

# VINTON-SHELLSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## "Just Look Up"

Coming in January the school district will be welcoming an energetic social emotional/motivational speaker named Joe Beckman. Joe is the author of the newly released book, *Just Look Up*.

In Joe's book he highlights the current pitfall of society which is the disconnection of people. Joe asserts this is because of the current pandemic, and an addiction to our cell phones. This lack of real human connection is taking a toll. According to the National Institutes of Health, between 2007 and 2012, anxiety disorders in children and teens went up 20 percent. Now, nearly one in three of all adolescents will experience an anxiety or mental health disorder.

Author and professor Brene Brown wrote, "Love and belonging is an irresistible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick."

Joe goes on to elaborate that when we look up, we see where our kindness and compassion can be used to make an impact on someone else. Really making a connection with someone, having a conversation about what interests them, smiling at them, listening to their story, is a vital part of helping those around us who are struggling to feel seen and understood. Even if it doesn't heal the pain of what they are going through, it's the only way to know if they need help in the first place.

There's an African proverb that says, "To go fast, go alone. To go far, go together." We were not meant to navigate this world alone; we were meant to navigate it together. Taking time to intentionally unplug allows us to be present and connect deeply with the most important element: the people around us.

When we look up, we see where our kindness and compassion can be used to make an impact on someone else. Make a Positive Difference in someone's day by simply *Just Looking Up*. *My desire for everyone this upcoming holiday season is to take time to disconnect and reconnect with those around you and in the community. We all have the power to make a difference in someone's life with our simple gestures of a smile and a conversation.*

I wish you and yours the best this holiday season. If you need anything or have any questions/comments feel free to reach out to me.

Take care,  
 Kyle Koeppe  
 Superintendent [kyle.koeppe@vscsd.org](mailto:kyle.koeppe@vscsd.org) Office: 319-436-5685



### Vinton-Shellsburg CSD School Board

On behalf of the staff, students, and community of the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District, we would like to say thank you to Sue Gates, Rob Levis, and Mike Timmermans for their service on our school board. In Iowa, the school board is the only elected board where a member serves with no compensation – they are truly volunteers who genuinely care about the education and well-being of our students.

At the same time we say goodbye to them, we also welcome three new members; Jenni Birker, Darin Humiston, and Kim Schirm. We look forward to your leadership in the coming years.

On November 12-14, the high school put on the musical *Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy*, co-directed by Monica Funk & Michala Martin. The show featured Darby Glynn as Deloris Van Cartier, Tess Lillibridge as Mother Superior, Blake Soquet as Officer Eddie Souther, Maya Islas as Sister Mary Patrick, Cameron Dawson-Fink as Sister Mary Robert, Bryleigh Farmer as Sister Mary Lazarus, and many others! The story follows Deloris (Glynn), a hopeful professional performer, as she witnesses her lowlife boyfriend commit a crime, then goes into witness protection in a convent...surrounded by nuns. While she struggles to blend in and not make too many waves, she ultimately finds friendship and acceptance in the least expected of places.

In addition to an awesome cast of students from all grades, we also had a wonderful crew who ran sound, lights, and all set and stage movement. It was a great show, and we're so thankful to everyone who was able to come out!



3rd grade honored our bus drivers during Heroes Week

### Special points of interest

- Dec. 3 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof. Dev.
- Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Program @ Palace Theatre, 7:00 pm FREE ADMISSION
- Dec. 13 - School Board Meeting @ Central Office Board Room, 5:30 pm
- Dec. 13 - 6-12 Band Concert, VSMS Gym, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 16 - 6-12 Winter Choral Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Dec. 17 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof. Dev.
- Dec. 22 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 - NO CLASSES — Christmas Break.
- Jan. 4 - **CLASSES RESUME**



Spreading holiday cheer! Some of our high school choir students shared their talents and kicked off the holiday season with a first round of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, November 21.



# DECEMBER 2021



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		<b>1 Day 1</b> 	<b>2 Day 2</b> ◇ 8 G BB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Union, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Aplington-Parkersburg, N. Tama, & Union @ Union, 6:00 pm	<b>3 Day 3</b> <b>2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL Professional Dev.</b> ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. W. Delaware (Berry's Lanes), 3:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. W. Delaware, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ JV/V G BB @ W. Delaware, 6:00/7:15 pm ◇ JV G WR @ B-G-M (Brooklyn), 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> ◇ NEIBA Honor Band @ Oelwein ◇ V WR @ Monticello Tourney, 10:00 am ◇ B V SW @ Cardinal Invite (Newton YMCA), 10:00 am
		<b>6 Day 4</b> ◇ 7 G BB @ Solon, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Solon MS, 4:15 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Beckman Catholic, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm	<b>7 Day 5</b> ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Waverly-Shell Rock (Berry's Lanes), 3:30 pm ◇ 7 G BB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ MS WR vs. Solon & S. Tama @ S. Tama MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Beckman Catholic, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ Pearl Harbor Program @ Palace Theatre 7:00 pm FREE ADMISSION	<b>8 Day 6</b> 	<b>9 Day 1</b> ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Independence @ Cadillac Lanes, 3:45 pm ◇ 7 G BB @ S. Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V WR @ Center Point-Urbana, 6:30 pm
<b>13 Day 3</b> ◇ JV WR Viking Invite @ VSHS, 4:30 pm ◇ FFA Meeting, 6:30 pm ◇ 6-12 Band Extravaganza, VSMS Gym, 7:00 pm ◇ School Board Meeting, Central Office Board Room, 5:30 pm	<b>14 Day 4</b> ◇ 7 G BB @ Vernon MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Vernon MS, 4:15 pm ◇ MS WR vs. CPU @ Benton (Keystone), 4:15 pm ◇ B V SW vs. Oskaloosa & Centerville @ Williamsburg, 5:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Mount Vernon, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Mount Vernon, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm	<b>15 Day 5</b> 	<b>16 Day 6</b> ◇ JV/V WR Double Dual vs. Independence & S. Tama, 6:00 pm ◇ 6-12 Winter Choral Extravaganza, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm	<b>17 Day 1</b> <b>2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL Professional Dev.</b> ◇ FS/V G BB vs. Benton, 6:00/7:15 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Benton, 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ JV WR @ Iowa Falls-Alden Tourney, 5:00 pm ◇ B V SW vs. Mason City, Waterloo West, & Decorah @ Luther 6:00 pm	<b>18</b> ◇ V WR @ Iowa Falls-Alden Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ V B BOWL @ C.R. Prairie Invite @ Lancer Lanes, 1:00 pm
<b>20 Day 2</b> ◇ FS/V/JV G BB @ Waverly-Shell Rock, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ JV WR @ Center Point-Urbana Tourney, 4:30 pm ◇ 10/V B BB @ Iowa Valley, 6:00/7:30 pm	<b>21 Day 3</b> ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ S. Tama 4:30/6:00/7:15 pm ◇ FS/V G BB vs. S. Tama, 6:00/7:15 pm	<b>22 Day 4</b> <b>2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL HOLIDAY BREAK</b> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">           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.         </div>	<b>23</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>24</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>25</b> 
<b>27</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>28</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>29</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>30</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK</b>	<b>JANUARY 1</b> 

Changes may occur after publication. You can always check the activities calendar on-line @ [www.vcsd.org](http://www.vcsd.org) under District Calendars.

## Students and Parents Winter Driving Safety Tips

Many areas in Iowa will soon be experiencing snow and ice, which can mean dangerous driving conditions. If you are a very experienced driver or if it's your first year driving, it is a good time to review some proven winter driving safety tips that might help drivers avoid problems.

1. Don't rush. When roads and sidewalks are slippery, rushing to catch the bus or driving faster to make it to your destination can have disastrous results. Leave a few minutes early. Give your child and yourself plenty of time.
2. Bundle up. Students need to keep warm at the bus stop. Make sure your child still has an adequate line of sight and can hear traffic and other noises.
3. Watch your step. Watch where you are walking, take shorter more deliberate steps. Wear appropriate footwear.
4. Be patient. School bus drivers are trained to drive in inclement weather; however, snow and icy roads can slow down even the most experienced driver. Safety is each driver's top priority and extra time may be needed to get from stop to stop. Drive slower and increase your following distance as more stopping time is needed when roads are icy.
5. Clear view of sight. Clear away snow and frost from all windows on your vehicle so that you do not have any obstructed views. Clear snow off your vehicle so that you don't put the vehicle behind you in danger from flying snow and decreasing visibility.
6. Be weather aware. Bad weather can lead to school cancellations, delays or early dismissals. Make sure your contact information is correct in PowerSchools and be sure to check local media when inclement weather is expected. Signup to get alerts.
7. Watch for school buses. Passing a stopped school bus from behind as it loads or unloads children is illegal. Don't put our children at risk.
8. Everyone plays a role in ensuring students get to school safely, so please use caution, be prepared, remain alert, and adjust driving behavior.

**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.