Medicine Valley Public Schools

Medicine Valley School Administrators

Superintendent: Alan D. Garey **K-12 Principal:** Stephen Osborn **Counselor:** Shari Goodenberger

Notes from the Superintendent

The school year continues to move forward as we are now in the seventh week of the term. The first nine-week grading period is scheduled to conclude on Friday, 10/15/2021. This marks another milestone in the year that we continue to focus on "one day at a time" in moving through the calendar. In monitoring news across the state as well as within our area, the pandemic seems to be increasing in positive cases.

The Board of Education met in September with one of the main agenda items being to set the 2021-2022 district budget and levy. The budget was approved at $6,105,048.00. This amount does not reflect what will be spent but more of a framework to follow throughout the year in operating the district. This year the district set an overall levy of $1.00 with the General Fund levy set at $0.97 and the Special Building Fund levy set at $0.03. The district experienced an increase in valuations in both Frontier (2.261%) and Lincoln (0.018%) County that amounted to a total increase in the district valuation of 1.716%. Frontier County valuation for the district now stands at $211,944,613 and the Lincoln County district valuation is at $66,482,112 making the total district valuation $278,426,725.

With the district valuation increasing and the overall levy staying the same, the tax asking also increased by $121,141.00 (total collection of $2,784,267.00). In the next two paragraphs is a graph detailing a timeline with how we arrived at this point in terms of financing the school district. The graph shows the path that the district has been on in having valuations increase and state funding decrease. That period was followed by valuations decreasing and state funding increasing. That up-and-down movement will, in all likelihood, continue with the valuations rising in the current year. State aid does not directly correlate with the valuations as its timing is closer to a year in arrears when recognizing a shift in the formula. The budget process recognizes this issue and attempts to build a foundation to be able to absorb shifts as they occur.

The State Aid amount shown below represents funds from Equalization Aid ($927,272.00) and Allocated Income Tax ($15,767.00). In analyzing the current district valuation, it appears that the district will continue to qualify for Equalization funding as long as the Legislature does not change the current formula. The state aid formula still utilizes the base formula of Resources – Needs = Equalization Funding. If Resources exceed Needs, a district does not qualify for Equalization funding. Conversely, if Resources are less than Needs then a district will receive Equalization funding. In saying that, it probably over-simplifies the formula, but that is the basic premise of the formula in providing money to districts.

The chart below details historical figures of the district budget for the past six years. In putting this information together, the 2016-2017 school year shows a decline in the state aid amount as the district valuations were increasing. The QCPUF tax levy that was in place was utilized to replace HVAC unit(s) at the Jr./Sr. High School building and was in its final year of being collected.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Valuation	$294,113,431	$300,230,399	$285,670,030	$280,238,692	$273,729,182	$278,426,725
Gen. Fund Levy	$ 1.030318	$ 1.042970	$1.049999	$1.020000	$1.000000	$0.970000
Special Bldg. Levy	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.030000
QCPUF Levy	0.007140	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
Total Levy	$ 1.037458	$ 1.042970	$ 1.049999	$ 1.020000	$ 1.000000	$ 1.000000
Gen. Fund Tax	$3,030,303.00	$3,131,313.00	$2,999,531.28	$2,858,434.00	$2,737,293.00	$2,700,740.00
Special Bldg. Levy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83,527.00
QCPUF Tax	21,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tot. Tax Asking	$3,051,515.12	$3,131,313.00	$2,999,531.28	$2,858,434.00	$2,737,293.00	$2,784,267.00
State Aid $	$ 177,843.00	$ 163,339.00	$ 184,699.00	$ 513,486.00	$ 768,693.00	$ 938,745.00

The Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium project has started and, as this article is being written, the bleachers have been removed, the old gym floor has been removed and the sub-floor of the new floor is being installed. The demolition part of the process has gone as scheduled and at a fairly fast pace. Things will slow somewhat as the new floor has to acclimate to the local environment for a 10-to-14 day period. Currently things remain on track for the project to be completed by the start of the 2022 calendar year.

As I stated earlier, our approach to the year is with the idea of getting through on a day-by-day basis and dealing with situations as they present themselves. Hopefully we can emerge from the pandemic stronger for persevering through the situation. The district will continue to communicate changes in the schedule via EZSchool message so please monitor that outlet. Enjoy the fall weather and have a good month of October.

Alan D. Garey - Superintendent

News from the Principal

September was an extremely busy month at Medicine Valley Public Schools. The staff and students have all settled into a productive routine as we progress forward in the 2021-2022 school year. We have already completed our first round of standardized testing and we will be using the data gleaned from these testing results and our local testing results to help guide our continuous school improvement process. The testing and assessment process will continue throughout the year following a schedule set by the School Improvement committee in August. This schedule is closely aligned with assessment guidelines set by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Pre-School through 12th staff attended a professional development day in McCook on Wednesday, September 15, sponsored by the Educational Service Unit #15. The main focus of the workshop centered on assessments in schools and learning more about developing and using proficiently schools as another potential method of assessing the teaching and learning process. It was a great learning experience for all who attended.

Our fall sports activities have surpassed the midpoint of their seasons. The year-long activities have been very active as well and our participants, coaches and sponsors have experienced many successes during the first quarter. The winter activities will be in action sooner rather than later.

Parent/Teacher conferences were held on Tuesday, September 14th and were very successful. It was great to have parents make time to visit their student's teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for showing a strong interest in your student's education at Medicine Valley Public Schools and your desire to be actively involved in the educational process. We strongly encourage regular communication between our staff and the parents of the students we serve. We believe strong, effective and open lines of communication play a vital role in the successful education of all students. Thank you in advance for following the appropriate chain of command in the communication process, as we believe this process is vital in order to best meet the need of the students we serve.

As always, thank you for your time and make October a great month!

Steve Osborn, Principal

COUNSELORS CORNER

JUNIORS AND SENIORS: All JRS and SRS will attend a Career/College Fair at Cambridge High School on Wednesday, October 20th. We will leave around 8:00 a.m. and return before noon. There will be representatives from various colleges and businesses.

COLLEGE FAIRS: Please see educationquest.org for dates/locations and times of college fairs and EPPs (Educational Planning Programs).

SOPHOMORES: Sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT on November 2, 2021. The Pre-ACT helps students prepare for the ACT and earn the highest score possible on the ACT. The John Baylor program is also available to all high school students to help prepare for the ACT.

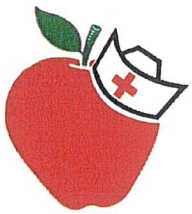
All students can take the ACT anytime by signing up at act.org. The next available test dates:

TEST	*REGISTRATION DEADLINE*
December 11, 2021	November 5, 2021
January 7, 2022	February 12, 2022

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
Emails are being sent to students and parents regarding scholarships, college fairs, college visits, registration deadlines for colleges and FAFSA. Please check your emails on a regular basis.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the high school!

Shari Goodenberger - School Counselor



COVID-19 cases continue to increase at the school. If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. Keep your child at home and inform staff at the school of their absence and I will follow up with a phone call so an assessment can be completed. Our current protocol from DHHS states that any primary exposure to COVID positive individuals is self monitoring for 14 days. If you develop any symptoms of COVID you will be isolated at home for 10 days from symptom start date. It is important that you monitor your children for signs and symptoms and keep them home so we can help prevent further spread.

If you received a letter from me in the mail to complete physicals, eye exams, or immunizations please do these tasks as soon as possible. November 15th is when reports are due to the state to show our students' compliance. The next immunization clinic will be on October 11th from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Medicine Valley High School.

October events include the following:

- International Walk to School Month: Encourage your children to spend time outdoors and stretch their legs!
- National Bullying Prevention Month: A month-long event to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion
- National Dental Hygiene Month: This is to celebrate the work that dental hygienists do and raise awareness of the importance of good oral health.
- October 11th is National Depression Screening Day:

Why Screen For Depression?

***Clinical depression is a serious medical illness.**
***Clinical depression can lead to suicide.**
***Sometimes people with depression mistakenly believe that the symptoms of depression are a "normal part of life".**
***Clinical depression affects men and women of all ages, races and socioeconomic groups.**
***Only about a third (35.3%) of those suffering from severe depression seek treatment from a mental health professional.**
***Depression can co-occur and complicate other medical conditions.**
***Screenings are often the first step in getting help.**

- October 16 - 20 is National Health Education Week: Gateway to the Future: The Power of Health Education & Promotion
- October 23 - 31 is Red Ribbon Week: Drug Free Looks Like Me!

Stay safe and healthy!
Cathy Jibben RN-BC

Welcome to Preschool!

The month of October is upon us in preschool. In the morning class our themes are Spiders, Nocturnal Animals, Pumpkins and Halloween. Our colors this month are black and orange, our shape is triangle, our number is 2 and our letters are Ee, Ff, Gg, and Hh.

In the afternoon class our themes are Spiders, Nocturnal Animals, Pumpkins and Halloween. Our numbers are 5 and 6. Our letters are in handwriting T, I, U, and C. In Phonics we are working on the letters P, C, and A. Our nursery rhymes this month are Itsy Bitsy Spider, Litttle Miss Muffet, Little Bo Beep and Jack and Jill. Sight words this month are you, look, up and is.

Dates to remember are: Tuesday October 5th is school picture day; Wednesday October 13th is a late start, no A.M. Preschool; Thursday October 28th is our Halloween party in both classes.

For our Halloween Party in the morning I need someone to bring cups, plates, napkins and silverware. I have Kimber Large for treats and Karsynn Aspenleiter for drinks. Please let me know if you can help with these items.

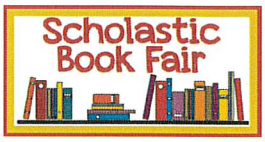
In the afternoon class I need treats. I have Sadie Farr for cups, plates, napkins and silverware and Kaylee Scherbarth for drinks. Please let me know if you would like to provide treats.

Happy birthday to Parker Thompson who will turn 5 in the afternoon class.

Mrs. Johnson
Preschool Teacher

Elementary Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended our elementary book fair. We had a very successful fair with sales over $1800 and the school receiving $900 scholastic dollars for us to purchase books for the school.



The elementary staff appreciates the high attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences. We are blessed with caring and active parents in our school. Thank you.

ELEMENTARY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 5th
School Pictures
Wednesday, October 13th
10:00 a.m. Late Start
October 25th-29th
Red Ribbon Week
Thursday, October 28th
Preschool Halloween Party
Friday, October 29th
Classroom Halloween Parties

Red Ribbon Week - October 23-31, 2021

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug misuse prevention awareness campaign. Red Ribbon Week started after the death of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who in 1985 was brutally tortured and murdered by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico. After Kiki's death, people started wearing red ribbons to honor his sacrifice. Today, millions of people celebrate Red Ribbon Week by wearing red ribbons, participating in community anti-drug events, and pledging to live drug-free lives.

The Medicine Valley Elementary building will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week with dress up days each day.

Monday, October 25th: "Lei Off Drugs" - Wear Hawaiian Clothing
Tuesday, October 26th: "Put a Cap on Drugs" - Wear a Hat
Wednesday, October 27th: "Too Bright for Drugs" - Wear Neon Clothing
Thursday October 28th: "Shade Out Drugs" - Wear Sunglasses
Friday, October 29th: Halloween Party Day - Wear Halloween Costumes

FCCLA Members Attend Fall Leadership Workshop in Kearney

Front Row: Tyler Bantam, Lucas Einspahr, Alaina Eberle, TeeJay Hildebrandt, Jozee Sheffield & Brianna Zysset. Second Row: Ethan Brown, James Ruppert, Jordy Phillips, Kenley Cole, Delaney Evans, Cora Hansen & Khadra Phillips. Back Row: Kaleb Einspahr, Aiden Jones, Kevin Bantam, Joe Brown, Koda Pell, Brooke Kotschwar, Ashtyn Contrerez & Haylie Gustafson.

FCCLA NEWS

Kearney - Twenty-one students from Medicine Valley Jr./Sr. High School recently attended the Nebraska Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Fall Leadership Workshop in Kearney. This annual event was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, with over 600 student members and chapter advisers registered for the conference. The state theme for this year is 'Endless Opportunities,' which encourages members to discover all aspects of FCCLA to further their opportunities.

Students heard from members of the Nebraska FCCLA State Officer Team, the State Peer Officer Team, and Ashley Brinton, the 2021 National FCCLA Alumni Achievement Award winner. Joe Brown, Alaina Eberle and Koda Pell are currently serving on the State Peer Officer Team.

Rebekka Jay and Alexis Cherry, both former state officers, led the New Member track. FCCLA competitive events, recognition opportunities, and National Programs sessions focused on providing new members a solid foundation on which to build their FCCLA experiences. Khadra Phillips, Delaney Evans, Haylie Gustafason, Tyler Bantam, Ethan Brown, Jozee Sheffield, Jamie Ruppert, Brooke Kotschwar, TeeJay Hildebrant, Shya Gudaitis, Brianna Zysett, Jordy Phillips, Lucas Einspahr, Kenley Cole, Cora Hansen and Aiden Jones were participants in the New Member track.

In the Chapter Leader track, officer training sessions were facilitated by the 2021-2022 Nebraska State Officers for chapter officers to gain more knowledge about their positions. Sessions in the Chapter Leader Track featured open discussions about awards and recognition, membership, competitive events, building a program of work, and public relations, along with the chance for members to share ideas and network with others. Ashtyn Contrerez, Alaina Eberle, Kevin Bantam, Joe Brown and Koda Pell participated in the Chapter Leader track.

In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to attend various breakout sessions presented by partner organizations. Nebraska FCCLA was excited to include content from Project Extra Mile, First Five Nebraska, and Jana's Campaign provided more information about reducing alcohol-related harm, advocacy, and preventing teen dating violence. The State Officers also presented additional sessions on community service, competitive events, opportunities in FCCLA, and resources to assist chapters.

"The 2021 Fall Leadership was the best way to begin the school year and bring back in-person conferences. I had a blast presenting sessions and advocating for FCCLA. There was so much networking being done by members throughout the day," said Abby Fiske, Nebraska FCCLA Vice President of Public Relations from Minden.

FCCLA is a useful and dynamic national career and technical student organization that aids young men and women in their journey to become leaders and teaches them lifelong skills. It demonstrates the importance of understanding how to address important career, community, family, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Nebraska FCCLA has over 2,500 members in 100 chapters across the state. For more information about FCCLA, please visit www.nebraskafccla.org.

October is going to be a busy month for the MV FFA members with competitions, practices and national convention. Our first competition of the year will be Area 3 Land Judging on October 6, hosted by the Upper Republican NRD in Perkins County. Students in the Plant & Soil Science class will participate in this contest, which identifies land use categories based on soil type, soil texture, slope and erosion. Hopefully it's a great day to be outdoors!

We will begin preparation for our Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events (held in November, December, February and March) this month as well, which means students will start selecting their teams and setting up practices for various competitions. These practices are usually held outside of school hours, with the dates and times set up by the FFA members.

Finally, at the end of October, six FFA members will travel to Indianapolis, IN, for the 94th National FFA Convention and Expo. Convention sessions, workshops, the FFA shopping mall, the FFA expo, tours in Louisville, KY, and activities with the Nebraska FFA Tour Group will fill the schedule during the trip. Check back next month for more information about our convention experience!

Renovations Underway on New Gym Floor and Bleachers

The timeline remains on schedule for the new gym floor and bleachers. Last week the old bleachers were disassembled and removed, and the new scoreboard arrived. The old gym floor is scheduled to be removed the week of September 27 with the new flooring arriving the same week. The projected completion date for the project is Monday, December 20, 2021.

Advance Payments of the 2021 Child Tax Credit

THE BASICS

WHAT?

For tax year 2021, families claiming the Child Tax Credit will receive:

- Up to $3,000 per qualifying child between the ages of 6 and 17 at the end of 2021
- Up to $3,600 per qualifying child under age 6 at the end of 2021

The total of the advance payments will be up to 50 percent of the Child Tax Credit.

WHO?

The maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of:

- $75,000 or less for single filers and married persons filing separate returns,
- $112,500 or less for heads of household, and
- $150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualifying widows and widowers.

Eligible taxpayers don't need to take any action now other than to file their 2020 tax return if they haven't done so. Taxpayers can benefit from the credit even if they don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes.

WHEN?

Advance payments of the 2021 Child Tax Credit will be made monthly from July 15 through December 15 to eligible taxpayers who have a main home in the United States for more than half the year.

HOW?

- Advance payments will be calculated and paid automatically.
- Eligible taxpayers who don't want to receive advance payment of the 2021 Child Tax Credit can unenroll from payments.
- Eligible taxpayers who don't normally file a tax return can register for the monthly advance payments using the **Non-filer Sign-up Tool**.

Visit **IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021** for more information and to access the online tools.

Publication 5534-B (6-2021) Catalog Number 38828A Department of the Treasury **Internal Revenue Service** www.irs.gov

Medicine Valley Public Schools – LUNCH MENU – October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Enchiladas Spanish Rice Refried Beans Dessert Corn Fruit Milk	2
3	4 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes w/gravy Mixed Veggies Fruit Milk	5 Soft Shell Taco Lettuce or Carrots Mixed Veggies Fruit Milk	6 Breaded Chicken Sand. Baked Beans Corn Fruit Milk	7 Pancakes Sausage or Ham Hash browns Fruit/100% Juice Milk	8 Pizza Bread Stick Lettuce Vegetable Dessert Fruit Milk	9
10	11 Walking Tacos Refried Beans Lettuce Fruit Milk	12 Chili Crispito Tri Tater Mixed Veggies Fruit Milk	13 Hamburger French Fries Baked Beans Fruit Milk	14 Orange Chicken Rice Vegetable Blend Mixed Fruit Milk	15 Quesadilla Green Beans Vegetable Dessert Fruit Milk	16
17	18 Br. Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes Dinner Roll Mixed Veggies Fruit Milk	19 Chicken Fajita Rice Peppers & Onions Vegetable Fruit Milk	20 Turkey Sand. Cheesy Potato or Chili Soup Cinnamon Roll Fruit Milk	21 Corn Dogs Chips Vegetable Fruit Milk	22 NO SCHOOL Fall Break	23
24	25 Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Dinner Roll Vegetable Fruit Milk	26 Enchiladas Rice Mixed Veggies Fruit Milk	27 Sloppy Joes Baked Beans Fruit Milk	28 Lasagna Bread Stick Lettuce Vegetables Fruit Milk	29 Burritos Refried Beans Dessert Fruit Milk	30
31					*Menu Subject to Change without Notice*	*Medicine Valley Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider*

Medicine Valley Public Schools – October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm – SH FB @ Brady	2 8:00 am – FFA Livestock Judging Clinic @ Bertrand 10:00 am – SH VB @ DCS
3	4	5 **School Pictures** 5:00 pm – SH VB Triangular @ Maywood vs. MHC/Brady	6 TBD – FFA Area Land Judging @ TBA	7 2:00 pm – JH VB @ Wallace 3:00 pm- JH FB @ Wallace 4:00 pm – XC @ TBA (RPAC) 5:30 pm – SH VB @ Stapleton	8 7:00 pm – SH FB @ Loomis	9
10	11 5:00 pm – JV FB @ Maxwell	12 TBD – SH VB @ Wa-Pa 3:00 pm – JH VB @ Wa-Pa	13 ***10:00 am LATE START***	14 TBD - Dist. XC @ Cambridge 2:30 pm – JH VB @ MVHS (Comm. Center) 4:30 pm – SH VB @ Arapahoe	15 ***End of 1st 9 weeks*** **7:00 pm – SH FB vs. Maywood/Hayes Center @ MVHS** **Parents' Night for XC and FB**	16 TBD - SH Band @ Minden Band Festival
17	18 ***Start of 2nd 9 weeks*** TBD – SH VB @ TBA (RPAC) 3:30 pm – JH FB @ Brady	19 TBD – SH VB @ McCook (RPAC)	20 FCCLA Dist. Mtg. @ McCook TBD – FFA State Land Judging @ TBA	21 ***1:00 pm Dismissal Fall Break*** TBD - SH FB playoffs @ TBA (1st Round)	22 ***NO SCHOOL Fall Break*** State XC @ Kearney	23
24	25 TBD - SH VB – @ TBA (Sub-districts)	26 FFA Nationals @ Indianapolis FCCLA Dist. 6 Mtg. @ Kearney	27 FFA Nationals @ Indianapolis	28 FFA Nationals @ Indianapolis	29 FFA Nationals @ Indianapolis TBD - SH FB Playoffs @ TBA (2nd Round)	30 FFA Nationals @ Indianapolis TBD – SH VB @ TBA (District Finals)
31						

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 13th - 10:00 a.m. LATE START

October 21st - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal
Fall Break

October 22nd - NO SCHOOL; Fall Break