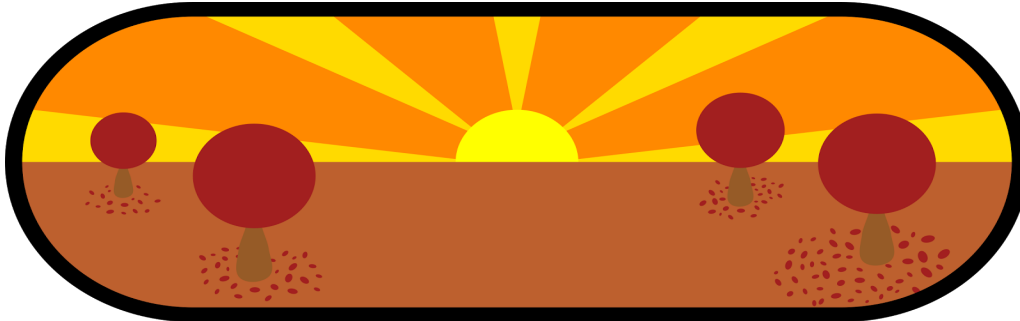


## Superintendent Rambling

October, 2016



Fall is upon us. There is nothing better than a cup of hot cocoa and football under the light! Please continue to refer to our online homepage calendar for specific activity dates and times on an ongoing basis, *Please also support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the year and, as an adult, model good sportsmanship;* this is appreciated by everyone. Our Facebook page and twitter feeds continue to serve as important sources of information during the course of the school year. Numerous activities and important dates for October include:

- October 10th: Columbus Day- No School!**
- October 10th: Board of Education Meeting at 6 PM.**
- October 19th: Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 PM**
- October 20th: Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8 PM.**
- October 14th: Valley Fall Tailgate @ 5 PM**
- October 21st: No School.**
- October 28th: Half Day Teacher Inservice / 11:30 Dismissal**

On September 12th I tendered to the Board of Education my letter of intent to retire effective June 30th 2017. Where have 35 years gone? As a youngster I followed my grandfather, who was a school custodian, around his grade school. Later I assisted my father during his years as an elementary teacher and later principal. I started my education career as a science teacher in Decatur Public Schools in 1982. Over the years I progressed through the administrative positions as High School Dean, Assistant Principal and later principal. I also served five years in the Warrensburg-Latham School District. Along the way I had the honor of assisting countless students, many who now are approaching mid age themselves. I would like to express a big thank you to the Spoon River Valley Community, Board of Education, students, faculty, and staff for welcoming me and making this place home. We have made numerous changes along the way and made good and bad decisions. In sum total ,however, I feel the decisions were always made with kids best interest in heart. I have nothing special planned for the golden years, with the exception of finding warmer climes and doing something in the realm of education.

As a district, we are actively realigning our administrative personnel with formal announcements of positions and folks involved at our October 10th meeting. This realignment will both save the district funds and insure good quality personnel assigned to these positions.

This fall and school year our staff will continue to shift its study from assessment development to aligning all courses to the Illinois Learning Standards to maximize learning.. We have implemented the new evaluwise computer program to enhance teacher performance and to make good teachers even better teachers. The program will better align instruction and assess teacher needs in terms of professional development over time. Initially we will focus on English Language Arts and Mathematics. We will progress to other subjects during the course of next year.

As we move into a new year, constructive, civil suggestions regarding district policies, procedures or decisions are always welcome in the conference setting. ***Please follow the chain of command in dealing with district personnel concerns.*** If you have concerns regarding your student or other matters please contact the staff member involved, progressing to administration and/or board of education, in extreme cases. Do not contact board members as a first result to express concerns. If you have a concern regarding any staff member please contact the respective school office responsible and schedule a private conference. ***A reminder that abuse or profanity directed at teachers, coaches, aides, secretaries, sponsors or staff in any form WILL NOT be tolerated in any situation by the administrative team in the classroom or the athletic court.. Please review the handbook for further details.***

***A reminder that office hours are now posted on the website for your convenience. Phones will not be answered after the times listed on our web page.*** You are welcome to leave a message on the district answering machine if would like to do so. Every effort will be made to return your call the following school day. The Jr./ Sr. High office is open from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. The Elementary Office is open from 7:30 to 4 PM.

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at [sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us](mailto:sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us) Our collective ideas, decisions and vision will lead to an improved, vibrant school district in the long term. We need each other to help raise our children and build a better tomorrow for us all!

My Best,

Mr. Reynolds