MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-Floyd Valley November 2026

Principal News

Greetings from MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School!

October has been a full and vibrant month as our students settled into their daily routines, mastered new schedules, and jumped into extracurricular activities. We are deeply grateful for our dedicated teachers and staff, who encourage and guide our students day in and day out.

We are equally thankful for the strong partnership between home and school. As we wrap up fall conferences, I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all the families who made attending parent-student-teacher conferences a priority. A thriving school relies on strong relationships with our families, and we truly appreciate the time and effort you invest in your students' success.

As we look ahead to November, please keep a few important reminders in mind:

- **Appropriate Seasonal Attire:** Fall temperatures fluctuate rapidly. Please ensure your student comes to school dressed in appropriate outerwear and warm layers for outdoor time.
- **Winter Weather & Communication:** Cold and unpredictable weather is around the corner. Please log into **Infinite Campus** to verify that your contact information is up to date, so you receive all weather delays, cancellations, and district announcements without interruption.
- Remind your student to **be proactive** if they miss classes for any reason. They should check their Google Classroom and our school website for any information they have missed.

Thank you for your continued support. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am incredibly grateful for our involved community, our wonderful students, and our district's unwavering commitment to excellence.



🍂 Nurse's November Health Corner 🍂

As we move into cold and flu season, a few simple habits can help students stay healthy, focused, and ready to learn!

😴 **Sleep:** Middle school students need **9-12 hours of sleep each night.** Healthy sleep supports learning, mood, and immune health.

🥤 **Hydration:** Aim for **7-8 cups of fluids dail**y. A refillable water bottle is an easy way to help students stay energized and focused.

🧼 **Handwashing:** Wash hands before eating, after using the restroom, and after coughing or sneezing to help stop the spread of germs.

😷 **Stay Home When Sick:** Keep students' home for fever, vomiting, significant diarrhea, or worsening symptoms. Students should be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

💜 **Parent Shout-Out:** Thank you for the countless ways you care for your child each day.

Whether it's encouraging a bedtime, packing a water bottle, helping them through a tough morning, or simply showing up with love and support, those small acts make a big difference. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our students healthy, happy, and ready to learn.

Nurse Emily

Exciting Happenings in 6th Grade

1 Minute Update

Science: In science class, our students are wrapping up their unit on atomic composition, where they learned about what makes up everything (atoms), and built models to visualize how atoms combine into various molecules and structures.
Next, we will be diving into thermal energy and particle motion to explore how temperature changes affect atomic movement. From there, we will investigate chemical properties and reactions to see how different substances interact and transform.

Social Studies: Our cross-curricular activity with science went incredibly well! Our part included building structures out of pasta so that the science students could shoot marbles from their catapults. We've now moved back into the textbook to discuss different types of governments that ultimately led to Greece adopting a democracy. We compared the Greek democracy to Iowa's democracy and will soon be comparing the brains of Athens to the brawn of Sparta. Happy Fall!

Math: We have started our second unit and have been looking at ratios. This unit allows us to see many ways we use math in everyday life - cooking is a great way to work on ratios! The sixth graders have begun to recognize our math routine, and you should expect them to have at least one problem in their workbook each night, and they will have a short quiz every Friday. If they need help preparing for the quiz Friday, you can encourage them to bring their workbook home to complete the practice problems not assigned as homework during the week.

Literature: The sixth graders spent some time at the end of the quarter taking inventory of all the books they completed so far and then picked one to share with their class as a book project. Students explained the plot line of a favorite book while specifically focusing on the conflict of the story and how it related to the main character. We will begin one of my favorite units of study in mid-November which focuses on young heroes. During this time, students will work on close reading skills, finding the central idea (main idea), and using text evidence.

English: We are finishing up the first large writing unit in sixth grade English -- the scary stories! Then we will delve into a real-world writing unit where we explore many ways adults use writing to communicate. The students will explore everything from taking orders and writing a complaint to word puzzles and phone messages. Supplementary units in spelling and editing will continue as well.



Look 👀 What is Happening in 7th Grade

1 Minute Update

Literature: We will wrap up *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds this month and move onto our next unit for Quarter 2 covering research, bias, and defending a position with factual information. Students will research and record a TedTalk with the information by the end of Quarter 2 presenting what they have researched and learned.

Math: Unit 3 Measuring Circles

Science: We are wrapping up the Unit on Heredity and Genetics. Students will take an exam and then we will start a Unit on Earth's History. We will talk about Earth's start and what it is composed of and how we date the layers on Earth.

English: The seventh-grade ELA class is wrapping up its email writing unit, where students have practiced clear, purposeful communication and the conventions of email. The class will continue exploring sentence types, with a focus on complex sentences. Afterward, students will gradually move into our gratitude writing unit, creating space to reflect and share their thoughts.

Global Studies: In the coming weeks, our seventh graders will explore human rights—the essential freedoms and fair claims every person deserves—and examine how documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights connect to our own U.S. Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. As we dive into this critical unit, students will analyze global human rights past and present, exploring both progress and challenges across nations worldwide.

8th Grade Minds in Motion

1 Minute Update

Science: The fall weather is changing and in science we will be studying all about weather. Following the weather, we will move into climate around the world. We will compare weather and climate to discover how oceans and air currents impact the world around us.

Math: In Math we have gotten done with our first unit and are now working towards understanding the Pythagorean Theorem. Most students have recently found out that when I give them suggested problems to review/study for their weekly quizzes, they should be studying those! A lot of students are also learning the importance of asking questions instead of 'just moving on' if there is something they don't quite understand. Please encourage your child to continue preparing for their weekly quizzes!

Literature: We have started The Outsiders! While reading, we are looking for evidence of our five big ideas - divided communities, empathy, preserving childhood innocence, self-sacrifice and honor, and individual identity. Students have been excited and engaged, and it's been great! We also continue to work on our vocabulary morphemes to learn prefixes, base/root words, and suffixes.

American History: In History, we have just finished studying the first groups of European settlers, learning where they settled and more importantly why they chose to migrate to America. In our Document Based Question project, students took on the role of detectives looking for evidence, examining primary source documents for clues about the relationships between Europeans and Native Americans. For the assessment, students got into groups and recorded video essays reporting what they had learned.

English: English has been filled with speech games and activities to prepare for our interview speech which will happen mid-October! Kids have been accepting the challenge and gaining confidence. Additionally, we continue to work on capitalization, underlining, and using quotation marks. Furthermore, kids have taken their first cursive handwriting quiz. We will continue to work at this! I am very much enjoying the students!



Leader in Me

Leader in Me at the MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School

Throughout November, our students are taking the next step in their *Leader in Me* journey! Having wrapped up our focus on **Habit 1: Be Proactive**, all grade levels are now diving into **Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind**.

"Beginning with the end in mind" means starting with a clear goal and a plan to reach it. Students will learn how to visualize their desired outcomes and map out both the mental and practical steps needed to achieve them. Together, we will explore core values—such as respect, character, and loyalty—that serve as a foundation for long-term success.

The ultimate goal for Habit 2 is for each student to draft their own personal **mission statement**—a meaningful reflection of their values, goals, and vision for their future self.

- **At-Home Connection:** Ask your middle schooler about their personal mission statement this month and what goals they are setting for themselves!

No School November 6 ~ Teacher Comp Day



Daylight-Saving Time Ends

November 1

PBIS at MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School

Our core expectations at MOC-Floyd Valley do not change. We expect our students to **Do their best, do what is right, and treat others the way they want to be treated.**

We track our progress as we daily strive to meet our expectations. Each grade was given the challenge to reach 100 PBIS tickets for the month of October. This not only encourages our students to be mindful of their actions, but it also serves as a reminder for teachers to look for and acknowledge the great things we see our students do each and every day.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to teach and uphold our core values.

Middle School Party Night

Friday, November 13

7:00-9:30pm.

Movies and snacks will be available in the careteria. Games in the library, Basketball in the gym. Only seventh and eighth grade have the dance area available to them at the Fall night while sixth grade can be in the dance area next spring. The expenses are paid by the profits of the card sales.

Veterans Day Program

The Middle School will host the Veterans Day program. The program will be on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 10:20am in the Middle School New Gym. The public is welcome to attend.





Thanksgiving Break November 25-27

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 4:00-8:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences	3	4	5	6 No School (Teacher Comp Day)	7 8:00am NWIBA Honor Band Concert
8	9	10 4:15pm BBB vs Spencer 7th(A) 8th(H)	11 Veterans Day Veterans Day assembly	12 4:15pm BBB vs Rock Valley 7th(A) 8th(H)	13 1:15pm Dismissal 7:00-9:00pm MS Party Night	14
15	16 4:15pm BBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7th(A) 8th(H)	17 End Exploratory Cycle 2 4:15pm BBB vs Sioux Center 7th(H) 8th(A)	18 Start Exploratory Cycle 3	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 7th(H) 8th(A)	24 4:15pm BBB vs Central Lyon 7t (H) 8th(A)	25 No School	26 Thanksgiving No School	27 No School	28
29	30					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:00pm BBB vs Le Mars 8th(A) (4:15pm) 7th(H)	2	3 4:15pm BBB vs Sioux Center 7th(H) 8th(A)	4 1:15pm Dismissal	5
6	7 4:15pm BBB vs Sheldon 7th(H) 8th(A)	8 4:15pm BBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7th(H) (4:00pm) 8th(A)	9	10	11 1:15pm Dismissal	12
13	14 4:00pm BBB vs Le Mars 7th(A) 4:15pm 8th(H)	15	16	17	18 1:15pm Dismissal 4-9:pm Youth Wrestling Tournament	19
20	21	22	23 1:15pm Dismissal	24 No School	25 Christmas Day No School	26
27	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School		

Christmas Break

Christmas Break