



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."

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

We had an extra day of learning in February with the leap year addition. It worked out well because of the day we missed for weather!

Snow Make-up Days – We have missed two days because of the weather conditions – much better than last year when we already had seven no school days because of the cold, ice and snow. We missed January 24th and February 13th. We made up the first day on February 17th and we will make the second snow day up on Monday, April 13th. Our school calendar exceeds the minimum 1080 hours as required by state law but we are also very interested in making sure our students have as much learning time available as possible and so we will exceed the minimum number of hours.

Calendar: The Calendar Committee will have a recommendation for next year's calendar at the March 9th 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 to have snow make-up days built into the calendar.
- Prefer to be done with school in May.

There was not strong agreement on when the holiday break should start in December or how long it should last; the recommendation for the board's review will have students in school through Tuesday, December 22nd. I anticipate the school year will start on Monday, August 24th (the earliest as allowed by Iowa law).

Budget: The school board will have their budget workshop on Monday, March 9th at the Central Office. 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.

Summer Projects: We use 1-cent SAVE funds 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 our summer project list. It will include HVAC work at Tilford and Shellsburg.

Staffing: At the February board meeting, the board accepted early retirement applications for Gib Ziemer, elementary music teacher; Rose Kerns, 5th year program teacher; Deb Garbers, associate at Tilford; and Susan Kakac, associate at the Middle School. The Administrative Team is considering overall staffing plans for next year.

New Superintendent – The school board had previously accepted my resignation last fall. They recently completed the hiring process and have announced that Kyle Koeppen will start on July 1st. He and I are working to make sure there is a smooth transition. He and his family seem very excited to be a part of our school-community.

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

Green Iowa AmeriCorps | Sustainable Schools | Summer Positions Available!
Spend a Summer Strengthening Communities, Our Planet, and Your Skills

Service Description: Green Iowa AmeriCorps operates through the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education (UNI CEEE) in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Applicants should be self-starters, capable of working with minimal supervision and sensitivity to working with diverse sectors of the population. Applicants must be punctual, reliable and effective team players.

Member Duties: Members will work alongside the full-time AmeriCorps members that are stationed in their school district. Members will be working to develop and maintain school and community gardens, as well as assist with summer programming regarding environmental education, local food, water quality awareness, energy efficiency, food waste, and other sustainability practices the school and city of Vinton would like to engage in. Members will work both in the district and throughout the city, strengthening relationships with local partners and organizations dedicated to making Vinton a more sustainable community.

Program Benefits: Monthly Living stipend (\$2,750 total), Segal Education Award upon successful completion (\$1,289.95)

Terms: Position based on completion of **300 hours** of service in a part-time work schedule over the course of 13 weeks, flexible vacation and sick leave. Outside employment available during off hours, school attendance available during off hours.

Service Dates: Monday, May 18th – Friday, August 21st OR Monday, June 1st – Friday August 31st. If interested please contact Superintendent Mary Jo Hainstock. 319-436-5680.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2 Day 2 ◇ V B BB Substate, US Cellular Center, 6:30 pm READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY/ DR. SUESS B'DAY	3 Day 3 ◇ 9-12 B BB Wrap-up, VSHS, 6:30 pm	4 Day 4 ◇ Band Booster Mtg. @ HS Band Room, 6:30 pm	5 Day 5 ◇ 9-12 B BB Wrap-up, VSHS, 6:30 pm	6 Day 6 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev.	7 ◇ NEIBA Jazz Festival @ Independence
GIRLS' STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT — 3/2 - 3/7					
8 Daylight Savings Begins 	10 Day 2 ◇ 6-8 Band Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm	11 Day 3 ◇ 9-12 WR Wrap-up, VSHS, 6:30 pm	12 Day 4 ◇ 9-12 WR Wrap-up, VSHS, 6:30 pm	13 Day 5 ◇ Tiny Vike's Preschool Round-up, 9:30—11:00 am  7:00 pm National K9 Veterans Day	14 ◇ State Individual Speech @ Grinnell HS ◇ FFA NE District Convention @ Edgewood-Colesburg, 8:00 am Pi Day National AG Day
9 Day 1 ◇ FFA Meeting @ VSHS, 6:30 pm ◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 6:00 pm ◇ G V TR Dickinson Relays Indoor Meet @ UNI- Dome, 2:00 pm	BOYS' STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT — 3/10 - 3/13				
16 Day 6 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL K-12 Parent/Teacher Conf. K-8 2:00 pm—8:00 pm 9-12 4:00 pm—8:00 pm ◇ B SOC Practice Begins ◇ G Golf Practice Begins	17 Day 1 ◇ G/B V TR Indoor @ Wartburg College, 2:30 pm ◇ Tractor Drive-in Day ◇ 6-8 Grade Choir & Show Choir Concert @ VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm  	18 Day 2 ◇ G/B V TR WaMaC Indoor @ Grinnell College, 10:00 am ◇ WaMaC G/B BB Senior Shootout, Benton, Girls: 5:30 pm; Boys: 7:00 pm  World Down Syndrome Day	19 Day 3 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL K-12 Parent/Teacher Conf. K-8 2:00 pm—8:00 pm 9-12 4:00 pm—8:00 pm	20 NO CLASSES	21 ◇ FFA Pancake Breakfast, VSHS, 7:00-11:00 am ◇ Middle School Play @ Tilford, 7:00 pm ◇ IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Benton
23 Day 4 ◇ G SOC Practice Begins ◇ B Golf Practice Begins Iowa Assessments begin and go through April 9th.	24 Day 5 ◇ MS Solo/Ensemble Festival, 4:00—7:00 pm	25 Day 6 ◇ Shellsburg Spring Pictures ◇ Band Booster Mtg. @ HS Band Room, 6:30 pm	26 Day 1 ◇ Tilford & Shellsburg Kindergarten Orientation, 9:00—11:00 am No KDG Classes	27 Day 2 2 HR. EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ Middle School Play @ Tilford, 7:00 pm ◇ B SOC @ Benton Jam-boree, 6:00 p.m.	28 ◇ B V TR Viking Early Bird Invite, 4:30 pm
30 Day 3 ◇ All-State Individual Speech @ UNI ◇ Shellsburg 5th Gr. Fine Arts Night, 6:30 pm ◇ College Planning/Financial Aid Night (SO & JR Parents), 6:30 pm (HS LMC)	31 Day 4 ◇ Tilford 2nd Gr. Concert, 6:30 pm (2nd group 7:15 pm)	April 1 Day 5 ◇ Shellsburg Spring Pictures ◇ Band Booster Mtg. @ HS Band Room, 6:30 pm	2 Day 6 ◇ G V TR @ Union, 4:30 pm ◇ B V/JV SOC @ Benton, 5:00 pm ◇ Tilford 3rd Gr. Concert, 6:30 pm (2nd group 7:15 pm) ◇ FFA Labor Auction, 7:00 pm	3 Day 1 ◇ B V TR Viking Early Bird Invite, 4:30 pm	4

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.

Tilford Book Fair BOGO

March 16th—19th from 7:45-8:15 am Monday–Thursday. Also 2:00-8:00 pm Monday & Thursday; 3:00-4:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday.

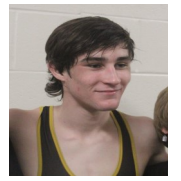
V-SCSD EQUITY STATEMENT

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.

CR High School RoughRiders to hold annual Senior Night Celebration. This year the high school hockey program, comprised of players representing 17 metro area schools, will recognize 10 seniors on the varsity team. Those being recognized include: Hayden Rast, #9, Vinton-Shellsburg. Vinton-Shellsburg student Hayden Rast leads the team in points and power play goals. He was recently tendered to the Milwaukee Power hockey organization of the NA3HL. Congratulations Hayden!



Brady Ortner won the District wrestling championship 02/15/2020 and punched his ticket to State! He finished 6th at the State tournament in the 126-pound division. Congratulations Brady!



The Cedar Rapids High School RoughRiders play a 32-game regular season schedule from October through February against other teams within the Midwest High School Hockey League, including Sioux City, Fremont NE, Kansas City MO, Mason City, Quad City, and others.

VSHS CHOIR & BAND

In January we had four students attend the Dorian Vocal Festival - an honor choir at Luther College. Alexis Miller, Amanda Cardenas, Eli Powers and Andrew Wirth. They spent two days on campus learning, refining, and performing the music they learned.

Six students attended the Northern Festival of Bands at UNI: Lillia Dahlstrom, Cameron Dawson-Fink, Emma Dickinson, Hannah McGowan, Rylee Scheel, and Ali Streeter.

Additionally, the Jazz Band earned a Division I Superior Rating at the IHSMA State Jazz Festival in late January. **This is their first Division I Rating since 2017!**

All members represented V-S well and have made our district very proud!

On March 13th the Band and Choir will present Cabaret! A night filled with music from Screen, Stage, and Radio in performances by Symphonic Band, Treble Choir, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, and Chamber Choir as well as student special acts. All seating is reserved, so if you want a good choice of seat we strongly encourage you to lock-in your selection by ordering in advance. Tickets will soon be on sale! Find a student or purchase directly from Mr. Waymire.

V-S BOWLING (by Coach Pattee)

Varsity bowling competed in our conference tournament and I could not be more proud of these kids.

First lets start with the girls, they shot over 300 pins above average earning a 3rd place overall. The girls are working really hard and the scores are definitely showing it. Our team was led by sophomore, Anna Becker, with a great series of 428 earning her a 3rd place individual overall score. She was followed by Christina Harrelson who shot a 411 series earning her a 5th place overall individual medal.

The boys team. Not really sure what to say about these guys, other than to reiterate that they have so much fun and are great kids to be around each day. The boys are still undefeated in regular season competition and shot 100 pins above average earning themselves a back to back conference win. The team earned three individual medals. First place individual overall was Ayden Bearbower shooting 462, followed by 2nd place, Cyrus Elwick with a 455 and 4th place Riley Richart, shooting 440. All of these boys amaze me with the scores they are shooting. These kids are so fun to watch and coach and I am honored.

UPDATE: Christina Harrelson competed at the State Bowling Individual Tournament and bowled a 451 series earning her a 2nd place finish, which is a fantastic accomplishment to be considered a State Runner up in Class 1A!



SHELLSBURG ELEMENTARY

One thing I take tremendous pride in at Shellsburg Elementary is the quality of education that our students receive. Our staff works hard to give students top-notch instruction in their academics, while also teaching them to be responsible citizens of our school and community. This past month we received recognition from the state that we are successfully accomplishing this. We were given the designation of a "High Performing" school by the Iowa Department of Education.

Each year the State of Iowa puts out a "report card" for every school. Schools are given one of the following designations: Exceptional, High Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, or Priority. These designations are based off of how our students do in the following areas, compared to all same age students in the State of Iowa:

- *Assessment Participation in Reading and Math
- *Student Achievement Growth in Reading and Math

- *Average School Achievement in Reading and Math
- *Percent of Students Proficient in Reading and Math

For the second year in a row, Shellsburg Elementary has received the "High Performing" designation. If you are interested in seeing the actual numbers that went into our ranking, I would be happy to share those, as well as how we rank compared to the state average. It is more in depth than I am able to go in the space of this article, but I would be happy to share or discuss our results.

I can pledge to you that we will strive for continued improvement. While "High Performing" is good, I would love to get to an "Exceptional" ranking. Every time we get our early or have no school because of Professional Development, our staff is learning strategies to make us better educators. We want to give the best service to our students and families that we can, and our students' educational and personal success is our top priority.

This is also a reason to celebrate together as a community. You can't have a great school and district without supportive families and communities. We are fortunate to have such great partners in both areas. Thank you again for your continued support of Shellsburg Elementary and the Vinton-Shellsburg School District.

Ryan Davis, Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER



6th grade: Back Row: Madeline Blais, Shaylenn Tucker, Ben McGowan, Kaden Fisher, William McKenna, Leo Glynn, Lily Griffith.
Front Row: Jenise Coberly, Paige Clemensen, Cadence Redlinger, Hayden Henkle, Yasmin Galeote-Maximo

7th grade: Back Row: Spencer Williams, Brady Wheelan, Blaze Soquet, Tori Richart, Adysen Friden
Front Row: Jade Pohlmann, Olivia Primrose, Addy Chvala, Kiley Fiser, Keegan Backes

8th grade: Front Row: Brittany Steinberg, Athena McCauslin, Grace Stephenson
Middle Row: Tori Elwick, Grayce McClintock, Paige Kelley, Bree Swenson, Sydney Walton
Back Row: Rachel Rollinger, Maggie Elwick, Brant Dickinson, Samuel Glynn, Jesse Ahrenstein, Kaleb Etten



On February 15th the Voyagers presented their spring show; wrapping up their year by showcasing their hard work and talent to a large crowd and sending off the five seniors on the team.

On Wednesday, February 26th, 21 FFA members spent the day at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo for the Sub-Districts competition.

Top two of each event will move on to Districts that will be held at Edgewood-Colesburg High School on March 14th. The top two at districts will advance to the state level in April.

Parliamentary Procedure

- Ethan Rollinger
- Julia Shultis
- Emma Arnold
- Carly Williams
- Alesha Brunssen

Conduct of meetings

- Lizzie Noe
- Paul Herger
- Autumn McGowan
- Annabelle Newton
- Grace Schminke
- Ella Haefner
- Kate Timmerman

FFA Creed Speaking

- Josh Wiley

Ag Sales

- Clayton McKenna

Greenhand Quiz or Chapter Quiz

- Russell Evans
- Kailey Bahmann
- Christopher Fleming
- Gunnar Schminke
- Philip Kalina
- Mathew Rippel

Job Interview

- Franki Evans

The **Stormin' Vikings**, a team consisting of swimmers from VSHS and Center Point-Urbana, competed in the conference meet against teams from Boone, Centerville, Decorah, Grinnell, Newton, Oskaloosa and Williamsburg. Two swimmers earned honors at the North Central Conference Championship. Cyrus Elwick was conference champion in two events - the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races. Zach Kramer was chosen Athlete of the Year, in a vote of coaches from the conference. Congratulations!

The team set five records this season and sent one swimmer to state.
200 Medley Relay – Brayden Schlieff, Carter Kirtz, Isaac Allsup, Cyrus Elwick
400 Medley Relay – Cyrus, Elwick, Ian Allsup, Isaac Allsup, Carter Kirtz
200 Individual Medley – Carter Kirtz
100 Freestyle – Cyrus Elwick
100 Backstroke – Isaac Allsup

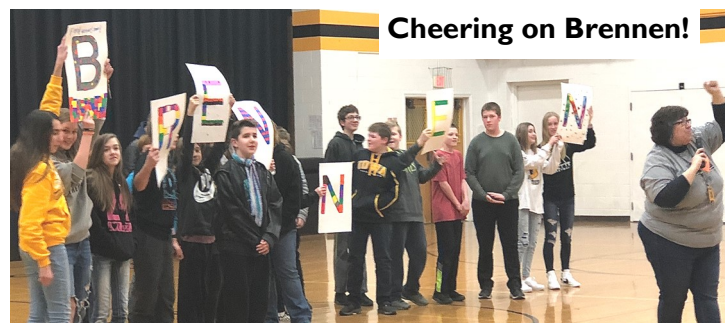
Carter Kirtz qualified for state and finished 12th in the 100 Breaststroke

VINTON-SHELLSBURG HIGH SCHOOL 2020-21 COURSES

Parents/Guardians,

V-S High School has begun student course requests for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance department has met with each grade level to discuss course options, the course request process, and timelines. Parents & students can find the V-S HS Registration Guide on the high school web site under Student Resources. Course request sheets are due March 11th. All student course request sheets should be turned into their 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 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 Principal Matt Kingsbury.



Cheering on Brennen!

During the middle school's quarter 2 assembly, classmates from Brennen Still's exploratory class wanted the student body to show their support by chanting his name. Mrs. Howes-Vonstein is shown leading the chant. Students at VSMS have created multiple activities to support Brennen to let him know that the students and staff care about him.

V-S Animal Learning Lab celebrates six years of Ag education

In March 2020, the Animal Learning Lab at the Vinton-Shellsburg High School celebrates its sixth anniversary. The lab provides V-S students with unique curriculum opportunities and stronger learning experiences in animal production and technology. It's a valuable resource for students to learn more about where agricultural food sources begin and how they arrive in the store. The facility also serves as a community asset as it can host workshops and community outreach programs involving other school districts, 4-H groups, or organizations like ISU Extension.

V-S MS Drama to present Skid Marks: A Play About Driving & Skid Marks 2: Are We There Yet?

Both are by Lindsay Price

Show Dates are Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th at 7 pm in the Tilford Auditorium.

Bring your family and have a few laughs!

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.