



VINTON-SHELLSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"The Mission of the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District is to Be Positive Difference Makers."

Hello Vinton-Shellsburg Families,

I hope you are enjoying all of the fall activities our communities have to offer. Fall brings an abundance of fall colors and textures. The reds, oranges, yellows, golds and rust tones of fall delight the senses in landscapes and rich sunsets. Trees willingly and naturally shed their leaves after putting on a radiant fall show of colors. Is there anything in your life that's ready to be released? Even as birds and woodland creatures are enjoying the abundance of fall, they are also storing away portions of their fall harvest and preparing for leaner times. Enjoy the blessings of the season, but remember to plan for the future.

For school districts, fall is a time to finalize and certify our student enrollment for the school year and look forward to financial planning. There are two important variables for determining school funding for the upcoming year; our certified enrollment and the state supplemental assistance (SSA) amount afforded by the legislature. Our certified enrollment is up again this school year for the second consecutive year. Our served enrollment this year is 1,509, compared to last year's number of 1,455. That is 54 more students than we had a year ago!

The school also prepares for the future by continuing to work on our curriculum and instruction through professional development. The teachers have continued to work on priority standards and learning targets to help identify success criteria. Priority standards are carefully selected grade-specific standards that students must know and be able to do by the end of each course or school year in order to be prepared for standards at the next grade level or course. Teachers have worked very hard and have established priority standards for nearly every grade in nearly every subject area. The next step has been the establishment of learning intentions or learning targets. Learning targets are sometimes written as I can statements that are developed by teachers, for teachers and students. I can statements are written in student friendly language and identify what students need to know and be able to do in order to be successful and achieve grade level or course standards. Some of our departments have these established already. They are reviewing for any necessary changes and then looking at their assessments to make sure they match their learning intentions or targets.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email.

Take care,

Kyle Koeppen
Superintendent
kyle.koeppen@vscsd.org
319-436-5685

VOTE November 2nd!!!
Your vote makes a difference,
be a Difference Maker!

FFA ALUMNI RECEIVE HONORS

Four of our past members (Wes Haefner, Shelby McDonald, Madeline Moen, and Issac Wiley) are receiving their [American Degree](#) at the FFA convention.

The requirements to earn the American FFA Degree are set forth in the National FFA Constitution. To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree, members must meet qualifications such as receiving a State FFA Degree, holding active membership for the past three years, completing secondary instruction in an agricultural education program and operating an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program. Community service, leadership abilities and outstanding scholastic achievement are also required. [View all requirements.](#)

All applications are submitted to the National FFA Organization after approval of a member's state association. After review by national staff, the National FFA Board of Directors approve qualified candidates to receive the American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

We are proud of these members and the representation and recognition they bring to our district.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Day 1 2-HR. EARLY DISMISSAL P/T Conferences K-5: 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm 6-8: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (appt. only) 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm 9-12: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Shellsburg Preschool: 8:00 am—8:00 pm	2 Day 2 ELECTION DAY 	3 Day 3 ◇ FFA District Green-hand Fire-up	4 Day 4 2-HR. EARLY DISMISSAL P/T Conferences K-5: 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm 6-8: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (appt. only) 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm 9-12: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Shellsburg Preschool: 8:00 am—8:00 pm	5 NO CLASSES	6 ◇ Girls Regional Swim Meet @ Dubuque, 12:00pm
STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT 11/1—11/4					
7 Sunday 	9 Day 6 ◇ MS WR Meet vs. S. Tama & Williamsburg, 4:15 pm	10 Day 1	11 Day 2 ◇ 7 G BB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Williamsburg (Mary Welsh), 4:15 pm VETERAN'S DAY	12 Day 3 2-HR. EARLY DISMISSAL PROF. DEV. ◇ MS WR Meet vs. Benton & Independence @ Benton (Keystone) 4:15 pm ◇ HS Musical, HS Aud., 7:00 pm	13 ◇ FFA IAT @ Ankeny ◇ FFA Hanging Holiday Lights & Roping ◇ HS Musical, HS Aud., 7:00 pm WORLD KINDNESS DAY
8 Day 5 ◇ WaMaC Concert Choir @ Williamsburg, 1:00pm; 7:00 Performance ◇ 7 G BB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm	14 Sunday ◇ HS Musical, HS Aud., 2:00 pm	16 Day 5 ◇ Shellsburg Elem. Picture Re-takes, 8:30 am ◇ WaMaC Honor Band Festival @ Independence, 1:00 Rehearsal; 7:00 Performance ◇ MS WR @ Marion (Mount Vernon MS) 4:15 pm	17 Day 6 ◇ Tilford Elem. Picture Re-takes, 8:30 am	18 Day 1 ◇ All-State Music Festival @ Ames ◇ Opus Honor Choir @ Iowa State, 9:00 am ◇ 7 G BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ S. Tama, 4:15 pm	19 Day 2 ◇ 7 G BB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ MS WR Meet vs. W. Delaware & Marion @ Mount Vernon MS, 4:15 pm ◇ FFA Pork BBQ, 5:00 pm
AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 11/15—11/19					
22 Day 3 ◇ 7 G BB @ W. Delaware, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. W. Delaware, 4:15 pm	23 Day 4 ◇ MS WR vs. CCA, CPU, 4:15 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Maquoketa, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm	24 NO CLASSES Thanksgiving Break	25 NO CLASSES Thanksgiving Break 	26 NO CLASSES Thanksgiving Break	27
29 Day 5 ◇ 7 G BB vs. Mount Vernon, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Mount Vernon MS, 4:15 pm	30 Day 6 ◇ V BOWL vs. Columbus Catholic @ Cadillac Lanes, 4:00 pm ◇ 7 G BB vs. Oelwein, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Oelwein, 4:15 pm ◇ MS WR @ Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ B V SW @ Waterloo Central, 6:00 pm ◇ JV/V G BB vs. Marion, 6:00/7:30 pm	DEC. 1 Day 1 ◇ 8 G BB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15pm ◇ JV/V G BB vs. Union @ VSHS, 4:30/6:00pm ◇ 10/9 B BB vs. Union @ VSMS, 4:00/5:15pm ◇ V B BB vs. Union @ VSHS, 7:45 pm	Changes may occur after publication. You can always check the activities calendar online at www.vscsd.org under District Calendars. <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Senior Citizen Activity Passes are available for Vinton-Shellsburg CSD residents who are age 55 or older; stop by the Superintendent's Office at 1502 C Ave., Vinton, between 8:00 am - 3:30 pm, Monday-Friday. </div>		

COATS FOR KIDS The Vinton-Shellsburg Elementary Schools are seeking donations of new or gently used and clean winter coats and snow pants. Your donation will help provide a coat and/or snow pants for a student who may not be able to purchase these on their own. If you are donating a gently used coat or snow pants, you can bring them to Tilford Elementary. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we will do the shopping for you. If your child is in need of winter gear, please fill out the form online or download it and bring it to Tilford's office. If you would like a form sent home with your child, please let us know. Read more information on

Coats for Kids at: <https://www.vscsd.org/coats-for-kids/>

BOOK FAIR @ TILFORD
Music Room

November 1st & 4th
2:00 pm - 8:00 pm during conferences

November 2nd & 3rd
after school 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm

BOOK FAIR @ SHELLSBURG
Music Room

November 1st & 4th
7:30 - 8:00am
5th grade lunch recess
1:00 - 7:30 during conferences

November 2nd & 3rd
7:30 - 8:00am
5th grade lunch recess
after school 3:15- 3:45 pm

National Fire Prevention Week



12 Ways to Help Your Middle School Student Be Successful at School

The goal at Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School is to create a well-rounded student who is prepared for high school. Students at VSMS have every opportunity to learn the essential middle school skills. Our belief is students learn at different times and different ways. It is our responsibility to make sure we focus on providing instruction that meets the student where they are at and take them to proficiency and beyond. When your student comes home at night, I challenge you to change your question from what did you learn today to what was your most difficult challenge? If your student cannot answer the question don't give up. Pose the question a different way, like, what is something you did in class today that you think I might not know? Engaging your student in meaningful conversation about school will show you take their learning seriously and it is one of the most important things they will do during their day. Below are some quick tips to help show, students, parents, and school are working together to provide them with the best education.

- 1. Meet your child's teacher.** Stop in and visit during conferences, send emails, or visit a classroom.
- 2. Attend parent-teacher conferences and keep in touch with your child's teacher.** At VSMS we have four opportunities for parent-teacher conferences each year. You can also ask to meet with your child's teacher any time during the year. If you have a concern and can't meet face-to-face, send the teacher a short note or set up a time to talk on the phone.
- 3. Find out how your child is doing.** At VSMS we have the grade book online, as well as, the assignments for the day. Please check PowerSchool often and ask your student about assignments and grades, also be sure to review your child's report card at the end of the semester.
- 4. Make sure that your child gets homework done.** Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done each day. You can help your child with homework by setting aside a special place to study, establishing a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the television and phones during homework time. If you are reluctant to help your child with homework because you feel that you don't know the subject well enough, you can help by showing that you are interested, helping your child get organized, providing the necessary materials, asking your child about daily assignments, monitoring work to make sure that it is completed, and praising all of your child's efforts.
- 5. Find homework help for your child if needed.** At VSMS we know that the homework is sometimes difficult for students and parents. If your student has a question about homework direct them to talk to the teacher in the morning.
- 6. Help your child prepare for tests.** Tests play an important role in determining a student's grade. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and after taking a standardized test, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis that will help her be more prepared when it's time to be tested. Practice with your student, make sure they eat breakfast in the morning, and have a specific bedtime without TV and electronic devices are all ways you can support your student being ready for the test.
- 7. Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children.** What we say and do in our daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.
- 8. Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.** American children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities. Observe your student a couple nights during the week to determine how they are utilizing their time and determine if those activities are the ones that will ultimately make your student successful in school and life.
- 9. Encourage your child to read.** Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects, more importantly, it is the key to lifelong learning.
- 10. Talk with your child.** Talking and listening play major roles in student's school success. It's also important for you to show your child that you're interested in what he/she is doing throughout the school day.
- 11. Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.** Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establishing reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that he has to take responsibility for what he does, both at home and at school, showing your child how to break a job down into small steps, and monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends.
- 12. Encourage active learning.** Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores. All of these components will allow your student to be a successful life long learner.

TREE PLANTING

West Campus students take time to plant trees around the Vinton-Shellsburg campus.



The VSU swimmers have had a successful season - winning both home dual meets and also winning Invitationals at Williamsburg and Oskaloosa. It's been great to see relationships formed and strengthened throughout the season. Successful all-around!



VSU GIRLS' SWIMMING

CONGRATULATIONS!

BOSS'S DAY



Central Office staff celebrated our leaders, Business Manager Brenda Barkdoll and Superintendent Kyle Koeppen on Boss' Day!
#VSproud

A NOTE FROM MATT KINGSBURY, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Students, Parents, and Guardians,

We wanted to make you aware of a disturbing trend in social media which is occurring across America. This behavior is inciting the illegal behavior of vandalism and assault.

Some people using the social media platform TikTok, have started challenges each month for students to participate in that could affect the health and safety of students and staff. The challenges call for specific inappropriate behavioral actions to take place and then uploading a video of these inappropriate actions to TikTok for others to view. These challenges are deeply concerning and this behavior is not acceptable in any environment.

TikTok users have compiled a full list of challenges that will run the course of the school year and each challenge appears to build upon the last. All of the monthly challenges are inappropriate and will not be tolerated within our school buildings, programs, and activities. We expect our students to conduct themselves in appropriate student to student and student to staff member interactions. We are asking that students not participate in this inappropriate behavior. If students choose to participate in this behavior, it will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Please know this correspondence does not serve to degrade the value of social media platforms. Social media connects our world, provides educational resources, and highlights the positives of our students' talents. However, segments of social media such as what is described above are not productive and serve to harm others.

As a school district, we serve to amplify the positive in students and support the continued growth of socially responsible, career ready young adults. Our collective efforts in conjunction with our communities will allow us to develop a positive, productive, and equitable environment in our community.