



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

December 2021

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CES Principal's Breakfast

by Josh Long

We had our Principal's Breakfast during the week of November 15, 2021. Over 140 students in grades 3-6 earned the opportunity to come to the cafeteria during first period and eat some yummy donuts. We do this at the end of each quarter for our students who receive all A's or all A's and B's. Please encourage your students to try to make this a goal for them at the end of next quarter. We would love to provide donuts for all students in grades 3-6!



CES PTO Walk-a-Thon Assembly

by Josh Long

On November 23, our PTO held their annual assembly for the Walk-a-Thon. The students had the opportunity to be entered into a drawing to eat lunch off of school grounds. The students also had the opportunity to earn gift cards to Culvers, and spirit tags for raising certain amounts of money. Our top four money raisers all went home with a hover board and our top grade level money raisers earned some Buccaneer gear. We would like to thank everyone who allowed their student to raise money for this event. All money raised goes right back to our students for classroom supplies, field trips, and assemblies.

Covington Jr/Sr High News

by Josh Meyer

As we enter the winter months at Covington Jr/Sr High School, I would like to take some time to inform our students, parents, and community members of some important items that our staff member see on a regular basis.

Please remind your student to bring his or her Chromebook to school charged and ready for class every day. Also, please keep in mind the expectation that district technology is to be used appropriately.

Speaking of technology, you are able to access Progressbook at home to check on your child's grades and assignments. If you need your parent login information for Progressbook, please contact Ms. Mitchell in the 7-12 office at 937-473-3746 or via email at mitchella@covingtonk12.org.

In November, a representative from Upper Valley Career Center met with the sophomores at Covington HS to highlight the many great programs offered at UVCC, and the 8th graders visited UVCC in person. Any sophomore who is interested in attending Upper Valley Career Center next school year needs to communicate with Mrs. Ayres as soon as possible. She can be reached at ayresl@covingtonk12.org or 937-473-2856.

Also in November, we had Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you to the many parents and family members who participated in conferences. We strive to keep the lines of communication open, so if you have any questions about your child's education, please feel free to contact teachers through their district email address found on the school webpage, or call the school at 937-473-3746.

Frequently at this time of year we are dealing with weather issues. Please check the district Facebook page for updates regarding school delays and closings. Also, if you have not subscribed to the "One Call" notification system, please do so by contacting the 7-12 office.

Covington students have accomplished many great things this school year, and we look forward to continuing that success across all levels of the Jr/Sr High School this winter.

Cardboard City by Jessica Helsinger

On October 23, the Covington-UVCC FFA held a Cardboard City event at Indian Hill 4-H Camp in Pleasant Hill. The event's goal was to raise awareness and empathy for those less fortunate. 13 FFA members from Covington attended the all-night event in which members gave up their electronics, slept outside in cardboard boxes, and had a "soup kitchen" dinner. During the event, Carly Shell, Ohio University grad student and former Covington FFA member, delivered a keynote speech. Carly shared her experiences dealing with her teammates' mental health struggles, encouraged students to see the best in people, and be there, for other when they need help. The FFA members completed a service project, creating fleece blankets to donate to the Troy Women's Shelter. "It was a great way to disconnect from the internet for the night and gain empathy for those less fortunate." - said Hunter Collins, Covington FFA member.

CHS Blood Drive by Dave Tobias

The Covington senior class sponsored the annual Covington High School blood drive on Thursday, November 4th with very good results. A total of 32 donors registered and 19 were first time donors. The goal was 23 units and we collected 20, achieving 87% of the goal. This collection amount will be able to save the lives of 60 people!

A special thank you for the Canteen workers who spent time escorting donors back to class and working the pre-registration portion of the blood drive. Canteen workers were seniors Sarah Slusher, Beth Kuether, Yelena Weaver, Holly Beasley, Tyler Alexander, Claire Fraley, and sophomore Whitney Welch.

The next blood drive for Covington High School is scheduled for Friday, March 11, from 10:00am – 1:00pm.

Thanks again to all those students who volunteered and helped save the lives of 60 individuals with your heart felt donation by giving blood. Also thank you to the Community Blood Center's Account Representative, Cora Johnson, for her help coordinating the blood drives.

CHS Student Council News by Bridgit Kerber

Student Council is always working on programs that will reflect its service-based mission, and the holidays spark some of their best activities.

Tis the season for gratitude, and nothing says "thanks" like Taco Tuesday. The CHS and CJHS student councils co-planned and served a taco bar for all teachers and staff in both the junior high and high school on Tuesday, November 23rd during teacher lunches. The student council hoped that the teachers would see this luncheon as a way of giving back to them for their hard work and dedication. If the state of the leftovers was any indication, this event was a major success, and will go from an innovative change to a much anticipated tradition for student council and teachers alike.

Another important program that the student council is sponsoring in December is Shoes 4 the Shoeless. Student council teamed up with the Junior Optimist Club to provide this timely service to the community before the holidays. Shoes 4 the Shoeless is a Dayton-based non profit organization that provides free shoes to any child or student who indicates a need. Any family who would like their child to have new shoes is provided a new pair on the day of the program. The Student Council and the JOI club

organization by helping determine student shoe sizes, escorting students to and from the gym, and entertaining students while they waited. If you would like more information about the Shoes for the Shoeless, please visit their website: <https://shoes4theshoeless.org/>.

Finally, the student council will be taking a short trip to the Stillwater Skilled nursing facility right before the holiday break to do our annual Holiday Caroling. Last year, due to the pandemic, we caroled outside the residents' windows for their protection, and were not permitted to go inside. While this did lift the spirits and cause a lot of smiles, this year, we are hoping to be able to share the joy of the season in person, by caroling from within the halls of the facility. This event has always been a personal favorite of mine, because sharing the holidays through music brings people of all ages together. Whether or not we will be able to be inside, we will be there to share our joy with some of our community's most beloved residents.

Community Resources by Nicole Crawford

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start and we are excited to see our students continue to work hard to achieve their goals! However, we also recognize that the past few months have been incredibly challenging for some of our families. We are committed to doing our part to support our students.

The School Counseling Department would like to share our list of community resources that are available to our students and families, whether they reside in or outside of the district. This resource contains counseling opportunities, crisis hotlines, resources for students with disabilities, food pantries, utility resources, shelters, and other mental health resources. These are located on the Jr./Sr. School Website under "Guidance".

In addition, the School Counseling Department has partnered with the Covington Outreach Association to provide food during the holidays. If you have a student in the district who may benefit from additional food, please sign up on the main page of our district website, or call 973-473-2856, Opt. 2.

We are very thankful to live in such a supportive community!

FFA National Convention by Jessica Helsinger

On October 27-29, the Covington-UVCC FFA chapter traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the National FFA Convention. The event began with tours of the Brookside Laboratory in New Bremen and the MVP Dairy in Celina. The students learned about water and soil testing, as well as progressive dairy cattle production. The Covington-UVCC FFA chapter had the honor to be spotlighted by the National Central Vice President, Paxton Dahmer, during the Opening Sessions of the convention. Kara and Kila Stephan were Top Ten Agriscience Fair Finalists and their project was spotlighted at the convention. President Mara Newhouse and Vice President Ryan Rohr represented the Covington-UVCC FFA by receiving the "Three Star Chapter Award" on stage. This is the highest rating that an FFA chapter can earn. Morgan Kimmel was a National Finalist in the "Small Animal Care Production" Proficiency and earned a \$500 prize. Morgan Kimmel also earned her American Degree. Less than 1% of FFA members earn this honor, which is the highest degree the FFA can bestow.

Covington BPA Update by Kristi Homan

The Covington Business Professionals of America club held their annual Buccs Bazaar on November 13th where shoppers were able to check out a variety of vendors displaying and selling their unique items along with crafts, door prizes, raffle baskets, food trucks, and more. Our BPA students worked so hard for the last two months planning every detail of the event, and in total, we had over fifty-five vendors, four food trucks, and other student entrepreneurs! We are beyond proud of our students and what they accomplished. The money earned from the Buccs Bazaar will go towards funding our competition and travel costs for the rest of the year. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the Covington BPA!



Veterans Day Assembly by Jessica Helsinger

The Covington Exempted Village Schools and the FFA chapter hosted their annual Veterans Appreciation assembly on November 11. There were 62 veterans in attendance at the event. The cafeteria was decorated beautifully by the Covington Elementary Student Council. The K-12 students invited the majority of the veterans and presented them with a certificate of appreciation during the assembly. The Covington FFA members introduced the veterans during the assembly and served a complimentary breakfast before the assembly. The junior high and elementary student council members spoke of their appreciation for the veterans in attendance and at home. Mrs. Knick's third grade class led the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language, alongside staff veteran Mr. Charles Cantrell. Veterans also received "retired stars from American flags" from the local VFW #6557 in Pleasant Hill. The Colors were presented by the Covington AB Cole American Legion 80. Mr. Meyer, high school principal, shared remarks on behalf of the entire school to conclude the event.



Junior High Student Council by Laura Ayres

On November 11th, members participated in the district wide Veterans Day Assembly by reading a poem written to honor all veterans. It was an honor to work with the FFA to participate in the assembly!

The JHSC also partnered with the High School Student Council to provide an appreciation luncheon for staff members in grades 7-12. We had a taco bar lunch on Tuesday November 23rd as a way to say Thank You to all the outstanding staff members at Covington Junior and Senior High School for all they do for the students, school, and community.

**A Message from
Superintendent
Gene Gooding**

Spirit of Giving

The Christmas season always seems to bring out the best in people, and at this time of year, more than any other, we are reminded that we can make a positive contribution to members of our community who need our help and our support. The students of CEVSD are always willing to donate their time and unique skills to help the residents of Covington and Miami County. This Christmas season, they are certainly doing their part to help spread cheer to their fellow citizens.

For example, the CHS Student Council and the Junior Optimist Club are working with the "Shoes 4 the Shoeless" organization to provide shoes and socks for any student who may need these items. The CHS Student Council will go caroling at the Stillwater Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to help spread Holiday joy. In addition, the CHS National Honor Society will host their annual canned food drive and the CES Student Council will sponsor their annual "Toys for Tots" program. The high school FCCLA conducted their annual "Teddy Bear Toss" at the first varsity boys basketball game, and secured hundreds of toys, winter hats, and warm gloves that were donated to the Covington Outreach Association and the Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County. The Junior High Bucc Club and CJHS Student Council will spread joy by caroling this Christmas season at Piqua Manor. Finally, the CHS Class of 2022 collected enough blood during their recent drive to save 60 lives!

The students in grades K-12 are truly grateful for the community they live in, and they are proud to help their fellow Covington and Miami County citizens in any way that they can!

Thank you Dr. Pond

December 16th will mark the last Board of Education meeting for Dr. Dean Pond. Dr. Pond has served as a school board member for 20 years and has been the BOE President for fifteen of those years. Dr. Pond is retiring

from the Board of Education at the conclusion of his fifth term, which expires this month. His experience and leadership have made a tremendous impact on our school district and he will be missed. When you see Dr. Pond around the community, please be sure to thank him for his years of service to the students of the Covington Exempted Village School District!

Happy Holidays to our community!

As we approach Christmas break, and look to the beginning of 2022, I would like to thank the Covington community for the continued support of our students and our school district. In last month's Covington Connection, I mentioned that we recently received large donations from the Miami County Foundation, the Covington Noon Optimist Club, the Bucc Boosters, and the Eagles.

Before the ink was even dry on that edition, we received another donation from the Covington Fraternal Order of the Eagles for \$10,000 and a \$12,000 donation from the Roy J. Weikert Trust. These two great community partners have been instrumental in allowing us to provide our students with the educational resources and opportunities that they need to reach the extraordinary heights that they have!

We are blessed to have organizations, businesses, and private citizens who donate their time, resources, and money to support our students. We are also blessed to have parents, grandparents, friends and community members who support our students and staff members in countless ways. I cannot overstate the impact that the support of an entire community has on our ability to provide our students with the outstanding educational experience that they deserve.

To all of you who have donated your time, money, and resources, or provided much needed emotional support to our students and staff members, we thank you and wish you Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Gene Gooding- Superintendent

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
