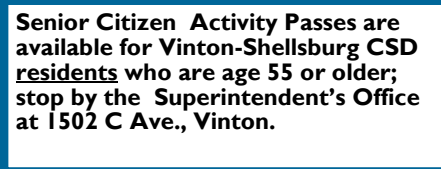








Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <p>Senior Citizen Activity Passes are available for Vinton-Shellsburg CSD residents who are age 55 or older; stop by the Superintendent's Office at 1502 C Ave., Vinton.</p>		<p>1 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ FAFSA Workshop, HS LMC, 3:00-7:00 pm ◇ Band Boosters, HS, 6:30 pm 	<p>2 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB @ Clear Creek-Amana MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ 9-12 Cross Country Wrap-up, Tilford, 5:30pm 	<p>3 Day 3</p> <p>2-Hr. Early Dismissal PROF. DEV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR vs. Center Point-Urbana & Clear Creek-Amana @ VS-MS, 4:15 pm ◇ State FB Quarterfinals 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Girls State Swim Meet @ Marshalltown YMCA, 12:00 pm ◇ Voyagers State Solo Competition, Newton
<p>5</p> 	<p>7 Day 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR vs. Mt. Vernon, S. Tama & Williamsburg @ VS-MS, 4:15pm  <p>ELECTION DAY</p>	<p>8 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Booster Club Meeting, HS Commons, 6:00 pm 	<p>9 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR vs. Benton & Independence @ Benton (Keystone), 4:15 pm ◇ 7 G BB @ Independence (West Elem.), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ FFA Pork BBQ & Meeting, 6:30 pm ◇ Class 3A FB Semi-finals @ UNI Dome ◇ HS Fall Musical Dress Rehearsal, 6:00 pm 	<p>10 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Veteran's Day Assembly, VS-MS, 9:30 am ◇ Fall Musical "Bring It On", VS-HS Aud., 7:00 pm 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ VS Wrestling Club Tourney, VS-HS, 9:00 am ◇ FFA, NHS, & GoVS Christmas Roping, 9:00 am ◇ Fall Musical "Bring It On", VS-HS Aud., 7:00 pm  <p>VETERAN'S DAY</p>
<p>6 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ G BB Practice Begins ◇ B SW Practice Begins ◇ Bowling Practice Begins ◇ 7 G BB vs. Benton, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Benton (Atkins), 4:15 pm ◇ School Board Meeting, Shellsburg Elem., 6:00pm ◇ WaMaC Choral Concert @ South Tama HS, 7:00pm 	<p>STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT 11/7—11/10</p>				
<p>12 Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Fall Musical "Bring It On", VS-HS Aud., 2:00 pm 	<p>14 Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ American Red Cross Blood Drive, VS Aux. Gym, 9:00am—2:00pm ◇ HS Picture Re-takes ◇ 7 G BB vs. Marion, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Marion MS, 4:15 pm ◇ WaMaC Band Festival @ Benton, 7:00pm ◇ MS WR vs. Clear Creek-Amana & Mt. Vernon @ Mt. Vernon MS, 4:15 pm 	<p>15 Day 5</p> <p>K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00—8:00 pm</p> <p>End 1st Trimester</p>  <p>November 15</p>	<p>16 NO CLASSES</p> <p>K-5 Professional Dev. 8:00-10:00 AM</p> <p>K-5 Parent/Teacher Conf. 10:00 AM-8:00 PM;</p> <p>6-12 Professional Dev.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS & HS Opus Honor Choir @ Ames ◇ All-State Musical Festival @ Ames ◇ FAFSA Workshop, HS LMC, 12:00-8:00 pm 	<p>17 NO CLASSES - MS/HS STAFF PROF. DEV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ All-State Musical Festival @ Ames ◇ JV/V G BB "Nets for Vets" Scrimmage vs. Belle Plaine, 6:00/7:30 pm 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ All-State Musical Festival @ Ames 
<p>AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 11/13—11/17</p>					
<p>20 Day 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB @ S. Tama MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm 	<p>21 Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ Solon, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm 	<p>22 NO CLASSES</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break</p>	<p>23 NO CLASSES</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break</p>  <p>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</p>	<p>24 NO CLASSES</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>27 Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB vs. S. Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ S. Tama MS, 4:15 pm 	<p>28 Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Tilford Picture Re-takes ◇ MS WR vs. CPU, Marion & Williamsburg @ Williamsburg, 4:15pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB @ W. Dubuque (Epworth), 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB vs. W. Dubuque, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ JV/V WR vs. Union & Decorah @ Union, 5:00 pm ◇ B SW @ Linn-Mar, 6:00 pm 	<p>29 Day 4</p>	<p>30 Day 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ 7 G BB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB @ Center Point-Urbana MS, 4:15 pm ◇ Voyager State Team Competition (Nov. 30th & Dec. 1st) 	<p>Dec. 1 Day 6</p> <p>2-Hr. Early Dismissal PROF. DEV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ MS WR vs. S. Tama, Williamsburg, & Solon @ VS-MS, 4:15 pm ◇ FS/JV/V G BB vs. W. Delaware, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ 9/10/V B BB @ W. Delaware, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ JV/V BOWL @ Independence (Lucky Lanes), 4:00 pm 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ NEIBA Honor Band @ Oelwein, 8:00 am ◇ V B SW Newton Invite, Newton YMCA, 10:00 am ◇ V WR @ Monticello Tourney, 10:00 am

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:

- Nov. 3—2-Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof. Dev.
- Nov. 6—School Board Meeting, Shellsburg Elem., 6:00 pm
- Nov. 7—Election Day
- Nov. 10—Veteran's Day Program, VS Middle School, 9:30 am
- Nov. 10 & 11—Fall Musical, HS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Nov. 12—Fall Musical, HS Aud., 2:00 pm
- Nov. 13-17—American Education Week
- Nov. 14—Red Cross Blood Drive, VSHS, 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Nov. 15—End 1st Trimester
- Nov. 15—K-5 P/T Conf. 4:00 - 8:00 pm
- Nov. 16—NO CLASSES, Prof. Dev.; K-5 P/T Conf. 10 :00 am - 8:00 pm
- Nov. 17—NO CLASSES, Prof. Dev.
- Nov. 23-25—NO CLASSES, THANKSGIVING BREAK

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

The weather is definitely feeling more fall-like than the almost summery temperatures we had in early and mid-October! The first trimester will conclude November 15. High school students will start a new schedule of classes the following Monday and we will be 1/3 of the way through the school year! We modified how we offer parent-teacher conferences this year. Our MS and HS had them in early October and our elementary conferences will be November 15 and 16. We are doing them at the different times based on when the teachers at each level felt they would be able to share about our students' experiences and work so far this year. Our MS and HS had more parents attend than in past years and I anticipate we will continue to be close to the 100% mark for our elementary families! While parent-teacher conferences are an opportunity for parents to learn how their children are doing in school, it is also an opportunity for our teachers to learn more about their students and the insights their parents can provide. Thank you for your participation!


We finished or are close to finishing our fall activities. The girls' swim team had an outstanding year and one of our athletes on the boys' cross country team earned a trip to state. Congratulations to both teams as well as their coaches! Our football teams, volleyball teams, girls' cross country, and marching band all had successful seasons. The fall musical, *Bring It On!*, will be the second weekend in November. Don't forget to attend our annual Veteran's Day program, November 10th at 9:30 am at the Middle School.

We have many state reports that are due in the fall. The Certified Enrollment report is a summary of all of the students who live in our district, all the students we serve (including residents and open enrolled in students), all the students who are served by another district through open enrollment out, etc. After several years of declining enrollment, we are slightly up! We have 453 students at the High School; 360 students at the Middle School; 450 students at Tilford; 260 at Shellsburg; and 91 students participating in our home school assistance program. We also file a report with the state concerning staffing – names, salaries, days in contract, etc.

Another state report includes how we will focus our work so more students are proficient in reading and/or math. Shellsburg and Tilford are focusing their efforts to improve their students' literacy achievement and are implementing a new reading series. The Middle School is working on how they provide feedback to students as they move towards more competency based reporting. The High School is working to transition from trimesters where classes meet for 60 days for about an hour to semesters where classes meet for 90 days for less than an hour. Across the district, we are continuing to work on improving attendance rates as research shows that students who miss more than 12 days a year are at risk to struggle academically and are more likely to become dropouts. We have shown significant improvement over the last few years and have had a few days this fall with few absences at the elementary level.

On our annual calendar survey, our parents and staff continue to indicate they prefer to have the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a no-school day; we included that in this year's calendar and so November 23 will be a no school day.

Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. Mary Jo Hainstock, Superintendent



IOWA ASSESSMENTS

It's never too early to get things on your calendar right!

Our testing window is from Jan. 29th — Feb. 2nd this year, we'll be making a big push for 100% attendance and focus during the first week.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates and check with buildings for specific schedules so you can avoid doctor's appointments, vacations, etc. during this week.

THANK YOU for your support!

Make The Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conferences



Preschool through 5th-Grade parent-teacher conferences are November 15 and 16. Parents can schedule a time to meet with teachers on the Shellsburg Elementary and Tilford Elementary websites. One success indicator for predicting student graduation is the parent's connection and relationship with the school. Parent-teacher conferences are one way that we can grow and foster relationships.

Our district is very proud that attendance at elementary parent-teacher conferences is typically above 95%. 100% is our goal.

The scheduled time for parents to meet with teachers is to communicate student achievement information effectively. Teachers have data and information to share, but parents should remember that the set-aside time is theirs. Use the opportunity to discuss strengths, listen to issues, and share concerns. Come prepared. Review your child's report card information before the conference. Bring questions for the teacher. It's about teamwork. Organize and prioritize your questions and concerns. The twenty minutes goes by very quickly. Most importantly, parents should share and celebrate the strengths discussed with their child.

Suggestions for questions:

1. What are the most important things we can do at home that can lead to the most significant improvement?
2. How does my child learn best?
3. Are there any social concerns?
4. Does my child utilize independent work time appropriately?
5. How can I track my child's performance throughout the year?
6. What am I not asking or noticing that I should be?
7. How can we stay in touch to monitor progress?

**Local Educator Jim Murray Among Nation's Best
K-8 Principals**

Jim Murray, Principal of Tilford Elementary School in Vinton was selected as Iowa's 2017 National Distinguished Principal. The National Association of Elementary School Principals established the program in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities.

Jim was nominated and selected by his fellow principals through a statewide search process conducted by the School Administrators of Iowa. He has served as principal of Tilford Elementary since 2003.

Jim traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 12-13th for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools.

Criteria for selection of the principals require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.

Jim and his wife, Lisa, live in Vinton, and have three children: Lucas 21, Logan 18 and Lauren 14.



Jim Murray receives National Distinguished Principal Certificate and Award from Brian Partin, President, National Association of Elementary School Principals.



Jim and Lisa Murray pose next to the National Distinguished Principal ice sculpture.



Vinton-Shellsburg **Sole Sisters** is an after school running program offered to our 5th grade girls for 10 weeks at the middle school. Beyond using running as an exercise component, each practice has a lesson focus for the day, group or individual reflection time and snack/homework time. Lesson objects include topics such as; developing a positive self image, fostering healthy peer relationships, learning to goal set, developing a commitment to community responsibility, and making healthy choices. The program goal is to empower girls to become confident, positive role models that make healthy decisions for themselves. VS Sole Sisters was the dream of our elementary teachers, Sarah Mathis and Lindsey Otto, who were looking for a proactive way to better prepare our pre-teens girls for middle school. Sarah and Lindsey researched and wrote the curriculum for the program over three years ago and then, along with many vital district employees and volunteers throughout the last three years, became the Sole Sister Lead Coaches. Alongside fellow co-coaches; Mindy Kies, Sheri Miller, Heather Kalous, and Heidi Primrose; the team is preparing for their final 5K celebration run coming up during the Holiday open house in Vinton on November 19th at 1:00. This closed event will start and finishing at the courthouse. The girls and volunteer running buddies would love your support, so come on out and cheer them on as they finish up their fall 2017 season!

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.

SHELLSBURG ELEMENTARY



3rd graders researched and wrote about the Grand Canyon using our Expanding Expression Tool. AKA our EET strand! The mural makes you feel like you are standing right in the middle of the canyon.

If you have read my past articles, you know that I'm very proud of the education students get at Shellsburg Elementary. Our achievement results show that students leave here very prepared for the next stages of their schooling. While giving our students the best education possible is my top priority, another priority is for students to leave feeling like they had a good experience and great memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Our students have had several opportunities recently to build some of these memories. During Homecoming Week, we had our September Assembly where students got to hear from High School students involved in football, volleyball, cross country, and cheerleading. They were inspired to do their best in school and activities by Coach Womochil, and showed their school spirit with our Viking Mascot. For Fire Safety Week we had the firefighters come and talk with our classes. The Kindergarten even got to ride on a fire truck and tour the fire station. We have had conservationists come and show students how to build survival shelters, and we've had trips to the pumpkin farm. Coming up, we will have our Veteran's Day assembly and our 5th grade ski trip. There have been many great experiences and lots of smiles and laughs.

The pictures I am sharing only give a glimpse of the experience the kids are having. If you get a chance, ask one of our students what their favorite activity at school has been, and you will probably get many different answers. At Shellsburg Elementary we work hard to gain high achievement, but we also have fun doing it.
Mr. Davis, Principal



ELP students with their guest speaker, Mrs. Stadelmann.