

# 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:

- Feb. 10— Regular School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 5:30 pm (will be going into closed session)
- Feb. 14—NO CLASSES, Prof. Development
- Feb. 15—Voyager Spring Show, VSMS, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 17—CLASSES IN SESSION, Snow Make-up Day

The School Board will be having numerous meetings relating to the superintendent search. A majority of these meetings will be in closed session as requested by the applicants. The Board will be meeting on: Feb. 1st, 3rd, 6th, 10th, and 11th.

## High School Information Night Class of 2024

The high school staff and students will welcome the Class of 2024 (current 8<sup>th</sup> graders) and their parents to a high school information night on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the V-S High School. The agenda for the event, which starts at 7:00 PM, will include: a) the high school guidance department staff providing information on high school academic requirements and the course selection process for the 2020-21 school year; b) the opportunity for students and parents to interact with representatives from each academic department and tour the high school building; and c) informational tables, staffed by coaches and student participants, for each extra and co-curricular activity available to high school students. All current 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are encouraged to attend this "orientation to high school" night! If you have any questions about this event, please contact VSHS Academic Advisor Sandy Hamilton (ph. 436-5708 or [sandy.hamilton@vscsd.org](mailto:sandy.hamilton@vscsd.org)).



Vinton-Shellsburg is hosting a **WANDRAISER** for Wands for Wildlife!

In the month of February, the schools will be collecting old mascara wands to send to the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge. The wands are used by the organization to remove fly eggs and larvae from the fur and feathers of wild animals. They work great because the bristles are close together. Please bring your old mascara wands to one of the schools, where there will be a drop-off box in the office!

This is a program for recycling old mascara wands; please do not buy new ones. Instead, please take a look at the online Wishlist of food and supplies for the care and treatment of the injured and orphaned wild ones at <https://www.appalachianwild.org/wands-for-wildlife.html>.

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

We are just starting the 2020 calendar year and we are well underway into planning for the 2020-21 school year. We are spending time developing next year's calendar, the budget, staffing plans, summer building projects, and the list goes on!

We recently surveyed staff and community members about the 2020-21 calendar. We had 385 community surveys submitted and 131 staff surveys. Some of the results include:

- ^The majority want school to start on Monday, August 24 (Iowa law requires us to start no earlier than August 23).
- ^The majority want the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a no school day (91% of staff and 68% of community responses).
- ^There is not a clear consensus on when we will dismiss for the winter break – because Christmas is on a Friday, it could be the previous Friday if we have a two-week break (similar to this year) or the following Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. This will be a discussion item for the Calendar Committee.
- ^Spring break is always a question where we do not have as much consensus. About 50% of the community responses indicated we should have one but "no preference" also received a lot of votes; for staff, slightly more than 50% want to have one. If we have a break, most want it around Easter (next year April 4) and want to have snow make-up days included in the break.
- ^Fridays seem to be the best day to have professional development (63% staff, 63% community); plus this provides the least disruption to our preschool schedule as they do not meet on Fridays.
- ^The vast majority of both groups want to have snow days built into the schedule (90% for both surveys).
- ^Both surveys indicated people want parent-teacher conferences scheduled similar to what we did this year.
- ^We included a question about which weekend to hold graduation (Memorial Day weekend or the previous weekend) as well as when we should have the ceremony (Friday evening, Saturday afternoon or evening, or Sunday afternoon). Overall, people still want it on Memorial Day Sunday afternoon but there seems to be interest in considering a different option such as Friday night or even Saturday afternoon. It would be difficult to move it off Memorial Day weekend without making that decision a year or two in advance to assist families in their celebration planning.

There were many comments included on the surveys. A few things I would respond to:

**Why don't we have a year-round calendar?** The short answer – because it's against the law for high school schedules and it would be difficult to have one calendar K-8 and another for 9-12 for busses, food service, and other supports.

**Don't start until after Labor Day! And Make sure we are out before Memorial Day!** There are many comments that are one or the other; it would be very difficult to create a calendar that does both. My experience shows that most kids and their parents are ready for school to start in August (even before the legal start date of August 23); my experience shows that many are ready for the year to be done in May!

**Why don't you do all the professional development days before or after the school year?** Because teachers are including student work in their discussions, they need to look at the students' work throughout the year. In August, they would only have the previous year's work and in June, they would only have the previous year's work.

**Weather Decisions** – January's weather required us to adjust our schedule several times. Providing for student safety is a rule we always follow – and sometimes the safest thing is to have school. This is a good time to review our process have created concern and questions about when we start (or have) school – although these are guidelines that sometimes are adjusted:

Make the decision by 5:30 so everyone can be notified in a timely manner.

If we have a late start, we won't have an early out.

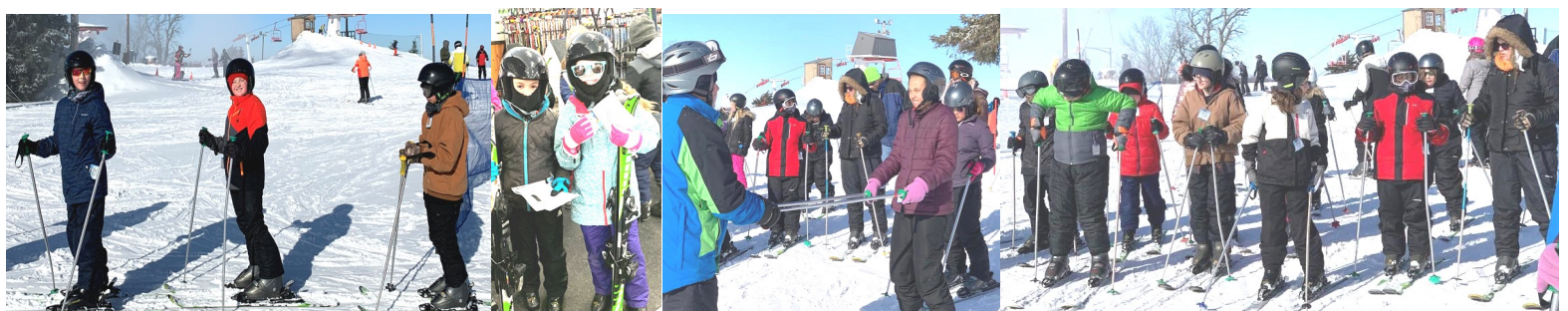
If we decide on a late start, we don't want to change it later to a no school day (unless absolutely necessary).

If we attend school, we want to serve our students lunch.




If we have an early out, we do not have school activities in the afternoon or evening.

If any student or parent has a question about the school district, I encourage him or her to give me a call, send me an e-mail or make an appointment. My phone number is 319.436.5685 and my e-mail is [maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org](mailto:maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org). I welcome the opportunity to visit about what is going well (or not so well) in our district.

Respectfully,  
Mary Jo Hainstock, Superintendent



# FEBRUARY 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">V-SCSD EQUITY STATEMENT</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">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 or becky.lutgen@vscsd.org. 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.</p>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">Substitute food service workers, teacher associates, custodians and bus drivers are needed. Please contact Karrie at Central Office to apply. 319-436-5680.</p>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">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>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V WR WaMaC Tourney @ West Delaware, 10:00 am</li> <li>◇ V B SW NCSC Conference Meet @ Coe College, 12:00 pm</li> <li>◇ Board Meeting @ Central Office, 8:00 am (*much of meeting time will be closed to the public)</li> </ul>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">3 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ 7 B BB @ S. Tama (Toledo), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15pm</li> <li>◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 4:30 pm (*much of meeting time will be closed to the public)</li> <li>◇ JV/V G BB @ Oelwein, 4:00/6:15 pm</li> <li>◇ JV/V B BB @ Oelwein, 5:00/7:30 pm</li> <li>◇ FFA Chapter Meeting, VSHS, 6:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">4 Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ JV/V G BB @ Benton, 6:00/7:30 pm</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Benton, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">5 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ FFA District Review Night @ Independence HS, 5:00 pm</li> <li>◇ Band Boosters Meeting, VSHS, 6:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">6 Day 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ 7 B BB @ Benton (Norway), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB vs. Benton, 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ Board Meeting, Central Office, 6:30 pm (*much of meeting time will be closed to the public)</li> <li>◇ JV/V G BB vs. Central DeWitt, 6:00/7:30 pm (<i>Rescheduled from 1/24/20</i>)</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">7 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V BOWL @ Central DeWitt (DeWitt Lanes), 4:00 pm</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm</li> <li>◇ JV/V G BB vs. Center Point -Urbana, 6:00/7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Large Group Speech State @ C. R. Washington, 8:00 am</li> <li>◇ V WR Sectionals @ Williamsburg, 12:00 pm</li> <li>◇ B V SW Districts @ Marshalltown, 12:00 pm</li> </ul>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">10 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ 7 B BB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB @ Williamsburg (Mary Welsh), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ JV B BB vs. Independence, 7:00 pm</li> <li>◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 5:30 pm (*much of meeting time will be closed to the public)</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">11 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V WR Dual Team Regionals @ TBA, 6:00 pm</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Williamsburg, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm</li> <li>◇ JV/V G BB vs. Williamsburg, 6:00/7:30 pm (<i>Senior Night/VPRD Youth BB Night</i>)</li> <li>◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 6:30 pm (*much of meeting time will be closed to the public)</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">12 Day 3</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">13 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Festival of Bands @ UNI</li> <li>◇ 7 B BB vs. Solon, 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB @ Solon, 4:15 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">14 NO CLASSES Prof. Dev.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Festival of Bands @ UNI</li> <li>◇ V BOWL WaMaC Tourney @ Cedar Rapids Bowling Center, 1:00 pm</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB @ W. Delaware, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Valentine's Day</p> </div>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Festival of Bands @ UNI</li> <li>◇ B V SW State @ U of I Rec &amp; Wellness Center, 12:00 pm</li> <li>◇ V WR Districts @ Center Point-Urbana, 12:00 pm</li> <li>◇ V G BB Regional 1st Round @ TBA, 7:00 pm</li> <li>◇ Voyagers Spring Show, VSMS, 7:00 pm</li> </ul>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">16 Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ G BB All-Conference Meeting @ Marion, 1:00 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">18 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V BOWL State Qualifying @ Lancer Lanes, 9:00 am</li> <li>◇ 7 B BB vs. Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB @ Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Marion, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">19 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V G BB 2nd Round Regionals @ TBA 7:00 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">20 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Tallcorn Jazz Festival @ UNI, 2:45 pm</li> <li>◇ 7 B BB @ Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB vs. Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ Freshman Orientation (Class of 2024 &amp; Parents) @ VSHS Auditorium, 7:00—8:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">21 Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ 7 B BB @ Williamsburg (Mary Welsh), 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ 8 B BB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm</li> <li>◇ B BB Conference Meeting, 6:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">22</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold;">17 Day 5 CLASSES IN SESSION (Snow Make-up Day)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ B/G V Track Practice may begin</li> <li>◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Central DeWitt, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm (<i>Rescheduled from 1/24/20</i>)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">President's Day</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT 2/19—2/22</p>				
<p style="font-weight: bold;">24 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V B BB 1st Round Districts, TBA, 7:00 pm</li> <li>◇ Individual Speech, WaMaC West @ Williamsburg, 4:30 pm</li> <li>◇ V BOWL State Co-Ed, Cadillac Lanes, Waterloo</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">25 Day 5</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">26 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Sub-district FFA Leadership Events @ Hawkeye Comm. College, 9:00 am</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">27 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ V B BB 2nd Round Districts, 7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">28 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Coe College Jazz Band Festival</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Speech District Individuals @ VSHS, 8:00 am</li> </ul>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">NATIONAL FFA WEEK 2/24—2/28</p>					

## SHELLSBURG ELEMENTARY

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students got to go on our yearly field trip to Sundown Mountain Ski Resort in Dubuque to learn how to ski. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> year of introducing downhill skiing to our students, and they had as good of time as ever, despite the cold temperatures. (pictures on the front)

This field trip is the first experience many of our students and adult chaperones ever have of skiing. When we get there, ski instructors take our group through a series of 8 lessons, where they learn everything from how to put on skis to learning to turn and stop while going downhill. Our kids are quick learners, and many times pick it up well before the adults do.

What I love about this field trip is that it brings everyone together for a common goal: to learn how to ski. First, it is a recreational activity that they can do for a lifetime, but many would not have a chance to ever try without this. As mostly beginners, they are all starting out at the same skill level, so they work together to learn how, and celebrate together as they progress. At times, I've seen kids that struggle in school excel as skiers, and vice versa. I see kids that are generally nervous take a leap of faith and try their newly acquired skills on a "big" hill. But mostly I see scared looks turn to smiles as students and adults learn together. This is a field trip I plan on continuing as long as possible, as there is so much to be learned from it.

I want to make a call out to any families that have preschool age students. We are trying to plan our programming for next year, both for 3-year old and 4-year old preschool. A lot of our planning depends on the number of students we have. If you have a 3 or 4 year old child, please consider calling the school or visiting our website to sign them up. Preschool is a very beneficial program to the development of a child, and we find that students that participate are more prepared for Kindergarten. Our Preschool Round-up for the 4-year old program is March 6 from 9:30-11:00. At that point we will be creating class lists and determining what our programming will look like based on numbers. Please call me at 319-436-5903 if you have questions.

We are also getting our list of Kindergarten students together. If you have a child that will be 5 years old by September 15, they are eligible to start Kindergarten. If you have not already signed your child up, you can do so by signing up on our Shellsburg Elementary website, or by calling or stopping in and talking to our secretary, Lori Werning. The date of our Kindergarten Round-up is Thursday, March 26 from 9:00-11:00 am.

As always, I'm very appreciative of the support Shellsburg Elementary gets from our parents and the community.

Ryan Davis, Principal

### Upcoming Dates

Friday, Jan. 31 - 2-Hr. Early Out

Friday, Feb. 14 - No School

Monday, Feb. 17 - School IN Session (Snow Make-Up Day)