

## School year to be extended, last day to be June 13

by Emma McDowell

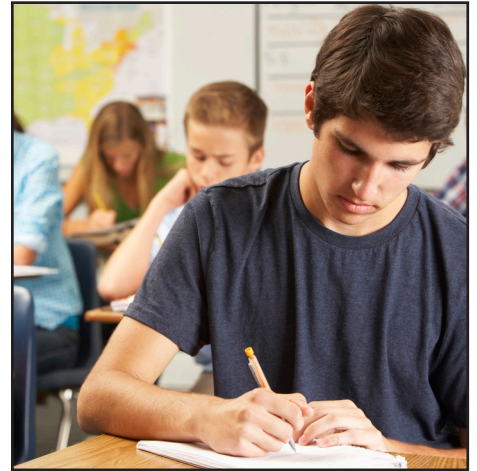
The Maquoketa Valley 2015-2016 school year has been extended for three more weeks. Recently, the Iowa Department of Education has contacted Maquoketa Valley to inform them of startlingly low test scores among the students. Because of these low test scores, the school year is being extended to make sure students are getting a proper education. Results from the Iowa Assessments came in last week and after seeing record low scores, it was a unanimous decision to extend the year. The last day of school will be moved from May 23 to June 13.

This year, students were given incentives for reaching higher test scores, these incentives included field trips and

other fun activities. Every student taking the test was highly encouraged to work hard and come prepared. Although, the encouragement and incentives weren't enough.

Back in January, schools from across Iowa were ranked in various categories. MVHS was in the 38% of schools rated Commendable. It was hoped that higher test scores would boost MVHS from being a Commendable school to a High Performing school. However, with the low test scores earned from the student body, MV is now a Needs Improvement school.

For all these reasons, the school year will be extended. The school board is standing firm with its decision. It is hoped that the extra time in school will prepare students for next year's tests. April Fool's!



**In order to improve student achievement, the school year has been extended to June 13...somewhere but not here.**

## Smooth Harmony earns fourth, Trenkamp top 2A performer



**Above: Smooth Harmony members pose with their fourth place trophy. Members include, front row: Riley Kay Sternhagen, Taylor Guthrie and Shaylyn Trenkamp; back row: Megan Beaman, Raven Eatman-Dietiker, Mrs. Mueller, Patrick Hansen, Lawson Roof and Cassie Schwandt. Right: Shaylyn Trenkamp performs a solo. (photos courtesy of Donald Hansen)**

One of MV's vocal jazz groups Smooth Harmony competed Tuesday at the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships held at West Des Moines Valley. They earned fourth place in class 2A. Senior Shaylyn Trenkamp was named the overall outstanding performer in the 2A Division.



# Sports Connection

## Boys track team shows great promise

The boys track and field team, under the direction of head coach Pat Meehan and assistant coach Curt Feldt for the third year, has made its name known at indoor meets and is preparing for outdoor meets.

The team is young with only six upperclassmen: senior Kaleb Handel and juniors Zak Harbach, Clint Krapfl, Alec McDowell, Bryant Meyer-Kemp and Kyle Wilson.

"These guys are at the age where they can compete and score in individual events," stated Coach Meehan.

Sophomores are Brock Hillers, Brenden Hogan, Sean Hucker, Alex McCusker, Mitch Neuzil, Angel Rumbo, Brody Severt and Mitch Smith. "As a group these young men look much improved from their freshman year and should contribute significantly this season," stated Coach Meehan. "Most of the guys lettered as freshmen so they should be able to do that."

Newcomers to the team are freshmen Blake Becker, Tyler Britcher, Lane Coyle, Alex Digman, Brian Heims, Evan Hoefer, Daniel Hunter, Zac Lansing, Canyon Richardson, Tate Trentkamp and Norm Wilson. "They are adjusting to high school track and field. They are doing a good job in that respect which hopefully will allow them to contribute to the success of the team," added Coach Meehan.

Coach Meehan indicated the strengths of this team would be the sprints (100, 200), hurdles (lows, highs), middle distance (800), shot put and discus, and the long jump. Kyle Wilson was the 800 meter champion in the Wartburg Indoor and Tri-Rivers Indoor meets. Zak Harbach placed at Wartburg and was conference indoor champion in the Long Jump. The upperclassmen are poised to have a good season in the other above events. Other events will depend on the development of the freshmen and sophomores. A major concern this year is how much depth MV will have, which understandably will depend on what



The boys track team consists of returning letter winners, front row: Brenden Hogan, Kaleb Handel, Mitch Smith, Mitchell Neuzil and Angel Rumbo; back row: Alec McDowell, Clint Krapfl, Zac Harbach, Brock Hiller and Kyle Wilson. Bryan Meyer-Kemp is not pictured.

contribution the sophomores and freshmen make, according to Coach Meehan.

Coach Meehan said Lisbon, last year's 1A state champions, should be tough this year. MV has been conference runners-up the last two seasons and can achieve that again, he stated. "We cannot control what the other teams will do this season," stated Coach Meehan. "Competing and working to improve each day is what we can control. Those are our goals. Teams that do those things usually have good things happen for them."

The Wildcat boys competed in the West Delaware Early Bird track and field meet Tuesday. The team finished fifth overall.

Medal winners were Brock Hillers and Brenden Hogan in the High Jump; Kyle Wilson in the 800 Meter Run; the Shuttle Hurdle Relay of Kyle Wilson, Mitch Neuzil, Alec McDowell, and Brock Hillers. The weightmans 4 X 100 of Brody Severt, Kaleb Handel, Alex Digman, and Brian Heims also received medals.

Coach Meehan noted that many guys recorded their personal best which is quite good for the first outdoor meet off the year.

## Seniors lead boys golf team



The boys golf team has had its first meet, and Coach Andrews prediction of the team being led by seniors came to fruition as Jordy Downs brought home medalist honors at the Springville meet on Tuesday.

Downs and Logan Fronatt are the two returning letter winners for the team. "Outside of a couple of seniors who had some good varsity experience last year, we will have a young group," stated Coach Andrews. Top newcomers include Carter Klostermann and Tanner Parmley.

All of the boys on the team are very coachable, according to Coach Andrews, which is the team's main strength.

Tuesday, Downs won with a 57. Klostermann had a 61.



# Girls track season opens with two indoor meets

Hey all you Wildcat fans! The girls track season is underway with an exciting first indoor meet at Wartburg last Tuesday. This meet did not have team points so you will just see the girls stats.

Starting out with the running events, in the 55m dash, Ashley Stogdill ran an 8.17, placing 4th in her heat. Brittany Sabers also ran the 55m dash in 8.91 seconds, placing 6th in her heat. Megan Mensen placed 5th overall and 2nd in her heat, in the 200m dash, with a time of 28.30. Also in the 200m dash, Brooke Wilson ran a 30.73, placing 6th in her heat. Megan Hogan and Maddy Anderegg both ran the 400m dash. Megan had a time of 1:13.06, placing 4th in her heat and Maddy had a time of 1:13.84, placing 5th in her heat. Kara Orcutt and Angela Wendt both placed 1st in their heats in the 55m hurdles. Kara Orcutt also placed 7th in the finals. Angela Wendt ran a 10.04. Kara Orcutt ran a 9.62 in her heat and a 9.90 in the finals. In the 800m run, Megan Rausch ran a 3:04.56, placing 6th in her heat and Mikayla Callan had a time of 3:40.91. Casey Fry ran the 1500m run with a time of 6:38.80, placing 8th in her heat. Nichole Winter also ran the 1500m run, with a time of 6:23.21.

In the relay events, the 4x200m relay placed 7th, with a total time of 1:57.14. The 4x400m relay ran a 4:28.35 and placed 7th. The 4x800m relay placed 11th. They ran a 11:09.63.

Now on to the field events. In the high jump, Brianna Mensen tied for 10th with a jump of 4 ft. 06 in. Madison Imler and Samantha Wall both competed in the long jump. Madison jumped 13 ft. 05 in. and Samantha placed 9th jumping 13 ft. 11in. In the shot put, Whitney Wilson had a throw of 29 ft. 01 in. Rose Havens also competed in shot put, throwing 24 ft. 04 in. There were many large schools at Wartburg, which provided great competition.

Their next meet was last Friday. They competed a great meet in the Tri-Rivers Conference Indoor meet at Cornell College. Again, this meet did not have an team points.

We will first start out with the running events. In the 55m dash, Ashley Stogdill ran a 8.08, placing 4th overall and 1st in her heat and Megan Hogan ran a 8.43, placing 6th overall and 2nd in her heat. In the 200m dash, Maddy Anderegg ran a 31.81, placing 7th overall and 3rd in her heat and Madison Imler ran a 32.02, placing 10th overall and 5th in her heat. In the 400m dash, Kara Orcutt placed 3rd overall, and ran a 1:07.41 and Brooke Wilson placed 7th overall and 1st in her heat, and ran a



Returning letter winners for the girls track team include, front row: Kara Orcutt, Madison Imler, Rejji Smith, Caitlin Schumann and Mikayla Callan; second row: Ashley Stogdill, Brittany Sabers, Danica Fjelstul, Aspen Britt, Cassidy Wilson and Ali Sheehy; back row: Hunter Glass, Angela Wendt, Brianna Mensen, Megan Mensen, Whitney Wilson, Megan Hogan and Nichole Winter.

1:10.68. Next, are the 55m hurdles. Megan Mensen ran a 10.88, placing 3rd overall and 2nd in her heat, and Cassidy Wilson ran a 10.95, placing 5th overall and 3rd in her heat. In the 800m run, Rejji Smith ran a 2:49.51, placing 5th and Cassidy Wilson ran a 2:53.03, placing 9th. Nichole Winter and Mikayla Callen both ran in the 1500m run. Nichole ran a 6:21.96, placing 9th and Mikayla Callen ran a 7:05.40, placing 10th. Running into the relay events, we will start with the 4x200m relay. Megan Mensen, Aspen Britt, Ashley Stogdill, and Caitlin Schuman ran the 4x200m relay in a time of 1:55.65, placing 1st. They won this race by 1/100th of a second. It was a very close race, but they managed to pull past North Linn. Samantha Wall, Kara Orcutt, Brianna Mensen, and Aspen Britt all competed in the 4x400m relay. They also placed 1st with a time of, 4:26.63, inching past North

Linn by a 6/10th of a second victory. In the 4x800m relay, Casey Fry, Olivia Hoeger, Megan Rausch, and Brianna Mensen all competed with a time of 11:30.83, placing 3rd. Caitlin Schuman, Brittany Sabers, Samantha Wall, and Rejji Smith competed in the Distance Medley relay. They ran a 4:55.22, also placing 3rd.

Finally, we will jump right into the field events. In the Long Jump, Samantha Wall jumped 14 ft. 07 in., placing 3rd and Madison Imler jumped a 12 ft. 01.50 in, placing 11th. Whitney Wilson got 3rd in the Shot Put, she threw a 30 ft. 04.50 in. Rose Havens threw a 27 ft. 08.50 in, also in the Shot Put, placing 12th.

The girls competed in their first outdoor meet at West Delaware on March 31st. Those stats will be in next week's Echo.

## Girls track preview: Support is key

The girls track team is gearing up for a big season. The team is led by four-year head coach Mr. Dunlap who is assisted by Karrie Coon and Sara Brauer.

Returning letter winners with state experience include senior Megan Mensen; juniors Brianna Mensen, Caitlin Schuman, Cassidy Wilson and Angela Wendt; sophomores Kara Orcutt and Rejji Smith.

Coach Dunlap said top freshmen on the team include Sam Wall, Megan Rausch, Olivia Hoeger and Brooke Wilson.

"We have a great group of experienced athletes who have been in big meets including the state meet in Des Moines," stated Coach Dunlap. "There is a core group of multiple year state qualifiers who are good leaders that are ambitious and want to win. This area also has a large amount of very talented track teams, and the Maquoketa Valley Girls have been able to compete with those teams. We have a nice group of young freshmen who will step in and fill a lot of the gaps we had last season."

Coach Dunlap noted that not only does the team have 30-35 athletes, they are focused and willing to work hard to improve. "They are supportive of each other and there is an exciting winning atmosphere."

Coach Dunlap stated that the team should be strong in the mid-distances but needs to improve in the sprints. The team is also moving up to Class 2A this season from 1A last season. "We will still be competitive in most events."

## Girls golf team led by returning letter winners

The girls golf team is counting on the skill of its returning letter winner, Emily LaGrant, Riley Sternhagen and Megan McNamara, as it starts its season.

LaGrant finished ninth individually at conference last year. Sternhagen finished 13th, and McNamara was 16th. Coach Andrews has predicted a finish in the top three for the team at conference this year.

"We have great leadership from the upperclassmen at the top," stated Coach Andrews. "We need to find some underclassmen who can step up and fill out variety lineup."

The team opened its season at Springville Tuesday. Team scores were not kept.

LaGrant won medalist honors with a 47.

Top MV JV girls were Faith Hunt 62, Kelsey Ries 69, Kelly Winter 71 and Chloe Roling 73.

"Overall I was very happy with how everyone competed for the boy's and girl's teams for it being the first meet of the year," stated Coach Andrews. "It was not the best night in terms of weather as the wind was pretty strong causing a cold breeze. This was a big meet to show us coaches as to what we have as we move into the full slate of our season. I was very happy to take medalist honors for both the boy's (Jordy Downs) and girl's (Emily LaGrant). I was also very encouraged with the freshmen and sophomore scores as some of them just started golfing for the first time a couple short weeks ago."



Returning letter winners for the girls golf team include Riley Kay Sternhagen, Megan McNamara and Emily LaGrant.

## Angie's Angle

by Angie Wilson  
**Brightest Black**

I wake up to a warm room every morning. I close my eyes and hope everything stays black so I can sink back into a deep sleep. But one morning I was awoken by a shiver. I closed my eyes, but this time to refuse the news I had just been told. I could see the fear and sadness in my mother's strong eyes.

I smile every time I am able to see my family members. Laughter fills the room from the giggles from my small cousins, to the deep chuckle of my grandpa. But one afternoon I saw my family in tears. The University of Iowa hospital room was filled with nothing but silence. For all we can do is hold each other and send our faith up above.

When tragedy struck my family this past week, all I could think about was blackness. I sat in a room with white walls, white floors, and a white bed yet I saw black. In the darkest days of my life I seem to forget the beauty in this color. Simply close your eyes. What color do you see?

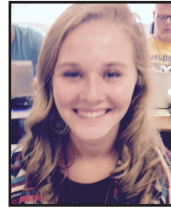
I see the smile of my uncle, I hear the laughter of my family, and I feel the warmth of friends love. In my darkest days, I close my eyes. Because in order for the light to shine so bright, the darkness must be present.

### Elementaries to move to grade-alike centers

For the past two years, as a result of fluctuating class sizes, the district and parents have had conversations about how to provide stability when determining number of sections at a grade level and which buildings students are assigned.

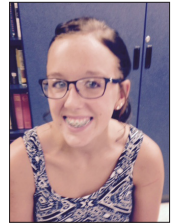
This resulted in the parent meetings this winter and a vote at parent-teacher conferences to either maintain the current system or move to grade-alike centers. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of grade-alike centers (75%).

As a result of the votes and with Board consent, next fall Earlville Elementary will house preschool, Head Start, junior kindergarten, and kindergarten. Johnston Elementary will house grades 1 and 2, and Delhi will house grades 3-12. Communication will be coming this spring regarding open houses to be held at each center.



## Do's and Don'ts of April

by Shaylyn Trenkamp



Spring break over, senior countdown dwindling, track and play getting into full-swing... It's April! With this month comes many things, and here are tips to catch it all.

Don't forget to wish Individual Speech All-Staters good luck for the festival Monday and congratulations for their amazing achievements!

Do get out and find ways to enjoy the spring weather when you can! Biking, coming to the track meets, walking, you name it!

Don't get too stressed in this busy season. Stay focused and confident, and you will succeed! Only two months left of the school year means now is the beginning to a strong finish!

Do keep your head up. Take this transition of seasons as motivation to find whatever hope you may need in your life.

Don't be the April fool that takes April Fool's jokes too far. Make sure to have some extra fun on this crazy day but keep it within reasonable means.

Do get out there and support MV. Tonight the junior high will have Spectrum, track and golf meets are really getting going now, and the play will be coming up before you know it! Show some Wildcat support and come out to these events!

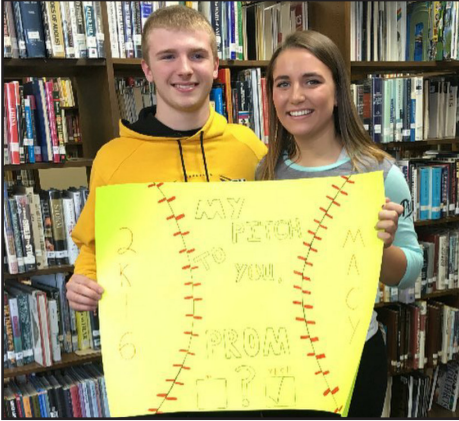
### Donations needed

If you would like to donate a toy or art supply(s) to help a child who has childhood cancer and is being treated at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, high school student Lane Coyle has chosen this idea as his English "20 Times" project. This means he is to take 20 percent of his class time on Friday to work on something other than schoolwork. Just buy a brand new toy or art supply(s) and drop it in the box in the high school office by Friday, April 8.



# Promposal

by Kristi Goedken



**Dylan Wright & Macy Anderegg**  
**What made you want to ask Macy to Prom?** We have become closer friends this year, and she is someone who will make it fun!

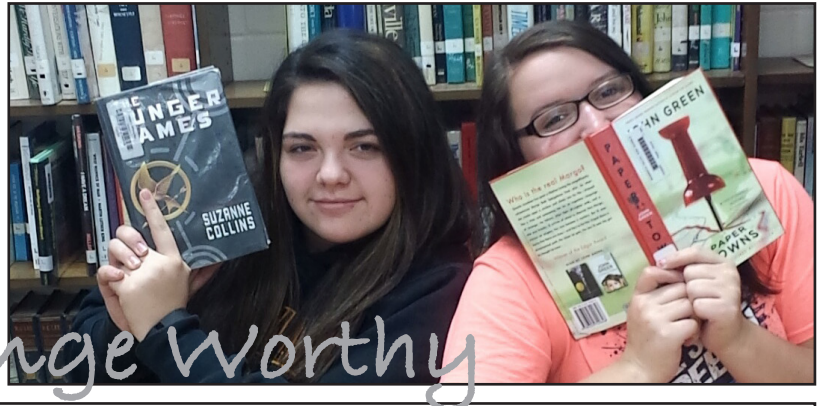
**How did you get that idea?** I knew she liked softball so I mixed some of my ideas with things I've seen prior.

**What color will you be wearing?** Black with red.

**Are you going with a group or by yourselves?** We are going with a big group of other seniors.



**Caitlin Schumann & Jacob Bonert**  
**What made you want to ask Caitlin to Prom?** We've been friends for a long time  
**How did you get that idea?** Bekah and Danica found it for me  
**What color will you be wearing?** Red and Black  
**Are you going with a group or by yourselves?** We're going on the Junior bus



## Binge Worthy

Rebekah & Amanda: **All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven**

This book might not be your cup of tea as you first start reading it, but don't put it down. Keep reading. This book has become one of my favorite books. The author takes you on a journey of two teenage kids, Violet and Finch, that have gone through hardships in their life. Jennifer is able to make you relate to these characters as if you are them. You follow them through their senior year, and you start to fall in love with these characters. At the end of this book both of us cried. Smiles, laughs, and lots and lots of tears. This is a must read for every teenager.

Rebekah:

**The Catch:** This new series on ABC is a must watch. The first episode sucked me in. Following the life of a private investigator, who thought that she was in love with this hunk of a guy. However, her life is completely turned around. She figures out her fiancé is not who she thinks that he is. Watch this Thursday to be sucked into this amazing show.

**The Fault in Our Stars:** I know that this movie is old, but I am in love with it. After reading this amazing book, I just had to check out the movie. Ansel Elgort had me from the first word that he said. Hazel and Gus's love in one for the record books. This amazing love, and the hardships that they go through, make for one tear-jerker of a movie.

**The Help by Kathryn Stockett:** I know that this is a movie, but please read the book first. This book looks at the life of African Americans that are servants to white families. You read about the way that they are treated, and the crap that they had to deal with. However, these maids speak out against their families that they work for. Skeeter is the reason that they are able to do this. An amazing look into the things that African Americans maids had to deal with.

Amanda:

**Allegiant:** If you don't want my opinion, turn back now. Okay, now let me start by saying I honestly didn't go in with high hopes. Between the first and second movie I knew it would be nothing like the book, but I still hoped for a redeemable conclusion. At last, I was disappointed. Not only was the plot predictable and the graphics were less than awesome, but the ending only made me cry because it was so lame and unoriginal. The only positives from this movie are being able to admire Theo James, and listening to the sass master, Miles Teller.

**Maids of Deception by Jennifer McGowan:** In a story full of love, secrets, and the English Court, a young Meg Fellowes must protect herself and those that she serves. As she tries to discover the secrets surround a maid's death she must also learn to guard her heart from a Spaniard. Will she survive being a maid of Queen Elizabeth or will she fall victim to the murder?

**UnBranded:** What's better than cowboys, cute horses, beautiful countryside, and comedy? Having it all in a documentary. UnBranded follows the journey of four men and sixteen mustangs as they travel from Mexico to Canada on horseback. This documentary is full of thrills, tears, and terrors as they face everything from the rain, being lost, and getting left behind.

## Best Buds



**Victoria Lane & Casey Fry**  
by Nichole Winter

### How long have you been friends?

Since 6th grade

### What is your favorite thing to do together?

Victoria: Talking

Casey: Play volleyball and go tping

### Nicknames?

Victoria: Casey Jo

Casey: Tori

### What is your steak on Snapchat?

V: 22

C: 3

### What is your favorite thing about each other?

V: She's funny

C: Her cartilage piercing



### If you could successfully prank anybody, who would it be?

by Emily LaGrant

Amanda Fortman: Betty White

Brenden Hogan: Stephen Hawking

Mr. DeVore: Ellen Degeneres

Lea Ries: Taylor White

Ryan Dunn: Mr. Hadley

Kalvin Orcutt: Pam

Clint Krapfl: John Stamos

Zak Harbach: Clint Krapfl

Caitlyn Gibbs: Macy Anderegg

Cassie Ingles: Molly Miles

Heath Gibbs: Tyson Tucker

Taylor Guthrie: Mr. DeVore

Jeremy Fischer: Mr. DeVore

Angie Wilson: Mr. DeVore

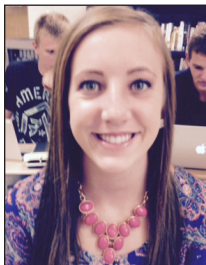
Kaleb Kruse: Mr. Huegel

Angel Rumbo: Donald Trump

## Hall Smarts

by Shawnae Hoeger

This week the questions refer to "how many?" Take a look to see if Jon Seibert, Clint Krapfl, McKenna Wenthe and Kara Orcutt guessed correctly!



### 1. How many ounces in one pound?

Jon: 16

Clint: 10

McKenna: idk

Kara: 16

Answer: 16 ounces

### 2. How many cards are in a deck?

Jon: 54

Clint: 52

McKenna: 52

Kara: 52

Answer: 52

### 3. On average, how many babies are born daily in the world?

Jon: 4

Clint: 1.5 million

McKenna: a lot

Kara: 20

Answer: 361,481

### 4. How many days are in a leap year?

Jon: 365

Clint: 360

McKenna: 360something

Kara: 366

Answer: 366

### 5. How many eyes does a spider have?

Jon: 8

Clint: 16

McKenna: 16

Kara: 4

Answer: Typically, an average spider has 8 eyes.

Looks like Kara came in first with three points. Following Kara was Jon with two points. Last but not least was Clint and McKenna with one point a piece. Good job to everyone! :-)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of APRIL 3, 2016

### SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016

1. HS Girls' Basketball Banquet - HS Cafeteria - 5:00 PM

### MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

1. HS All-State Individual at UNI in Cedar Falls (2 Vans Leave at 6:45 AM)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

1. HS JV/V G&B Golf with Prince of Peace at Hartridge in Manchester - 4:00 PM (Vans Leave at 3:05 PM)

2. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - After School until 4:00 PM

3. HS Girls' Track to J-Hawk Relays in Jesup - 4:30 PM (Bus Leaves at 2:45 PM)

4. HS Boys' Track to Raider Invitational in Anamosa - 4:30 PM (Bus Leaves at 2:45 PM)

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

1. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - After School until 4:00 PM

2. MV Athletic Boosters Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 6:30 PM

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

1. HS Boys' Track to the Mustang Invitational Relays in Independence - 5:00 PM (Bus Leaves at 3:10 PM)

3. Johnston Elementary Spring Music Concert at Lenox College Campus - 7:00 PM

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

1. HS Girls to "High Tech Day for Girls" at Kirkwood C.C. in Cedar Rapids (Van Leaves at 7:00 AM)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016

1. HS Band & Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest in Cascade (Bus, Suburban & Trailer Leaves at 6:30 AM)

2. HS V Boys' Golf at Lone Pine in Colesburg with Ed/Co- 8:30 AM (2 Vans Leaves at 7:30 AM)

3. HS A.C.T. Testing - MS Gym & MS Commons - 8:00 AM





# ***THIS is MV***

*photos by  
Flavia Xavier*

