

VINTON-SHELLSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

—WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS!

“The Mission of the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District is to improve the quality of lives and assist individuals in becoming contributing members of society through the accumulation and application of knowledge.”

Special points of interest:

Apr. 2—NO CLASSES
Apr. 5—FFA Labor Auction, VSHS,
7:00 pm
Apr. 6—2-Hr. Early Dismissal;
Prof. Dev.;
Apr. 7—High School Spring Play, HS
Aud., 7:00 pm
Apr. 8—High School Spring Play, HS
Aud., 2:00 pm
Apr. 9—School Board Meeting @
Central Office, 6:00 pm, Public
Hearing, 7:00 pm
Apr. 20—2 Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof.
Dev.
Apr. 25—Administrative Professionals
Day



SECURITY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Question: What does the school have in place to provide a safe and secure environment?

Answer: Every building has a crisis plan that includes natural events as well as other threats. Many of our staff members have had ALICE training and three of our principals are certified trainers. We have buzz-in systems for all of our buildings’ offices and some also have cameras. We have many security cameras on throughout the district and locks on doors.

Question: How would the district communicate with parents and the greater community in the event of a situation?

Answer: The superintendent is the district’s spokesperson and there is an alternate if she is not available. We would use School Messenger to communicate directly with parents and others.

Question: What will the School Resource Officer’s role be?

Answer: The SRO will be an integral part of the school on a daily basis. He will be building relationships with students and families. His primary role will be around education; however, if there was a security issue, he would be involved. We do not anticipate he will be involved with disciplinary items.

Question: Has the district done everything possible?

Answer: We are reviewing our training procedures and know that we need to do more with our new hires and substitutes. We plan to do more tabletop exercises with the administrative team and directors so we consider what we would do in a particular situation. We are re-searching additional options for security cameras and how to lock doors from the inside (and still be in compliance with the Fire Marshall). It would be impossible to plan for every possible scenario. Instead, we work to make sure everyone has the necessary tools and training to have the confidence of modifying based on a particular situation.

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community:

Spring has not quite arrived in the district! Perhaps April will bring more rain showers instead of all of the snow showers that have been in the forecast!

Unfortunately, we have had to run our bus routes on hard surface routes because the gravel roads are very soft and our heavy busses are making them even softer. We appreciate the cooperation our families have shown as we run the modified routes.

Our students recently completed the Iowa Assessments. We have received the results and are analyzing them. Our preliminary review indicates that our students continued their solid performance and we have many (most) of our students who are proficient in reading and math. Our students’ success is not due to any one thing we are doing; rather, it is a result of a systemic and systematic effort to make sure our students are successful in demonstrating their ability to know and do the things we’ve identified as the most important coupled with having teachers who know and apply many strategies and skills in their classrooms. Parents should receive the results in the near future. Please review them carefully; and please ask questions! One of the things we are reviewing are how many of our students made more than one year’s growth and how many of them are considered proficient. We use the Iowa Assessment data along with our local, on-going data collection to look at all aspects of a students’ work.

We continue our preparations for the 2018-19 year. The school board recently adopted next year’s calendar. Students will start on Thursday, August 23. It works well to start mid-week as everyone transitions back into the schedule. We will continue having our professional development days fall on Fridays although we have fewer early dismissals than in the past. By scheduling the teachers’ work on Fridays, it allows for four solid days of teaching and learning (Monday through Thursday) and also allows for families to travel for the weekend. The calendar will run on semesters instead of trimesters. We continued to build in snow make-up days and our last day is scheduled for students on May 29th (after Memorial Day but before June 1st).

The school board will hold their annual budget hearing on Monday, April 9th at 7:00 PM in the board room at Central Office. They directed us to publish a budget with the levy rate remaining stable although we anticipate starting to pay off the 2025 bonds early. If you recall, the board had previously refinanced the bonds to a lower interest rate resulting in a savings of a million dollars over their life; starting to pay them off early will result in additional savings of more than \$80,000. The district will have fewer revenues into our general fund next year because of the decline in enrollment over the last several years. Unfortunately, our expenses will not go down in several areas even though we have fewer students – such as we will still need to have the lights on in just as many rooms, we will still need to run the busses on as many miles of road, and we will still need to heat all of our rooms and buildings. We are working on our final staffing plan for the 2018-19 year. We anticipate reducing the total number of teaching staff and will continue to look for attrition in other areas where possible.

As we head into spring, we are finalizing our summer projects. We anticipate finishing paving the entire parking lot on the west side of Tilford and working to install more cement on the east and south sides of the building. We are considering options for updating the bus barn including the construction of a new facility on the property we recently purchased. This would allow us to continue working on busses in-house. We are one of the only districts in the state where every school vehicle is under a roof every night. We anticipate abating some asbestos and then replacing the flooring in some areas at the Middle School and at Tilford. We will continue upgrading restrooms at Shellsburg and Tilford. We will replace some exterior doors at the Middle School.

The spring events are gearing up with music performances, golf meets, track meets, soccer games, and other school activities. Thank you to everyone who attends their events!

If any student or parent has a question about the school district, I would encourage him or her to give me a call, send me an e-mail or stop in. I welcome the opportunity to talk about what is going well (or not so well) in our district.

Respectfully,
Mary Jo Hainstock maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org







BOOK FAIRS

Tilford Elementary: April 16-20 (7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday -Thursday - BOGO Sale)

Shellsburg Elementary: April 16-20 (Monday & Tuesday: Before, during, and after the Spring concerts. 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Monday -Thursday; 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wednesday -Thursday - BOGO Sale)

Please email allison.gates@vscsd.org with any questions.

APRIL 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div>APRIL FOOLS DAY</div> <div></div> <div>EASTER</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Day 1</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ Jesup Invite, 4:45 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ Williamsburg Invite, 4:45 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC @ Clear Creek -Amana, 5:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 5:30/ 7:00 pm</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Day 2</div> <div>◇ Band Booster Meeting, HS, 6:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Band Parent Meeting, New York 2019, 7:00 pm</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Day 3</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G vs. Solon & W. Delaware @ Lake McBride GC, 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G vs. CCA & CPU @ Amana Colonies GC, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ Marion (Thomas Park), 4:30pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Tilford 4th Gr. Concert, 6:30 pm (2nd group at 7:15 pm)</div> <div>◇ FFA Labor Auction, VSHS Gym, 7:00 pm</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Day 4</div> <div>2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev.</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC @ W. Dubuque, 5:15/7:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC vs. W. Dubuque, 5:30 pm</div> <div></div>	<div>7</div> <div></div> <div>◇ HS & MS TRAP vs. C.R. Kennedy @ Otter Creek SC, 8:00 am</div> <div>◇ G V G @ Benton Invite, (Tara Hills), 9:00 am</div> <div>◇ High School Spring Play “Freckleface Strawberry” @ VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm</div>
<div>2</div> <div>NO CLASSES</div> <div>Holiday Break</div>					
<div>8</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div>◇ High School Spring Play “Freckleface Strawberry” @ VSHS Aud., 2:00 pm</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Day 6</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G @ S. Tama (T-TCC), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G vs. S. Tama (VCC), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G MS TR @ W. Delaware Invite, 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC @ Mt. Vernon, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ Iowa Valley Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC vs. Mt. Vernon, 5:30/7:00 pm</div> <div>NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS' DAY</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Day 1</div> <div>◇ WaMaC Art Fair @ Clear Creek-Amana HS, 10:00 am</div> <div>◇ Booster Club Meeting @ VSHS Commons, 6:00 pm</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Day 2</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G vs. Independence (VCC), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G MS TR @ Marion Invite (Thomas Park), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G @ Independence (Three Elms), 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B MS TR @ Solon Invite, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ East Marshall Invite, 4:30pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC vs. Marion, 5:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Tilford 3rd Gr. Concert, 6:30 (2nd group @ 7:15 pm)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Day 3</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC @ Marion, 4:15/6:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B/G JV/V TR @ Benton Co-ed, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Shellsburg Spring Dance, 3:30-5:30 pm</div> <div>◇ MS Solo/Ensemble Festival, VSMS, 6:00pm</div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>◇ HS & MS TRAP vs. C.R. Jefferson @ Otter Creek SC, 8:00 am</div> <div>◇ B V G @ Waverly Invite, (MGC), 9:00 am</div> <div></div>
<div>9</div> <div>Day 5</div> <div>◇ Shellsburg Spring Pictures, 8:00 am— 2:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ Iowa Valley Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ E. Marshall Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ FFA Meeting, VSHS, 6:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Shellsburg 3-4 Gr. Concert, 6:30 pm</div> <div>◇ School Board Meeting, Central Office, 6:00pm, Public Hearing, 7:00</div>					
<div>16</div> <div>Day 4</div> <div>◇ Chamber Choir Auditions</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G vs. CCA, Marion & Williamsburg @ Amana Colonies GC, 3:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G vs. CCA, Marion & Williamsburg (Wildcat), 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ Marion, (Thomas Park), 4:45 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC @ Benton, 5:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Art Show/5th Gr. Music Concert @ Shellsburg, 6:00/6:30 pm</div> <div>PATRIOT'S DAY</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Day 5</div> <div>◇ Chamber Choir Auditions</div> <div>◇ B MS TR @ Williamsburg, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B/G JV/V TR @ Solon Co-ed Invite, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC @ Williamsburg, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC vs. Williamsburg, 5:30/7:00 pm</div> <div>◇ Shellsburg K-2nd Concert, 6:30 pm</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Day 6</div> <div>◇ Chamber Choir Auditions</div> <div>◇ University of Iowa Choral Showcase</div> <div>◇ Color guard Auditions @ VSHS, 3:30 pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Day 1</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G @ Benton (Tara Hills), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G vs. Benton (Wildcat GC), 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B MS TR @ Benton Invite, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ B V TR @ Cedar Falls Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV TR @ BCLUW Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ W. Delaware Invite, 4:45 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC @ Independence, 5:30 pm</div> <div>◇ Tilford Kindergarten Concert, 6:30 pm (2nd group @ 7:15 pm)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Day 2</div> <div>2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev.</div> <div>◇ G MS TR @ Benton Invite, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC vs. Benton, 5:30/7:00 pm</div>	<div>21</div> <div></div> <div>◇ HS & MS TRAP Exhibition @ Izaac Walton, 8:00 am</div> <div>◇ B V G @ W. Delaware Invite, (Pin Oak GC), 9:00 am</div>
	NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 4/15—4/21				
<div>23</div> <div>Day 3</div> <div>◇ G V G @ W. Delaware Tourney (Pin Oak GC), 4:00 pm</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Day 4</div> <div>◇ Women Sing! Festival @ UNI</div> <div>◇ B MS TR @ Independence, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ G/B JV/V TR Viking/Vikette Co-ed Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC @ West Liberty, 5:30/7:00 pm</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Day 5</div> <div>◇ B V G @ Maquoketa Invite, 12:00 pm</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div>Day 6</div> <div>◇ G JV/V G vs. Center Point-Urbana (VCC), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G MS TR @ Independence Invite, 4:15 pm</div> <div>◇ Tilford 1st Gr. Concert, 6:30 (2nd group @ 7:15 pm)</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Day 1</div> <div>◇ B JV/V G @ Center Point-Urbana (Rolling Acres GC), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G V/JV SOC @ S. Tama, 4:30/6:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G JV/V TR @ Union, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ B V SOC vs. S. Tama, 5:30 pm</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div></div> <div>◇ 8th Gr. Band @ Adventureland</div> <div>◇ HS & MS TRAP vs. C.R. Xavier @ Otter Creek SC, 8:00 am</div> <div>◇ FFA Plant Sale 9-noon, VSHS Greenhouse</div> <div>◇ Prom Grand March @ VSHS Aud. (open to public), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ Prom, Vinton Skate & Activity Center, 8:00 –11:30pm</div> <div>◇ Post Prom @ VSHS, 11:30 pm—5:00 am</div>
<div>30</div> <div>Day 2</div> <div>◇ G V G WaMaC West @ CPU (Rolling Acres), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ B V G WaMaC West @ Independence (River Ridge), 4:00 pm</div> <div>◇ G MS TR @ Clear Creek -Amana Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ G V TR @ Independence Invite, 4:30 pm</div> <div>◇ B JV/V TR @ Marion (Thomas Park), 4:30 pm</div>	<div></div> <div>Tony Islas, Shelly Petersen and Josh West at SRO training in Des Moines.</div> <div></div> <div>Volunteer, Darren Stein presents agricultural information about the Earth and soil to Tilford Elementary third grade students.</div>				