



VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2023 ISSUE

River Valley Community,

As the leaves change and the harvest is in full swing, we see signs of the fall season all around us. Our students are enjoying many seasonal activities, including fall-themed classroom activities, the Homecoming Game and Dance, and the remaining weeks of our Fall Sports and Marching Band season. As we move through October toward November, we wanted to highlight the two issues River Valley Local will have on the ballot on November 7, 2023:

Issue 1: Bond & Permanent Improvement (PI) levy.

Issue 2: Renewal of the 1% earned income tax initially passed by voters in May 2019.

Property owners will see three items expiring and falling off at the end of the year (see graphic below). The proposed Bond and PI levy will be a tax rate decrease compared to what voters are paying this year on the three voted levies currently in place.

The combination of the Bond & PI Levy with the Income Tax Levy is part of the district's plan to address immediate, long-term, and educational programming needs, as well as have consistent funding for the district's daily operations.

I.) Issue 1: Bond and Permanent Improvement (PI) Levy - Combined (Effective January 1, 2024)

See the chart below showing the levy items that are expiring (left) with the proposed Bond and PI (right).

The new Bond & PI is a tax rate decrease in millage compared to what voters are paying now.

Current			Proposed		
	Expires	Millage		Begins	Millage
Emergency Levy	Dec. 2023	2.30 mills	P/I (Permanent Improvement)	Jan. 2024	2.50 mills
Bond (Construction)	Dec. 2023	3.52 mills	Bond (Immediate Facility Needs)	Jan. 2024	1.93 mills
Bond (Classroom Maint.)	Dec. 2023	0.26 mills			
Total: 6.08 mills			Total: 4.43 mills		
Cost on a \$100K Home = \$213/year			Cost on a \$100K Home = \$156/year		

II.) Issue 2: Income Tax - Renewal (five year term) - Effective January 1, 2025 (after current 5-year term ends December 31, 2024). This is a renewal of the 1% Earned Income Tax Levy Renewal passed in 2019. The following are NOT subject to an earned income tax: Social Security income, retirement pensions, disability benefits, and other qualifying income.

Please call the District Office at 740-725-5400 to speak with Brittany Keller, Treasurer, or Adam Wickham, Superintendent, if you have questions.

Go Vikings!
Adam Wickham - Superintendent

Use this tool to see your current and future taxes when the levy passes.

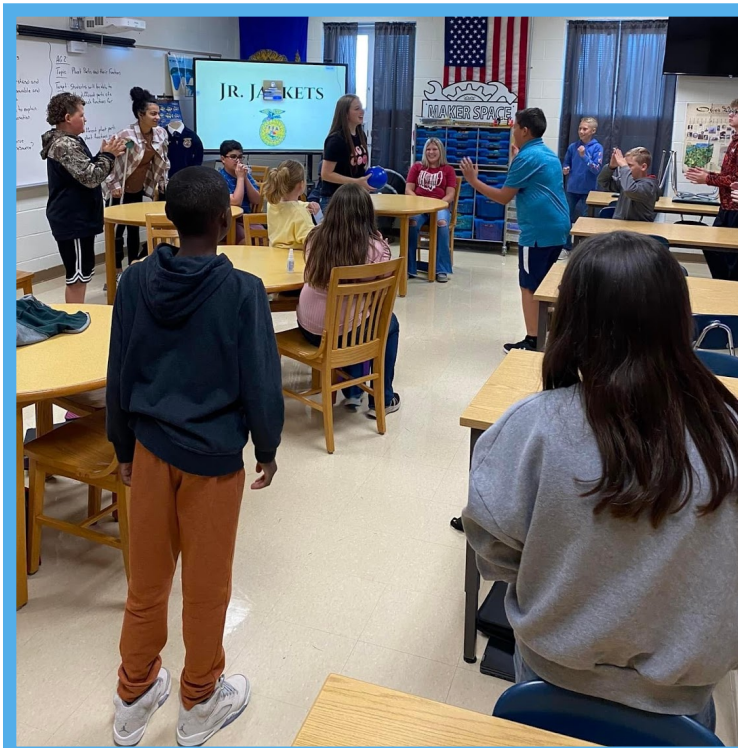


Ag Science News

The River Valley FFA Chapter has had a great start to the school year! We started the year with our annual Greenhand Night, where the officer team played games, ate food, and introduced first-year members to FFA. Some chapter members volunteered at Viking Bash, where they helped to run the bounce houses. Our chapter also hosted our first-ever FFA + Junior Jackets Tailgate before the football game on September 1st. We are planning to do more tailgates in the future!

Ms. Seckel's classes have been doing hands-on learning with their kid goat, Walter. We would like to thank the Pollock Family for their generous donation to the classroom. Students in Miss Elfink's classes have been learning and executing what farm-to-table really means with their carrot cake made from carrots that came from the RV Farm.

We look forward to CDE contests this year, with practices already beginning for the Parli Pro Team. Please contact an advisor if you would like more specific information about practice dates and/or upcoming CDEs. Our first chapter meeting was held on September 28th, and our first Junior Jackets meeting for RVMS is planned for October 17th. National Convention Applications are currently open for any member interested in attending the National Convention held in Indianapolis, November 1-4. This year, we are proud to have four chapter alumni receiving their American Degrees: Kyla Stockdale, Mitchell Seckel, Joey Crawford, and Maci Carter. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Seckel or Miss Elfink. Let's have a great year!





Students Experience the World with RV Art Department

Student travel can offer many benefits and opportunities for personal and academic growth. This summer, Mrs. Carey and students from River Valley traveled to Switzerland, Italy, and France. Our trip involved many museums, historical sites, and other attractions. Our students gained first-hand knowledge about history, art, science, and other subjects that expanded their academic experience. Students also learned to step out of their comfort zones, build self-confidence, and develop problem-solving skills, encouraging independence and self-reliance as we explored new places.

We are looking forward to the start of planning for our 2025 trip to Ireland, Scotland and England. For more information: <https://www.eftours.com/tour-website/2676078CP>



Students enjoying Fondue in Switzerland



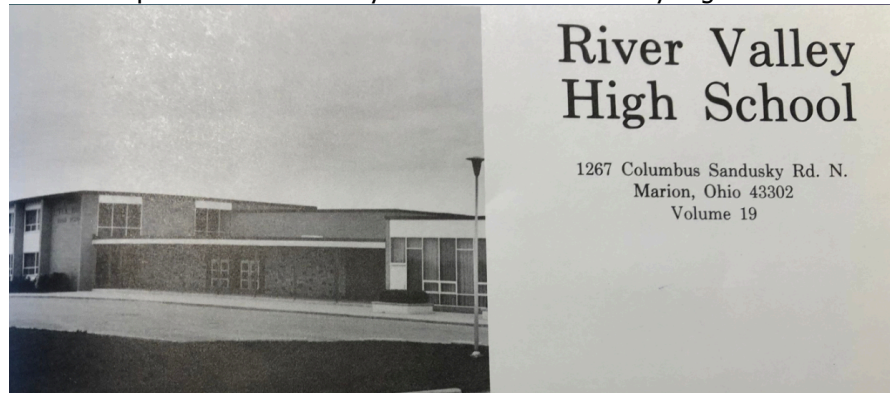
RV Students at the Roman Ruins

VIKING TRIVIA

1. What is the name of the River Valley High School Student Yearbook?
2. Name the location of this well known Marion site the Senior Class of 1989 decided to have as their background? (Shown here in the picture below)



3. In the picture below what year was this River Valley High School built?



4. Name the two counties River Valley Local District crosses over.
5. What year was the last class to graduate from the 1267 Columbus Sandusky Rd (Route 98) N High School Building? Shown here in the picture below.



(ANSWERS ON PAGE 13)

Heritage Elementary News

Kindergarten Boot Camp

The HES kindergarten classes worked for a week and a half on appropriately using supplies. At the end of the week, we had a challenge/celebration day. The teachers decorated the rooms and gave each child a helmet to wear during their supply challenges. At the end of the day, we made a crown to show all of the supply challenges that had been mastered, as well as receiving a boot camp certificate of completion.



Communication Tools Help Our Students

Heritage Elementary houses the Specialized Skills Unit for our elementary students. In our classroom, we have six pre-verbal/non-verbal students. These students have friends throughout the school and teachers with whom they struggle to communicate. Our classroom was awarded a TEACH Grant through the Marion Community Foundation to purchase six communication apps and four Playground Communication Boards. With the new communication tools available to our students, we have already seen them being able to express themselves, make requests, and show their friends how they communicate. We are using them daily in the classroom and throughout the school environment. We hope these new tools will allow all students at Heritage to be heard because **EVERYONE DESERVES A VOICE!**



Innovation Lab News

This September, the math and science Innovation Lab Classes focused on improving their creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. In the upper grades, students were immersed in mazes, as many of the lessons and activities were centered on designing and solving a variety of mazes. Students engineered paper plate and box mazes using various craft and scrap materials and Lego marble mazes, too! They had as much fun trading and solving the mazes as they had creating them! In kindergarten, first, and second grade, the students practiced creativity. They worked to improve fine motor skills as they painted fall trees using objects like broccoli and Q-tips. The younger students did some problem-solving, too, by figuring out how to build bridges and save as many Teddy Bears as they could in "The Floor is Lava." They also manipulated pattern blocks and used their number sense to make some great fall designs. We've been busy in the Innovation Lab and look forward to much more fun this year!



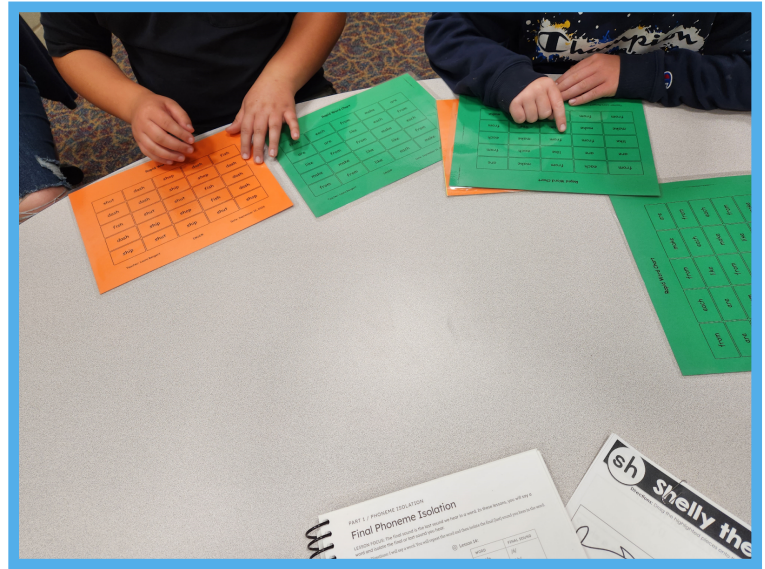
Becoming Real World Problem Solvers

Students in Mrs. Estep's class have put on their hard hats and have gone to work on a real-world project. Students were tasked with solving the STEM Challenge: How can we stop the problem of erosion in our local farmers' fields? Students worked together in teams to design a prototype to solve this problem. They used knowledge from science lessons on weathering and erosion, math skills for measuring materials, and writing skills to accurately record instructions others could follow to construct their prototype. We are learning that true solutions need to be able to be repeated. Team members built their prototypes. Each prototype was tested under the same controlled conditions to ensure an accurate test result. Students discovered firsthand what strategies worked and what ideas were unsuccessful. This excellent lesson in preservation is essential for scientists, inventors, and problem solvers. While the students' designs might not yet be ready to be released for public use, students are learning the relevance of knowledge learned in class and how to be real-world problem solvers.



Reading Intervention at Heritage Elementary

Mrs. Laura Rengert has started small group phonics and reading instruction with the 2nd and 3rd graders at Heritage Elementary. Mrs. Rengert is currently teaching 50 students who are working on improving their phonics and reading skills. The intervention program offers students daily 30-minute explicit, systematic, evidence-based instruction. Each group's reading instruction is based on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The small group is designed to meet the needs of the individual students.

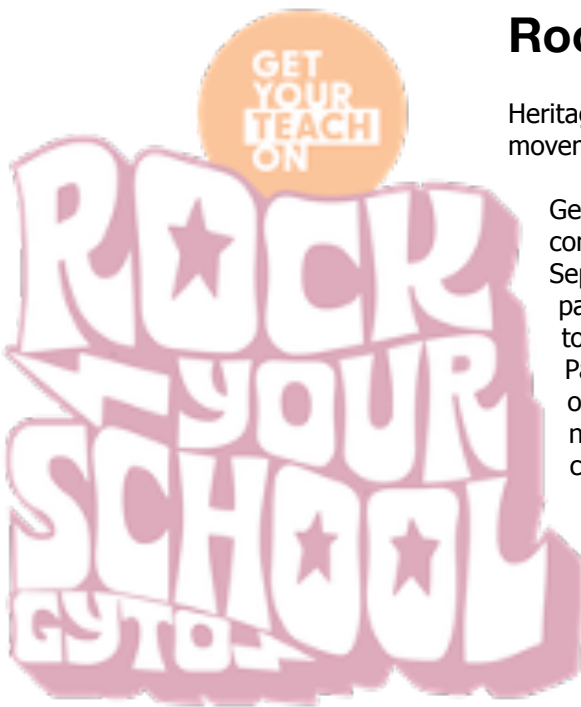


Rock Your School

Heritage Elementary participated in the fifth annual Rock Your School worldwide movement on September 29th, hosted by Get Your Teach On.

Get Your Teach On, the educational movement energizing the K-12 teaching community, hosted the fifth annual FREE Rock Your School initiative on September 25-29, 2023. Educators from around the world were invited to participate by creating an outside-the-box educational experience designed to engage their students and bring learning to life in their classrooms. Participants in Rock Your School can try something new in their curriculum or challenge themselves and their students in new ways. Knowing they are not alone, they are joining a community of teachers worldwide who are all challenging themselves to find new ways to engage their students.

At Heritage, we had plenty of surprises up our sleeves. Especially with the help of our high school kids! We used the Varsity football team to greet students as they enter the building, surprises, and fun in each classroom, and a pep rally with the high school cheerleaders at the end of the day!



Making Apple Crisp

Our 5th-grade students practiced adding fractions while reading recipes. They also worked on teamwork strategies for working together to efficiently and effectively get crisp made for the whole class.



RV is the Top Rated School in Marion County!

We want to thank our staff, students, parents, and community for helping us achieve this goal. Please join us in celebrating this achievement!



Exceeds state standards

2022 - 2023 Report Card for River Valley Local

Districts and schools receive an overall rating of 1 to 5 stars in half-star increments. The overall rating is comprised of five rated components. The College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness Component is report only and does not contribute to the overall rating on the 2023 Ohio School Report Cards.

Progress

This component looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past performances.



Significant evidence that the district exceeded student growth expectations.

Achievement

This component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall.



Exceeds state standards in academic achievement

Performance Index.....80.9%

Gap Closing

The Gap Closing Component is a measure of the reduction in educational gaps for student subgroups.



Significantly exceeds state standards in closing educational gaps

Annual Performance Goals.....76.6%

Graduation

The Graduation Component is a measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.



Significantly exceeds state standards in graduation rates

97.8% of students graduated in 4 years
97.3% of students graduated in 5 years

Early Literacy

The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade.



Meets state standards in early literacy (K-3).


Improving K-3 Literacy.....31.9%
Third Grade Reading Proficiency.....71.5%
Promotion to Fourth Grade.....99.3%

Liberty Elementary News

Viking P.R.I.D.E.

Liberty Elementary is using Viking PRIDE and a rubric to support our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. Students who are showing appropriate behaviors from the rubric may earn coins. These coins can later be exchanged for coupons for class rewards or, if students earn enough coins, the end-of-quarter reward. PBIS is an evidence-based framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. Studies show that PBIS improves social-emotional competence, academic success, and school climate. It also helps us create positive, predictable, and safe learning environments where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

VIKING P.R.I.D.E. RUBRIC

	Positive		Expect Excellence
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Come ready to work with a great attitudeKeep your hands and feet to yourself		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow DirectionsAlways do your best
Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep your hands and feet to yourself		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply what you learnedShow Viking Pride
Hallways and Walkways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep your hands and feet to yourselfFollow rules for drills		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Go directly to your destinationShow Viking Pride
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage emotionsKeep your hands and feet to yourself		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eat a balanced mealShow Viking Pride
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep hands and feet to yourself		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow bus safety rules (at while bus is moving, keep aisles clear, remain seated at all times)Show Viking Pride
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Go, flush, wash, leaveKeep hands and feet to yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain a clean and healthy environmentShow Viking Pride	
Recess / Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep hands and feet to yourselfBe a good sportKeep hands and feet to yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Show Viking PrideLine up quickly when you hear the whistle	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Show Viking Pride

Scan the QR code to view the full rubric.

The “Egg”cellent Earth

The 4th-grade students have delved into the fascinating realm of Earth's layers and tectonic plates. With newfound knowledge from their readings, these young learners embarked on an exciting exploration of Earth's crust using a tangible model—an ordinary boiled egg! With this hands-on approach, students not only had the chance to visually dissect and examine the four distinct layers but also witnessed firsthand the dynamic impact of shifting tectonic plates on the Earth's crust.



Middle School News

We are off to a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! We have had a lot of neat things happening here at RVMS in our classrooms. Our students are learning a lot of academic information, but are also learning important life skills. Miss Klingel, the school counselor, has now made it to each Viking Period to discuss our services. We learned a couple of coping skills and talked about being a friend, being responsible for ourselves, and being grateful. Miss Klingel's office can be found in the main office, and she encourages students to come to her when they need to talk or have a problem.



Mr. Albert's Ag Science Students at the middle school have been very busy this semester. The Intro to Ag Science Students have been learning about the importance of agriculture. They learned that we need to be thankful for all the farmers who put our food on the table and the fiber we use for clothing. They are currently learning about the American food supply system. The students had to complete a "Farm to Fork" research project on their favorite food. They learned how it is produced, processed, manufactured, packaged, sold to retailers, and sold to consumers.

The Ag 1 students have been learning about important natural resources for agriculture. They just finished learning about how soil is formed, how soil can be eroded, and how important soil health is to agriculture. The students sampled soil from different gardens around the River Valley Farm Greenhouse during the soil health unit. They discovered the importance of pH and why nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are critical for plant growth. Each group of students had to write a fertilizer prescription for their garden. The Ag 1 students are now learning about water quality. They will be testing the creek that runs behind our baseball field for pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.

Career Exploration 1 and 2 classes were visited by a guest speaker, Devin Durain, executive director of the Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter. He talked to the students about running a nonprofit organization, as well as budgeting and managing employees. Students had many questions for Mr. Durain about his chosen work and how he came to his current position. It was a good conversation for all.



(RVMS News Continued)

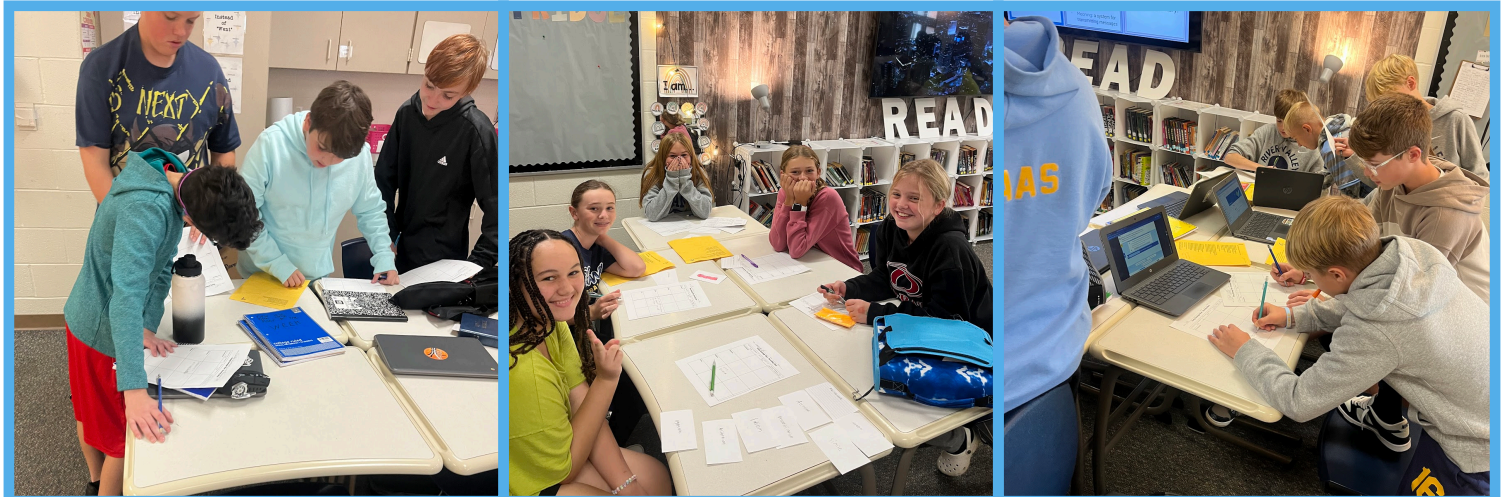
Mrs. Songer's 6th grade Social Studies classes started the year with a fun "get to know you" activity and showed how important it is to be kind and encouraging to others. This week we are working on the 5 Themes of Geography. We are learning how people, goods, and ideas move around the world, how we affect our environment, what types of physical features, landforms, and climate make up a place, etc. The students and I are having some great discussions.

Miss McGuirk's math classes started the year reviewing multiplication facts by playing Multiplication War. We have moved on and are working on the Statistics and Probability standard by finding the mean, median, and mode of data sets.



Mrs. Scheff's 7th grade English Language Arts classes have been learning about figurative language this week. On Tuesday, students analyzed figurative language in songs from their favorite artists, including Cardi B, Marshmello, and Imagine Dragons. On Wednesday, Students went on a scavenger hunt to find figurative language within various poems. It's been a fun week of creating figurative language masters!

Mrs. Widrig's 7th-grade science class has been learning about matter. We have been exploring the difference between elements, compounds, and mixtures. Our first lab of the year was over the Law of Conservation of Mass. Students were able to model the Law of Conservation of Mass using yeast, sugar, a balloon, and LEGOs! Our next unit will be The Periodic Table of Elements.



RV High School News

This has been a great start to the year, and it is difficult to believe we are approaching the end of the first nine weeks. I would like to highlight some of the activities that have already taken place and share a few events that will be occurring in the near future.

On September 21st, approximately one hundred students attended the annual Farm Science Review, held outside of London, Ohio. The Farm Science Review is presented by The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The students who attended this trip got the opportunity to see presentations, new programs, and equipment that help with the advancement in the agricultural-related fields.

On September 28th, we had several students involved in Teen Institute attend the Drug-Free Rally that was held at Dayspring Church. At this rally, student speakers and guest speakers addressed the students about the importance of staying drug-free.

The Music Department, consisting of the Band, Choir, and Orchestra, has been actively preparing for the upcoming concert season.

The FFA National Convention will be held November 1st through 3rd in Indianapolis, Indiana. Each year we have members of the Vocational Agriculture program attend this event, which brings together members of the FFA from across the country.

On November 9th, River Valley High School will be hosting our Annual Veterans Day recognition ceremony. If you are a veteran and would like to attend, please arrive that morning between 7:15 – 7:30 AM. The ceremony will begin at approximately 8:00 AM. If you have any questions, please contact the RVHS office at: 740-725-5800.



YOU SERVED US.

Now let us serve you.

Middle School Ag Science Enjoy the Harvest at the Microfarm

River Valley Middle School Ag 2 students just finished their Plant System Career Pathway unit. Throughout this unit, they learned about horticulture. The students learned how to set up a raised bed garden in our greenhouse, how to germinate seeds, and what plants need to live, grow, and reproduce. They also learned the difference between fruits and vegetables, and the difference between conventional and organic farming.



Get the **FACTS**
about the RV Levies
rvk12.org/levy



VIKING TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. The Shield
2. Harding Memorial
3. 1962
4. Marion and Morrow
5. 2003

RVHS WOODWORKING & CONSTRUCTION



RV FFA Attends the Marion County Fair

The 2023 Marion County Junior Fair was held from July 3rd through July 8th. Fair is a time that our chapter and community members look forward to each year to show off their hard work and dedication. Our members were busy with livestock shows, non-livestock judging, and auctions throughout fair week. The River Valley FFA Chapter members had exhibits in all the barns and are proud to represent the chapter during shows and in public. Along with the different projects, the fair also consists of tractor pulls, fireworks, monster truck races, and the chance to make memories with friends and family.

The fair reentered a regular cycle of shows and events this year. All the livestock shows were moved back to Evers Arena while the livestock auction took place in the Coliseum. There were also new events at the fair, though. These events included the non-livestock auction, which gave members and fair participants who do not show livestock to sell their projects. Another special event that took place this year was a new sort of exhibit behind the show ring in Evers. Thanks to the Pork Producers, a hog by the name of Margaret was able to have her piglets during the fair. This created a learning experience for members of the community who don't have an agricultural background. Not to mention, the piglets were absolutely adorable. Our chapter advisors, Ms. Seckel and Miss Elfrink, could be found observing and answering questions about this exhibit on multiple occasions throughout the week.

The River Valley FFA Chapter members had quite a few successes throughout the fair, with many students entering final drives, winning royalty, and placing well in showmanship. Two of our chapter members, Abby Isler and Grant Ferguson, were named the Fair King and Fair Queen this year. Tarynn Weir was named the Equine Queen, and Kayleigh Aiken was named the Pork Queen. Chapter member Jackson Kloha swept the poultry department this year, winning OME, Grand Champion Market Ducks, Poultry Showman of Showmen, and Intermediate Poultry Showmanship. Chapter President Abby Isler was Reserve Champion Heavyweight market hog, Outstanding Market Exhibitor for Hogs and Sheep, the winner of Sheep Skillathon, and Reserve Champion sheep showmen. Chapter Treasure, Makenzae Eager had the best single fryer. Delaney Meyers placed second in the poultry showmanship. Delaney Meyers offers this advice to young exhibitors at the fair, "Work as much as you can with your animal and have fun. Don't be too serious, but still work hard."

The FFA building at the fairgrounds helps to show the projects members worked on throughout the school year. The RV FFA represented well, with a large number of projects receiving a first-place sticker. It is always a fun



time to see what many of the other chapters across Marion County have worked on during the year. The FFA building allows community members to learn more about the FFA and see each member's hard work and dedication. The RV FFA officer team could be found working shifts in the building several times during the fair, and they were always willing to answer questions and inform the public.

To end a successful week, the Junior Fair Dance was held on Saturday after all the festivities had ended. Exhibitors and chapter members could be found dancing the night away and celebrating another successful Marion County Junior Fair.

Ukulele Time!

Elementary students in Mrs. Turner's music classes are beginning to reacquaint themselves with ukuleles in anticipation of the start of the "Island Strings" club. Information containing the details of our ukulele club will be heading home soon.





River Valley Local Schools Board of Education Members

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

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
– Benjamin Franklin

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