



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Dr. Joseph Hoelzle, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

November 2022

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHS Fall News by Bridgit Kerber

CHS has had a busy and productive fall season! Between athletic excellence and academic achievement, our school community has much to be thankful for heading into Thanksgiving.

In athletics, our overall fall season has been extremely successful. Boys' golf finished first in the league, and girls golf made enormous strides by improving scores in every match of the season. Boys cross country also ran their way into league champs, while girls finished third due to some late season injuries. In volleyball, the Lady Buccs finished second in the league, falling to rival Miami East. In football, the Buccs have faced serious adversity this season due to low numbers and injury, but met their challenges in typical *relentless* fashion. While we've had to make tough calls on behalf of player safety, there has never been a lack of heart and determination from the team. Despite two sports still in season at the time of this publication, we already have two coaches of the year, and at least three athletes who made first team all league!

The Band of Bucc Pride, directed by Jessica Moore, has competed in several contests earning two "excellent" ratings, and one "superior" rating, qualifying them for the state contest in November. Their performance, called "Agent 54" has also earned best percussion, and best music during competition! Congratulations to our State Bound Band of Bucc Pride for this honor.

Student Council, led by Jim Sagona, is to be commended for their wonderful Buccaneer Bash event, where we crowned our Homecoming Royalty, and for their planning of a safe, fun dance for our student body. Our BPA students, led by Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Homan, have been preparing for the upcoming Buccs Bazaar happening on November 12th. FFA, led by Mrs. Helsinger, recently attended the National Convention in Indianapolis to accept their Three Star National Chapter award, ranking our students in the top 10% in the nation! They are also preparing for their annual Veteran's Day program on November 10th. Through our guidance department, we've started a mentoring program through which our high school and junior high volunteers work with elementary students. These mentors were trained through a community partner called GoodLife to engage students in living their best lives. They might help with academics, play games, or just take a walk. Building these early opportunities for leadership creates growth within all areas of our student body! A huge shoutout to Mrs. Ayres and Mrs. Crawford for developing so many systems of support for our students. Our VIP program has been working hard to help students who need extra support get caught up on work after absences, and provide tutoring in all subject areas. Of course, every staff member has contributed something to these successes, and every teacher and coach

have worked together to ensure that our students can find success not in just one area, but in many!

Finally, as we wrap up this quarter, it is a pleasure to have recognized our students for so many outstanding achievements, but it is also the day to day interactions that make this a great place to work and learn. Students are now recognizing each other for their daily contributions to our school community through the Bucc of the Week program, where they can nominate friends, classmates, and staff for going above and beyond. By fostering a spirit of gratitude in our students, we see the return in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment where everyone matters. I'm so grateful to be a Buccaneer for life!

Covington Junior High by Courtney Downs

CJHS is off to a great start for the 2022-2023 school year! There is no doubt that the enthusiasm from our students, staff, parents, and community has played a major role in the positive atmosphere felt throughout the building.

A focus our staff had going into this school year was to find meaningful ways to engage our students in the school and build a community with our 7th and 8th graders. Our guidance counselors, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Ayres, kicked things off with an amazing 7th grade orientation to welcome our newest students to CJHS. Staff from the entire district helped organize and supervise our first junior high tailgate in September where we saw more than 80 students enjoy food, fun, and games with their classmates before cheering on the high school football team. Mrs. Morgan helped the Student Council partner with the High School in organizing a spirit week for homecoming in which prizes were awarded to the "Best Dressed" each day. BUCC Club, under the leadership of Ms. Woloch, collected candy for trick or treat and organized Red Ribbon Week for the building. Mrs. Day took all 8th grade girls to Edison State Community College for their Women in STEMM expo as well to highlight opportunities for young women in careers focused on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine in addition to creating an after school Science Club for all interested 7th and 8th grade students.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Homan and her Publications class. The vast majority of social media posts for CJHS have been created by students learning new software and design techniques so far this year. Students in this class have also created the JH Chatter, a regular newsletter, for the students in our building. The group is also building a yearbook for 7th and 8th grade students to purchase at the end of the year.

We are excited to see more growth and continued successes in academics, fine arts, and athletics as the year progresses. GO BUCCS!

Lights, Camera, Action!
The 2022 CHS Homecoming
by Jim Sagona

This year's homecoming celebrations were a great success! All of the homecoming events are organized and planned by the high school student council members. This year's senior student council executives, Libby Shaffer, President; Ella Remley, Vice-President; Lauren York, Vice-President; Nigella Reck, Secretary; and Ali Gostomsky, Treasurer, truly stepped up the challenge! Events kicked off with the nomination of our 2022 homecoming court members by their senior class peers: Mic Barhorst, Ali Gostomsky, Erika Gostomsky, Cam Ha, Nora Hand, Reagan Lemp, Brian Morrison, Ella Remley, Ryan Remley, and Ryan Rohr.

The student council members organized a fun, safe, and memorable homecoming weekend. The high school student council coordinated with the elementary and junior high student councils for a week of dress-up days based around different movie themes. The weekend's events began with a district-wide K-12 pep assembly that featured the Bucc of Band Pride, our talented HS cheer squad, and a recognition of all of our fall athletes in grades 3 through 12. The HS FFA jumped in with a Clash of Classes relay race and the whole gym was roaring with Buccaneer spirit! Later Friday evening, a great homecoming parade lined up at the CHS parking lot and featured floats designed around movie themes. The parade featured our homecoming court and their first-grade attendants, Marie Sagona and Wesley Langston, riding in convertibles. It culminated with last year's homecoming king, Garret Fraley, riding proudly in a fire truck! Thank you to the Covington Police Department and Fire & Rescue for your efforts to help keep this a safe and exciting event for our students.

As the parade made its way to Smith field, spectators joined us for the Buccs Homecoming Bash, a celebration of Buccaneer spirit. The bash kicked off with the crowning of our 2022 King, Brian Morrison, and our Queen, Reagan Lemp. From there we featured our talented cheerleaders, recognized our boys football team, and enjoyed a performance by the Band of Bucc Pride of their full show from this season. The student council then held a series of grade-level Olympics with competitions between each of the high school classes. It was a tight race the whole way through, but the senior class just barely overcame the sophomores who put up a tough fight the whole evening.

On Saturday, October 1, we hosted the CHS Homecoming Dance in the K-8 Cafe. The room was converted into a red-carpet gala with balloons, an oscar statue, and even an 8-foot tall bag of popcorn. Over 200 high school students made memories as they happily danced the night away.

CES Red Ribbon Week
by Josh Long

October 23rd-31st was National Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon week takes place each year during

this time to inspire kids to be happy, brave, and drug-free. The 2022 National Red Ribbon Week Theme was, **Celebrate Life. Live Drug-Free.** The theme was a reminder that everyday Americans across the country make significant daily contributions to their communities by being the best they can be because they live Drug-Free! We had special-themed days where we are asking students AND staff to participate to help elementary students learn to say no to drugs! This was a fun-filled, educational week.

Covington BPA Presents the BUCCS Bazaar
by Kristi Homan

The Buccs Bazaar will take place on **November 12, from 10am to 3pm at Covington High School** and we invite all to attend! This is a great opportunity for you and your family to spend some time together during the holiday season, but also get some shopping done while you do it. Shoppers can check out a variety of vendors displaying and selling their unique items along with crafts, door prizes, raffle baskets, food and more. Santa Claus will also be stopping by for a visit from 12-2pm. Admission cost is \$2 and free for children not in school. If you, or someone you know, sells crafts or products and you would like more information on how to reserve a space, please email covingtonbpa@gmail.com. The money that is made from the Buccs Bazaar will go towards funding our competition and travel costs. We hope to see you there!

Youth at the Booth
by Courtney Downs

Mr. Cantrell's high school government classes are partnering with Miami County Board of Elections for the Youth at the Booth program. In 2005, Ohio law was amended to allow 17-year old high school students to participate as Precinct Election Officials, giving young people a greater role in our democratic process. Youth at the Booth gives students a real life civics lesson in the voting process while at the same time providing them with a meaningful community service activity. Following the application process, selected students attend a training with Board of Election officials to learn the necessary protocols and processes for a precinct on Election Day. CHS has seven students participating in the program this election cycle. When casting your vote on November 8th, keep an eye out for Covington High School juniors and seniors.

Getting Into The "SPIRIT" Of Things
by Nancy Boehringer

Students at Covington Schools wanted to find ways to bring more spirit to the school. So, we have been working on what to do, how to create more energy and incorporate ideas. Our students along with our high school principal, Mrs. Kerber, came up with bringing back the mascot...our mighty Buccaneer.

A committee of students was formed who wanted to take the reins on this project. The committee consists of Teylor Meyer, Mara Newhouse, Melissa Shoemaker, Dakohta Kenworthy, Elizabeth Coblentz, Bailey Lucas and Kara Shough. Together they brainstormed ideas and set up guidelines to be followed for our future mascot.

The search is now on to find a person or persons to perhaps share the duties and bring their big personalities and spirit to upcoming games, meets, clap outs, pep rallies and other school related events here at Covington.

The unveiling of our mascot has yet to be determined, but it will be soon. Keep a watchful eye out for our vivacious Buccaneer mascot at school events. GO BUCCS!

Covington-UVCC FFA by Jessica Helsinger

This year the Covington-UVCC FFA Chapter Soils Evaluation teams competed strongly. The District 5 Contest was held on September 27, in Auglaize County.

In the Rural Contest, students evaluate pits for soil characteristics including texture, depth to a water table, slope, compaction, soil fertility, and landforms. The Covington-UVCC team was led by Caleigh Gilpin and included Taylor Foutz, Jayda McClure, AJ Reyes, and Karissa King.

In the Urban Contest, students evaluate pits for soil characteristics including texture, depth to a water table, slope, depth to restrictive features, and landforms. The Urban team recommends best management practices that would be used in residential construction or city development. The team placed 3rd at the District Level, qualifying them for the State Contest! Asher Long was 3rd Overall Individual. Other district team members included Teylor Meyer, Elyza Long, Mara Newhouse, Makayla Vanderhorst, Whitney Burns, and Mason Epperson.

On October 8, the Urban Team competed at the State Contest in Lockbourne, Ohio. The team placed 34th in the entire state.

Counseling Department Update—October 2022 by Laura Ayres

October has been a very busy month for the 7-12 counseling department! Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Ayres have been busy meeting with students, doing classroom guidance lessons, having small group sessions, hosting college representative visits, organizing field trips and events, and so much more! A few events we'd like to highlight are the FAFSA workshop for seniors and parents, as well as a few upcoming field trips.

The FAFSA workshop was held at Covington High School on October 19, 2022 in the high school

commons. It was set up as an open workshop for seniors and parents to work on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required for all students who will be attending some form of higher education after graduating. Several students and parents attended, and many were able to completely fill out and submit their FAFSA. It was a great event, and we look forward to hosting another one next school year!

In early September, juniors and seniors were polled about which colleges they would like to learn more about by having a representative visit. The following schools were able to come to Covington to talk to interested juniors and seniors: Bowling Green State University, Sinclair Community College, University of Toledo, Miami University, and Wright State University. Students were able to sign up for visits and have the chance to learn more about the schools and ask questions. It is a great way for students to explore some of their college options!

There are also 2 field trips coming up at the end of October: a College and Career Fair hosted by Edison State Community College field trip that was open to all juniors and seniors, and a Manufacturing Month field trip for all sophomores. We are looking forward to these trips.

Muse Machine by Josh Long

Our third and fourth grade students had the opportunity to perform in front of an audience on September 28. Our third grade decided on the theme of Math Magicians. They explained how to figure out math problems using dance and songs. Our fourth grade chose the theme of Definition Detectives. They explained how to use context clues through dance and songs.

Thank you to Mrs. Shaffer for organizing this wonderful event and to the rest of our staff for helping get their students ready for this awesome educational experience. Also, a huge thank you to our PTO for helping fund our MUSE performance.

CES PTO by Josh Long

Our PTO has been busy since the beginning of the school year. They purchased Kona Ice for all of our students that attended our open house and then they had their annual Walk-a-Thon on Friday, September 23. Thank you to all of our PTO members that helped plan these activities and to all of our volunteer parents/grandparents that came in to help.

Our PTO meetings for the 22-23 school year will be held at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month in the 1st-2nd grade pod area.

A Message from Superintendent Dr. Joseph Hoelzle

It is my hope that as you have read through this Covington Connection, you have become more aware of the so many positive things happening in our school. Not a day goes by that I am not amazed at all the wonderful opportunities we offer to our students for being such a small school, and yet even with a small student population, we get BIG results!

Back in August, before school started, I was able to meet with the entire school staff. I shared with them two different images of people in a rowboat. I asked the staff to be like to the people in the second boat, rowing together instead of against each other. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together for common goals. You, as parents, grandparents, alumni, and community stakeholders are important people in the boat with us. We invite you to row with us as we work towards our mission to “provide an excellent educational foundation that prepares our students to become productive and responsible citizens.

Covington EVSD is very grateful for the many partners who have been rowing with us this fall.

- Thank you to our Support organizations, the PTO, BUCC Boosters, Band Boosters and Wrestling parents for all their help in providing educational and extra-curricular support. The PTO organized and hosted a walk-a-thon in September, the Band booster have fund-raised and worked the concession stand to raise much needed funds for our students.
- Thank you to parent, classroom, athletic and band volunteers who are helping their respective programs.
- Thank you to the paint crew for keeping the football and practice fields painted throughout the fall.
- Thank you to the chain-gang and press box crew who help the junior high and high school football games run smoothly.
- Thank you to the Covington Outreach Association for hosting a backpack, school supply and shoes for the shoeless give-away to our families before the start of school.
- Thank you to the numerous volunteers who are line judges during volleyball season.
- Thank you to local business who are constantly supporting and donating to our initiatives, such as Marias technologies / Boscoes recently hosting our BPA student group on a field trip

As I have transitioned to this role, I have been impressed by the immense support the Covington EVSD receives from the community. I appreciate the warm-welcome that so many have given and have enjoyed meeting so many new people. If I have not met you, I invite you to introduce yourself at one of our many events or to stop by the board of education office during regular business hours. If I can help in any way, or if you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via e-mail at hoelzlej@covingtonk12.org or by phone (936) 473-2279.

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: Dr. Joseph Hoelzle, Covington EVSD, 807 Chestnut St., Suite B, Covington, OH 45318
