

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."

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Special points of interest

- Jan. 3 - CLASSES RESUME
- Jan. 5-6 - State Debate @ DMACC
- Jan. 8 - School Board Meeting @ Central Board Room, 7:00 pm
- Jan. 12 - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal- Prof. Development
- Jan. 15 - NO CLASSES
- Jan. 19 - Band Soup Supper, VSHS Commons, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Jan. 24 - COMPLIMENT DAY—Say something positive to someone today!
- Jan. 26- 2-Hr. Early Dismissal- Prof. Development
- Jan. 27—ZAPS ACT Prep Seminar (Gr. 10-12), 8:00—3:00
- Jan. 29 - Iowa Assessments Begin for Gr. 3rd—11th

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

Happy New Year! The holidays are over and soon the legislature will be back in session. Last session there was discussion around extending the one-cent local option sales tax for school infrastructure (SAVE). The 2029 sunset was not extended and I anticipate there will be more discussion this year around it.

We have outstanding facilities in our district. I give credit to the support of our taxpayers through bond issues over the years, the voters' support of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL), the school board's support for PPEL and for the one-cent local option sales tax.

We use voter approved Physical Plant and Equipment dollars (PPEL) and the one-cent local option sales tax (SAVE) to fund the expenses that keep our facilities updated. I am using this month's newsletter article to outline how some of those funds have been allocated.

As we are making decisions about allocating the funds, we are constantly asking ourselves six questions:

- Will it provide for a safer environment for students, staff and others? (security systems)
- Does it provide for expanded opportunities for our students? (1:1 laptops for HS students)
- Does it provide the tools teachers and other staff need to do their jobs? (equipment for custodians)
- Does it lead to efficiency which may in turn lead to cost savings? (Lighting replacement with efficiency bulbs)
- Does it provide for innovation and trying something new? (Propane busses)
- Does it help the district improve the quality of our offerings or meet minimum expectations and standards? (cement parking lots)

Some of the funds are spent on "boring" items. This includes funds to maintain our roofs (we spend about \$60,000 annually to keep them in good repair); our heating and cooling systems including our boiler systems (we recently replaced a tank at the MS for about \$12,000) and replacing a main rooftop HVAC unit at Tilford for about \$500,000. We have purchased air conditioners so most of our classroom space is more comfortable during the hot and humid days of the year. It includes exterior painting, waterproofing and tuck-pointing (about \$20,000 each year). We have a plan so the restrooms in our older buildings are upgraded and remain attractive for our students and visitors.

We spend funds on making sure we have the right equipment to keep our facilities in good shape – from snow plows to lawn mowers to vacuums and other items to work on the floors. We allocate funds on cement each year so that our parking lots, sidewalks and other areas meet high standards. We replaced dated and dented exterior doors.

We use the funds to replace and maintain our fleet of vehicles. We have 18 route, special education and activity busses, five vans and three cars. A new bus costs around \$100,000 and we work to keep them for about 12 years.

We recently improved the sound equipment in six areas that have a lot of use – all four gyms and the auditoriums at the high school and Tilford. The next time you attend an athletic event, music concert or other public performance, you should be able to hear (almost) every word sung or spoken!

We use the funds to support technology purchases and the infrastructure to use the technology. This includes every high school student having his/her own computer, every teacher and administrator having an individual computer, and having almost 900 other computers. It also means having a wireless system, servers and other items which make our system run smoothly. It has included a
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**Tiny Vike's
4 Year Old Preschool
Tuition Free
Enroll Your Child For
Fall of 2018-2019!**

Go to VSCSD.org and click on
Tilford or Shellsburg page
OR
Call: 319-436-4728
Ext. 5800 or 5802 (Tilford)
Ext. 5900 (Shellsburg)

Our preschool program will offer:

- *Morning or afternoon preschool free of a tuition charge (only a milk/juice fee)
- *Highly qualified preschool teachers with a college degree specializing in early childhood education
- *Teacher associates with a paraprofessional endorsement or two year degree
- *Classrooms that align with the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards
- *The state approved Creative Curriculum and assessments

**Children must be 4 on or before
September 15, 2018 to attend preschool**

V-S CSD 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 Kim Meyer, 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.

(continue from page 1) new phone system and the keyless entry into the buildings. We used technology upgrades to install buzz-in systems for the building offices in an effort to provide more security. We have installed security cameras in our school busses, most hallways and other areas.

We work to upgrade band instruments that are otherwise cost prohibitive for families and are working to purchase a new grand piano for the high school. We have purchased keyboards and pianos for the other buildings. We have used the funds to “leverage” donations from individuals, companies, and others. This has included the Animal Learning Lab in which 50% came from private donations and the upgrades to the Karr Athletic Complex including the track, turf field and other items.

We use SAVE dollars to help pay off the bonds that were taken out to fund the construction of the high school and additions at Tilford and Shellsburg Elementary.

If you have any questions about anything that has to do with the school, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. I would welcome the opportunity to sit down and visit with you. Have a Happy New Year!

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

IOWA Assessments

We are asking for your support to help make sure the students of Vinton-Shellsburg are at school during our Iowa Assessments testing window. Attendance is very important during the first full week of testing as we'll be administering our Reading and Math assessments that week. We will be administering the **Iowa Assessments from January 29-February 2, 2018 in grades 3-11**. Research shows that students perform better on the assessment when taken with the rest of their class or on schedule instead of during a make up session.

We would like to ask you not to schedule appointments during these times. It is very hard to make up missed tests. These tests are used by the state to determine if the Vinton-Shellsburg District achieves adequate progress and by the district as one measure of our students' learning. Thank you in advance for planning ahead for those appointments.

2018 DRIVERS' EDUCATION

We will continue working with ABC Driver Education LLC to provide instruction and experience for students who need driver education. Spring and summer registration will open after January 1st. More information is available on the school's website.

Attendance percentage rates for the high school classes. Our Sophomores were the class last year that led most of the year with best monthly attendance and seems to be off to a great start with 95% or better each month this year. The freshman class is close behind. We have had several perfect attendance random draw winners for the month of October and November. We also recognize the monthly perfect attendance students with their names posted in the commons area along with their class percentages.

	Aug./Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
9th	96.8%	94.6%	93.7%
10th	95.5%	95.6%	95.1%
11th	95.2%	93.9%	92.8%
12th	95.2%	93.9%	93.1%

“THE PROMISE OF IOWA” — PUBLIC EDUCATION

PromiseofIowa.org

Facts about Public Schools in Iowa:

*There are 483,451 students in 1,350 schools in Iowa under 333 school districts employing 79,339 staff. *The average expenditure per student is \$10,622. *Iowa public schools safely transport 243,000+ students to school daily. *Iowa public school busses travel 42 million miles per year transporting students to and from school. *Iowa public schools served nearly 59 million lunches to students in 2015-16. *Iowa's graduation rate is up from 90.8% in 2015 to 91.3%. *Iowa leads the nation in ACT college readiness scores. *The average age of teachers in Iowa is 40.8 years. *32.9% of the teachers hold a Master's degree. *The average total years of experience is 13.5 years. *There are 34,727 teachers in Iowa.

WHY PRESCHOOL MATTERS

A great preschool program can benefit any child. Before age 5, 90% of a child's brain develops. Early learning efforts are especially important to ensure the success of low-income students, who often start behind their more affluent peers. Low income children hear up to 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers before entering school. By age 5, a typical middle-class child recognizes 22 letters compared to 9 for a child in a low-income family. A low income child has 975 fewer hours of one-on-one picture book reading than their middle-class peers. Thankfully there are 297 community partners who work with public school districts on Iowa's statewide voluntary preschool program. Register your preschool age children today to ensure them a brighter future!



Cyborg Sharks – Emmett Colsch, Carter Lamont, Max Janssen, Wyatt Janssen, Oliver Cox, Aleric Weber.



H2O Fro's – Annabelle Newton, Lizzie Noe, Brylee Bruce, Ian Allsup, Cami Dawson-Fink, Aspen Ahrenholz, Lillia Dalstrom, Ellery Johnson, Natalie Dean, Darby Glynn.



The Vinton-Shellsburg Voyagers Dance Team had quite the showing at state this year by placing in the top 5 in all three categories. The voyagers competed on Thursday, November 30 and Friday, December 1, at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. They competed in hip hop, contemporary and Pom. "Our classes were adjusted quite a bit this year due to large changes in enrollment across the state of Iowa, putting us into much more challenging classes. The girls did a wonderful job and really made a name for themselves at state this year," says coach Michelle Wedemeyer. The Voyagers placed 3rd in hip hop, 4th in Pom and 4th in contemporary. The dancers have performed at recent home basketball games and are planning their spring show.



Aquatic Alliance of Pufferfish – Hugh Mangold, Carmen Henkle, Sophia Vasquez, Sam Glynn, Eli Page.

Each year, the Lego League challenges includes a specific theme, and students must choose a problem to solve in that area. This year's theme is Hydrodynamics. The students chose to address solutions to a variety of water-related challenges.

Two of the three Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School Lego League teams advanced to state during the regional event in Marion. Advancing to state are the seventh grade members of the H2OFros and the sixth grade team, Aquatic Alliance of Pufferfish. The Cyborg Sharks, another sixth grade team, won the Robot Design Championship.

Congratulations Baylee Bruce for receiving 1 of the 7 senior scholarships awarded at the ISDTA State Competition this year! Baylee was 1 of 17 finalists eligible for the award after sending in a portfolio highlighting her achievements and future goals and then going through an interview process.



VS School Board approves School Resource Officer agreement with city

Thanks to a grant program, the Vinton-Shellsburg School District and the Vinton Police Department will work together on a School Resource Officer Program, with a police officer assigned to the school to help with security and related issues.

A necessary step toward that program was approval of a 28E agreement between the school district and the City of Vinton. The School Board approved it; the council will also vote on approval at a future meeting.

"The school district welcomes the opportunity to build on our partnership with the Vinton PD through the School Resource Officer program," says Superintendent Mary Jo Hainstock. "Our local police officers provide great support to our schools through their visibility both inside and outside the buildings and at school events. The SRO program will allow us to build even stronger relationships with our students, staff, families and the police department."

Officer's specific duties:

The official job classification from the Vinton Police Department includes the following duties of a resource officer:

All duties and responsibilities of a Police Officer in the Vinton Police Department listed in Policy 03-02.04 with the primary focus of the SRO's time and efforts during the school year directed to issues in and around school facilities.

Investigation and enforcement of state laws and city ordinances in and on District property. For violations of law at Shellsburg Elementary, the SRO will perform this duty secondary to the law enforcement agency responsible for the City of Shellsburg or at the request of that agency.

Coordination, collaboration and provision of facility security during school hours during the regular school year.

Coordination and provision of security during extracurricular activities, special events, and School Board meetings, as requested by the District.



Presenting and/or assisting with short programs covering law enforcement related subjects, including drug abuse prevention, as requested by the District.

Work in coordination with the juvenile court and other allied agencies.

Identify and prevent delinquent behaviors, including substance abuse, through counseling and referral.

Daily interaction with the students, parents, and faculty to develop positive relationships and to act as a positive role model.

JANUARY 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 NEW YEARS DAY NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK	2 NO CLASSES HOLIDAY BREAK	3 Day 4 CLASSES RESUME ◇ Band Boosters Mtg., VSHS, 6:30 pm	4 Day 5 ◇ B V SW vs. Decorah, (IBSSS), 4:30 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Benton & Marion @ VSHS, 6:00 pm 	5 Day 6 ◇ State Debate @ DMACC ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Ma- quoketa, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Maquo- keta, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm	6 ◇ State Debate @ DMACC ◇ NEIBA Honor Jazz Band @ CR Kennedy ◇ JV/V WR @ Benton Tourney, 8:00/ 9:30am ◇ B V SW @ Waterloo Invite (Central Pool), 12:00 pm
8 Day 1 ◇ FFA Meeting @ VSHS, 6:30 pm ◇ JV B BB vs. Clear Creek- Amana, 7:00 pm ◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Board Room, 7:00 pm	9 Day 2 ◇ JV BOWL vs. W. Dubuque @ Berry's Lanes, 4:00 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Ben- ton, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm ◇ JV/V G BB vs. Benton, 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ B V SW vs. Grinnell @ (IBSSS), 4:45 pm	10 Day 3 <p style="text-align: center;">SAVE THE EAGLES DAY</p>	11 Day 4 ◇ 7 B BB @ Clear Creek- Amana MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB vs. Clear Creek- Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ B V SW @ Grinnell Invite (Bear RAC), 7:00 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Beckman Catholic, VSHS, 6:00 pm	12 Day 5 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. W. Dubuque (Berry's Lanes), 4:00 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:30/ 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Cen- ter Point-Urbana, 4:30/ 6:00/7:30 pm	13 ◇ JV/V WR @ Solon Invite, 9:00 am
14 Sunday ◇ Dorian Vocal Festival (Luther College)	16 Day 6 ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Inde- pendence @ Berry's Lanes, 4:00 pm ◇ 7 B BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB @ S. Tama MS, (Toledo) 4:15 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Williamsburg, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Wil- liamsburg, 4:30/ 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ B V SW vs. Williams- burg (IBSSS), 4:45 pm	17 Day 1 <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Citizen Activity Passes are available for Vinton- Shellsburg CSD residents who are age 55 or older; stop by the Superinten- dent's Office at 1502 C Ave., Vinton.</p> </div>	18 Day 2 ◇ JV/V BOWL @ Marion (CR Bowling Ctr.), 3:00 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Clear Creek-Amana & Inde- pendence @ Independ- ence, 6:00 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Oel- wein, 4:30/6:00/7:30pm 	19 Day 3 ◇ 7 B BB @ Union MS (Dysart), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB vs. Union, 4:15 pm ◇ JV/V G BB @ S. Tama, 6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. S. Tama, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm ◇ Band Soup Supper, VSHS Commons, 5:00- 7:00 pm	20 ◇ MS Honor Band @ Marion ◇ District Large Group Speech @ Montezu- ma ◇ V WR @ North Tama Tourney, 10:00 am
15 NO CLASSES ◇ WaMaC Large Group Speech @ Benton, 4:30 pm ◇ Dorian Vocal Festival (Luther College) <p style="text-align: center;">MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p>	NO NAME CALLING WEEK 1/15—1/19 Talk to your child. Take a stand against bullying!				
22 Day 4 ◇ Meister Singer Honor Choir Festival @ Wartburg ◇ IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival @ Benton ◇ 7 B BB vs. Marion MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB @ Marion MS, 4:15 pm ◇ JV WR WaMaC Tourney @ S. Tama, 5:00 pm ◇ JV B BB vs. Independ- ence, 7:00 pm	23 Day 5 ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Col- umbus Catholic, (Berry's Lanes), 4:00 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ B V SW Invite @ CR Washington, 5:00 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Iowa Valley, IC Regina & Grinnell @ Iowa Val- ley, 6:00 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:30/ 6:00/7:30 pm	24 Day 6 <i>Please help to make sure your students receive adequate sleep and receive a good breakfast during the Iowa Assessments (Jan. 29th—Feb. 2nd) We ask that you please not schedule appoint- ments during this time as it becomes difficult to make-up tests.</i> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLIMENT DAY</p>	25 Day 1 ◇ 7 B BB @ Williamsburg, (Mary Welsh) 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB vs. Williams- burg, 4:15 pm ◇ 10/9/V B BB @ Union, 4:30/5:30/7:30 pm ◇ JV/V G BB @ Union, 4:30/6:15 pm	26 Day 2 2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ 5&6 ECICDA Honor Choir @ Coe College ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Maquo- keta (Berry's Lanes), 4:00 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. Inde- pendence, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Inde- pendence, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm	27 ◇ ZAPS ACT Prep Seminar (Gr. 10-12), 8:00 am—3:00 pm ◇ V WR WaMaC Tour- ney @ Maquoketa, 10:00 am ◇ B V SW Meet @ Oskaloosa, 10:00 am
29 Day 3 Iowa Assessments Begin for Grades 3rd—11th ◇ 7 B BB @ Independence, 4:15 pm (West Elem.) ◇ 8 B BB vs. Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ V G BB vs. Gladbrook- Reinbeck, 6:30pm (Senior Night) ◇ JV B BB @ Benton, 7:00 pm	30 Day 4 ◇ JV/V BOWL vs. Wa- verly-Shell Rock (Berry's Lanes), 4:00 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. Marion, 4:30/6:00/ 7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ Mari- on, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm	31	Feb. 1 Day 5 ◇ 7 B BB @ S. Tama MS, (Toledo), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 B BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm	2 Day 1 ◇ ISU Honor Band ◇ JV/V BOWL @ Central DeWitt (DeWitt Lanes), 4:00 pm ◇ 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 ◇ Chamber Choir Lock-In	3 ◇ V B SW Districts @ Linn-Mar ◇ ISU Honor Band ◇ Speech Large Group State @ Linn-Mar, 8:00 am ◇ V WR Sectionals @ Benton, 12:00 pm