

WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 2025 I VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6



THIS ISSUE

Our District Vision
Dr. K's Curriculum Corner
Treasurer Bailey Update
March Nutrition Month Review
Heathers The Musical
Coach Morris Tribute
Jr. High Spring Sports Preview

IMPORTANT DATES

April 1: BOE work session @ WW

April 2: Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 5: Duke Pride Carnival WHS Gym

April 14 - 21: Spring Break

April 22: School resumes

April 15: BOE business session @ WHS

April 27: WHS Academic Awards and Senior Scholarship Recognition 2:00 @ WHS Gym

April 27 - May 1: K-12 Art Show @ WHS Gym

May 14: Choir Concert & Awards @ PAC (grades 6 - 12) at 6:30 p.m.

May 16: Last day for SENIORS!

May 18: Class of 2025 Graduation

May 26: Memorial Day (no school)

May 30: Last day for students

YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER



LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington Families,

We all have a favorite teacher who impacts our lives years after we were in their classroom. For almost thirty years, I have worked with hundreds of teachers and school support staff. Without fail, every staff member I ask can immediately name the person who inspired them to want to work with children.

One of the greatest compliments a teacher can ever be given is, "I teach because you taught me." As the Wellington superintendent, I find it inspiring and humbling to work side-by-side with so many excellent staff members who chose to dedicate their careers to passing on the wisdom and inspiration that was given to them by their favorite teachers.

People choose to become teachers because they want to help kids become the best version of themselves. While no one entered the education profession thinking they would be rich, teaching has historically been a stable, proud, and respectable way to make a living.

Continued on page 2

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The State of Ohio recently changed its funding model and drastically cut how much money schools like Wellington would receive. We know that property taxes have significantly risen across Lorain County, and our residents are contributing more. Even with increased revenue from our local taxes, when factoring in inflation and state budget cuts, our local school budget is being stretched even further.

Now that the federal government is closing the Department of Education, additional funding restrictions may be on the horizon.

We at Wellington promise to try to limit the harmful impact budget cuts can have on our students' education. Even when times are tough, we will remind each other why we became educators and honor the people who inspired us. We come to work daily, hoping to make a positive difference in our community and kids' lives.

Unfunded state and federal mandates, unwanted testing requirements, using public dollars for private education, and rising transportation costs divert money away from our curriculum, students, and staff. The administration will continue trying to tighten our belts, limit waste, and make savvy financial decisions to maximize our dollars. As your superintendent, I want you to know that we will continue to provide a quality educational experience for all our Dukes, but if the current funding trends continue, we must make difficult decisions.

Please continue to support our schools. We hope that our current students, years from now, will fondly remember their favorite teachers. We hope there will be kids from today who will be our staff members tomorrow. Once a Duke, Always a Duke.

-Andy Peltz



Dr. Peltz visited Mrs. Zitek's second grade class to hear about their plant-growing science project. He shared his own knowledge about plants and other fun topics! Dr. Peltz was a science teacher prior to his current role.



Alison Gott co-hosting the WHS Pep Rally. Her cousin, fifth grader Bella Gutierrez joined her for some fun!

Fourth & fifth grade students came to WHS to enjoy the Pep Rally and root on teachers and students in the Powderbuff Volleyball game. **Page 2**

DR. KUBASAK'S CURRICULUM CORNER



K-3rd Grade- Envision Math

1. Visual and Interactive Approach: Envision Math uses visual models, interactive lessons, and digital resources to make math concepts engaging and easy to understand for young learners. This is especially helpful for K-3 students who benefit from hands-on and pictorial learning.

2. Problem-Based Learning: The curriculum encourages critical thinking and problem-solving by presenting real-world math scenarios that help students develop reasoning skills rather than just memorizing procedures.

3. Differentiated Instruction: Teachers like that Envision Math provides resources for different learning levels—including intervention and enrichment activities—so they can support students who need extra help or more advanced challenges.

4. Digital Integration: The program offers online tools, interactive homework, and video tutorials through platforms like Savvas Realize, making it easy for students and parents to access learning materials at home.

5. Step-by-Step Instruction: Each lesson follows a clear, structured approach:

- Problem-based learning (introduces concepts through real-life problems)
- Visual instruction (models and examples)
- Guided and independent practice

6. Alignment with Standards: Envision Math is aligned with Common Core and state math standards, ensuring that students are learning grade-appropriate skills.

7. Spiral Review and Assessment: The curriculum includes ongoing assessments and review materials, so students continuously reinforce previously learned skills, reducing learning gaps over time.

DR. KUBASAK'S CURRICULUM CORNER



4th -12th Grade- McGraw Hill- Reveal

1. Strong Conceptual Focus: Reveal Math emphasizes deep conceptual understanding rather than just rote memorization. It encourages students to explore multiple ways to solve problems, fostering critical thinking.

2. Inquiry-Based Learning: The program promotes discovery and exploration before direct instruction, helping students build intuition about mathematical concepts. This approach aligns with modern teaching methods that emphasize problem-solving and reasoning.

3. Differentiated Instruction: Reveal Math provides adaptive learning resources, including digital tools and hands-on activities, making it easier for teachers to support diverse learners. It includes leveled practice problems and scaffolding strategies for students who need extra help.

4. Interactive and Engaging Materials:
With a mix of digital and print resources, the curriculum includes:

- Visual models and manipulatives to support learning.
- Videos and animations that help explain concepts.
- Interactive practice problems that make learning more engaging.

5. Assessment and Progress Monitoring: Teachers appreciate the built-in formative and summative assessments that help track student progress. The program offers real-time data insights, making it easier to adjust instruction as needed.

6. Alignment with Standards: Reveal Math is aligned with Common Core and other state standards, ensuring that lessons meet required benchmarks and prepare students for standardized testing.

TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM MR. BAILEY

The end of the school year is just around the corner, and we are already starting to plan for next year. We are beginning to look at projects at our facilities and the budgets across the district.

I will be preparing to present the next five-year forecast in May as I try to navigate through the uncertainties of public school funding at the state and federal levels.

While the district has seen an increase in local funding this year through property taxes, the current proposed biennial state budget has the district losing $413,936 over the next 2 years from our state funding. Unfortunately, these changes could shift even more of the financial responsibility to the local level.

We are being proactive knowing we were forecasting deficit spending through 2029 and the potential cuts to the state funding. The district is committed to being fiscally responsible by continuing to look for ways to reduce costs and maximize the resources we have while continuing to provide an excellent educational experience for our students.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at pbailey@wellingtonvillageschools.org.

-Pete Bailey

Pete Bailey, Treasurer
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pbailey@wellingtonvillage schools.org



Click here to read our monthly Financial Statements!



NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition Services

National Nutrition Month was a success!

On National Agriculture Day, March 18, Westwood Elementary students taste tested locally grown hydroponic lettuce, with special guests, Feed our Future, and the Ohio Department of Education's Mascot, Munch the Fox!



We tested a mixture of Tyler's Farm Hydroponic lettuce, and some lettuce grown in the Flex Farm Grow Towers at McCormick Middle School. We offered salad dressing with the samples, but many students opted to try the lettuce plain, and loved it!

204 students tried the lettuce. 156 voted that they "loved it," 37 voted that they "liked it" and 11 voted "not for me."

This taste test was a wonderful opportunity to allow students to try healthy food and celebrate local growers in an exciting way!

Munch helps us to connect to one another and celebrate the joy that comes from trying new and healthy foods!





WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Important Dates

April

1: 3rd Grade State Test - ELA
1: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
2: Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15pm-7:30pm)
3: 3rd Grade State Test - ELA
5: Duke Pride Carnival (8am-12pm @ WHS)
7: Dental Sealant Program
8: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
10: Stoller Fundraiser Delivery
11: Start Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser
14-21: No School - Spring Break
22: School Resumes
25: Green Circle Growers Activity (2nd Grade)
25-27: District Art Show (WHS)
29: 3rd Grade State Test - Math
30: End Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser
30: 1st Grade to Playhouse Square
30: 2nd Grade to CLE Zoo

May

1: 3rd Grade State Test - Math
6: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
6: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
12: Herrick Memorial Library Presentation
16: FFA Food for America Activity
22: Field Day/Bounce House Day (Parent Co-op Sponsored)
26: No School - Memorial Day
27: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
27: Spring Concert (K - 5:30pm, 1st - 6:30pm @ Lindley)
28: Spring Concert (2nd - 5:30pm, 3rd - 6:30pm @ Lindley)
30: Third Grade Clap-out *time TBD*
30: Last Day for Students!

WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Wellington students will be visiting various businesses to explore different careers that they may not be exposed to otherwise (some opportunities through the Business Advisory Council (BAC) or other connections):

FBI building tour and Lorain Co. Forensic Lab tour
The Cleveland Clinic
Air Traffic Control experience through Mr. Hook

WHS students will be tutoring students from Westwood after school.

Our PBIS Committee and SEL Committee are partnering with students to make them a part of our decision making teams. We want students to have a voice in our building, and be a part of our decision making when appropriate.

PBIS committee members visited Brookside, the only PBIS Gold Rated high school in the area. We gathered great information that we are planning to discuss and begin implementing new ideas.

PBIS Incentive Day on March 7th was a success! We are planning another one for next month.

FFA Spirit Week, Parade, Pep Rally, and PowderBuff Volleyball game all were a hit.

We look forward to college visits to Ashland University and College of Wooster visit on April 25.









WHS FUN!

Powderbuff & Pep Rally!













PERFORMING ARTS NEWS!



Our **WHS Drama Club** took a trip to NYC for the Broadway Theater experience from March 6 - 9. Students enjoyed the shows *Hadestown* and *The Outsiders*.

Thank you to our generous Wellington Schools Endowment Fund for supporting this fantastic experience for our students!

Watch the video here.









HEATHERS WHS PERFORMANCE

Photo Credit: Christen Lewis







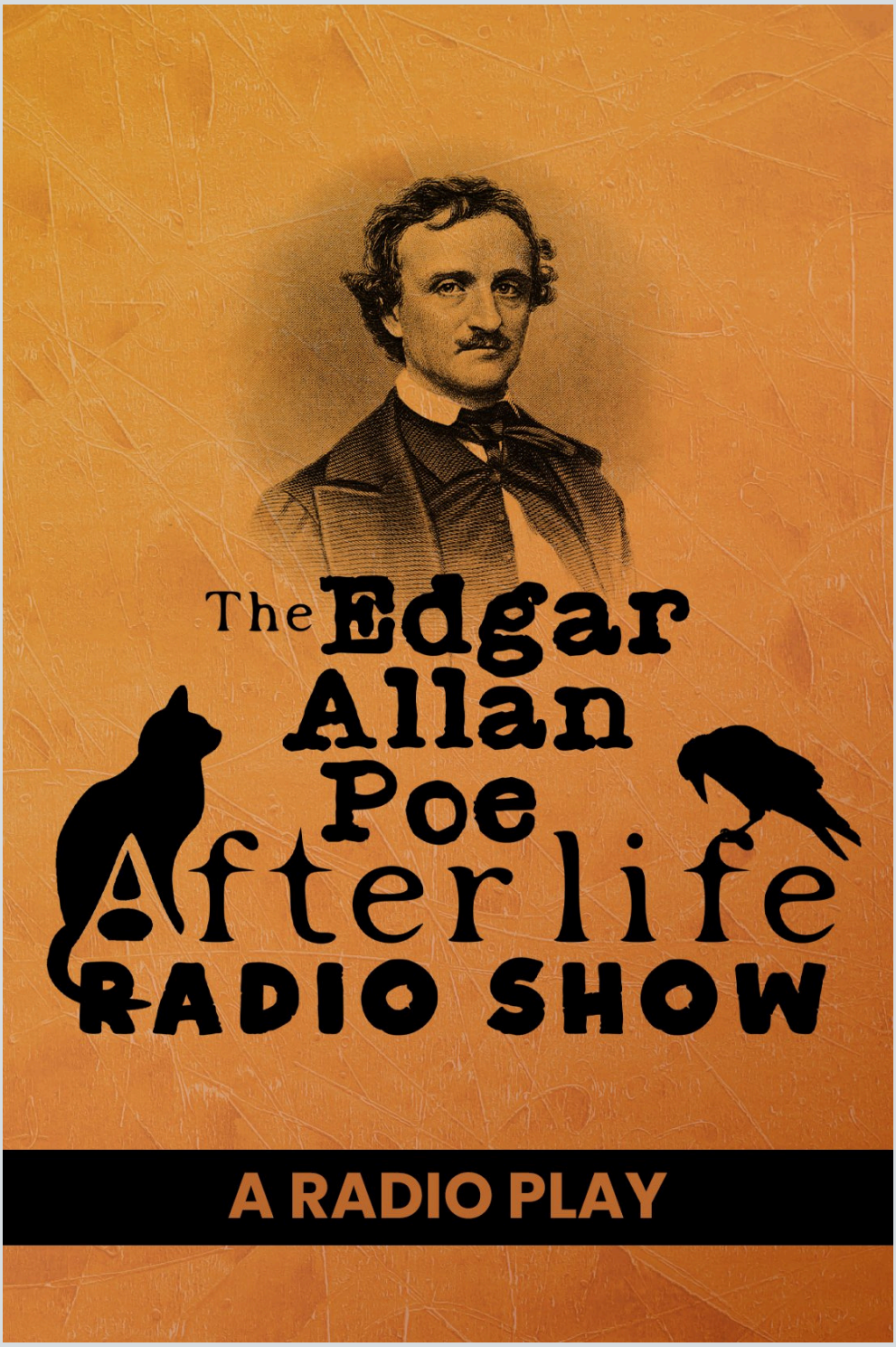




PERFORMING ARTS NEWS!

Congratulations to the McCormick Drama Club members who auditioned for acting or applied for tech positions!

Our show, The Edgar Allen Poe Afterlife Radio Show, will be held on May 23 at 7:00 p.m. and May 24 at 3:00 p.m. here in the Lindley Center.









Mark YOUR CALENDARS

SENIOR NEWS!

Congrats!

Parents and seniors! Please complete the Google forms below for Senior Superlatives and Senior photos for the yearbook and end of year slideshow, due by April 11.

Senior Superlatives - click here!

Senior Photos - click here!





Save the Date!

DUKE PRIDE CARNIVAL

Dozens of carnival games for children!

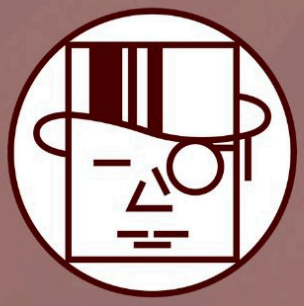
All funds are donated to the
Summer Food Voucher Program
(in partnership with Well-Help.)

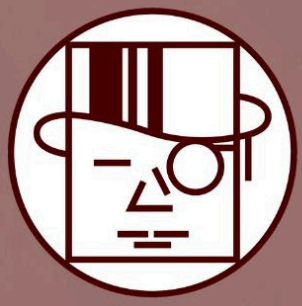
April 5, 2025

Free Breakfast: 8 - 11 a.m.

Carnival: 9 a.m. - Noon

Wellington High School
629 N. Main St.





WHS and Jr. High FFA prepared and served their annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on March 19. Thank you students, Mrs. Thome & Miss Schmitz!









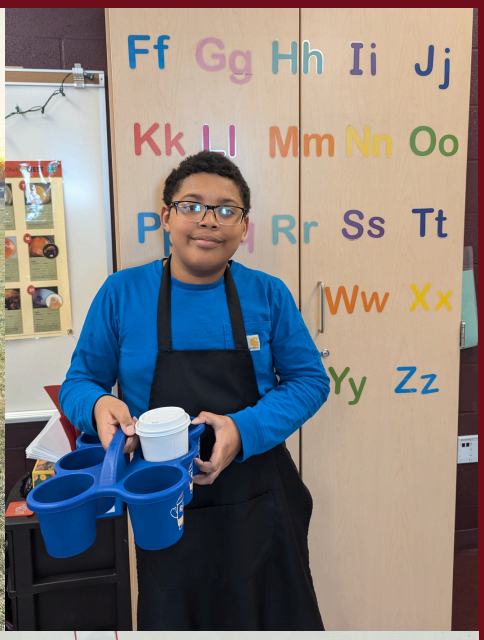




LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT















LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT



WHS student-athletes attended a women's leadership event at Hoop Tech in North Ridgeville and learned from amazing speakers! Speakers included Isabella "Izzy" Geraci was an all-time leading scorer in basketball at North Ridgeville High School, who played basketball for Cleveland State University & The University of Southern Carolina. Her message of perseverance and the benefits of being a multi-sport athlete, as she conquered her basketball goals, was powerful.







LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT















Go Dukes!

LEARNING AROUND OUR DISTRICT



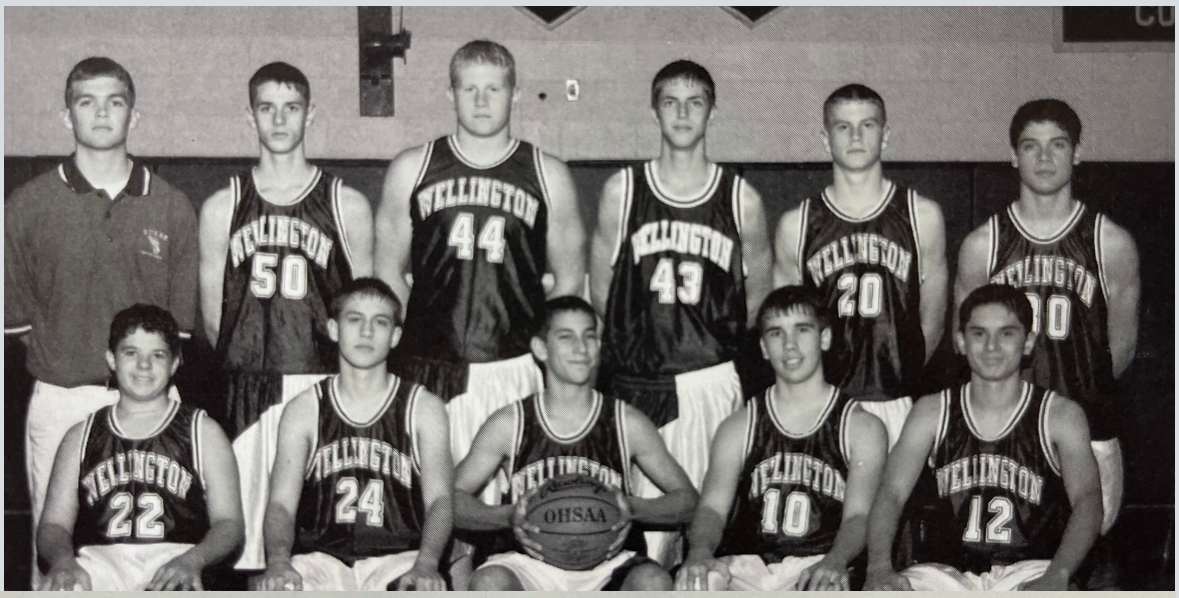






COACH MORRIS' STORIED BASKETBALL COACHING CAREER

Coach Morris in 1999 as the boy's basketball coach.





Coach Morris as the head girl's basketball coach during the 2023/2024 season with his daughters, Taylor and Camryn Morris.

Watch a Video about Coach Morris here!



Left: 2017/18 Girls Basketball Stars Division Champs



Right: Coaching a game during the 2024/25 season.

COACH MORRIS' STORIED BASKETBALL COACHING CAREER

Wellington's all-time winningest coach Nathan Morris steps down after more than two decades with Dukes

The Morning Journal 3/19/25. By Mark Perez-Krywany



Nathan Morris coached nearly every level of basketball after college and has been a staple of Wellington Athletics for more than two decades.

As he concluded his 10th year as the head coach of the girls program, Morris elected to step down from his position on March 18.

"It's just time," he said. "Time to try something else in the wintertime. I've put in 40 years overall (into the game) and 25 years as a coach. So I just want to try something else."

Morris was the former head boys basketball coach at Wellington for two years. He coached after Hall of Famer Tom Eibel retired.

However, Morris stepped down from that position for family reasons for one year. Upon returning, he coached the middle school level and eventually took over as the girls basketball coach for the 2014-15 season.

Morris amounted 149 victories, which is the most in school history.

"What makes Nathan (Morris) a great coach was his care for his players," said Wellington Athletic Director John Bowman. "He continues to be a great role model for all of the student's at Wellington. His players knew that he cared about them beyond the game of basketball.

"He fostered a family-like atmosphere as his daughters, wife, and parents all helped out in certain ways for the program. He had his fair share of success on the court but he was always more driven to make sure he was doing the best for the kids and their experience."

Morris said he had mixed emotions when he came to the decision of stepping down. He spent years developing relationships inside Wellington Athletics. He is prepared to jump into the unknown of life after basketball.

"I am excited for what is to come next. I am a little bit sad, because I 25 years (to coaching), 10 years in the girls' position at Wellington," he said. "There was a lot of hard work that went into those 10 years. … I am going to miss those interactions with the athletes and the coaches in the league. It is kind of a mixed bag of feelings, to be honest. I am going to miss that stuff."

In Wellington's 2024-25 season, the Dukes went 13-10 (9-5 in Lorain County League). They lost to Richmond Heights in the second round of the Division VI district tournament

Along with coaching All-Ohioan Brooke Lehmkuhl, he coached his daughter, Camryn Morris, in his final season.

Morris and the 2017-18 Dukes went undefeated in the Patriot Athletic Conference (16-0) for their first league championship since 1989.

"Coach Morris has been a part of the Wellington basketball family for over 25 years. His dedication to the sport in both the girls and boys' programs has been phenomenal," Bowman said. "While Coach Morris ends his tenure as the all time coaching wins leader, he's most proud of the relationships he built with his players. I had the privilege of being a student and player for Coach Morris. I'm grateful for the values he instilled in me during my time as a student and the mentorship he offered me since becoming athletic director. Wellington will miss his leadership in the girls basketball program."

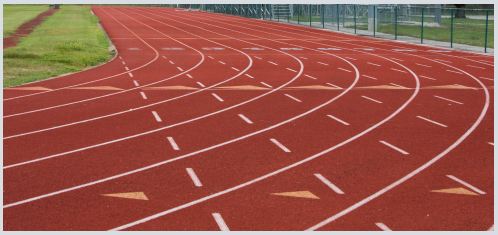
The experiences were worthwhile for Morris, as his teams played in the Hoosier Gym in Indiana and the Cavaliers' Rocket Arena twice.

"We tried to create a lot of cool experiences for the athletes over that time," he said. "All of those times were great experiences for me and I will cherish those things."

Congrats, Coach Morris!

JR. HIGH TRACK & FIELD TEAM











JR. HIGH SOFTBALL TEAM

