



Illinois Valley High School

An Expeditionary Learning School

3rd Trimester Report 2008- 2009

Graduation 2009

91 seniors walked at graduation on June 4, 2009. 97 students were eligible to receive a diploma or a certificate of completion. Five of those students were foreign exchange students – earning an honorary diploma. Two were students who were special education and received certificates of completion. An additional 3 students will be completing their requirements this week. – putting the regular or modified diplomas (1) at 93 this year. Though this is a decent size for IVHS, it still indicates a loss of students when measured by their entrance in 9th grade. I do not remember the exact number of freshmen in 2005, but my guess would be close to 120. During the summer, I will work with Kelli to try to account for each of those kids who started with us and did not end with us.

The weather caused us three days of agony about whether the ceremony would be inside or outside. It is always the preference that it would be outside and knowing the NV and HV had both taken a successful chance on the weather, made me wonder whether we should do the same. A heavy rainstorm during our scheduled practice Thursday morning made the decision for us. Though blue skies appeared in the afternoon, it was raining at the start of the ceremony. The gym was hot, crowded, and noisy, but in all the ceremony went smoothly and our graduates behaved very well.

The All-Night Grad Committee asked for permission to have the all night party in the commons this year. It was a first in the history of the school. They wanted the extra room to put up more activities for the students. They had computer football and Rock Band set up with large screens in the hallways, a photo booth with silly hats and accessories, Sumo Wrestling (they rented the air-filled costumes for that) and a boxing ring using the air filled bouncy cages with huge boxing gloves. They also had a poker table and dancing as well as the normal prize and money give-aways and tons of food. The kids had a great time and it was good to know that those kids had a drug and alcohol free graduation night.

IV BOOSTER CLUB

For the first time in years, the IV Booster Club is alive and well. Todd Kaberline, the parent of junior girl, has taken over the presidency and Cheryl Winters is the vice-president. They are really setting some great goals. Todd has developed a five-year plan for the athletic facilities at the school and will be presenting that on June 15. The club is planning to be able to take advantage of what will most likely be the last year of Duck Derby money. A new batting cage has been constructed with money from the 4-Way Grant and the Duck Derby money and there have some other renovations to the softball and baseball fields. There is a lot of work to be done, but we are finally headed in the right direction and it feels great. We will find out on the 15th if we were chosen by Kelloggs for the \$15,000 toward field renovations.

SENIOR PROJECTS

We had 100% participation in the Senior Project presentation night. Each senior was scheduled to present to a committee of judges – IV staff, LBMS staff, and community members. They had nearly all made a beautiful tri-fold board presentation and used that as the focal of their presentation. All other parts of the senior project had been previously turned in and scored. At the end of the evening all projects were brought to the commons and displayed for everyone to enjoy. The majority of the projects were meaningfully and solidly represented the career related learning standards.

SCHEDULING AND BUDGET CUTS

We will not have a schedule for students by the end of the school year. We do hope to have one ready before the end of June. Waiting to know for sure the budget cuts that would happen and how the staff would be affected has made it hard to plan. It is going to be a challenge to make a schedule with the reduced staff. Numbers of 30:1 student teacher ratio does not ever compute that clean – and most especially not in a small school. We will do the best we can to maintain the best possible schedule for our teachers and students.

ECMC SCHOLARS

We were able to pick a fourth round of ECMC Scholars this year. These are ten students from the sophomore class. These students are not supposed to be the “top of the class” but kids who are capable of postsecondary education but may not view it as a possibility. We had a welcome to the new scholars dinner and also had our Scholars ‘09 and their families there to congratulate them on a successful completion of the program. We also held a noon meeting with our three classes of scholars. It was wonderful to have all 30 kids together and to be able to tell them that they

represented \$180,000 in scholarships. The grant should be available to us for one more year.