



January 2017 Superintendent Newsletter

Mission: To provide a safe, comfortable, clean and caring environment where community and staff work together to provide an education that will maximize each individual's potential, instill a sense of self-worth, and prepare them for life-long learning.

New Elementary Gym

The new gym at the Elementary is taking shape. With a slight delay at the beginning of the project and geopiers put into place, footings are currently being worked on. We are embracing each stage of the project and look forward to seeing the structure come out of the ground. We look forward to the endless possibilities this will provide for our students, staff, and community members.



October 11, 2016



October 19, 2016



November 18, 2016



November 30, 2016

Chronic Absenteeism in Iowa

The Iowa Director of Education, Ryan Wise, has written several articles about student absenteeism. School districts are concerned when a student misses even one day of school, as students must be present to learn and grow at their highest potential. The Governor's office has developed a special council to address chronic absenteeism, a term used when a student misses 10% or more of school for any reason, excused or unexcused. It is the hope of this newly-established council that by raising awareness of chronic absenteeism, it might help families better understand the importance of making sure their son(s)/daughter(s) are in school.

There is data to support maximum learning with low absenteeism. A few of these supporting statements are listed below:

- Reading levels are better for students who are not chronically absent in preschool-first grade according to the Child and Family Policy Center.

- Students who cannot read at grade level by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Hence, having good attendance in the lower grades, will help improve reading levels later on for students.
- Supporting struggling readers who are not in school makes it difficult to provide the supports needed to help students become better readers.

We understand that students need to stay home when they have a fever, illness, flu, etc. We are proud of the chronic attendance data shown below for Iowa Valley Community School District but, like everything else, we can always improve. Parents, keep up the great work you are doing by making sure your child(ren) get adequate rest, healthy meals, exercise, fresh air, and relaxation time.

IV Elem.				
Sch. Year	# enrolled	# chronic. absent	% chronic. absent	% state ave.
FY14	254	6	2.4	8.3
FY15	275	14	5.1	8.8
FY16	283	10	3.5	8
IV Jr./Sr. HS				
Sch. Year	# enrolled	# chronic. absent	% chronic. absent	% state ave.
FY14	239	13	5.4	8.3
FY15	233	16	6.9	8.8
FY16	220	15	6.8	8

2017 IASB Legislative Priorities

Delegates from each district in Iowa convened for the IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) assembly. As a result of this assembly, they have established four top priorities as legislators meet after the first of the year. Here are the top IASB legislative priorities for 2017:

1. Standards and Accountability- provide funding to fully implement the Iowa Core and 21st Century skills, adopt high-quality assessments, support research-based professional development for staff members, and fund components of successful standards
2. School Funding Policy- provide sufficient and timely funding, provide funding mechanism to help reduce pressure on general fund for transportation costs, and include a mixture of property taxes and state aid
3. Supplemental State Aid (SSA)- set for FY 2018 by January 31, 2017, set for FY 2019 at least 14 months prior to the certification of the school district’s budget, and provide support to plan, create, and sustain world-class schools
4. SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)- supports repeal of the December 31, 2029 sunset on the state penny sales tax to be used for school infrastructure and also to provide continued growth for each student beyond the 2029 sunset date

