

# Illinois Valley High School Board Report

March Board Report

*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows” – John Dewey*

**Constructing Meaning:** The past few months the staff at IV have been going through professional development in writing and communicating effective content and language objectives. These objectives are targets that are communicated both visually and verbally to students so they are aware of what new content they need to know before class ends. Recently we have taken the PD a step further with incorporating “**Constructed Meaning**” strategies within our objectives. This new strategy is a way of communicating content vocabulary in a sentence that allows students to process and find meaning on a word that they may not know. Teachers are using these vocabulary words (bricks) and giving the students language functions (mortar) in-order to find understanding. For example, Students will understand the two kinds of volcanoes and be able to describe each type by writing a cause and effect summary. The following are the color coded pieces of the sentence: **vocabulary (brick)**, **language function (mortar)** and **assessment**.

**National Merit Scholar Finalist:** We are proud to announce that Liam Dwyer is a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. This scholarship starts with thousands of applications nationwide and then dwindled down to a few thousand which will compete for 8,000 scholarships. We’re anxiously waiting the awarding of the scholarship which will be announced in March.

**Wrestling:** Cougar Nation is proud to have sent 8 wrestlers to the state tournament in Portland including: Logan Miller, Eric Miller, Jacob Nelson, Brandon Perez, Dillon St. Onge, Critter Engles, Eugene Griffin and Ross Gaynor. Congratulations to Coaches Miller, Pagnotta and Britt for an outstanding season. We’re all extremely proud!!!

**Academic Masters:** Yes spring is just around the corner, this means that the Academic Masters competition is also. Currently the following dates are on the calendar for in-school testing and competitions: April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Schools will report their finalist and those students will test at RCC on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the final competition will be held here at IV on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you all come put these dates on your calendar and come support these students in this fun and worthwhile competition.