



School Visit

Ricky Neff
Dr. Boske
4/4/17

Contact Information

Brent Carter, Principal
Indian Valley Middle School
261 School St., PO Box 356
Tuscarawas, OH 44682
740-922-4226

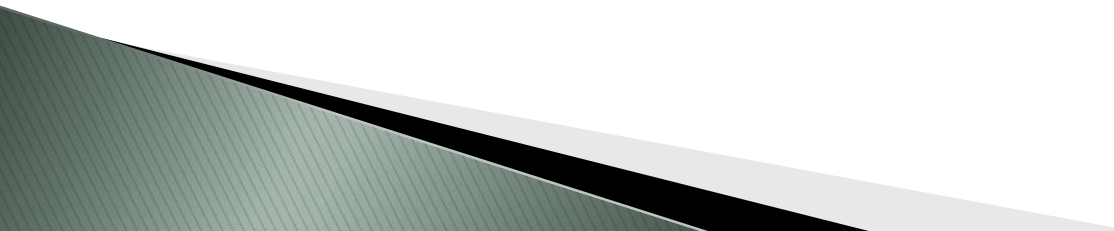
brent.carter@ivschoools.org

Date of Visit: March 15, 2017

Time: 9am



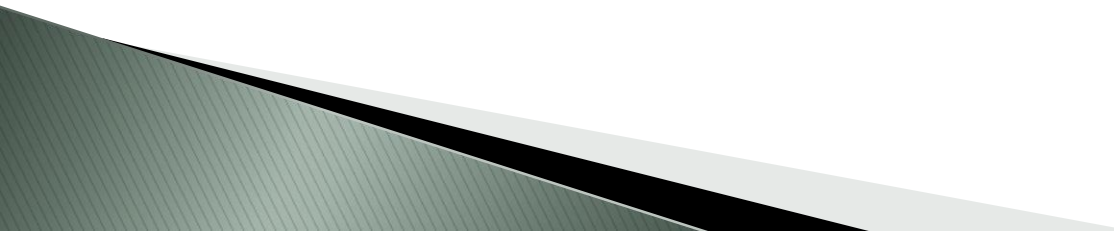
School Profile

- ▶ Indian Valley Middle School is a Rural School located in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.
 - ▶ The school is a 6–8 building
 - ▶ Has 460 students
 - ▶ There are 35 staff members total in the building including the librarian, guidance counselors, support staff, and teachers
- 

Why did I choose this school

- ▶ Every student has their own school provided Chromebook to complete their assignments on
 - ▶ They have been 1:1 for 3 years
 - ▶ They were the first school in our county to go 1:1
 - ▶ They are a rural school with many students from small towns around Midvale, Ohio.
- 

Expectations

- ▶ I expected to learn about a better way to integrate our technology and improve our student experience.
 - ▶ I also expected to hear about how they have had an increase in test scores because of the switch to 1:1
 - ▶ I also wanted to see how their schedule was different from ours and how they worked around issues in planning.
- 

What Happened

- ▶ I sat down and spoke with Mr. Carter and discussed how they rolled out the 1:1 three years ago and what the reception in the community was like.
- ▶ We discussed if they use a learning management system, textbooks, testing data, discipline issues, tech issues, and problem solving. We discussed what we are doing at our school and compared to what they are seeing. We also discussed programs used by their school and feedback on what the teachers used on a daily basis.
- ▶ Finally we discussed test scores and if they have had an increase in them.
- ▶ The day ended with a tour of the school and a discussion with the librarian, technology coordinator and a teacher about their experiences.

What did you learn

- ▶ Indian Valley has taken a much different approach in their 1:1 rollout. They also have not seen a major change in their test scores, however Mr. Carter attributed that to 3 different tests over the past 3 years.
- ▶ They decided when it was time to rollout 1:1 they did grades 6–8 all at once. Their teachers do not use an online textbook and no text books are purchased by the district besides the Chromebooks.
- ▶ They have a strict firewall on the computers to help with issues, but they have had a few issues. Their students have really enjoyed using the Chromebooks and it has been an overall positive influence on the students.
- ▶ They are looking into changing the schedule in the next school year to focus more time on Math and ELA.

How does this school compare with your school

- ▶ This year Indian Valley is set up like my school was in years past with one or two core teachers per subject area and grade level. They will be switching to the same setup as we have next year with a block schedule for each grade level.
- ▶ They have a staff that works very closely together, just like the staff at Welty. They also use MAP data but have only been using it for two years and have not experienced a change in scores because of the 1:1 initiative.
- ▶ Indian Valley does a much better job with communication with parents and even offers an online help tool for students who need help while at home. We could really benefit from doing something similar.
- ▶ Their teachers have worked closely together to develop their curriculum since the district does not purchase any textbooks.

Research

- ▶ We discussed the Columbus City School rollout and how Indian Valley modeled their implementation after it.
- ▶ [Link: Columbus City Rollout](#)

How will you use this experience/insight/research to deepen your understanding of the challenges facing your school?

- ▶ I learned a great deal from this visit especially when it comes to small changes and improvements we can make when we roll the program out to grade 7 next school year.
- ▶ Getting parents more involved in the process is one area that I think Indian Valley is doing a better job at. Our parents are asking for online homework help and tutorials and they already offer that at IVMS.
- ▶ While there is not data yet Mr. Carter did like how we schedule our classes and run on the block schedule.

Principal Reaction

- ▶ When I shared some of the results with the principal I was told that some of the changes I thought would really help improve our student experience were not going to be approved by our superintendent. Games and other distractions were one item that Mr. Carter and I discussed at length. At IVMS they block everything, but we allow students to have freedom to do what they want when the computers are at home.
- ▶ The teachers at Welty will not be meeting with the teachers at IVMS. We like to look north when researching or meeting with anyone. In the past few years we have visited Cuyahoga Falls, Brecksville, and Broadview Heights to see how they have implemented the program and allowed teachers to meet with them.

Reflection

- ▶ I learned that you always need to be able to change and tweak any plan you may have over the course of time. IVMS has made several changes since year one.
- ▶ I also need to communicate with other school leaders and figure out what is working for them and new strategies I could try. This is one of things I have learned the most from this class. We need to find people who are experiencing similar problems and work through them together.