



WINTER 2022

VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

From the Superintendent

As the crops are being harvested and the leaves fall from the trees, the signs are evident that the autumn season is signaling coming changes. Students and staff are into the second nine weeks and winter extra-curricular activities will be starting soon. It is hard to believe Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner.

While the days and weeks continue to move by, we are excited for what has been happening in our schools! This year finally feels like a return to "normal" with a wide variety of events happening. Our students and staff have resumed field trips and hands-on activities and our schools definitely have a positive energy in the buildings this year. It is an exciting time to be a Viking and see our students participating in various activities like Fall Celebrations, Athletics, and Concerts for Choir, Band, and Orchestra.

In closing, on November 8, 2022, the River Valley Local School District will have an Emergency Renewal Levy on the ballot. Please see below for some factual information on this Emergency Renewal Levy:

- This is a renewal levy and represents NO new taxes.
- This 2.6 mill levy has been renewed every 5 years over the last 25 years.
- This levy generates \$854,281 per year for the district's operating expenses.
- The term "emergency renewal levy" is required by Ohio law for this type of operating levy. This is the same name given to this levy since it was first passed over two decades ago.

If you have questions regarding the levy, please call the district office at (740) 725-5400 and Brittany Keller, the District Treasurer, or I would be happy to speak with you.

Go Vikes!

Adam Wickham - RV Schools Superintendent



RV Under Construction!

If you have driven past the River Valley High School/Middle School complex recently, you may have noticed some construction going on between the two buildings. To address a major safety concern in our district we are building a connector between these buildings. Connecting the buildings was part of the plan from the day our campus opened. As we continue working to create a safe and efficient learning environment, having this connector will be a great asset. We are sure our students will also appreciate not dealing with rain and winter weather as they travel between the buildings for music and other courses where we have shared staff and facilities. The project is on target for finishing up over winter break.

Below are pictures of the construction site.



RV FFA Chapter Attends Farm Science Review

The River Valley FFA Chapter attended Farm Science Review on September 22, 2022. The chapter left River Valley at 8:00 a.m. and traveled to London, Ohio where we spent hours walking around the 100 acres. The Farm Science Review contains 100 educational sessions, 600 exhibits, a career exploration fair, and an immersive virtual reality video of agricultural activities.



Every member of the chapter could attend Farm Science Review. The members were split up into groups to walk around. Our chapter had about 25 groups walking around. Farm Science Review allows our chapter members to collaborate with others and learn about agricultural jobs. It also allows the members to come home with a lot of goodies!

This year our tickets were donated by Mr. Street, one of our member's dad. We would like to thank him as we greatly appreciated the donation. Lastly, the River Valley FFA Chapter would like to thank our advisor, Ms. Seckel, for putting the field trip together!

- Kenzae Eager & Lexie Sitverson, Reporters

A Note from Transportation
The transportation department is greatly appreciative of the new camera systems that have been installed. The new camera systems have been a tremendous help with catching red light violators. This school year so far there have been 26 reports turned in to the Ohio Highway State Patrol from our school. October is bus safety week, the Ohio Highway Patrol has been following some of our buses for red light violations, and overall safety of the bus. Transportation would like to thank the Board for approving the purchase of new cameras in our buses.

Archery Returns to Liberty and Heritage

The Nita M. Lowey 21 st Century Community Learning Centers Grant has provided funds for Heritage and Liberty Elementary for the past five years. The primary goal of the before and after school program is to help students increase reading and math skills in a safe, supportive environment. The program provides a broad range of activities including: academic, positive youth development, recreation, and enrichment opportunities.

The after school program has partnered with the River Valley Middle School Archery Club to bring archery to the 5th grade students at Heritage and Liberty. Mr. Jack Albert, Mrs. Carolyn Green, Mr. Joe Kinzel, and Mr. Brett Rinker are instructing the students. The students are completing rotations on form and technique, increasing their upper body strength through exercise, and shooting practice. The archery program meets on Monday and Wednesday after school through December.



Upcoming RV Music Events

- November 5 at 2 pm & 7 pm - Middle School Musical
- November 10 - Time TBD - Veterans Day
- December 10 - Sounds of the Season
- November 17 at 6 pm - Music Booster Meeting
- December 14 - Orchestra Winter Concert
- December 15 - Band Winter Concert
- December 20 - MS/HS Choirs Winter Concert
- January 25 - High School Solo and Ensemble Contest



RVHS to Host Celebration of Veterans

On November 10th, the high school will hold our annual Veterans Day Program. On this day, we will honor Veterans for their service and provide an opportunity for them to share experiences, for those willing, with our students. The program will include music provided by the River Valley Band, Choir, and Orchestra, as well as readings by some of our students. Our students and staff look forward to this event each year, and we hope that our Veterans do as well.

This year we will be providing lunch to the Veterans and their guests as was done prior to the pandemic. After lunch, our students will be rotating through sessions that will include question-and-answer opportunities with those Veterans that are willing to speak with our students.

If you are a Veteran, please join us on November 10th. If you know a Veteran, please share this information and encourage them to attend. The registration will begin that morning at 7:15 am, and the program will start at approximately 8 am. If you have any questions, please contact the high school office.



YOU SERVED US.
Now let us serve you.

Students Learn About Manufacturing Career Opportunities at “Made in Marion Expo”

On October 18, over 300 students from River Valley High School and Middle School joined local manufacturers and other Marion area students for the 2022 Made in Marion Expo. The Expo was created as a way for Marion manufacturers, supporting logistics, and utility companies to share what is made in Marion, Ohio, and the impact Marion, Ohio, makes on the world. This experience also helps students consider local career opportunities that they may not otherwise realized were options.

During their visit, students moved through 22 stations around the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. At each station, manufacturers shared information about their business and how items are designed, assembled, or shipped from their facility. Many sessions included hands-on activities for students to get more familiar with how things are made in today's manufacturing environment. Junior and senior students from the Tri-Rivers RAMTEC center provided hands-on, engaging robotics activities for students. Students also had the opportunity to tour the Marion Technical College Mobile Training Lab, where they could get hands-on with a real industrial CNC milling machine.

In addition to the face-to-face experience at the Coliseum, teachers were provided with a website of resources and activities. Students could complete a scavenger hunt developed by RVMS teacher Michelle Owings and explore local manufacturers through video tours, links, and images. Students can also download the Smart MFG 2 app that uses augmented reality technology to give them a chance to design and manufacture a drone. The website also links local manufacturing job postings to help students explore career pathways for future planning.

You can see all the resources at: madeinmarion.org



Middle School Focuses on Real World Application for Learning

An education isn't just about learning to read and complete math problems. Those things are certainly important, but without a way to apply this knowledge to the real world and a future career pathway, the process of attending school would not be as valuable. At River Valley Middle School, the staff is partnering with local businesses and other organizations to provide students additional opportunities as they approach high school and after for the real world.

The RVMS Agriculture instructor, Mr. Albert, attended a water and soil workshop sponsored by Grow Next Gen, Feed the World, Ohio Corn Education, and Ohio Soybean Council. At this workshop, he received a free soil and water testing kit that has allowed his students to learn about the importance of soil and water quality in agriculture. Mr. Albert would like to thank our local farmers for their contributions to Grow Next Gen, Feed the World, Ohio Corn Education, and the Ohio Soybean Council.

In our Visual Art program, Mrs. Carey has again teamed up with the Marion County Engineer's Office to paint a plow. Art students are currently painting a snow plow that will be used by Marion County this winter to plow our roads. This gives students a project where they have to work with the requirements of an outside customer, just like a professional designer or artist would do.



In Mrs. Washburn's Engineering classes, the foreman from Studer-Obringer, the contractors connecting River Valley High and Middle School, stopped in to talk about the process it takes to design and build a structure.



Students with Deputy Rinker

Our Career Explorations classes led by Mrs. Owings have had many guest speakers provide experiences. Deputy Rinker, River Valley's School Resource Officer from The Marion County Sheriff's Office, has been in to speak about Law and Public Safety. Guest speakers Devin Durain from Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter and Jenni Hypes from Love INC. shared about their Nonprofit organizations. Students learned about Hospitality from Casey Hoffman by going and touring The Brickyard on Main. In Career Explorations 2, classes are working on a classroom economy simulation where they pay bills, such as rent for their desk and electricity.



Guest speaker in RVMS Health Classes

In RVMS Health classes, Mr. Gast and Mr. Chiles have partnered with Relationships Under Construction, who come in and teach our students about the youth blueprint for strong future families. They do this through fun interactive activities with the importance of making good choices and how to develop positive relationships.

Students Find Success in Fall Sports at RV

The tennis team and cross country teams both finished seasons with successful campaigns that saw a lot of student-athletes gain valuable experience for their future both as students and into their years beyond high school. Cross country, specifically, is a team made up of all underclassmen, meaning their future as a group is very bright.



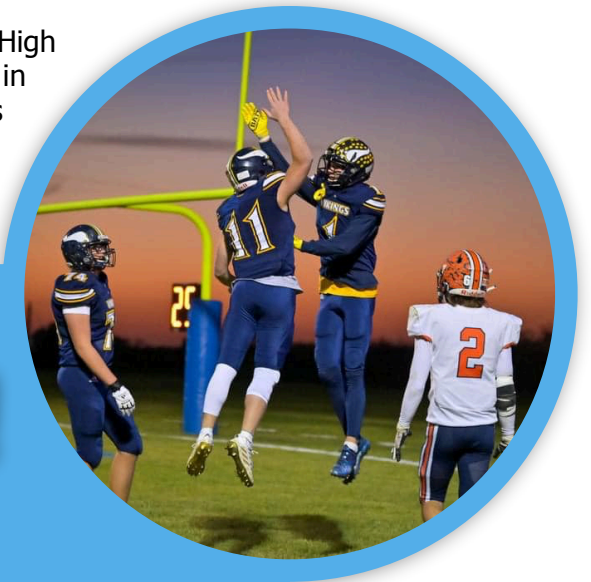
The volleyball team had a successful season that ended in a close tournament loss to Bexley, but saw numerous team and individual accomplishments. Of note, both Eden Osborne and Haleigh Creps set individual records within the program for season-long digs and kills respectively. Morgan Nemeth also registered her 1000th career assist. Also of note, Creps was the September 2022 Fahey Bank Athlete of the Month, the week of 9/18/22 State Player of the Week from the National Volleyball Coaches Association, and also was the MOAC player of the year.



Boys and girls soccer finished up their seasons playing well. The girls were able to win a tournament game at Highland to secure a place in the district tournament, while the boys lost a close one to Hamilton Twp., but had numerous other quality wins over the course of the season, including the inaugural "Iberia Cup" against Galion at Historic Crew Stadium.

Viking Girls Soccer win 4-2 vs. Highland for the 1st away tourney win in program history.

The 2022 football season ended with a game against Perkins High School, after a 5-5 regular season secured the Vikings the 14 seed in the region 14 OHSAA playoffs. Both the band and cheer programs were able to travel to the game as well, and all in all the students involved enjoyed their experience over the course of another season of Vikings Football.



Let's Go Vikes!



Before we know it, winter sports will be in full swing. Numerous home wrestling tournaments are planned, and the basketball season will kick off with a preview to be held at the Marion Coliseum. Both the boys and girls teams will play two regulation quarters against Olentangy High School on November 12th, 2022. Tickets can be purchased at:
<https://tinyurl.com/2u9ytutw>

As always, if there's ever anything we can do for you please contact the athletic office at 740-725-5806, or contact tstout@rvk12.org. Go Vikes!

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Proceeds Benefit River Valley Track and Field

Holiday Craft Show

Start your holiday shopping early ... or finish it up with unique gifts from *over 40 vendors!*

DECEMBER 3RD - 9AM - 3PM

RV Boys Soccer Gets a Big Win in a Big Stadium

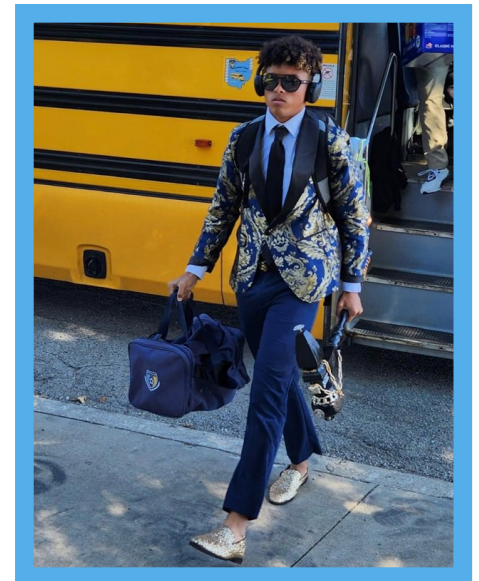
The River Valley boys soccer team defeated Galion Tigers 3-1 in an MOAC match-up on Saturday, October 8, 2022. While that doesn't seem to stand out as a huge game, it was arguably the biggest game in the history of the Viking boys' soccer program.

This game, now known as the "Iberia Cup," wasn't played at Galion. River Valley was the home team on the scoreboard, but the game was not at River Valley either. The game was played at the Historic Crew Stadium, the first soccer-specific professional stadium in the United States. This former home of the Columbus Crew has hosted many significant games in its 23 years. The MLS Cup, MLS All-Star Game, and several US Men's National Team World Cup Qualifiers are some of the most significant events that have taken place at this stadium. In 2003, the eyes of the world were on this 22,000-seat venue, as the Women's World Cup saw six matches played here.



However, on this crisp autumn day, the cavernous stadium played host to a fierce MOAC match-up. "It was a surreal moment. Playing in that stadium is a dream come true," said Viking junior captain Gabe Douce. Freshman Ian Burns had his own plan to prepare for the game. "I was kind of nervous, but we tried to treat it as just another game," Burns said. "I just figured if I played my best, I knew we would be fine. It wasn't until after the game that I realized just how big of a deal this game was."

For Junior captain, Noah Williams, a special game like this meant that he and his fellow Vikings had to show up looking the part. Channeling Joe Burrow, Williams made it clear that he wanted everyone to know the Vikings meant business getting off the bus by what he called "bringing the drip." "Hey, it's what the pros do," Williams said. "I feel like it made the experience more special for the team. It was different from the usual warmups we would wear on the way to a normal game." Williams clearly won the "drip" contest, arriving in a navy and gold leaf suit, Hollywood sunglasses, bottomed off with sequined gold shoes.



Noah Williams dressed for success at the stadium.

To play this game at this venue, our Vikings and the Galion Tigers had to do a bit of fundraising for the Crew to make it all happen. To read more about the Iberia Cup and the plans for next year's game, visit: www.rvk12.org/iberia

We're Hiring!

Part-time Shuttle Bus Driver, Part-time - Assistant Bus Mechanic/Substitute Bus Driver, Educational Aides, Custodial Substitutes, Substitute Bus Drivers, and more.

Apply at: www.rvk12.org/jobs

Treasurer's Talk

As we near the end of 2022, we would like to thank our community for your continued support. We are grateful for all you do to support River Valley students, staff, and fellow community members.

Triennial update letters were recently released from the County Auditor's Office. To deepen the understanding of property taxes and how they may impact your family, below we have shared a few key terms and some basic Ohio tax information:



Brittany Keller
RV Schools Treasurer

- **Millage/Mill:** Amount of tax payable per dollar of a property's assessed value and is defined as one-tenth of a percent or one-tenth of a cent (\$.001). Mills are often communicated as cost per \$100,000 of home property value. For example, our Emergency Levy renewal on the ballot in November is a 2.6 mill operating levy, equating to an estimated \$91 annually per \$100,000 of home market value or \$35,000 assessed (taxable) value. ($\$35,000 \times .0026$).
- **Inside Millage:** Unvoted property tax authorized by the Ohio Constitution and established by the General Assembly, which may not exceed 10 mills in any taxing district. River Valley's inside millage is 4.2 mills. River Valley has never moved inside millage.
- **Outside Millage:** Millage that voters have approved.
- **Effective Millage:** The rate of taxation, expressed in mills, multiplied by the property's assessed value. Once a levy is voted in, a school district cannot collect any additional money due to valuation increases from a reappraisal or triennial updates on that levy. Since 1976, House Bill 920 established reduction factors that prohibited an inflationary increase in the amount of taxes levied against real property.
- **Millage "Floor":** Minimum millage level, or floor, that millage rates cannot fall below established by Ohio law. The current minimum level is 20 mills. Once a district's total millage is reduced to 20 mills, it cannot be reduced any further, hence the 20-mill floor. The 20-mill calculation includes the current inside millage and current outside millage.

In Ohio, school districts have a full-voted millage rate, which is the rate initially approved by the voters in the community. Due to state law, the County Auditor reduces voted millage over time to an effective millage rate. Ohio law has also established a 20 mill floor that operating mills cannot go below. River Valley is at this floor.

There are common types of levies that school districts can pursue to generate property tax revenue, such as:

- **General Levy:** property tax used for any school district purpose but primarily for either operating expenses or permanent improvement funding. Proposed as a specific dollar amount of new revenue.
- **Emergency levy:** property tax that is a limited operating levy **for a maximum of 10 years** proposed for a specific dollar amount. Because the dollar amount of taxes charged by the levy must stay constant, the millage rate increases or decreases as property values change. It can be renewed for the dollar amount originally requested.
- **Bond levy:** property tax levy used to provide a school district with local revenue for construction purposes. Remain in place until the debt (principal and interest) is fully paid, typically 20 or more years.
- **Incremental levy:** property tax phased in for the full amount of the millage increase. Limited levy, with a maximum term of 10 years. Imposes additional millage on a regular schedule throughout the life of the levy.
- **Growth levy:** property tax levy designed to compensate for reductions in state funding caused by appreciation in real estate values. Growth cannot exceed 4% per year.
- **Income tax:** levied at a percentage on district residents' income or on an estate's taxable income. School district income tax uses as its base the same taxable income as reported for state income tax purposes. It can be a limited or continuing levy and can be proposed in combination with a property tax levy, bond levy, or reduction in property taxes. School districts are permitted to levy income taxes on earned income only, which is what voters passed for River Valley in 2019 at a rate of 1%. Earned income excludes investment and retirement income.

View more resources from the Business Office at: rvk12.org/fiscal

Liberty Recognizes Students

Each month Liberty recognizes students who have worked hard to show their Viking Pride all month. The students are chosen by their teacher and given a certificate of accomplishment. Congratulations to our students from the beginning of the year!

August- Annorah Webb, Calvin Gandert, Bowen Barnett, Ava Goddard, Salem Sword, Adalynn Cellar, Liam James, Skarlette Litteral, Regan Gandert, Silas Linville, Falynn Hindman, Dakotah Decker, Ryland Holcomb, Autumn Petros, Sammy Thomas, Jackson Osborne, Mary Martindell, Noah Collins

September- Titus Hatfield, Avery Lathrop, Chris VanVliet, Lilly Nash, Foster Mantey, Oliver Hardin, Riley Mantey, Journee Endicott, Halyn Collins, Brooklyn Betti, Owen Walker, Holden Massaro, Kassidi Henry, Braxton Hill, Karaline Hubbard, Victoria Shotwell, Christian Taylor, Alison Willoughby

Student Leadership Celebrated at RVMS

Our students and staff at RVMS continue to work towards Viking P.R.I.D.E. (Be Positive, Be Respectful, Live with Integrity, Make a Difference, Expect Excellence). Our staff recognized 31 students for Viking of the month during August/September. We also had our students recognize our staff during that time as well (6th grade: Mrs. Cheney, 7th grade: Mrs. Widrig, 8th grade: Mr. Kinzel, Discovery: Mrs. Washburn, and Staff: Mr. McIntire).



21st Century is Back!

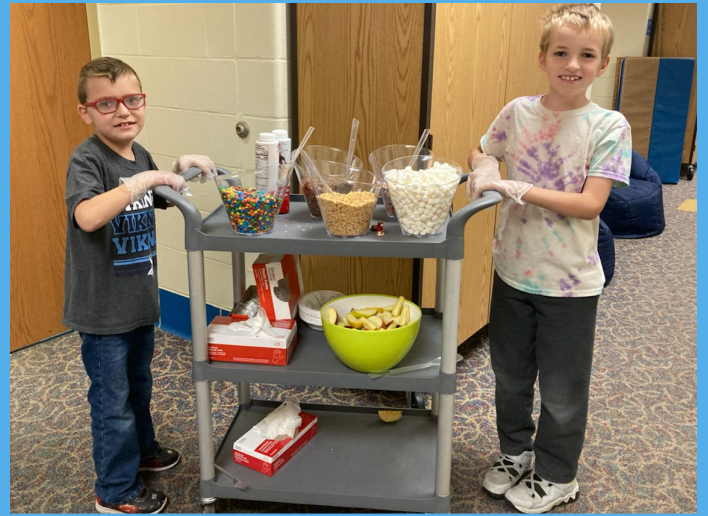
21st Century has officially started again at Liberty! 21st Century is available before school starting at 7:00 am to help students with both reading and math. For more information please contact Denise Fraysier at dfraysier@rvk12.org

Learning is Fun at RV!



4th/5th graders in Mrs. Deem's class have been learning about conservation, habitat loss and making Earth Day everyday! We decided to plant a sapling to remind ourselves, classmates, and staff the importance of taking care of our earth. In several years time this will also provide a shady place for students to enjoy when they go outside to read or complete an outdoor learning project.

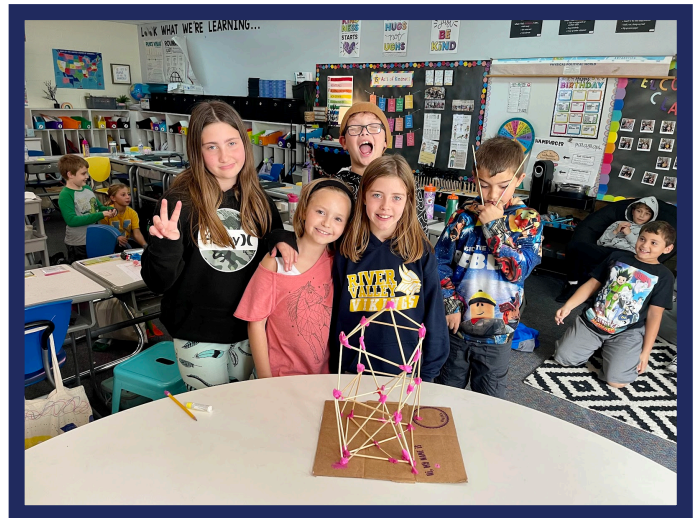
The students in Mrs. Leader and Mrs. Lutz's class are practicing practical math skills and social skills by the use of our Heritage Treat Cart. Students fulfill orders, practice the exchange of money, communicate with "customers" and make snacks for staff members. The first tasty treat that the students made were apple nachos.



During Homecoming Week, Heritage students participated in a spirit week. Students were surprised on Friday with a pep rally from the RVHS cheerleaders and several of our RV football players. This was the first school wide assembly since 2019. Many of our students had never experienced a pep rally or assembly before and some of the older students were reminded of this type of activity. The students had a wonderful time and were so excited. Thank you to our RV high school students that participated to make this a special activity for our students!



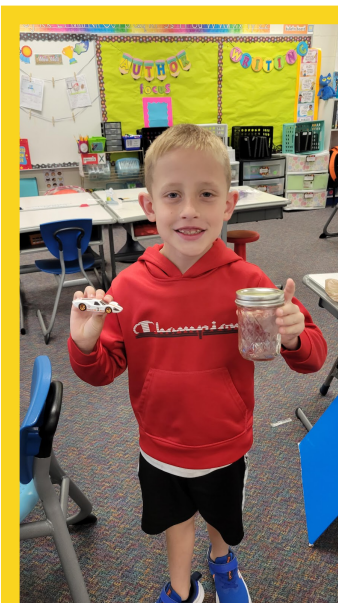
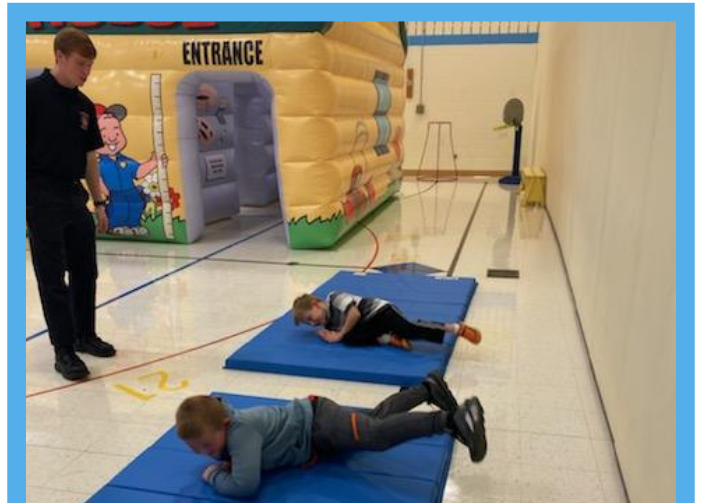
Thank you to our elementary families who were able to visit the Mac Worthington gallery in Ostrander, Ohio. Thank you to our art teacher, Mrs. Gregory for organizing this event. More information can be found at: macworthington.com.



The fourth grade students at Liberty have been studying earth's systems. This unit of study included learning about how tectonic plates move, which can cause natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

Students became engineers in this unit. They used information they learned about earthquakes and engineering to build sturdy structures that could withstand extreme shaking caused by earthquakes.

First Consolidated shares fire safety tips with Liberty students.



1st grade learned about rhyming words! They practiced listening for the same ending sounds in words and changing the beginnings of words to make new words that rhyme. For homework, they found items around their house that rhyme and brought them in to share.

Thank You from Heritage Elementary

Heritage Elementary PTO would like to send out a HUGE thank you to our sponsors for the 2022-2023 school year! The companies listed sponsored our Heritage spirit shirts for all students and staff. Thank you!

- ★ Custom Crete
- ★ Farm Transport
- ★ Fetter Brothers Construction
- ★ Innovation Storage
- ★ Loyer Farms
- ★ Lulu's Toy Co.
- ★ Mathews Ford Marion
- ★ Morral Companies
- ★ Professional Pavement Services
- ★ River's Edge
- ★ Smith Farms
- ★ Stevens Construction
- ★ Verne Hart Insurance
- ★ Whetstone Financial
- ★ Waldo Firefighters Association



Fifth grade students in Mr. Schoenberger's science class at Heritage work on measuring mass and size. Students made observations over several days of the mass of grow gators in order to determine if salt added to a mixture would stunt the growth of the gators.



Each month, Mrs. Herdman sends out a Family Engagement Activity to Heritage families. This month the activity was Pretty-Up-A-Pumpkin. Students were given the outline of a pumpkin and encouraged to decorate the pumpkin with their families. We then decorated our hallways with them.



River Valley Hosts Ohio Technology Summit

On Friday, October 14, River Valley Local Schools was closed for staff professional development. Typically, during these days, our teaching staff have learning assigned from the district they must attend or complete. However, on this day, things were a bit different. Instead of creating a one size fits all day, RV schools hosted an educational technology conference where outside speakers and subject matter experts applied to present on various topics.

During the day, teachers could attend over 40 different presentation sessions. We also had an outstanding keynote speech from Natalie Wexler, author of *The Knowledge Gap*. In addition to the available learning sessions, exhibitors included the Ohio Academy of Science, the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program, VEX Robotics, and many more.

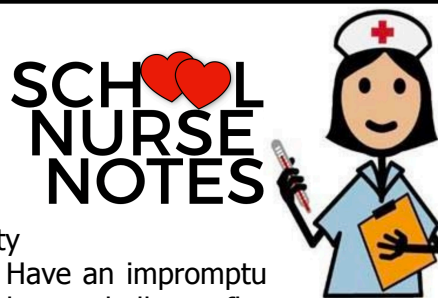
Hosting this type of event on our campus provides an excellent opportunity for our staff to see a large variety of learning options and educational technology tools in a cost-effective way for the district. Sending an educator to a typical conference can cost over \$1000 when travel, registration, meals, and hiring a substitute are considered. By hosting the Ohio Technology Summit at RV, these expenses were significantly reduced, and we could invite staff from other districts to attend and participate in the learning experience.

From the response of our staff, it seems like this new format was well received. One teacher shared, "I loved the interactive seminars! I loved the different types of presenters. I am not confident in technology, but this summit gave me SO many awesome ideas!" Another person commented, "Best PD we've had in a very long time!" Our goal is to ensure our professional development is a meaningful experience for our staff that improves learning and the classroom environment. The Ohio Technology Summit is one way for us to get that done efficiently and effectively.



Our weather is changing, bringing colder temperatures and earlier sunsets. Shorter days mean less sunlight and a change in our internal clocks. Our sleeping schedules become disrupted, and we feel a change in our mood and energy levels. All of these changes can take a toll on our mental health. Here are six tips to combat the winter blues and keep our mental health in check:

- ➡ **Exercise:** Keeping active is essential. Try to get 30-60 minutes of activity each day. You don't need a gym membership; just get up off the couch! Have an impromptu dance party with your family in the living room, or see how long you can keep a balloon afloat while bumping it back and forth.
- ➡ **Eat Healthy:** A balanced diet is key to keep your body and mind healthy. Avoid loading up on sweets that will make you feel sluggish. Choose fruits and vegetables to give you energy.
- ➡ **Use Lights to Mimic the Sun:** Open your blinds/curtains and turn lights on every day. Keep your house brightly lit. Get outside for a bit if the weather allows. Or, consider purchasing specialized light lamps that mimics the sun.
- ➡ **Stay Social:** Attending school, work, and social obligations may seem like a chore on dreary days, but getting out of the house, talking with peers and staying active can help combat the blues.
- ➡ **Open Up:** Talk to someone about how you are feeling. They may feel the same way, and you can help each other work through it.
- ➡ **Fun at Home:** It's a perfect time to plan some family fun! Plan a movie or game night, build a fort, have a sleepover in the living room, or work on a home project. Don't feel trapped inside. Instead, find fun ways to spend time together, laughing and making memories.





River Valley Local Schools Board of Education Members

PRESIDENT- DON RENGERT
VICE PRESIDENT- CHERYL BEINEKE
STACI GLENN-SHORT
ROBERT STUMP
BEN ALBRIGHT

River Valley Administration Office 740-725-5400

Heritage Elementary
740-725-5500

Liberty Elementary
740-725-5600

River Valley Middle School
740-725-5700

River Valley High School
740-725-5800

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ”

– Anne Bradstreet