

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:

- March 1 – 2-Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof. Development
- March 5 - Middle School Bands Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- March 8 - Cabaret, VSHS, 7:00 pm
- March 11 - School Board Meeting @ High School, 6:00 pm
- March 14 - Middle School Choir & Show Choir Concert @ VSHS, 7:00 pm
- March 15 - Classes In Session (Snow Make-up)
- March 18 & 21- 2-Hr. Early Dismissal, K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 2:00 - 8:00 pm
- March 22 - NO CLASSES, Prof. Development
- March 29 & 30 - Middle School Play, Tilford Elem., 7:00 pm

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

When I was in choir in high school, we sang a song with the lines, "Everyone talks about the weather. We cannot do a thing about it." The melody has played many times in my head over the last few weeks. What a winter we've had...so far! Let's hope that March comes in like a lamb and stays that way all month!

Snow Make-up Days – We have missed many days due to the weather. The board approved revisions to the 2018-19 calendar for the snow days up through February 13th. This includes having students attend school on February 18, March 15, April 18, April 22, May 30 and May 31. Because our original 2018-19 calendar was based on hours and well-exceeded the 1080 hours, we had extra hours and can "absorb" some of the snow days. However, we certainly do not want to only meet the minimum number of hours if possible. We are also working on how we will revise our teachers' and support staff contract days as it gives us the opportunity to offer some different trainings.

Even though it seems we are struggling to get into a regular routine for this year, we are already working on the 2019-20 school year. This includes work on the calendar, the budget, the staffing plan and the summer building projects.

Calendar: The Calendar Committee will have a recommendation for next year's calendar at the March 11th board meeting. The feedback we received from our annual survey showed that parents and community: Prefer Fridays for our early-outs and no-school days. Want the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to be a no-school day. Want the holiday break to begin after school on Friday, December 20th. Want to have several snow make-up days built into the calendar. Prefer to be done with school in May.

I anticipate the school year will start on Friday, August 23. While starting on a Friday is not my first choice, it is the first day we can legally start school. Both Christmas and New Year's will be on a Wednesday next year so I anticipate a longer break.

Budget: The school board will have their budget workshop on Monday, March 11 at the high school. We will again be having hard conversations about how to maintain quality programs during a time of financial challenges. Over the last several years, the growth in our spending has been well under the rate of inflation which indicates we are making adjustments were possible. We are a people business – more than 80% of our expenditures go towards salaries and benefits. The board will also be exploring paying off more of our bonds early which will save taxpayers interest payments over time (they already reduced the tax burden by \$1,000,000 by refinancing a few years ago).

Staffing: At the February board meeting, the board accepted early retirement applications for Gail Showman, Home School Assistance Program teacher and director; Teresa Wilson, Tilford teacher; Diane Higgins, Tilford teacher; Ann Janecheck, Tilford teacher; Cheryl Jorgensen, Tilford teacher; Judy Mumm, associate at Shellsburg; Barb Salger, high school secretary; Julie Long, associate at the Middle School; and Les Bearbower, Director of Building and Grounds. The Administrative Team is considering overall staffing plans for next year.

Summer Projects: We use 1-cent local option dollars along with voter approved physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL) funds to pay for busses, new roofs, flooring, technology and other "physical" parts of the school district. Our Expanded Administrative Team (directors, principals) is finalizing a list of recommendations to present to the school board for their review and approval. The plans include a new bus barn; removal of asbestos flooring at the Middle School; upgrades to many restrooms across the district; new lighting and ceiling tile; and many other projects across the district.

If any student, parent or community member 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. My phone number is 319.436.5685 and my e-mail address is maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org. I welcome the opportunity to talk about what is going well (or not so well) in our district.

Mary Jo Hainstock
Superintendent of Schools

ENROLL NOW FOR 2019-20






Tiny Vike's Preschool Round-Up —
Both Elementaries: March 8, 2019
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Must be 4 years old by 9/15/2019

Kindergarten Round-Up —
Both Elementaries: March 14, 2019
Must be 5 years old by 9/15/2019

To Enroll Your Child

Go to VSCSD.org and click on Tilford or Shellsburg page OR call: [319-436-4736](tel:319-436-4736) Ext. 5800 or 5802 (Tilford) Ext. 5900 (Shellsburg)

V-SCSD 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 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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>Senior Citizen Activity Passes are available for Vinton-Shellsburg CSD residents who are age 55 or older; call or stop by the Superintendent's Office at 1502 C Ave., Vinton. Passes good for most all fine arts and sports events.</p>		<p>Tilford Book Fair BOGO March 18th—21st from 7:45-8:15 am Monday–Thursday. 2:00-8:00 pm Monday & Thursday; 3:00-4:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday.</p>		<p>1 Day 1 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ Girls State Basketball Tournament ◇ ACDA Honor Choir Zero Discrimination Day</p>	<p>2 ◇ NEIBA Jazz Festival @ Independence ◇ ACDA Honor Choir ◇ Voyagers Spring Show, VSMS, 7:00 pm READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY/ DR. SUESS B'DAY</p>
<p>4 Day 2 ◇ G V TR Dickinson Relays Indoor Meet @ UNI- Dome, 2:00 pm</p>	<p>5 Day 3 ◇ 6-8 Band Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Day 4 ◇ Band Booster Mtg. @ HS Band Room, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Day 5</p>	<p>8 Day 6 ◇ Tiny Vike's Pre-school Round-up, 9:30—11:00 am  7:00 International Women's Day</p>	<p>9 ◇ State Individual Speech @ North Scott HS, TBD ◇ FFA NE District Convention @ Sumner-Fredericksburg, 8:00 am</p>
BOYS' STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT — 3/5—3/9					
<p>10 Sunday Daylight Savings Begins </p>	<p>12 Day 2 ◇ G/B V TR Indoor @ Wartburg College, 2:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Day 3 ◇ Booster Club Mtg. @ VSHS Commons, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>14 Day 4 ◇ Tilford & Shellsburg Kindergarten Orientation, 9:00—11:00 No KDG Classes ◇ Tractor Drive-in Day ◇ 6-8 Grade Choir & Show Choir Concert @ VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm  Pi Day</p>	<p>15 Day 5 CLASSES IN SESSION (Snow Make-up Day)</p>	<p>16 ◇ B/G V TR WaMaC Indoor @ Grinnell College, 10:00 am ◇ WaMaC G/B BB Senior Shootout, Benton, Girls: 5:30 pm; Boys: 7:00 pm</p>
<p>11 Day 1 ◇ Jazz Band @ Mt. Mercy University ◇ B SOC Practice Begins ◇ B/G Golf Practice Begins ◇ School Board Meeting @ VSHS LMC, 6:00 pm ◇ FFA Meeting @ VSHS, 6:30 pm</p>					<p>17 Sunday </p>
<p>18 Day 6 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL K-12 Parent/Teacher Conf. 2:00 pm—8:00 pm ◇ G SOC Practice Begins</p>	<p>19 Day 1 National AG Day</p>	<p>20 Day 2 </p>	<p>21 Day 3 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL K-12 Parent/Teacher Conf. 2:00 pm—8:00 pm</p>	<p>22 NO CLASSES Prof. Dev.</p>	<p>23 ◇ IHSMA Solo/ Ensemble Contest @ Assumption HS</p>
<p>25 Day 4 ◇ All-State Individual Speech @ UNI Iowa Assessments begin and go through April 18th</p>	<p>26 Day 5 Please help to make sure your students receive adequate sleep and receive a good breakfast during the Iowa Assessments. We ask that you please not schedule appointments during this time as it becomes difficult to make-up tests.</p>	<p>27 Day 6</p>	<p>28 Day 1 ◇ B V SOC Jamboree @ Waterloo Memorial Stadium, 4:00 pm ◇ G JV/V TR @ Union Invite, 4:30 pm</p>	<p>29 Day 2 ◇ B JV/V TR Viking Early Bird, Karr Athletic Complex, 4:30 pm ◇ Middle School Play, "30 Reasons NOT to Be In a Play" @ Tilford, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>30 ◇ G V SOC vs. S. Tama, 10:00 am ◇ Middle School Play, "30 Reasons NOT to Be In a Play" @ Tilford, 7:00 pm</p>

VINTON-SHELLSBURG HIGH SCHOOL 2019-20 COURSES

Parents/Guardians,

V-S High School has begun student course requests for the 2019-2020 school year. The guidance department has met with each grade level to discuss course options, the course request process, and timelines. Junior student course request sheets are due March 6 and Freshman/Sophomore student course request sheets are due March 12. All student course request sheets should be turned into their respected Advisor. The software system in PowerSchool will help determine placement of classes within the master schedule trying to avoid as many conflicts as possible. The guidance department will also manipulate the placement of some courses as well as to avoid conflicts that PowerSchool did not recognize. Our goal is to have all student schedules completed and finalized by the end of the school year.

If you have questions regarding scheduling of courses, please feel free to contact your student's Advisor, the high school guidance department, or myself.

Matt Kingsbury
V-S High School Principal
319-436-4728 (School)
"Fostering Growth and Success"

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Standards based grading..... What is this about at the middle school?

How is this different from a traditional grading system?

In a traditional grading system, students receive an overall percentage score, aligned to a letter grade, in each subject area. Standards-Based Grading differs by providing specific information to you related to specific standards.

How will this benefit students?

Standards-Based Grading provides parents and students with more accurate, consistent and meaningful feedback to support learning. In addition, teachers will be able to provide more specific instruction based on student mastery of the standards.

How do teachers determine performance levels?

Teachers will examine a variety of evidence to determine a student's proficiency level on each standard. Evidence will include, but is not limited to, work samples, presentations, projects, tests, quizzes, etc. Teachers will continually be teaching and assessing to provide your student with the instruction they need to support and challenge their learning.

How can I support my child?

- Ask your child specific questions about school and listen to and comment on his/her answers.
- Ask your child to see their assignments and discuss his/her performance.
- Discuss ways that your child will need to use the knowledge and skills learned in school to succeed in work.
- Maintain an open and on-going dialogue with your child's teachers.

Attendance Matters!

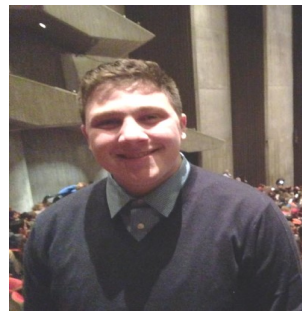
We take attendance seriously at VSMS, unfortunately Mother Nature has not been as serious about attendance for us in January and February. On the days we've been in school we've had 95% attendance. Thank you very much! As we get back into a normal schedule make sure you encourage your student to get the most out of middle school by attending regularly. Help them understand there is no substitution for being in class. Your child needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in groups, class discussion, and ask questions. Try to schedule doctor, dentist, or orthodontist appointments after school hours whenever possible. We appreciate everything you do to make sure your child is here every day and our attendance numbers show it.

Iowa Assessments

Our state testing will be coming up at the end of March. The test is new for everyone. Students will complete the test on a computer and will be given a variety of questions that they will answer in different ways. The new test will not be just the tradition multiple choice questions. Students will have a variety of questions including multiple choice, short answer, essays, and constructing knowing. Please make sure your student has a good nights sleep and has breakfast every morning to prepare them for the day. Middle School testing dates are March 27-April 2.

Congratulations to our very own Kris Howes-Vonstein for being recognized as Teacher of the Year runner up! You make us very proud!

Eleven of the state's top teachers were honored for their service during an annual luncheon in Des Moines. Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise was joined by Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg in hosting the Outstanding Iowa Teachers Recognition Luncheon.



Congratulations to VSHS Senior, Sam Kintzel, for being nominated for All-State Speech by the Iowa High School Speech Association. All-State is the highest honor given by the IHSSA. Sam is being recognized for an "Outstanding" performance in the category of "Short Film" for his short film titled "Plan B."



Congratulations to Luke Radeke, Brock Radeke and Scott Betterton for advancing to State Wrestling! Scott Betterton received 3rd place and Luke Radeke placed 5th! Congratulations! We are proud of your accomplishments!



VS BOWLING — The girls' team finished in 5th place and the boys' team finished in 6th place at the WaMaC Tournament.

For the first time in their 6 seasons, both teams made it to State. The boys team finished 6th shooting about 100 pins above average and were led by Payton Haefner who finished 14th. The girls finished in 7th place. We had one state medal winner Jenna Pattee who received 10th place overall shooting her season high. Congratulations!



Sub State: Christina 6th, Jenna 8th, Cameron 1st and Cyrus 2nd

VSHS CHOIR & BAND

The Choir attended only one honor choir this year. Students were chosen for their interest, ability, and enthusiastic involvement in the choral department. Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College: Savanna Rios, Davia Herger, Casey Funk, and Dalton Hill.

Seven students were selected to and attended the Northern Festival of Bands at the University of Northern Iowa. Those students were Clarissa Carolan, Emma Dickinson, Alexzondria Diveley, Conner Hicok, Hannah McGowan, Zoe Mohr, and Andrew Wirth.

In addition, Alexzondria Diveley was selected to the Hawkeye Honor Band at the University of Iowa.

The Jazz Band earned a Division II rating at the State Jazz Festival, which is considered Excellent by the Iowa High School Music Association.

The Jazz Band can be heard locally, along with all other VSHS music ensembles at Cabaret on Friday, March 8th. Tickets are on sale now through Nick Waymire, the director of bands at Vinton-Shellsburg High School, and may also be purchased at the door. All seating is reserved for the Cabaret concert, so if you want a good choice of seat we strongly encourage you to lock-in your selection by ordering in advance.



On Thursday February 21st, 18 members spent the day at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo for the Sub-Districts competition. Everyone did an awesome job!

Top two of their event move on to Districts that will be held at Sumner-Fredricksburg High School on March 9th. From Vinton-Shellsburg FFA we have Extemporaneous Speaking, Job Interview, and Parliamentary Procedure moving on!

Parliamentary Procedure - Gold — 1st

- Julia Schultis
- Ethan Rollinger
- Carly Williams
- Alesha Brunssen
- Eli Powers

Conduct of meetings - Silver

- Brady Ortner
- Bailey Weeks
- Kinzzy Miracle
- Ashlee Thomas
- Isabel Mullinex
- Charlee Johnson

Ag Broadcasting - Silver

- Raymond Road

Extemporaneous Speaking - Gold — 1st

- Isaac Wiley

Public Speaking - Bronze

- Emma Wiley

Greenhand Quiz

- Brady Ortner - Gold
- Russell Evans - Bronze

Chapter Quiz

- Emma Arnold - Gold

Job Interview - Gold - 1st

- Shelby McDonald



Tilford students having fun in the snow!

Shellsburg students also enjoy playing in the snow!

