

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

March 2018



by Donita Joens, Iowa Valley CSD Superintendent

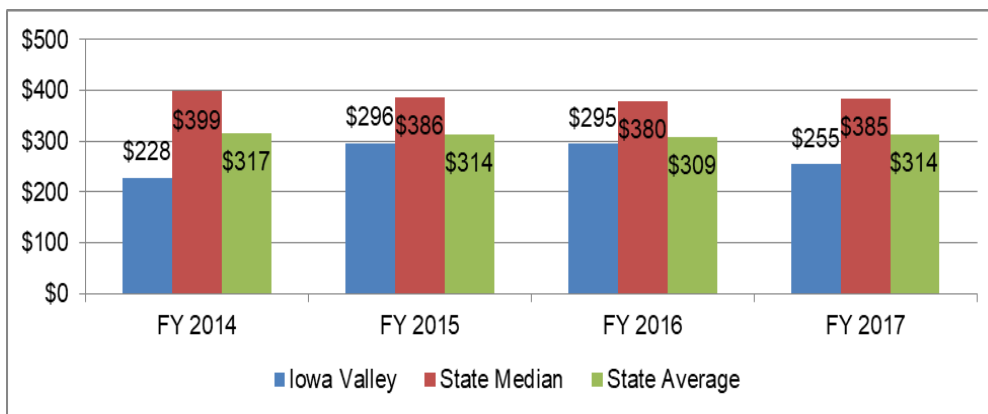
Special points of interest:

- Mar. 8 Jr High Play
- Mar. 9 End 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 12 NHS Banquet
- Mar. 15 Spring Concert
- Mar. 14 1 pm Early Dismissal
- Mar. 14 Preschool Registration
- Mar. 20 Love To Read
- Mar. 26 FCS Etiquette Meal
- Mar. 27-28 Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 29-30 No School

Legislative Discussions About Education

The start of the legislative session for FY19, January 8, is a busy time for Iowa legislators. On January 25, Brad Patterson, IVCSD school board member, and I attended the Legislative Forum at the Manatt Community Center in Brooklyn, along with 12 other school districts, to learn what educational discussions are taking place in Des Moines. Legislators who attended were: Representative Wes Breckenridge, Senator Tim Kapucian, Senator Kevin Kinney, and Representative David Maxwell. Let me share with you some of the educational priority items that are being discussed this legislative session.

- **SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)**
This funding source was formerly known as the local option sales and service tax for school infrastructure. Some of the uses of these funds are: construction work, gyms, bus garages, remodeling work, etc. SAVE sunsets in 2029 and the extension for another 20 years, through 2049, will be used by school districts to ensure transparency and long-term viability for new facility construction work and increase commitment to property tax relief and equity. SAVE dollars are extremely important to our school district as they bring in about \$492,794. Please let legislators know how important it is to extend SAVE funds for another 20 years to 2049.
- **Transportation Equity**
Equity will hopefully be provided to help districts that are above state averages due to transportation costs. 128 school districts fall into this category and this additional cost takes away funds before they can be used in the classroom. Beginning in FY18, there would be an increase in state cost per pupil and eligible DCP (district's cost per pupil) over a 10-year period until all DCP are equal. Senate File 455 is currently proposing this plan to provide supplemental weighting for transportation equity.



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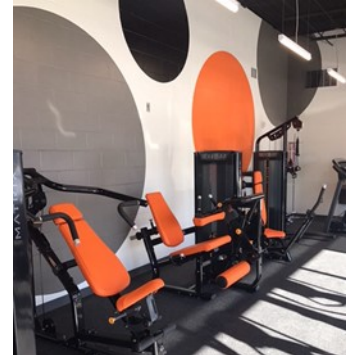
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- **Setting SSA (Supplemental State Aid)**
By the time this newsletter is printed, hopefully the SSA (Supplemental State Aid) is determined. Debates are being held and SSA will probably fall somewhere between 0.5 - 1.5%. We are fortunate that the amount is not 0%, but 0.5 - 1.5% SSA will continue to put school districts in tight financial situations and discussions on how to remain "above water." We are extremely grateful, however, for the continued support for education as most other areas in the state budget were either reduced or remained stable.

Fitness Center and Walking/Gym Use Opportunities

- Fitness center opened to the public on February 12, 2018
- See fitness center / walking agreements and fees on our webpage at www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us
- Reserve gym space by emailing elemgymuse@ivcsd.org
- Make a donation to Tiger Health & Fitness with plaque recognition for amounts over \$100. Call central office for more information at 642-7714. See our newest donor, Cuffs vs Ladders participants, next page.



Third Grade Meteorologist

Mr. Tony Shade, 3rd Grade Teacher

This winter, the third grade has been studying water, weather and climate. Students learned that weather is comprised of three basic parts: wind, water, and heat. Students have been learning to take weather measurements and compare them to forecasts and expected averages for our part of the state. They have also learned

about the water cycle and its impact on the weather. Our investigations of water have revealed that water condenses when it is cooled and expands when it is heated. These observations have helped students to better understand the concepts of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We also looked at climate and how different regions of North America have different climates. Students learned that Iowa is located in the

humid mid-latitude zone. This means that it is usually snowy in January and February and warm and humid during the summer.

Sixth Grade News

Mrs. Connie Howar and Mrs. Courtney Weaks, 6th Grade Teachers

Sixth graders braved the cold with temperatures in the teens and learned how to survive on our February 1st field trip to Lake Iowa! No one complained of the frigid, but sunny weather, since everyone dressed in many layers and were prepared. First the Iowa County naturalist, Mary Bulger, explained about the rule of three for survival... You can **survive** for 3 Minutes without air (oxygen). You can **survive** for 3 Hours without shelter in a harsh environment. You can **survive** for 3 Days without water (if sheltered from a harsh environment). You can **survive** for 3 Weeks without food (if you have water and shelter). Then Mary explained how to build a campfire and to start we had to use a magnifying lens and if not successful (which most were), we could use steel wool and batteries or of course matches/lighter. After

lunch we headed outside to a wooded hill where each group worked on building a shelter. When shelters were fairly completed, we took a tour so that each group could show us how they could all fit inside and explain how they decided on their construction. Thank you so much for all of our parent volunteers! Our next field trip to Lake Iowa is May 2nd for fishing! Come join us if you can!

During social studies this year, we have changed our units and focus of study. This year we are learning all about our world's regions and cultures. We have covered topics such as culture, the five themes of geography, population, government types, and various topics in economics. Every couple of weeks, we dig deep into a new country. While learning about the country, we look at its geography, history, and culture. Technology is also a huge part of social studies. Students use their Chromebooks to

access our Google Classroom, different websites, and complete assignments on Google Docs. At the end of the year, students are going to put all of their learning into one big project...a CULTURE FAIR!

Love to Read



by Mrs. Kaley McElvain, Elementary Title 1 Reading Teacher

Love to Read has been an annual event for Iowa Valley Elementary students. A goal for our students

is to become lifelong readers. In the past, students have participated in a variety of events to achieve this goal. We will kick off Love to Read on Thursday, March 1st, by having green eggs and ham for lunch and cupcakes on Friday,

March 2nd to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The cupcakes are graciously donated from the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary. The students will celebrate reading throughout the months of February and March with special events, contests, and assemblies.

There will be a Family Reading Night on Tuesday, March 20th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the elementary school. To go along with the theme "Paws to Read Every Day," we have an exciting speaker joining us. This year we are proud to have Pat McCaw, an author and physician, coming to speak with us. She has written many books for children, both picture books and

novels. She also teaches writing courses for adults and children. She will meet with students during the school day and will present in a large group at Family Night. Along with our speaker, families will be rotating to different stations around the school. Centers will include exploring with the Google Expedition virtual reality goggles, making puppy chow, creating a pet tock, playing BIN-GO, exploring a "pet zoo," and of course, visiting our Scholastic book fair.

Mrs. Patty Miles, Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach

Iowa Valley Professional Learning



March 2018

2017-2018

Professional Learning Targets

To provide an engaged educational environment that promotes student investment and continued learning.

Vocabulary:

College and Career Readiness - where students acquire the knowledge, skills and strategies to be successful in college and/or careers once they graduate high school.

Student Self-Assessment - a fundamental part of self-regulation which help students learn how to compare their own work to specific learning goals. Students learn to understand their own progress of where they are in their learning and where they need to be.

Teacher Clarity - when teachers understand what they need to teach, how to teach it and how they know it was successful. The three critical parts of this process are:

***learning intentions** - a statement that defines clearly what the teacher wants the student to know, understand and be able to do*

***success criteria** - what success looks like so students know when they've reached the learning intention*

***learning progressions** - specific sequence of knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn from the beginning and continuing throughout their education, including developmental, age and grade level expectations.*

Adapted from the Glossary of Education Reform by the Great Schools Partnership

Opportunities are Always Available for Teacher Learning

Instructional Agility & Student Feedback

Teacher leaders at the elementary and secondary buildings attended a workshop led by Nicole Dimich Vagle, an author and facilitator, who addresses student learning and confidence. Teachers took away strategies and knowledge that promote student learning and instructional agility. Instructional agility is the process where teachers assess students and then make instructional changes or adjustments in real time and take those results to determine what comes next in their instruction and student learning.

Teacher Leaders Reflect on Yearly Goals

The teacher leaders who are part of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system at Iowa Valley had a chance to reflect on their yearly goals. Depending on their roles within the system, whether Lead Teacher, Model Teacher, Tech Coach, PBIS Coach, or Instructional Coach, they self-assessed and adjusted their goals set for themselves last June; and will review again at the end of the school year. This reflection process is a way to see how the TLC system and the roles of each teacher leader impact collaborative work within buildings and the school district. Just as we teach students to reflect on their own learning and grow from that learning (and mistakes); we also encourage teachers and teacher leaders to self-reflect and set goals for themselves. Self-reflection and goal setting help adults, as well as students, to understand their own learning and the direction they need to go to improve, change or adapt.

(This is Iowa Valley's third year of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system.)

Next month look for more teacher learning focusing on 21st Century Homework, and Technology.