



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

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February 2022

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CES Family Literacy Night

by Josh Long

The Covington Elementary Literacy Committee is busy planning for our Family Literacy Night in March for grades K-4. The theme for this year's FLN is "Read Like a Pirate". The night will be filled with fun reading activities for the whole family and highlighted with a photo booth, snacks, craft activities, digging for treasure, and some pirate bingo. Please mark your calendars for the evening of March 10, from 6-7:30 p.m. and look for more information to come home with your student soon.

Covington Jr/Sr High News

by Josh Meyer

As we progress through the winter months I'd like to bring the Covington community up to speed on what our 7-12 students have been up to recently.

In late December, prior to Christmas break, the High School Student Council sponsored a "Door Decorating Contest" for first period classes. Congratulations to Miss Rauch's class for winning this contest. The High School Student Council sang Christmas carols at the Stillwater Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on December 21. The Covington High School National Honor Society canned food drive collected approximately 1,200 cans of food to donate to area residents in need. Thank you to Mrs. Schmitz and Mrs. Groppi for organizing this event.

At the Jr. High level the Student Council and BUCC Club sang Christmas carols at Piqua Manor on December 21. The JH BUCC Club helped move books and materials back to the JR Clarke Library on December 7.

The 6th grade band, 8th grade choir, JH Band, HS Band, and HS Choir held a Christmas Concert on December 16. This concert was very well attended by parents and family members. Mrs. Moore and our music students continue to produce quality musical performances for our community.

Athletically, the Covington Buccs wrestling team won the inaugural Three Rivers Conference Championship on January 15. Also, congratulations to Connor Sindelir and Jensen Wagoner who both earned their 100th career win during the season. The Lady Buccs basketball team traveled to the "Hoosier Gym" in Knightstown, Indiana on January 22. Along with defeating Versailles at this historic venue, Claudia Harrington scored her 1,000th career point!

On January 25, the Covington HS Business Professionals of America qualified 18 students in a variety of events and competitions to the State BPA Contest that will be held in March. The 18 qualifiers are an all-time high for the Covington HS BPA chapter.

As you can tell, our students continue to achieve at a high level. Our staff appreciates all of the support that our community provides to our students.

Frequently at this time of year we are dealing with winter weather issues. Please check the District Facebook page for updates regarding school delays and closings. If you have a young driver in your household please remind them to drive safely and allow extra time to arrive at their destination during inclement weather. Also, if you have not subscribed to the "One Call" system to receive notifications please do so.

Kindergarten Registration 2022/2023

Covington Elementary School is in the process of planning for 2022-2023 kindergarten registration. Any child who will be five on or before August 1, 2022, is eligible to attend kindergarten. Our kindergarten screenings will be held on May 4 and 5.

Step One – Complete the online registration forms in Final Forms. This is available starting the week of February 14. Go to the district website and look for the kindergarten registration link located under school news. You will follow the instructions and complete all of the forms online.

Step Two – Once you have completed the online forms, you will receive an email with a link to sign up online for a screening time for your child. These appointment times on May 4 and 5, are an hour and a half long. You will need to bring the following required documentation to the screening:

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Residency, lease or deed, or utility bill
- Immunization Records
- All special education records/504 documents, if applicable
- Drivers license for identification
- Custody papers (if applicable)

Please Note: A parent or legal guardian must be present during the entire kindergarten screening process.

Optimist Oratorical Contest by Bridgit Kerber

On March 1st, the Covington Noon Optimist Club will host its annual Oratorical Contest for students in grades 7-10. The contest is at 6pm in the high school commons.

Participants are tasked with writing and presenting a four to five minute speech about the Optimist International Organization's topic "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times." To prepare for this challenge, students will have the aid of their dedicated ELA teachers Mrs. Amber Groppi, and Mrs. Morgan Schmitz, who will provide coaching sessions throughout the month of February for both writing and practicing the speeches.

The top three speakers in both junior high and high school will earn a medal, a cash prize, and the top two speakers will be invited to participate in the Regional contest held on March 19th at the Troy YMCA at 10am

JOI Club International Membership 2022 by Amber Groppi

The Optimist Club of Covington, is honored to announce that a new Junior Optimist Club has been chartered at Covington High School. Junior Optimist International, the youth club's component of Optimist International, is one of the world's largest service club organizations. Junior Optimist has a membership of more than 15,000 students in over 500 Clubs throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

I am so honored to be the advisor of such an impactful organization here at CHS. We take our responsibility to serve our community very seriously. Our student members are committed to spreading optimism through volunteering and outreach. We've already helped with many events this year, including: parking cars at our home cross country meets, assisting local churches hand out candy for Trick-or-Treat, registering contestants for our community Halloween costume contest, collecting toys for the Toys for Tots drive; supporting the Shoes 4 the Shoeless drive for our school district, and baking cookies to show our appreciation to our village police and fire departments. We have a strong group of 23 total student participants, and I am proud of the work they have done so far this year.

Our students are eager to support community members. If there is an upcoming event with which JOI Club can help, please contact Amber Groppi at groppia@covingtonk12.org. The club is always open to helping with community events. We appreciate our community, and send special thanks to our local Optimist Club for their affiliation and support.

BUCCS LEAD Conference by Jessica Helsinger

The Covington FFA Chapter hosted the first BUCCS LEAD (Leaders Engaging and Developing) Conference at The Barn Youth Center in Pleasant Hill. The following elected student leaders joined together for a day of planning and leadership development; FFA Officers, Junior Class Officers, Senior Class Officers, Sophomore Class Officers, JOI Club Officers, SADD Club Officers, HOPE Squad, FCCLA Officers, BPA Officers, Student Council Officers, Drama Club, Band Leadership, and Art Club Officers.

The day began with a teamwork and leadership training workshop led by Ms. Mackenzie Hoog of the Ohio State University. Following the workshop, the student leaders identified goals to work on within our school. "It was quite a fun experience where I learned a lot about leadership. It is something that I will use for the rest of high school," said Gavin Fraley BPA Officer. In the afternoon each club or group planned an activity to complete during this school year. One of the most exciting

results from BUCCS Lead was the development of a School Spirit Committee. The FFA chapter hopes to hold future events for student leaders. The Covington FFA chapter is a satellite program of Upper Valley Career Center and is advised by Mrs. Jessica Helsinger.

Counseling Department Update by Laura Ayres

It is hard to believe that the second semester has started! The counseling department has been very busy, and there are a few things we would like to highlight. The first is for the Class of 2022. Seniors are applying to colleges and finalizing their plans for after graduation, and scholarships play an important role in helping students finance their education. In an effort to make scholarships easily accessible to students and parents, the counseling department has created a scholarship website as part of the counseling page. The page lists local, statewide, and national scholarships that are available to CHS students. It is updated regularly, and includes brief descriptions of the scholarships as well as links to applications. It is a great resource for students and parents! You can check out the scholarship website at this address: <https://www.covington.k12.oh.us/Content2/scholarship-opportunities>

Another event that we would like to highlight is the College Credit Plus Informational meeting. Students and parents who are interested in participating in College Credit Plus (CCP) during the 2022-2023 school year should make sure to check out the information. We will be offering two different ways to get this information. There will be an in person meeting during parent teacher conferences on Thursday February 17th at 6:30PM in the high school commons. The information will also be recorded and available on the school counseling web page for those who cannot attend the in-person meeting.

FFA Invitational Public Speaking Contest by Jessica Helsinger

The Covington FFA participated in the Bloom Carroll FFA "Drop the Mic" Public Speaking Invitational on January 24. The Covington FFA had four members compete in the virtual public speaking contest. They were Lainee McMacken, Mic Barhorst, Kori Moore, and Kara Stephan. Kori Moore and Kara Stephan participated in the Beginning Prepared category. Beginning Prepared participants have to write and present a speech that is between five to seven minutes. Lainee McMacken participated in the Advanced Prepared category. Advanced Prepared students have to write and present a speech that is between six to eight minutes. Mic Barhorst participated in an extemporaneous speech category. Contestants in that contest had to draw three topics from a hat, select one, then write a four to six minute speech in thirty minutes. The Finalists then advanced to an in-person contest on January 29. Lainee McMacken, Kori Moore, and Mic Barhorst were named finalists. Lainee McMacken placed 6th overall in Advanced Prepared Public Speaking. Kori Moore placed 3rd overall in Beginning Prepared Public Speaking and won a \$20 gift card. Mic Barhorst placed 3rd overall in Extemporaneous Public Speaking and won a \$20 gift card. Congratulations to each of these outstanding FFA students.

Miami County Public Speaking Competition by Jessica Helsinger

On February 1, the Covington FFA chapter also competed in the Miami County Public Speaking competition held in the Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua. Freshman Elizabeth Coblenz competed in the FFA Creed division, where students memorized and presented the FFA creed and answered questions following the presentation. Elizabeth placed 4th in the county. Sophomores Kara Stephan and Kori Moore competed in the Beginning Prepared division, where students wrote and presented their own four to six minute speech. Kara placed 3rd with her speech about Stereotypes in the Agricultural Industry. Kori won the division with her speech about Disabilities in Agriculture and will be moving on to the district competition. Junior Lainee McMacken competed in the Advanced Prepared division, where students wrote and presented their own six to eight minute speech. Lainee placed 2nd in the division with her speech about Advocating for Agriculture and will also be moving on to the district competition. Junior Mic Barhorst again competed in the Extemporaneous division in which students drew a topic and had thirty minutes to write and present their own speech. Mic won the division and will be moving on to the district competition.



**A Message from
Superintendent
Gene Gooding**

Parent and Staff Communication

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 17th from 1:30 to 9:00. If you have not set up a conference and would still like to, please call the K-6 office at 937-473-2252 or the 7-12 office at 937-473-3746.

Conference night provides an excellent opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress with the appropriate teachers and staff members. However, our staff members can be reached at any time via school email or school telephone. If you cannot attend Parent/Teacher conferences, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers, principals, or coaches at your convenience.

Winter Walking Hours

Please remember that the school building is open for walking hours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:15 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. during the winter months. District residents are invited to use the hallways and gymnasiums to walk during these times. Door 28, the main high school entry door, will be unlocked at 6:15 and will remain open for the entire hour.

Unfortunately, due to our many winter events (such as basketball games and practices, wrestling matches, Drama Club practices, youth sports, etc.) we cannot offer set evening walking hours. If evenings are the only times that work for you, please feel free to contact Mr. Long or Mr. Meyer and they will work with you to provide a suitable time for you to use the facility.

New Semester

The second semester began on January 18th and the students and staff members have been working extremely hard in the classroom. While the weather has proven that we are still in the midst of winter, it will not be long before we hold all of our favorite annual spring events such as the Spaghetti Super, Pancake Day, the school play, and the PLUS overnighter. The second semester always seems to fly by very quickly.

As evidenced from the articles in this publication, our students reached amazing heights during the first half of the school year. They excelled athletically, in the arts, in their co-curricular programs, and especially academically. We truly have remarkable students at CEVSD, and we wish them even greater success during the second semester.

The spike in COVID cases during the first semester certainly created challenges for school districts in the State of Ohio and across the entire United States. However, the cooperation that we received from our students and their families have enabled us to remain open for in-person instruction, and allowed us to operate our school district in a *near normal* manner. I am truly grateful that our students have had the opportunity this year to participate in all of the activities that make school at Covington so challenging, interesting, and fun!

I sincerely hope that the COVID numbers will continue to decline in our community and that every family will experience good health. At Covington, we will continue to do our best to keep all of our students and staff members safe while still providing a fantastic all-around educational experience for our students!

Thank you

The last few years have certainly highlighted the importance of teamwork in education. Without the cooperation of every staff member, family member, and community member, we would not have been able to provide our students with the level of education that we expect and value at Covington. I am truly grateful for the support that everyone has shown to our great students! Thank you and Go Buccs!


THANKS FOR ASKING!

I have a question about the Covington Schools or a suggestion for improving the schools.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Mail your questions or suggestions to: Mr. Gene Gooding, Covington EVSD, 807 Chestnut St., Suite B, Covington, OH 45318
