



WINTER 2021

VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent

River Valley Community,

The weather has started to turn cooler and leaves are changing colors. As we move into the Fall months, our staff and students have finished the first nine weeks and grade cards have been sent home. Our students in extracurriculars have completed another Fall Sports season, and our Winter participants are preparing for their upcoming contests to begin. Students in other activities such as orchestra, robotics, and choir have also been practicing for concerts and participating in contests.

As we begin to enter the winter weather season of "Snow Days" and "2 Hour Delays", Our goal is to have the decisions on calamity days or delays made each morning by 6:30 AM and notifications sent through voice and text calls using our VNS system. Unfortunately, there may be times when a delay or closure will need to happen after 6:30 AM, but every attempt will be made to make this decision early enough so parents can make childcare arrangements. For the first eight calamity days there will be no student work assigned, but any days beyond eight will be remote learning days where students will have assignments at home or work to complete for that day off once they return to school. Principals and teachers will communicate how this will work, if we get to this point.

Please be sure to update Final Forms with your contact information, including phone numbers. The changes made in Final Forms will sync with PowerSchool and be the best way to ensure you receive any district or building level communications.

We hope you enjoy this Voice of the Valley Newsletter and the updates of what our staff and students are doing at River Valley Local Schools!

Go Vikes!

Adam Wickham - RV Schools Superintendent



Adam Wickham

RV Schools Superintendent

From the Office of Instruction and Assessments

Teachers do a lot of “Professional Developing” on their own time, but a few times a year, the school district gives the students a day off and brings the teachers in for in-depth learning in several areas.

The educational landscape is ever-changing, and staying on top of this is a daunting task. Every year there are new students sitting in our chairs, and every student has a different button that needs to be pushed for him/her to learn at their highest potential. It is the teachers’ job to find that button and tap it daily. It is the best part of teaching and one of the most challenging. With up to 25 students in the classrooms, this simple task puts Rubik’s Cubes to shame.

At RV, we keep the students’ forefront in our minds at all times. We are constantly looking at ways to better support student learning and strengthen our academic programming. The areas to the right are a prime focus of our Professional Development during the 2021-2022 school year:

It is well understood that investing time and effort in our development as a staff will directly impact students and their future.



Donald W. Giebe

Director of Instruction & Assessments



Professional Development Focus for 2021-22

Student Safety & Social-Emotional Well-Being

We need to remove as many obstacles as possible from a student to allow him/her to grow with confidence in all areas of their lives.

Assessing Student Learning

We need to continually find out where each child is in their content knowledge and plan the next lesson accordingly.

Technology Tools for the Classroom

Staying on top of technology advances is crucial in teaching. We see the impact of this in our personal lives and classroom teaching runs parallel.

Teaching Strategies

As mentioned above, we try to answer the question of “How can we make the content come to life for each student and get them excited to learn more?”

Content/Standards

We need to know our content inside and out so that we can transfer this knowledge to learners at all levels.

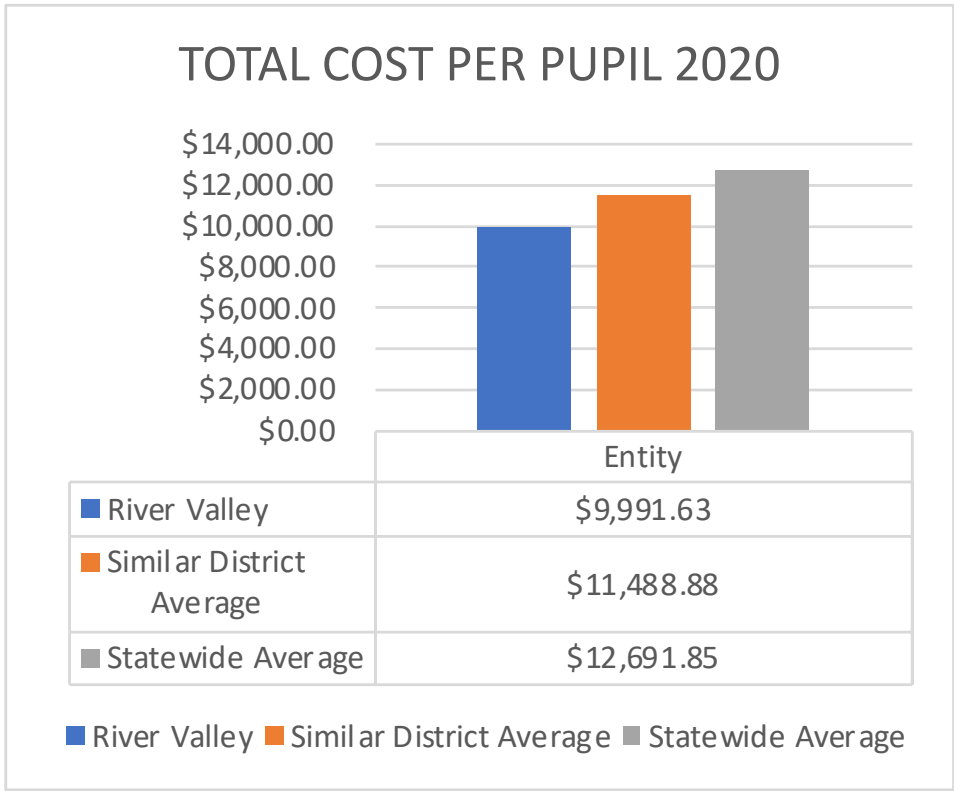
Treasurer's Talk

River Valley Local Schools remains committed to keeping the Community informed about the challenges facing school Districts and the need to sustain funding in order to maintain a high-quality education for its students. The go-to state source for fiscal data is the Ohio Department of Education's District Profile Reports, also known as the "Cupp Reports."

The chart below shows the latest information available (fiscal year 2020) on the Ohio Department of Education's website as follows: FY2020 District Profile Report (comparison of River Valley Local School District to a similar district and the State average). Fiscal Year 2020 represents the 2019-2020 school year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020).



Brittany Keller
RV Schools Treasurer

A white piggy bank icon with a blue dollar sign and a yellow coin slot, set against a dark blue background.

View more resources
from the
Business Office at:
rvk12.org/fiscal

As you can see, River Valley had a much lower cost per pupil than both the State average and that of similar districts. River Valley continues to focus on fiscal responsibility by spending with a purpose and prioritizing resources that directly, and positively, impact our students.

The recent passage of the State's Fair Funding Model will allow River Valley to be the recipient of a slight increase in state funding that will help alleviate, but not entirely fix, the projected deficits created from the recent "funding cap." Beginning in July 2019, Ohio school districts were capped at their fiscal year 2019 state funding levels. Therefore, while Districts experienced increases in expenditures, their state funding level remained the same.

It is imperative that our District sustain all current funding sources to attempt to bridge the gap between the deficits created and the increase of funds from the new funding model.

Leveraging Revenue to Maximize Your Investments

NO LOCAL TAX DOLLARS USED FOR THESE PROJECTS

1-to-1 Devices for All Students

- ➡ The district was able to use Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds to provide every student a Chromebook.

Auditorium Lighting and Sound Upgrade

- ➡ The district is using federal ESSER Grant Funds to upgrade our auditorium lighting and sound systems over the next several months to make this space more usable as a classroom space and performances.

Upgraded Food Service Equipment

- ➡ As a result of state and federal reimbursements, the Summer Food Program, and a Shared Services Agreement with Cardington-Lincoln Schools for Food Service Director, we have been able to upgrade and purchase new equipment for our Food Service Program.

Refinishing of High School Gymnasium Floor

- ➡ We want to thank the Mathews Family of Dealerships for funding the entire project to refinish our High School Gymnasium floor! Be sure to check out this amazing new design at RVHS.

Food Service News

We are so pleased to see more of our students eating meals served from our cafeterias this year. 2021-22 is the second year that all meals are free for all students, which has undoubtedly played a role in the 30-40% increase in meals served each day. With that being said, I am pleased to announce that our food service staff is growing. I would like to welcome the following staff members to our team: Jackie Blevins, Bobbi Brodman, Stefanie Burris, Kacey Feliciano, Loretta Harding, & Lori Knippel. Also, congratulations to Jenny Kitts in her new role as Assistant Food Service Director. In this role, she will help support all our kitchens throughout the district. She will also help provide services outside our cafeterias to build a catering program for on-campus events and events throughout our local community.

As our food and nutrition team continues to grow and evolve, so do the challenges we face in the 2021-22 school year. The school nutrition food and supply chain is becoming more and more unstable as the industry continues to feel the effects of the pandemic. Foods we are accustomed to receiving from the USDA have been hit the hardest as those supplies are just not available at this time. One week it may be chicken products that are not available, the next week it may be pizza, and the next paper supplies. We have no idea from one week to the next what will be available. Our River Valley kitchens are balancing and adjusting, but unfortunately, our menus, at times, have been altered at the last minute as well. We will continue to do our very best to communicate menu changes as early as possible to families as we continue through the weeks and months ahead. Thanks so much for your continued understanding and support.



Brent Herdman
Food Service Director

From Our Kitchen to Yours

Viking Boats

- ✓ 2 - Zucchini Medium-Large or Squash
- ✓ 1/2 lb. Lean Ground Turkey
- ✓ 1/2 tbsp Italian seasoning
- ✓ 1 Garlic Clove minced
- ✓ 1 1/2 Cup Marinara Sauce
- ✓ 1 Egg
- ✓ 1 Cup Part-skim Ricotta Cheese or low-fat cottage cheese
- ✓ 2 Tbsp Chopped fresh parsley plus more for garnish (optional)
- ✓ 1 Cup Shredded mozzarella cheese
- ✓ 1/2 Cup Shredded parmesan cheese or cheddar
- ✓ 1 Tbsp Olive Oil or vegetable oil
- ✓ Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400F. Slice zucchini in half on the length and scoop the inside out with a spoon.
2. Place them in a baking dish, cut side up, and spray with cooking spray.
3. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then bake for 10-12 minutes until the zucchini softens a bit.
4. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add ground turkey, Italian seasoning, garlic, and cook, stirring occasionally and breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon.
5. Once the meat is golden brown and cooked through, stir in the marinara sauce and simmer for 1-2 minutes more. Set aside.
6. Meanwhile, combine ricotta cheese, egg, parsley, mozzarella, and half of the parmesan cheese in a mixing bowl. Mix well to combine.
7. Stuff the zucchini boats with this cheese mixture, top with the meat sauce, and sprinkle with remaining parmesan cheese.
8. Cover baking dishes with foil and bake in a preheated oven for about 25-30 minutes.
9. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley and enjoy



Substitutes:

- Any cheese works, we used a combination of cheddar and mozzarella, and parmesan
- You can use ground beef or chicken in place of turkey
- Use your favorite spaghetti sauce in place of Italian seasoning, garlic, and marinara sauce.

Special Education

Our community offers many opportunities for students to engage in fun and educational activities. Below are a few community resources in Marion county that student can participate in!

Boys & Girls Club of Marion County

Boys and Girls Club provides comprehensive, affordable afterschool and summer programming for youth Kindergarten through 18 year olds. Membership costs just \$20 per child per year and entitles youth to unlimited Club access.

For more information about available activities for children, contact Maggie Breeding maggie@bgcmarion.org - (740) 387-3462
School hours M-F 3:00- 7:00, summer hours M-F 7:30 - 5:30
<https://www.bgcmarion.org/>



4-H

4-H is a non-formal educational, youth development program offered to individuals age 5 and in kindergarten to age 19. 4-H welcomes and encourages youth with special needs to participate and will make reasonable accommodations for these youth. Enrollment starts in November for Marion County.

<https://marion.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/join-4-h/4-h-online-member-enrollment>

OSU Extension - Marion County
222 West Center Street
Phone: 740-914-3030



Special Olympics

Athletes must be at least eight years of age and be identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: intellectual disability, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required special instruction.

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



For more information about Special Olympics, to participate or to volunteer contact: Tabitha Butcher prior to the season. tbutcher@marioncountydd.org - (740) 375-6185

Basketball (October 26)
Bocce Ball (Early April)
Flag Football (September)
Soccer (Early April & September)

Softball (July)
Swimming (October)
Track & Field (Early April)
Unified Golf (July)

Heritage Elementary

Heritage Elementary has had a great start to the school year! We are thrilled to be back in school for five days a week and it is wonderful to see students in classrooms daily. This year our focus is to help get students back on track

after having almost two years of COVID impact. We have been fortunate to add additional interventions to help students be successful and we are excited to continue with a great school year!

WORRC Habits

For the 2021-2022 school year, we will be focusing on student WORRC habits within the classroom. WORRC stands for:



Work Ethic: stays on task, completes work, and does their best work all the time.



Organization: cleans up area, puts things where they belong, hangs up coat and book bag, keeps track of supplies and belongings.



Responsibility: takes ownership of actions and doesn't blame others, follows routines, is prepared for school, returns folder, presses pause, is showing self-discipline behaviors.



Respect: Listens to the teacher, follows directions, shows kindness, listens to others, and stays in their own personal space and minds their own business.



Collaboration: Gets along with others, shares ideas, and takes turns.

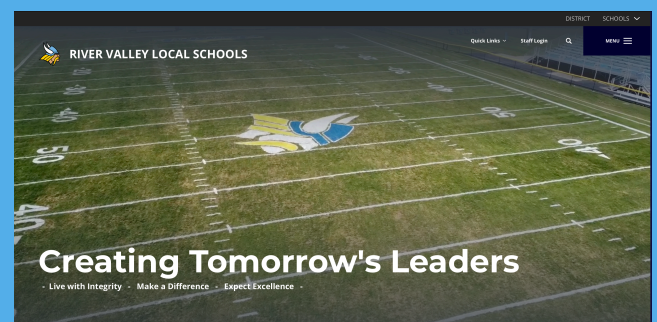
Teachers will be recognizing and celebrating students who are working on these habits in the classroom. Students will be recognized in weekly updates to parents and rewarded for their hard work.

Reading Intervention

In order to help students recover learning loss in the area of reading, Heritage Elementary was able to add a reading intervention teacher to focus on those students that may be struggling. This position was paid for through ESSER funds and no general fund money was used. Mrs. Rengert, the reading intervention teacher, has been working with students in grades 1-4 in order to improve their reading skills. We have been fortunate to have this additional support and are excited to see the students make growth in their reading.

We Have a New Website!

Check it out at:
www.rvk12.org



Liberty Elementary

Liberty News

Each month Liberty recognizes students who have worked hard to show their Viking Pride all month. The students are chosen by their teacher and given a certificate of accomplishment. Congratulations to our students from the beginning of the year!

August- Ava Goddard, Foster Mantey, Melanie Campbell, Riley Mantey, Halyn Collins, Falynn Hindman, Kaylynn Ulery, London Poore, Logan Case, Carley Walker, Averie Lookabaugh, Victoria Shotwell, John Wardlaw, Clarissa Hoffman, Lilly Gates, Olivia Bradley, Emberlyn Morris

September- Gunner Calbert- Heaven Lutz, Brantley Baer, Xavier Myers, Jace Stakey, Clara Vonderheide, Piper Smith, Cole Ringle, Marynn Levering, Hallie Castline, Emme Lupu, Aldyn Feliciano, Marylynn Martindell, McKinley Browning, Katrina Marshall, Ellie Held, Brocktyn Caudill

21st Century

21st has officially started again at Liberty! 21st Century is available before school starting at 7:00 am to help students with both reading and math. After school 21st Century is available on Monday-Wednesday. For more information please contact Denise Fraysier.

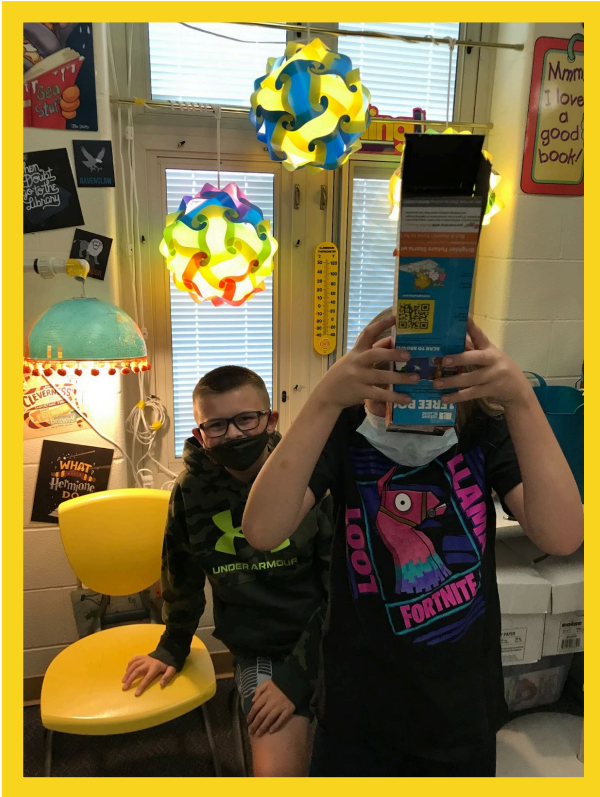
dfraysier@rvk12.org

Viking Store

Each day Liberty students have the opportunity to earn gold coins for behavior and hard work. The students can then spend their coins at our school store. This year we have a traveling school store that goes to each room for students to shop. A big thank you goes to our high school helpers who are willing to help students count coins and shop.



Classroom Learning



Mrs. Sawzin's fifth grade class learned about reflection and refraction by making periscopes.



After reading a book on Epic, third grade groups at Liberty were asked to build a free-standing coaster, adding the exposition, rising action, climax, etc. Here is an example of a finished one. This group went right to left. The ticket booth tells about the characters. The cars are the different parts. The exit gate is the resolution. They used a tripod effect to keep it standing.



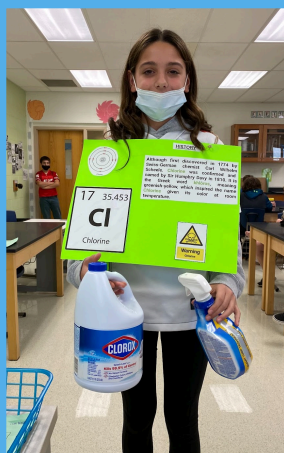
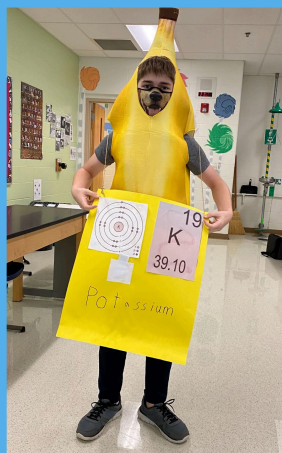
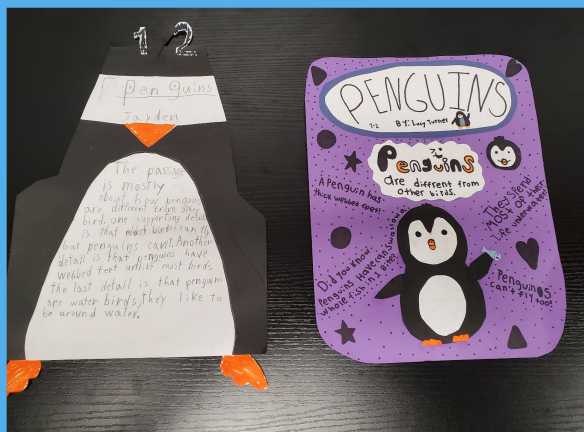
Mrs. McClure's first graders at Heritage are learning how to master literacy centers independently after a lot of practice. This allows small groups to meet or individual assessments to take place, and the students are actively engaged and learning while having fun!



Second Graders in Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Maceyko, and Miss Schimpf's classes are beginning to learn about place value in math. In order to practice identifying a number as odd or even, the students created Odd and Even M'odd'sters! Each student's creature is unique based upon the number spun for each monster part. Students added eyes, horns, hands, feet, and teeth to their monster. This fun, hands-on project gave the students an opportunity to prove whether a number was odd or even in a fun way!

RV Middle School

It's been great to see the students back in person five days a week to start the year. While we all would like to return to some type of normalcy, we have had to adapt to make sure we can be in school as much as possible. Our students have done everything asked of them from wearing masks to social distancing and beyond. We appreciate your help in assisting us to talk to your students to make sure they are doing everything possible to follow the guidelines with us. We are all in this together.



While we endured a few hiccups the first quarter with distractions of social media and other issues, our students have responded and are continuing to work to have pride and respect for each other and our building. While we can talk through problems we are having at school we ask that you continue to talk to your children at home on what is right and wrong. This could have a range from: how to talk to/treat others, cell phone usage, proper use of social media, respecting others, manners, respecting their own and other property, picking up after themselves, etc.

Through the first quarter we have had 99 students recognized by staff members of exhibiting Viking PRIDE. Recently we have had staff members recognize close to 30 students of the quarter. These students will be recognized by the staff member that nominated them at a ceremony. The students have also had the chance to recognize staff members as they have been modeling Viking PRIDE each and everyday.

River Valley Middle School conferences looked a little different this year as we are striving to reach each and every parent or guardian. In the first week of November each RVMS teacher reached out to their Viking period students' guardian to talk a little about them and hear from you since you are the expert of your child.

As we head into the second nine weeks we look forward to continuing to watch each and every child grow. I know this is a year of growth, and it is not going to happen instantaneously. It is a work in progress and we are excited to be a part of the journey with you. I am so excited to come to work each and every day to work with our amazing staff and your extraordinary students.

Mike Davis - RV Middle School Principal

European Trip

As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is critical for our students to become more culturally aware and globally minded. The visual arts department is pleased to announce that we're taking a group of students and parents on an educational tour to Europe in June of 2022. We're going to experience the amazing cities of Berlin, Prague, Krakow, Budapest and more! As a member of the River Valley School community, your 8th -12th grade student has the opportunity to travel with us on this once in a lifetime international trip.

The chance to experience our global classroom directly and see what we have been studying in our classes come to life is an incredible opportunity that will give students new perspectives not only on themselves, but also on the world around them. In addition to this, having international experience in high school makes students more competitive college applicants and more likely to participate in study abroad programs.

We will travel with EF Tours who has over 55 years of travel and education experience. They are one of the world leaders in international education, take pride in their safety protocols, have offices in every major city that we will travel to, and are an accredited school just like us! We have traveled with them since 2017, and have been nothing but amazed with their service to making traveling an exciting and safe experience.

Currently, we have 10 travelers and there are limited spots available. If you wish for your student to be enrolled please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Laura Carey at lcarey@rvk12.org or Holly Gardner at hgardner@rvk12.org.



River Valley Arts and Music

The River Valley Choirs has had an excellent start to the year. After spending much of last year unable to perform, we are happy to be back in person, and have been working hard on music for our fall concert. We have had several students participate in honor choirs this fall. On October 20th, Abby Bennett, Evy Runyon, Vivienne Linville, Abby Isler, Chase Osborne, Kade Ebert, Josh Haines, and Othon DeAssis participated in the Otterbein University High School Honor Choir. This event included 87 students from around the central Ohio area. Also, Abby Bennett, Vivienne Linville, and Joey Karrick auditioned and were selected to perform in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Choir. This choir will perform at the OMEA Convention in February, and is an auditioned group of the best choral singers from around the state of Ohio. We are proud of the accomplishments of all our performers. The vocal music department would also like to congratulate our marching band participants and fall student athletes on their excellent seasons. CO VIKINGS!



From left to right: Evy Runyon, Abby Isler, Vivienne Linville, Abby Bennett, Chase Osborne, Kade Ebert, Othon DeAssis, and Josh Haines



Harley Lloyd, Kelsey Fowler, Gwen Butler, Selah Parkman, Chloe Valentine, Mackenzie Schwartz

RVMS Art Snow Plow Project

RVMS has painted a snow plow for the Marion County Engineers Department. The plow blade will be attached to a truck assigned to a designated route within our school district. This year's design was created by Chloe Valentine (8th Grader) and painting was completed by many middle school students.

RV High School

Greetings RVHS Families!

The school year is well underway with the first nine weeks completed and we have numerous events coming up that I am excited to share.

The music department, including the band, choir, and orchestra will all be hosting their fall concerts in the upcoming weeks.

At the end of October Ms. Seckel, our Vocational Agriculture teacher, was able to take several students to the National FFA Convention which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Our 9th grade students recently attended the Marion Made Expo held at the Fairgrounds Coliseum. The Expo featured local companies talking to students about the products that they produce and the employment opportunities that are available.

The 9th grade students also visited Tri-Rivers Career Center. During this visit they saw each program Tri-Rivers offers.

Our sophomore class will then be attending Tri-Rivers Career Center in November. During the visit the students will get to experience three programs that interest them as they continue to plan for their future.

We currently have several students working hard for the Vex Robotics season which started at the end of October. This year, Mr. Goodwin will not only be taking students to the Vex Robotics qualifiers as in years past but they will also be participating in a Vex Robotics league which will be held at Highland High School.

All these events as well as others are occurring as the fall sports teams have finished their season and the winter sports are preparing to begin.

We wish all of our students the best as they compete in their extra-curricular activities and look forward to the activities the remainder of the semester!

Barry Dutt - RV High Schools Principal

2021 Homecoming Court



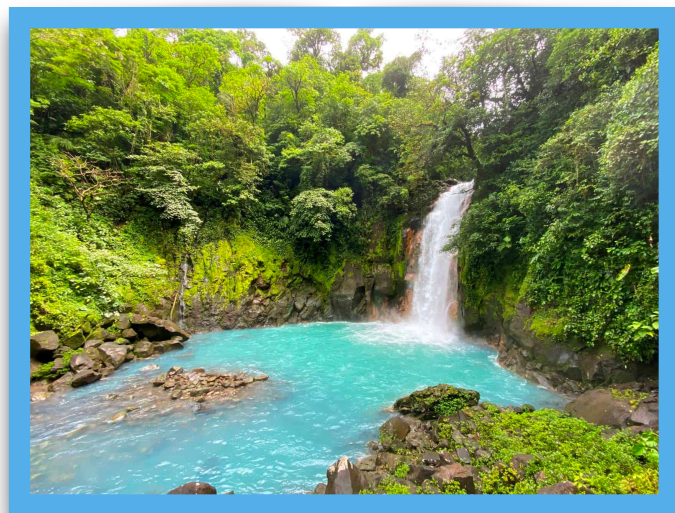
From left to right: Freshman-Aaliyah Davis, Sophomore-Halle Snyder, Senior-Kalynn Meade, Senior-Lainey Haycook, 2021 Homecoming Queen-Senior Sydney Pettett, and Junior- Gabriella Cunningham

Costa Rica Trip

River Valley High School is planning to travel to Costa Rica in June of 2023. Students in the high school will be eligible to participate in this international travel experience with their peers.

Students will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience to visit Sarchí, Monteverde, Arenal Region, Sarapiquí, and San José to visit the Saint Elena Cloud Forest, Arenal Region, Arenal Volcano National Park, a banana plantation, ride an aerial tram at the Braulio Carillo National Park, and many other experiences.

If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Kyrk at akyrk@rvk12.org



River Valley Extracurriculars

What a great time to be a Viking! We have had a tremendous fall season, with several teams having strong showings in both the regular season, and post-season tournaments. First, our golf team qualified for the district tournament for the first time in several years. Next, volleyball finished second in the MOAC and finished out the season with a run to the district semi-finals. Our boys and girls soccer teams have wrapped up their seasons, as has our tennis team. Cross country had a state qualifier for division 2 in Catherine Starrs, after she survived a muddy regional meet in Pickerington. Finally, football and cheer finished up their seasons with a playoff appearance, coming up just short to Medina Buckeye High School. All in all, it's been a very solid fall for our teams.

Below are some of the prominent individual conference accolades earned by our fall sports athletes. We are a part of the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference.

1st Team All-MOAC Honorees

- Haleigh Creps – Volleyball
- Nichole Green – Volleyball
- Mitchell Seckel – Boys Soccer
- Kenzington Hage – Girls Soccer
- Catherine Starrs – Cross Country
- Karson Lang - Football (Offense)
- Cayden Shidone - Football (Offense)
- Will Garrison - Football (Defense)
- Owen Richards - Football (Kicker)

2nd Team All-MOAC Honorees

- Hannah Logan – Volleyball
- Jevin Beard – Golf
- Gabriel Douce – Boys Soccer
- Sydney Pettett – Girls Soccer
- Chase Osborne - Cross Country
- Jason Malone - Football (Offense)

Honorable Mention All-MOAC Honorees

- Maddie Hinton – Volleyball
- Thomas Kaufman – Golf
- Kale Robbins – Boys Soccer
- Halle Snyder – Girls Soccer
- Megan Diven – Tennis
- Shayla Pappert – Tennis
- Carter Ferguson – Cross Country
- Joe Montgomery – Cross Country
- Eva Moran – Cross Country
- Allie Valentine – Cross Country
- Brayden Boyd - Football

As we advance into winter sports, I would like to say congratulations once again to our fall sports teams and send a special congratulations to Catherine Starrs for her state appearance. Also, all of us at River Valley Local Schools send a final thank you to our fall sports seniors who have left a tremendous mark on the River Valley Athletic Program as a whole. Go Vikes!

RV FFA Attends Ohio Legislative Leadership Conference

Four of our chapter members attended the Ohio Legislative Leadership Conference on September 29, 2021. Gabby Cunningham, Zach Cunningham, Kari Carter, and Kenzae Eager along with many other FFA members gathered at the Ohio Statehouse and learned about the importance of agriculture advocacy, connected with state legislators and their staff and practiced lobbying agriculture issues.

Gabby stated "I liked how we all were united and it didn't matter where you came from in Ohio, small chapter or big chapter, it felt like we were one huge body representing Ohio FFA." That is what FFA is and we are so glad Gabby and the other three members were able to experience it.

Last year during COVID our other members weren't able to experience what those four members did this year. It was held via ZOOM but they still did learn a lot. They broke off into different rooms on ZOOM and discussed different topics, and although they weren't able to be in person at the Ohio Statehouse last year, the kids had a good learning experience. We

are thankful for the district's administration which allowed them to take part in this face to face event this year. Submitted by Kaleigh Aiken: Chapter Reporter



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Proceeds Benefit River Valley Track and Field

Holiday Craft Show

Start your holiday shopping early ... or finish it up with unique gifts from *over 40 vendors!*

DECEMBER 4TH - 9AM - 4PM

For Information or Table Reservations Call Bill Fegley at 740-262-7972



**River Valley Local Schools
Board of Education Members**

PRESIDENT- DON RENGERT

VICE PRESIDENT- CHERYL BEINEKE

STACI GLENN-SHORT

ROBERT STUMP

ANDREW "KEN" OSBORNE

**River Valley Administration Office
740-725-5400**

Heritage Elementary
740-725-5500

Liberty Elementary
740-725-5600

River Valley Middle School
740-725-5700

River Valley High School
740-725-5800

**“The function of education is to teach one to
think intensively and to think critically.
Intelligence plus character – that is the goal
of true education”**

– Martin Luther King