



WELLINGTON

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4



THIS ISSUE

Curriculum Connections

Nutrition Update

Favorite Holiday Traditions

Choir & Band Concert Updates

Christmas Movie Wonderthon

FFA Update

McCormick Mock Trial

Mr. Bowman's Fall Sports Review

Winter Sports Athlete Team Pics

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 15 - 19: Parent Co-Op Santa Shop (during library classes)

Dec. 16: BOE Business Session @ WHS

Dec. 16: Winter Concert Kindergarten @ 5:30; First grade @ 6:30

Dec. 17: Winter Concert Second grade 5:30; Third grade @ 6:30

Dec. 18: Holiday Choir Concert (grades 6 - 12) 7 p.m. @ Lindley

Dec. 22 - Jan 2: Winter Break (no school) Jan. 5: School resumes

Jan. 16: End of marking period 2

Jan. 19: MLK Day (No school)

CREATING A VISION

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington Families,

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

- Joel A. Barker.

Wellington Exempted Village Schools have made a concerted effort to focus on capitalizing on our students’ and staff’s individual strengths to maximize our collective impact on our Dukes’ futures.

During our professional development days, we helped all of our teachers and administrators unlock their potential by using the Clifton StrengthsFinder 2.0, and our 7-12 graders used YouScience.

Personally, the characteristics of Strategic, Ideation, Positivity, Futuristic, and Woo stood out as mine. As your superintendent, I, too, have relied on these strengths as I worked with the students, staff, and board to hone our district vision, develop the beginning action steps to begin our positive transformation, and deepen our commitment to making our schools the best experience possible.

Continued on page 2

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



We have a vision; we have created steps; now it is time to put a plan into action so it can become a reality.

A few years back, the school board and community came together to create the Wellington 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Just like Joel Barker said, if all we have is a vision, then it will remain a dream. Over the next few months, the board and our team will seek your input and support as we revisit and adjust our Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan identifies goals, objectives, and action steps to bring our vision to life. Our current plan looks to improve our Communication, Academic Achievement, Facilities, Finance, Culture & Climate, and Human Resources. While we have made monumental strides in all areas, there is still work to be done. Over the next few months, our board members will make themselves available for you to connect with; we will send out a survey to gather your feedback; and we will host a community engagement night to discuss the survey results.

A school is not just a part of the community; it is a reflection of what the community values and its hopes for its children. While I find joy in planning for the future, I am also realistic about the fact that the decisions we make for the next Strategic Plan can impact our community long after all of us retire. This is why we value your thoughts and that your voice matters.

Over the next few weeks, I hope you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts on what we are doing well, what we should celebrate more, and what opportunities we have to improve. You do not have to wait for the survey to come out or for a board table visitation session to share your input. You can always reach out by email, phone call, or have a quick chat with me at a game or event. We all want our kids and district to be successful. The paths to that success are up to us to decide.

Thank you again for your support. Have a wonderful holiday season, and Go Dukes!

-Andy Peltz, Superintendent

MS. GLASURE'S CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

What is UFLI?

Across our district, teachers are continuing to strengthen literacy instruction through the use of the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Foundations program.



In Kindergarten through third grade, UFLI provides structured, systematic instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, encoding, and fluency. These components are critical to early reading development and are explicitly taught and practiced daily to ensure students build a strong, reliable foundation for reading success.

UFLI is grounded in the science of reading, a body of research that explains how the brain learns to read. The program aligns closely with this research by emphasizing explicit instruction, cumulative skill building, frequent practice, and immediate feedback. By following this approach, teachers are ensuring that students are not simply exposed to reading skills, but are mastering them in a logical and developmentally appropriate sequence.

In addition to K-3 implementation, UFLI is now being used strategically with students in Grades fourth through eighth who need additional support in foundational literacy skills.



Students visited a recent board of education meeting to show off their partner reading, paragraph shrinking skills.

MS. GLASURE'S CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

What is UFLI?

For older students who may still struggle with decoding, spelling, or automatic word recognition, UFLI provides targeted intervention to address skill gaps that can interfere with comprehension and overall academic performance.



This extension of UFLI into upper grades reflects our commitment to meeting students where they are and providing instruction aligned to their specific learning needs.

Teachers are also reinforcing early literacy skills taught through UFLI by incorporating evidence-based strategies like partner reading and paragraph shrinking. These practices build fluency and comprehension by having students read collaboratively, summarize key ideas, and focus on the most important information in a text. When combined with UFLI's explicit instruction in word reading and fluency, these strategies help students apply foundational skills to meaningful reading tasks.

With continued, consistent use of UFLI across grade levels, we anticipate positive outcomes for our students. This includes stronger decoding skills, improved reading fluency, and increased comprehension. Most importantly, this approach supports students in becoming confident, capable readers who are better prepared to access grade-level content across all subject areas. Through alignment with the science of reading and intentional instructional practices, our teachers are laying the groundwork for long-term literacy success.



DUKES DEEP DIVE QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Describe your favorite Holiday tradition...



Mrs. Helton

(Nutrition Director):

“On Christmas Eve we get together as a family and eat lasagna and open up a gift (which is always a book.)”



Charlotte Beaty (Sophomore):

“I enjoy going to my grandparents and eating sticky buns my Grandma made for breakfast.”



Max Hook (Junior):

“Decorating farm machinery with Christmas lights.”



Derek Gott (Freshman):

“Putting up and decorating the Christmas tree.”



Jaxon Rodriguez

(Freshman):

“Making gingerbread houses with my Grandma’s side of the family.”



Chloe Rhodes (Sophomore):

“We make salt dough ornaments to personalize what activities we did that year.”



Elizabeth Humphries

(WHS staff):

“Making gingerbread houses and looking at Christmas lights.”



Toni Gerhardinger

(McCormick staff):

“Every year we go on a hunt to find the perfect live Christmas tree to bring home!”



Jocelyn Bizerik (Sixth grade):

“Decorating the tree and making sugar cookies with my Grandma.”

DUKES DEEP DIVE QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Describe your favorite Holiday tradition...



Tucker Hyer (Fourth grade):
"I go to my grandparents and have fun playing with my cousins and exchanging gifts."

Kyleigh Bozman (Fourth grade):
"I like meeting up at my grandma's house and opening presents."

Mrs. Perchinske (McCormick teacher):
"Having all of my kids home and together."



Payton Vance (Fourth grade): "To make a snowman."
"We play a fun reindeer game with cotton balls."

Chloe Murphy (Third grade):

Sophia Murphy (Third grade and Chloe's twin!):
"Opening presents on Christmas morning!"



Charlotte Breeds (Second grade):
"Making cookies at my Grandma and Papa's house."

Mrs. Gronsky (Westwood staff):
"The pickle on the Christmas tree, the first person to find it gets to open the first present."

Malachi Tolento (Second grade):
"Finding the elf every morning and opening presents."



NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Westwood shows our first responders gratitude.



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition
Services

Thanksgiving turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes at lunch shared with first responders at Westwood!

Thank you to Westwood chef Anne for inviting Wellington first responders to enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch with our students before Thanksgiving. We love practicing gratitude and want to thank our first responders for keeping us safe and all that they do daily in our community.



Thank you!

NUTRITION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Loading Money onto School Breakfast & Lunch Accounts



Andrea Helton,
MS, RDN LD
Director of Nutrition
Services

Please remember to load money onto your student(s) meal accounts! You can do this online at www.payschoolscentral.com or send cash or a check made out to Wellington Schools Nutrition Services.

Parents and guardians are responsible for paying any balances accrued by the end of the school year. Free and Reduced-Price Meal applications can be turned in at any time during the school year.

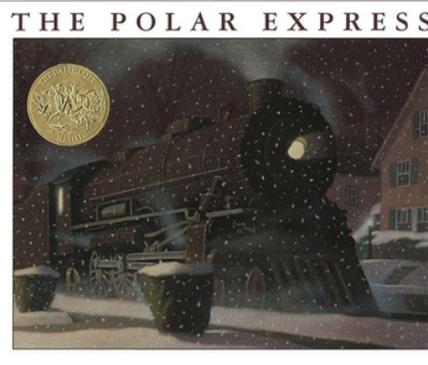
If you think you may qualify, apply online at www.payschoolscentral.com, receive a printed copy from the main office at any school building, or print a copy from the school website. All students should go on one application.

Our Westwood hearts will grow twice their size on December 18th during our local pizza day with a special grinch twist! Check out our eager Westwood helpers as they helped Chef Anne decorate the Grinchmas tree!



WHS students were able to taste test new drink concepts and vote on their favorite! We sampled sugar-free blackberry iced tea which received 53 positive votes, and sugar-free sparkling caramel apple cider which received 18 positive votes. We are planning to begin serving tea options from our vendor Monin after winter break!





Westwood 2025 Important Dates

December

- 1: School Resumes
- 9: K-Kids Meeting @3pm (WWE Cafe)
- 9: Parent Co-op Meeting @6pm (WWE Library)
- 11: Polar Express Assembly
- 12: Parent Co-op Sponsored "Cookies with Santa" 5-7pm (WWE)
- 15-19: Parent Co-op Santa Shop *during library classes*
- 16: Winter Concert - Kindergarten at 5:30pm, 1st Grade at 6:30pm (Lindley Center)
- 17: Winter Concert - 2nd Grade at 5:30pm, 3rd Grade at 6:30pm (Lindley Center)
- 22-31: Winter Break - No School

January

- 1-2: Winter Break - No School
- 5: School Resumes
- 5-23: MAPs and Acadience Benchmarks
- 13: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)
- 13: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
- 16: End of 2nd Quarter
- 19: MLK Day - No School

February

- 4: Builder's Club sponsored Talent Show @ 6pm (Lindley Center)
- 10: Parent Co-op Meeting @ 6pm (WWE Library)
- 12: Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30pm-7:30pm)
- 13: Professional Development Day - No School
- 17: K-Kids Meeting @ 3pm (WWE Cafe)

Holiday Spirit Week

- 15: Candy Cane Day
Wear Red, White, and/or Stripes!
- 16: Tinsel Tuesday
Holiday attire and accessories!
- 17: Winter Wonderland
Wear White, Blue, and/or Glitter!
- 18: Grinch Day
Wear Green and/or Hearts!
- 19: Long Winter's Nap
Wear Pajamas for our last day!

**December
15th-19th**

The WHS Choir has been involved in 2 community outreach events this holiday season. The students sang for the Cub Scout spaghetti dinner in November at Wellington FUMC. On December 1st, the choir performed alongside several area choirs in the annual Lorain Community Music Theater Festival of Carols at Lorain High School.



The MMS and WHS Choirs will present an evening of holiday music at their Holiday Choir Concert on Thursday, December 18th at 7:00 pm in the Patricia Lindley Center for the Performing Arts.

Holiday Concert

Featuring the MMS

and WHS Choirs



Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

7:00 pm

Patricia Lindley Center

For the Performing Arts



In December, our talented WHS Choir and Band musicians enjoyed a trip to the movie theater to watch “Wicked For Good.”

Thank you to Mr. Pope and Mrs. Arcuri for leading our students in a great year. Thank you to our WHS musicians for giving it their all this year!



TALENT SHOW!



TALENT SHOW



Unleash your inner star!

February 4
6 PM
Patricia Lindley Center

EVENT RULES

- Open to all students in grades K - 12
- Performances can include singing, dancing or any unique talent.
- Each performance should not exceed 5 minutes and participants must provide their own music or props.
- All performances must abide by WEVSD District rules. Performances must not incur damages to stage, set, or equipment.

PRIZES

- ★ 1st PLACE Trophy
- ★ 2nd PLACE Trophy
- ★ 3rd PLACE Trophy
- ★ All Participants Medal



How to Register?



SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP
NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY JANUARY 9TH, 2026

contact: Mrs. Strait for more information
tstrait@wellingtonvillageschools.org

LORAIN COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER
12079 LaGrange Road
LaGrange Ohio 44050



Preschool Enrollment

A Bright Beginning for Your Child!

Tuition \$200.00 Monthly
AM Session 8:30-11:30
PM Session 12:30-3:30
Monday through Friday

Financial Assistance available through the
ECE Grant.

To apply visit
childernandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/early-care-education



Why Choose Us

- All classroom teachers have a minimum of a 4 year degree.
- Ohio approved curriculum aligned with the Early Learning Standards.
- Gold Rated through SUTQ
- Conscious Discipline curriculum for social-emotional development



We still have spots available for the 2025-2026 School Year!

For more information visit our website
or call (440)324-3178

www.loraincountyesc.org/theearlylearningcenter



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Get guidance on ACT prep with College Now!



See our guidance counselor Mrs. Frantz, College Now advisor Mrs. Faust or Mrs. Szmania for details on signing up!

HFaust@collegenowgc.org

cfrantz@wellingtonvillageschools.org

sszmania@collegenowgc.org



SPRING IMPACT! ACT PREP



February 2 -
April 30, 2026

Monday - Thursday,
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Wellington
High School

1629 N Main St,
Wellington, OH 44090



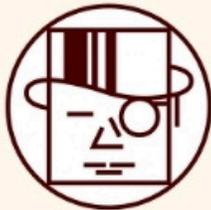
- ACT exam prep
- College readiness
- Career exploration
- Complimentary snacks
- \$400 stipend upon completion

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Questions? Email Ms. Szmania at sszmania@collegenowgc.org

REGISTER TODAY:
cngc.org/winterimpact12

Duke's Spirit Week



Dec. 15: Santa vs. Grinch

Dec. 16: Ugly Holiday Sweater

Dec. 17: Wear a Holiday hat

Dec. 18: Wear your class colors 9th (blue), 10th (white), 11th (green), 12th (red),

Dec. 19: Holiday pajama day



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

On December 3, WHS hosted 24 Brookside high school students as part of our annual "student swap." Students paired up with a WHS "buddy" in the same grade with similar interests. They spent the day together. In January, our Dukes travel to Brookside to become Cardinals for a day with the same students.



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP

Lauren Vannatter, Reece Leiby & Trey Moore accomplish huge feats in their fall seasons

Written by Athletic Director John Bowman

I am very proud of these three athletes' accomplishments this fall. **Trey Moore** was awarded the MVP and the Duke of the Year award for football. He was named to the all Ohio team for football as well.

Lauren Vannatter is a 2 time regional qualifier and had finishes of 2nd, 3rd and 5th in her career in the LC8 cross country meet.

Reece Leiby shattered the school career and season assists record for boys soccer. As only a junior he will continue to extend his record next season.

All three of these athletes are phenomenal examples of student athletes that have worked hard to achieve these accomplishments. **Trey Moore** has only missed a couple weight room sessions since starting to be active in the weight room in seventh grade.

Lauren Vannatter balances the two sports of volleyball and cross country in the fall and still manages to excel in both.

Reece Leiby lives and breathes soccer 24/7 and does the extra work in the weight room. These three student-athletes serve as great inspiration to our younger athletes that anything can be accomplished if you work hard towards it. Hard work does pay off when it is consistent!

WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP



Trey Moore



Lauren Vannatter



Reece Leiby

*Written by Athletic Director,
John Bowman*

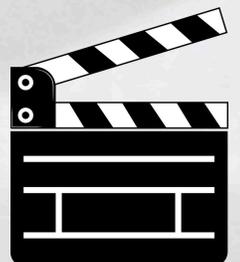
These three student-athletes serve as great inspiration to our younger athletes that anything can be accomplished if you work hard towards it.

Hard work does pay off when it is consistent!
Congratulations!

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

WHS & Community Theater News

The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon was a HUGE success! Congratulations to the cast, crew and Mrs. Campofredano and Mrs. Cianciola for making it magical!



MCCORMICK MOCK TRIAL

Students in grades 5 - 8 participated in the Mock Trial at the Elyria courthouse on December 5!

Our Dukes learned the case, created their arguments, had jurors, witnesses and lawyers prepared to argue/compete against other schools. Thank you to Attorney Brett Murner for coming in to prepare our students for the mock trial and to our amazing teachers for preparing them!



One of the highlights of Mock Trial is that actual judges and lawyers from the community preside over the trials. Not only do they act as judges, but also as instructors as they explain aspects of the trial.

MCCORMICK MOCK TRIAL



MCCORMICK MOCK TRIAL





On December 11, the Wellington FFA competed in the State finals for the Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems CDE. Our team of Tyler Burns, Max Hook, Wyatt Norton, and Nick Sword placed 1st in the state and will represent Ohio at the National competition in October 2026 during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

Individually, Max placed 2nd, Nick placed 5th, Wyatt placed 13th, and Tyler placed 18th. If you see any of these students, be sure to congratulate them! They have been working really hard and it has definitely paid off!

Congratulations!



Some of our 8th graders in FFA spent time in December building their leadership skills at the Middle School Leadership Conference! We're proud of their commitment to growing as leaders.

A big thank you to OSU's Ag Ed Society for hosting the event and providing a delicious lunch!



JR HIGH FFA NEWS

Developing Leaders



Two of our 8th graders proudly represented our chapter at the State Career Conversation Contest for middle school FFA members!

For this event, students researched an agricultural career of their choice and then participated in a conversational interview with a panel of judges to showcase their knowledge.

Kate K. placed 7th in her heat

Gunner B. placed 9th in his heat

We are so proud of their hard work, professionalism, and willingness to take on this challenge. Congratulations on a successful day!



FFA NEWS- GREENHANDS

Congratulations to our newest Greenhand FFA members! A Greenhand FFA Degree is the first level of achievement for new FFA members, recognizing them for learning FFA's history, mission, emblem, and creed, developing plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project, and understanding the FFA Code of Ethics, serving as a foundation for future leadership and career development in agriculture.



A GLIMPSE AROUND OUR DISTRICT



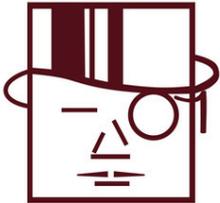
WHS GIRLS BASKETBALL



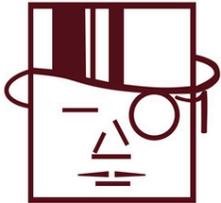
WHS GIRLS BASKETBALL



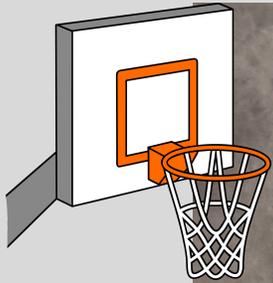
Let's Go Dukes!



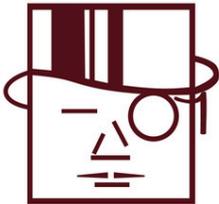
WELLINGTON
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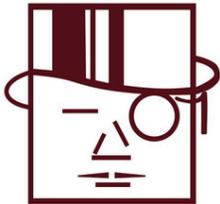
WHS BOYS BASKETBALL



WHS BOYS BASKETBALL



WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS



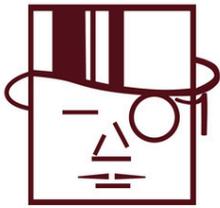
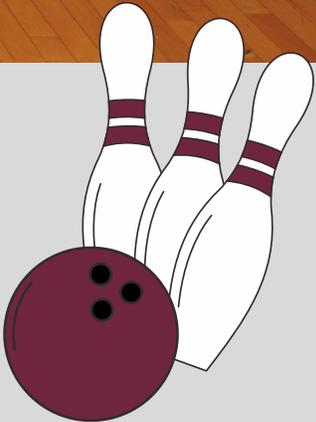
JR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL



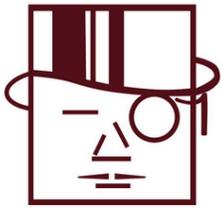
WHS BOWLING TEAM



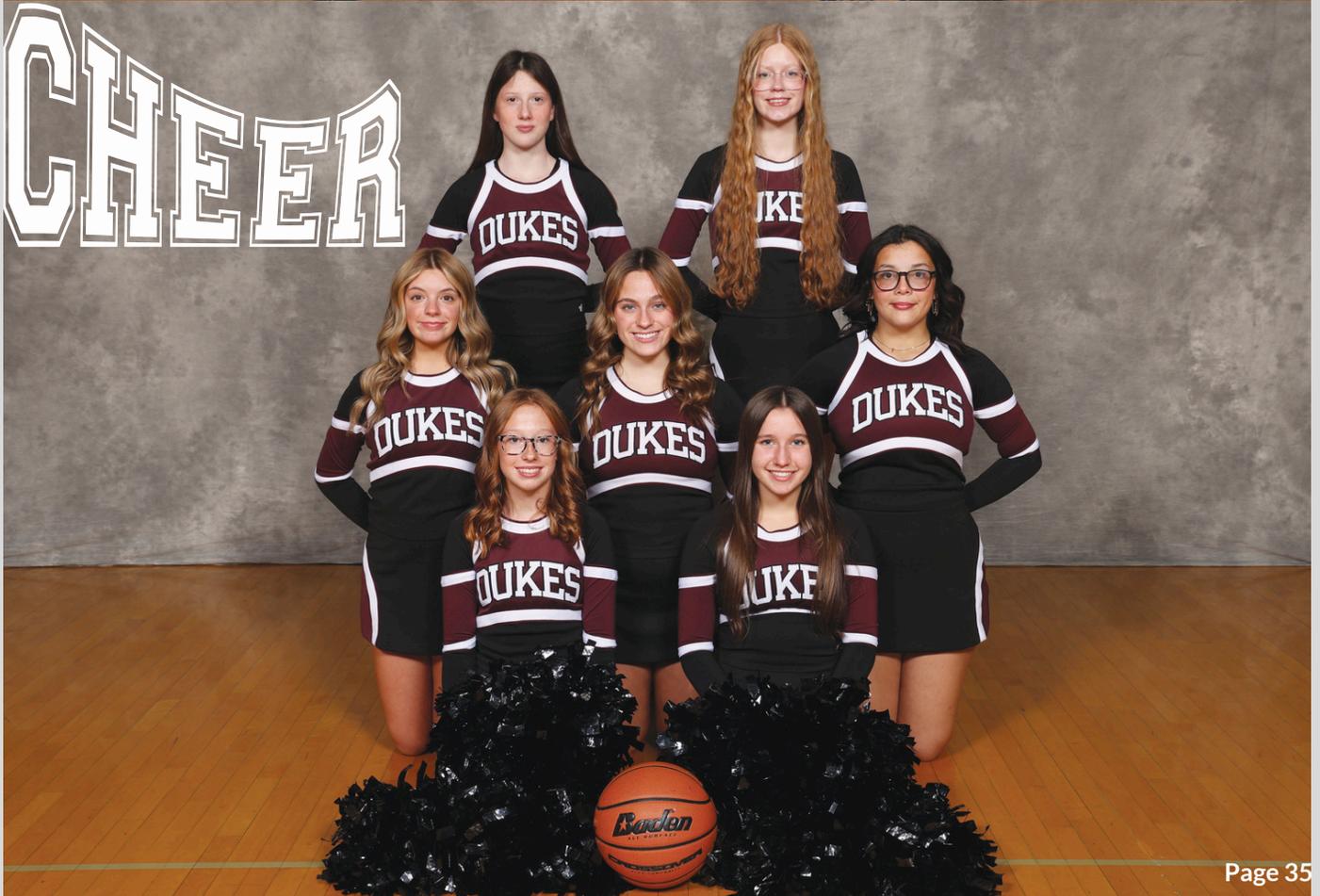
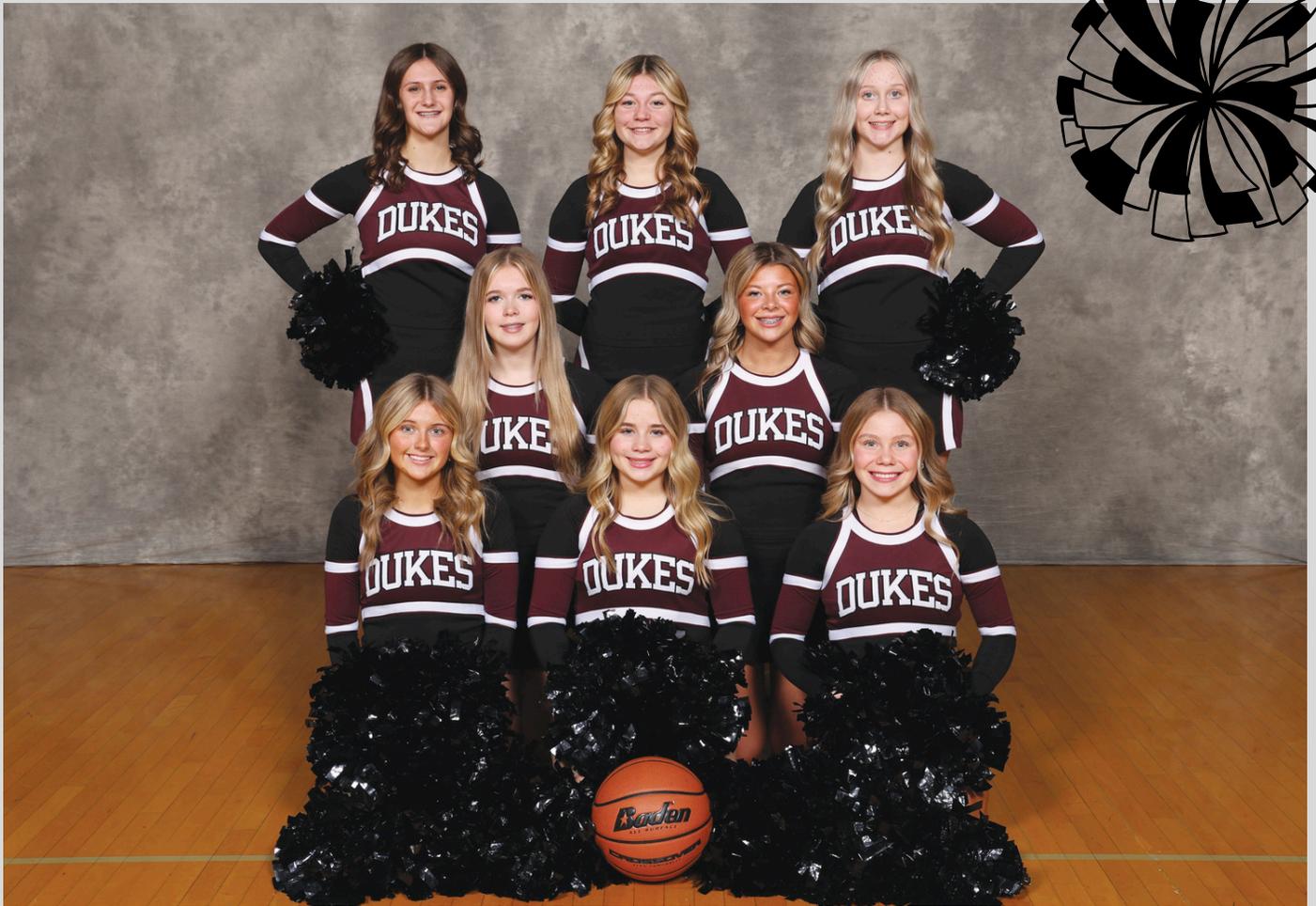
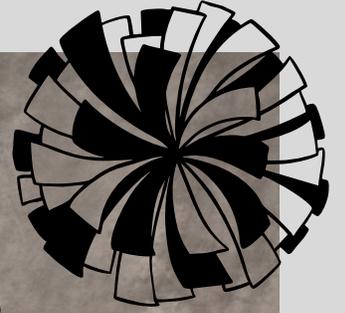
Have a great season!



WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED
VILLAGE SCHOOLS



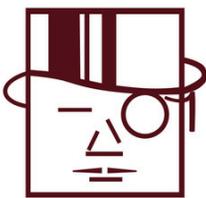
BASKETBALL CHEERLEADING SQUAD



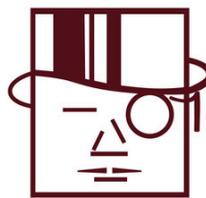
BASKETBALL CANDID SHOTS



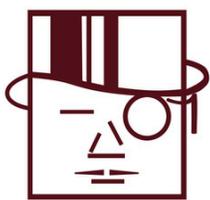
BASKETBALL CANDID SHOTS



WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS



JR. HIGH WRESTLING ACTION IN CLYDE



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