

# 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. 2—NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
- Sept. 9—Board Meeting @ Central Office, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 11—High School Academic Awards, HS Aud., 7:00 pm
- Sept. 20— 2-Hr. Early Dismissal Prof. Development
- Sept. 26— Homecoming Parade, 6:00 pm; Coronation, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 27—Homecoming Dance, VSHS, 9:00 pm

**Vote to Renew the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy on Tuesday, Sept. 10th**

**SEPTEMBER IS  
Self-Improvement  
Month!**

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 1500+ students to school and back each day.

**PPEL Vote** – On Tuesday, September 10, there will be an election on whether or not to renew the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. If approved, it would extend the levy that has been in place since 1989 (when the Shellsburg and Vinton districts combined). It generates about \$700,000 each year and can only be spent on things that are physical – new roofs; new busses; new desks, chairs and other furniture; new cement (including the parking lots); window replacement; computers, etc. It cannot be spent on salaries, insurance or other staffing costs per state law. Polling stations will be open at the Vinton Courthouse, Garrison Fire Station and Shellsburg Legion from 7 AM – 8 PM. Please vote!

**School Board Election** – The Iowa Legislature changed the law for when school board elections will occur. They will now be in November of every other year. The new law goes into effect this November 5<sup>th</sup>. We have four seats up for election including those currently served by Kyle Schminke – Director District #2 (the former Shellsburg District), Brenda Bartz and Jason Hicok - Director District #1 (the former Vinton District), and Kathy Van Steenhuyse – at-large member. Anyone interested in running can pick up papers here at Central Office or at the Courthouse. Questions can be directed to our business manager, Brenda Barkdoll at 319-436-5684 or [Brenda.barkdoll@vscsd.org](mailto:Brenda.barkdoll@vscsd.org).

Jim Struve, our activities director, recently compiled a summary of 2018-19 activities and it included that well over 60% of our high school students are involved in at least one sport . We had the highest percentage in recent history with 78% of last year’s sophomores involved with 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. The research is clear that when students are involved in activities (or multiple activities), they are more likely to do well in school and graduate.

Over the summer, we had many building upgrades completed using our PPEL and I-cent local option (SAVE) money. This included installing new cement east of the Shellsburg building and upgrading their playground area. We also abated asbestos in several rooms at the middle school and installed new flooring, lights and ceiling in those rooms. We are finalizing a project at the central office so the entrance is now on the south side of the building and is handicapped accessible (no more half-step when you come in the door!). We will be installing a buzz-in system similar to what is used in the buildings. In a year of more rain than most for much of the early summer, we kept our lawns mowed! The custodians, painters, and maintenance crew did a GREAT job this summer!

Our teachers and other staff spent several days in August preparing for the year. We are expanding our emergency and safety training to include Run/Fight/Hide and Stop the Bleed. 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.

Throughout the year, teachers will continue their work around math strategies and positive behavior strategies at the elementary level, continuing the work with standards based grading at the middle school, and the high school will continue implementing practices and processes within the AIW framework. We had an outside speaker for all teachers prior to the start of the year who focused on “visible learning” and teachers will be implementing that work within all the areas.

We welcomed 14 new teachers and 12 new support staff to the district for the new school year. Please extend them a warm welcome as they begin their new roles as Difference Makers!

We have started the fall season of co-curricular activities. We will host four home football games this season including Homecoming on September 27<sup>th</sup>. 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)

**Vinton Shellsburg Boys and Girls Golf Teams  
Four Person Best Shot Golf Tournament**  
Saturday, September 21, 2019 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 18, 2019  
(Registration form found @ VS High School, Vinton Country Club or beckyshaw1969@gmail.com)  
All proceeds will go to support the V-S Boys and Girls golf teams!

**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 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO SCHOOL Labor Day</b></p> 	<p><b>3 Day 1</b></p> <p>◇ JV/V CC @ Williamsburg, 4:30 pm</p> <p>◇ 10/JV VB @ Solon, 5:00/6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>4 Day 2</b></p> <p>◇ High School Picture Day, 7:30-9:00 am</p> <p>◇ Middle School Picture Day</p>	<p><b>5 Day 3</b></p> <p>◇ Shellsburg Picture Day</p> <p>◇ 9/10/JV/V VB vs. Benton, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm (Teaching Cancer a Lesson Fundraiser)</p>	<p><b>6 Day 4</b></p> <p>◇ F/S FB vs. Tipton, 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ V FB vs. Tipton, 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>◇ V VB Vikette Tourney, VS-HS, 9:00 am</p>
<p><b>9 Day 5</b></p> <p>◇ JV FB vs. Tipton, 6:00 pm</p> <p>◇ School Board Meeting @ Central Office, 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>10 Day 6</b></p> <p>◇ UNI College Fair @ McLeod Center, 9:00—11:00 am</p> <p>◇ 7 VB @ Benton (Norway), 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB vs. Benton, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ MS/JV/V CC @ Grinnell (Ahrens Park), 4:30/4:55 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vote Today!</b></p>	<p><b>11 Day 1</b></p> <p>◇ HS Academic Awards, Aud., 7:00 pm</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Patriot Day</b></p>	<p><b>12 Day 2</b></p> <p>◇ FFA @ NICC, (Calmar) 8:30 am</p> <p>◇ 7 VB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 7 FB vs. Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 FB @ Clear Creek-Amana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ G V SW @ C. R. Kennedy, 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>13 Day 3</b></p> <p>◇ F/S FB @ Oelwein, 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ V FB @ Oelwein, 7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Positive Thinking Day</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>◇ FFA State Dairy Cattle @ Manchester</p> <p>◇ ICDA Pre All-State Workshop @ Linn-Mar</p> <p>◇ MS/JV/V CC @ Benton (Atkins), 8:30/9:00 am</p> <p>◇ 9 VB @ CR Washington Invite, 9:00 am</p> <p>◇ V VB @ East Marshall Tourney, 9:00 am</p> <p>◇ G SW @ Waterloo Invite (Central Pool) 12:00 pm</p>
<p><b>16 Day 4</b></p> <p>◇ G SW @ Williamsburg Invite, 5:30 pm</p> <p>◇ JV FB @ Benton, 6:00 pm</p> <p>◇ 9/10 VB @ Oelwein, 6:00 pm</p> <p>◇ FFA Chapter Meeting, Kiwanis Park, 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>17 Day 5</b></p> <p>◇ MS/JV/V CC @ Star- mont, 4:00/4:45pm</p> <p>◇ 7 FB @ Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 FB vs. Center Point-Urbana, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 7 VB @ Williamsburg (Mary Welsh), 4:15pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB vs. Williamsburg, 4:15 pm</p>	<p><b>18 Day 6</b></p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin: 10px;"> <p><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></p> </div>	<p><b>19 Day 1</b></p> <p>◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ Williamsburg, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm</p> <p>◇ G SW @ Linn-Mar, 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>20 Day 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2-Hr. Early Dismissal PROF. DEV.</b></p> <p>◇ V FB @ Columbus Catholic, 7:30 pm</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>POW/MIA Recognition Day</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>◇ 10 VB Vikette Tourney, 9:00 am</p> <p>◇ 9 VB @ Oelwein Tourney, 9:00 am</p> <p>◇ V VB @ W. Delaware Tourney, 9:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Day of Peace</b></p>
<p><b>23 Day 3</b></p> <p>◇ Opus Honor Choir Auditions @ VS-HS Auditorium, 3:30 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ 7 VB @ Marion (Vernon MS), 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB vs. Marion, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 9 VB vs. G-R, Union, 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ JV FB vs. Columbus, 6:00 pm</p> <p>◇ Powder Puff VB @ VS-HS, 7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Day of Autumn</b></p>	<p><b>24 Day 4</b></p> <p>◇ Opus Honor Choir Auditions @ VS-HS Auditorium, 3:30—5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ MS/JV/V CC Viking Invite, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 7 FB vs. Independence, 4:30 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 FB @ Independence, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 9/10/JV/V VB vs. Indee, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm</p> <p>◇ G SW @ Waterloo (Central MS), 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>25 Day 5</b></p> <p>◇ FFA District Soil Judging @ HCC, 8:00 am</p> <p>◇ Opus Honor Choir Auditions @ VS-HS Auditorium, 3:30—5:00 pm</p>	<p><b>26 Day 6</b></p> <p>◇ Opus Honor Choir Auditions @ VS-HS Auditorium, 3:30 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ Homecoming Parade, 6:00 pm</p> <p>◇ Homecoming Pep Rally, Coronation &amp; Powder Puff Football Game, Karr Athletic Complex, 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>27 Day 1</b></p> <p>◇ Opus Honor Choir Auditions @ VS-HS Auditorium, 3:30—5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ F/S FB vs. Nevada, 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ V FB vs. Nevada, 7:30 pm (Homecoming)</p> <p>◇ Hall of Fame Induction – Halftime</p> <p>◇ Hall of Fame Reception @ VCC, 9:00 pm</p> <p>◇ Homecoming Dance, VSHS, 9:00 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>◇ GO VS Homecoming Breakfast, HS Commons, 7:00-11:00 am</p> <p>◇ Farm Safety Camp @ Benton County Fairgrounds, 8:00 am</p> <p>◇ 10 VB @ C. R. Jefferson Tourney, 8:30 am</p> <p>◇ 9 VB Vikette Tourney, 9:00 am</p> <p>◇ Marion Marching Invite @ Thomas Park</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Good Neighbor Day</b></p> 
<p><b>30 Day 2</b></p> <p>◇ 7 VB vs. South Tama, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB @ South Tama, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ MS/JV/V CC @ Clear Creek-Amana (IC Kickers Soccer Park) 4:30</p>	<p><b>Oct. 1 Day 3</b></p> <p>◇ 7 FB @ South Tama, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 FB vs. South Tama, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 9/10/JV/V VB @ Center Point-Urbana, 5:00/6:00/7:30 pm</p> <p>◇ G SW @ Grinnell (Bear RAC), 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>2 Day 4</b></p> <p>◇ FFA Greenhand Fire-up @ Wapsie Valley HS, 8:00 am</p>	<p><b>3 Day 5</b></p> <p>◇ JV/V CC @ W. Dubuque Invite, 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 7 VB vs. Indee., 4:15 pm</p> <p>◇ 8 VB @ Indee (West Elem), 4:15 pm</p>	<p><b>4 Day 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2-Hr. Early Dismissal PROF. DEV.</b></p> <p>◇ F/S FB vs. W. Marshall, 5:00 pm</p> <p>◇ V FB vs. W. Marshall, 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>◇ Bands Across the Prairie @ CR Prairie</p> <p>◇ Five Seasons Marching Invite @ Kingston Stadium</p> <p>◇ “Real Men Sing” Vocal Festival (MS &amp; HS) @ Wartburg</p> <p>◇ V VB @ Columbus Catholic Tourney, 9:00am</p>

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- Missing too many days can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can fall behind if they miss just one or two days of school a month.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- 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.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

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.