

Illinois Valley High School Board Report

November Report

It's hard to believe that the first quarter is in the books for the 2014-2015 school year. It's always surprising how fast the year goes, although it happens every year. As we wrap up the first quarter we celebrate many successes and continue to strive toward the goals that we have set for ourselves as a building, the following are a few successes as well as goals that we are continuing to focus on:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it's the courage to continue that count" Winston Churchill

Schedule: Looking back over the last 9 weeks I have to applaud the staff, students and parents of Illinois Valley High School for a school start-up that was flawless. The success of implementing the temporary schedule as well as assisting students and parents through different and longer schedule times was difficult yet worthwhile.

Attendance: During the months of September and October we have maintained an attendance percentage that is over 92% school-wide. Research has shown that high attendance percentage is directly related to student achievement. The fact that we are focusing on making connections and building intentional relationships with students reflects in a student's desire to attend. We hope to continue this trend in the months to come.

IVAC: We are glad to announce Mr. Ted Wilton as the new alternative center teacher here in the valley. We're very excited to have Mr. Wilton join the Illinois Valley School family. The establishment of Illinois Valley Alternative Center (IVAC) is currently serving students from Lorna Byrne as well as Illinois Valley. This center of education along with the passion that Mr. Wilton has for an alternative setting has provided an environment for students that otherwise would not have been as successful in the traditional setting. We're looking forward to growing this program to better meet the needs of our students.

College Now Credits: This fall it was announced that Illinois Valley High School was the highest earning school in the region for College Now credits earned per students with 3.5 credits. This is a big accomplishment for the staff and students as we continue to provide students opportunities to seek and earn college credit while in high school. Recently we have added AP World History to our list of approved course that students can earn college credit for.

"It's always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look further than you can see" – Winston Churchill

New High School Schedule: As we look to the future we're poised to continue the strides that we have made, we have work to do around the high school schedule. This new schedule is one that will support the teachers and the students that are in the classroom, the additional hour added to the schedule for intervention as well as 80 blocks will enable our teachers to meet the

needs of all students. We look forward to establishing this new schedule in the days and weeks to come.

Staff Development: The teachers of Illinois Valley high have been working hard in implementing the Common Core and have are about to embark on the journey of familiarizing themselves with the new federal assessment Smarter Balance. Moving into the second quarter we will take time to have staff familiarize themselves with the ins and outs of this assessment to better support their students.