:30 pm
- Aug 21 7th Grade Orienta-
tion 6:30-7:30 pm
- Aug 23 1st Day of School
- Sep 4 Labor Day no school
- Sep 13:00 Early Dismissal
- Sep 27 Parent-Teacher
Conf. 4-8 pm for grades
7-12

Annual Notifications

Go to www.iowa-valley.com

Click on the box at the bottom of the homepage that says

“Annual Notifications: Click here to visit the Iowa Department of Education website”

It will link to : <https://www.educateiowa.gov/annual-notices-public-school-districts>

Iowa Valley Community School District offers the following CTE (Career & Technical Education Service Area)

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Applied Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Manufacturing

Business, Finance, Marketing and Management

Human Services

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 Cindy Miller, Elementary Principal, for more information or assistance you may contact her at 359 E. Hilton St., Marengo, IA 52301, telephone (319) 642-5422 .

Jr.-Sr. High News

And we're off!

Another school year underway!

Welcome back students, staff, as well as parents to Iowa Valley Jr-Sr High School! The 2017-18 school year has started and, whether or not they have acknowledged it, our seniors will graduate in a mere 9 months and begin the "next leg" in their "journey of life!" Before that happens, there's still a lot of learning to do not only for our seniors but for all students and our staff. Someone once told me that you should never go through any day without learning something new, and this is something I strive to do each and every day. As the school year began, we also started our second season of 8-man football and let's not forget our first season ended with 1st round exit in the state football playoffs. Our team is looking forward to another successful season! Our season, once again, begins play against Clarksville on August 18th at their place in a week 0 game. Our volleyball team, once again led by Coach Greg Jergens, will "spike" their way to another conference volleyball title and a chance to qualify for the girls state volleyball tournament, after coming just one game short at last year's regional final.

Onto our new year! We started off another great year here at Iowa Valley by greeting our new 7th graders and, as you should remember, one of my goals each year is to know all 7th graders and the new students' first and last names 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 is just exciting to see their faces the first week of school and the "excitement" in their step and look as they enter the building and establish themselves 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! All students in grades 6-12 will have Chromebooks and we hope that these devices will continue to be a great addition to our district and learning will only increase!

This summer I was able to read a couple new books and I'm sure they're available at the Marengo Public library. The first book is titled "Unthink" written by Erik Wahl. It is about living out your dreams and, though many people over the years will try and convince you that goals are too overwhelming, staying positive and believing in yourself makes anything possible. The second book is written by one of my favorite authors, Jon Gordon and is titled "The Power of Positive Leadership". This book covers many of the theories and practices of successful people in our world that have made a difference and many of them give credit to the power of positive leadership and working together towards a goal! Reading continues to interest me and something that I truly believe we all need to make a habit of doing. As I mentioned a year ago, if you're someone who normally doesn't read, try it and start small and before you know it, you'll be on your way to becoming a better reader and find a way to pass your skill on to others!

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 of all students in the Iowa Valley School District! Once again, I like the start to our school year 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



Elementary News

Welcome to a new year and a new gym!

How exciting, our wait for the new gym draws closer. We are still hoping for an early September opening! I know after the structure is done there will be still be many preparations to complete before elementary PE can use it.

The summer has also been busy with getting everything spiffed-up for a new year. The paint brushes and a little remodeling have been happening. Thanks to many, the building is really shaping up. We will have our annual "Meet and Greet". I encourage you to read all of the notices in the newsletter and start getting your children into school mode a couple of weeks before our start. I know the staff have been working on preparations.

Have a super rest of summer and we will see you soon!

Mrs. Miller,

Elementary Principal

Iowa Valley Community School District Lunch Program Information



The IVCS District Nutrition Service Department is a self-operating program. To maintain equality for all families and financial stability for school districts, the USDA is requiring written documents, as of July 1, 2017, how we will be handling situations where children, either eligible to receive reduced-price or paid meals, do not have money in their lunch/breakfast account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service. The USDA is recommending that negative balances should not be acceptable.

Changes will also be reflected in IVCS District Board Policy 710.1.

Iowa Valley Community School District provides a variety of services for parents to ensure their child(ren) have adequate funds for meals.

- Parents may monitor student accounts from home using their “PayForIt” or Power School accounts. Parents/Guardians may set their own personal limits when to be notified.
- Power School Alert or text messages will be sent daily to parents/guardians for negative \$0.01 or below balances.
- Online pre-payments with a debit/credit card may be made.
- Cash or check payments are accepted at your child’s school office.
- Assistance with Free/Reduced Lunch Applications is available at each office.
- If your family is experiencing financial difficulty, you may contact a building administrator or district superintendent to develop a payment workout plan. Outstanding meal charges at the end of the year will be applied to the student’s fee statement and will carry over until paid in full.

Negative Account Balances

Elementary (grades K-6):

1. Students may charge any combination of meals (breakfast and/or lunch) up to a negative balance of \$10.00.
2. When the \$0.00 charge limit is reached, the following will be enforced:
 - a. No snack milk/juice for grades K-6.
3. Power School Alert or text messages will be sent daily to parents/guardians for negative \$0.01 or below balances.
4. Payments can be sent to the elementary office or online through “PayForIt.”
5. Technology devices will not be allowed to go home with students for those with a negative balance but may be used throughout the school day.

Jr./Sr. High School (grades 7-12):

1. Students may charge any combination of meals (breakfast and/or lunch) up to a negative balance of \$10.00.
2. A la carte items may only be purchased with a positive account balance.
3. If a student with a negative balance attempts to purchase a la carte items with cash, the money must first be applied to the negative balance.
4. Power School Alert or text messages will be sent daily to parents/guardians for negative \$0.01 or below balances.
5. Payments can be sent to the central office or online through “PayForIt.”
6. Students will be verbally notified of their account balance at the cash register when the balance falls below \$10.00.
7. Technology devices will not be allowed to go home with students for those with a negative balance but may be used throughout the school day.

Employees:

1. Employees may also establish meal accounts. An employee’s meal account balance may not fall below zero (\$0.00).
2. Employees may set up a notification message through “PayForIt” or can check their balance through Power School.
3. Payments can be sent to the employee’s main office or online through “PayForIt.”

Thank you for your cooperation with our local meal charge policy.