

Special points of interest:

- Feb. 3 State Speech
- Feb. 4 Republican meeting @ HS Media Center
- Feb. 8 Honor Choir @ Auditorium
- Feb. 17 1 pm Early Dismissal
- Feb. 15-17 State Wrestling
- Feb. 19 FFA Sub-District Convention
- Feb. 22 FCS Mystery Meal
- Feb. 24 District Speech

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks



Donita Joens, IVCSD Superintendent

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

In early January, I attended a Career Pathways Workshop in Coralville at the Kirkwood Regional Center. Participants discussed a variety of topics ranging from the challenges facing youth today as they select a career and purpose of K-12 education for career exploration to career/technical education service areas, career and life readiness, and high growth occupation areas. Research in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Corridor area shows that some of the highest growing occupations over the next ten years will be:

- Assistants, aides, and supervisors of personal care
- Mathematical science occupations
- Healthcare support occupations
- Community and social service specialists
- Health diagnosing and treating practitioners

On the other end of the spectrum, some of the slowest growing occupations in the corridor area over the next ten years are predicted to be:

- Information and records clerks
- Sales managers
- Fishing and hunting workers

The Iowa Department of Education has provided a plan to help with career exploration and preparation called CTE (Career and Technical Education) Redesign. Its efforts will improve access to high-quality CTE programs with better regional planning partnerships, encourage alignment of CTE course offerings to in-demand occupations to meet the needs of employers, and help students explore careers through work-based learning opportunities.

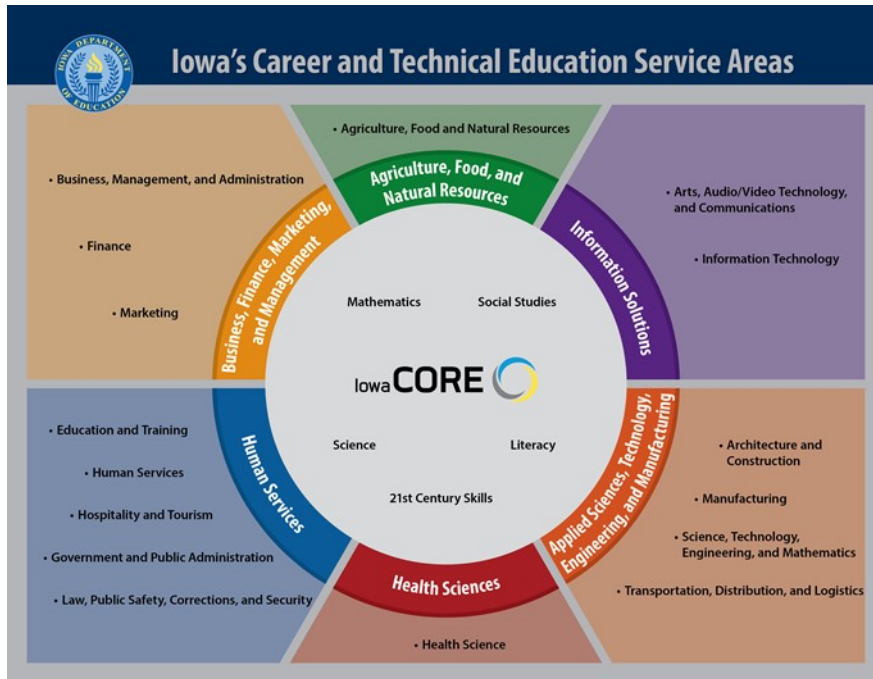
The DE's efforts have focused on engaging students in pathways that connect school to real-world work experiences while in the K-12 years. The career and technical education service areas for these efforts fall in six key areas:

1. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
2. Information Solutions
3. Applied Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Manufacturing
4. Health Sciences
5. Human Services
6. Business, Finance, Marketing, and Management

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Our district assists youth by: building an awareness and interest in various careers, bringing community partners together such as our CAKE (Community and Kids in Education) partners, providing a pathway to achieve career goals, committing to its youth, and implementing and improving curriculum and experiences so students will become more college and career ready. As high school students prepare for their careers, it will be imperative that they are flexible, well-rounded, and possess solid “soft skills” such as good attendance, a hard work ethic, being cooperative, and ability to be professional/respectful. Let’s keep encouraging our youth to be lifelong learners to prepare for jobs we do not even know about yet.

Fitness Room and Walking/Activity Opportunities

Please check out our district’s website for future opportunities to keep those New Year’s resolutions by keeping/getting in shape by buying a membership to our fitness center or have a job programmed so you can walk or shoot hoops in the new gym, particularly during the winter months. The Tiger Health & Fitness Committee has been working diligently to provide an inviting area for you to work out in while keeping costs at a reasonable level. We are waiting for a few final details for our security system before we open up memberships to the public but it should be occurring sometime in February. Current updates are kept on our school’s website at www.iowa-valley.k12.ia.us.

Also, please keep in mind that 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 and we are at \$31,000 currently. 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 +

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Strength conditioning equipment



Cardiovascular equipment



First game played in the new gym on December 5, 2017

Jr.-Sr. High News

Jr.-Sr. High School Principal,
Mr. Shawn Kreman

Spring is just around the corner!?

You know what happens this time of year? We all get “cabin fever” and what do we do about it? We complain, tell someone we are bored and tired of it or do something about it? The cold weather, and a little bit of snow accumulation in January, is hopefully behind us now and we are heading to spring in a more positive manner. I must remind myself once in a while that we do live in Iowa and it gets cold, so “suck it up” and think of more tolerable days coming this spring!

How are you doing with your New Year’s resolutions? We have all felt the need to make resolutions and recently I have read articles which report that, of the over 90% of the American population making resolutions, only 14% follow through! Alarming statistics for sure, but something to think about. I have personal and professional resolutions, and so far, I am doing well, although I have got to admit I’m starting to find it harder to leave my “tootsie roll stash” alone!

As this newsletter hits the stands, our high school seniors will be just four months away from graduation! I know par-

ents and family members are getting ready, but seniors need to remember that the time is short and if you get the “urge” to slack off, do not do this as you do not want your cumulative GPA to suffer. Seniors, have you contacted your post-secondary institution and started sending in room reservation money for the fall semester? If you have not made plans yet, you are not too far behind, but you had better contact someone and get some information. Colleges have deadlines we need to meet, and scholarships are not available all year long, so please contact Miss Thiessen for more information on a specific college or university requirements.

The last week of February the district will be taking Iowa state assessments. These assessments inform us, as a district, where our students compare with each other and those around the state. Parents, please help us out as well at home by taking the time with your son(s) or daughter(s) and make sure that they are getting enough sleep and eating well. Each building is looking forward to the results and seeing growth in all our students, but also willing to look at areas we need to improve. These results are also part of our State Report Card, and we continually set

goals to improve our standing and state assessments are an integral part of this report!

The month of February also brings us regional and district basketball competition as well as the qualifying tournaments for the State Wrestling Tournament held at Wells Fargo Arena the 15th-17th. State Large Group Speech Contest is this month as well, as qualifying events for individual speech come in March. Come out and support our students as they try to end their seasons doing their best and be proud of them no matter how they finish. Iowa Valley students give the whole community a reason to be proud and do not be ashamed to let them know you care.

Like I said at the beginning, spring is just around the corner and before you know it, we will all be outside wearing shorts and tee shirts and complaining about how hot it is! Enjoy each and every day and we will talk with you next month! Until next time.... GO TIGERS!

Remember Kind Words for February

Mrs. Pat Kooiker and Mrs.
Susan Zozaya

For the month of February, our school-wide PBIS social skill will be working on using kind words. We will be focusing on having the students look at the person who they are talking with,

using a friendly face, using a calm voice, and using nice words. We will also role play situations and model appropriate kind phrases that could be used. Students could also practice using their kind words at home. Each second grade class will be

in charge of a Tiger Pride assembly in February to reinforce these skills.

Iowa Valley Professional Learning

February 2018

Submitted by Mrs. Patty Miles

(Iowa Valley K-12 Instructional Coach)



2017-2018

Professional Learning Targets

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

Vocabulary:

Digital Citizenship - the quality of habits, actions, and patterns of use that impact the overall realm of digital content and communities; for example: being responsible and aware of your actions when using digital content and/or social media

Inquiry Standards - a first of two parts of standards (inquiry and content) that define key disciplinary skills within social studies which include:

- Constructing compelling questions,
- Constructing supporting questions,
- Gathering and evaluating sources,
- Developing claims and using evidence,
- Communicating and critiquing conclusions
- Taking informed action.

Reflective Practice - a process that embraces reflective growth as the most important aspect of continuous, lasting improvement. This is part of a collaboration that creates relationships, where everyone works together for clearer understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and growth.

Opportunities are Always Available for Teacher Learning

Newly Updated Fine Arts Standards

The core subjects are not the only areas that standards apply. The Iowa Department of Education has just recently released the newly updated Iowa Fine Arts standards that are derived from the 2014 National Core Arts Standards. These standards unite dance, media arts, music, theatre and visual arts, through a common language and framework. Our fine arts staff at Iowa Valley will be looking at how to implement these standards so that students become fluent in their ability to create, perform, produce, present, respond, and connect through symbolic forms that are unique to the arts.

Learning Happens through Goal Setting

Iowa Valley students and teachers are working to make goal setting a daily, weekly or yearly habit of mind. Research shows that goal setting: improves academic performance, increases motivation to achieve, increases pride and satisfaction in performance, and improves self-confidence. So why wouldn't anyone want to set personal, academic, or professional goals? Setting goals give teachers and students a choice to where they want to go and what they want to achieve. Knowing where and what they want helps them focus on the end product, but also gives them confidence when they achieve it and a self-motivation to improve.

Making Math Learning Visible

Making math visible creates a lens through which teachers can evaluate the math content for their grade level and think more deeply about how their instruction helps students to move through these learning phases:

Surface Learning - conceptual understanding of math skills and processes

Deep Learning - using surface learning to apply to a variety of situations

Transfer Learning - how surface and deep learning can be "transferred" to other concepts in or out of the math content.

Next month look for more teacher learning focusing on 21st Century Homework and more with the Teacher Leadership framework.