



# Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

## New Addition Almost Completed

There is excitement in the air for the opening of the new addition at the Elementary. We are anxiously waiting to announce our Ribbon Cutting/Tour date so stay tuned. Here are a few sneak peek pictures. Moving forward with Tiger pride!



New Gym



Restroom



Fitness Room

## New Financial Year Begins July 1 for School Districts

Even though the start of the new school year began on August 23, 2017, the district's fiscal year began on July 1. The school district must adopt its annual, certified budget by April 15; this determines the amount of supplies that can be ordered, salaries/benefits, new hires, etc. There have been some years; however, when the legislatures have not determined what the SSA (Supplemental State Aid) will be before our budgets are due to the State of Iowa. This is similar to determining how much a family might spend throughout a year for groceries, electricity, food, clothing, gas, etc. without knowing what one's salary will be. When the budget is around \$6 million, it is extremely important to know what the SSA amount will be before the budget is finalized and, if not, this adds to the frustration of an already-complex issue. A well thought-out and prepared budget helps a school district remain viable and efficient.

Here is a listing of the types of funds a school district has:

- General fund or sometimes called the operating fund
- Special revenue funds which includes management, PERL (public education and recreation levy), library, and student activity

- Capital projects which includes PPEL (physical plant and equipment levy) and SAVE funds (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)
- Debt service funds
- Enterprise funds which includes nutrition and child day care
- Internal service funds
- Trust funds

These funds, for the most part, cannot be transferred from one fund to another. HF 564 is one exception that now allows funds for the purchase of safety and protective equipment to be transferred from the general fund to the student activity fund. However, this practice may not be encouraged if the General Fund is low to begin with. More financial information will be shared throughout the school year in these newsletters to help you better understand our district's financial health. Our district's collective efforts are putting us in a healthier financial state. Go Tigers!

Mrs. Donita Joens,

Superintendent of Schools

### Inside this issue:

Jr.Sr. High News	2
Fifth Grade News	2
FFA Fruit & Honey Sale	2
Professional Learning	3

### Special points of interest:

- 2 Oct.-3 Nov. FFA Fruit & Honey Sale
- 6 Oct. Homecoming
- 16 Oct. No School PD Day
- 20 Oct. End of 1st Quarter
- 21 Oct. HS Play 7 pm
- 22 Oct. HS Play 4 pm

## Jr.-Sr. High News

---

### And we're off!

Students and staff at Iowa Valley Jr/Sr High School have begun the 2017-18 school year on a great note. Our fall football and volleyball seasons have started off well as our football team is 3-1 and our volleyball team is undefeated in conference play thus far and have done very well at the tournaments they've participated in!

As I write this newsletter for October, our students and staff have been busy planning for our homecoming game vs English Valleys set for Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we'll host a powder puff football game on Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and then on Wednesday night the homecoming Royalty coronation ceremony begins at 7 pm with the crowning of the King along with many class skits and speeches by coaches and sponsors that evening as well. Our Homecoming

Queen will be announced at our game on Friday night. The Homecoming parade will take place on Friday afternoon beginning at 2:30 pm. One of the great things about Iowa Valley is we have many students that are very active with their academics and also stay busy participating in extra-curricular activities. The weekend of October 21-22 our school will host the musical *The Little Mermaid*; show times are 7 pm on Saturday night and 4 pm Sunday afternoon. Once again, our students and directors have been putting in lots of hours after school and on the weekends preparing for the show!

This year's senior class has begun to lead us all in the right direction, most of them lead by being positive examples for our younger grade levels and they're willing to meet challenges "head on" and be stronger because of the strategies they use to better our learning environment. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has nearly aged 17 full

years, 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 School District. Our students and staff take pride in what they do and are working hard to have a prosperous fall school year and, so far, I like what is going on! Until next month, GO TIGERS!

Mr. Shawn Kreman,

Jr.-Sr. High Principal

## 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. We have introduced our "Tiger Pride" expectations

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 an atlas unit. In this unit we are doing hands on activities in the area of map skills as well as learning more about the seven continents.

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 red worm habitats for composting.

The students took beginning of the year assessments. I-Ready is the new computer based learning program that we will be using for math. It allows each student to progress through the program at his/her own level. We have also completed our beginning of the year reading screener. We did a speed book dating activity as a means of helping students find free reading books that they will enjoy. We strongly encourage student to free read 20 minutes each evening.

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. Karsten & Mrs. Jacobson

## FFA Fruit & Honey Sale

FFA will be selling its annual fruit, meat, cheese, candy and honey from Oct. 2nd until Nov 3rd. Please go to the Iowa Valley website ([www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us](http://www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us)) to see order forms. Contact an FFA member or Mrs. Kilgard ([mkilgard@ivcsd.org](mailto:mkilgard@ivcsd.org)) if you would like to order products.

# Iowa Valley Professional Learning

September / October 2017



## 2017-2018 Professional Learning Targets

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

### Vocabulary:

**Collaboration** - a systematic process in which educators work together, interdependently, to analyze and impact professional practice in order to improve individual and collective results (DuFour, et.al)

**PD (Professional Development)** - traditionally has been focused on providing educators with information, whether it be theories regarding improving practices or updates in content matter

**Professional Learning** - emphasizes a modernized version of professional development that encourages interactive learning strategies rather than routine or repetitious development techniques

**PLC (Professional Learning Community)** - educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve; operates under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for educators (adapted for *Learning by Doing*)

### Teachers Take Advantage of Summer Time Learning Opportunities

#### Social Studies & Literacy (GWAEA)

The Iowa State Board of Education adopted new social studies standards on May 11, 2017. The high school and a few elementary teachers attended a 2-day workshop in June to learn more about these new standards. A big change is in the writing and financial literacy addition to what's already being taught. This is the first in a four-year implementation plan to incorporate new standards into our Iowa Valley Social Studies curriculum.

#### Leveraging Leadership (Des Moines, IA)

Various teacher leaders and principals attended this leadership conference in July. The keynote speaker was Dave Horsager, author of *The Trust Edge*. He shared that trust is measurable and can bring dramatic results through eight pillars: Clarity, Compassion, Character, Competency, Commitment, Connection, Contribution, and Consistency. Other breakout sessions focused around engagement strategies, social studies and science standards, effective leadership impact, and much more.

#### Conducting Workshop (SW Minnesota State University)

Mr. Long (Instrumental Music) and Mr. Schwarting (Vocal Music) attended a workshop and learned about the positive impact of videotaping your instruction to reflect on your own teaching practices and how students see you. The workshop involved evaluations by guest clinicians, reviewing and collaborating with their peers and reflecting on what they observe to make student learning more valuable.

**Next month** look for more teacher learning focusing on Literacy and Technology.

Submitted by Patty Miles  
(Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach)