



**Illinois Valley High School**  
**Second Trimester Board Report**  
**School Year 2010 – 2011**  
**Submitted by Jo Ann Bethany**



Wow! I am really quite certain that the rotation of the earth on its axis is speeding up! How else can we explain how quickly the weeks, trimesters, and years go by? It very honestly feels like it was just a few weeks ago that we started the school year. I believe one reason that time seems to be on fast speed is because of the fact that each day brings its own set of challenges, issues, joys and celebrations. There is never a dull moment and never a chance to feel bored in this amazing work we do.

### **LATE STARTS**

Two of our late starts this year have been dedicated to learning about how to administer and score the new reading work samples. We need to have this solidly in place for the class of 2012 and beyond as a way to prove students have met the essential skill of reading. Because we need to be up and running with this for next school year, we will use at least part of the May late start to make sure all staff is ready to go. We also spent some time in January looking at data and information on reducing the drop out rate for our school.

### **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Illinois Valley High School teachers got together and decided that meeting with parents was a priority and the majority volunteered their time to stay after school on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January from four until eight o'clock in the evening to meet with parents. We were able to get the word out to parents through Synervoice, information in the progress report mailing, and personal phone calls to the parents of struggling students. We had nearly 100 students represented by parents during those four hours.

As the principal of this school, I was humbled by the generosity of spirit displayed by my teachers during a difficult time.

### **ATHLETICS**

What a wonderful winter season we had in athletics. The wrestlers did not have the wins we are used to celebrating, but they are a young team and the future looks bright for wrestling again in the next few years. We came in 11<sup>th</sup> at state with three of the four boys we sent to state placing in the top three slots for their divisions. Matt Coultas got a championship title, Gabe Miller came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Zack Anderson came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The addition of Loren King to our coaching staff as the girls' basketball coach has been such a blessing. Though our girls did not win many games, they are a young team and showed steady improvement throughout the season. Coach King is a solid coach and committed to building a strong girls' program out here.

The boys' basketball team "The Brotherhood" is headed to state this week. They were 8 and 0 for the season and took the conference title. They won round one on our home court on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February and will play Dayton in the semi-finals at North Bend High School on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. As the season progressed, our gym filled for each home game. The community, alumni, and student support was awesome to see ... and hear! This really could not have happened to a nicer group of boys, and we could not be prouder of them.

The cheerleaders have added so much to our games. We have a large squad and they work hard to add enthusiasm and support for the teams. They have had a great year – pushing themselves to new skill levels.

Spring sports practice begins on Monday – February 28<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the snow will stay away and allow all of these outdoor sports to get in the practices they need.

### **ECMC SCHOLARS AND MENTORING**

We just received word that there will be funding for a 6<sup>th</sup> year of ECMC scholars. We are so excited for our students and look forward to picking a new group of students from this year's sophomore class who will receive

mentoring for two years and then will be given a \$6000 scholarship when they start college.

### **SENIOR PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Over 80% of our seniors have now successfully completed their senior projects. We have one more presentation time scheduled for May. Students who have not attempted a presentation and students who did not pass the first time they tried will have the opportunity to complete during the final round.

### **SUCCESSFUL WELDERS**

On February the 3<sup>rd</sup>, our welding students went to RCC for a Weldathon. We did well with 14 of our students bringing home awards – by far the largest percentage of any of the schools that were there. Students competed in Arc, Tig, Mig, Oxy, and torch welding. A few days later, I received an email from Todd Giesbrecht, the welding department head at RCC. In it he said: *I would like to express how impressed I was with the team that represented IV at our Weldathon. Amy Meyer and her crew truly were the standout team for the contest. They not only dominated the contest by taking well over 50 percent of the medals available, the team as a whole was very well behaved and professional in their appearance and demeanor. RCC would like to thank you and your faculty for making allowances for the team to attend our contest. We look forward to seeing more Cougars in our Welding program at RCC.* His comments meant more than all the awards we received as it is far more important that our kids represented IV with good behavior and professional attitudes.

### **PRIDE CLASS**

We are fortunate to have Kirsten Valenzuela teaching a new class this year – *Positive Communication and Intervention with PRIDE* or PRIDE for short. Students in this class have committed to creating three video feeds each week. They are doing a tremendous job of balancing information with humor, and we are seeing whole new sides to some of our students as they write and deliver script that is entertaining and informational. Students look forward to these feeds, and they have gone a long ways toward building school community and culture.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SEAN MCKEE**

Mr. McKee was nominated by our local chapter of the American Legion for the Teacher of the Year award given by Oregon's American Legion. He was chosen and named Oregon's American Legion Teacher of the Year. Our local legion has been impressed with the work that Mr. McKee has done with planning and executing a Memorial Day event at the school. Mr. McKee was also awarded an Oregon Cultural grant of \$1500 to help buy violins for his after school strings program.

### **LANDSCAPING AND "CURB APPEAL"**

Many thanks to Dennis Powell for his work on improving the way the outside of the building looks. He has more plans for this next summer and we are hopeful that we will be able to dedicate some funds to helping with the second stage. The students have appreciated the work he did and we have had zero cases of vandalism to the trees, shrubs, and bark.

We are excited about what is happening in the circle area in front of the school. One of our parents, Mark Dowd, has chain-saw carved an amazing and large replica of a cougar. He is now working on creating a rock platform for it and will soon have the cougar delivered and installed on the platform. It is a work of art and will be such a wonderful addition to our school. Mr. Dowd has found people to donate equipment, supplies, and time to this project. We are excited about having a dedication ceremony and seeing the cougar at the school.