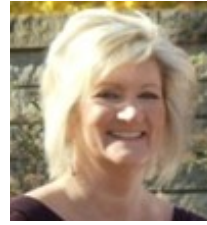


Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

Education: A Community Partnership



Donita Joens, Superintendent

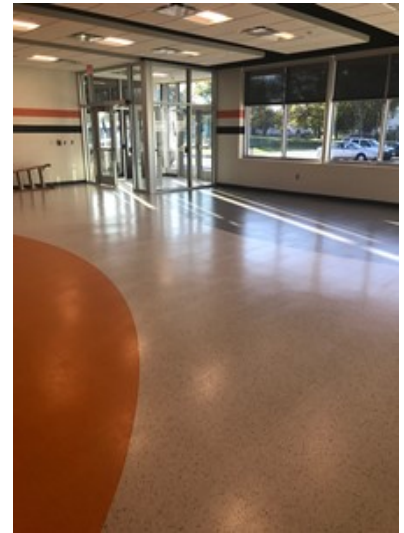
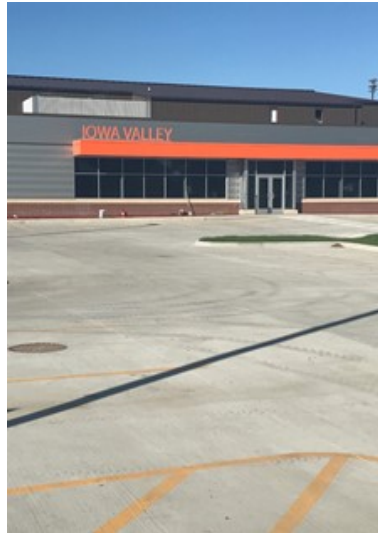
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New Addition for Iowa Valley Tigers

Groundbreaking for the new addition at the IV Elementary School was on October 19, 2016 and ribbon cutting occurred one day shy of one year on October 18, 2017. This new addition was made possible with the hard work, expertise, patience, and collaboration of many, many groups of people:

- School board members who were part of the project: Janet Grafft (business manager), Jay Hall, Brad Patterson, Denny Roberts, Dale Slaymaker, Mark Swift, and Barry Goettsch (former board member)
- OPN Architect led by Roger Worm, Elisha Horsfall, and Mike Svatosch
- Garling Construction led by Project Manager, Brian Mumby, and Ritch Konigsmark, project superintendent- general contractor and site concrete
- Randall Electric- electrical work
- S&S Plumbing and Heating- mechanical work
- Walsh Security
- Outdoor Creations- Steve Krakow and Paul Svare- landscaping
- Peterson Contractors- Geo piers
- Brian Miller Excavating- Earth work
- Bushman Excavating- site utilities
- Fiser Construction- site concrete
- LL Pelling- asphalt
- Lifetime Fence- chain link fence
- American Masonry- masonry work
- Mt. Vernon Construction- air barrier and caulking
- Modern Builders- structural steel and siding
- Advanced Builders- EPDM roof
- CR Glass- aluminum doors and windows
- Phillips- flooring
- Harger's Acoustics, Inc.- acoustical ceiling
- TyCo Painting- painting
- Iowa Direct Equipment- gym equipment
- Premier Edge- window blinds
- Continental Fire Sprinkler- fire suppression
- Tiger Health & Fitness Committee- Ryne Christner, Ray Cooling, Donita Joens, Abby Kasper, Shawn Kreman, Joe Loftus, and Cindy Miller
- All staff, students, community members, and parents for your patience through the noise and dust



The first time I walked into the new gym, I was overwhelmed. All I could think of is how proud our students would feel. PE classes would no longer have to be held in the cafeteria and junior high basketball games could now be played on a competition-sized court rather than on the stage of the auditorium. Our first game played on the new court will be on December 5, 2017.

In addition to our gym, there are two locker rooms, storage rooms, a mezzanine with mechanical equipment, an office for our PE teacher, a lobby with a messaging board and donor boards, concession stand, public restrooms, and a fitness center with two restrooms that will house Matrix equipment. The fitness center will have a TV, elliptical machines, treadmills, recumbent elliptical bikes, and strength/conditioning equipment.

This additional equipment for our gym, lobby, concession stand, and fitness room is being purchased through our capital campaign project. The reason we chose this means of funding is to use SAVE dollars for future facility improvements that are needed in our district such as: new bleachers at the Jr./Sr. High School gym, windows, softball/baseball field improvements, etc. Our goal is to reach \$100,000. We hope you will consider making a tax deductible donation to:

Tiger Health & Fitness
Iowa Valley Community School District
359 East Hilton Street
Marengo, IA 52301

Recognition plaques will be mounted in the lobby area in the following donation categories:

\$100-\$499

\$500-\$999

\$1,000-\$4,999

\$5,000-\$9,999

\$10,000 +

I love the motto that ISU football is using this year "Raise the Standard." Our Iowa Valley School Board raised the standard for what they wanted for the Iowa Valley students. They want students to learn and play in a facility that is progressive. They understand that classroom work takes top priority in our school district and that with hard work, organization, desire, and perseverance, much like what we saw in the building of this new addition, that big dreams can become a reality. This new facility is called PROGRESS. Our Iowa Valley Tigers are the reason we worked so hard to make this dream become a reality and we thank everyone for their support with this project!

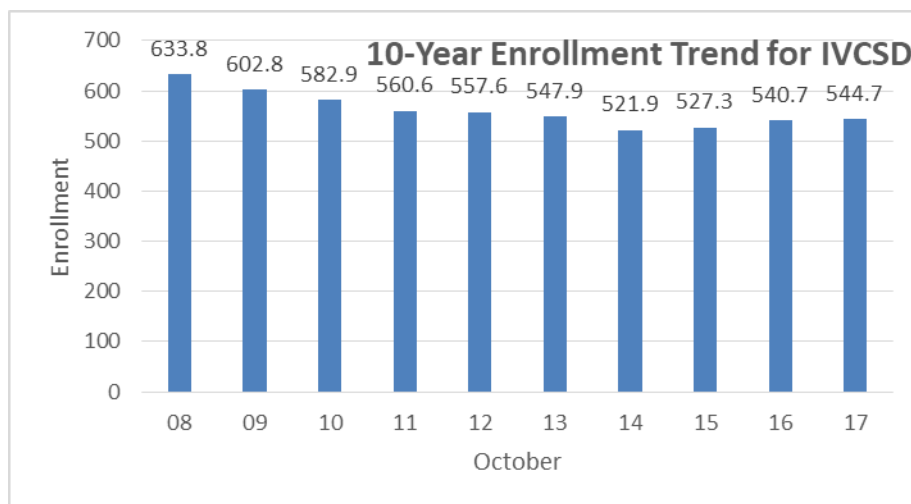


Barry Goettsch, CEO of Compass Memorial Healthcare and Marengo Family Medical Clinic, presents a \$10,000 donation to Superintendent Donita Joens. This generous donation was given for two wireless scoreboards in the new gym.

Enrollment History at Iowa Valley CSD

The General Fund is the most common fund and is “student driven,” meaning it relies on certified enrollment figures. Certified enrollment is determined each October of every school year. We are happy to share that our certified enrollment count is up by 4.0 students from last year at a tentative count of 544.70. We are up resident students and non-resident students attending our district by 6.0 and 12.0, respectively. Also, we are providing instructional programs to 18.0 more students this year as opposed to last year. Great news for IVCSD!

Found below is a table over the past ten years with certified enrollment figures for our district.



We are very proud of our school district, the programs it offers for our students, the hardworking staff and students, caring environment, strong community support, and great facilities. Let’s keep working diligently to make Iowa Valley CSD a leader in our state and a learning community where everyone works together for the betterment of the students. Go Tigers!

Jr.-Sr. High News

Shawn Kreman-Principal

Time once again has flown by and believe it or not, but we're about ready to close out 2017! Doesn't seem that long ago that our 2017-18 school year began and we were thinking about how many days of school before winter break and "boom" here we are! We look forward to holiday festivities and a short break from school, let's remember to be thankful for the year we've had and look forward to the second half of the year!

This semester has seemed to fly so quickly, and I'm not sure of the reason, maybe its age, but probably just because we've got things rolling. Our 7th graders are an energetic and engaged bunch of students, and I mean that in a positive way of course! They are excited about being in a different building, but they also like the new challenges

that await them. I've gotten to know a couple of them really well, and in fact many of them are on "my list" as being good role models for others and are concerned about their own education.

I continued with one of my goals from last year, and that was to make sure all students at Iowa Valley felt safe and part of our culture at school. Bullying and harassment issues are continually monitored and I believe it's an attitude and I know many students have heard me say, "attitude is everything." That is true, for the most part, and the reason for saying this is if we make our jobs work, that's what it becomes....work. But when we enjoy what we do, and feel that it's important to us, it becomes a career! I enjoy being at school, around students and staff, the connections that are made and the opportunities that await me at the door each and every day.

Before I close this month's newsletter, I remind our parents that all students will be involved in semester tests and/or projects the week of December 18-22 as we finish the 1st semester on Friday, December 22nd, at 1 pm. It is hoped that this testing period successfully evaluates our understanding and learning from the 1st semester, and is oftentimes used as a "measuring stick" for what we need to do for second semester. In education, many times, tests are called assessments for a reason. It is because they are "tools" to help us understand if what we are teaching is being understood and if not, we need to make adjustments to the process to help all students be more successful. Until next year, 2018 that is, or January, have a great break and until then GO TIGERS!

New Social Studies Standards

Jordan Pope & Mindy Driscoll

In May of 2017, the Iowa State Board of Education adopted new K-12 social studies standards. These standards were the first update since their adoption in 2008. A committee of educators, administrators, and Area Education Agency consultants from across the state met to begin the update process in January of 2016. This writing committee used state frameworks and recommendations from the National Council for the Social Studies. The draft standards were presented to the Iowa Social Studies Standards Review Team to modify. They asked for input from the public through surveys, public forums, and teacher focus groups.

The new social studies standards are more than just about what students should master. These standards emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving, incorporate Iowa History, highlight important financial literacy

skills, and breakdown what students should be able to do by grade level (K-8) and by content (9-12). These new standards are a valuable and useful tool to social studies teachers trying to prepare students for post-secondary life.

Implementation assistance has been a crucial part of the new standards. The State Board of Education has promoted the creation of a social studies position at each AEA, provided professional development for educators, and increased statewide accountability for school implementation.

Here at Iowa Valley, our social studies department has been quick to jump on these new standards. The instructors have been attending important professional development in literacy standard development, incorporating document-based questions, and spending time learning about the individual standards themselves. AEAs across the state, like Grant Wood AEA in Cedar Rap-

ids, have been instrumental in bringing in members of the Iowa Social Studies Standards Review Team to teach social studies instructors how to use these new standards. Training sessions have been offered starting with this fall and will continue over a three-year time frame to ensure the standards are being effectively implemented. Social studies instructors at Iowa Valley have also begun to engage in actively unit and lesson restructuring, rewriting, and re-planning. For many teachers these new standards not only brought much needed structure to social studies education, but they also changed what may have been taught at each grade level or in each content-based topic.

Elementary News

Cindy Miller, Principal

Happy December.

Winter Concerts are here. PreK-1st will have their concert on Monday, December 4. Grades 2-3 and Elem Band on Thursday, December 7. Both concerts begin at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there!!!!

We are closing in on the end of our 1st semester. Report cards will be going home on Friday, January 5. If you have any questions in regards to these please call the school.

We are in the middle of our semester Tiger Pride school wide booster. Students are

working for a goal of 12,000 Tiger Paws collected to have a schoolwide celebration. I am happy to say we have reached over the halfway point! Go Tiger Pride.

Our teachers will continue to work with Iready Math and literacy for PD in December

A few reminders:

Please send gym shoes for the new gym floor with your child to have here at school for PE classes and indoor recess for bad weather. Winter is here and we have already had cold weather. Students need to have coats, hats, and gloves. If you are in need of any of these items please notify Ms. Thiessen, our counselor.

PTO, I truly appreciate all of your support for our students, school and the new gym project.

Thanks to our staff and students for their hard work and flexibility with the new gym project, new programs and your hard work.

Thank you parents. We appreciate your help and support!!

We dismiss on Dec. 22 at 1:00 for Winter Break.

Happy Holidays and enjoy your family time!

Kindergarten Give Thanks

For Thanksgiving, the kindergarten students in Mr. Andreassen's class are discussing the many things in their lives that make them thankful. Here are their responses:

Brecken is thankful for his brother Nash.

Olivia is thankful for her mom.

Annyka is thankful for her mom.

Autumn is thankful for God making people and Jesus.

Aaron is thankful for his bike.

Harper is thankful for her house.

James is thankful for his lizard.

Gemma is thankful for God and Jesus.

Megan is thankful for her cat.

Asher H. is thankful for fish.

Steven is thankful for his mom.

Cohen is thankful for his pet fish.

Duke is thankful for his mom.

Juan is thankful for his fish.

Elinor is thankful for the Earth.

Eli is thankful for the world.

Lucy is thankful that she can play with her dog.

Asher R. is thankful for his family.

Luna is thankful for her dog.

Lynae is thankful for her mommy.

Joselin is thankful for her big brother Jackson.

Tomi is thankful for her mom.

Nigel is thankful for the world.

First Grade Social Studies

Sarah Ritter, First Grade

In first grade, students have been working on a few skills that encompass their daily lives and lives of those around them. During the first quarter, we focused on "Wants and Needs" and "Goods and Services". Students identified the different needs that their own families have that might affect their ability to provide the extras that they want. We also identified where we are able

to locate goods and services that we need right in our own community of Marengo. We discussed how very fortunate we are that some services are volunteered and are even helpful to keep us safe.

In early November, students learned about Veterans and how important the branches of the military are around our country and the world. We used a map of the world to show where military bases are located on different continents. We also incorporated our

language arts by writing letters to active duty military and to veterans who are members of our own Legion in Marengo. Students also discussed veterans in their own families and helped to create a "Wall of Honor" to share about their special heroes and their military service. In two reading classes, students read a readers' theater about Veterans' Day and really enjoyed learning more about the military by participating in this fun reading activity.

Fifth Grade Fun

Ross Karsten and Amy Jacobson

Winter brings a flurry of activities into our fifth grade classrooms. In keeping with Iowa Valley tradition, we are reading the Dicken's classic A Christmas Carol. We are incorporating reading activities around this novel. In so-

cial studies we are learning about the ancient Indian cultures that once inhabited North America. In science, students are exploring how the circulatory and respiratory systems work, along with the vascular system in plants. Our students are also excited to be able to have their P.E. classes in the new gym.

The fifth graders are eager to present their first band concert on Thursday December 7th at 6:30 in the high school auditorium. We also will be having our annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 20th. This is a day of food and fun for all. We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!

Iowa Valley Professional Learning

December 2017



2017-2018

Professional Learning Targets

To provide an engaged educational environment that promotes student investment and continued learning.

Vocabulary:

Cross-cutting Concepts - seven "themes" or boundaries that provide students with connections and intellectual tools that are related across the different areas of science and engineering content and can enrich their application of practices and their understanding of core ideas of science; one of the three parts of our new Next Generation Science Standards.

Student Engagement - the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education.

Growth Mindset - the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement.

Visible Learning - Students are able to think about what they're doing to understand the task; students are able to think about the methods and how they are doing the task; and students think about their own expectations and reflect on how well they can do the task and the next steps to complete it.

Opportunities are Always Available for Teacher Learning

Teach Like a Pirate

A number of Iowa Valley teachers were able to join BGM and HLV School Districts in listening and participating in a workshop presented by Dave Burgess, a motivational speaker and teacher. He shared magic, classroom strategies, and motivational ways to engage students and help them to have fun with their learning. These teachers will be spending time this year developing their own classroom engagement techniques as they participate in a book study with Burgess's book, *Teach Like a Pirate*.

Visible Learning: Inspired and Passionate Teachers Improve Student Engagement & Thinking

High school lead teachers attended a Grant Wood AEA workshop that provided strategies and techniques to help create a classroom environment where students are aware of their own learning and can answer the questions: What did I learn? Why did I have to learn it? How do I know that I learned it? Where do I go now?

Lead teachers will be bringing these engagement strategies back to Iowa Valley teachers to help students become aware of their own learning in each classroom and content area.

iReady Math Assessments

Teachers at the elementary have been implementing a new math screener called iReady. They have been trained to assist in giving students diagnostic tests and then providing individual lessons and monitoring on those specific areas of need in math.

Students are enjoying this assessment because it is online and they have seen success because of the individual lessons made just for them.

Next month look for more teacher learning focusing on Social Studies, Standards & Collaboration.

Patty Miles, Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach