

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

- Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Program
@ VSMS Media Center,
12:00 pm
- Dec. 7 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal,
Prof. Dev.
- Dec. 10 - School Board Meet-
ing @ Central Office, 5:30 pm
- Dec. 10 - 6-12 Band Concert,
VSMS, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 17 - 6-12 Winter Vocal
Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Dec. 21 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal
- Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 - NO CLASSES
— Christmas Break.
- Jan. 2—Snow Makeup Day
- Jan. 3 - CLASSES RESUME

SHELLSBURG BOOK FAIR IS HERE!!

December 3rd—7th

Mon. thru Thurs.: 7:30-8:15 am &
3:00-3:45 pm; Opened up to 5th gr.
at their noon recess.

Fri.: 7:30-8:15 am only.

Online Fair will run from Dec 7th -
20th and there is a Mobile App avail-
able. ([http://www.scholastic.com/
bf/vsms](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/vsms))

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Our district would like to recognize Larry Druschel and Dave Vermedahl for their 40 years of service to our high school football program. They spent many, many evenings in the crowd calling the plays, highlighting the players, and announcing the officials' calls and everything else that they were asked to share. They have worked about 350 games – starting with Vinton and then supporting the Vinton-Shellsburg teams. They have watched literally thousands of high school freshmen run onto the field for the first time and then walk off the field as young men. In making their announcement at our last home football game, they credited their wives, Linda and Lisa, for supporting their volunteerism for all the years. They have been Difference Makers! THANK YOU!

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas seems to go faster each year as we have a lot going on within our personal as well as educational lives. November was an exciting month that included our trip to Washington, DC with staff from Tilford as a part of the Blue Ribbon Schools award. Three school board members and I presented at the Iowa School Board Association's annual conference which was also a great experience.

We will be starting our budget work for the 2019-20 year later this month. Iowa School Finance is complicated yet it is important that everyone understand some basic concepts that we work with.

Concept #1 – Dillon's Rule – Schools are only authorized to do what the Iowa Code specifically outlines. One thing this means is that we are only allowed to spend specific "pots" of money on specific things. For example, if we want to build a new facility, we must either use money from an approved bond issue, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy funds or dollars generated through the 1-cent local option tax.

Concept #2 – Spending Authority – Schools can only spend as much as they have the authority to spend and there is an upper limit (i.e. we can't spend as much as we want).

Concept #3 – Unspent Balance - Schools do not operate under a "use it or lose it" mentality. Rather, when we are able to be frugal or judicious with our spending (or when we have a mild winter and have cost savings with our heating bills), we are able to save that authority for future years.

Concept #4 – District Cost Per Pupil – This is the maximum amount we receive for each student. For Vinton-Shellsburg, our number is \$6736. For Benton, it is \$6796. The discrepancy in the amount happened in the 1970's (V-S is one of the lowest). It is a huge inequity in school funding and one that means we have about \$300,000 less *per year* than other districts our size.

Concept #5 – Regular Program District Cost – This is a formula that is driven primarily by two things – how many kids we have and how much support the state legislature gives education. For our district, we have had financial challenges as our enrollment has declined over the last 25 years, the fact that our kids are "worth less" than many others in Iowa, plus the fact the state has not supported education as strongly as they did in the past.

Concept #6 – Types of Funds – The district has many types of funds. The law is very specific in how we generate the revenue and how we can spend the funds.

General Fund – This is the biggest fund. The revenue is primarily from state support and property tax although we also get some from income surtax. Expenditures include salaries and benefits, materials, books, utility costs, etc. This budget is over \$17,000,000.

Physical Plant and Equipment – The revenue comes from property taxes and income surtax. We can spend on the purchase and improvement of grounds, building construction, repair, remodeling, equipment and technology. This budget is about \$1,000,000.

Local Option Sales and Service Tax Fund – The revenue comes from the 1-cent local option tax. We can spend the funds on paying off our bonds and other items that are similar to the PPEL (above). This budget is about \$1,500,000.

Debt Service Fund – These funds at 100% property tax and are based on the voter approved levy from several years ago. Our bond payments are about \$1,000,000 each year. (We were able to save about \$1,300,000 over several years from refinancing our bonds a few years ago.)

Nutrition Fund – The revenue comes from student payments along with federal and state payments. We can only spend the funds on food service costs including personnel and food. This fund is around \$1,000,000 each year.

Management Fund – This is a much smaller fund. The revenue comes from local property taxes. We spend the funds on all insurance (besides health insurance), unemployment, and early retirement benefits. This budget is usually around \$400,000.

Student Activity Fund – The revenue comes from fundraising and activity feeds. We then spend the funds on activities that support the co-curricular activities. This budget is around \$500,000.

Trust Fund – The revenue comes from gifts to the school and we spend the funds as the gift outlined – such as scholarships. This budget is around \$100,000 each year.

Preschool Fund – We have a very small enterprise fund that supports the 3-year-old preschool program at Shellsburg. There is generally about \$7000 in revenues and expenses each year.

School Finance is not the most exciting topic. However, it has a huge impact on what we can (or cannot) do to support our students' learning. THANK YOU for reading this article and learning more!
I sincerely wish you a safe and happy holiday season and New Year.

Please contact me with any questions about school finance – or anything else about the school system!

Mary Jo Hainstock
Superintendent

School of Rock CAST & CREW

Dewey Finn CASEY FUNK; Ned Schneebly COLE NEILSON; Patty Di Marco CASSIE HAZEN; Rosalie Mullins SARAH SCHMINKE; Jess Sanderson EMILY TRINKLE; Stella GRACIE MORIN; Security MADI ATKINSON; Security LEXI BUNTEN; **SCHOOL OF ROCK BAND:** Summer OLIVIA CODER; Zach GABE SCHMIDT; Katie GRACIE HORST; Lawrence ANDREW WIRTH; Winifred (Freddy) LAUREN UPMEYER; Tomika ALLISSA HENDRYX; Marcy RAE-GANNE NEILSON; Shonelle CAROLINE ERICKSON; Jamie HALEY CLARK; Billy JEREMIAH BROWN; Sophie ELSA PAGE; Madison TAYLOR SHIPLEY; Macie BRYNN JOHNSON; **NO VACANCY BAND:** Theo ELI POWERS; Doug SAGE HOLMES; Bobbie EMMA DICKINSON; Tess TESS LILLIBRIDGE; Snake NOLAN HAISMAN; **PARENTS & BIKERS:** Mrs. Mooneyham BECCA STEFFEN; Mr. Spencer SETH PATTERSON; Mr. Williams NOLAN HAISMAN; Mrs. Hathaway MADY RULE; Mr. Hamilton SCOTT BETTERTON; Mr. Sanford ALEX PLADSEN; **TEACHERS:** Ms. Sheinkopf KATELYN HUMISTON; Gabe Brown ELI POWERS; SAGE HOLMES, MADI ATKINSON, CLAIRE BOOTH, ISABEL ERLANDSON, BRENNA SCHEEL, EMMA DICKINSON, GRACIE MORIN, EMILY TRINKLE, LEXI BUNTEN, TESS LILLIBRIDGE



Congrats Kris Howes-Vonstein on being named a finalist for Iowa Teacher of the year! A well deserved honor -- Awesome! The Iowa Teacher of the Year award was established in 1958. The annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature. Honorees serve as ambassadors to education and act as liaisons to schools, higher education, and organizations across the state. This is good news worth repeating!

"I always tell everyone that I was made to be a teacher. I never thought of doing anything else. For thirty years, I have strived to connect student learning to the community through projects." -- Ms. H-V, 7th Grade Science, V-S Middle School



On November 3rd, five Voyagers competed in the ISDTA State Solo Competition held in Newton, Iowa. The girls competed in the Class IV division with over 70 other high school dancers. Grace Horst and Allissa Hendryx both received a Division I rating for their solo performances, earning an average score of at least 60 out of 70 possible points. This was the first of two ISTDA state competitions. The Voyagers Dance Team will be competing at the ISDTA State Team Competition in Des Moines on November 29th and November 30th.



SOLE SISTERS

Sole Sisters held their 2K walk/run on Sunday, Nov. 18. This is the fourth year for Sole Sisters. The group's mission: To empower girls to become confident, positive role models who make healthy choices for themselves. State Cross Country participant Kay Fett was our Grand Marshall for the run. There were 31 5th grade girls participate in the program and over 40 faculty and community members volunteer for various occasions throughout the season. Coaches this 10 week season were Sarah Mathis, Lindsey Otto, Heather Kalous, Sheri Miller and Becky Lutgen. Thanks!



Thank you to the following businesses for the donations for the American Education Week Drawings: McDonald's, A & W, Subway, Pizza Hut, Pizza Ranch, Tootsies, Palace Theater, Koffee Haus, & Wallace Farms. The prizes were well received and appreciated.

SHELLSBURG ELEMENTARY

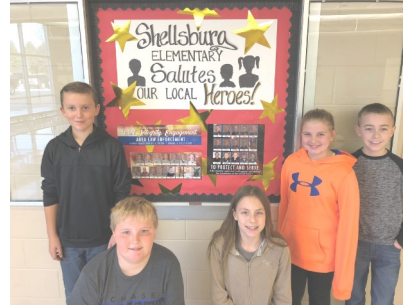
“Not All Heroes Wear Capes”. This is a saying that kids at Shellsburg Elementary hear often. In fact, it is the theme of one of our staff t-shirts that you will see from time to time. At our school, we think it is important that we celebrate and appreciate our local heroes. In the past few months we have had the opportunity to do that.

One group of local heroes are our Fire Fighters. For Fire Prevention Week, we had the privilege of having James Mott, Dave Charlier, Shadov Vogt, Denny Gardemann, and Daniel Charlier visit our classrooms. I can't tell you how excited our students were to have Firefighters in their classroom sharing how to be safe. Our local heroes then stayed to eat lunch with the kids, and the really brave even went out to recess with them. Fighting a fire may now seem easy after playing tag with a group of excited Kindergarteners.

Another group of local heroes that we work closely with is our Veterans. Every year they help us kick off our school year with a flag raising ceremony on the first day of school. Before students come inside on that first day, the Shellsburg Legion raises a new flag over our school, and leads us in our first Pledge of Allegiance of the year. It is a great way to kick off the year. Our Veterans also come to some of our assemblies throughout the year, and help present awards for patriotic essays. We truly appreciate the partnership we have with our Veterans.

On November 12, we had an opportunity to celebrate some of our local heroes. That morning, the Vinton-Shellsburg School District held its annual Veteran Day's Assembly, which was held in the Middle School gym. It was a great opportunity for all of us to say “Thank You” to our Veterans that have done so much for all of us. All students in grades K-12 had a chance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, and many were involved in singing to our Veterans. We also got the chance to hear from all of our Veteran's that were in attendance. I know our elementary students were in awe of all the local heroes that were in attendance. If you haven't had a chance to attend, I would recommend you come and join us next year.

These are just a few examples of how the students at Shellsburg Elementary celebrate and learn about our local heroes. There are many, many others that I didn't mention, such as our SACG group, our local farmers, and our community volunteers. Thank you all for your contributions to our school and community. Our students are noticing your efforts, and I know you are inspiring our youth to be local heroes in the near future.



Representatives from Tilford Elementary traveled to Washington D.C. to accept Tilford's National Blue Ribbon Award. Accepting the Award for Tilford Elementary: Teachers Sarah Mathis, Shelley Haisman, Laurie Hyland, Lisa Murray; Tilford Principal Jim Murray, and Superintendent Mary Jo Hainstock

Blue Ribbon - Several of us had the opportunity to attend the events in Washington DC concerning the Blue Ribbon Schools. I had four main take-aways from the event.

- *It is a big deal. There are 130,000 schools across the US. Fewer than 350 of them earned the Blue Ribbon Award this year. Schools can earn it based on overall proficiency or closing the gap; Tilford earned it for closing the gap.
 - *Leadership matters. In conversations with other school districts, there was a trend that the principal had been in his/her position for several years as well as teacher leaders. The leaders had a vision and a sense of purpose and were able to coordinate everyone's work to support student success.
 - *Everyone has a part of the work and the success. This means everyone – parents, the students themselves, support staff, and yes – the adults in the other buildings – and everyone who is a part of the Vinton-Shellsburg school district should feel proud of the award.
 - *Socioeconomic status can be a barrier to high student achievement but it is a barrier that can be eliminated. We have students in all four buildings who may be identified as “economically disadvantaged” but the adults in the schools have ways to make sure the students are successful.
- This was a great recognition of the Difference Makers in our district!

Teachers Make The Most Of Their Opportunities To Learn






The school district schedules several early out and full-day professional development days throughout the school year. These days are important learning days for our teachers as work to improve their “craft”.

Our elementary teaching staff continually review and revise the essential skills that each student must demonstrate by the end of the school year. The elementary teachers collaboratively participate in The Instructional Data Teams Process. Utilizing assessment data, students are progress monitored according to their proficiency on the essential skills. The goal of data teams process is to ensure all students receive research-proven instructional strategies and learn at high levels by providing different levels of support. Through the data team process teachers have created schedules that set aside a block of intervention time. This guarantees students will receive additional opportunities for learning and support in a systematic way.

Jim Murray
Tilford Elementary Principal



DECEMBER 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p>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.</p> </div>					<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS & HS NEIBA Honor Band @ Oelwein ◇ V WR @ Monticello Tourney, 10:00 am ◇ B V SW @ Cardinal Invite (Newton YMCA), 10:00 am 	
<p>2 Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 14th Annual Tour de Lights 5K Run @ Vinton Fire Station, 5:00 pm 	<p>4 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR @ South Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. BMAP @ Union MS, 4:15 pm (After BMAP/UMS 7th Gr. Game) ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Beckman Catholic, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm 	<p>5 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Band Boosters Mtg., VSHS, 6:30 pm <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>6 Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB @ Mount Vernon, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Mount Vernon, 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. CCA, Lisbon & S. Tama @ Clear Creek-Amana, 6:00 pm ◇ JV/V G BB @ Gladbrook-Reinbeck, 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ JV B BB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 7:00 pm 	<p>7 Day 4 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL Professional Dev.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR vs. Clear Creek-Amana & Maquoketa, 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V G BB @ Mount Vernon, 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Mount Vernon, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ V WR @ South Tama Invite, 9:30 am ◇ B V SW @ Grinnell Invitational (Grinnell College), 11:00 am ◇ V G BOWL C.R. Prairie Invite @ Lancer Lanes, 1:00 pm 	
<p>3 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB vs. Marion, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Beckman Catholic, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm 	<p>10 Day 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ JV WR Viking Invite @ VSHS, 5:00 pm ◇ School Board Meeting, Central Office, 5:30 pm ◇ FFA Meeting @ VSHS, 6:30 pm ◇ 6-12 Band Extravaganza, VSMS, 7:00 pm <p style="text-align: center;">HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</p>	<p>11 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB @ Williamsburg HS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ MS WR vs. Lisbon & CPU @ Benton (Keystone), 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V G BB vs. Marion, 6:00/7:30 pm <p style="text-align: center;">HANUKKA STARTS</p>	<p>12 Day 1</p>	<p>13 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB vs. Mount Vernon, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Mount Vernon, 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Marion, 6:00 pm 	<p>14 Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. W. Delaware @ Berry's Lanes, 4:00 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Benton, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Benton, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ JV WR @ Iowa Falls-Alden Tourney, 6:00 pm ◇ B V SW @ Decorah, (Luther) 6:00 pm 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ V WR @ Iowa Falls-Alden Tourney, 10:00 am ◇ V B BOWL C.R. Jefferson Invite @ Lancer Lanes, 1:00 pm
<p>17 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ JV WR @ Center Point-Urbana Tourney, 5:00 pm ◇ JV B BB @ Benton, 7:00 pm ◇ 6-12 Winter Vocal Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm 	<p>18 Day 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ S. Tama, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. S. Tama, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ B V SW @ Williamsburg, 5:30 pm 	<p>19 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Career Fair, VSHS, 8:00 am—10:30 am 	<p>20 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 10/9 B BB vs. Williamsburg @ VSMS Gym, 4:00/5:30 pm ◇ V WR vs. Solon, Keokuk, & Midland @ Solon, 4:00 pm ◇ JV/V G B BB vs. Williamsburg @ VSHS Gym, 4:30/6:00 pm ◇ V B BB vs. Williamsburg @ VSHS Gym, 7:30 pm 	<p>21 Day 2 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL HOLIDAY BREAK</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>22</p>	
<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK KWANZAA BEGINS</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</p>	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ FFA/NHS/GO V-S remove holiday roping, 9:00 am 	
<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</p>	<p>JAN. 1</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK 1st Snow Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CLASSES RESUME</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	

Season's Greetings & a Happy New Year from Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools! See you in the new year!

District Equity Statement

The Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District shall take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment and advancement of women and men, minorities and disabled. Inquiries regarding compliance with equal educational or employment opportunities and/or affirmative action shall be directed to Becky Lutgen, Equity Coordinator, Vinton-Shellsburg CSD, 1502 C Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education in Chicago, IL.