



# **Illinois Valley High School**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Report 2011-12**

*Submitted by JoAnn Bethany, principal*



### **Graduation 2012**

We had **80** students who were classified as seniors (including three 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors) at the end of the school year. **75** of them were eligible to walk at graduation.

- Two of them had modified diplomas – one a SPED tract student and one a non-sped student.
- One had a Certificate of Attendance (foreign exchange)
- Two were ineligible to walk but did complete diploma requirements this week.
- Three students did not complete credit requirements but say they are coming back next year.

Graduation had to be held inside because of rain, the condition of field, and cooler temperatures. Graduation itself went very smoothly. The students were well-behaved and attentive. The audience less so. We did find that out later that the sound in the back was very poor. It is quite possible that poor sound quality contributed to the side talk. The ceremony was a little too long and the gym was stuffy and hot, but it was still a wonderful evening. A big thank you to Ron, Ron, and Bob for being there.

The All-Night Grad Committee was held at the school for the fourth year in a row. They used the gym and the commons. It was a success with no problems. They had computer games, Rock Band, a photo booth with silly hats and accessories, pool and foosball tables, and three Big Air structures kept the students busy all night. The All Night Grad Parent Committee raised many thousands of dollars and the students received many prizes – both gifts and money. The kids had a great time and it was good to know that they had a drug and alcohol free graduation night. The students and parents worked hard to have the commons school-ready by 6:30 AM.

### **Scholarships 2012**

On annual scholarship night was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Donations were down some this year but our student still received just over \$200,000 in scholarships. This is always an exciting evening for our students and families. No student got all they needed and most did not get all they deserved, but whatever they got can be used to help them on their post-secondary journey.

### **SCHEDULING AND CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR**

We have a schedule ready to go and students will do arena-scheduling on June the 12<sup>th</sup>. It is becoming more and more of a challenge for kids to get that works for them because of the cuts. The students with the hardest time are the advanced kids who are trying to juggle all the singletons – chemistry, physics, band, anatomy, and the AP classes which are all three trimesters.

### **TITLE ONE COORDINATOR**

Erica Butler will be serving as the Title One Coordinator next year. The decision to use Title One dollars to fund this position came because of the cuts in administration and the fact that there will be a new principal and new assistant principal this next year whose learning curves will be very high. The support of this coordinator to help oversee PBL interventions, attendance, PBIS, tracking of essential skills, community service, etc., will be vital to continue moving IV to the place it needs to be. Erica will also be teaching the **Positive Communication and Intervention with PRIDE** class that we started two years ago. The class has added great value to the culture of our school. Ms. Butler is excited to work with these students.

### **ECMC SCHOLARS 2014**

We were able to pick a 7<sup>th</sup> round of ECMC Scholars this year. These are ten students from the sophomore class – class of 2014. The original grant was only through 2012, but the foundation funded the class of 2013 and now the class of 2014 for another round of \$6000 scholarships for each of the ten students. ECMC students are not supposed to be the “top of the class” but intended to be students who are capable of postsecondary education but may not view it as a possibility. We had a ‘welcome to the new scholars’

dinner' on May 14<sup>th</sup> and also had our 2012 Scholars and their families and mentors there to congratulate them on a successful completion of the program.

### **BRING YOUR PARENT TO SCHOOL DAY – May 25<sup>th</sup>**

We were once again pleased to have about 90 parents come to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bring Your Parents to School Day. Michael Morris was out manning the barbeque for lunch. We had a wonderful and moving Memorial Day Ceremony in the morning and a great assembly in the afternoon where we got to honor many students and played some parent/student games. Then parents and students who participate have a wonderful time. Next year it might be good to try to do it in April as the last two years the seniors have made the decision to take their unsanctioned senior skip day on this day, reducing our senior population by about half.

### **COUGAR TREKS**

Each trimester we do a COUGAR TREK as a PBIS award for students with no referrals and limited absences and tardies. Each trimester the criteria gets a little more stringent. The final trimester, we had 129 students eligible for a trip to the beach. The students and staff who go on the TREKS have a great time. Students report that they are very intentional in their efforts to make sure they can meet the qualifications for these trips.

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

How exciting it was to award 12 varsity letters this year for community service as part of our pilot program with Oregon Volunteers. Students had to perform 90 hours of community service during this school year to earn the letter. We had a wonderful assembly and invited the parents of these students to participate. Next year students will need to earn 120 hours as they will be allowed to accumulate hours during the summer.

### **SPARROW**

Little Kiera who is suffering from cystic fibrosis is our first ever Sparrow. IV students have been so inspired to help her that they have done over 6000 hours of service in her behalf and we were able to present her family with a check for nearly \$4000 this last week. It has just been a blessing to see this out pouring of love and dedication for this beautiful little girl.

### **FINAL COMMENTS**

In my final days serving Illinois Valley High School and Three Rivers School District, I have many emotions. As I complete 20 years in Three Rivers with the last ten of those at IVHS, I am absolutely filled with gratitude for the many opportunities that I have been given to love children and to be inspired by the people I work with each day. As an educator, I have worked as a classified employee, a substitute teacher, an elementary teacher, a middle school teacher, a counselor, a TAG Coordinator, a Curriculum Coordinator, an assistant principal, and finally principal. I even drove a school bus for a couple of years....with tourists aboard....not kids. ☺ I have had an amazing opportunity to see education from a variety of vantage points and each has impacted me and changed me as an educator and a person.

As a child, I dreamed of opening an orphanage in Egypt and surrounding myself with little Egyptian children who needed to be loved. That's not quite the way it worked out but I have been able for nearly the last thirty years to surround myself with American children who needed to be taught and loved. In my first three and the last years of time with TRSD, I have been able to make the Illinois Valley my personal "Egypt" and it is here that I have loved kids and worked to help them have big dreams.