



## ***Illinois Valley High School***

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Report 2013-14**

*Submitted by Casey Alderson, Principal*

#### **Graduation 2014**

We had **70** students who were classified as seniors (including one 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors) at the end of the school year. **66** of them were eligible to walk at graduation.

- One of them had modified diplomas.
- Three had a Certificate of Attendance (three foreign exchange)
- Three students did not complete credit requirements but say they are coming back next year.

Graduation was held at the Cougar's football field as the weather cooperated. It was a hot night, but with the beautiful setting and a pair of sunglasses, no one cared how hot it got. We ended the ceremony as the sunset as the ceremony went very smoothly. Graduation itself went very smoothly. The students were well-behaved and attentive and so were the adults for the most part. The ceremony was a little over an hour (hour and nine minutes to be exact). A big thank you to everyone that came, it was great to see everyone.

The All-Night Grad Party was held at the school for the fifth year in a row. They used 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. 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 2014**

On annual scholarship night was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Illinois Valley High School students 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 be getting their schedules June 11<sup>th</sup>. We are confident in our vision for the math department's district wide and are able to offer a new technical math class that will articulate with RCC's Math 63. This Applied Technical Math will offer our students a new way of using the hands on skills from our CTE program with real world mathematical application. We are currently interviewing for a new Art teacher (Elaine Barker's retiring), a new math teacher (Derek Duman took a job in Thurston), and a Language Arts teacher (needed to meet the needs of a semester schedule)

## **PBIS Field Trip**

IVHS took 150 eligible students to Brookings for a BBQ and fun day at the beach in May. Students become eligible with 92% attendance and no discipline referrals. It was a cold day on the beach, but the kids thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

## **ECMC SCHOLARS 2015**

We were able to pick an 8<sup>th</sup> round of ECMC Scholars this year. These are ten students from the sophomore class – class of 2015. The original grant was only through 2012, but the foundation funded the class of 2014 and now the class of 2015 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' in May and also had our 2013 Scholars and their families and mentors there to congratulate them on a successful completion of the program.

## **IVHS Booster Club and Track Project**

IVHS finished its all weather track facility this past week. It was laid and painted prior to graduation. It makes a tremendous difference to the school and is a true testament to the hard work our community has put in raising funds.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

In my final days of year two as the Principal at IVHS, I am confident that we are heading in the right direction. Our staff is all working towards a common goal of student success. We have implemented changes that are best for kids and how we can support them. We are working at not only educating kids, but changing trying to increase the value that is placed on education in our community. I know that we have the best staff in our district and look forward to building on the momentum that we have from this school year.