

Crestwood COMMENTS

News from your excellent-rated school district

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF MANTUA, HIRAM, AND SHALERSVILLE

Winter 2022

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Hello Crestwood Community,

First of all, I would like to thank our staff members for their hard work and dedication to our students this school year. As this pandemic continues to fester, our staff members, as usual, step up. Whether cooking meals and serving food, driving our buses and cleaning our facilities, or teaching and coaching our students, our staff has shown great resolve to keep our schools open and ensure that learning continues. After three school years impacted by this pandemic, this resolve has not come without its struggles. Nevertheless, they continue to work hard for our kids.

Second, thank you to our parents and students for working with us in keeping our buildings open. Keeping our schools open would not be possible without your cooperation in monitoring your health and working with the district and the health department.

We are looking forward to the end of this pandemic, and I know that you are as well. Spring is right around the corner. It is always a time for optimism, so stay positive as we forge ahead. This newsletter and our earlier published Quality Profile are a testament to the hard work of our staff members and students during these challenging times.

As always, it is a great day to be a Red Devil!

David Toth, *Superintendent*
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CRESTWOOD NHS CHAPTER MAKE ACTIVITY BAGS FOR LOCAL HATTIE LARLHAM RESIDENTS

The Crestwood High School (CHS) chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) assembled 60 activity bags for residents at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities, a local organization that also provides care and support throughout Ohio.



"Most people think that the National Honor Society is just a collection of students who graduate with honors, but it's so much more than that," said John Marfy, NHS advisor. "Service is at the heart of the National Honor Society, because it gets our members out into the community doing things they love best, which is doing for others."

CHS senior Emily Marek spearheaded this community service project. The activity bags were each decorated and filled with fun craft activities like stickers, craft pompom balls, markers, glitter pipe cleaners, construction paper and coloring pages. Marek delivered the bags to Larlham residents before the thanksgiving holiday.

Every year around this time, the Crestwood NHS chapter participates in a service project. Last year, NHS collaborated with Restoration 44 coffee shop to collect and distribute canned goods for the holidays. This is a project that they are considering doing again this year. In 2019, NHS collaborated with the organization "Puerto Rico Rise Up" to sell candy bars and raised $900 for victims of storm-ravaged Puerto Rico.

Crestwood's NHS chapter also adopted a family of 12 and fulfilled some of their wish list items for the holidays.

CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Ten Crestwood High School (CHS) seventh and eighth graders were invited to attend the annual Portage County Middle School Leadership Seminar. This event was sponsored by the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio and Portage Programs for students showing outstanding leadership potential in the county.

CHS participants included Abigail Wild, Piper Seibold, Heide Jessel, Brody Durham, Julien Russo, Rocco Wrobel, Sam Roosa, Maddy Sheridan, and Lorena DeHoff. CHS Counselor Lynne Morrison attended with the students. “They had the opportunity to meet students from other schools and work collaboratively on learning problem solving skills,” said Morrison. “It was a fun-filled day with meaningful lessons, team building exercises, and leadership activities that stressed the true meaning of citizenship and service to others.”







CRESTWOOD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHERS PRESENT AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

This past October, two Crestwood Intermediate School teachers presented at the Ohio Middle Level Association (OMLA) annual conference in Columbus. Gifted intervention teacher Natalie Horvath and fourth-grade teacher Cassidy Powers teamed up to present *Connecting The Dots.*

Their joint presentation focused on Genius Hour, a learning system that allows students to explore passions and create final products to share what they have learned with their peers. They touched on ways to implement Genius Hour in various school settings including different grade levels and subject areas. “Going over the ins and outs of Genius Hour was one thing, but helping teachers visualize how it could work in their classrooms made the presentation worth it,” said Horvath.



Powers and Horvath believe Genius Hour allows students to take control of their learning and create a product with creative freedom due to its inquiry-based, student directed passion pursuit nature. They have both used Genius Hour in their classrooms and after seeing the positive impact it had on their students first hand they wanted to share that with other educators. They originally came across Genius Hour as a way to offer extension for their gifted students. “I love sharing with others what I’m doing in the classroom,” said Powers. “I hope that from my positive experience with Genius Hour it would inspire others to try Genius Hour in their classrooms.”

This is the second time Powers and Horvath have presented together at OMLA. “The OMLA conference was phenomenal,” said Horvath. “There were multiple keynote speakers over the two days and then different sessions to choose from. What’s cool is that the sessions are held by educators for educators which makes the conference more authentic.”

The conference allowed educators from all over the state to learn together. “I love attending the OMLA conference because it helps connect Ohio teachers with each other,” said Powers. “It helps create a professional network with local educators. The conference consists of teachers who are in the classroom sharing what they are passionate about which inspires me to try new things.”

POWER OF THE PEN WRITING COMPETITION SEASON STARTS OFF ON THE “WRITE” FOOT

Crestwood High School’s Power of the Pen Club for seventh and eighth graders hosted their first meeting on November 2. There were 16 students who showed up ready to write under the supervision of Kimberly Marfy and Tammy Sullivan. Not only does the team have a large number of participants, the quality of writing is also top notch. The team meets Tuesdays after school from November through February to hone their writing skills for their upcoming competitions against other area schools.

“Crestwood Power of the Pen meets the needs of our very creative and imaginative students,” said Marfy. “Power of the Pen is like mental gymnastics. Our students need to create a story in 40 minutes and that story must contain an entire plot structure along with dialogue, setting, theme, and other elements of literature. It is not easy. Yet, our students do it for competition and often they win!”

Students joining the team are: Abby Wild, Cody Harkcom, Julian Russo, Zach Mosnick. Brianna Stewart, Brady Mager, Mackaylee Burton, Marcella Zak, Jayvon Brisentine, Emma Lyons, Natalie Prijatel, Lauren Hawley, Avery Delaney, and Emma Robinson.

The stories at the first practice showed that Crestwood will be a true competitor this year. The district and the regional competition will be virtual, however, the state competition, held annually in May, is expected to be in-person at Otterbein University.

Writing to the prompt “The Ice _____: Fill in the blank to create the title of your story,” eighth grader Avery Delaney wrote a piece about “The Ice Hummingbird” which opened with the figurative line, “Gazing out my frosted window I watched as the snow fell in large clumps, like the snowflakes were all hugging each other.”

Since 1986, Power of the Pen has helped Ohio seventh and eighth graders find and develop a creative voice uniquely their own, learning crucial life skills in the process. “Another value of Power of the Pen is that these students become connected,” said Marfy. “They are the thinkers, they are the cerebral kids, they really enjoy each other’s company.”

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CRESTWOOD SIXTH GRADERS CREATE THEIR OWN STORYBOARDS

The sixth-grade honors English language arts classes at Crestwood Intermediate School read the story, *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick.

The students analyzed the plot of the story by identifying key story elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. The final project for this book study was for the students to create a storyboard identifying these story elements.

The students had the option to draw panels on a poster board by hand or use Pixton Comic & Storyboard Builder for Education - a website for allowing students to create their own comic storyboards! “The students produced final products that displayed their creativity and understanding of the book,” said teacher Lydia Kulesza.



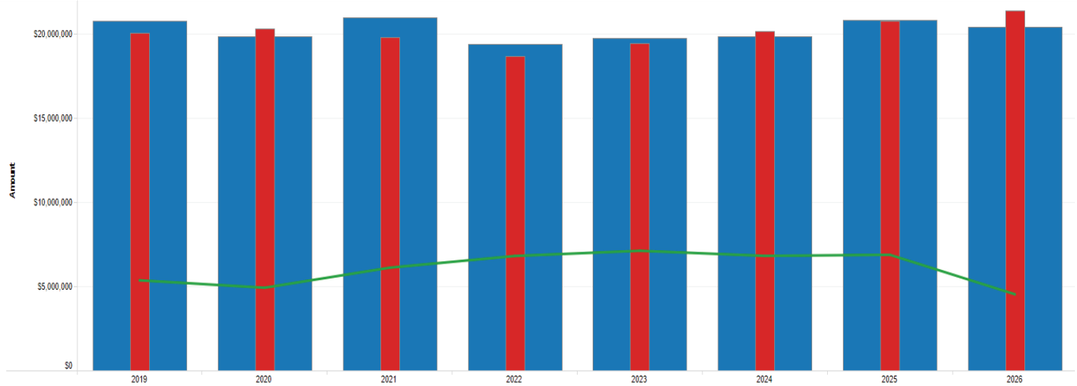




TREASURER'S REPORT

The Crestwood Board of Education is committed to prudent fiscal management of the school districts' resources with the goal of ensuring adequate funding to sustain the high quality of education for our community's children.

5 Year Financial Revenue versus Expenditures
Crestwood Local Schools
Source: ODE Five Year Forecast



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Revenue	$20,776,330	$19,867,057	$20,965,194	$19,365,543	$19,761,672	$19,842,940	$20,822,100	$20,400,503
Expense	$20,054,237	$20,306,427	$19,775,310	$18,670,227	$19,453,028	$20,145,486	$20,757,333	$21,377,965
Cash Bal	$5,350,345	$4,910,975	$6,100,859	$6,796,175	$7,104,819	$6,802,273	$6,867,040	$4,521,402

In FY 2022 a revenue surplus is expected. This means that expenditures are expected to be less than revenue by -$695,316 in FY 2022. By the last year of the forecast, FY 2026, the district is expected to have a revenue shortfall where expenditures are projected to be greater than revenue by $2,345,839 the district would need to cut its FY 2026 projected expenses by 10.97% in order to balance its budget without additional revenue.

The district's cash balance is positive at year-end in FY 2022 and is projected to worsen by FY 2026. A worsening cash balance can erode the district's financial stability over time.

Crestwood LOCAL SCHOOLS
EVERY CHILD. EVERY DAY.

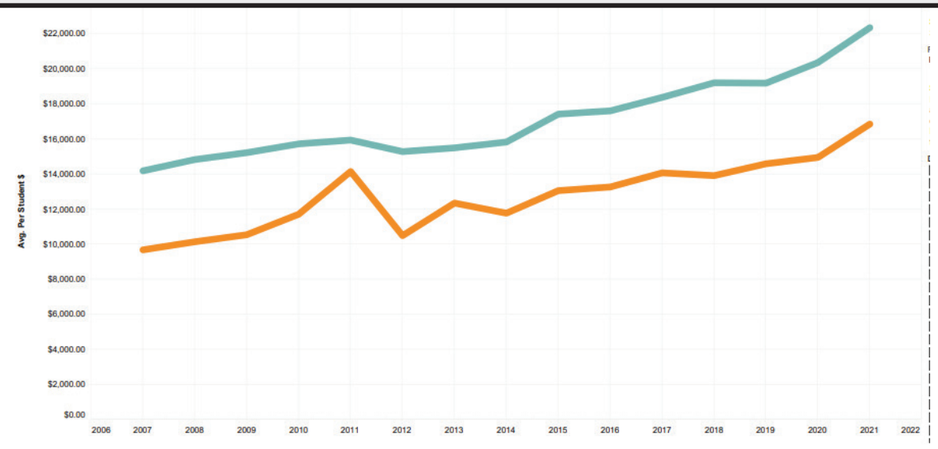
$6,100,861
Cash Balance as of 6/30/21

$19,365,543
2022 Forecasted Revenues

$18,670,227
2022 Forecasted Expenses

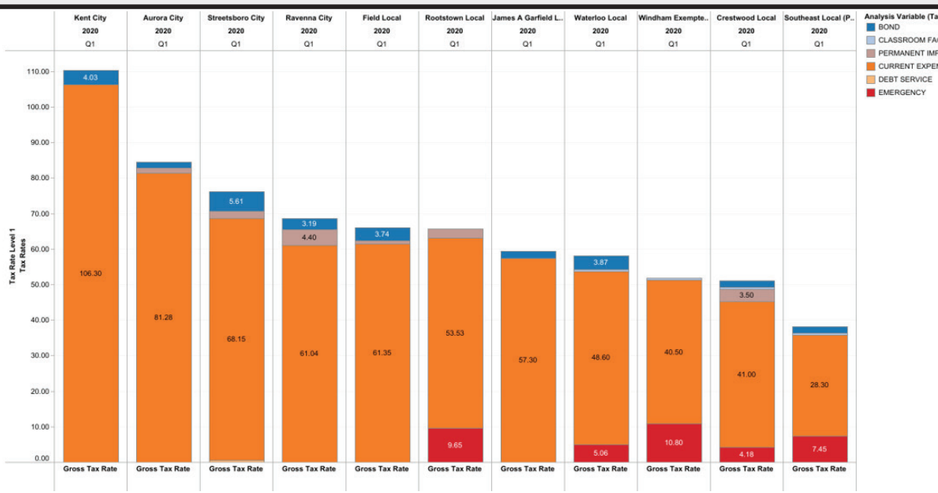
$6,796,177
Cash Balance as of 6/30/22

Per Student Revenue Comparison
Focus District: "State Averages"
Source: ODE Annual Financial Reports (Cash Basis)



The blue line represents the State of Ohio average for per pupil revenue. The current state average is $22,344.05. The orange line represents Crestwood Local Schools per pupil revenue and is $16,854.45

Tax Rates
Source: Ohio Department of Taxation



Above is a depiction of the tax rates for all of the Portage County schools. In terms of the revenue generated through taxes throughout the county, Crestwood ranks 10th out of the 11 school districts.

CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE "BLIND DATES" WITH BOOKS

While pink and red hearts and Hershey's Kisses seem like a Valentine's Day celebration, Tammy Sullivan's eighth-grade Honors English class at Crestwood High School were actually taking part in a reading activity before Thanksgiving break.

Sullivan's students were exploring new books and new genres in an effort to break out of their reading comfort zones. Building background information and empathy while discovering different perspectives were a few of the goals of the "Blind Date with a Book" activity.

Award-winning books and a wide variety of nonfiction books from Sullivan's classroom library reached out to students who may have judged these books by their covers.

The packages were decorated with keywords that caught the students' attention. They spent some time reading their book choice to determine if they would enjoy a "second date" to continue reading the book.

Bella Wurm unknowingly selected *The Hundred Dresses*, a novel written in 1944 and winner of a Newbery Honor Medal. "It was calming to read and felt peaceful," said Wurm.

12 Immigrants Who Made American Sports Great was a title selected by Crestwood student Kyle Shelhammer. "It is about people who changed sports and are making a big impact," said Shelhammer.







CRESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL DEDICATES "LITTLE LIBRARY" TO TERRI LAWLESS

On November 11, Crestwood Primary School held a dedication ceremony of a new "Little Library" box in memory of Terri Lawless, a former staff member who passed away earlier this fall. A true community effort, the Gilles family donated the materials and construction. The staff donated the funds to purchase a bench that reads, "In Loving Memory of Terri Lawless," as well as books. The Picone family installed the "Little Library" box.

Lawless was a librarian at the primary school last school year and was working at both the primary and intermediate school offices this school year. "Terri loved books, working with kids, and instilling a love of reading," said Principal Cynthia Ducca, Crestwood Primary School. "She also loved helping students with math and reading."





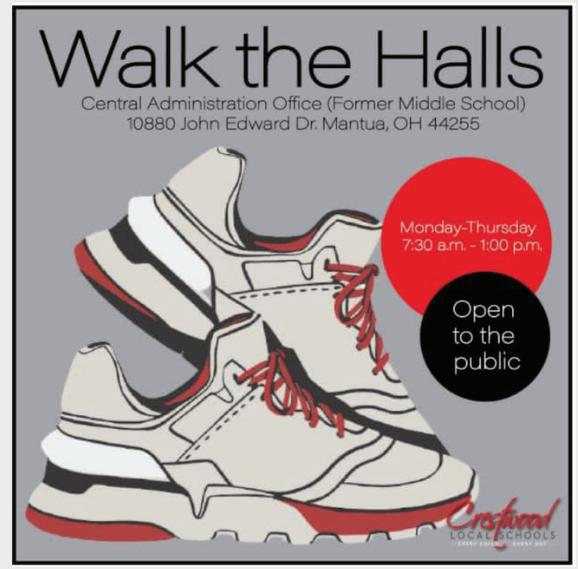


COMMUNITY WELCOME TO "WALK THE HALLS" IN FORMER CRESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Crestwood Local Schools is inviting the community to **"walk the halls"** in their former middle school building which is now the Central Administrative Offices. Beginning Monday, November 1, the building opened to walkers Monday through Thursday between 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. during the school year. The address is 10880 John Edward Dr. Mantua, OH 44255.

In order to participate in the walking, participants must register beforehand to ensure the safety and security of staff members. Registration will take place in the Central Administration Office during office hours (7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) and receive a "walker identification badge." Walkers will need to bring a valid photo ID. Community members that wish to participate must wear a "walker identification badge" at all times and use the buzzer at the main entrance to enter the building.

Questions about the "walk the halls" program can be directed to Superintendent David Toth at **dtoth@crestwoodschools.org.**





CRESTWOOD SCHOOLS PUBLISHES QUALITY PROFILE

Crestwood Local Schools published their newest Quality Profile for their 2020-2021 school year. Crestwood is proud of the tremendous efforts that both students and staff displayed during the challenging year. Hard copies have been mailed throughout the community and it can also be found digitally at CrestwoodSchools.org. The Quality Profile features information about awards, accolades, grants, academics, arts, parent and community engagement, student leadership and activities, athletics, student services, staff leadership, fiscal stewardship, maintenance, technology, and facility and grounds improvements.

Crestwood LOCAL SCHOOLS
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VARSITY FALL SPORTS RECAP

Varsity Football

- Record 7-4
- Chagrin Valley Conference (Valley Division Champs)
- OHSAA State Playoff Berth
- 3 Players Honored as Honorable Mention All Ohio Division V (Louis Blasiole, Ethan Strahan and Evan Daniels
- Head Coach Jack D'Amato awarded CVC Coach of the Year
- Senior Louis Blasiole awarded CVC Offensive Player of the Year

Boys Soccer finished 5th in the CVC

Girls Soccer finished 3rd in the CVC

Boys Cross Country finished 4th in the CVC

Girls Cross Country finished 2nd in the CVC

Volleyball finished 4th in the CVC

Girls Tennis finished 6th in the CVC

Fall Sports Highlights

Commitment, dedication, accountability, responsibility and a positive work ethic are just a few of the many developmental attributes and requirements that extracurricular participation demands and develops. This past 2021 fall athletic season brought success, not just on the competitive surface, but also throughout the classroom. Our student-athletes set the standard for the current and future extracurricular participants.

Academic Reports

The Crestwood Middle School athletic programs increased their average grade point average from 3.11 to a 3.42, while the Crestwood High School athletic programs maintained their focus on academia with a 3.56 final grade point average.

Student-athletes who earn a varsity letter and maintain a grade point average of 3.4 or greater are honored with being a scholar athlete. Crestwood varsity athletic's presented 60 scholar athlete awards at the fall sports banquet.

Athletic Accomplishments

Crestwood is a member of the Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC) and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). At the conclusion of both conference play and State Tournament play, coaches across the conference and region vote on student-athletes for conference, district and state honors. These honors reflect the abilities of student-athletes.

The Red Devils had 38 All-Conference Honorees, 19 All-District Honorees and 3 All-State Honorees!