

Illinois Valley High School Board Report

April Board Report

“Nine tenths of education is encouragement” – Anatole France

Spring is in full swing and so are the events and activities that go with it. The piece of spring that is joyful is the life and color that the Valley brings. I sit here looking out the window at a sun filled sky with green and blooming foliage and snow cap hills, a picture that can only be created here in the Illinois Valley. Among this picturesque setting the high school is teeming with as much life as its surroundings. Spring not only brings beauty, but also busyness, here are a few things going on in Cougar Nation.

Sen. Merkley Town Hall Meeting – On April 10th IVHS was the proud host of a town hall meeting with U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley. This was a great experience for our staff and students were they were able to ask questions. Kynan Nordal as well as Gabby Rapley where 2 students that asked well thought questions that required our Senator to reflect and answer. Congrats to Kynan and Gabby for asking tough questions in this public form. Prior to the town hall meeting Sen. Merkley met with representatives from the school district including Superintendent Holmes, Board Chair York and Board Member Dwyer. Also attending were Cave Junction leaders and representatives. Sen. Merkley also presented a Flag that flew over the capital to members of the Josephine County Foundation for the excellence in humanitarian efforts that they have and are continuing to do.

Academic Masters – This year Illinois Valley High School will be the host for the annual Academic Masters competition. We proudly announce our finalist as Hazel Randle (English/Language Arts), Quinn Collins (Social Studies), Liam Dwyer (Science), Arie Dwyer (music) and Ryan Fogleman (mathematics). The final competition will be held on April 29th at 6:30pm. We hope that you take part in this fun and exciting event; the school with the highest supporting audience percentage will receive that award, so come and be part of the fun.

Pathfinder mentors – Through the Gear-Up grant the students at IVHS have been able to start a college and career mentoring program for the students at Lorna Byrne. These students called the “pathfinder mentors” are individuals that are sophomores through seniors and are college bound. Each mentor is assigned a group of 7th grades that consist of about 5 to 7 students, these mentors will continue to work with the same students for the next 2 to 3 years. As this year’s 7th grade students enter IVHS, this year’s sophomores will be seniors, the hope is that this will aid in the freshman transition as well as provide an opportunity for current IVHS students to be impacted with leaving a positive mark on future cougars. Recently the Pathfinders made the trip to Lorna Byrne for the kick-off event and to meet the students that they will be working with. During the event pizza was served for lunch and the Lorna Byrne students were able to partake in activities as well as meet their mentor.