

January Board FYIs

Van Alstyne High School

Van Alstyne High School is entering a very busy period with state testing, spring sports, FFA events, and academic and fine arts competitions, along with preparations for next year's course scheduling. Counselors are currently advising 9th – 11th grade students on class selections for the upcoming school year. They are also meeting with 8th grade students at VAJH to assist with high school planning and are preparing for the Academic Expo on Thursday, February 12, which will provide incoming 9th grade students and parents an overview of VAHS academic and CTE programs.

VAHS hosted the District III FFA Speaking Development Event on January 12. Ashley McClellan placed first in the Animal Science Division and will advance to the Area competition later this spring.

Students continue to experience success in livestock competitions. Ainsley Williams was named Champion in the Spring Yearling Division with her Hereford heifer at the Sandhills Livestock Show and also earned a 7th-place finish with her steer. Beth and John Wells exhibited Shorthorn cattle at the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City with positive results.

The Fort Worth Livestock Show begins January 16, starting with the Agricultural Mechanics Show. VAHS has five projects entered and two seniors competing in the Texas M.A.D.E. contest, which evaluates students' knowledge of agricultural mechanics and includes a formal presentation to judges. Scholarship opportunities are awarded to top finishers.

Additional upcoming events include participation in the Equine Public Speaking Contest on January 18, the debut competition for the Dairy Cattle Judging Team, and competition by the Horse Judging Team later that week. Several students will also exhibit beef cattle, sheep, and goats throughout the Fort Worth Livestock Show.

With January being School Board Appreciation Month, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of our Board of Trustees. Your dedication, time, and thoughtful leadership make a meaningful difference for our students, staff, and families every day. I am truly grateful for your commitment to Van Alstyne ISD and for the support you provide to our schools and community.

Van Alstyne Junior High School

We are thrilled to start a new semester! On our first day back in the new year, Mrs. Timpanaro and Ms. Cholette treated the staff to delicious pancakes during their work day. We will also offer a drink and snack cart for the staff on Monday, January 26th. At the beginning of this semester, we'll review quarter 2 data to help teachers create plans to support our students and pace the remaining curriculum effectively.

Our 2025-2026 VAJH Spelling Bee Champion, Lyla Butler, will compete at the Grayson County Spelling Bee on Monday, February 2nd, at the Denison ISD Administration Building. We eagerly anticipate cheering on our winner!

Van Alstyne Middle School

Happy New Year from Van Alstyne Middle School! VAMS has had a strong and exciting start to the year as we kicked off the third quarter with a special staff meeting led by our new lead learner, Dr. Jessica Fair. Our Van Alstyne Middle School staff has already made an incredible impression with their knowledge, grace, and skills, and they have warmly welcomed Dr. Fair to our campus community.

We also began the year with a strong focus on students by re-establishing expectations and reinforcing routines and procedures—because we know that predictability helps students feel safe and ready to learn. VAMS is thrilled to welcome our newest team members: Coach Doggett (5th Grade PE), Miya Billy (5th Grade Math), and Mr. Ellis (5th Grade Technology). They are amazing additions to our VAMS family.

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for upcoming STAAR Testing Training as we continue working together to support student success. It's shaping up to be a great year at VAMS!

Sanford Elementary School

Our teachers and students have returned energized and focused as we begin the spring semester. Grade-level teams are meeting regularly to engage in purposeful, data-driven conversations. These discussions allow teams to identify standards students have mastered as well as pinpoint misconceptions that may be impacting progress. This collaboration ensures instructional decisions are grounded in evidence and aligned to student needs across grade levels.

In addition, administrators are conducting individual data meetings with teachers to develop targeted action plans. These plans focus on clearing up misconceptions, reteaching priority standards, and intentionally spiraling TEKS where students continue to struggle. This structured approach allows for timely instructional adjustments and ensures students receive the support they need to move forward successfully.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, we are collaboratively working with the other two elementary principals to staff all three elementary campuses, ensuring each school is supported by well-balanced, highly talented teams that best serve our students.

Partin Elementary School

We are back in full swing from Christmas break. On the first day back, teachers gathered in vertical teams for Reading Language Arts (RLA) and Math to engage in discussions and collaboration focused on TEKS that have posed challenges across various grade levels. This allowed teachers to exchange insights, share resources, and brainstorm strategies for tackling specific TEKS. The opportunity enabled us to align our strategy, vocabulary, and resources with particular standards.

We will be meeting with teachers to analyze their Q2 data and explore effective strategies for addressing gaps and enhancing student learning. Meghan and I appreciate this chance as it enables us to connect with teachers individually and have personal interactions with each of them.

Curriculum Director

In December, our EOC retakes were given at the High School. The report on those results will be back this month. Our 2nd Quarter Assessments were given and data meetings on that information are currently being held.

As we do after every quarterly assessment, we are working on creating TEKS checks for any TEK in STAAR tested areas that were below a certain threshold or showed major discrepancy between our general education students and students who are members of certain sub-populations (ESL, SpEd, and Economically Disadvantaged.) Most TEKS checks are done within just a few weeks of the new quarter.

Spring testing season has begun with our TELPAS and STAAR Alt 2 tests coming up quickly. Preparations for those tests have begun in earnest. The campus testing coordinators have begun sharing our district-written security trainings on campus as well as those on the state system with our test administrators.

Our instructional coaches, reading specialist, and curriculum coordinators have been attending data meetings with principals and teachers as needed to support our teachers as they support our kids. Spiraling of weaker TEKS has continued in preparation of spring testing and coaches, specialists, and coordinators are working closely with many teachers to help them as they work this into their already packed schedules. Extended planning for the fourth quarter begins in a couple of weeks to further help our teachers plan for fourth quarter and STAAR/EOC preparations.

Athletic Director:

Our Panthers are heading into the busiest time of our athletic year as we will soon have a lot of very busy kids and coaches. Both boys and girls basketball teams are almost to the halfway point of their district seasons. Our JH basketball teams are towards the end of theirs. We just held a JH boys basketball tournament this past Saturday (1/10) at VAHS. Our powerlifting teams competed in their first meet this past Saturday as well. Softball practices have officially

started and baseball will start this week (1/16). Tennis has started working out a few days a week. Golf and track are all starting their workouts in the next 2 weeks as well.

Our baseball/softball teams are very excited about their new facilities. What a blessing for those kids and coaches.

We are excited to hopefully have the opportunity to host our first track meet at VAHS later this spring. We plan to host our JH meet at Panther Stadium and our high school meet at VAHS.

We will also be hosting a tennis tournament at our new facility this spring as well.

Thank you for your support of our student athletes and these tremendous facilities.

Chief Financial Officer

The Department of Education is in the process of closing and those departments/funding are being shifted to other, already established departments. So far, our district has felt very little effect due to the Department of Education closing. The federal funds our district receives at this time from this department are all Title Programs and Special Education Funding. The amount of funds that we are currently receiving are as follows:

Title I - \$63,380

Title II - \$21,203

Title III ELA - \$11,568

Title III IMM - \$763

Title IV - \$8,870

IDEA-B Formula - \$419,086

IDEA-B Preschool - \$8,888