Indian Valley Local Schools
100 N Walnut Street, PO Box 171
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629

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# Community Connection

A Publication of Indian Valley Local Schools

SUMMER 2023

## A Message from the Superintendent

*by Dr. Ira Wentworth, Superintendent*



At Indian Valley Local Schools, our district mission and vision statements truly serve as a North Star to guide decision-making and programming. We believe if we show up every day and execute our mission well, then by the time a student walks across the stage at graduation the vision will be realized. The daily mission is to work together to *personalize* a rigorous standards-based learning experience. The vision is to develop persistent academic and social problem solvers *pursuing the career pathway of their choice.*

The Class of 2023 is the showcase of this newsletter. In these young men and women, the fruit of our work to personalize their education over the years is now seen in their pursuing the career pathway of their choice. However, we are not alone in this work; heartfelt thanks goes to all the families and wonderful community members who support our students and schools. We are proud of these Braves, and you will be too as you read their plans and aspirations.

Two new programs emerged this past year that continue to grow and strengthen our workforce development efforts: a pre-apprenticeship program for students and a community partnership group called Indian Valley Business Friends (IVBF). Our pre-apprenticeship program caters to students 16 years old or older who do not attend Buckeye Career Center. Students must be enrolled in academic courses that complement their pre-apprenticeship and then complete a 40 hour work-based learning experience with a business partner. This year 22 students completed a pre-apprenticeship, which helps them decide their career path. We are grateful for the 11 different business partners that hosted our students for these pre-apprenticeships.

The inaugural meeting of IVBF occurred in November with 17 area businesses in attendance. We showcased our entire career development program with a spotlight on pre-apprenticeships. In addition, our business friends learned of other outlets to partner in support of students as well. Being a guest speaker, presenting at our Career Day, helping with mock interviews, or giving workplace tours are also ways our business friends help us personalize learning and empower students to choose their career path. If your place of employment would have interest in attending this coming year's IVBF meeting, please contact our district office to get on the invitation list.

Lastly, know that our staff care about doing a good job and strive to make our community proud by providing a first class education for students. Whether it is a kindergartener first dawning school, a senior leaving with diploma in hand, or anytime in between, Indian Valley support staff, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education all take pride in our work so you can take pride in being a Brave. Thank you for your continued support and Go Braves!



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***Mission: Working together to personalize a rigorous, standards-based learning experience.***

# Indian Valley Students Leave a Legacy of Achievement

*by Jody Ditcher, Director of Learning*

There are many ways to show student growth and achievement. While the process for doing so looks a bit different as students move up through the grade levels, our focus for this communication is the Senior Class of 2023. Among the many triumphs of this special group of students is the number that received scholarships from our Indian Valley Foundation. Over $88,000 was given to 53 students to pursue their college education or to take necessary next steps in their workforce readiness.

The graphic shows the percentage of students ready to serve our country, report to work, or continue their education beyond high school:

| CLASS OF 2022 | | CLASS OF 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| 4% | PERCENTAGE SIGNED FOR THE MILITARY | 3% |
| 38% | PERCENTAGE ENTERING THE WORKFORCE | 43% |
| 29% | PERCENTAGE COMMITTED TO 2 YEAR COLLEGE OR OHIO TECHNICAL CENTER | 22% |
| 29% | PERCENTAGE COMMITTED TO 4 YEAR COLLEGE | 32% |

Teachers from kindergarten through twelfth grade create personalized learning experiences. These help students build the foundation that will make their future dreams a reality. The efforts of students and those who teach them are chronicled best through individual stories of the goals that are reached and the stumbling blocks that are overcome. While these are too vast to report, there are a few basic milestones we use to measure the intricate terrain of student progress. These include results from NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress,) quarterly assessments of learning, and annual, summative state assessments.

## Quarterly Reports of Learning

The Indian Valley website provides the standards explicitly taught to students in grades K-2, 2-5 and 6-8. This information is found under the Parent tab. Since we moved to standards-based and standards-referenced grading methods in 2017, both students and parents receive a clearer picture of the explicit skills and competencies that make up quarterly marks in each reported subject. In alignment with higher education, Indian Valley High School uses traditional systems for grading. Progress for high school students is also available at any time of the day. In addition to paper reporting, student progress information is made available in digital format 24 hours per day, seven days per week to students and their families. Also, students in grades 3-12 take quarterly assessments in all content areas. We have found that students who score an average of 75% or higher on these assessments are likely to score at the proficient to advanced performance levels on their state assessments. By the third quarter, 68% of our students had accomplished this feat. We believe this figure will continue to rise over time.

## NWEA MAP

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) refers to assessments given three times throughout a school year to measure a student's growth or achievement in reading, math as compared to students across the United States. It is also given in science in grades 5-8. This adaptive assessment measures both achievement and growth above and below grade level. The results diagnose the specific needs of each student. From the chart below, we can see that most Indian Valley students are meeting or exceeding their predicted growth. At the same time, our students are likely to achieve at levels higher than the national average.

IV STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING MAP GROWTH EXPECTATIONS

| 79.4% | 77.7% |
|---|---|
| MATH MAP GROWTH PERCENTAGE (AVERAGE 50) | READING MAP GROWTH PERCENTAGE (AVERAGE 50) |

MAP MEDIAN ACHIEVEMENT PERCENTILE OF IV STUDENTS

| 64th | 61st |
|---|---|
| IV MEDIAN MATH PERCENTILE (K-8) (AVERAGE 50) | IV AVERAGE READING PERCENTILE (K-8) (AVERAGE 50) |




## Ohio State Results and Performance Levels

At Indian Valley, we are *working together to personalize a rigorous, standards-based learning experience* for our students. As our learners work hard each day to meet the internal expectations we have set, this sets them up for success when compared with their counterparts across the state. Five stars is the highest rating an Ohio district can earn in any of the measured areas. Preliminary data obtained from this year's state assessments indicates Indian Valley students continue to improve and thrive.

| Year | Overall Rating | Achievement | Gap Closing | Graduation Rate | Early Literacy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 - 2022 | No Rating | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 2022 - 2023 | 4.5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |

# Responsible Asset Management is Critical for Student Success

*by Andrew Bache, Treasurer*

Creating persistent academic and social problem solvers who pursue the career pathway of their choice is the vision Indian Valley has imagined for our students. The Treasurer's Office models this focus as we are tasked with strategically funding the preservation, expansion and improvement of learning opportunities available to our students. This said, our scholars must also have access to well-maintained classrooms, buildings, grounds and equipment. Facilities and capital assets have a direct impact on learning and achievement. Therefore, it is prudent to develop a plan to acquire and maintain the facilities and assets needed to support student success. Additionally, obtaining funding for capital projects and developing risk management practices are critical steps in acquiring and protecting our assets.

The district leadership team spent a significant amount of time last summer reviewing our district's buildings, grounds and equipment needs. Our structures have held up well since the 2007 building projects; however, there are areas that need addressed due to normal wear and tear. Also, as technology changes, we must adapt and upgrade our equipment accordingly to avoid interrupting student learning. A handful of the improvements identified by the leadership team are a direct result of essential technological upgrades.

In calendar years 2020 and 2021, K-12 school districts across America were awarded one-time allocations from the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER) in order to help maintain the continuity of service for all students. Our administration strategically utilized a portion of our ESSER allocations to offset our normal operating expenditures. That savings is helping fund the repairs and improvements, such as replacing worn carpet, resurfacing parking lots and bus lanes and installing a new climate control system, approved by the leadership team last summer.







We are excited to watch not only our students and staff but also our community benefit from these enhancements.

# Indian Valley Local Schools Continue Summer Meal Program

*by Brian Dittfled, Director of Technology and Operations*

Indian Valley Local Schools takes pride in being able to provide summer meal programs to the children in our community. Not many schools are able to get the staffing to operate these programs in the summer and we have been able to do so since 2015.

For this summer, there are changes in the rules of the program that are beneficial for us, but also prohibit us from serving at all of our usual locations. Being in a rural area, we are able to return to providing five days worth of breakfast and lunch at one time. This is similar to what families experienced during the summers of COVID-19 protocols. Unfortunately, these new guidelines also prohibit us from serving lunches in Gnadenhutten and Tuscarawas this summer.







However, families are able to come to our other serving locations and participate in the program. Our summer program is open to any child (18 or under) and we anticipate around 300-400 students regularly participating in the program this summer.

For the 2023-2024 school year, our breakfast and lunch meals will stay the same price. The cost of breakfast will be $1.50 for K-12 students. The cost of lunch will be $2.75 for K-5 and $3.00 for 6-12 students. Free and reduced breakfast/lunch applications will also be available to families to download from our website in July and will be given out to students at the start of school year.

# Leading, Collaborating, Sustaining and Building: STEM 2022 - 2023

*by Jody Ditcher, Director of Learning*

The CHIPS and Science Act is a U.S. federal statute that was signed into law on August 9, 2022. It provides new funding to boost domestic research and manufacturing of semiconductors in the United States. A small portion of this allotted funding has been distributed to public schools around the U.S.A. to sustain and develop additional STEM programs for our students. (STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Math). For us, this meant collaboration and leadership opportunities for our educators as well as sustaining quality programs and providing new opportunities for our students.

One example of leadership and collaboration for educators is the JASON Project. JASON is a system that allows teachers to integrate STEM topics into lessons across the curriculum. Eight teacher leaders from Indian Valley ranging from elementary level to high school agreed to become JASON certified coaches. Our great eight teacher leaders were able to incorporate these ideas in their content areas where appropriate. In addition, three of the Braves' Jason coaches presented to a larger cadre of teachers during our Professional Development Day in January 2023.

TIES Teaching Institute for Excellence was brought in by the Appalachian STEM Collaborative to facilitate comradery amongst rural school districts in Ohio. Indian Valley Project Lead The Way (PLTW) teachers were able to collaborate with other educators having similar roles in other districts. They shared ideas as well as connected with business owners and policymakers from across the state to understand new and upcoming opportunities.

We have seen evidence of STEM education in action over the past 10 years with the annual PLTW Showcase held at Buckeye Career Center. Students from across several local school districts create imaginative projects using design principles. They then compete as individuals and teams. Pictured here are several smiling faces from that night held in early May of this year. According to business owners who led the award ceremony at the PLTW Showcase, there are presently 805 STEM-related positions open for hire in Tuscarawas County alone. This number is projected to grow substantially over the next few years. Indian Valley will continue to sustain our high quality STEM programs while growing new opportunities for our students to excel in STEM fields.

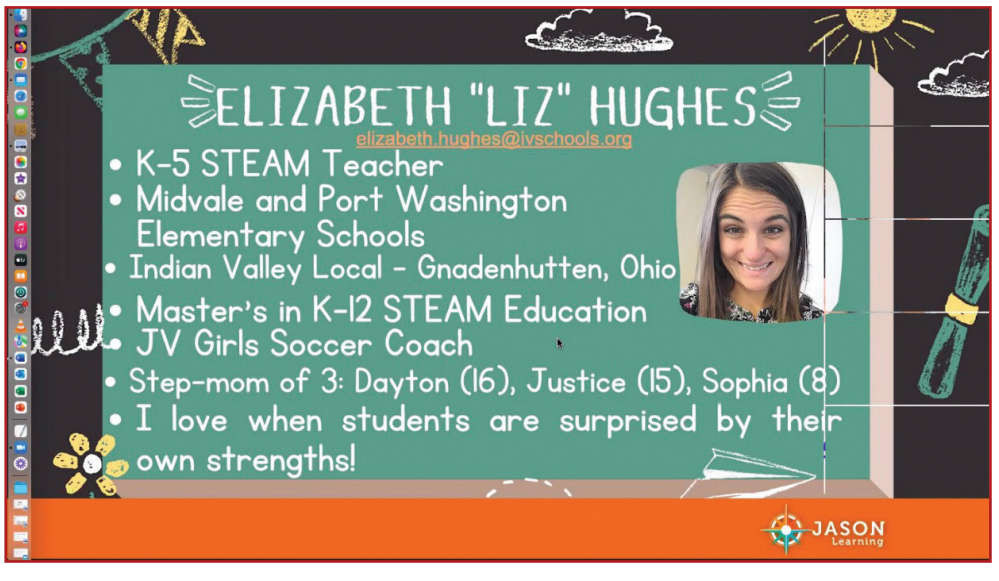
Our educators were not only dedicated to growing their professional practice, but also worked to prepare our students to become persistent academic and social problem solvers. Month after month, teachers and students of our District were recognized for their gleaming characteristics and all-star qualities. Within each area of practice, teacher teams, a school leadership team, and faculty committees, have engaged in collaborative work promoting a culture of high quality teaching and learning. This year it was evident that our learning community worked together and exercised creative leadership to promote student achievement, prompt professional growth and help all students learn.









# Meet Our Indian Valley Local Schools Transportation Team

*by Aaron Haney, Transportation Supervisor*

Here at Indian Valley, our transportation team takes great pride in transporting our students in a safe and timely manner to and from school, extracurricular activities, field trips, sporting events, and anything else we need.

There are many moving parts in the transportation world. Our mechanics make sure all the buses are rolling. Our secretary organizes everything to ensure everyone gets to where they need to go, and all of our drivers perform their duties safely and efficiently.

Our current team of regular route drivers go above and beyond daily in transporting our students to and from school. This amazing team consists of : Amy Armstrong, Dave Birker, Lori Edwards, Cindy Everett, Shari Grewell, Jessica Thomas, Lisa Hall, Leigh Grove, Nikki King, Carol Morris, Missy Parrish, Charlene Hunt, Colleen Schwender, Ashley Kennedy, Janie Wilson. In addition to our regular route drivers, we have two full-time subs that fill in for us on a daily basis. Mike Starcher and Tina Rainsburg are on the job, ready to fill in where ever needed. With the two of them part of our transposition team, we never miss a route.

Our substitute bus drivers also deserve special recognition for their commitment to our Indian Valley students. They are Brian Hunt, Bob Gutensohn, Chris Stein, Doug Waldren, Jeff Wages, Jimmy McPeek, Jon Kinsey, Nick Haga, Linda Cox, and Ryan Vickers. We are so grateful for these individuals and their willingness to always go the extra mile making sure that we have all routes and trips covered on a daily basis.

Brian Hunt and Nick Haga are our bus mechanics. They keep the wheels on the bus going around and around, ensuring that all of our buses pass state inspections. Each year all of our buses have to pass annual state inspections along with monthly spot inspections. They also go above and beyond helping with many other tasks throughout the district. With over 38 years of combined experience, these two mechanics can fix anything working together.



Kaila McPeek is the secretary for our transportation team and wears many hats for our district. Mrs. McPeek helps to organize all of our trips and routes. She also does a great job working with our staff to ensure all of our students get to where they need to go.

For the 2023-2024 year, we will have two new buses running routes. The new buses are 2024 models and their bus numbers will be Bus #1 and Bus #2. The buses were purchased through grants and other funding sources we received this past school year. We are looking forward to getting these two new buses out on the road to transport our students daily.

Our current transportation team is one of the best in the area. They are a phenomenal group of individuals that are always ready and willing to do what is needed to transport our most precious cargo. None of this is possible without the great communication that happens between the transportation team and our four district buildings, including coaches, teachers, and all staff involved in planning activities for our students that require transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this amazing team please call Aaron Haney at 740-254-4262. We are always looking for substitute bus drivers. Sub drivers start out at $15.50 an hour.

GO BRAVES!

# Fifth Grade Cursive Handwriting Pilot Program to be Integrated into Curriculum

*by Brandy Grant, School Performance Coach*

Is the pen still mightier than the keyboard? Absolutely!

Cursive handwriting is making a comeback in the 2023-2024 school year as the practice will be reintroduced in our elementary buildings. Our District is continuously tapping into the expertise of our novice educators to improve the overall school climate and actively communicate, build, and sustain school objectives, goals, and visions for our students. The Board of Education in collaboration with administrators and teachers sought to extend handwriting instruction to include resources that would engage students in building the skills required to read, as well as write cursive print. As a result, in the spring of the 2022-2023 school year a pilot cursive handwriting curriculum was offered to our fifth grade students and provided valuable insight into the effectiveness of the Indian Valley Local Schools designed cursive handwriting scope and sequence. Utilizing feedback from the staff and students, preparations for the formal integration of cursive handwriting began.

Next year, each fifth-grade teacher will facilitate systematic and explicit cursive handwriting instruction with the intent to accomplish two goals; students will complete elementary school with the ability to write their first and last name, and transition to middle school with the ability to read cursive print. Research suggests that utilizing cursive handwriting engages the brain on a deep level as students learn to join letters in a continuous flow and also enhances fine motor skills. Our staff seeks to provide learning where students are encouraged to explore this unique art form, connect to the past, and obtain the ability to sign legal documents. Our learning community is patiently awaiting and eager to make this practice a part of weekly instruction.

# Fulfilling Our Promise at Kelley Field

*by Nick Swaldo, Building & Grounds Supervisor*

Think back to 2018 when the Indian Valley Board of Education asked the community to step-up and pass a bond issue for a new stadium complex in Gnadenhutten. It was coined as the final piece of the puzzle. In response, our community once again stepped-up and supported our plan to build a new stadium, track, and fieldhouse.

However, many supporters in the community still had concerns on what would happen with Midvale's Kelley Field. So, the School Board made sure the community knew how committed they were to giving Kelley Field a face lift. At the time, just how that would look was still to be determined.

During the summer of 2022, work began on Kelley Field. With the hard work of many Indian Valley staff and local contractors, we are currently finishing up the face lift at Kelley Field. Here is a list of many items that have been addressed since summer of 2022, and there are other items that will be completed in summer and fall of 2023.

- New Kelley Field sign
- Fencing
- Fix some drainage issues
- Removed visitor bleachers
- Repurposed end zone bleachers
- Renovated and power washed home bleachers and
- Removed the pressbox
- Repurposed pressbox sign as a storage building sign
- Converted old concession stand into a nicer storage area
- Painted storage building
- Painted and installed metal roofing on home concession stand/ locker room building
- Built 24 x 36 pavilion





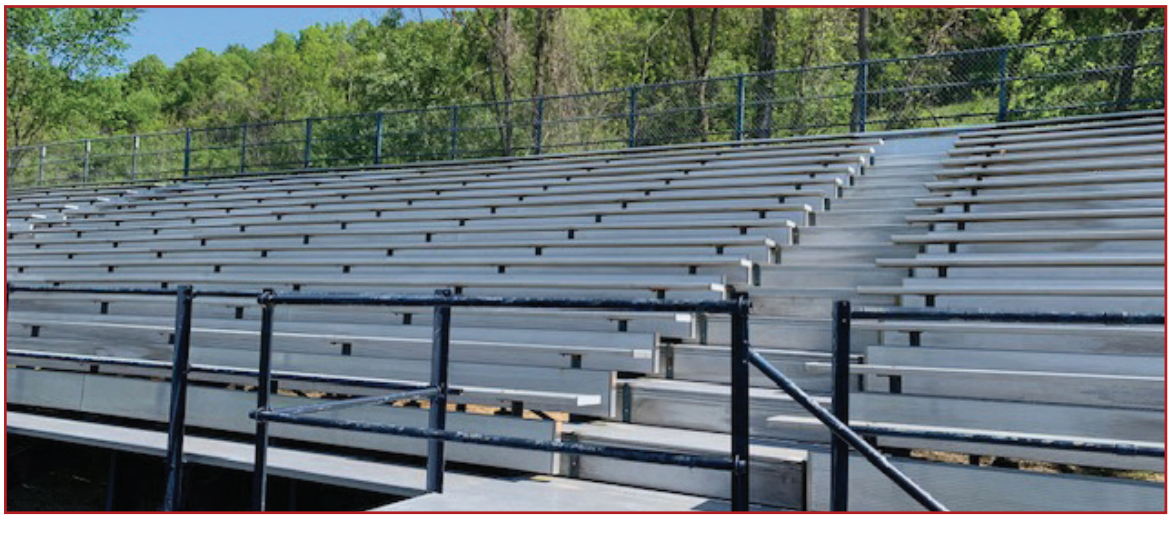




- Planted arborvitae trees around perimeter of stadium
- Summer of 2023 resurfacing the track area for walking
- Fall of 2023 adding picnic tables, trash cans at Kelley Field.

Kelley Field will remain a key staple in our community. Many of our students and community organizations use it on a weekly basis, and we hope that you get a chance to check out all of Kelley Field's new improvements. *Thank you Braves Nation for all your continued support!*



# Technology Department Purchases Several School Safety Devices

*by Brian Dittfeld, Director of Technology and Operations*

We were very fortunate to receive a number of grants and other fundings to purchase various technology items related to school safety. These grants were used to purchase Halo sensors for all of our school buildings. These sensors can help detect various health and safety issues including vaping, THC, gunshots, and fighting. The plan is to have these all installed before the start of the 2023-2024 school year. We also used these grant funds to purchase YubiKeys for staff. These are USB devices that help us enable two-factor authentication on various school accounts for our staff to keep them more secure from cybersecurity threats.




For the 2023-2024 school year, we are looking into upgrades with our networks at various locations. This includes upgrades to our core switches and wireless access points. As we have done since the 2011-2012 school year, we will continue to do our rotations of 1:1 devices (Chromebooks) so that every student has access to an online enabled device throughout the school day to enhance their educational experiences.

# Middle School and High School Collaboration Increases Student Opportunities

*by Megan Heath, Director of Student Services*

The 2022-2023 school year was encompassed with collaboration in the student services department.

At our high school, the students in Mrs. Megan Foster's life skills class invited middle schoolers from Mrs. Stacy Bitikofer's resource and transition class to learn about kitchen safety, food preparation, and food service. According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Section 1400 (c)(14)(d)(1)(a), the purpose of Special Education is, "to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living." The goals of this partnership was to provide the students with real world experiences, build positive relationships, learn to work collaboratively, reinforce skills, and work towards functional independence.

In early November, the high school students eagerly welcomed their peers from the middle school. Students actively listened as teachers explained the areas of a kitchen and modeled how to keep their working space clean. They also worked in pairs to play interactive games with questions related to kitchen safety. As a result of their learning, students were encouraged to work together to prepare a meal for the high school staff.







With the help of our top-notch intervention specialists and educational aides, the students each took part in reading the recipes, measuring the ingredients, working the kitchen equipment, and kitchen clean up. The menu consisted of chicken salad sandwiches, creamed chicken sandwiches, potato soup, broccoli cheese soup, Oreo pudding dessert, and zucchini cake. The learning experience was rewarding for everyone involved.

In December, the group reunited to make trays of Christmas cookies. Once again, the students actively participated in the preparation and presentation of a variety of holiday treats. Cutouts, chocolate covered pretzels, red velvet, and peanut blossoms to name a few. The finished trays were taken to each of the teacher's lounges in the district, as well as, the central office building and bus garage. It was the perfect way to spread some holiday cheer.

Throughout the year, the collaborative efforts of the Student Services Department have led to not only meaningful and engaging learning experiences, but also developmentally appropriate and engaging related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for the future. Our Indian Valley Braves are nothing short of spectacular. Their hard work and dedication to personal growth and racing optimal levels of achievement are commendable.

# Reflection of 2022-2023 School Year at Indian Valley Middle School

*by Brent Carter, Principal*

As the 2022-2023 school year has concluded and we reflect on our Indian Valley Middle School (IVMS) success', three important things immediately come to mind for me.

This year our staff and sixth-grade students were educated in a new initiative called, "Clifton Strengths." The premise behind this program is, "What will happen when we think about what is right with people rather than fixating on what is wrong with people?" Our sixth-grade students were given an Explore assessment or survey in which their top three strengths or talents were identified. We then take their talents and help them tap into what their strengths are and how they can be used to their advantage in all aspects of their IVMS lives. We will build on our students' strengths as they progress through their middle school years and we will use our students' talents in designing a blueprint that will lead them to more success in their high school years.

At IVMS we had two teachers who were recognized as Teachers of the Year. Katie Carroll teaches Art in grades 6-8 and was recognized as the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Carroll is known for her positive relationships with her students and her innate ability to inspire all of her students to be creative thinkers and tap into the inner artist within each one of them.

Melanie Glazer was chosen as the Tuscarawas County Fine Arts Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Glazer is the first teacher in our county to be chosen for this award. In some instances, Mrs. Glazer can have students through their entire middle and high school years. Both of these teachers are of the highest caliber and it is nice to see their hard work and dedication to our students recognized.



*Katie Carroll*









*Melanie Glazer*

# Braves X2 Closet Continues to Help Families in Indian Valley Community

*by Trent Couts, Middle School Assistant Principal*




One of the great things about the Indian Valley community is when a need arises someone is always quick to respond. That is exactly what happened in 2007 during the construction of our new school buildings. It was suggested that the district could use a clothes closet where families within the Indian Valley district could take their children to get new or gently used clothing free of charge. It was decided that the Middle School in Tuscarawas would be the best place for what has become known as Braves X2.

Each year dozens of families take advantage of this great resource. The busiest time is right before the beginning of a new school year. Families and students wanting to make an appointment to visit Braves X2 for back to school clothing needs can call the middle school at (740) 922-4226. During your scheduled visit, a volunteer will be available to help you locate items in your requested sizes. This service is not only available for back to school shopping, it is also available anytime throughout the school year by appointment.




Clothes provided by Braves X2 are received through community donations. Donations can be made by calling the Middle School and setting up a drop-off time. It is asked that donations be school appropriate, gently used, and that donated shoes be new. If you have an interest in fashion or just a desire to help, we are always in need of volunteers. Braves X2 continues to be a blessing for many families in our district thanks to the generosity of the Indian Valley community.

# Indian Valley High School: Future Farmers of America Spotlight

*by Robert Clarke, Principal*

Indian Valley High School offers several clubs and extracurricular activities that enhance a student's learning experience beyond the learning that takes place in the traditional classroom. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization, under the direction of Mrs. Taylor Ryan, provides students with a variety of learning opportunities through annual community service projects, leadership activities, and FFA Organization competitions. This year the Indian Valley FFA conducted a November food drive that collected enough food to serve 70 area families with a full Thanksgiving meal, including a turkey, potatoes, rolls, and various canned vegetables and fruit. In December, the Indian Valley FFA assisted in the packaging, organizing, and delivering for the Share-A-Christmas program which benefitted nearly 3,000 adults and children in the Tuscarawas County area.

The Indian Valley FFA Chapter competes in various career development activities, better known as CDE contests, which are designed to test each member's skills and knowledge in numerous areas of agriculture. This year we have participated in over 25 different CDEs involving more than 75% of the 88 FFA students in the program.





This year the Indian Valley FFA had eight students recognized with a State FFA Degree. This degree is the second-highest degree a student can achieve as an FFA member. To receive this degree, a student must meet specific qualifications: 1) create an Agricultural project that made at least a five hundred dollar profit, 2) have been actively involved in the FFA for at least two years, and 3) conduct a speech about their project to an FFA selection committee. Receiving a State FFA Degree this year were: JD Burrier, Hunter Miller, Madison Alexander, Briar Sharrock, Kimber Fillman, Gabrielle Skeen, Brianna Beaber, and Kolton Arnold.

The Indian Valley FFA organization also had three students that received state recognition by receiving a gold rating on their officer's books. Emmalynne Berger received a gold rating as the Indian Valley Reporter, Kimber Fillman received a gold rating as the Indian Valley Secretary, and Maxwell Kinsey received a gold rating as the Indian Valley Treasurer.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ryan and all the members of the Indian Valley FFA organization for all your hard work and recognition the program has achieved during the 2022-2023 school year.










# Congratulations!
# Class of 2023
## Where they are headed



**Mariah Abel**
Enrolled
Muskingum University
Music Education



**Donovan Abrams**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Business and Marketing



**Timothy Alander**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Welding



**Hunter Albright**
Employed
Extreme Trailers



**Moss Alford**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Criminology



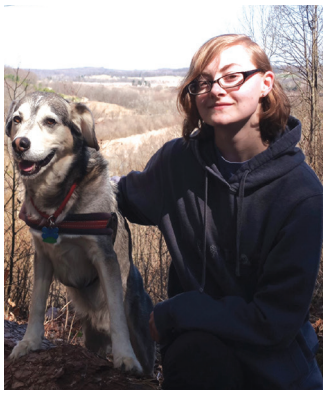
**Kyle Anderson**
Enrolled
Ohio Technical College
Welding



**Nicholas Ault**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Utility Lineworker



**Krista Bair**
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Computer Science & Engineering



**Alexandra Barber**
Employed
Tusky Deli - Sales Associate



**Taylor Barrick**
Employed
Dover Retirement Center
Cook



**Jacqueline Bennett**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



**Brynnlee Bierbower**
Employed
Mideast Racing Promotions



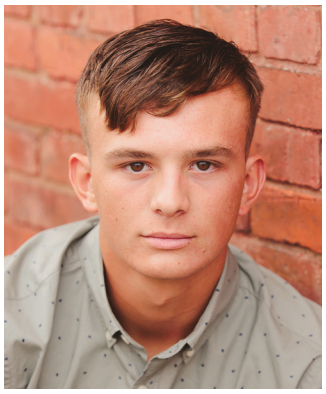
**Rafe Bonifay**
Enrolled
Malone University
Exercise Science



**Kaitlyn Border**
Undecided
Entering the Workforce



**Kaylee Borovitz**
Enrolled
Zane State College
Wildlife Conservation



**Brogan Burcher**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Computer Science



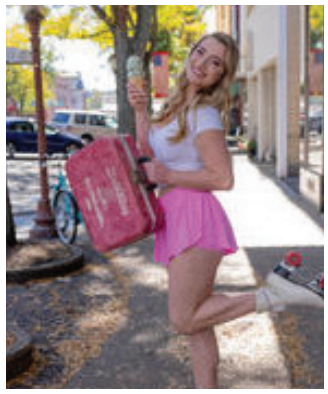
**John Burrier**
Enrolled
The Ohio State University ATI
Animal Bioscience



**Arista Burroway**
Enrolled
The University of Akron
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology



**Skyler Byers**
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Mechanical Engineering



**Madilyn Caldwell**
Employed
My Museum Tattoo Studio
Tattoo Artist Apprentice



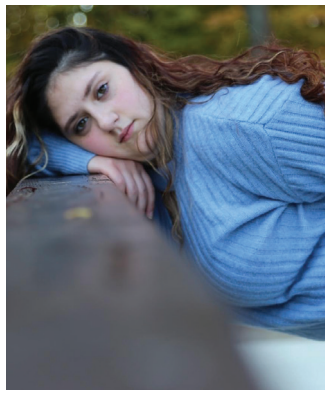
**Nicholas Carpurso**
Employed
Midwest Industrial Supply
Plant Technician



**Thomas Carte**
Employed
Wendy's - Customer Service
Buckeye Career Center - Law Enforcement



**Brianna Clark**
Employed
Ohio Gratings Inc.
Welder



**Morgan Clum**
Employed
Campbell Creek Pretzels
Manager




**Easton Cook**
Employed
Buckeye Landscaping and Design



**Reese Coulson**
Enrolled
University of Findlay
Pre-Medicine or Pre-Veterinarian



**Jillian Couts**
Enrolled
Marietta College - English



**Sophia Cox**
Enrolled
Kent State University
Mathematics and Computer Science



**Charles Crank**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Law Enforcement



**Jaylin Deets**
Undecided
Entering the Workforce



**Taver Deets**
Employed
Mobile IBC Services - Technician
Buckeye Career Center - Ag & Diesel Technology



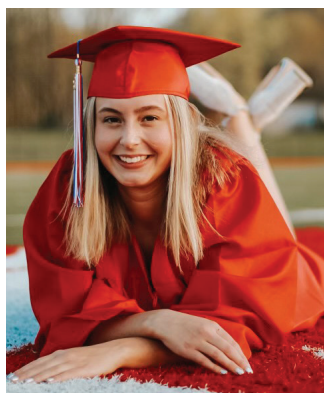
**Avery DePriest**
Enrolled
Bethany College
Biology



**Kamrey Dillon**
Enrolled/Employed
Kent State Tuscarawas - Early Childhood Education | Nanny



**Makina Donehue**
Enrolled
Stark State College
Medical Billing and Coding



**Althea Dotts**
Enrolled
Central Ohio Technical College
Diagnostic Medical Sonography



**Cameron Enos**
Employed
Alderson Broaddus University
Surgical Technology



**Chloe Erb**
Enrolled
Capital University
Biology



**Zoe Florence**
Enrolled
Otterbein University
Psychology



**Savanna Frizzell**
Undecided
Entering the Workforce



**Jordyn Fuller**
Undecided
Entering the Workforce



**Zachary Galigher**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Aerospace Engineering



**Austin Garabrandt**
Undecided
Entering the Workforce



**Nathan Gaumer**
Employed
Parkway Honda |
Buckeye Career Center
Energy Operations




**Zackary German**
Employed
Tusco Display
Assembler



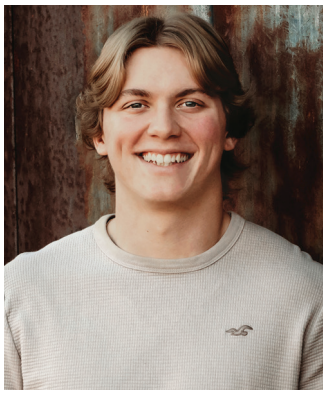
**Charles Greenwalt**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Auto Technology



**Kyler Gump**
Enlisted
United States Marine Corps



**Xander Heil**
Enrolled
Malone University
Sport Management



**Gavin Henry**
Enrolled
Walsh University
Education




**Jacie Herman**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



**Kadee Hickenbottom**
Enrolled
University of Akron
Biology



**Aleah Hostetler**
Employed
Dutch Valley Bakery
Customer Service and Baker



**Gaven Hostetler**
Employed
Gradall Industries - Welder



**Gracee Hudnall**
Enrolled
Central Connecticut State
University - Education



**Katelyn Hunter**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



**Allie Ickes**
Employed
Taco Bell
Manager



**Jazman Inman**
Employed
Wendy's - Crew Member
Buckeye Career Center
Medical Assisting



**Cailey Johnson**
Employed
Beauty Lounge By Cailey LLC
Cosmetologist



**Hannah Johnson**
Enrolled
Muskingum University
Mathematics and Education



**Lawrence Johnson**
Enrolled
Wayne College
Undecided



**Margaret Johnson**
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Nursing and Spanish



**Aidin Jones**
Enrolled/Employed
Hocking College - Natural Resources Law-Enforcement
Atwood Lake - Maintenance



**Emily Jones**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Nursing



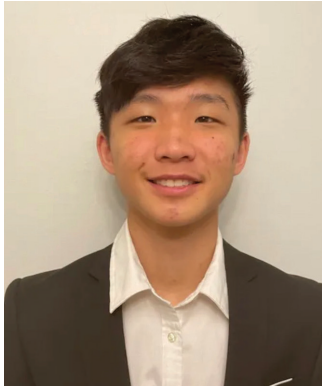
**Joshua Jones**
Enrolled
The University of Akron
Aerospace Engineering



**Paige Katicich**
Enrolled
Wright State University
Earth and Environmental Science



**Kami Kerns**
Enrolled
Buckeye Career Center
Adult Education
Medical Office Support



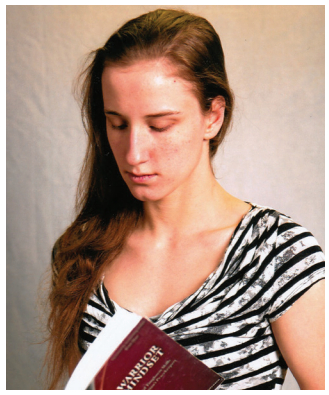
**Elliott Kim**
Enrolled
The College of Wooster
Pre-Law



**Benaiah Klaserner**
Employed
Kelly's Heating and Cooling
HVAC Technician, Apprentice



**Isaac Klaserner**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Mechanical Engineering



**Ashlyn Knepper**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Psychology



**Kale Kochman**
Enrolled
University of Akron
Accounting



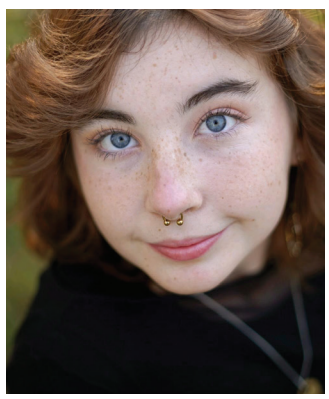
**Colten Kramer**
Enlisted
United States Marine Corps



**Braxton Lake**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Ag & Diesel Technology



**Makaylyn Lendon**
Enrolled/Enlisted
Eastern Gateway Community College - Respiratory Therapy



**Emily Lewis**
Enrolled
West Virginia Univ. - Morgantown
Music Business and Industry



**Maysen Liggett**
Employed
RSI | Buckeye Career Center
Natural Resources



**Kamree Lindon**
Enrolled
Aultman College
Nursing



**Dakota Loder**
Employed
Kimble, Gas and Division



**Giovanni Lopez**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Ag & Diesel Technology



**Camden Lute**
Employed
Hog Heaven
Hostess



**Lauryn Lynch**
Enrolled
West Virginia University
Forensic Examining



**Kari Mace**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Business Management &
Entrepreneurship | Cosmetology



**Zyler Mardis**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Mechanical Engineering



**Stephen McElroy**
Employed
Taco Bell
Customer Service



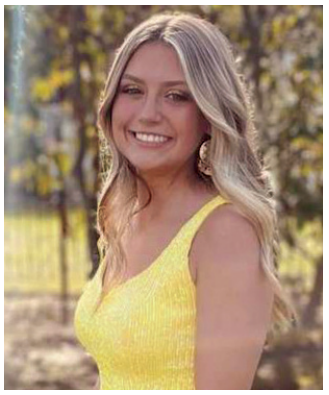
**John Meechan**
Enrolled/Employed
Kent State Tuscarawas
Business



**Kevin Meek**
Employed
Stutzman's Lawn & Landscaping



**Anthony Mendoza**
Employed
Tusco Display - Assembler



**Courtney Miller**
Employed
Amici's Pizza
Customer Service



**Daniel Miller**
Enrolled
Liberty University
Business



**Gia Miller**
Enrolled
Kent State Main University
Government and Public Policy



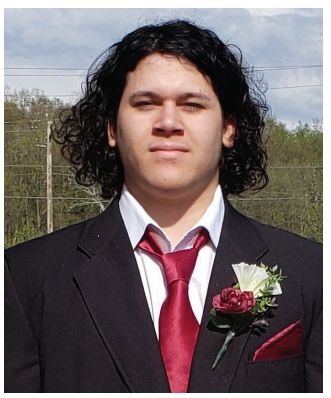
**Riley Moore**
Employed
Amici's Pizza - Cashier
Atwood Beach



**Remmington Myers**
Employed
Buckeye Career Center
Utility Lineworker



**Cullen Nagle**
Enrolled
University of Cincinnati
Computer Engineering



**Enrique Parrish Jr**
Employed
Harcatus
Youth Employment Services



**Breydan Parsons**
Enrolled/Employed
Buckeye Career Ctr. Adult Educ.
Utility Lineworker | ProVia



**Hoyt Peeper**
Employed
Ohio Gratings
Welder



**Kendall Polen**
Enrolled
Denison University
Political Science



**Macey Porter**
Enrolled
University of Cincinnati
Criminal Justice



**Rylee Raymond**
Enrolled
Indiana University East



**Derek Robinson**
Enrolled- University of Akron
Mechanical Engineering Tech.
Dover Hydraulics, Mechanical
Engineer Technician



**Adam Rooks**
Employed
Valley Equipment Services
Diesel Technician



**Mia Rose**
Enrolled
Malone University
Nursing



**Evan Ross**
Undecided
Buckeye Career Center
Welding



**Joseph Sabol**
Employed
AutoZone
Parts Sales Associate



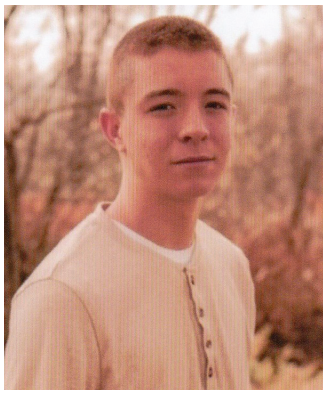
**Ches Salina**
Employed
Arrowhead Joint Fire District
Probationary Firefighter/
EMT Student



**Adryan Schafer**
Enrolled/Employed
Buckeye Career Center
Adult Education
Medical Office Support



**Colton Scott**
Employed
Kokosing
Heavy Equipment Mechanic



**Kaeden Scott**
Employed
Pennline Tree Service
Arborist



**Makenna Seikel**
Enrolled/Employed
The University of Akron
Early Childhood Education
First National Bank -
Scanning Clerk



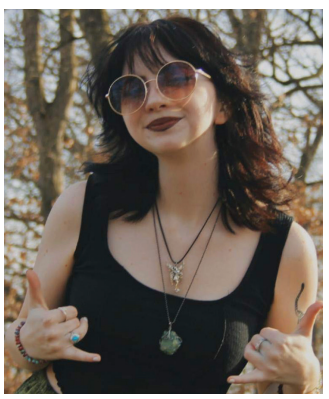
**Alisha Shaw**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



**Marlee Shepherd**
Enrolled
Miami University
Communication Design



**Gabrielle Skeen**
Enrolled
Wilmington College
Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary



**Hannah Smith**
Enrolled
Kent State Tuscarawas
Clinical Psychology



**Makenna Smith**
Employed
Buckeye Career Center
Cosmetology



**Emma Sprowl**
Enrolled
Stark State College
Physical Therapy



**Ryan Stallings**
Employed
Kent State Tuscarawas
Nursing



**Ryder Stallings**
Employed - Buckeye Career Center - Electrical Systems Technology; South Philly Pizza
Customer Service



**Max Steed**
Enrolled
University of Northwestern Ohio
High Performance Motorsports



**Emma Stewart**
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Biomedical Engineering



**Aidan Stokey**
Enlisted
United States Air Force



**Braeden Strack**
Enrolled
Buckeye Career Center Adult Education - Law Enforcement



**Abigail Stull**
Enrolled
Muskingum University
Early Education and Special Education



**Hannah Thomas**
Enrolled/Employed
Aultman College
Nursing



**Brayden Troyer**
Employed
ProVia - Product Manager



**Aden Trushell**
Employed
Schilling Electric
Electrician Apprentice



**Blessing Walker**
Enrolled
Ohio University
Social Work



**Allison Walton**
Enrolled
The University of Akron - AYA
Integrated Science Education



**Carson Walton**
Employed
Dollar General
Lead Sales Associate



**Raiden Wardell**
Enlisted
United States Army




**Taylor Wardell**
Employed
Park Village Rehabilitation Center - STNA



**Olivia Weaver**
Employed
Hardee's
Assistant Manager



**Chloe Wells**
Enrolled/Employed
Kent State University
Interior Design



**Leo Wenger**
Employed
Utility Lineworker



**Amanda Wengerd**
Enrolled
College of Wooster
Chemistry



**Skyler Whitten**
Employed
Buckeye Career Center - Auto Technology; McDonald's, Customer Service



**Jack Wilson IV**
Employed
Belknap's Auto Body
Auto Body Technician




**Gage Woods**
Employed
Brandywine Construction
Laborer



**Samuel Zurcher**
Employed
Dover Tank and Plate
Metal Fabrication



**Ashley Zurfley**
Enrolled
Stark State College
Physical Therapy Assistant

# Indian Valley Braves Athletic Update

*by Nick Swaldo, Athletic Director*

Indian Valley Athletics once again had a very successful 2022-2023 school year. The hardwork and dedication showed in all three of our athletic seasons. Our teams, student athletes, and coaches had many accomplishments over the past year.

Some of our accomplishments this year include the boys golf team advancing to the District Tournament. The football team won three playoff games making it to the regional finals. The cross country team had two state qualifiers, with one earning All-Ohio honors. The wrestling team placed 5th at the State Duals, had six state qualifiers, and three becoming state placers. Bowling had one state qualifier. Cheerleading qualified for state placing 5th. Girls softball won the District Championship. Boys track won the District Championship and sent five athletes to the state track meet. The Braves teams finished up with six new Athletic All-Ohio Athletes and seven new Academic All-Ohio Athletes.

Our teams had another great year competing in the IVC. The following sports won Conference Championships: high school wrestling, high school cheerleading, high school softball, high school boys track, middle school 8th-grade volleyball, middle school 8th-grade boys basketball, middle school 7th-grade girls basketball and middle school boys track. We also had many teams finish second in the league.

During this school year, we had student-athletes set new records and some of our coaches received career highlights and awards. There were nine new school records set by our student-athletes. These will be updated on the records board located near the high school gym. Coach Shannon McComb won his 300th baseball game this year and was inducted into the Eastern District Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Two of our coaches were named IVC Coaches of the Year: Dusty Braun for softball and Jimmy McPeek for boys track. Congratulations on a great season!

Indian Valley Athletics continues to work to build on our tradition and set new high marks for younger athletes to inspire to achieve.

Hope to see you at a game!

GO BRAVES !!!!









# A Round of Applause for Our Midvale Elementary Difference Makers

*by Ryan Wells, Principal*

A "Difference Maker" is any individual who accomplishes extraordinary things by creating positive change. Difference Makers can be the principal, teacher, student, or any deserving individual. At Midvale Elementary everyone strives to make a positive impact and be noted as someone who has made a difference. The faculty and staff work collaboratively to build and develop an atmosphere of trust and respect where each student is valued for his/her unique attributes.

Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Madison Norris and Family Advocate Miss Kara Barger went above and beyond to help students with their social emotional health by creating a club called Motivating Stronger Braves (MSB). Mrs. Norris met with a group of students during recess and they learned coping skills, social skills, and talked about their lives together. They noticed a positive change in how these students felt about themselves, and therefore how they interacted with their peers.

Many teachers throughout the building implemented "check-in" times for students. During these "check-ins" students sat down with their teacher for 2-5 minutes and held conversations with them about their evenings, weekends, friends, sports, or anything on their minds. Then challenged them to uphold the Midvale motto to be respectful, responsible, and engaged. These various interactive opportunities allowed students to think about social and emotional situations and share in guided discussions.

This school year during " The Giving Week" sponsored by the Indian Valley Foundation, students showed kindness and a giving spirit. Throughout the week teachers read a variety of books that taught students the importance of serving others in their community. After discussion and reflection, the students made gifts for different community members. Students gave to other students, their families, school staff members, Union Hospital, and Schoenbrunn Nursing Home.

Relationships, social/emotional wellbeing and communication are critical elements of our professional culture. We opt to promote parent and community involvement, as well as academic success.




# Thanks to Students, Staff, and Families for a Great School Year at Port Washington Elementary!

*by Troy Page, Principal*

Port Washington Elementary had a fantastic 2022-2023 school year. A highlight of the year was the school being recognized as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. Port was one of only 13 schools from Ohio and one of 266 in the nation to receive the award and be recognized in Washington, D.C. at the annual National Blue Ribbons Schools Award Ceremony held in November. The school received a plaque and flag at the ceremony that are both displayed in the building. In addition, Port was also recognized as a two-time winner at the national ceremony because it earned the prestigious designation in 2003 as well.

Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) initiative continued with students earning Port Pride Passes for being respectful, responsible and/or engaged. In addition to students being recognized on Fridays and at the end of each month, building-wide rewards were implemented this year. All students earned four building-wide rewards during the year for meeting four different goals. As a result of reaching each goal, all students were rewarded with the following activities: a cookie and milk party, the Jim Basketball Jones assembly, a glow party with DJ and a visit to the school from the Kona Ice Truck.










The staff is very thankful for the support our families provide our students and our school. Without their efforts ensuring their student is reading daily outside of school and keeping up with their homework, they always step-up when volunteers are needed for the special activities students are provided at the school. We look forward to seeing what the 2023-2024 school year brings and what new opportunities we can provide our students.

# Indian Valley Music and Drama Students Wrap Busy Spring Season

*by Brandy Grant, School Performance Coach*

The vocal and performing arts are alive in the hearts of the Indian Valley students, choirs, and Drama Club members. The year was filled with crowd pleasing performances and classroom experiences. The elementary music program featured two concert showcases and a partnership with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Orchestra for the Link-Up Concert at the Performing Arts Center. The vocal music program featured three middle school choirs and two high school choirs. Additionally, IVHS has promoted contemporary a cappella singing with Test 31 and added a treble a cappella group, Cloud 9.

In the elementary buildings, students explored sound and music through singing, movement, listening, and playing instruments. They were taught the concept of a steady rhythm and refined their singing voices. The young musicians swayed to the sound of instruments as the classes were awarded guitars through an Indian Valley Foundation Grant. Lindsay Trushell, the elementary music teacher, kept students engaged through the use of xylophones, recorders, ukuleles, boomwhackers, handbells, games and songs.

Under the direction of Melanie Glazer our middle school and high school choirs had a busy year with performances that included Seussical, jr., Night on Broadway, The Keynote Festival, appearances at Veterans Day programs, football games, Christmas caroling, Christmas on the Square, Sounds of the Season at the PAC, and three honor choir events. The High School Drama Club performed The Little Mermaid with a cast and crew of over forty high school students. The drama season closed in May with the launch of Just Another High School Play, a scripted, ad-lib style mash-up of several well-known plays and musicals.

As we wrapped up for the year, Mrs. Glazer received the Tuscarawas County Arts Educator of the Year Award presented by the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership. Though the students and teachers have enjoyed performing and exploring the various sounds of music, the real magic happens in the day-to-day educational practices that occur in our schools. The growth and development of voices and musicianship throughout the year is amazing. Each teacher works to create a classroom environment that celebrates individuals but joins voices in unity.



**Though the students and teachers have enjoyed performing and exploring the various sounds of music, the real magic happens in the day-to-day educational practices that occur in our schools. The growth and development of voices and musicianship throughout the year is amazing.**











# INDIAN VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Bob Hall, President
Eric Kinsey, Vice President
Roger Bond
Francis Picchetti
Kathy Roth

Dr. Ira Wentworth
*Superintendent*

Andrew Bache
*Treasurer*

100 N Walnut Street, PO Box 171
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629
740-254-4334
740-254-9271 (Fax)

**Indian Valley High School**
Robert Clarke, *Principal*
rob.clarke@ivschools.org
253 S Walnut St.,
PO Box 130
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629
740-254-4262
740-254-9275 (Athletics)
740-254-4911 (Fax)

**Indian Valley Middle School**
Brent Carter, *Principal*
brent.carter@ivschools.org
261 School St.,
PO Box 356
Tuscarawas, OH 44682
740-922-4226
740-922-2493 (Fax)

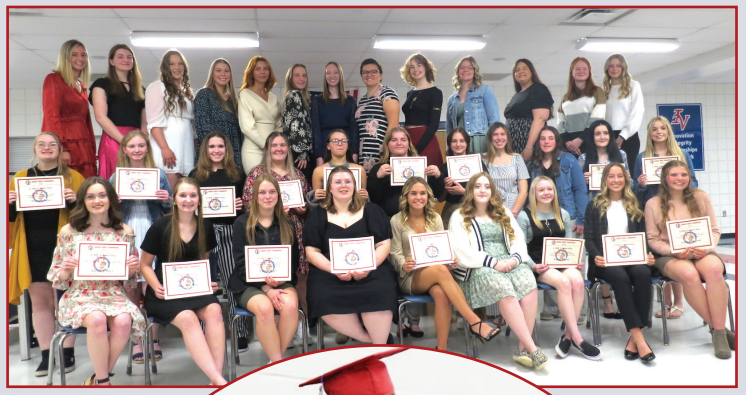
**Midvale Elementary School**
Ryan Wells, *Principal*
ryan.wells@ivschools.org
4259 W. State St., PO Box 337
Midvale, OH 44653
330-339-1191
330-339-1194 (Fax)

**Port Washington Elementary School**
Troy Page, *Principal*
troy.page@ivschools.org
304 E Arch St.
Port Washington, OH 43837
740-498-8389
740-498-6312 (Fax)

**Indian Valley Digital Academy**
188 Southern Gateway St.
Gnadenhutten, Oh 44629
740-561-4034

## IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday, August 7 | 6th Grade Orientation - 6:00 pm |
| Tuesday, August 8 | 7th & 8th Grade Schedule Night - 6:00 pm |
| Wednesday, August 9 | Midvale Kindergarten Parent Meeting - 6:00 pm |
| Thursday, August 10 | Port Washington Kindergarten Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm |
| Monday, August 14 | Teacher In-Service Day |
| Monday, August 14 | Midvale Open House - 6:00 pm |
| Tuesday, August 15 | Teacher Workday |
| Tuesday, August 15 | Port Washington Open House - 6:00 pm |
| Wednesday, August 16 | First Day of School |
| Wednesday, August 16 | High School Freshman & New Student Orientation Day |
| Thursday, August 17 | First Day for ALL High School Students |
| Monday, August 21 | Buckeye Career Center First Day of School |
| Monday, August 21 | Middle School Fall Picture Day |
| Tuesday, August 22 | 8th Grade Washington DC Parent Meeting - 6:30 pm |
| Thursday, August 31 | High School Fall Picture Day |
| Monday, September 4 | Labor Day - No School |
| Tuesday, September 5 | Port Washington Fall Picture Day |
| Monday, September 25 | Midvale Fall Picture Day |







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**Mission**
*Working together to personalize a rigorous standards-based learning experience.*

**Vision**
*Persistent academic and social problem solvers pursuing the career pathway of their choice.*

**Values**
*Innovation - Integrity - Relationships - Teamwork - Tradition*

**Motto**
*Brave Scholars - Brave Leaders - Brave Pathfinders*