



MOUNT GILEAD EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

THE COMMUNICATOR

NEW FACES AT MGEVS

Abigail Ackerman is a new Intervention Specialist at the Middle School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Special Ed. from Geneva College. Abigail was at Marion City Schools before coming to Mt. Gilead.

Hillary Billups will be an Intervention Specialist at the High School. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Kent State University. Prior to coming to Mt. Gilead Hillary was a tutor at Columbus City Schools.

Rob Collier is the Middle School Career Tech Teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Ashland University and his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction-Education Technology from Cleveland State University. Rob was at Clearview Local Schools in Lorain before coming to Mt. Gilead.

Rachael Freeman is the District Speech Therapist at Park Avenue Elementary.

Tina Gabler is the new Treasurer at Mt. Gilead Schools. She was previously at Wellington Exempted Village School District as Treasurer as well as Northmor Local Schools before coming to Mt. Gilead. Tina lives in Morrow County with her husband Mike. She has 2 children, Brandon and Bailee and is also blessed with 3 granddaughters.

Stacy Gabriel is the secretary for Special Services at Park Avenue Elementary. She is married to her husband Shane. Her two children Collin and Brycen attend Mt. Gilead Schools.

Jake Hayes will be teaching Science at the High School. He received his Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of Findlay. Jake spent his last year at Northridge High School teaching Anatomy and Biology.

Carol Holt is a full time bus driver.

Wendy McKirgan is welcomed back to Park Avenue Elementary as Secretary.

Michaela Snively will be an addition to the Third Grade teaching staff at Park Avenue Elementary. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Michaela completed her student teaching prior to coming to Mt. Gilead at Western Lexington Elementary in Lexington.

Abby Thompson is the new Elementary Guidance Counselor at Park Avenue Elementary. She received her Master of Science in School Counseling from Long Island University. Abby was at the Marion Correctional Facility as a counselor prior to coming to Mt. Gilead.

Cierra Ward will be teaching Music at Park Avenue Elementary. She was awarded her Bachelor Degree in Music Education from Wright State University. Prior to being hired at Mt. Gilead Cierra completed her student teaching at John F. Kennedy Elementary in Kettering.

Erin Wise will be running in the gym with the students this year at Park Avenue Elementary as the new Physical Education Teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio State University. Erin completed her student teacher program at Deer Run Elementary School in Dublin before coming to Mt. Gilead.

HEALTHCARE CONSULTANTS:

We currently have 3 healthcare consultants this year at Mt. Gilead Schools:

Taylor Arndt - Middle School

Ariana Layer - Park Avenue Elementary

Christina Weikle - High School



CHILD FIND

A search for preschool aged children with disabilities in MGEVS

What is Child Find:

Child Find is the process of locating, identifying and evaluating children with disabilities that may be in need of special education or related services.

What is the purpose of Child Find?:

- To alert parents, professionals to students who may have special needs.
- To guarantee that school districts find children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention.
- To enable children to receive the special education and related services that are needed.
- To promote public awareness of disabilities.

What is a disability?:

A physical or mental condition for children ages birth to 3 that may result in a developmental delay requiring special education and related services. For children ages 3 through 5—A child who is experiencing a delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or adaptive development; or, a child who is identified with any of the conditions listed in the paragraphs below.

For children ages 5 through 21—Identification of one or more of the following conditions: autism, deaf, blindness, hearing impairment including deafness, cognitive disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impairment.

How can you help?:

If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, please notify his/her school districts. Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, childcare providers, physicians and concerned citizens are encouraged to help school districts find any child, ages birth -21, who may have a disability and are in need of special education and related services.

What happens next?:

The school district will contact the parents of the child to discuss the next steps in the evaluation and identification process. This process is provided at no cost to the family. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving the appropriate special education and related services during the school day.

Who can you contact?:

If you have a child ages 3-5 years of age and have concerns about a suspected disability, please contact Stacy Gabriel or Molly Clapper.

By phone: 419-946-5736

Email: sgabriel@mgschools.org or mclapper@mgschools.org

Article submitted by: Molly Clapper, Director of Special Projects



UPDATES FROM THE CURRICULUM DIRECTOR..EMILY ROSS

Wow, it is hard to believe it is already October! The last two months have flown by. On top of the usual back to school busyness we have had to manage all the COVID safety precautions and create a remote learning program for 20% of our district. It has been a lot to tackle but our amazing teachers and staff have risen to the challenge. Below are updates on some of what's been happening this fall.

Remote Learning Program

We currently have 210 students participating in remote learning in PreK-12th grade. We were fortunate to be able to assign a dedicated teacher at the elementary level per grade to work with the remote learners. At the Middle School we were able to free up 1 period a day for each teacher to hold their class remotely. Students at home follow the same bell schedule as our in person students and receive the same education. Because of the schedule changes, we had to implement, it was important that families made a full semester commitment to remote learning. High School scheduling gets more complicated, so we opted to utilize an outside curriculum provider, though these students are very much still Mt. Gilead students. We are accessing Edmentum platform through a contract with Treca Digital Academy. The majority of our students are doing well in remote learning. Details about Spring semester choices will be sent home in December.

Website Changes

If you have visited our school district website recently at www.mgschools.org you may have noticed some big changes. We now have a pop up window with direct links to teacher websites and our online portal Classlink (more on that below). Our new teacher sites are courtesy of Jon Grega and his work with our teachers this summer. If you have any questions or need to contact your student's teacher, please visit our website. We also have a dedicated website for all COVID related information, our remote learning program and the ongoing Superintendent Search process. We are slowly phasing out the old website and replacing it with Google site pages which are simpler and easier to manage. We hope you enjoy the changes, and if you can't find something you need, let us know.

Classlink

This website is our online portal for students to access all our educational apps and programs. We are able to set up single sign on or rostering for most of our programs. Students can log in to their dashboard and see apps commonly used in many classes, but they can also go into their backpack to see the apps for each of their classes assigned by the teacher. This is a time save for students and will enable us to transition smoothly if we have to go to hybrid learning or fully remote again. In addition to this program we were able to provide each in person student with a device to use at school. iPads for K & 1st grade, and Chromebooks for grades 2-12. These will be allowed to go home only if we are hybrid or remote. The current remote students were also provided with a device for home use if needed.



Nov.

2020

Dec.

2020



JOBS FOR OHIO'S GRADUATES

The following students have been elected to office for the JOG program:

Co-Presidents: Lupita Rubio and Emarah Miller

Vice President: Haley Sharp

Treasurer: Kylie Irwin

Our officers held their first meeting this month. On October 6th and 9th we will be sorting bottle caps for the Morrow County Recycling department. These bottle caps can then be recycled and made into benches. This will be our first community service project and we are excited to help someone in our community. We will continue to look for safe and healthy options for our community.

Photo and article submitted by: Gerry Hartman, Job Specialist

Pictured left to right: Haley Sharp, Kylie Irwin, Lupita Rubio, and Emarah Miller



SENIOR PICTURES FOR THE YEARBOOK

Graduates of the class of 2021 should have their senior photos taken soon. Don't wait until the spring because it takes time for photographers to get the pictures edited and back to you.

Senior Portrait Requirements:

- Submit a **digital image** of your photo by email or on a flash drive.
- Images must be at least **300 dpi**. Please use the original image. Images pulled from social media are a lower quality and will not meet this requirement.
- Portraits must be **vertical** orientation.
- The student must be pictured from the **waist up**. You will need to crop the picture before submitting.
- No props: you must be the focus of the photo and no sunglasses.
- No watermarks or photography company logos.
- Students who do not submit a senior photo will have their Lifetouch portrait in the yearbook.
- Turn in your photo to Mrs. Gerber in room 112 or email photo at jgerber@mgschools.org.
- Anyone who submits a photo that does not meet these requirements will have their Lifetouch picture will be used instead.
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MIZPAH NEWS

The 2020 Mizpah has arrived. Current students who ordered a copy in the spring can stop by room #112 before or after school. Graduates can call or email Mrs. Gerber to have their book placed in the office for pickup. Please do not show up without contacting Mrs. Gerber first. There are a few extra copies that can be purchased on a first come first serve basis for \$60. Bring a check made out to Mt. Gilead High School or cash to Mrs. Gerber to get your copy. Also, there are still many books from years past that were never picked up. If you ordered a previous year and did not pick it up, contact Mrs. Gerber at jgerber@mgschools.org



FFA MEMBERS ATTEND SOILS EVENT

The Mt. Gilead FFA Chapter took 32 students to the Morrow County Soils Contest on Friday, September 18, 2020. As with most things in 2020 this year's event was a bit different. The event was not a competition between the county schools as in years past. Instead it was an opportunity for each school to come at a scheduled time following all COVID safety procedures and to get a chance to simulate and practice what a traditional soil judging contest would look like. The students had the opportunity to evaluate three different site locations for either rural or urban land use. They then had to identify site limitations and decide the best management practices to overcome those limitations for various uses.

In the uncertain times this year has presented, the chapter and its members were grateful for the opportunity and would like to thank the school administration, the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District office and Mr. Ray VanHorn for helping to organize this event and make it possible.

Submitted by Tyler McKinney, Chapter Reporter



NEWS FROM MT. GILEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

I would like to thank all of the parents/guardians, students, and staff for their efforts and flexibility making the start of the year positive. While our attendance numbers are higher this year, I appreciate all of the parents using caution before sending their child to school. Please continue to communicate and to be flexible as we keep working to provide the best educational experience we can for your child.

We are still planning to have our trip to Washington D.C. The dates are now May 24-27. We are currently working on fundraising opportunities and will share this information once it is finalized.

Our fall sports season is coming to an end and our winter sports season is quickly approaching. Please be on the lookout for information regarding tryouts and practices.

Article submitted by: Clay Grube, Middle School Principal

PARK AVENUE BOOK FAIR

Hello friends! This year Book Fair is going to be a little different. It is going to all ONLINE. We will still have all your favorite titles plus more!! Plus some fantastic perks:

- Same **exclusive titles** as your in-school Book Fair
- Orders ship **direct to home**
- **FREE shipping** on book-only orders over \$25
- All purchases benefit your school, earning **25% in rewards**

If you have any questions you can email us at ewhipple@mgschools.org or visit our Facebook page Park Avenue PTO (Parent Teacher Organization).



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POSTAL PATRON

VISIT US ON THE WEB:
[HTTP://WWW.MGSCHOOLS.ORG](http://www.mgschools.org)

From the Desk of the Superintendent

As the district approaches mid October, I would like to once again thank everyone in the community for all the continued support as we navigate through some uncertain times. I have been in the education business for nearly 50 years, many of those as a Superintendent of Schools, but, I truly have never experienced the challenges that were faced as we worked to open Mt. Gilead Schools this school year. I pledged to open the buildings in the safest and healthiest way possible due to Covid19. With the assistance of many, many folks, that pledge became possible. As your Interim Superintendent I can't say enough for the help we received over the summer from community members, parents and staff who worked on committees to identify ways to best protect the students and staff in these extraordinary, crazy times. I honestly don't know where I would have been without their insight, care, advice, etc. as we opened with both face-to-face instruction and a remote learning option. My praise goes out to all who helped and to the Mt. Gilead School staff members who welcomed the kids back to school after exiting so fast last March at the request of the State of Ohio. We missed those students and wanted the best possible educational options ready for them.

Our goal will be to continue to provide the best for the kids but please know that health and safety will be the #1 priorities. If we can keep kids healthy and safe, learning will happen. You should be very proud of the efforts to make this school year the very best it can be. As your Interim Superintendent it has been my pleasure to help and work with so many great people. Thanks to all.

Sincerely,

Larry Zimmerman
Interim Superintendent