

# Valley Heights

## News & Notes



May 2017

Reflecting on the 2016-17 school year, and the accomplishments as well as a some disappointments, one can feel optimistic about the future.

The optimism is a result of the incredible school community we live in that supports and creates a climate of success for our students. The parental support, staff commitment, and the talent our students bring into the buildings each day is incredible.

Student success this year is across the board that includes academics, activities, and community service.

Our students put in more service hours to our communities through various school projects this year than recent memory provides. The success in the classroom ranges from over \$40,000 of scholarship money awarded to graduates to the majority of our students scoring well on local, state, and national assessments. As a district scoring above the state average on state assessments is noteworthy in and of itself, and is due to the effort and importance each student and teacher places on doing their best in whatever challenge is presented. In addition to academics, staff and students put forth great effort in activities. We sent more participants to State Forensics and State Track than ever before. We had a record number of students receive I and II ratings at State Music competition and Art students continued to be recognized at numerous Art competitions.

These successes are not a fluke and are directly attributed to the dedication of staff. We just completed the first year of total emersion in the MTSS process. This Multi Tiered System of Support has allowed us to regain our focus of putting the success of students first and primary in all of our efforts. We know that this process is what's best for our students and we will continue down this path in our planning for the 2017-18 school year.

Along with the commitment on the part of parents, staff, and students, we are also fortunate to have a board of education that is supportive of the MTSS process as they see the value this brings to our students.

### **Board Office**

121 E. Commercial Street  
PO Box 89  
Waterville, KS 66548  
(785) 363-2398

### **Valley Heights JR/SR High**

2274 6th Road  
Blue Rapids, KS 66411  
(785) 363-2508

### **Valley Heights Elementary (K-2)**

307 E. Lincoln Street  
Waterville, KS 66548  
(785) 363-2530

### **Valley Heights Elementary (3-6)**

508 Chestnut Street  
Blue Rapids, KS 66411  
(785) 363-7693

*[www.valleyheights.org](http://www.valleyheights.org)*

The role of the school board member is vital to any success we enjoy and we encourage community members qualified to serve in this role to get involved. Now is the time for that involvement as we are in the midst of major shifts and changes in Kansas public education. With a new Accreditation System being unveiled, and a new School Finance System being established the next thirty to forty years promises to be challenging and exciting in our public schools. This is a time for the next generation of parents, staff, and students to be involved like never before in public education.

Hope your summer is refreshing.

~ *John Bergkamp*  
Superintendent of Schools

# Valley Heights Junior/Senior High School

## Summer School

Summer school for Valley Heights JR/SR High School will begin May 30th and run through June 16th. The hours of operation for summer school will be 8:30 am—11:30 am, Monday through Friday. Students that are eligible for summer school are those that have failed a semester or more of a core class and/or recommendation of a teacher. If a student is required or suggested to attend summer school, parents will be notified with more details.

## Pending Board Approval

There are several areas of the handbook that have been revisited this past year. A couple sections of the handbook are going to be significant changes and want to share ahead of time this information.

### a. Cumulative Disciplinary Procedures (Repeat Offenders Rule)

i. Each inappropriate behavior is categorized by the five levels of unacceptable behavior. The level that an infraction contains, will be credited to a point system based on that level of inappropriate behavior. (*For instance, Level 1 = 1 point, Level 2 = 2 points, etc.*) Behavior points will accumulate throughout the school year, which can lead to other disciplinary consequences as outlined below:

5 points = 1 day ISS

10 points = 3 days ISS

15 points = 1 day OSS

20 points = 3 days OSS

25 points = 5 days OSS

30 points = Expulsion

### b. Weekly Eligibility Requirements

For participation in activities sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association, including athletics, a student must be academically eligible. Academic eligibility will be computed on a weekly basis. Any student with quarter grades that include three (3) "D's" or one (1) "F" at the beginning of each week will be ineligible, following a one week probationary period. (Hence, if ineligible for two consecutive weeks, student will not be allowed to participate beginning the second week.) The eligibility week consists of Monday to Sunday.

## Summer Activity Camps

Basketball Camp | June 5-9

Football Camp | July 10—July 14

Volleyball Camp | June 22-June 23

For more information on camps, please contact the specific coaches.

~ Chad Kenworthy  
JR/SR High School Principal

# Valley Heights Elementary

The curriculum adoption process at Valley Heights Schools ensures our students are exposed to the best most up-to-date curriculum available. The selection of core curriculum materials comes only after a review and planning process has been completed. This process includes:

1. Vertical alignment: where subject items are introduced, mastered and reviewed.
2. Horizontal alignment: when subject items are being taught during the school year.
3. Assessment review: review of assessment data to determine if the curriculum has prepared our students for the assessed grade level.
4. Strategy review: the review of strategies to determine their effectiveness.
5. Resource review: the review of resources to determine if the core curriculum and supplementals are adequate.
6. Review of Instructional practices.
7. Staff development: to determine what professional development is needed to prepare our staff on curriculum delivery.

The most recent curriculum adoption in Valley Heights Elementary was in the area of English Language Arts in the 2015-16 school year. After a year of examination of several research based curriculums, Valley Heights Elementary adopted the Journeys Reading and ELA core curriculum. The adoption committee worked closely with a reading specialist, staff from other schools, and our own faculty in the decision process. Journeys was selected because the committee felt it effectively represented the five essential components of reading as listed below:

1. Phonemic Awareness: the ability to use sounds to create words.
2. Phonics: understanding the relationships between written letters and spoken sounds and how to decode new words.
3. Reading Fluency: the ability to read quickly and accurately.
4. Vocabulary: knowing the meaning of words.
5. Reading Comprehension: to understand and remember what was read.

If you have any questions or concerns about our curriculum, or the process used in evaluating curriculum, please contact myself or the central office.

~ *Robert Green*  
Elementary Principal

# Counselor's Corner

## You Choose

Just for fun, every time you make a choice today, make a tally mark on a piece of paper. I think you'll be surprised at the number of tallies at the end of the day. A choice is simply picking between two or more options—what to wear, when to eat, what chore to do first. They aren't always the big life altering decisions, but we make dozens of choices every day.

As adults, most choices are pretty automatic. Working with elementary students this year has sometimes been an eye-opener. We spent some fun days learning about choices. Are they impulsive, based on emotion, easy, difficult, made with consideration of their effect on others? We talked about self-regulation which sometimes plays into the choices we make. By the way, do you have any idea how difficult it is for first graders to sit still when you blow bubbles at them?

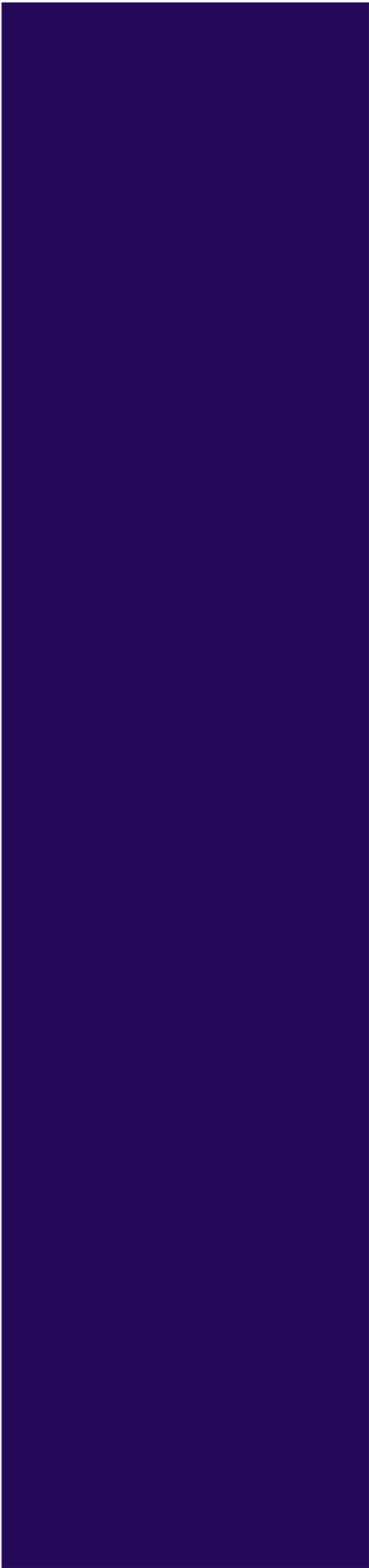
There are many times I wish I didn't have to make a choice—there may be two great options, no really appealing options, or I'm just too tired to care. On the flip side, choices can give us a little control in situations where we feel we have none. We can choose how we react to a challenging situation or how we manage our emotions. As it becomes age appropriate, allowing children to start making decisions such as what clothes to wear, what to have for supper, where to go on a family vacations, etc. can foster self-confidence and self control.

With the upper elementary grades, I used a book series called "Choose Your Own Adventure". One book has 64 different endings, depending on choices made along the way. Students looked at whether they were risk-takers in their choices and think about the effect some choices have on themselves and others. Often, they wanted to go back to see what the result would have been had they made a different choice. They also learned compromise, as they chose as a group, which means they didn't always get their way.

I hope this summer offers a lot of wonderful choices for you. I hope you choose to relax, enjoy family time, focus on the positive, and that your Valley Heights students come back excited and ready to learn in August.

Have a great summer!

~ *Barbara Buck*  
K-12 Counselor

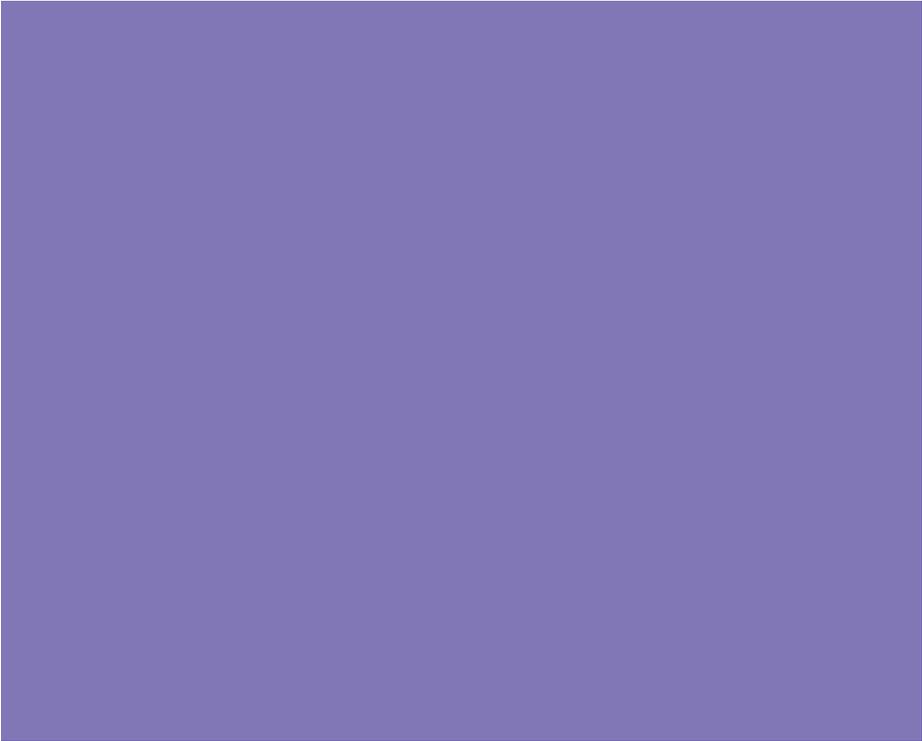


**Bullying Prevention and  
Potential School Violence  
Hotline:**

**(877) 626-8203**

or

Call the  
Marshall County  
Sheriff's Office  
**(785) 562-3141**



# USD 498 Mission Board of Education

*USD 498 Board of Education's mission is to provide an education system that will develop the highest level of achievement for all students, educators, and patrons by managing district policies and efficient use of resources.*

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## WE ARE LISTENING!

If you have questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please send them to:

Superintendent John Bergkamp  
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