

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-Floyd Valley

October 2026

Principal News

Greetings from MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School

Welcome to the start of a wonderful new school year! We are off to a strong start at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School. There is special energy in the air during the first few weeks of school, and I look forward to partnering with you to make this our best year yet.

My name is Blake Wieking. This is my first year as building principal after spending the last 13 years as a seventh grade social studies teacher at the middle school. I am honored and humbled to work with a skilled staff, a great group of students, and families that are committed to making this a premier school in Iowa.

The middle school is already buzzing with enthusiasm, and I am especially excited to see our students shine in fall athletics, band, choir, and orchestra. These extracurricular activities are a vital part of the vibrant school spirit and positive culture we share here. We take immense pride in fostering an environment where students feel encouraged, supported, and connected.

A strong connection between home and school is essential for student success, and keeping communication open and simple is one of our top priorities. To help us stay connected throughout the year, please keep these key tools in mind:

- **Infinite Campus:** Please make it a habit to log in regularly to monitor your students' grades, assignments, and attendance.
- **School Website:** Visit our website frequently for the master calendar, daily announcements, upcoming events, and general resources.
- **Bound:** Check out our extracurricular and co-curricular activities through Bound. Coaches communicate through this platform, and all our calendars are shared here.
- **ClassDojo:** We are excited to launch ClassDojo as one of our communication hubs this year. We love sharing important information and daily happenings around the school!

Thank you for your ongoing trust and your commitment to our school community. MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School is a special place because of our dedicated teachers and support staff, hardworking students, and our deeply connected families.

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility! Get Ready to Swing, Sling & Read at the Web-Slinging Book Fair!

When: Thursday, October 29th through Wednesday, November 4th

Where: Middle School Library

Your Spider-Sense should be tingling! The book fair will be open during the school day and during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Swing by to gear up with an amazing lineup of reads, including:

Award winning titles
Popular teen fiction
Reference, science, and nature books
Value books
Cookbooks
Posters, erasers, and bookmarks



We look forward to seeing you! Thanks in advance for supporting the book fair!

Exciting Happenings in 6th Grade

1 Minute Update

Science: Students are finishing up the measurement unit. Next week, we will jump into the engineering and design project and create catapults

Social Studies: We are beginning the ancient Greece unit, full of discussions about democracy and mythology. This unit will culminate in a co-curricular activity with science.

Math: Our first unit of geometry on area will be concluding soon. Then next unit will look at volume of objects.

Literature: Students are enjoying *Among the Hidden* as a class novel. We are focusing on vocabulary in context and different elements of plot. All students should be reading in their free reading books for 30 minutes each day. The class goal is 80 pages a week.

English: After having built a toolbox of author skills, the students will begin applying those in a full writing unit. The students will create, revise, and edit a scary story to be shared with the class later in October. Weekly spelling tests will continue.



Look ☹️☹️ What is Happening in 7th Grade

1 Minute Update

Literature: We started the year out by working with understanding characters in a story and reading a story called "Seventh Grade." Quarter 1 we will be studying prefixes and will cover six different prefixes. Vocabulary units will consist of learning what the prefix means, seeing example words, reading a story with a variety of words, a vocabulary activity, and ending the week with a quiz. A novel for the first Semester is called *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds, a realistic fiction book that follows a kid named Ghost as he discovers his running talent and some challenges in his life.

I am looking forward to a fun and amazing year with seventh graders!

Math: We are working on Unit 2, Proportional Relationships

Science: We have finished up our unit on measurement and did a quick mini project in Science and Engineering using paper airplanes. We have started a new unit in Genetics and Heredity. Students are learning about DNA, Chromosomes, Cells, Dominant and recessive traits and how we are a diverse population.

English: During the month of September, students successfully completed their listening unit and have now transitioned into an in-depth study of sentence types for October. This progression allows students to build upon their communication skills while learning different grammatical structures. We believe this focus on sentence variety will strengthen their writing and language arts abilities.

Global Studies: Our seventh Grade Global Studies class have been busy building essential social studies skills! So far, students have explored foundational geography, practiced analyzing primary source documents, and learned how to evaluate online sources critically. We've also been connecting these skills to real-world context by discussing and analyzing major current events.

Upcoming Events

Makerspace ~ October 23-October 26

End 1st Quarter ~ October 27

Parent Teacher Conferences ~

October 29 & November 2

4:00pm-8:00pm

8th Grade Minds in Motion

1 Minute Update

Science: We are studying biodiversity in ecosystems and the impact humans have on those ecosystems. Students are working in teams to create a slide show of their findings. We will move into a unit discussing weather and climate next.

Math: In math, we are working on powers in Unit 7. When we finish unit 7, we will prepare for our first large test. Both quizzes were done quite well; the kids seem to have a pretty good grasp of basic concepts!

Literature: Fast testing is complete, vocabulary study has begun, kids are reading books of their own choice, and we are enjoying the story *A Long Walk to Water*.

American History: We have recently finished examining European explorers (Balboa, Columbus, Magellan, etc.) and the exchange of goods and ideas that they shared with the Americas. Students have been asked to consider the consequences of exploration: both the benefits and the drawbacks. Next, we will turn to the creation of the 13 Colonies

English: Reading, writing, thinking, listening, and speaking. So far, we have done three of these AREAS! We are reading *Save Me a Seat*, a story about a middle school lunchroom and inclusion. The follow-up activities will be partner interviews and speeches! The kids are doing a great job!



LeaderinMe®

As we look back at the start of the year and look ahead toward the rest of the school year, we want to take a moment and celebrate the growth and leadership we see in our hallways and classrooms every day. For many years, our middle school has proudly implemented FrankCovey's **Leader in Me** framework. Our hope is that we can use this framework to develop strong, confident, and responsible student leaders.

During the first quarter, our students focused on the foundation of personal leadership - the first three of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Presently, our students are working through **Habit 1: Be Proactive**. Students have been exploring what it means to take responsibility for their own choices, attitudes, and behaviors. In middle school, this looks like taking initiative with schoolwork, pausing before reacting, and focusing on the things within their control.

Leadership doesn't stop when the school bell rings! Here are a few ways students can reinforce Habit 1 at home.

- Set and alarm, pick out clothes the night before, pack their backpack with the materials needed.
- Students can make sure their chromebook is charged and their homework is completed.
- You can help your student manage screen time and their free time - choose proactive activities like being outside, reading, or creating instead of passive boredom on a screen.
- Students can communicate their feelings calmly with siblings or parents
- Students can take initiative with chores and take responsibility by keeping their room, study area, and shared spaces organized.

We are poured of the dedication our students have shown as they continue our school's tradition of student leadership. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping our middle schoolers grow into thought, effective leaders!

PBIS at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School



At MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School, creating a positive, supportive, and structured environment is ingrained in our culture. It is something we do every day. Our school has utilized **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** to build a school culture where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

At the heart of our PBIS framework are three simple, powerful expectations that guide everything we do:

- **Do Your Best**
- **Do What is Right**
- **Treat Others How You Want to Be Treated**

From the classrooms and hallways to the cafeteria and assemblies, these core values serve as our compass. We directly teach and model what our core expectations look like in every area of the school.

We believe in catching students doing the right thing. Through regular recognition and celebrations, we highlight students who consistently demonstrate our core values and uplift our school community.

Holding students accountable is a critical part of growth. When mistakes happen, our PBIS model focuses on teaching moments - helping students understand the impact of their actions, repair relationships, and make better choices moving forward.

Thank you for partnering with us at home to reinforce these same values. Together, we continue to make our school a great place to learn and grow.



Happy
Halloween
October 31



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:115pm GVB vs Sheldon 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	2 1:15pm Dismissal	3
4	5 4:15pm GVB vs Spencer 7 th (H) 8 th (A) End Exploratory Cycle 1	6 Start Exploratory Cycle 2 4:15pm GVB vs LeMars 7 th (A) 8 th (H) 4:15pm FB vs Sheldon 7 th (H) 8 th (A) 4:00pm CC @ Cherokee	7	8	9 1:15pm Dismissal	10
11	12 4:15pm GVB vs Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	13 4:15pm FB vs West Lyon 7 th (A) 8 th (H) 4:00pm CC @ Spencer	14	15	16 1:15pm Dismissal	17
18	19	20 7:00pm MS Concert	21 9:00am MS Orchestra Festival	22	23 1:15pm Dismissal	24
	Makerspace					
25	26 MS BBB begins MS Girls Wrestling begins	27 End 1 st Quarter	28 Start 2 nd Quarter	29 4:00-8:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences	30 1:15pm Dismissal	31
	Red Ribbon Week					

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:00-8:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences	2	3	4	5	6 No School (Teacher Comp Day)	7 8:00am NWIBA Honor Band Concert
8	9	10 4:15pm BBB vs Spencer 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	11 Veterans Day Veterans Day Assembly	12 4:15pm BBB vs Rock Valley 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	13 1:15pm Dismissal	14
15	16 4:15pm BBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	17 4:15pm BBB vs Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	18	19 8:00 am Opus Honor Choir Festival in Ames 8:00am Iowa All State Music Festival	20 1:15pm Dismissal	21
22	23 4:15pm BBB vs West Lyon 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	24 4:15pm BBB vs Central Lyon 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	25 No School	26 Thanksgiving No School	27 No School	28
29	30					