



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Dr. Joseph Hoelzle, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

February 2023

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHS Updates by Bridgit Kerber

It's a new year, and the halls of CHS are once again filled with the voices of students after a period of quiet over the winter break. These quiet times allow reflection on where we've been, and where we're going, and wow what a journey!

Since the last edition, we've celebrated so many student successes! In early November, 98 CHS students were honored for their grades at the quarterly principal's breakfast, while another lucky few received ice cream treats for perfect attendance. The FFA traveled to the National convention and was awarded a Three Star Chapter award, then provided a leadership seminar to all student group leaders at the second annual Buccs LEAD event. The BPA went to their first regional event, and sponsored another very successful Buccs Bazaar, this year featuring none other than Santa! The FCCLA held their Teddy Bear Toss on Dec 9th, collecting over 200 new stuffed animals, hats and gloves to benefit our local families. We had 48 students apply for enrollment in programs at Upper Valley, proving once again what a valuable resource the Career Tech programs are to our students. The NHS collected over 1400 canned goods this holiday season, all of which will fill the coffers of our local food banks. Hope Squad provided our student body with a coffee bar in exchange for words of affirmation - a great way to send our students home for the Holidays. Our seniors traveled to the Columbus Zoo for an afternoon and evening of fellowship and holiday spirit. Finally, we welcomed our new mascot at a recent pep assembly, and will be working together as a school community to select a name for this spirit icon.

As we wind down the second semester, remember that the staff of CHS is also working

tirelessly behind the scenes to provide support of all kinds to our students. In the Virtual and Intervention Program, students have received help on over 390 assignments, and many after school hours of tutoring! Our counselors recently provided programming to freshmen regarding the power of words in creating an environment of acceptance within the school culture. We welcome your input, and hope that you will reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's school experience.

CES Kindergarten Registration 2023/2024 by Josh Long

Covington Elementary School is in the process of planning for our 2023/2024 kindergarten registration. Any child who will be five on or before August 1, 2023, is eligible to attend kindergarten. **Our kindergarten screenings will be held May 3 and 4.**

Step One – Complete the online Registration Forms in Final Forms

This will be available starting February 13. Go to the district website and look for the Kindergarten Registration Link located under school news. You will follow the instructions and complete the forms online.

Step Two – Once you have completed the online forms, you will receive an email with a link to sign up for a screening time for your child. These appointments times on May 3 and 4, are 1 ½ hours in length. You will need to bring the following required documentation to the screening: Certified Birth Certificate, Proof of Residency(lease or deed, or utility bill), Immunization Records, All special education records, Drivers License, and Custody Papers (if applicable)

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

CEVSD Parent/Teacher Conferences

by Josh Long

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 16, from 1:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will have a two-hour early dismissal that day for all students. There will be no school for all grades on Friday, February 17.

Conferences are certainly not necessary for all students, and your child's teacher has indicated if he/she believes a conference is necessary. However, we want you to know that everyone is encouraged to attend conferences.

Spaghetti Supper

by Nicole Crawford and Laura Ayres

The annual Covington High School Spaghetti Supper will be held on March 22 from 4:30-6:30pm. On the evening of the event, the meal will be served in the K-8 Cafeteria. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Covington Schools Scholarship Fund Program. Each dinner will include Italian spaghetti with meat sauce, homemade coleslaw, garlic toast, dessert and drinks.

Also, the community scholarship fund drive is underway. Many individuals and organizations have continuously been supportive of this cause throughout the years. Donations to the scholarship fund should be sent to Laura Ayres at Covington High School, 807 Chestnut St., Suite A, Covington, Ohio 45318, through March 22, 2021. For more information, call 937-473-2856, Opt 1.

The community's continued support is greatly appreciated!

BUCC Club

by Kim Woloch

We have been very busy this year. Each month we focus on a community service project. So far this year, we have donated money to the Alzheimer Association, passed out candy at our "Treat Street" on Beggar's Night, donated to the food drive, made breakfast for our staff and in February for our students. For our fundraiser this year, we sponsored a school wide skating party at 36 Skate Club in Oct. Our next Skate Party will be on February 28 from 6:00-8:00pm. Flyers will be coming home with students in the next couple of weeks.

New Clubs at CJHS

by Courtney Downs

One goal we have at CJHS is to have every single child find their place while a student with us. For many of our students, this is done through the dozens of sports, clubs, and activities we've been offering. We did realize this year that there was more we could offer our students to encourage their interests and hobbies beyond what we have used previously.

Mrs. Day, the junior high science teacher, started a Science Club for students after school. In small groups, students meet to discuss various topics in the science realm. They also conduct experiments that they can't normally complete during a standard class period. All junior high students are welcome to join the club with parent permission.

CJHS is now home to the Writer's Club as well! Interested students are working both independently and in small groups on organized writing prompts. Once the first drafts are complete, students peer edit each other's work. We will begin publishing student work on the school website under Writer's Corner in February!

Veterans Kiosk

by Levi Weldy

I am Levi Weldy, a student at Covington Schools and also a member of Boy Scout Troop 343 located in Covington. I am currently working towards my Eagle Scout rank in the BSA. My Eagle Scout project is to install an interactive kiosk in the Covington High School that is dedicated to all veterans who have graduated from Covington. The kiosk will be available to the public and through the internet for those individuals who no longer live in the area.

I NEED YOUR HELP! I am currently collecting data on veterans who graduated from Covington so they can be entered into the kiosk. If you know of anyone who fits into this category, email me at eaglescoutveteranproject@gmail.com with their name and the branch of military in which they served. With this information, the veterans will be able to be positively recognized at CHS for their service to our country. Thank you for helping me with my Eagle Scout Project!"

CHS UVCC Personal Finance Team Wins National Competition by Gail Young

The results of the Excellence in Financial Literacy Education's (EIFLE) Program of the Year & Hall of Fame simulation, Budget Challenge, are in, and the CHS UVCC Personal Finance Teams finished ranked #1 & 2 out of 77 teams competing nationally.

Competing October 6-December 15, in the largest of six 10-week online simulation competitions held so far this year, the team, CHS Lotsa BUCC\$ finished in 1st Place. Earning top honors for the team were Monica Ostendorf and Jackson Witt, who swept all 6 Financial Goal Trophies and earned 98% or higher on over 17 finance tests. Special recognition to team members Lilliana Ganger, Ashtin Gardner, Amayah Godfrey, Christopher Ha, Jacob Medders, Braydon Pergram, Abby Reynolds, Megan Rose, and Kassidy Turner for their overall outstanding performance.

Budget Challenge is a 10-week real world simulation where students earn or lose points daily based upon their personal finance decision-making. By simulating an adult's financial life – paying bills, investing in retirement, managing loans and more – students take a personal finance “road test.” This learn-by-doing educational approach allows high schoolers to make real-world mistakes without facing real-world consequences.

Each competition features different “no-win” scenarios that mirror real life. Students must choose the least damaging course of action, and they earn or lose points based on their financial decisions. Students applied critical decision-making skills in selecting 401(k) plans, car loans, credit cards, and bank accounts. They applied budgeting and investment skills while paying down credit with an overall goal of attaining the highest credit rating possible.

Since 2015, there have been 23 CHS-UVCC Personal Financial Management class teams taught by Mrs. Gail Young that competed in this national competition. All finished in the Top Ten, with teams finishing in first place the past three years. Mrs. Young is an Upper Valley Career Center Satellite teacher for Covington High School.



#1 Ranked CHS-UVCC “Lotsa BUCC\$” Personal Finance Team members: Back L-R: Ashtin Gardner, Braydon Pergram, Jacob Medders, Christopher Ha, Abby Reynolds, Megan Rose. Front L-R: Kassidy Turner, Amayah Godfrey, Lilliana Ganger, Jackson Witt, Monica Ostendorf



#2 Ranked CHS-UVCC “MoBuccs\$” Personal Finance Team members: Back L-R: Cameron Faught, Ethyn Hoffert, Jack Blumenstock, Garrett Leistner, Beck Wilson, Brogan Angle, Jacob Creager, Caris Geeding, Mercedes Willis. Front L-R: Brent Hartzell, Kylie Cassel, Layla Brown, Taylor Foutz, Makayla Vanderhorst, Maggie Mullen, Mackenzie Miller

A Message from Superintendent Dr. Joseph Hoelzle

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with you the most recent results on our districts report card that is published annually by the Ohio Department of Education. The state recently switched to a star system, with 5 stars being the highest rating and 1 star being the lowest rating. The state assigns ratings for achievement, progress, gap closing, graduation, and early literacy. The ratings are based upon student data and test results from previous school years. The district report card is one piece of information that we can use to see areas we are doing well on and helps us to identify areas that we can grow and improve upon.

The achievement component measures how well students perform on the state assessments that are given in April of each year. Covington earned four stars for this component, which puts us in the top half of all the districts in the State of Ohio. The performance index score measures the test results of every student who takes a state test. The higher a student scores on these tests, the more points awarded to the Performance Index. Our performance index score improved from 82.2 in 2021 to 90.2 in 2022, which is almost back to a pre-pandemic score of 92.1 that was earned in 2019.

The progress component looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances. As a district, we only scored 2 stars on this component, which makes this an area we need to improve on. Our 4th, 7th, and 8th grades, along with some high school subjects showed evidence of making progress similar to state-wide expectations, but some language arts tested areas show room for growth. As a district, we are reviewing our Language Arts curriculum alignment this school year, and are looking to update this curriculum next school year. We are also planning for professional development on dyslexia and other reading strategies to address these concerns.

Gap closing is measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student sub-groups such as economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities, or identified as gifted. Covington earned 5-stars on this component, which puts us again with the top half of all the school districts in the state of Ohio. The graduation component measures the graduation rate for students and compares it to districts throughout the state. Our 4-year graduation rate was 97.4 for students who entered 9th grade in the fall of 2017. We are in the top 15% of school districts in the state of Ohio for graduation rate, and earned 5 stars in this component.

The last component measured on the state report card is early literacy, which measures the reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade. We earned 3 stars on this component, which is an average rating. Although there is an opportunity for improvement, I am happy to report that 100% of our students met the third-grade reading guarantee requirements for promotion to 4th grade last school year.

Although there is room for improvement, I think as a district we should be very proud of these ratings. Overall, we earned 19 stars on the report card, which is very competitive for Miami County Districts. The results on this report card are evidence to me of the work ethic of our staff and students, along with the support we receive from our parents and community! Keep up the outstanding work. 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
