



OCTOBER 2018



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!! WWW.VSCSD.ORG

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:

- Oct. 8—High School & Tilford Picture Re-takes
- Oct. 8—School Board Meeting, Central Office, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 10— Middle School Picture Re-takes
- Oct. 11—Shellsburg Picture Re-takes
- Oct. 12— NO CLASSES, Prof. Development
- Oct. 15—National Honor Society Induction @ VSHS Aud., 6:00 pm
- Oct. 16—9-12 Fall Choral Preview, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Oct. 22—26 -School Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 22— Parent/Teacher Conf. Gr. K-12--2:00—8:00 pm
- Oct. 23—27 - National FFA Conference
- Oct. 25— Parent/Teacher Conf. Gr. K-12--2:00—8:00 pm
- Oct. 26—NO CLASSES.
- Oct. 29—MS Band & Vocal Concert, Tilford Aud., 7:00 pm

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

The more fall-like weather has descended on Vinton and the schools are filled with full days of teaching and learning! The weather has created some challenges with the flooding for several of our families and their bus drivers. The hot weather earlier also created challenges for some of the schools that don't have air conditioning; while we do not have it in all areas (MS kitchen, cafeteria and three of our gyms), most of us are able to find some relief from the humidity and heat.

School Board - Our board held their annual meeting on September 10th. They will continue meeting the second Monday of each month; they generally meet at 7:00 PM but it can vary based on their schedules and the things on the agenda. The board elected Rob Levis to continue as school board president and Sue Gates to continue as the vice-president. Other board members include Brenda Bartz, Mike Timmermans, Kathy Van Steenhuyse, Jason Hicok and Kyle Schminke. Our students and district benefit from their leadership and dedication! They all have e-mail addresses that you can use to contact them – it is their firstname.lastname@vscsd.org.

District Goals - The board reviewed the five goals that have driven the work within our district. They include:
All students will graduate.
All students will have opportunities to personalize their learning.
All students will have a safe, nurturing and drug-free environment.
The district will hire and retain quality teachers and other staff.
The district will be financially stable.
They discussed how to add another one concerning leadership within the school-community and will review language at their October meeting.

Enrollment - We are finalizing our enrollment for the year. We anticipate serving fewer students than last year although we will not know officially until mid-October.

Financial Audit - The auditors were recently here to audit our 2017-18 financial records. They were very complimentary of the completeness of our records and the procedures we have in place to assure internal controls are followed. Our expenses and revenues were almost equally balanced with a little extra on the revenue side – which is our goal. One area within the overall budget that continued to show a deficit was in the area of special education. We are required by law to provide specific services to qualifying students, but the law does not provide adequate funding at the state and federal levels.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Please make plans now to attend parent-teacher conferences on Monday, October 22nd from 2-8 or Thursday, October 25th from 2-8. We will not have school for students on October 26th. We are holding conferences a little later than we have in the past as we transition from trimesters to semesters.

Website – Have you noticed we changed our district's website? Using feedback from you, we tried to make it more user friendly including easy access to the portions most frequently used. We also updated to be ADA accessible and compliant. Tell us what you think.

Every month, I include the line, "Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns." I sincerely mean this. Although I may not always know the answer, I can generally connect the questioner with someone who can answer – and it may be a more accurate and effective method than social media's answers!






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

Vinton-Shellsburg CSD Parent -Teacher Conferences Scheduled for October 22nd and 25th

Elementary conferences will be on October 22nd and on October 25th from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Elementary parents can sign up for a time on the building website.

Middle School conferences will be on October 22nd and on October 25th. Appointments will be set by teachers from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. and then from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. will be a walk-in open house format.

High School conferences will be on October 22nd and on October 25th from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Parents are encouraged to meet with their student's teachers during this drop-in conference format.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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.				Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Anti-Bullying Month
1 Day 3 ◇ UNI Vocal Arts Festival	2 Day 4 ◇ 7 FB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 FB @ Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ 7 VB @ Center Point-Urbana MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ B/G MS CC @ W. Delaware (Delaware County Fairgrounds), 4:00 pm ◇ B/G V CC @ W. Delaware (Hart Ridge GC), 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ S. Tama, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm	3 Day 5 ◇ FFA District Green-hand Day @ Wapsie Valley High School, 8:00 am ◇ Band Booster Meeting, 6:30 pm	4 Day 6 ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB vs. Clear Creek-Amana 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ G V SW vs. W'Burg, Keokuk & Oskaloosa @ Oskaloosa, 5:30 pm 	5 Day 1 ◇ F/S FB vs. Union, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB vs. Union, 7:30 pm <i>(VPRD Cheer & Flag Football Night)</i> NATIONAL DO SOMETHING NICE DAY!	6 ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 8:00 am ◇ "Real Men Sing!" Vocal Festival @ Wartburg College ◇ B/G JV/V CC Invitational @ North Linn HS, 9:00 am ◇ JV VB @ Wapsie Valley, 9:00 am ◇ IHSMA State Marching Band Festival @ Kingston Stadium ◇ G V SW Invitational @ CR Washington, 11:30 am
8 Day 2 ◇ Tilford & HS Picture Re-takes ◇ V VB WaMaC Tourney TBD, 4:00 pm ◇ B/G MS CC WaMaC Meet @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ G V SW @ Williamsburg, 5:30 pm ◇ JV FB vs. Union, 6:00pm ◇ FFA Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm ◇ School Board Meeting, Central Office, 7:00 pm COLUMBUS DAY	9 Day 3 ◇ 7 VB @ Union MS (Dysart), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB vs. Union, 4:15pm ◇ 7 FB @ Benton, 4:15pm ◇ 8 FB vs. Benton, 4:15 pm ◇ 10 VB WaMaC Tourney @ Mount Vernon, 4:00 pm	10 Day 4 ◇ Middle School Picture Re-takes ◇ PSAT Testing, 8:00—12:00, HS Aud. NATIONAL STOP BULLYING DAY	11 Day 5 ◇ Shellsburg Picture Re-takes ◇ V VB WaMaC Tourney Bracket Play @ Mount Vernon, 4:00 pm ◇ B/G V CC WaMaC Meet @ South Tama, 4:00 pm 	12 NO CLASSES Prof. Dev. ◇ F/S FB vs. Roland Story, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB vs. Roland Story, 7:30 pm (Senior Night)	13 ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 8:00 am ◇ State FFA Soils @ Iowa State University, 8:00 am ◇ Waukee Marching Band Invitational @ Waukee High School ◇ G V SW Conference Meet @ Grinnell, 11:00 am 
15 Day 6 ◇ MS WR Practice Begins ◇ National Honor Society Induction @ VSHS Aud., 6:00 pm	16 Day 1 ◇ 9-12 Fall Choral Preview, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm	17 Day 2 ◇ 1st Round VB Regionals @ TBA, 7:00 pm 	18 Day 3 ◇ B/G V CC Regionals, TBA, 4:00 pm	19 Day 4 ◇ F/S FB @ Benton, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB @ Benton, 7:30 pm	20 ◇ All-State Music Auditions @ Independence
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK 10/15—10/19					
22 Day 5 2-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL P/T Conferences 2:00 pm — 8:00 pm	23 Day 6 ◇ V VB Regionals	24 Day 1	25 Day 2 2-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL P/T Conferences 2:00 pm — 8:00 pm	26 NO CLASSES ◇ 1st Round Football Playoffs, 7:00 pm	27 ◇ V CC State Meet @ Fort Dodge, 11:00 am ◇ Girls Regional Swim Meet @ TBA MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK 10/22—10/26					
National FFA Conference @ Indianapolis 10/23 -10/27					
29 Day 3 ◇ MS Band Concert, Tilford Aud., 7:00 pm ◇ V VB Regional Final, TBA, 7:00 pm	30 Day 4	31 Day 5 	Nov. 1 Day 6 ◇ ECICDA Choir Clinic @ Linn Mar ◇ 7 G BB @ Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 G BB vs. Independence, 4:15 pm	2 NO CLASSES	

District 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. 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.

SUBSTITUTE SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED!!

The Vinton-Shellsburg CSD is looking for people to be substitute teacher associates, kitchen help, custodians, and bus drivers. Applications can be picked up at Central Office, 1502 C Ave., Vinton or can be found on-line at vscsd.org, District Office, Employment, Substitute Support Application. VSCSD is an EEO/AA Employer.

Purpose of Grades

Grades communicate the academic achievement of a student at a particular point in time (Guskey, 2015). Communication, in the form of grades, reflects what a student knows and can do in relation to content area learning goals as defined by the Common Core and Iowa Core Standards.

Philosophy

Grant Wiggins (1993,1996) and Marzano (2010) described *standards-referenced grading* as a system in which teachers give students feedback about their proficiency on a set of defined standards and schools report students' levels of performance on the grade-level standards, but students are not moved forward (or backward) to a different set of standards based on their level of competency. Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School District believes in an intervention and enrichment approach to standards proficiency. When a student struggles to reach proficiency, we will intervene on the student's behalf to provide intervention and additional opportunities to learn and relearn the standards. If a student demonstrates proficiency on a standard prior to teaching and learning occurring, we will provide enrichment opportunities to enhance student application of a standard.

In this system, learning goals are clearly defined and communicated to all stakeholders. Over time, students receive specific and targeted feedback regarding learning goals. As students progress in their learning, they are better suited to reflect, self-assess, set goals, and develop action plans. Students conclude learning cycles knowing precisely their academic strengths and growth areas due to the implementation of standards referenced grading practices.

Standards-referenced grading is a research based approach to assessing and reporting student achievement. Many scholars in the field of education, including Thomas Guskey, Robert Marzano, Ken O'Connor, and Rick Wormeli, support the implementation and extension of standards-referenced grading. At Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School we believe standards-referenced grading practices is the best approach to support our students.

We believe:

- *Standards-referenced reporting more accurately assesses student achievement.*
- *Standards-referenced reporting practices clearly communicate learning goals to all stakeholders.*
- *Standards-referenced reporting develops self-directed and intrinsically motivated learners.*
- *Standards-referenced reporting better addresses the needs of all students.*
- *Standards-referenced reporting is focused on student learning.*
- *A 4 point grading scale enhances the validity and reliability of academic grades.*
- *Practice is essential for concept development, but not necessary for grade calculation.*
- *Academic grades should reflect academic achievement only.*

Non-Negotiables

At Vinton-Shellsburg Middle School, eight non-negotiables guide the implementation of standards-referenced grading practice. Each teacher implementing standards referenced grading within their classrooms will adhere to the following:

1. Learning targets are clear and communicated to students and parents using a variety of methods.
2. Grading is based upon a student evidence of learning.
3. Scores from assessments are reported by individual learning targets.
4. Students may demonstrate proficiency over time.
5. Students have the opportunity to reassess learning according to the reassessment guidelines.
6. Formative assessment may be included in final grades at the discretion of the teacher.
7. Homework, referred to as practice, is not included in a student's final grade.
8. Extra credit is not offered

How are weather decisions made?

On days with questionable weather, we start monitoring the predictions and the current weather conditions around 4:30-5:00 AM. Often our transportation director visits with our buildings and grounds director as they are traveling into Vinton from different directions. We communicate with superintendents and transportation directors in the area – what are they seeing and what are they considering as far as weather decisions. Our transportation director and superintendent start talking 5-5:30 AM and work to make a decision prior to 5:45 AM. This allows time for our families to be notified through School Messenger, our bus drivers to know, our student athletes to know prior to driving in for early morning practices, and information posted on Vinton Today, KCRG, KWWL and KGAN. At all times, parents need to consider whether they want to allow their high school students to drive or if it would be safer to ride in a school bus or with a parent.



October 15th—19th, 2018

The National School Lunch Program is a federally funded program which assists schools and other agencies in providing nutritious lunches to children at reasonable prices. In addition to financial assistance, the program provides donated commodity foods to help reduce lunch program costs. The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for overseeing the program nationally. In

Iowa, the program is administered by the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition Programs and Health Services. For more information, connect to the USDA site.

The USDA's nutrition standards for schools meals have changed over the last few years: •Fruits and vegetables offered daily •More whole grains •Only fat-free or low-fat milk varieties •Calorie limits by grade level •Limits on saturated fat, trans fats and sodium.

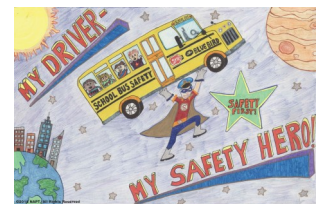
For children, the National School Lunch Program provides a nutritious meal that contains 1/3 of the Recommended Dietary Allowance of necessary nutrients. For parents, the program offers a convenient method of providing a nutritionally balanced lunch at the lowest possible price. For schools, the program enhances children's learning abilities by contributing to their physical and mental well being. Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems and are more attentive in class.

Benefits of eating school lunch: •USDA research indicates that children who participate in School Lunch have superior nutritional intake compared to those who do not participate. •Healthy eating at school correlates with higher test scores and less absenteeism*

The district has a Farm-to-School committee whose goal is to increase the use of locally produced foods. If you are interested in serving, please contact Karen Ackman at karen.ackman@vcsd.org.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 22—26, 2018



School Bus Drivers Take Pride in Every Ride

Students riding a school bus should always:

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.
- Obey the bus driver and respect other riders.
- Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.

Crossing students should:

- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least 10 giant steps ahead of the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can see them, and they can see the bus driver.
- Wait for the driver's signal to cross.

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible on the Bus ~ Things Kids Should know About School Bus Safety:

- The bus driver and others cannot see you if you are standing closer than 10 feet to the bus. Stay out of the danger zone!
- If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER try to pick it up yourself!
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- When you get on or off the bus, look for the bus safety lights and make sure they are flashing.
- Be alert to traffic. When you get on or off the bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.
- When the driver says it is safe to cross the street, remember to CROSS IN FRONT of the bus.
- Stay in your seat and sit quietly so that the driver is not distracted
- Keep your hands inside the bus window and keep them to yourself.
- Clean up after yourself, don't leave papers or wrappers laying around.

BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS RIDING THE BUS AND ALSO THE BUS DRIVER.

LET YOUR BUS DRIVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOU APPRECIATE THEM!

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Every October, schools and organizations across the country observe National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages.

The more awareness that is created during the month of October -- and all year round is one step closer to putting an end to bullying! Visit stopbullying.gov to learn what YOU can do to stop bullying!

Speak out against bullying; Report bullying; Learn what is and is not bullying; Make others feel included and valued!