

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. 2— Parent/Teacher Conf. Gr. 6-12--4:00—8:00 pm
- Oct. 5— Parent/Teacher Conf. Gr. 6-12--4:00—8:00 pm
- Oct. 6—NO CLASSES. K-5 Prof. Development
- Oct. 9—School Board Meeting, Central Office, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 13— 2-Hr, Early Dismissal, Prof. Development
- Oct. 16—National Honor Society Induction @ VSHS Aud., 6:00 pm
- Oct. 16—20 -School Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 17—Tilford Picture Day
- Oct. 17—9-12 Fall Choral Preview, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Oct. 23—MS Band & Vocal Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Oct. 24—28 - National FFA Conference
- Oct. 25—Shellsburg Picture Re-takes
- Oct. 27—2-Hr. Early Dismissal, Prof. Development

TILFORD ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR IS HERE!!!

Tilford will be hosting its book fair during the week of October 23-27. Be sure to stop in during the hours of 7:45-8:15am and 3:00-4:00pm M-Th. and 7:45-8:15am Fri.



To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

September's weather reminded us more of August than fall. Let's hope that October brings cooler weather and that our farmers' can safely harvest their crops!

School Board elections were September 12th. Three incumbents ran for their seats with no one else taking out papers. Mike Timmermans was reelected to represent District 1 (the former Vinton district) with Sue Gates and Rob Levis reelected as at-large members. The board held their annual meeting on September 18th after the official canvass of votes. 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 serve as school board president and Sue Gates to serve as the vice-president. Other board members include Brenda Bartz, 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.

The board adopted five goals that will drive 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 and nurturing environment.
- *The district will hire and retain quality teachers and other staff.
- *The district will be financially stable.

We are finalizing our enrollment for the year. We anticipate serving about the same number of students as last year. We had 99 students who graduated last spring and we currently have 111 kindergarten students.





The auditors were recently here to audit our 2016-17 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 fairly equally balanced with a little extra on the revenue side – which is our goal. We had savings in our utility and fuel expenses as well as the amount we needed for substitute expenses.

Four high school students are leading the work to continue Operation Backpack. They are working to finalize students served this year; in the past it has been about 100 elementary students. They arrange for food, delivery and volunteers to assist with the work so students have nutritious food at home over the weekends. Tony Islas, Molly Noren and many others provide assistance to make the program a success.

Please make plans now to attend parent-teacher conferences. Our 6-12 conferences will be on Monday, October 2 and Thursday, October 5 from 4-8 (no early outs those days). Our Elementary conferences will not be until November 15-16. We will not have classes for students on Friday, October 6 or Friday, November 17.

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

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 SUNDAY ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 5:00 pm 2 Day 4 6-12 P/T Conf. 4:00—8:00 pm	3 Day 5 ◇ 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, 4:15pm ◇ 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 vs. S. Tama, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm	4 Day 6 ◇ FFA District Green-hand Night @ Wapsie Valley High School, 5:00 pm ◇ Band Booster Meeting, 6:30 pm	5 Day 1 6-12 P/T Conf. 4:00—8:00 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ Clear Creek-Amana 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ G V SW vs. W'Burg & Oskaloosa @ Oskaloosa, 5:30 pm	6 NO CLASSES K-5 Prof. Dev. ◇ F/S FB @ Independence, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB @ Independence, 7:30 pm	7 ◇ "Real Men Sing!" Vocal Festival @ Wartburg College ◇ B/G JV/V CC Invitational @ North Linn HS, 9:00 am ◇ IHMSA State Marching Band Festival @ Kingston Stadium ◇ G V SW Invitational @ Cedar Rapids Washington, 11:30 am
CHILD HEALTH DAY					
9 Day 2 ◇ 10 VB WaMaC Tourney @ South Tama, 4:00 pm ◇ B/G MS CC WaMaC Meet @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ G V SW @ Williamsburg, 5:30 pm ◇ School Board Meeting, Central Office, 7:00 pm COLUMBUS DAY	10 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 ◇ V VB WaMaC Tourney Pool Play @ Maquoketa or South Tama, 4:00pm	11 Day 4 ◇ Booster Club Meeting, VSHS, 6:00 pm NATIONAL STOP BULLYING DAY	12 Day 5 ◇ V VB WaMaC Tourney Bracket Play @ Marion, 4:00 pm ◇ B/G V CC WaMaC Meet @ VSHS, 4:00 pm	13 Day 6 2-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ F/S FB vs. C. R. Xavier 5:00 pm ◇ V FB vs. C. R. Xavier 7:30 pm (Senior Night)	14 ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 8:00 am ◇ State FFA Soils @ Iowa State University, 8:00 am ◇ Waukee Marching Band Invitational @ Waukee High School ◇ Cheerleading All-State Tryouts @ Ames
15 SUNDAY ◇ Cheerleading Shrine Bowl Tryouts @ Altoona, 9:00 am 16 Day 1 ◇ National Honor Society Induction @ VSHS Aud., 6:00 pm ◇ FFA Meeting, VSHS, 6:30 pm BOSS'S DAY	17 Day 2 ◇ Tilford Elem. Picture Day, 8:00 am ◇ 9-12 Fall Choral Preview, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm	18 Day 3 ◇ 1st Round VB Regionals @ TBA, 7:00 pm 	19 Day 4 ◇ B/G V CC Regionals, TBA, 4:00 pm	20 Day 5 ◇ F/S FB @ Benton, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB @ Benton, 7:30 pm	21 ◇ All-State Music Auditions @ TBA ◇ G V SW Conference Meet @ Luther College, 11:00 am MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK 10/16—10/20					
23 Day 6 ◇ MS Band & Vocal Concert, VSHS Aud., 7:00 pm	24 Day 1 ◇ V VB Regionals	25 Day 2 ◇ Shellsburg Elem. Picture Re-take Day, 8:00 am	26 Day 3	27 Day 4 2-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL Prof. Dev. ◇ 1st Round Football Playoffs, 7:00 pm	28 ◇ V CC State Meet @ Fort Dodge, 11:00 am ◇ Girls Regional Swim Meet @ TBA
30 Day 5 ◇ V VB Regional Final, TBA, 7:00 pm	31 Day 6 	National FFA Conference @ Indianapolis 10/24 -10/28			

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 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.

Vinton-Shellsburg CSD Parent -Teacher Conferences
Scheduled for October 2nd and 5th

Conferences will be held for Middle School and High School levels only on October 2nd from 4:00pm-8:00pm and on October 5th from 4:00pm-8:00pm. Conferences will be in the Open House format.

Parents are encouraged to meet with their student's teachers during this drop-in conference format.

Conferences are a great opportunity for communication between the teacher and parent. We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

Elementary Conferences will be held November 15th & 16th, 2017.

I PLEDGE TO USE MY WORDS TO SPEAK IN A KIND WAY.
I PLEDGE
TO HELP OTHERS AS I GO THROUGHOUT MY DAY. I PLEDGE TO CARE FOR OUR EARTH WITH MY HEALING HEART AND HANDS. I PLEDGE TO RESPECT PEOPLE IN EACH AND EVERY LAND. I PLEDGE TO JOIN TOGETHER AS WE UNITE THE BIG AND SMALL. I PLEDGE TO DO MY PART TO **CREATE PEACE FOR ONE AND ALL!**



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!

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

How are weather decisions made?

On days with questionable weather, we start monitoring the weather, the predictions and the current conditions around 4:30-5:00 in the morning. 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.

VINTON-SHELLSBURG-UNION GIRLS SWIM TEAM



The Vinton-Shellsburg-Union high school girls swim team is off to a great start this year! The small but powerful team of only 8 girls has beaten several teams of up to 4-times their size. Lizzie Moore, Kaitlyn Goodell, Arabella Shepard, Natalie Tecklenburg, Amanda Cardenas, Geordyn Webster, Emily Levis, and Clarissa Carolan make up the VSU swim team. Of four meets to date, VSU has won 3 and took second at the fourth. Three (3) individual school records have been broken, and a meet record was set in the medley relay at the Waterloo Invitational.

The small team's greatest challenge is filling out the event roster. Most meets allow us to have three entries in each event, but we only have enough girls to have two entries, and some relays we only have enough to have one

entry. While we have strong swimmers in every event, it's tough to compete with a school that can have three entries every time. And what's more, is that teams with 20-30 swimmers can afford their swimmers rest between them only swimming one or two events. Every girl on the VSU team swims four (4) events at every meet, sometimes swimming one event right after another. But as the record shows, they are handling it swimmingly! They are gaining confidence with each meet and have some lofty goals for later in the season!



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK and the NSLP

October 12th—16th, 2017

Created in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, it's a celebratory week promoting the benefits of the National School Lunch Program. (NSLP) The NSLP began in 1946 and is the largest of the federal child nutrition programs. In 180 school days, approximately 30 million children per day are served healthy meals—that is 5 billion annually! Ninety-five percent (95%) of US elementary and secondary school students are enrolled in schools that participate in the NSLP.

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.

School lunch must contain •Fruits •Veggies •Whole Grains •Lean protein •Low fat dairy.

The USDA's nutrition standards for schools meals have changed: •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@vscsd.org.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK
October 16—20, 2017



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.

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!