

BULLDOG BRIEF

Personalized | Innovative | Global

Iowa Assessments

April 2-6 we will be administering the Iowa Assessments for our MS/HS students in grades 2-11. Seniors will not take the exams, instead, they will be completing CPR training on either April 3 or 4.

It is important for students in grades 6-11 to be here by 8:15 a.m. so we have enough time to complete all of the tests required by the state.

Measuring academic achievement with the Iowa Assessments provides information to help our students succeed. The Iowa Assessments make this possible by providing detailed information about achievement in content areas including reading, mathematics, and science.

The Iowa Assessments measure student growth and progress from year to year. In addition, they provide information about students' academic performance relative to their school, the district, and the nation.

Information gained from the Iowa Assessments helps teachers identify students' strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. The assessment data enable sound decision-making and provide a focus for teachers to review and improve their instruction. The results of the assessment will help prepare our students for the next steps on their educational paths and for us to personalize their learning.

Additional information:

- Parents can help prepare students for the assessments by supporting them at home in creating a balance between activity, nutrition and rest. We hope that everyone is arriving on time and are happy and healthy!
- For more information about the Iowa Assessments, please visit: <https://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/>

You will be provided reports after test results are received. These scores will indicate how your child(ren) performed on the tests/subtests.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education!

Project-Based Learning

Upcoming Project Week April 23-27

Over the past few years, Van Meter secondary students have engaged in project based learning experience each January. The goals during the



experience include providing student choice, demonstrating creativity, collaborating with others, and developing other habits of success. This year we have decided to move

the project experience to the week of April 23-27. After getting feedback from staff and students, they wanted to better utilize the outdoors. Also, moving the projects to April better aligns with our career exploration day on April 11 for our 9-12 students.

We are also planning a showcase event the following week for students to show what learned and created!

STEM Innovator at the Capitol



STEM students Blake Fryar and Connor Guess represented Van Meter High School during the Hawkeye Caucus event at the state capital on March 27th. Students had the opportunity to speak with state legislators about their STEM Innovator projects during this event.

Elementary Revisits the Schedule



During the next few months, our staff will take the time and care in developing our schedules for the 2018-19 school year. Our hope is by May, we will have developed a schedule for next school year. Many opportunities come into play when developing a schedule, such as state requirements, staff availability, and common planning time to name a few. An area that we are looking to adjust is our related arts (Informational Literacy, Art, Music, PE, Guidance, Spanish) schedule, as a few of these only meeting once a week this current school year. The amount of contact time has varied from year to year and our hope, like always, is that we can provide a system that sets our students up for a successful experience. Our most recent idea is for us to have a week long rotation split between the following classes: Informational Literacy, Art, Music and possibly Guidance. Students would have the same

related art for the entire week, so that projects will be completed, contact time will increase, and routines and relationships are quickly formed. Lastly, a likely change for next year is getting back to daily PE in the elementary!

There is so much yet to be accomplished this school year, but it is also important to begin having conversations about next year. We will finish the year strong with a focus on productive learning for all students, in all areas.

College, Career, & Life Ready

The Van Meter Community School District Board of Directors, School Improvement Advisory Committee, Students, Teachers and Administration have worked hard over the last several years to develop a mission and vision that benefits all students. With a mission to *personalize learning for each student's success*, our school district must be willing to provide as many opportunities as necessary for students that aligns to our overall vision of what we want our global ready graduates to be able to do when they leave which is to be able to:

- **Communicate**
- **Collaborate**
- **Create and Innovate**
- **Solve Problems**
- **Persevere**
- **And Think Globally**



Of course personalizing learning is more than just providing multiple opportunities for students to have a wide variety of experiences at school to help them become college and career ready, it is about making learning truly personal. It's about students having relationships with other kids and adults that will help them become the people all of us would be glad to have as neighbors and fellow citizens. Obviously what we do from an academic standpoint is critical to our work as a school district, but if we can help kids become healthy and happy individuals who have a little grit and toughness to push through when things are difficult and who can not only work with others, but actually get a long with a wide variety of people who have different viewpoints, then we will have done our job.

We are proud of the work we do to get students academically prepared for both college and career, but our ultimate goal is for them to be ready for living a life that makes all of us proud to be Van Meter Bulldogs. Thanks for all you do to support our kids in becoming, **College, Career, and Life** ready. Go DAWGS!

