



# Wapsie Valley Community School District



2535 Viking Avenue  
Fairbank, Iowa 50629  
Phone: (319) 638-6711 or (319) 279-3458  
Fax: (319) 638-7061  
[www.wapsievalleyschools.com](http://www.wapsievalleyschools.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Randy Woods, President  
Jerry VanDaele, Vice-President  
Donna Costello  
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Chad Garber, Superintendent  
Gregg Eschweiler, K-6 and 7-12 Principal  
Jolaine Mast, K-6 and Rural Principal  
Carol Foster, Business Manager  
Doris Gruetzmacher, Treasurer

## **August, 2010 Newsletter**

*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.*  
---Pericles, a Greek Politician

### **Great Schools, Great Instruction**

I'm not sure that when Pericles spoke these words nearly 2500 years ago he had Wapsie Valley Community Schools in mind. According to his biography, he was a politician, and not a fortune teller. However, as we begin the school year 2010-2011, much will be made of two "stone monuments," or more accurately, brick school houses that will open well ahead of schedule for Wapsie Valley students on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Make no mistake, the tax payers, property owners, citizens, and Board members have accomplished what I will call a monumental achievement when students pour into the new buildings this fall. These buildings will be here for decades to come, and no doubt will be important cogs in the community for many, many years. But while we have much to be proud of in the district because of the construction project, those stone monuments will pale in comparison to the profound impact we'll have on the lives of our students and the future of our community through the work we are honored to perform at Wapsie Valley Community Schools.

Certainly the classroom in which instruction takes place is extremely important. Students must feel safe, comfortable, and have access to the spaces where instruction occurs. However, the bricks and mortar of a school building are only a single element in the education that we provide our communities' students and families, and as we look to the future, let it be known that good things are happening at Wapsie Valley from construction to instruction. We will continue our focus in the coming year on curriculum mapping to ensure that the experience a student receives in one classroom will be comparable to the experience another student receives in another classroom, and we'll continue our work toward specifically outlining for staff, for students, and for parents, what we expect students to know and be able to do after completing a particular grade level or course. We will also continue to take steps to prepare students to use technology that has become such an important part of our world of work and play. We'll work to improve students' ability to read well, and apply mathematics, think creatively and work collaboratively, study hard, sing well, run fast, jump high, set goals, and become citizens that will solve problems and invest in the future of their communities just as Wapsie Valley citizens have done in years past in the form of PPEL and bond issue votes.

We expect this to be a banner year for our students and communities, not because new schools have opened, but because Wapsie Valley Schools have opened. Just as Pericles wrote, we'll remember 2010 as the year our new elementary schools opened, but the instruction that takes place this year will help our students make many more years to come just as memorable for their families, communities, or their country. Big things are in store for Wapsie Valley kids in the future, and it is my goal that school year 2010 will play a significant role in that future for our kids. Stone monuments will open in the next few weeks, but what kids take away from those monuments, be they new buildings or a structure that is 50 years old, will shape their future. That is our challenge at Wapsie Valley, and our pleasure as well.

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## Opportunities to See our New Schools for Families and the Community

The opening of the new schools will be an exciting yet stressful several days for staff, students, and parents. It is very important that we provide an opportunity for community members to see the new buildings. However, we'll be preparing the buildings right up until the day school begins. Please respect the staff's needs to prepare their classrooms and space for children. The following days and time will be set aside for the community to visit the building. We are MOST anxious to show off the new buildings, but we will also need every minute to prepare the buildings for class on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Parents and students are welcome to drop off their backpacks and see their classroom from 5:30-7:30 on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> prior to the first day of school.

An official ribbon cutting and open house will be held in each building on Thursday, August 26 from 5:30-8:00. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at Readlyn Elementary at 6:00 p.m., and at Fairbank Elementary at 7:15 p.m. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the building will be open for members of the public to tour and staff members will be available to answer questions or serve as "guides" as well.

Please respect the staff members' need to prepare the building and classroom for a smooth transition to a new grade level and a new building for our students.

## New Staff Members for the Coming School Year

Wapsie Valley Schools is pleased to welcome several new staff members this year.

- ❖ Christy Fagerlind will join the staff at Fairbank Elementary School as a pre-school teacher.
- ❖ Tiffany McConnelee will join the staff at Readlyn Elementary School as a pre-school and Title I reading teacher.
- ❖ Jolaine Mast will serve as the rural school and pre-K-6 principal at Fairbank Elementary.
- ❖ Amanda Grady joins the Readlyn Elementary staff as our fourth grade teacher.
- ❖ Alicia Brown will serve the K-6 students in both Readlyn and Fairbank Elementary as our new music teacher.
- ❖ Danny Adams joins the 7-12 building as the physical education teacher.

We have come to say in our interview process that we like to hire "stars" or "budding stars" to work with our students and in our buildings. We believe we've done just that with the addition of these staff members. As the school year draws closer, we'll finish our hiring for the coming fall, and we plan to continue with that practice: Stars teaching future stars.

## Finishing Touches Campaign Drawing to a Close

Community members who would still like to contribute to the Finishing Touches campaign can do so. Please contact Chad Garber, superintendent, if you'd like to make a contribution as we bring the campaign to a close. Thanks to the generosity of friends, neighbors, alumni, and local business, over \$50,000 has been raised to provide flat screen monitors in classrooms, pre-school furnishings, playground equipment, and instructional materials, cleaning equipment, computers, and furniture for classroom spaces that we simply didn't have in the existing buildings. To make a contribution, give Mr. Garber a call.

We look forward to an outstanding year at Wapsie Valley. As always, Go Warriors! CGARBER

## OPENING YEAR INFORMATION

1. Registration is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 11, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We would like to have most of you register on these days but we certainly understand about vacations. Forms are included in this mailing to complete and bring to the respective buildings or to mail with your payment. A separate form for each building is preferred. Please include you PO Box number if you have one. **REMINDER:** You may now register for school on our website by using Payschools.
2. Waiver of Student Fees: Students whose family income meet the guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents of students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact: Superintendent Chad Garber at 2535 Viking Ave., Fairbank, IA 50629. This is due to confidentiality.
3. All student athletes must have a physical on file in the office before practicing. **A physical is needed to enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.**
4. **High School Football** equipment handout will be Thursday, August 5, 2010. Juniors and seniors should report at 6:00 p.m. and freshman and sophomores at 6:30 p.m. This will be held in the multi-purpose room. Preseason football practice will begin on Monday, August 9, 2010. Practice will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Bring shoes and a sports drink for break time.
5. **Jr. High Football** equipment will be handed out on Tuesday, August 10, 2010. Eighth grade checkout is at 6:00 p.m. and 7<sup>th</sup> grade checkout is at 6:30 p.m. Equipment handout will be in the multipurpose room.
6. **High School Cross Country** will begin on Monday, August 9, 2010 .
7. **High School Volleyball** will have a meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School. Practice will begin on August 9, 2010 .
8. Two meetings hosted by the administration for students and parents to attend.  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, Monday, August 16 - Mr. Wharram and Mr. Eschweiler invite 7th grade students and their parents to an orientation evening at the Jr.Sr. high school. The meeting will start at 7:00pm in the auditorium. The 20-30 minute meeting will cover reading and understand the daily schedule, and rule and expectations of junior high students at Wapsie Valley. Family members are then free to visit the classrooms and hallway lockers. Mr. Wharram and Mr. Eschweiler will answer questions and be available for help.  
High School PSEO, Thursday, August 19 - Mr. Wharram and Mr. Eschweiler invite students, and their parents, taking online PSEO college courses to a "required" meeting at the Jr.Sr. high school. The meeting will start at 7:00pm in the library/media center. At this meeting textbooks will distributed to the students, and a discussion of Wapsie Valley's expectations of students receiving the privilege of taking college level classes. This meeting is new to the process of PSEO classes, but has become a necessary step because recent developments.
9. The Family Education and Privacy Act requires that schools give notice periodically that certain 'directory' information on students be published occasionally and that parents or adult students have the right to request that such information not be released. For example, we publish football, class play, commencement, and swing show programs. We also are obligated to furnish students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers to certain groups who request this - for example, military recruiters and colleges. Call the school if you object.
10. The Civil Rights Act also requires publication of an Educational Equity Policy Statement. It is the policy of the Wapsie Valley Community School not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is also the policy of this district that the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles and life styles open to women as well as men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to reduce stereotyping and to eliminate bias on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion and disability. The curriculum should foster respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity found in our country and an awareness of the rights, duties and responsibilities of each individual as a member of pluralistic society. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 may be directed to Deb Rich, Elementary Principal, Wapsie Valley Elementary Schools located in Readlyn.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, AEA employees, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or student assistance team, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to inform the school district that the parent does not want directory information, as defined below, to be released. Any student over the age of eighteen or parent not wanting this information released to the public must make objection in writing within one week of notification to the principal. The objection needs to be renewed annually.  
**NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE LISTING, DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT OF MEMBERS OF ATHLETIC TEAMS, DATES OF ATTENDANCE, DEGREES AND AWARDS RECEIVED, THE MOST RECENT PREVIOUS SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION ATTENDED BY THE STUDENT, PHOTOGRAPH AND LIKENESS AND OTHER SIMILAR INFORMATION.**
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20202-4605.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASING STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The Wapsie Valley Community School District has adopted a policy designed to assure parents and students the full implementation, protection and enjoyment of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. A copy of the school district's policy is available for review in the office of the principal in each of our schools.

This law requires the school district to designate as "directory information" any personally identifiable information taken from a student's educational records prior to making such information available to the public.

The school district has designated the following information as directory information: student's name, address, phone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; and the most recent previous educational institution attended by the student; photograph and other likeness and other similar information. You have the right to refuse the designation of any or all of the categories of personally identifiable information as directory information with respect to your student provided that you notify the school district in writing not later than July 1<sup>st</sup> before the beginning of the next school year. If you desire to make such a refusal, please complete and return the slip attached to this notice.

**If you have no objection to the use of student information, you do not need to take any action.**

*RETURN THIS FORM*

Wapsie Valley Community School District Parental Directions to Withhold Student/Directory Information for Educational Purposes, for 2010-2011 school year.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian/Custodian of Child)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date)

This form must be returned to your child's school no later than September 1, 2010.  
 Additional forms are available at your child's school.

WAPSIE VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
 2010-2011 SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION FORM  
 Tuesday, August 10, 2009 and Wednesday, August 11, 2009  
11:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.                      9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**ELEMENTARY**

<b><u>Pre-school Supplies Fee</u></b>	\$30.00				
<b><u>Pre-school Snack Fee</u></b>	\$16.00				
<b><u>Book Rent</u></b>		<b><u>Hot Lunch</u></b>		<b><u>Milk</u></b>	<b><u>Breakfast</u></b>
Kindergarten	\$30.00	5 day ticket	\$ 7.75	Per day	\$ .25
Grades 1-6	\$30.00	20 day ticket	\$31.00	Per month	\$5.00
				Per day	\$ .90
				20 day	\$18.00

**JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL**

<b><u>Book Rent</u></b>		<b><u>Hot Lunch</u></b>		<b><u>Extra</u></b>	<b><u>Breakfast</u></b>
7-12	\$45.00	5 day ticket	\$ 8.50	Milk	\$ .25
		20 day ticket	\$34.00	Sandwich	\$ .75
		1 day ticket	\$ 1.70		
				Per day	\$ .90
					\$18.00
<b><u>Graduation Fee</u></b>	\$40.00				
<b><u>PE Shirt</u></b>	\$6.00				
<b><u>FFA Dues</u></b>	\$14.50				
<b><u>Athletic Pass</u></b>	\$300.00/Family; \$100.00 Single				
<b><u>Yearbook</u></b>	\$38.00				

Wapsie Valley Community Schools will no longer be offering towel service. Students are required to supply their own.

**ELEMENTARY REGISTRATION FEE  
 THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR CHECK**

Grade	Name	Book Fee	Milk	Lunch	Breakfast	Pass	Total

**JR./SR. HIGH REGISTRATION FEE  
 THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR CHECK**

Grade	Name	Book Fee	PE	Lunch	Sr. Fee	Pass	FFA	Yrbk	Total

Please bring all forms with you when you register. We are requiring everyone to fill out new forms for the 2010-11 school year. Please list a post office box number if you have one.

**REMINDER:** You may register using Payschools which is located on the Wapsie Valley Schools website at [wapsievalleyschools.org](http://wapsievalleyschools.org)

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