



VOICE OF THE VALLEY

THE RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024 ISSUE

River Valley Community,

While Buckeye Chuck may have predicted an early Spring, we still see (and feel) the evidence of winter among us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the numerous winter activities our students are participating in, including Valentine's Day Parties at the Elementary Schools, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Swimming, and Show Choir, to just name a few. Also, our students and staff continue to work diligently towards Spring State Testing, which is just around the corner.

Additionally, I wanted to take some time to update our community on the status of the current bond projects in our district. In early February, Moody's issued an initial rating of Aa3 to River Valley Local School District for the issuance of bonds. This is an extremely solid rating for the district and allowed the bonds to be sold soon thereafter. Based on the Bond rating of Aa3 and corresponding interest rates, future tax rates for the bond may be even lower than the district estimated in our communications to taxpayers last fall. Stay tuned for more information in future editions of Voice of the Valley.

The Board of Education approved the use of three design companies to evaluate our roofs, heating and cooling systems, and parking lots. These three firms will put together their assessments, plans, and documents before the district goes out for bid (for roofs and HVAC) or Requests for Proposals (RFPs for parking lots). The tennis court project was already able to go out for RFP, with VASCO being selected to complete the project.

There will be a Community Meeting to update any residents or parents on the status of these projects. All three firms will present their findings and recommendations and take questions from the community; here are those details:

Community Meeting: Update on Bond Projects

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: River Valley High School - Auditorium

Who: Open to any River Valley district community member interested in learning about the bond projects. The following design firms will present an overview of their assessments, drawings/plans, timelines, and estimates, as well as take questions from those in attendance.

The companies presenting are:

Stan Engineering - HVAC

Mays Consulting - Roofs

Kleingers - Parking Lots and Tennis Courts

We hope to see you there on March 18th.

Please call the District Office at 740-725-5400 if you have questions.

Go Vikings!

Adam Wickham - Superintendent



Adam Wickham

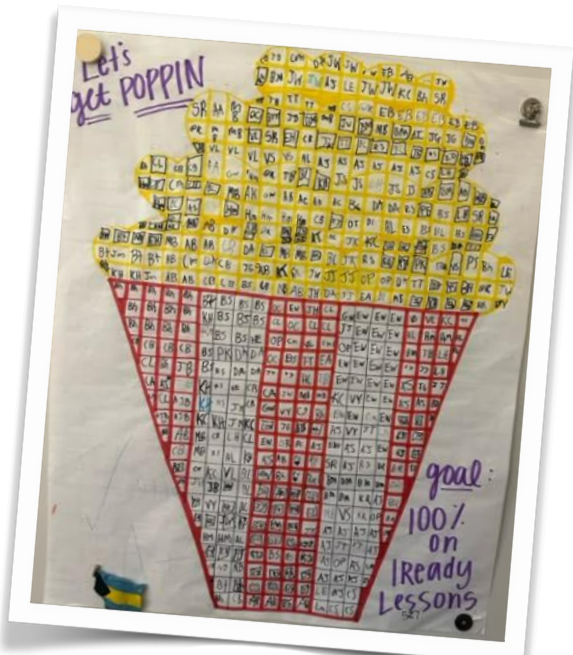
RV Superintendent



Heritage Elementary News

iReady Learning & Goal Setting

The students in Mrs. Russell's 5th grade class had a pretty significant challenge in their iReady lessons. Students completed 527 lessons on iReady Reading with 100% passage. They worked hard on their goal, met it, and then celebrated with a class party.

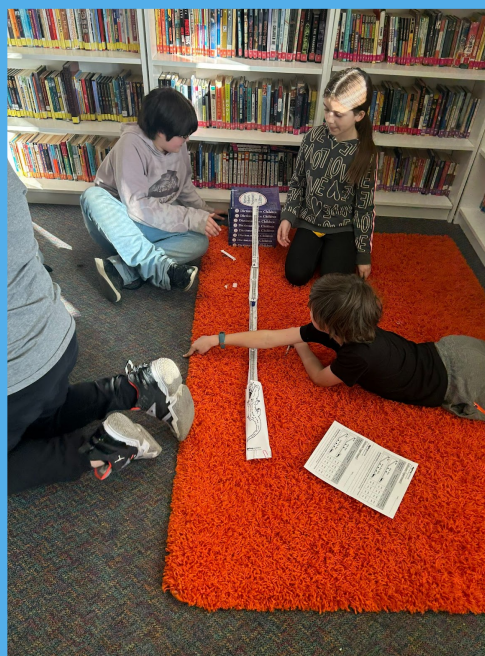


Fifth Grade Career Exploration

Our 5th-grade students met with Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Jacobson from Tri-Rivers Career Center to learn more about career readiness opportunities. The students participated in a career interest survey, helping them learn about Tri-Rivers programs and other career avenues. This is a preview of some activities that students will participate in at our 5th Grade Career Day in February.

Fourth Grade Learning- Energy

The fourth-grade students in Mrs. Deem's class have been learning about energy transfer by conducting various experiments in engineering. They've constructed a Twist-O-Matic model of an amusement park ride in which they studied how energy is stored and released. In addition, they constructed ramps to test gravitational energy, speed, and collisions.



Heritage Holidays

Prior to Winter Break, the students and staff at Heritage Elementary had tons of fun celebrating and getting ready for the holiday season. Students participated in crafts and games at our Happy Heritage Holiday, participated in the "12 Days of Christmas" theme days, and the Grinch even made an appearance!

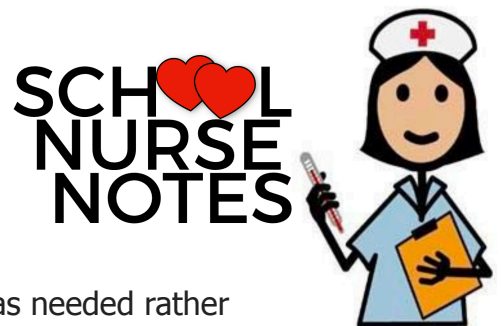


RV Elementary Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open! If you have a child or know someone with a child who will be five years old on or before August 1, 2024, they are eligible for kindergarten for the next school year. Our screening day will be on Friday, May 10th. Please register your child today!

A reminder from the nurse.....

The transition from Winter to Spring is quickly approaching, which makes the Ohio weather unpredictable, frozen one moment, thawed the next. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for whatever weather could be thrown our way each day. It's always better to bundle up and remove layers as needed rather than be ill-prepared for bus stops and recess. It is also wise to keep a change of clothes in your elementary child's book bag in case they take a tumble onto the soggy ground.



Liberty Elementary News

The year is flying by at Liberty Elementary. The students and staff have enjoyed several events that have taken place throughout the first semester and look forward to even more as the year goes on. School and family events that took place at Liberty so far this year are as follows:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Rewards 1st Quarter - Glo Party
- PBIS Rewards 2nd Quarter - Reindeer Games and school-wide hot chocolate
- Title 1 Literacy Night
- Veteran's Day Program
- PTO Santa Dance
- Kindergarten Safety City
- Christmas Clearinghouse
- Christmas Clearinghouse reward with First Consolidated Fire District
- Fire Safety House as part of Fire Safety Week - First Consolidated Fire District
- School-wide Christmas Singalong
- Student of the Month
- Various Grade-level Field Trips

What lies ahead...

We are all excited about the second semester at Liberty. Students and staff have been working hard to improve their knowledge while also working on behaviors from our Viking PRIDE rubric. Besides continuing to learn and grow, we are looking forward to upcoming events such as a Valentine's Dance, Fun Night, PBIS Rewards, Field Day, and various field trips.

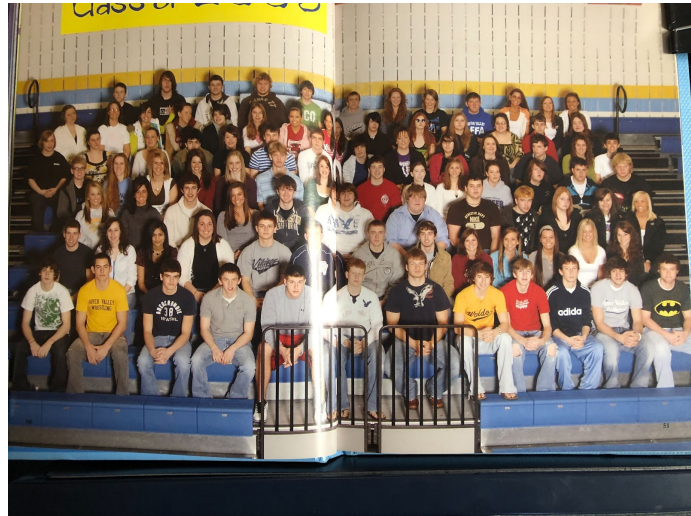


VIKING TRIVIA

1. Who was River Valley's first Superintendent? Shown in the picture below.



2. What was the school year when this picture was taken? (See picture below)



3. What was the school year when these pictures were taken? (See picture below)



(ANSWERS ON PAGE 7)

Innovation Lab News

Innovation Lab had Christmas Light Week in December. Second and third graders were inspired by "The Great Christmas Light Fight" to design their own Holiday Light Displays. Fourth and Fifth graders used squishy circuits to create holiday items that lit up!



District Wellness Night

On February 1st, River Valley reintroduced our District Wellness Night, where the RV community had the opportunity to engage in hands-on workshops covering various aspects of wellness, from nutrition and exercise to stress management and mindfulness. We heard from seasoned professionals in the field of health and wellness. We were able to gain insights and ask questions to tailor the advice to our unique needs.

It was a fun-filled evening exploring a marketplace featuring products and services promoting a healthy lifestyle. From nutritious snacks to fitness opportunities, it was a night to discover tools to support our well-being.

Most importantly, we connected with fellow attendees, speakers, and wellness enthusiasts. What a time to share our wellness journey and learn from others' experiences.

Throughout the evening, everyone had a chance to win exciting prizes and take home goodies that would kickstart our journey to a healthier us.



Treasurer's Talk

Levy Recap, Financial Stability, and the Five-Year Forecast

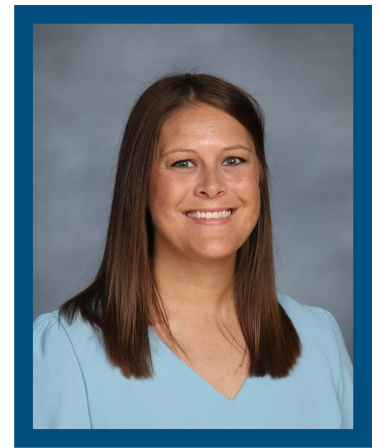
With the expiration of our bond, classroom facilities, and emergency levies at the end of 2023, our community passed the two issues the district had on the ballot in November 2023. The issues on the ballot in November 2023 were a combined bond + permanent improvement (PI) levy and a renewal of the 1% earned income tax initially passed by voters in 2020. Taxpayers should see the reduced millage rates reflective of the three levies ending and the new bond + permanent improvement levy beginning on their first tax bill in 2024. You can verify the breakdown of the various levies and what you are paying by checking the County Auditor's website under your tax distribution. The bond levy millage rate remained the same as what was approved by the voters in November, and the permanent improvement levy millage rate will be less than what was approved by voters in November due to an increase in the total property values in our district.

The levies approved by our community will allow our district to address long-term capital needs with the permanent improvement levy; immediate capital needs, such as roof replacements, HVAC replacements, and upgrades, tennis court remediation, and parking lot repaving with the bond levy; and day-to-day operational needs with the income tax renewal.

In November, the Board of Education approved the issuance of a bond anticipation note, which has allowed the district to obtain requests for qualifications (RFQs) from design professionals for the bond-related projects and begin the overall process of completing these projects sooner than if we were to wait for the bond issuance later this spring. The Board of Education also approved a transfer of the remaining funds in our bond retirement fund to the permanent improvement fund, which will allow the district to address building safety needs related to the construction of our school buildings that weren't considered at the time the buildings were originally built. Once approved by the board, this transfer was also approved by the County Budget Commission at their November 2023 meeting.

The updated five-year forecast that reflects the certified election results from November 2023 was presented to and approved by the River Valley Board of Education at the regular meeting on December 14, 2023. The renewal of the income tax levy and the ability to use designated permanent improvement funds for capital improvements over the next five years has resulted in the five-year forecast and district projected to be financially stable for the foreseeable future. We anticipate that changes will occur as there are many unknowns that the district will continue to monitor and update as new information becomes available. Some of those factors include interest rate fluctuations, legislative changes pursuant to the newly formed Joint Committee for Property Tax Review and Reform, and the stability of state funding.

The five-year forecast, along with the notes and assumptions, can be viewed on the district's website or on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) website, along with other financial resources our community may find useful. With the passage of the levies, our community has put our district in a healthy financial position for the next several years. We want the community to know that we remain committed to being fiscally responsible with the funds they have entrusted to us.



Brittany Keller

RV Schools Treasurer



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



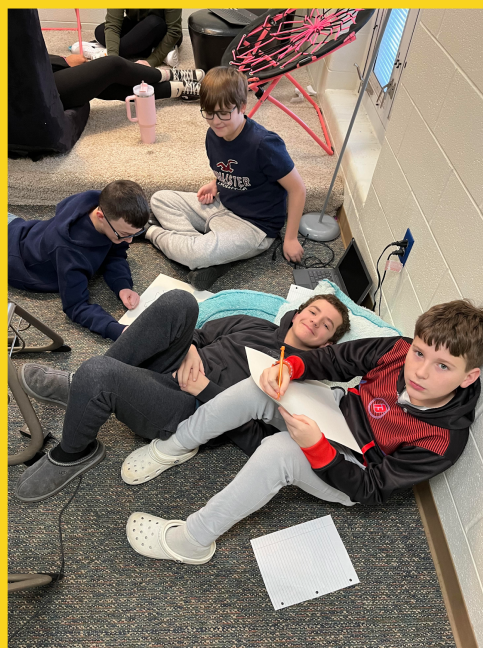
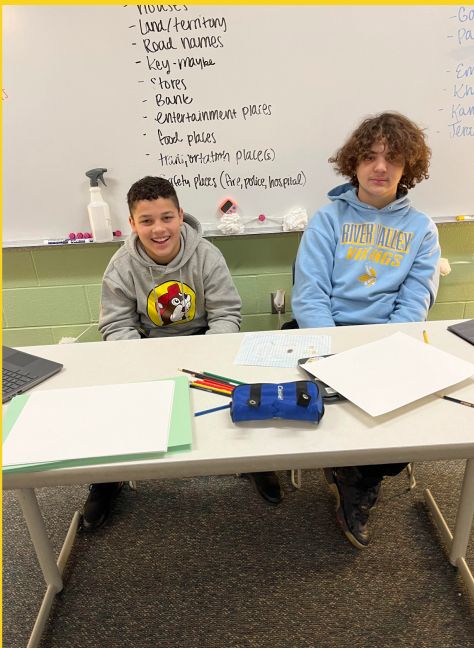
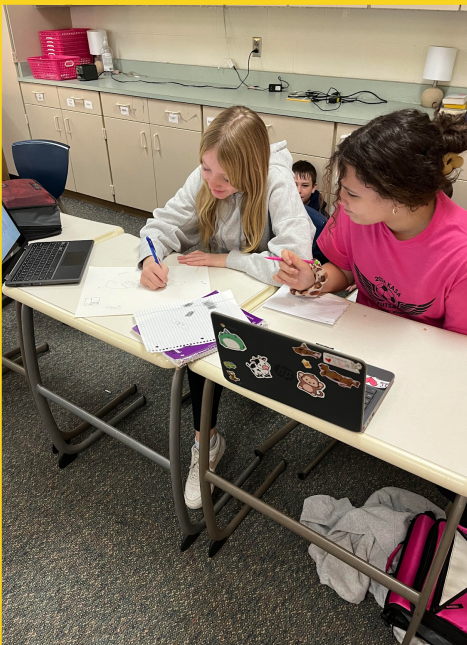
VIKING TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Mr. Augenstein
2. 2008
3. 2000

RV Middle School News

Lessons in Reading

Students in Mrs. Scheff's class have been hard at work creating their own utopian societies to show their knowledge of utopian and dystopian elements! Students will soon be reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. *The Giver* is a novel focusing on a society that seems to be perfect; however, as students read, they'll discover the "perfection" within the society comes at a great cost.



Youth Art Month Design Exhibition

Congratulations to Lucy Turner and Madolyn Strzelecki. Both won Honorable Mention in the 2024 Youth Art Month Design Exhibition. Their art work will be on display at The King Art Complex with other state winners!



Socratic Seminars

Using the teaching style of the Greek Philosopher Socrates, the students in Mrs. Frericks' ELA classes held Socratic Seminars about their read-aloud, *The Giver*. This process involved working in small groups to have collegial conversations and create guiding, open-ended questions about the topics and issues in the novel. They culminated with an official session involving posing these questions and responding with thought-provoking ideas (and questions) with real-world connections. This was student-led, with the teacher taking on the role of facilitator while a student was selected as the leader to guide the entire seminar.



Marion County Spelling Bee

Garrett Obenour was the runner-up of the Marion County Spelling Bee this past Tuesday. The event was held at Tri-River Career Center and was put on by the North Central Ohio Education Service Center. This Spelling Bee was definitely one to be remembered as Garrett and another young man battled for 87 rounds. At one point, the judges ran out of the words they had prepared and had to regroup to continue. We are incredibly proud of all our contestants who attended this event.



MOAC Basketball Championships

We had three teams make it to the MOAC Basketball Championships this past weekend. Our 7th-grade Girls team battled to become MOAC Champions. While our 8th Grade Girls and 7th Grade Boys were runner-ups.

RV High School News

Greetings RVHS Families!

As we enter the heart of Winter, and it is cold outside, there are many activities at the high school that are heating up. These activities include the Winter sports tournaments, Show Choir performances, musical practices, and soon the start of the Spring sports. Along with these activities, our students will also be starting the scheduling process for the 2024-25 school year.

This is a busy time of the year as we are well into the second semester and transitioning between Winter and Spring activities. Please mark your calendar for our annual high school musical, "The Addams Family," which will be held on April 12th, 13th, and 14th.

I would also like to share a few highlights that took place during the second nine weeks of the school year.

On November 9th, approximately seventy Veterans joined us at the high school as we recognized Veterans Day. This is one of those special events that our students and staff look forward to yearly as we thank those who have served and are currently serving. Please mark your calendars for our 2024 Veterans Day Ceremony, which will be held on Friday, November 8th.

In November, the 9th-grade students took part in Freshmen Empowerment Day. During this day, the students participated in workshops and collaborative team-building activities. This event was put on by the Marion Crawford Prevention Programs and was held to help our students navigate their high school experience.

Also, our 10th-grade students visited Tri-Rivers for "Exploring Careers Day" in November. As part of this event, our students were asked to select two programs to visit in which they were interested.

Before Thanksgiving break, our students and staff participated in a food drive to support the Junior Service Guild Christmas Clearinghouse in Marion. This classroom competition raised approximately 1,200 food items at the high school and helped the Clearinghouse as they were able to fill over 438 boxes to support local families.

In December, we had an FFA Food Service Team finish 2nd in the district competition, qualifying them to participate in the state competition in January. As part of the competition, these students participated in practicums focused on food math, safety and sanitation, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) identification and violations, and sensory skills. The FFA also held the county Greenhand initiation at Elgin on November 29th.

Our Band, Choir, and Orchestra had outstanding performances as they held their holiday concerts. The attendance at these concerts was fantastic, and I would like to thank our families and community members for supporting the students at these events.

The National Honor Society inducted new members in December and now includes 31 Juniors and Seniors. The NHS also sponsored a blood drive in December to support the Red Cross.

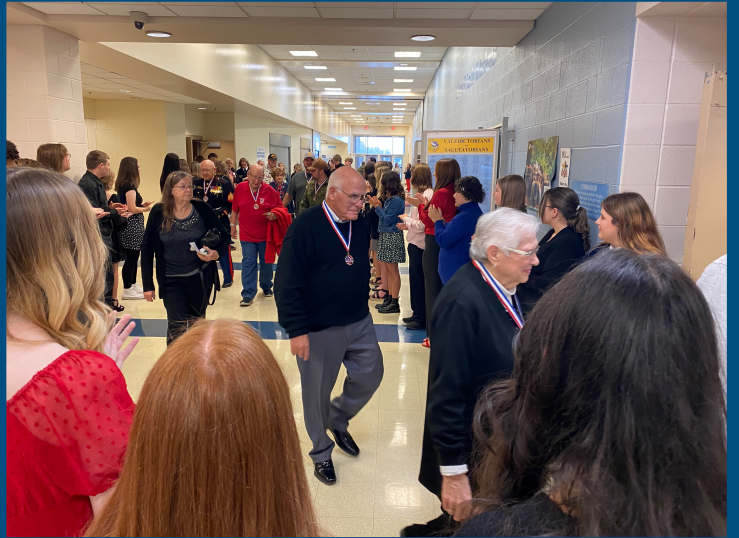
The basketball players, bowlers, cheerleaders, swimmers, and wrestlers have had numerous games, matches, and tournaments in which they have participated. These players and coaches continue to demonstrate their passion for their sport and their dedication to River Valley as they perform in these events.

I hope you find it as encouraging as I do to see that so many of our students are engaged in the activities and opportunities available at the high school. Again, I would like to thank our community for supporting our students and the district, which allows these opportunities to be possible.

I look forward to seeing our parents and community members at our upcoming Winter and Spring events. Go Vikes!

Barry Dutt,
High School Principal

RV Honors Our Veterans





River Valley Local Schools Board of Education Members

PRESIDENT- DON RENGERT
VICE PRESIDENT- CHERYL BEINEKE
ROBERT STUMP
BEN ALBRIGHT
NATHAN SMITH

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.” – Abigail Adams