

# 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:**

- Sept. 3—NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
- Sept. 13— Homecoming Parade, 6:00 pm; Coronation, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 14—Homecoming Dance, VSHS, 9:30 pm-12:15 am
- Sept. 17—Board Meeting @ Central Office, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 21— 2-Hr. Early Dismissal Prof. Development

To the Vinton-Shellsburg School Community,

It has been a great start to the new school year! August was a full month with registration, computer check-out nights, back-to-school nights, fall sports and activities starting, and the first days of school! Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, daycare providers, neighbors and others who help get the 1600+ students to school and back each day.

While this is the start of the 2018-19 year, it is also a time to consider the successes of the 2017-18 year. From last spring's assessment data, there are a few highlights:

- Over **84%** of our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students were proficient in reading and about **83%** were proficient in math. Our students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades have made significant gains in the number who are proficient from seven years ago. Almost **80%** of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders; **83%** of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and just over **84%** of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient in reading. In math, we had almost **88%** of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, almost **90%** of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and almost **87%** of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders proficient.
- At the elementary level, almost **94%** of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, **86%** of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders and **85%** of our 5<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient in reading. Math was almost as impressive with 4<sup>th</sup> graders at **81%** and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at **85%**.

While those numbers are impressive, they are even more remarkable when compared to the other schools in the Grant Wood AEA (ALL the schools in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington counties).

- Our students in grades 3-11 all ranked at or above the AEA average in every area (reading, math and science). When compared to other schools within the AEA, our students ranked in the top five in almost every area and were never lower than 8<sup>th</sup> in the AEA (out of 33 school districts).
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders ranked the highest in the AEA in reading.
- Our students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** in the AEA for reading, **1<sup>st</sup>** for science and **2<sup>nd</sup>** for math!
- Our students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> ranked **5<sup>th</sup>** in the AEA for science, **6<sup>th</sup>** for math and **7<sup>th</sup>** for reading.
- Our students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade ranked **3<sup>rd</sup>** in the AEA for science, **4<sup>th</sup>** for reading and **6<sup>th</sup>** for math (we don't have comparisons for students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades).

While these data points are from the 2017-18 year, I am confident that we have processes and systems in place that will support another great year of teaching and learning!

Jim Struve, our activities director, recently compiled a summary of 2017-18 activities and it included that about 60% of our high school students are involved in at least one sport. We also have a large number of students who participate in speech, drama and music as well as other co-curricular activities. We had several individuals who qualified for state including participants in boys' cross country, girls' swimming, boys' bowling, wrestling, girls' and boys' track and girls' golf. Our marching band received a division I rating at the state festival and we had a student selected as an alternate to the all-state jazz band. Our Concert and Chamber Choirs received division I ratings at the state competition.

Over the summer, we had many building upgrades completed using our PPEL and I-cent local option (SAVE) money. This included finishing the west parking lot at Tilford (it's finally ALL DONE!), upgrading restrooms at Shellsburg and the Middle School, repainting and resurfacing the gym floors at the HS and Shellsburg, repainting the hallways at Shellsburg, replacing some doors at the Middle School and the list goes on. In a year of more rain than most, we kept our lawns mowed! The custodians, painters, and maintenance crew did a GREAT job this summer!

As we start the 2018-19 year, we welcome 10 new teachers to the district. They come to us from various college and career paths but all seem excited to be a part of our district. They bring with them skills and experiences that will help our students grow and learn. We also welcome eight new support staff.

Our teachers and other staff spent several days in August preparing for the year. Staff in every building completed safety training that included a review of our safety plans, practice dealing with an intruder, visiting off-site locations, and other emergency responses. While something bad could happen in any school across the country, I am confident that by practicing and considering our responses, as a system we are better prepared and our students will be safer. Elementary teachers focused on math strategies and time to prepare as grade level teams so every student experiences similar learning and it isn't the educational lottery of which teacher a student has. The Middle School is implementing Standards Based Grading this year which required time to learn how data will be entered into their gradebooks and then shared with students and their parents. The High School is focusing on Authentic Intellectual Work and implementing the practices and processes within the AIW framework.

We have started the fall season of co-curricular activities. We will host five home football games this season including Homecoming on September 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be only one game that night starting at 7:00 PM. It is always great to see the cross country students run the game football in just prior to the start of the game and enjoy the band's half-time show and Hall of Fame Inductions.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the school district, please contact me!  
Mary Jo Hainstock, Superintendent  
[maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org](mailto:maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org)



The Vinton Police Department's Senior Police Officer Josh West is the first School Resource Officer (SRO). In this role, Officer West will act as a liaison between the Vinton Police Department and the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District. He attended a 40-hour basic SRO training course in Des Moines along with Principal Shelley Peterson (V-S Middle School) and Assistant Principal Tony Islas (V-S High School).

The SRO will fill three primary roles:  
**Law Enforcement Officer:** The SRO investigates criminal complaints and enforces state laws and city ordinances. The SRO also helps to provide a safe environment through collaborative and preventative security planning with district officials resulting in an improved emergency response when needed.

**Mentor / counselor:** The SRO is a positive role model for students and works to identify and prevent delinquent behaviors through informal counseling and referral. The SRO's daily interactions with students, parents, and faculty help to develop positive relationships and provide for a safer environment for all.

**Educator:** The SRO advises and educates students, parents, and faculty on law enforcement related issues and presents programs on a variety of law enforcement and emergency response related topics that may include; drug abuse, emergency response procedures, crime prevention, and firearm safety.

The Vinton Police Department applied for funding from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office. In mid-November 2017, the Vinton Police Department was notified by the Department of Justice that they would be awarded a grant for \$125,000.00. The grant covers approximately half of the cost of an additional officer for three years in order to assign an officer to full-time duties as a School Resource Officer. The City and School District will split the remaining cost of the extra officer. The SRO position is required to be continued for at least one additional year after the grant funding ends. At that time, the City and District will re-evaluate the program and determine its future.




**September is Attendance Awareness Month!**  
Help Your Child Succeed in School by building a habit of good attendance early!

Did you know?

**\*Starting** in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school; **\*Missing** 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read; **\*Students** can fall behind if they miss just one or two days of school every few weeks; **\*Absences** can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up; **\*Poor** attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade.

Vinton-Shellsburg Schools are working to improve chronic absences by working more closely with families. Let us know how we can help you get your child to school on a regular basis so they don't miss out on valuable instruction time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Molly Noren, VS Student Service Coordinator at 436-4728 ext. 5867 or [molly.noren@vscsd.org](mailto:molly.noren@vscsd.org).

# SEPTEMBER 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>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 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.</b>			<b>SEPTEMBER IS Self-Improvement Month!</b>		<b>1</b> ◇ V VB Vikette Tourney, VS-HS, 9:00 am
<b>3</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL Labor Day</b>  	<b>4 Day 2</b> ◇ 7 VB @ Benton (Norway), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB vs. Benton, 4:15pm ◇ B/G MS/JV/V CC @ Grinnell (Ahrens Park), 4:30/4:50 pm	<b>5 Day 3</b> ◇ High School Picture Day ◇ Middle School Picture Day	<b>6 Day 4</b> ◇ Shellsburg Picture Day ◇ 7 VB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB @ Clear Creek-Amana (Tiffin), 4:15 pm ◇ 7 FB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 FB @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ Solon, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ G SW @ Grinnell Invitational, 7:00 pm	<b>7 Day 5</b> ◇ Tilford Picture Day ◇ F/S FB vs. Oelwein, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB vs. Oelwein, 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 8:00 am ◇ FFA State Dairy Cattle @ Manchester, 8:00 am ◇ B/G MS/JV/V CC @ Benton (Atkins), 8:30/9:00 am ◇ 9 VB @ CR Washington Invite, 9:00 am ◇ V VB @ East Marshall Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ G SW @ Waterloo Invite (Central Pool) 12:00 pm
<b>10 Day 6</b> ◇ B/G MS/JV/V CC @ S. Tama, 4:15/4:30 pm ◇ G SW @ Williamsburg Invite, 5:30 pm ◇ 9/10 VB vs. Oelwein, 6:00 pm	<b>11 Day 1</b> ◇ 7 VB @ Williamsburg (Mary Welsh Elem), 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm ◇ 7 FB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 FB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB vs. Williamsburg, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm <b>Patriot Day</b> 	<b>12 Day 2</b> ◇ WaMaC Fall Meeting, Marion Longbranch, 9:00 am ◇ Eastern Iowa College Fair @ Kirkwood Community College, 9:30-11:30 am	<b>13 Day 3</b> ◇ FFA @ NICC, (Calmar) 8:30 am ◇ Homecoming Parade, 6:00 pm ◇ Homecoming Coronation & Powder Puff Football Game, Karr Athletic Complex, 7:00 pm  <b>Positive Thinking Day</b>	<b>14 Day 4</b> ◇ V FB vs. Columbus Catholic, 7:00 pm (Homecoming) ◇ Hall of Fame Induction – Halftime ◇ Hall of Fame Reception @ VCC, 9:00 pm ◇ Homecoming Dance, VSHS, 9:30-12:15	<b>15</b> ◇ GO VS Homecoming Breakfast, HS Commons, 7:30-11:00 am ◇ Speech Trash Pick-up, 8:00 am ◇ 9 VB @ Oelwein Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ 10 VB Vikette Tourney, 9:00 am
<b>17 Day 5</b> ◇ 7 VB @ Marion MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB vs. Marion, 4:15pm ◇ 9 VB @ Union vs. Gladbrook-Reinbeck, 5:00 pm ◇ FFA Chapter Meeting, Kiwanis Park, 6:30 pm ◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 7:00 pm ◇ JV FB @ Tipton, 6:00pm	<b>18 Day 6</b> ◇ B/G MS/JV/V CC @ VS-HS, 4:00/5:00 pm ◇ 7 FB vs. Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 FB @ Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ G SW vs. Williamsburg (IBSSS), 4:30 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ Indee, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm	<b>19 Day 1</b>	<b>20 Day 2</b> ◇ 7 VB vs. Benton, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB @ Benton (Norway), 4:15 pm ◇ HS Academic Awards, Aud., 7:00 pm  <b>International Day of Peace</b>	<b>21 Day 3</b> <b>2-Hr. Early Dismissal PROF. DEV.</b> ◇ F/S FB @ Nevada, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB @ Nevada, 7:30 pm  <b>First Day of Autumn</b>  <b>POW/MIA Recognition Day</b>	<b>22</b> ◇ Farm Safety Camp @ Benton County Fairgrounds, 8:00 am ◇ 10 VB @ CR Jefferson Invite., 9:00 am ◇ 9 VB Vikette Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ V VB @ Dunkerton Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ Marion Marching Invite @ Thomas Park, TBA
<b>24 Day 4</b> ◇ 7 VB vs. South Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB @ South Tama MS, 4:15 pm ◇ B/G MS/JV/V CC @ Clear Creek-Amana (IC Kickers Soccer Park) 4:30/5:00 pm ◇ JV FB @ Columbus, 6:00 pm	<b>25 Day 5</b> ◇ 7 VB vs. Independence, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 VB @ Independence (W. Elem.), 4:15 pm ◇ 7 FB @ South Tama MS, 4:15 pm ◇ 8 FB vs. South Tama, 4:15 pm ◇ 9/10/JV/V VB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm ◇ G V SW @ Grinnell (Bear RAC), 7:00 pm	<b>26 Day 6</b>	<b>27 Day 1</b>  <b>National Good Neighbor Day</b>  	<b>28 Day 2</b> ◇ F/S FB @ West Marshall, 5:00 pm ◇ V FB @ West Marshall, 7:30 pm	<b>29</b> ◇ V VB @ Columbus Catholic Tourney, 9:00 am ◇ B/G Golf Fundraiser Tourney @ VCC, 9:00 am ◇ Marching Band <i>Bands Across the Prairie</i> , @ Prairie HS ◇ All-State Ensemble Clinic @ Morningside College, TBA  <b>30</b> ◇ Vocal Arts Festival @ UNI

**Vinton Shellsburg Boys and Girls Golf Teams**  
**Four Person Best Shot Golf Tournament**  
 Saturday, September 29, 2018 9:00 am  
 Vinton Country Club, 314 N 9th Avenue, Vinton  
**Cost: \$30.00 per golfer**  
 (includes green fees, flight prizes, stake prizes, and lunch)  
 Register by September 15, 2016  
 (Registration form found @ VS High School and Vinton Country Club)  
 All proceeds will go to support the V-S Boys and Girls golf teams!

