

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-Floyd Valley

January 2026

News From The Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to wish you all a great start to 2026! One item I have noticed when watching the news and browsing online is teen safety when gaming and being in social situations. I feel like there has been an uptick in controversy surrounding online games. If you are not familiar with what I am talking about, do a search of “Roblox controversy” and educate yourself on recent events around that gaming platform. I believe that the events happening on the Roblox platform occur on other online platforms as well.

Another important area to consider is social media. Many parents try to stay involved in their teenager’s digital life, but it’s common for teens to push back against this involvement. Your teen may feel that monitoring or restrictions invade their privacy or limit their independence. While this resistance is normal, it’s crucial to maintain open communication and set clear expectations about safety. Encourage conversations about why boundaries exist, and emphasize that these measures are about protection—not control. Building trust and explaining the risks of online interactions can help reduce conflict and keep teens safer in digital spaces.

Here are some other thoughts and conversation prompts for you to consider for your child when thinking about online safety and responsibility.

1. Protect Privacy

Remind kids never to share personal details like their real name, address, or school online. Encourage the use of screen names that don’t reveal identity.

2. Stay Safe from Strangers

Not everyone online is who they claim to be. Set clear rules about not accepting friend requests from strangers or joining unknown groups.

3. Watch for Cyberbullying

Talk about what cyberbullying looks like and encourage kids to report and block bullies—and to tell a trusted adult right away.

4. Check Game Content

Review game ratings and features to ensure they’re age-appropriate. Be aware of in-game chat options.

5. Balance Screen Time

Set reasonable limits on gaming and encourage offline activities to maintain healthy habits.

6. Manage Purchases

Discuss in-game purchases and use parental controls to prevent overspending.

7. Support Emotional Health

Games can trigger strong emotions. Teach kids to handle wins and losses gracefully and watch for signs of frustration or obsession.

8. Keep Communication Open

Ask questions like: *“Who did you play with today?”* or *“Did anything make you uncomfortable?”* so kids feel safe sharing their experiences.

By staying involved and talking openly, parents can help their children enjoy gaming while staying safe and balanced while online. Thanks for all your work and hopefully you found something useful in navigating young people and their online presence.

Go Dutch!

Mr. Carlson
MOC-FV MS Principal

2026

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<div>1</div> <div>New Years Day</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
				<div>Winter Break</div>		
<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>No School- Professional Development Day</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>1:15 pm Early Dismissal</div>	<div>10</div> <div>8:00am Dutch Youth BB Tournament @ MOC-FV MS</div>
<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>End Exploratory Cycle 3</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Start Exploratory Cycle 4</div>	<div>15</div> <div>4:15pm GBB vs Sioux Center 7th(H) 8th(A)</div>	<div>16</div> <div>End 2nd Qrt. 1:15 pm Early Dismissal</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Begin 3rd Qrt. & 2nd Semester 6th Gr Honor Band 4:00pm GBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7th(A) 8th(H)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6th gr. Ice Fishing 4:15pm GBB vs Spencer 7th(A) 8th(H)</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1:15 pm Early Dismissal Report Cards go home 4:15pm B Wrestling @ MOC-FV</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>4:15pm GBB vs LeMars 7th(H) 8th(A) 4:15pm B Wrestling @ Rock Valley</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8:00am NWIA MS/HS Honor Orchestra 4:15pm B Westling. @ Hinton</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1:15 pm Early Dismissal</div>	<div>31</div>

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 4:15pm GBB vs Spirit Lake 7th (H) 8 th (A)	3	4 Morningside Jazz Festival	5 4:15pm B Wrestling @ MOC-FV	6 1:15pm Early Dismissal	7
8	9 Qrt. 3 3 Wk. Gr. Chk. 4:15pm GBB vs Rock Valley 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	10 8:00am 7 th & 8 th gr. Jazz Band Festival @ MOC-FV High School	11	12	13 1:15pm Early Dismissal	14
15	16 Presidents Day No School (snow day makeup #1) 4:15pm GBB vs Sheldon 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	17 4:15pm B Wrestling @ Le Mars	18	19 4:15pm GBB vs Sioux Center 7th(A) 8 th (H)	20 1:15pm Early Dismissal	21
22	23 4:15pm GBB vs. Cherokee 7th(H) 8 th (A) 3:30pm MS Solo Performance Night	24	25	26 4:15pm GBB vs LeMars 7 th (A) 8 th (H) 7:00pm MS Jazz Band and Copper Street Brass @ High School	27 1:15pm Early Dismissal	28