

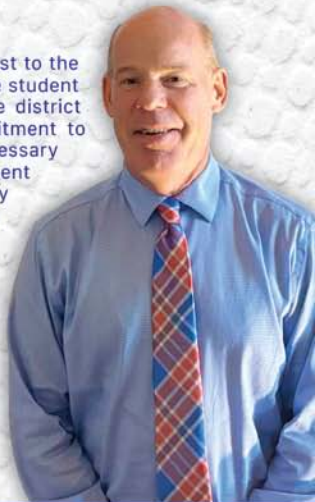
LICKING VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

# VALLEY VIEW

WINTER 2026 | COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER VOL. 04

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The theme of this edition of the Valley View is focused on how the district is bridging the past to the present and planning for the future. The foundation of our future planning is grounded in the student experience. You will see illustrated throughout this edition the happenings throughout the district focused on celebrating our past and preparing our students for their future. The commitment to accomplish this mission starts with the community's commitment to provide the resources necessary so that our students are prepared academically to pursue their dreams. That very commitment allows us to plan for and maintain the very best facilities we can afford so our students have every opportunity to succeed academically, athletically, and in the area of fine arts. You as a community have been beyond generous and I believe the district has and continues to live within our means through a commitment of economic responsibility and transparency. As you are reading this edition, please know, on behalf of the students and staff of the Licking Valley Local School District, we are grateful for that commitment and grateful that we can learn and grow in such a positive environment. THANK YOU!!!



Please enjoy this edition of the Valley View and if I can be of assistance to you in any way, please feel free to contact me at [beerys@lvschools.us](mailto:beerys@lvschools.us) or by calling the district office at 740-763-3525.

Be the Good, *Scott Beery*

## OUR SCHOOLS

### LICKING VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Elementary School has been buzzing with meaningful learning and joyful moments! In October, our Literacy Night brought together first and second-grade students as well as their families for an evening of fun activities, highlighted by a visiting author who taught students how to illustrate their own stories. We were thrilled to share the gift of reading by distributing over 250 books that night! In November, our kindergarten students enjoyed practicing gratitude as they gathered around the table to prepare for Thanksgiving. The LVPS Lunch-In event in early January was wonderfully attended by family and friends. Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming classroom Valentine's Day parties, which will focus on spreading kindness and friendship. Mark your calendars for our K-2 outdoor concert in the elementary courtyard on May 4th, with a rain date of May 28th. Finally, Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open. Please call the Primary School to get your future Kindergarten student ready for an exciting school journey!





# OUR STUDENTS

## HIGH SCHOOL - CONNOR SMITH & ALLISON OSBORN

We are excited to bring Mock Trial back to LVHS! After completing a Mock Trial unit during class as sophomores, Juniors Connor Smith and Allison Osborn gained Mr. Beery's approval to reinstate the competitive extracurricular Mock Trial Team. Our nine-person squad, led by Smith and Osborn, has studied constitutional law, learned courtroom procedure, and competed in a scrimmage against Zanesville. Students assume the roles of the trial and present a fictional case provided by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) that combines constitutional and criminal law. The roles for the trial simulation include attorneys, witnesses, a bailiff, and a timekeeper. In addition to learning about the legal system, our students are developing their critical thinking, public speaking, and collaboration skills. The team will compete in the OCLRE District Competition on January 30th. The team is advised by Mrs. Caraline Johnston and Mrs. Tiana Barnes.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our 8th-grade class recently participated in an exciting, hands-on learning experience through Junior Achievement of Central Ohio by visiting JA BizTown at the Newark Learning Center. This meaningful opportunity was thoughtfully organized by our school counselor, Nikki Thompson, whose planning and coordination made the experience possible for our students. At JA BizTown, students stepped into real-world roles, applied classroom learning, and experienced how a community functions. They held jobs, managed finances, interacted in a professional setting, and made decisions that mirrored real-life economic and workplace situations. The immersive environment helped students strengthen skills in financial literacy, collaboration, communication, responsibility, and leadership. By operating businesses, using banking systems, and working together to keep BizTown running smoothly, students gained a deeper understanding of the free enterprise system and the importance of teamwork. Overall, the visit provided a valuable and engaging experience that connected academic learning to practical life skills, leaving a lasting impact on our students.



## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Fifth-grade students are preparing to participate in Junior Achievement BizTown, an immersive learning experience that connects classroom learning to the real world. BizTown is a simulated town designed to reflect a real-world economy, complete with storefronts sponsored by local businesses. During their visit, students will manage restaurants, operate banks, write checks, balance budgets, and take part in civic decision-making by voting on community issues at a polling station.

In preparation for BizTown, students have worked hard to complete lessons focused on financial literacy, economics, and civic responsibility. As part of this process, students applied and interviewed for their BizTown jobs with district representatives, gaining valuable experience in professionalism and communication. Students also held a school-based mayoral election by writing speeches and sharing their platforms before voting. Pictured are the students who ran for mayor, demonstrating leadership and confidence.

Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in their lives and careers. Through hands-on learning and practical financial education, BizTown bridges classroom instruction with real-world experiences, empowering students to become informed, responsible, and confident contributors to Ohio's future workforce.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are excited to invite our school community to a brand-new K, 1st, 2nd outdoor music concert on May 4th in the elementary school's Panther Park courtyard! The concert will begin at 7:00 PM with different grades taking the stage every 30 minutes. Families are encouraged to bring blankets as well as picnic baskets with snacks and non-alcoholic drinks as we enjoy an evening of animal-themed music. This special evening is a reflection of community input, and we are thrilled to try something new together as a district. Parking will be available around the entire elementary school, and a shuttle system will be running from the high school to Panther Park to help with overflow parking transportation. We look forward to celebrating our students as they bring the school year to a close in this exciting new way. Hope to see you there!

# OUR SCHOOLS

## LICKING VALLEY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

At LVIS, our students have participated in a variety of enriching field trips and school activities that enhanced learning beyond the classroom. These opportunities were designed to enhance educational experiences by integrating real-world applications.

Our STEM Club designed and held a STEM Family Fun Night, where students showcased their creativity through hands-on activities. This event encouraged students to engage in problem-solving and critical thinking while having fun with family members.

Fifth-grade students embarked on an exciting field trip to the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), where they experienced interactive exhibits and deepened their understanding of scientific concepts.

Fourth-grade students learned about early local history with a field trip to Flint Ridge. Students completed a variety of hands-on activities, including knapping their own flint, hiking, atlatl throwing and a museum tour.

Third-grade students explored concepts of matter in science class, followed by a visit to the ice rink to witness changes in matter firsthand. Rink employees shared information about maintaining the ice, and students got to enjoy a skate session.

The Band Kickoff for fifth graders has begun. Students all tried different instruments in music class to help determine if they would like to join the band and learn to play an instrument. Complementing this, students across grades enjoyed performances by the LVHS Band and LVHS Choir, inspiring a love for music and performance.

Most recently, after several years of a Holiday Drive-Thru, we resumed our Christmas Programs for grades 3 and 4. Our students worked hard to learn a variety of songs and then performed onstage for family and friends.



## LICKING VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

LVMS has been a busy and rewarding place these past few weeks, and I'm proud of all that our students and staff have accomplished. This quarter, we completed a full-scale school safety drill that included a simulated active threat, lockdown, evacuation, and reunification. While serious in nature, this drill was an important step in ensuring we are prepared and focused on keeping our students safe. We also took time to celebrate academic success as Mrs. Fee's Renaissance students led a schoolwide end-of-quarter celebration recognizing the hard work of our students. Our band (Mr. Barrett) and choir (Mrs. Noser) performed a wonderful winter concert to a packed house, and it was great to see our community come together to support the arts. Students have also participated in meaningful, real-world learning experiences such as Robertson Construction Day and our LVMS "Shark Tank," where community members judged student inventions from Mrs. Felumlee's Career Connections class. I'm also grateful to Mr. Hinger and Mrs. Stafford for organizing donations of hygiene products and warm clothing for families in need. As we look ahead to spring, we're excited for warmer weather and upcoming outdoor experiences, including our Zoo and Gettysburg trips.



## LICKING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

We are officially past the halfway point of the year and there is much to celebrate! After a strong successful fall athletic season, winter athletics have been in full swing, with our student-athletes demonstrating dedication, teamwork, and school pride throughout their seasons.

Academically, our students continue to shine. For 2nd quarter, an impressive 67% of students earned Renaissance recognition by achieving a 3.0 GPA or higher, reflecting their commitment to excellence in the classroom. Students and staff also worked diligently leading up to winter break to prepare for and complete midterm exams, showcasing the learning and growth achieved during the first semester.

Our College Credit Plus (CCP) offerings continue to expand successfully with the addition of two new courses: CCP Biology, taught by Dr. Schenk, and CCP Sport and Exercise Science, taught by Mr. Anderson. Both classes have been well received and provide students with valuable college-level learning experiences.

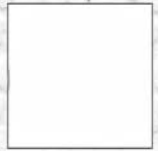
We are proud to share exciting achievements in our fine arts programs. Our band earned its first Superior rating at State since 2017, a significant milestone and testament to the hard work of our musicians and directors. In drama, casting is complete and rehearsals are underway for Alice in Wonderland, which will take the stage this April.

Finally, we were thrilled to celebrate our 2025 Baseball State Champions, who proudly received their State Championship rings, honoring their unforgettable title run.

We continue to appreciate the incredible support of our students, staff, and programs and we look forward to an exciting and successful second half of the school year, especially looking forward to our Portrait of a Panther Showcase May 18th and all things Class of 2026.



# FROM THE BOARD



One of the reasons why Licking Valley is such a special district is because of the vast amount of support our community gives to meet the needs of the students, employees, and buildings. No matter what activity you observe within our district, you will see volunteers, donors, and supporters committed to providing the best academic experience possible. We recognize our district would not be in the position that it's in without the effort that has been made by those before us.

In 2025, the Board began recognizing individuals at our meetings who have gone above and beyond throughout the years. There is an abundance of names that we can put forward from our community, and here are the recipients thus far:

**Alan Stein • Gordon Postle • David Felumlee & Family • Mike & Darlene Stevens • Jackie Caughenbaugh • Darla Cozzens**

You will recognize these individuals as those who have provided so much but never asked for anything in return. One special thing that you hear in their stories is how they learned their passion for service. They learned this generosity from their parents, neighbors, teachers, coaches, etc., who came before them. They realized the baton had been passed to them, and it was now their turn to provide.

We are also proud to be a part of a district that prioritizes service as part of its students' academic experience. Long before it was a mandate, Licking Valley set a graduation requirement of community service hours for graduating seniors. It is an honor to hear the stories of how our students are giving back to the community. This is a way for the students to realize that they wouldn't have the resources, buildings, and opportunities they currently enjoy without the continued generous support from the community. This ensures they are ready for when the baton is passed into their hands.

We live in a special place that has always instilled the mindset of leaving it better than the way you found it. As we highlight the progress and improvements that have been made to the school district over the past years, I hope you take a moment to recognize that none of this could have been done without you. A thank you is never enough, and that is why this Board is dedicated to providing the best educational experience for your students. They are the most valuable resource for our future, so we will continue to utilize the resources you provide and maximize their potential for a brighter tomorrow.



With Many Thanks,

*Drake McArtor*

Drake McArtor  
Licking Valley Board President

