



SPRING 2022

VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent

River Valley Community,

Spring is right around the corner, and we are looking forward to warmer days ahead. As always, there are plenty of events happening where you can see our students in action. Our schools are a busy hub of activity as staff continue to provide support and instruction, while our students continue to learn and grow. Although we've had some challenging winter weather, our staff and students continue to do amazing work in our schools.

In addition to the classroom, our students in extra-curricular activities continue to represent River Valley in a variety of ways. From Winter Season Sports and Robotics Competitions to our annual Musical at the High School and Show Choir performances, we appreciate all of your support for coming out to see our students in action.

I personally want to thank our parents/guardians, grandparents, and community members for the support you provide to our students and staff. With so much negativity in the world today, I am encouraged by the way our community rallies around our schools.

We hope you enjoy this Voice of the Valley Newsletter along with the photos, stories, and updates showcasing our staff and students at River Valley Local Schools!

Go Vikes!

Adam Wickham - RV Schools Superintendent



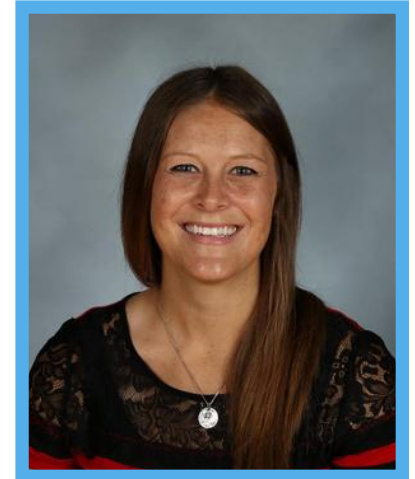
Adam Wickham
RV Schools Superintendent



Treasurer's Talk

Fiscal responsibility continues to be a focus in all aspects at River Valley Local School District. Spending with a purpose and prioritizing resources that directly and positively impact our students is the key to financial expenditures. Funding provided by the state does not fully cover the actual costs to operate a school district, so districts are forced to pursue levies in an attempt to fill the gap.

In an effort to maintain stability for the district and to be able to continue to provide opportunities for our students, River Valley Local School District will be pursuing a levy renewal, in the form of a current expense emergency levy, which generates \$854,281 (or 4% of operational revenues) to the district annually, for a period of five years. This equates to just over \$4.2 million in revenue for the district over the course of five years. This levy will not be a new tax and will not seek any new money.



Brittany Keller

RV Schools Treasurer

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding this levy renewal:

What will this money be used for?

- ▶ Maintaining the daily operations of our school district
- ▶ Updating our safety equipment and emergency policies and procedures
- ▶ Preserving our outstanding curricular and extracurricular programs
- ▶ Continuing the replacement cycle of our school bus fleet

What cost savings strategies does the District currently have in place?

- ▶ Securing grants to pay for program costs and district technology upgrades
- ▶ Change in medical insurance program offered to District employees
- ▶ Change in fiscal software and Information Technology Center (ITC)
- ▶ Implementation of energy conservation measures

How much will this cost taxpayers?

- ▶ There will be zero increase to taxpayers, because this is a renewal levy. The levy was first passed in 2012 and has been in effect ever since.

How will this benefit me if I don't have a child attending River Valley Local School District?

- ▶ Our school district is a vital part of our community and having a high-quality district helps maintain or improve property values.
- ▶ Our district provides space and resources to support the residents of our district and surrounding areas.
- ▶ The better quality of education we are able to provide our students, the better prepared students are for college and/or careers after graduation, which ultimately helps our community thrive.



Food Service News

The Lunch Bunch had the privilege of helping celebrate Christmas in the Village in Caledonia in December. We served around 150 walking tacos and snowmen kabobs. Thank you for letting us be a part of such a fun, family event!

If you are planning an event that you would like us to be a part of, please contact Jenny Kitts, Assistant Food Service Director, at jkitts@rvk12.org or 740-725-5420 for more information.

Now that the national supply shortage is beginning to lessen, we hope to get past those issues and back on schedule. The Food Service staff has started working on new recipes for the next school year and hope to do some taste testing around our school cafeterias very soon. The Lunch Bunch is in full swing of planning our Summer Meal program for June, July, and August. More information on this will be out in March.

Also, in the coming weeks, we have many other events scheduled, such as; traveling with the Junior class to Daysprings Wesleyan Church to serve meals during their ACT testing day, a Hot Chocolate day during January/ February in all our cafeterias, a few special dishes created for Valentine's day and St. Patrick's day, and a Luau at Lunch this spring to celebrate warmer weather that is on its way. We also have a new "Lunch Bunch" Facebook page and Instagram account to communicate and promote special events in our school cafeterias, our summer food program, and events we are a part of throughout the River Valley community.



Brent Herdman
Food Service Director



Special Education

River Valley offers early interventions for children who are 3-5 years old. Our preschool is housed at Liberty Elementary. River Valley added this program in 2015. Early child development within the first five years of life is important. The areas that are developing quickly during these ages are the child's physical and cognitive development. While no two children develop on the exact same timeline, studies show early interventions and development are crucial to their health, wellbeing, and the overall course of their lives in a variety of ways. Fortunately, there are many things that parents can do to help in their child grow and develop.



Heather Kantzer
Coordinator of Special Ed.

Early Intervention is Key

In order to encourage continued growth, we would like to offer ideas related to learning activities that you could complete at home:



Read to your child regularly; at least 20 minutes daily



Expose your child to a variety of writing tools (markers, crayons, pencils, etc)



Expose your child to fine motor activities; such as using safety scissors with play dough or lacing activities.



Involve your child in social opportunities that encourage sharing and playing with peers



Expose your child to pre-academic skills, such as color recognition, letter recognition, and counting



From Ages birth to 3 years old Help Me Grow intervention services are available for from birth – 3 years old. Families who would like more information about Help Me Grow programs and services should contact Central Intake:

Phone: (614) 656-3322 or (800) 755-GROW

Email: HMGreferrals@helpmegrow.org

Heritage Elementary

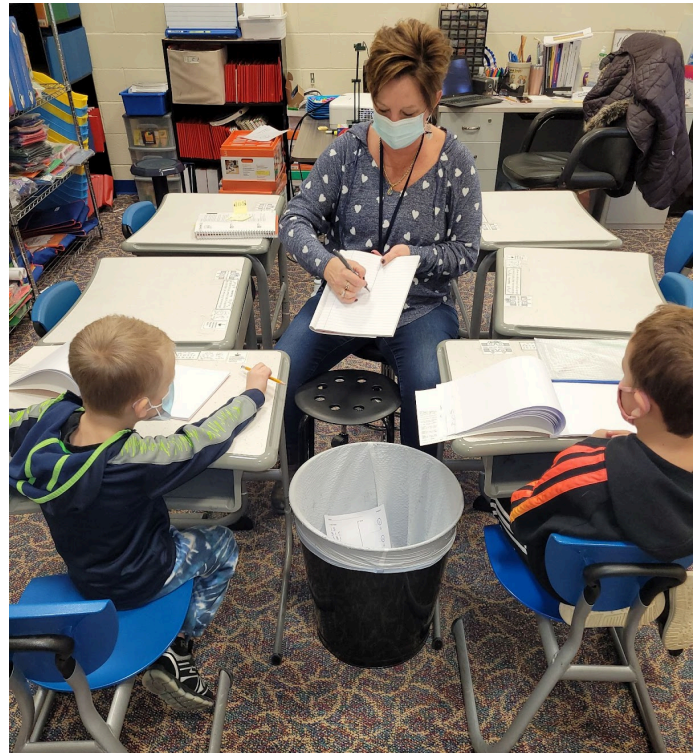
Heritage PTO

The Heritage PTO supports many of the special activities (Fun Nights, Super Games, Fall Festival, etc.) that occur at Heritage Elementary. The PTO is funded solely from fundraisers and the generosity of our Heritage parents and community. There have been many changes to the activities that the PTO has traditionally hosted due to COVID. However, we are gradually beginning to implement some of these activities back into the school year. The officers of the Heritage PTO are:

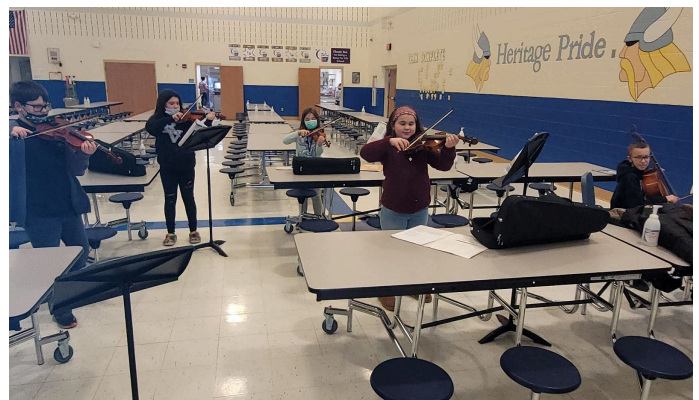
- President: Lindsay Fetter
- Vice President: Amy Gates
- Secretary: Elena Gantt
- Treasurer: Sara Axline
- Teacher Liaison: Elizabeth Sawzin

Kindergarten Registration is now open to enroll kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. If you or anyone you know has a child that will be five years old prior to August 1st, 2022, please follow the enrollment process for kindergarten listed below.

- You may register your child at:
<https://rivervalley-oh.finalforms.com>.
- Once you have registered your child, you will receive an email confirmation with directions in regards to required documentation and setting up a screening time.
- Kindergarten Screening will be held at both Heritage and Liberty Elementary on Friday, May 13th, 2022.



Mrs. Rengert is working with first graders on their writing and reading skills during one of her groups. Mrs. Rengert teaches reading support at Heritage Elementary, which is a position funded by Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to help with the impact of COVID on student learning.



Fourth grade orchestra students practice their skills during one of their classes with Mrs. Ulsh.



The 4th and 5th grade students at the elementary schools are learning about drumming with the use of buckets.



Fifth grade students learned about symmetry and then created fun symmetrical origami art.



Students in Mrs. McClure's class complete learning using the ViewSonic board. This board is interactive and allows students to manipulate and drag items with the use of their fingers and provides an additional resource for teachers to make learning interactive.



The end of Quarter 3 is March 11, 2022. Parent teacher conferences will be held on March 17th. Teachers will be contacting parents soon to set up a conference time. Grade cards will be sent home on Friday, March 18th.

Liberty Elementary

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

October:

Ayden Risley, Regan Wetzel, Marshall Barnett, Abigail Moore, Ryder Stoneking, Dia Winters, Riley Walker, Kenna Hubbard, Logan Conley, Catherine Shotwell, Karaline Hubbard, Wyatt Cole, Jacob Bright, Kya Moran, Allison Boley, Mack Holman, Amirrah Moore

November:

Paislee Troiano, Braylin Collins, Reid Roston, Khloe Chapman, Braxton Call, Karson Snyder, Landon Held, Lizzie Haley, Lillian Lawson, Isaac Osborne, Cullen Griffith, Chloe Sergeant, Christian Taylor, Sophia Duncan, Aaliyah Freeman, Emma Haley, Jaydyn McClenathan

December:

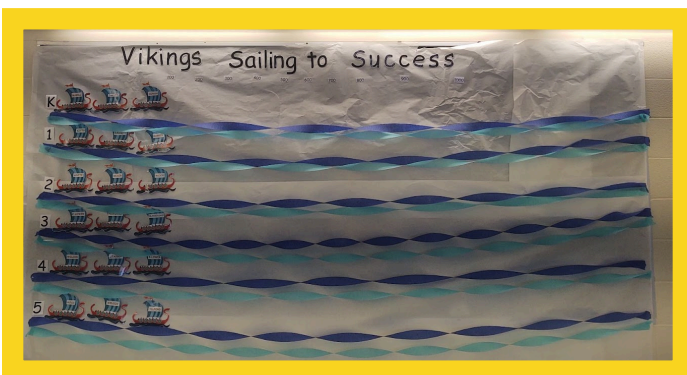
Isobella Berg, Salem Sword, Caroline Strzelecki, Kayson Banks, Penelope Ratliff, Holden Massaro, Wyatt McCleese, Silas Linville, Zachary Bradley, Mia Scarberry, Connor Albright, Aliyah Lloyd, Kharma Fletcher, Lucas Haley, Landon Gruber, Blake Ross, Lia Wise



iReady is a program that is available to all students to use in school and will also be available during the summer for continued learning. iReady has been purchased for the buildings using ESSR funds to help prevent learning loss. Students just completed mid-year diagnostics and showed some amazing growth in both reading and math. Liberty is starting a building-wide challenge to promote students passing iReady lessons. Classrooms will earn rewards as they complete lessons. iReady is a powerful learning tool because it allows students to work at their level and adjusts to harder levels as students make progress. Stay tuned for more updates as we work to complete our Viking Challenge.



During this cold weather the students spend time inside for recess. The 5th graders have decided to put down their electronics and are playing UNO instead.



Did you know that shaving cream can be a great way for students to practice letter writing? Our preschoolers recently spent time practicing writing their letters and names in shaving cream. It's fun for the students and leaves the tables clean and smelling great.



Mrs. Isler's reading groups have been reviewing books and doing a mock Caldecott judging.

RV Middle School

Sixth graders in Mrs. Hawerlander's ELA classes wrapped up studying literary elements of plot just as the novel they're reading, Belle Prater's Boy, came to a resolution. Students used their digital notebooks and Flocabulary (online learning platform) to practice these plot elements. Then they applied what they learned as they participated in discussions, wrote newspaper articles, sequenced the story in words and illustrations, and made various character sketches. They proudly displayed their work in the hallway.

An Oratorical Winner at RVMS

On Saturday, January 5th, 2022 **Alexa Patrick-Dickerson** earned **first place** in the *Peace and Freedom Committee's* 15th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest. Participation in this

contest was open to the youth of Central Ohio in Marion, Morrow, Delaware, Crawford, and Knox counties. The contest goals were to actively strengthen reading, writing, and public speaking skills of students and to encourage youth to learn about and further the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alexa accomplished both! After receiving information about the contest at school, this determined sixth grader researched MLK, created an essay, committed it to memory, and performed it publicly—all on her own time. In addition to the honor of winning, Alexa received a cash prize and a keepsake book. She will have the opportunity to further compete at the State level. Congrats, Alexa!



The middle school hallways have gotten a facelift recently. In 7th grade language arts classes, students have chosen and researched a renowned role model. Then they painted a ceiling tile to recognize their chosen role model. Next time you are in the building, walk down the main hallway, look up, and enjoy the talent of RVMS 7th graders.

Career Exploration

Students in Mrs. Jacob's Career Exploration II class are learning if they really like the career clusters they have chosen by doing various simulations. One example for the Business, Management and Administration cluster, students have to manage a project of working for a local park, organizing a clean-up day. Students have to create fliers asking for volunteers, organize a schedule, arrange for food, and create a time table of what each volunteer group will be doing throughout the day. Another example is for the Marketing, Sales and Service cluster - students will pretend they are the owner of a small business that sells novelty items similar to those given at school carnivals. They have to create a proposal of a themed carnival where they will sell the souvenirs to be sold. The proposal needs to include the idea and how it will be promoted, a listing of the merchandise with a price sheet for all items. For the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security cluster, students will be doing a mock trial.

In addition to the simulations, students are researching various careers for each of the four clusters they have chosen. The research includes salary ranges, education needed, and job outlook. They will also be creating a resume, filling out a job application, and practicing interviewing skills.

For a final project, students will create a slide show on one specific career they are interested in, which they will present to the class.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our students who participated in the Marion County Spelling Bee on February 8th. Susanna Turner was the runner-up; and Ariana Osborne, Abby Wickham, and Elise Osborne rounded out the top five. Great job, ladies!



RV High School

Greetings RVHS Families!

The second-semester classes are well underway, and our activities are ramping up, with several events occurring in the next few weeks. Some of these activities include show choir performances, the high school musical, winter sports tournaments, spring sports pre-season practices, and Vex Robotics events, just to mention a few.

As you can see, this is a very busy time of the year for our students, staff, coaches, and families. After the limitations that were placed on events last year, it has been nice to see the support of the community at the activities this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events.

The spring musical "Seussical" will be held the last weekend in February, and with that, I am pleased to share that in the previous few months, the district was able to make some upgrades to the high school auditorium. These upgrades include new curtains, lighting on stage, and in the near future, an improved sound system. I believe these improvements will benefit our student and community performances for years to come. The lighting and sound upgrades were made possible through the use of federal ESSER grant dollars.

Along with the improvements to the auditorium, the high school is now offering an elective course in Technical Theatre. The students involved in this course have the opportunity to learn about audio/visual production and set creation. We believe that this course will give our students firsthand knowledge of the equipment used in theatre production.

At this time, the high school is also making plans to transition from block scheduling to a more traditional schedule for the 2022-23 school year. I encourage our students to get their course requests in, if they have not already, so that a finalized schedule for next year can be established.

Parents and community members, I thank you for supporting our students, and I look forward to seeing you at the high school events.

Barry Dutt - RV High Schools Principal

We Have a New Website!

Check it out at:
www.rvk12.org



RV Athletics & Activities

This winter has been an exciting time for River Valley High School and Middle School Athletics! While we have (for the most part) avoided the schedule challenges that last year presented, this has given our kids a great chance to compete at a high level across all of our winter sports.

At the middle school level, our wrestling program took a strong step forward this season and was competitive in numerous tournaments. The 7th grade boys basketball team reached the MOAC championship, and our other middle school basketball teams had great campaigns as well.

Looking at our high school winter season, swimming and wrestling are wrapping up good regular seasons. The wrestling program hosted its first ever girls wrestling tournament, and the swim program is participating in the OHSAA swim tournament. An exciting element of the swim program this postseason is that RV acted as the host entity for our division 2 sectional swim meet at the Marion YMCA.

Boys and girls basketball recently wrapped up their regular seasons, and have exciting tournament runs ahead. In the cheer program, they are beginning to implement advanced stunts and builds for the first time ever, under the leadership of Coach Garrett. This is a great step forward for one of our fastest growing programs at RVHS.

Finally, the bowling team is preparing for their post-season runs after participating in the recent MOAC tournament, and finishing up with strong regular seasons as well. This is bowling's first season as a 100% varsity sport at River Valley, and we look forward to continued growth and development within this program that offers a unique opportunity for kids to participate in a sport over the winter.

Time has really flown by this season, and as we approach spring sports I know our kids and families are looking forward to getting back outside and competing at a high level to finish out the school year. Before you know it, it will be summer! Enjoy the remainder of the winter and let's get ready to have a great upcoming spring season. Go Vikes!

River Valley Music Company

River Valley Music Company had a strong first outing at the Beavercreek Midwest Classic, placing fourth in their class, and receiving their team best score.

Joey Karrick, Abby Bennett, and Vivienne Linville were accepted into the OMEA All State choir, which will be performing on February 5th at the OMEA PD Conference in Cleveland Ohio.



RV Hosts State FFA Leadership Night

River Valley FFA chapter hosted the leadership night on December 10, 2021. We had students from Cardington, Highland, Elgin, and Tri-Rivers, where we had over 150 participants! We started off the night with an activity from the Ohio FFA State Officers- Brayden Huffman, Faith Galavich, and Aubrey Schwartz. They did such an amazing job with the workshop and handling the kids.

During the workshop they taught us that "Influence has a huge impact on the behaviors, opinions, and choice of others." Also we talked about "servant leadership : which we determined to be service above self, empowering people through a shared vision." Ways we influence are by words, actions, and attitude. We also played some team building games while learning.

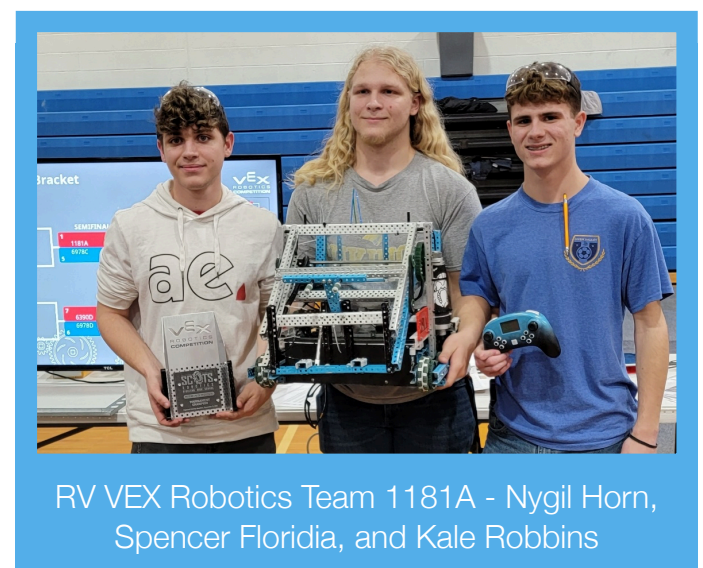
After the workshop was over we had food from Payne's pizza! We then had stations set up in

various spaces, in the main gym and we had a competitive dodgeball game. In the back gym we had a game of gaga ball. The cafeteria contained line dances and card games. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time. We hope to have another leadership next year and hope that more schools will join!

Submitted by Kaleigh Aiken: RV FFA Chapter Co-Reporter

RV Robotics

The River Valley VEX robotics team is having a good year in 2021-22. At the midpoint in their season, they earned two tournament victories. Team 1181A of Nygil Horn, Spencer Florida, and Kale Robbins battled to a championship at a Highland qualifier and also at Columbus Blue Jackets tournament at Nationwide Arena. The victory qualifies this team for the state tournament in April. RV Team 1181B of Hayden Witzel, Isaac Atwell, and Andrew Peak are performing well with a few trips to the finals earning semifinal finishes. Team 1181C of Connor Beltz, Garrison Peak, and newcomer Josh Beltz are also finding success this year with a few trips to the final tournament as well. The team has three tournaments remaining in this years season that will include trips to Newark, Lorain, and a return tournament at Highland.





parents | caregivers | those with disabilities | siblings

Join Us

2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

at the Marion County Board of DD

Parents & Caregivers - come to network, meet people like you, share ideas, and learn about resources
Children with ISPs and/or IEPs, anyone served by MCBDD, and siblings - join us for fun activities in a group setting

To learn more or to join, contact Nikki Workman at nworkman@marioncountyydd.org

ART CLASSES ON
THE 2nd THURSDAY WITH:



Branch & Stone Studio

FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY:



MARION COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
For You. For Marion. Forever.



MARION
COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Family Support Group is an independent group of parents and/or caregivers who meet at the Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.



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

PRESIDENT- DON RENGERT

VICE PRESIDENT- CHERYL BEINEKE

STACI GLENN-SHORT

ROBERT STUMP

BEN ALBRIGHT

**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

“Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

– Peter Drucker