

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-Floyd Valley

May 2026

News From The Principal

Dear Families,

As we enter the month of May, we find ourselves in the final stretch of the school year. This is an important time for students to finish strong by demonstrating positive work ethic, responsible decision-making, consistent attendance, and safe behavior right up until our **last day of school on May 28**.

Celebrating Growth in Learning and Leadership

We are incredibly proud of the growth students across all grade levels have shown this year academically, socially, and personally. Through our PBIS framework and Leader in Me curriculum, students have worked to practice responsibility, perseverance, respect, and leadership in meaningful ways. From rising independence in sixth grade to growing confidence and maturity in eighth grade, our students continue to show that learning is about more than grades. It is about becoming strong, capable people.

Finishing Strong: Work Ethic, Attendance, and Safety

The final weeks of school are still full of learning opportunities. Every day matters, and we ask for your continued support in helping students:

- Arrive on time and attend school consistently
- Complete assignments with effort and pride
- Make safe, respectful choices in classrooms and common areas

Staying engaged and maintaining routines helps students end the year feeling successful and confident.

End-of-Year Events

May brings many exciting activities as we close out the year, including:

- Field trips and enrichment activities
- Music concerts and performances
- Athletic events and competitions

These events are wonderful celebrations of student learning and involvement. Checking the school calendar found on Bound is helpful for staying on top of the dates of events. Please remind students that participation in these opportunities depends on meeting academic and behavioral expectations.

Looking Ahead to Summer

As summer approaches, we encourage families to help students stay physically and mentally active. Reading regularly, spending time outdoors, playing sports, and engaging in creative activities all support continued growth. Limiting screen time and providing students with age-appropriate responsibilities at home, such as helping with chores, also encourages independence, accountability, and personal growth.

Thank You, Families

Thank you for your partnership and support throughout the school year. Your involvement, encouragement, and communication make a meaningful difference in your child's success. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work together in supporting our students.

We wish you a wonderful month of May and a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer as we finish the school year strong together.

Go Dutch!

Mr. Carlson
MOC-FV MS Principal

Exciting Happenings in 6th Grade

1 Minute Update

Science: We are learning about the different systems of the human body, such as the circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive system and more. We are studying how these systems work together to keep the body alive and functioning properly. At the end of the year, we will apply what we've learned by dissecting an earthworm, and a baby pig to better understand how these systems look and interact in a real organism.

Social Studies: We have been working for weeks on different topics related to Ancient China and surrounding areas! This has been a hybrid sort of experience for the students. Our days consist of a mini-lesson to pump some information their way followed by some individual work time to construct their own Google Slideshow or Canva Creation. When finished, we will have a "tour" of Ancient China around the room for kids to see all of the slideshows that have been created. We are also working on topic posters. This has been such a fun project for the kids to display their art skills. Some are hand-drawn, some are traced, and all are colored so nicely! Thanks for supporting your child in all that they do!

Math: We have completed a mid-unit test on basic Algebra properties. The next part of our unit will include: evaluating expressions, interpreting slope, determining slope from a graph, writing an equation from a graph, and simplifying exponents.

Literature: We are nearing the end of the novel, *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick. One area of focus has been character analysis as we've observed the changing of characters throughout the course of the book. We will continue to do a mixture of reading aloud, small group reading, and individual reading while working on specific reading strategies. After we complete our novel, students will create a brochure/poster "advertising" one of the books they read this year. I will use these projects next school year as advertisements for my new students. I look forward to seeing the favorites of the students!

English: We are quickly approaching the last days of the school year which hardly seems possible. The students are revising and editing their persuasive research papers and then preparing a public presentation of that material. It is quite an undertaking. Speeches begin May 11. During speech days, a speaker's classmates will collect information and create recommendations in a "shark tank" manner. That "tank" of information provides a springboard for conversations. We will end the year with a personal assessment of their growth and development as writers. Thank you for sharing your children with me this year.



Look 🌻🌻 What is Happening in 7th Grade

1 Minute Update

Science: NA

Math: Unit 8 Probability exploration. Students will look at the chances of events happening. .

Literature: During the month of May, we are wrapping up our poetry unit. Students have learned how to analyze different types of poetry, write their own forms of poetry, and have become familiar with various poetry vocabulary terms. Students will show their proficiency through a formative assessment next week, and we will end the year with a project!

Global Studies: We are finishing the year with units that cover globalization and population growth. These are topics that present both challenges and opportunities.

English: Seventh graders are working with partners to create a book that tells about "The ABC's of seventh grade English." In the book, there is a page for each letter of the alphabet, and students needed to find something that we learned about this year which begins with that letter. They also create a front cover, a title page, and a back cover for their books. This project gives students a great review of 26 things we learned this year while writing and being creative!



8th Grade Minds in Motion

1 Minute Update

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Science: The final unit this year is the water cycle and weather. Students get to create a weather forecast, serving as the meteorologist! Encourage your student to watch the weather to get ideas.

Math: We will be ending the year with a unit on statistics.

Literature: Students are in groups reading a Black History novel of their choice and considering the essential question: How does an agent of positive influence demonstrate courage amid adversity?

American History: We are starting the final unit of the year, The Civil War. During this unit, we will be watching the film *Glory*. This film does contain some scenes of wartime violence, thematic material, and racially charged language as part of historical context. Mrs. Phelan will have prepared students for viewing the movie by setting expectations for handling such scenes with maturity. Feel free to reach out to Mrs. Phelan if you have questions or concerns.

English: Students will wrap up the school year with several “real-life” writing experiences including writing a letter of introduction, writing a thank you note, and doing a self-evaluation of their growth over three years of ELA instruction. Always a very fun time of the year!



Field Trips

6th Grade ~ May 12

7th Grade ~ May 27 to Sioux Falls

8th Grade ~ May 26

May 21~ MS School trip to Arnold's Park

May 16 ~ 11:15am Early Dismissal

May 16 ~ Bump Up Day
(8thgr. to 9th gr.
5th gr. to 6th gr.)



Tulip Festival
May 16-18



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Qrt. 4 6wk Gr Chk 1:15pm Early Dismissal	2
3	4	5 4:15pm MS Track @ Central Lyon	6	7	8 1:15pm Early Dismissal 4:15pm MS Track Siouxland Conference Meet @ Open Space Athletic Complex	9 8:00am 7 th & 8 th gr. Band @ Pella Tulip Festival
10	11 4:15pm MS Soccer vs Sioux Center G(H) b(A)	12 6 th gr. Field Trip	13	14 Bump up Day(5 th to MS 8 th to HS) 11:15am Early Dismissal	15 No School	16
				Tulip Festival		
17	18	19	20	21 KTIV – MS Arnold's Park trip 7:00pm MS Choir & Orchestra Concert	22 1:15pm Early Dismissal	23
24	25 Memorial Day No School	26 8 th Gr Field Trip	27 7 th Gr. Field Trip to Sioux Falls	28 End 4 th Qrt. 1:15pm Early Dismissal	29 Teacher In-Service Day	30
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