

WELLINGTON
EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JUNE 2026 I VOLUME 6 ISSUE 9



THIS ISSUE

Treasurer Update
Young Author's Awards
FFA State Convention
Spring Sports Wrap Up
Aristocats McCormick Musical
McCormick Bottle Rockets
Presenting the Class of 2026!

IMPORTANT DATES

Click here for the 2026/2027 School Calendar

August 15: Back to School Bash

August 18: BOE Business Meeting

August 23 - 30: Lorain County Fair

August 27 & 28: Professional Day for teachers & staff

August 31: Open House

September 1: First Day of School

September 1: BOE Work Session

September 7: No School (Labor Day)

September 15: BOE Business Meeting

WRAPPING UP THE YEAR

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wellington Families,

The end of every school year is chock full of celebrations, and rightfully so. Our students and staff have invested so much time and energy into making this year the best learning experience possible for all of our Dukes.

For our kindergarteners, this year was the start of their thirteen-year journey, and for our seniors, it was the culmination. Throughout this month's newsletter, we will honor some of the countless accomplishments our students have earned and look forward to next year, too. While the Class of 2026 is moving on to the next stage of their lives, the incoming Class of 2039 is ready to begin.

To get ready for them and all our current Dukes, we are implementing even greater improvements to our schools to build on our successes.

We are excited to share that due to improved enrollment, we are adding an additional teacher to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade teams. This will allow us to bring class sizes within a range that enables our teachers to meet their students' needs.

Continued on page 2

LETTER FROM DR. PELTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Smaller class sizes will improve student engagement, allow for more individualized instruction, and proactively address behaviors. We have also restructured our course offerings and student groupings to provide a wider range of learning opportunities, stretch activities, and targeted interventions. Students of all ability levels, aptitudes, and interests will find that our pathways meet their wants and needs. Our staff at WHS has worked hard to increase their professional development to include coursework and training that will allow them to teach college credit plus (CCP) and AP courses, so our kids can stay on our campus and take in-person courses instead of traveling to LCCC or taking classes online.

Additionally, we have strengthened our career technical pathways by expanding our pre-engineering, agriscience, and visual arts electives at both McCormick and Wellington High School to encourage students to find their passions and devote more of their day to classes that align with their interests. To showcase our pathways, this summer, we will launch an interactive course flowchart for all classes from kindergarten through graduation, so that families can see how the classes their kids take each year build toward the futures they want for themselves. The action steps we are taking today are bringing our vision for our kids to life.

The improvements that we are adding to our curriculum, staff, and programming are not the only changes happening in the district. We are taking feedback from our families, staff, and community members regarding our facility needs and are beginning to finalize our plans to make significant improvements. As the number of classrooms needed at Westwood increases, we are restructuring our office spaces to free up rooms for students.

Through generous donations, we are increasing our signage and branding outside our schools to modernize our look and make us more welcoming. Calculated, proactive repairs to our buildings and grounds are ongoing to keep our facilities safe and well-maintained, maximizing their longevity. These investments in our buildings have a meaningful impact on the learning environment for our students and on pride within our community.

As you ease into summer, know that we are using this time to prepare for our autumn launch and the start of the school year. I hope that everyone enjoys the time home with the kids, that it is filled with happy summer memories, and you come back refreshed and ready to go on September 1st. See you in a few months.

Go Dukes,
Andy Peltz, Superintendent of Wellington Exempted Village Schools

WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

6TH ANNUAL

Back to School Bash

"LEGO" OF SUMMER!

LET'S BUILD A GREAT YEAR TOGETHER!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

McCormick Middle School

ALL K-12 FAMILIES WELCOME!

★ FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ★ PETTING ZOO ★
★ COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOTHS ★
★ EXTRA CURRICULAR ORGANIZATIONS ★ GIVEAWAYS ★
★ CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS & STUDENT SCHEDULES ★

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

THE STATE OF OHIO

OHIO SENATE

HONORING
WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FOR OUTSTANDING ATTAINMENT

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to salute Westwood Elementary School on being recognized as a 2025-2026 Governor's Science of Reading Champion.

Selection for this noteworthy distinction is, indeed, an honor of which everyone associated with Westwood Elementary School can be proud, for each member of the staff has shown a tremendous dedication to helping students achieve their full potential. The combination of school management, student development, personnel, programs, and community input has contributed to this fine institution receiving this important accolade, and it will serve as a model for other educational establishments throughout the state.

Westwood Elementary School has established a solid foundation of superior programs on which it can build an even more rewarding and productive future. By implementing evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with the science of reading and allowing students to become more successful not only in the classroom but also in life, the school has earned the respect and esteem of many and is deserving of the highest praise.

Thus, it is with genuine satisfaction that we commend Westwood Elementary School for remarkable accomplishment and salute all those involved as fine Ohioans.

Senator Robert McColley
President of the Ohio Senate

TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM MR. BAILEY

I can't believe another school year has passed! It is a busy time of year trying to close out this fiscal year while trying to plan and budget for next year.

This year has been full of challenges with the property tax reform and the effects it will have on our financial planning for the district. While we have seen some of the effects this fiscal year, the continued reductions in revenue and increasing expenditures could result in deficit spending with decreasing cash balances starting in fiscal year 2028.

The good news is that we have the opportunity to plan and prepare for these changes because we have not felt the large immediate effects that other districts in Ohio are currently facing.

While we are monitoring our expenditures, we still have some needs that we are addressing in the district. Our class sizes in second and third grades have reached the point that we are adding a new classroom for each of those grades next year and we have hired two additional teachers. Through a collaborative effort, we will be able to find space for two additional classrooms at Westwood while also moving some offices at a minimal cost.

Some of the other needs we are looking to address are the replacement of the original boilers at Westwood Elementary that will need to be replaced sooner than later. Westwood is also the only school building without air conditioning, which has caused some school cancellations for Westwood in the past because of the heat.

The locker rooms at the high school are in desperate need of an update to make them compliant. While we know the financial forecast has changed and does not look as favorable as it did at the beginning of the year, the needs of the district have not changed. We are currently looking at financing options to address these needs in phases. Our goal is to get these projects completed without coming to the community for financial support.

Continued on the next page...



Pete Bailey, Treasurer
(440) 647-7979
pbailey@wellingtonvillageschools.org



Thank you to our WHS students for working hard during community service week in May to clean up our community and help out our neighbors.



TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM MR. BAILEY

School funding continues to shift from the state level to the local level and continues to change, sometimes without warning.

Throughout the past two years we have worked diligently together to find ways to reduce spending without sacrificing the education of
our students. I believe putting in this work and being fiscally responsible has put us in a favorable position for next year.

We know that we can only prepare for what we know and we need to try to continue to be in a position to adjust when needed.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Mr. Bailey

Click here for five year forecasts and financial reports on our website.



Pete Bailey, Treasurer
(440) 647-7979
pbailey@wellingtonvillageschools.org



We are thankful for our WHS students for cleaning up the recreation park during community service week.

STAY INFORMED!

TikTok: WellingTok
Instagram: dukes_k12
Instagram Athletics: wellington_dukes_athletics
YouTube: Search: WEVSD

Let's be friends!

"Like" us on Facebook:

Wellington Exempted Village Schools

Westwood Elementary School

McCormick Middle School

Wellington High School

Wellington Friends of Theater

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Survey Time!



Director of Student Services, Dan Rahm

Students and families receiving special education services, please consider completing this survey: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9mDjij74EAmJXxQ?Q_CHL=qr

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) would like to invite you to participate in a short, 25 question survey about your involvement in your student's education.

Research suggests that parental involvement is a key predictor of positive educational outcomes. You may be eligible to participate if your child has an IEP and receives special education services. The purpose of collecting this information is to improve services for students with disabilities across Ohio.

If you are eligible to participate and you enroll in the study, you will be entered in a drawing for several $50 Amazon gift cards. Your chance of winning a gift card is approximately 2.0%.

Click here to visit the Student Services website!



Special Education Coordinator, Pattie Roush

BASKETBALL JONES VISITS WESTWOOD!



Click here to watch the energetic video!

Jim Basketball Jones' visited Westwood today! We had the best time and talked about effort, personal responsibility, choices, respect, kindness and overcoming adversity. I'm so positive my blood type is B positive!

If we get frustrated, keep practicing, and take it piece by piece. Every problem is a piece of cake. Plus it, practice, we all learn over time with practice. Get better baby! Have pride and be determined. Stick with it, don't quit. You just have to twist it, turn it, stick with it to see a challenge from a new angle.
Stories help your brain solve problems.

40 BOOK CHALLENGE AT MCCORMICK



We celebrated the students who conquered the 40 book challenge this school year!

Congratulations to:

4th graders - *Levi Reese, Lincoln Zadorozny, and Ryker Kolmorgen*

5th graders - *Daphne Zander, Jace Taylor, Kevin Davison, Bodhi Cothran, Grayson Kissau, Dominic Johnson*

6th grader - *Charlotte Birchfield*



We stopped at Pizza House for lunch then made our way to Strikeout Lanes for a couple games of bowling.

These 10 students read a total of 426 books this school year!
Thank you to the **Wellington Endowment and Wellington Eagles** for supporting and rewarding our readers!

Keep reading, Dukes!

MR. WALTER'S SCIENCE CLASS LAUNCHES BOTTLE ROCKETS!

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE







FIELD TRIPS IN MAY TO CEDAR POINT



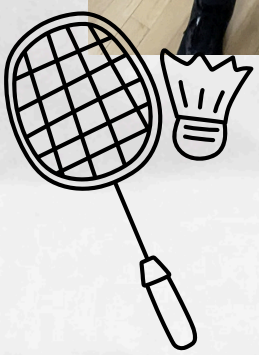






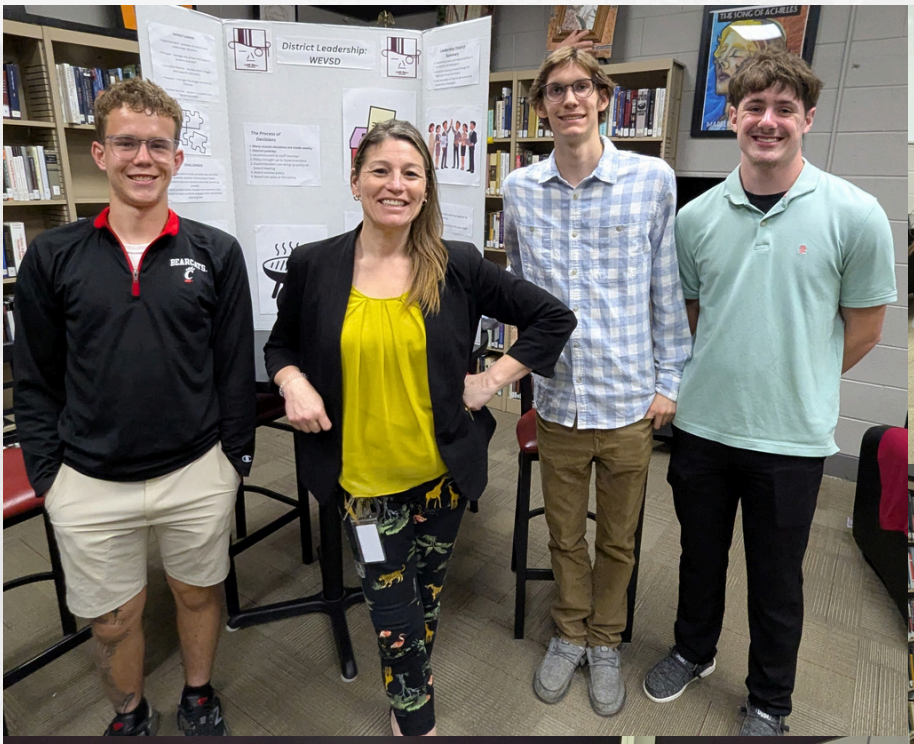






MAKING MEMORIES

AROUND OUR DISTRICT















NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Scholarship
Service
Leadership
Character



Congratulations to our 2025 National Honor Society Inductees: Christos Papadopoulus, Emma Lawson, Camryn Stump, Thomas Sumpter, Ryann Lola Deidrick, Taylor Varner, Shelby Gallion, Abigail Blodgett, Kalynne Pickering, Nicholas Sword, Alexandria Mills, Remington Rourke and Leighla Selzer.

The NHS pledge: "I pledge to uphold the highest purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected; I will be true to the principles for which it stands; and will maintain and encourage the high standards of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Thank you to NHS officers: Alison Gott (President), Kathryn Dickason (Vice President), Alexa Gallion (Vice President), Skylar Kohlenberg (Vice President), Lauren Vannatter (Secretary), Camryn Morris (Treasurer), and Addison McConnell (Historian.)

2026 State Convention

State FFA Degrees!

Congratulations!

















2026 State Convention

Supervised Agricultural Experience Proficiency Awards!
Congratulations!

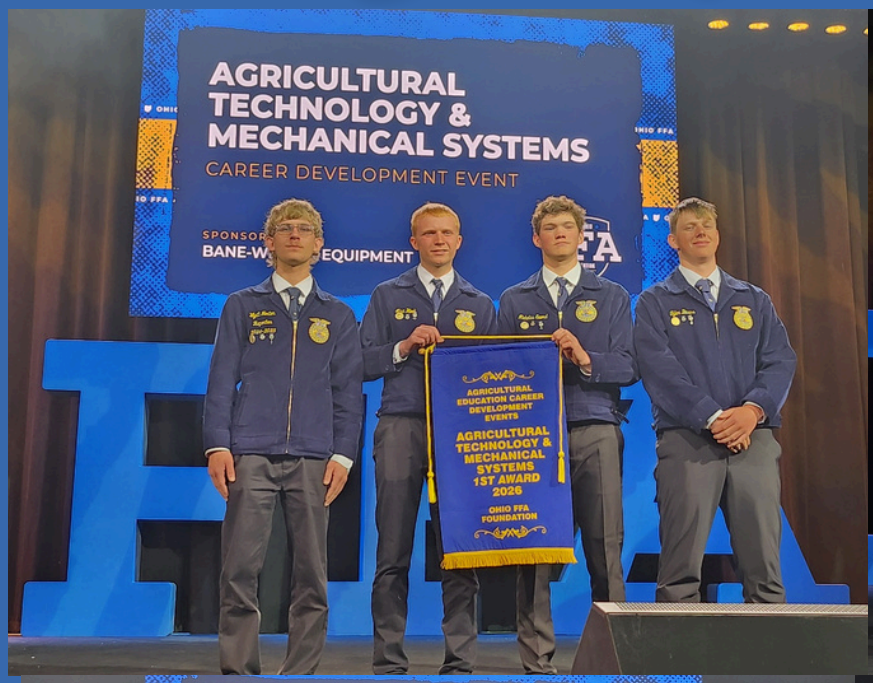
Mrs. Thome shares “We are so proud of the hard work and dedication these three have shown with their SAE projects.”

Tyler Burns placed 3rd in the state with his Service Learning project.
Morgan Denes placed 3rd in the state with her Equine Science SAE.
Max Hook placed 2nd in the state with his Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance SAE.



A Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is a required, hands-on, student-led project that acts as the work-based learning component of agricultural education, allowing FFA members to apply classroom knowledge to real-world career scenarios. SAEs occur outside of class time and include activities like running a business, interning, research, or raising animals.

State Champions!









Wellington FFA took home **four team state championships** in career development events and two individual first place finishes for Junior Max Hook. Congratulations! Watch the video here!

CDE's are competitive contests designed to help members develop technical, critical thinking, and decision-making skills in various agricultural areas. CDE's provide hands-on, real-world experience, allowing students to apply classroom knowledge to industry-related scenarios.

Jr. High FFA Banquet







The National FFA Organization remains committed to the individual student, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

CLASS OF 2026








HOME
SECTION



CLASS OF 2026

















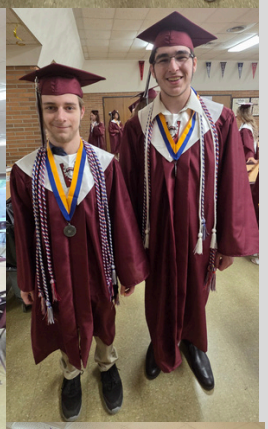


CLASS OF 2026

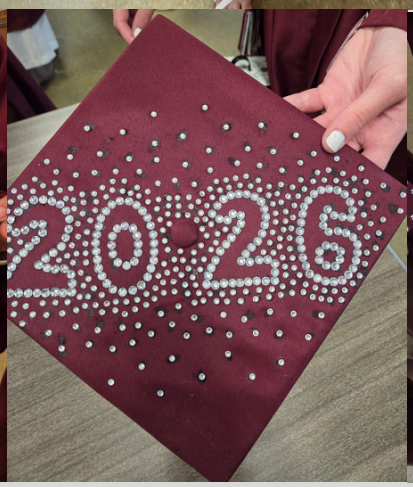


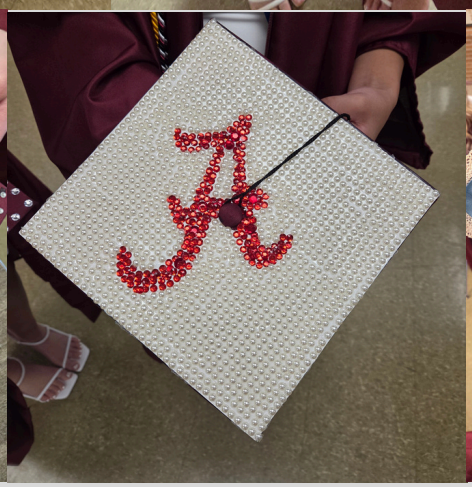




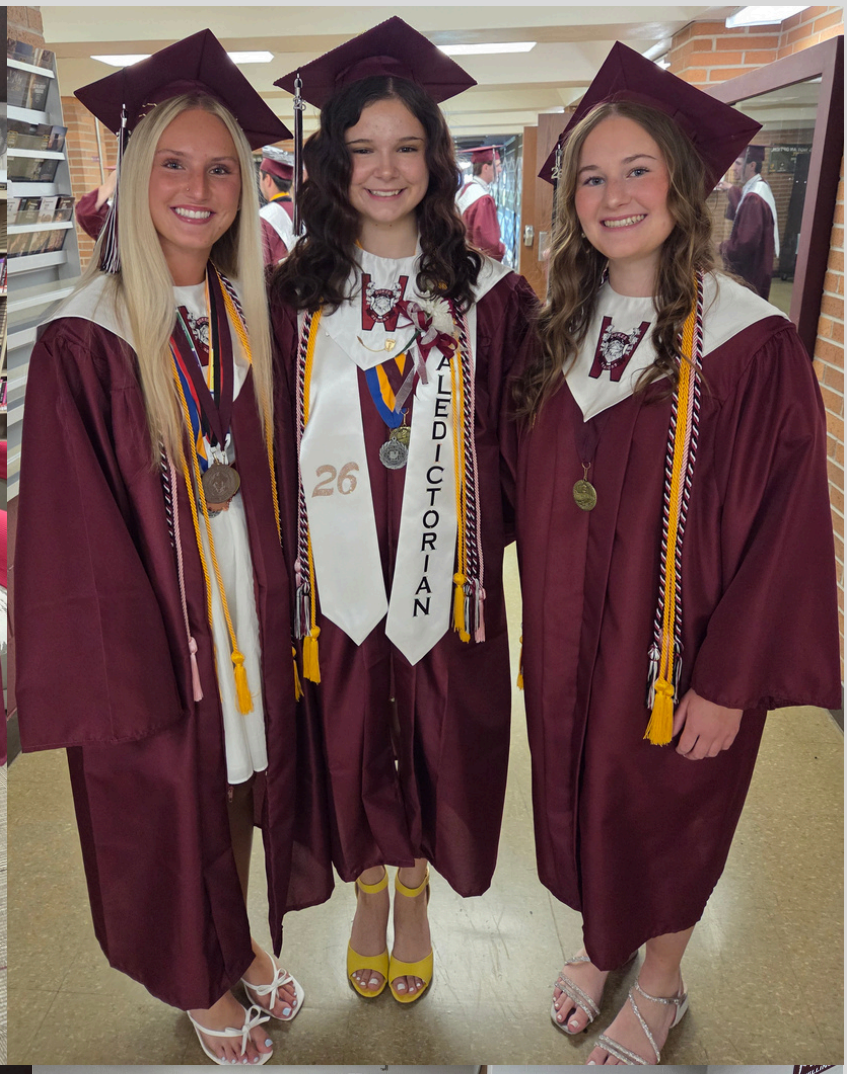










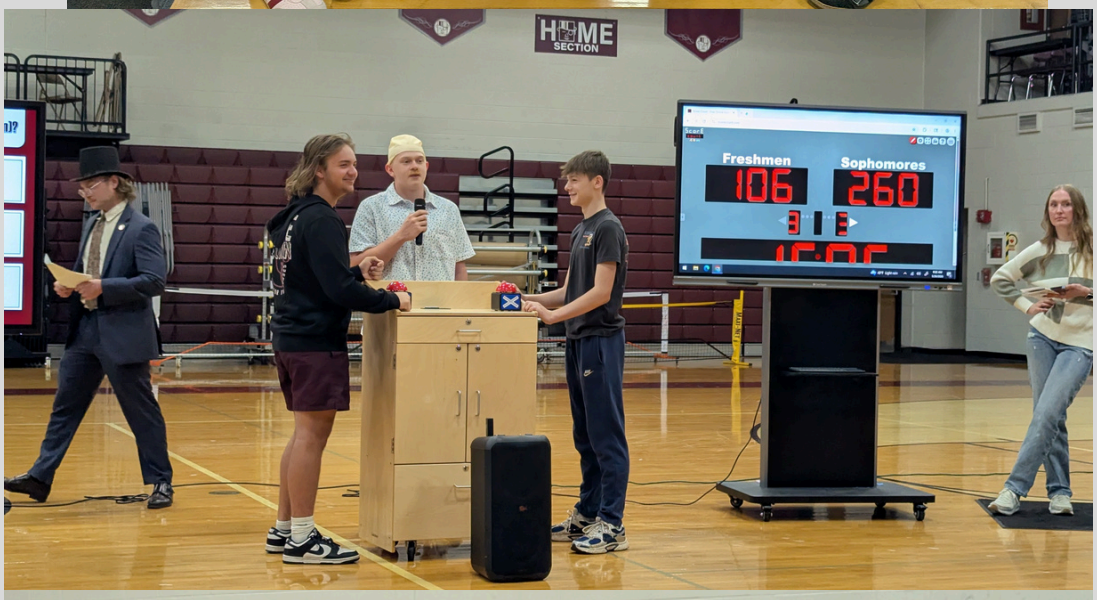


VALEDICTORIAN
26




DUKES
DUKES
GUEST

WHS PEP RALLY







WHS COMMUNITY SERVICE WEEK!











WHS COMMUNITY SERVICE WEEK!











WHS COMMUNITY SERVICE WEEK!









DUKE PRIDE

YOUNG AUTHOR'S EVENT





This year's Young Authors conference was amazing! All of our best of show writers and illustrators were recognized on stage.

Third grader, Amelia Birchfield, was voted best illustrator for the county! Way to go!

Students listened to author Dustin Brady, who wrote the "Trapped in a Video Game" series. They also enjoyed learning from illustrator David Spencer. He shared his tips and tricks for illustrating.

YOUNG AUTHOR'S EVENT

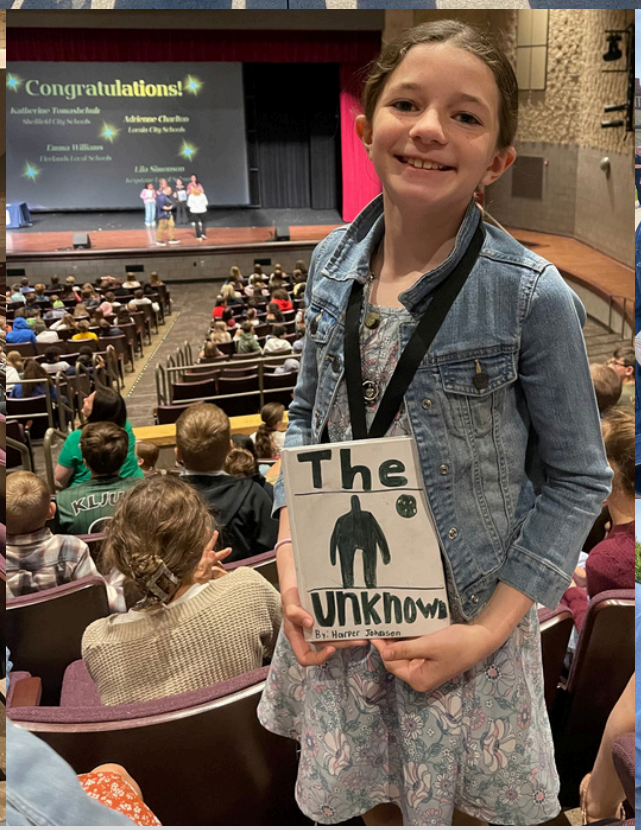




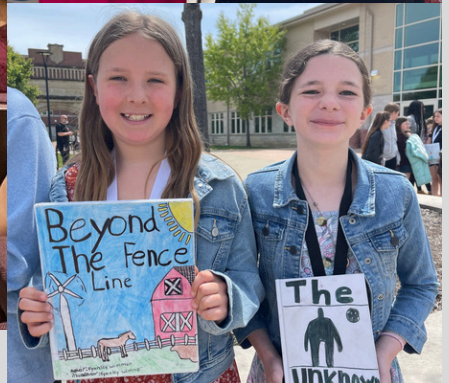
YOUNG AUTHOR'S EVENT











YOUNG AUTHOR'S EVENT

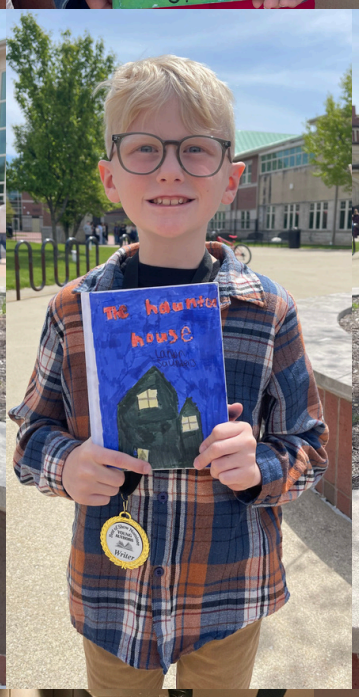








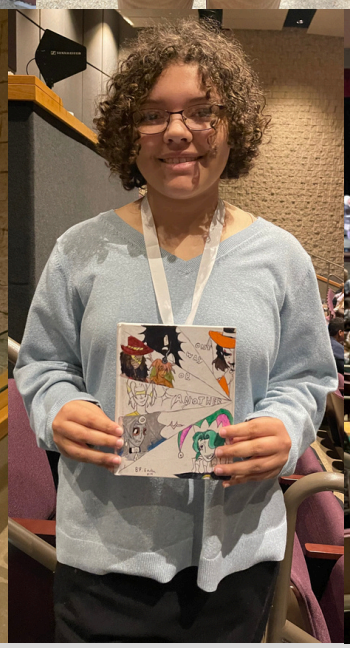


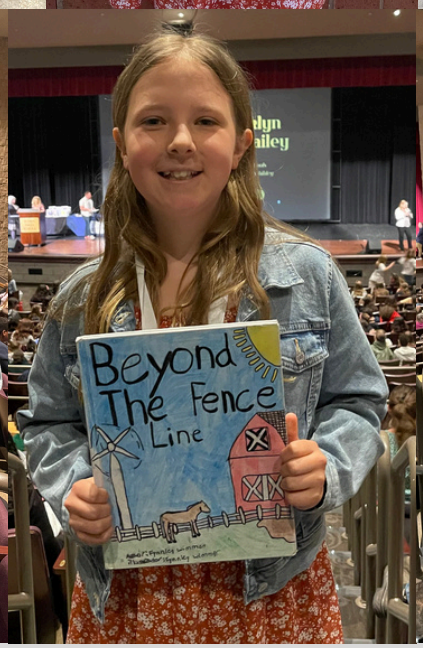














AROUND OUR DISTRICT



ARISTOCAT'S (BEHIND THE SCENES)











ARISTOCAT'S MUSICAL BY MCORMICK











Photo credit: Christen Lewis

ARISTOCAT'S MUSICAL BY MCORMICK















Photo credit: Christen Lewis

AROUND OUR DISTRICT

















BAND AND CHOIR CONCERTS





BAND AWARDS & RECOGNITION







BAND AWARDS & RECOGNITION















TRACK SEASON RECAP



The Dukes Track & Field concluded at Austintown Fitch High School at the Regional meet where Jake Miller competed in the discus throw event as the team's lone regional qualifier. Jake completed one of the most successful senior campaigns we have seen in many years. Not only did he achieve numerous personal best performances throughout the season, he also claimed bronze and silver medals at the LC8 Championships in the shot put and discus throw events respectively. Jake placed fourth in the discus throw at the Norwayne District meet to qualify for the Regional meet.

Lauren Vannatter had an incredible senior season as well by claiming the silver medal in the 3200m and running the fastest 3200m times in 25 years by notching two entries into the TOP 10 ALL TIME record books.

The Dukes were also led by a strong group of underclass athletes that saw freshman Jaxson Rodriguez jump 10-6 in the Pole Vault, Maci Burns jump 4-8 in the high jump, sophomore Linkoln Rodriguez jump 18-4 in the long jump, and Shelby Gallion threw 104-4 in the discus throw event. Junior, Blake Murner, led the sprint group by qualifying for the finals at both the LC8 Championships and The Norwayne District Championships in the 110m and 300m hurdles. Freshmen Fynlee Morris, Hadley Fleming, and Finley Eastman stepped up and performed at a varsity level in the distance event, laying a strong foundation for our distance program moving forward.

The future is being built by a dedicated and hard working group of returning athletes and we are very excited for the 2027 season. ***Pedal to the floor! Go Dukes! Coach Kimmich*** *Photo credit: Russ Gifford*

JR. HIGH AND WHS TRACK SEASON RECAP



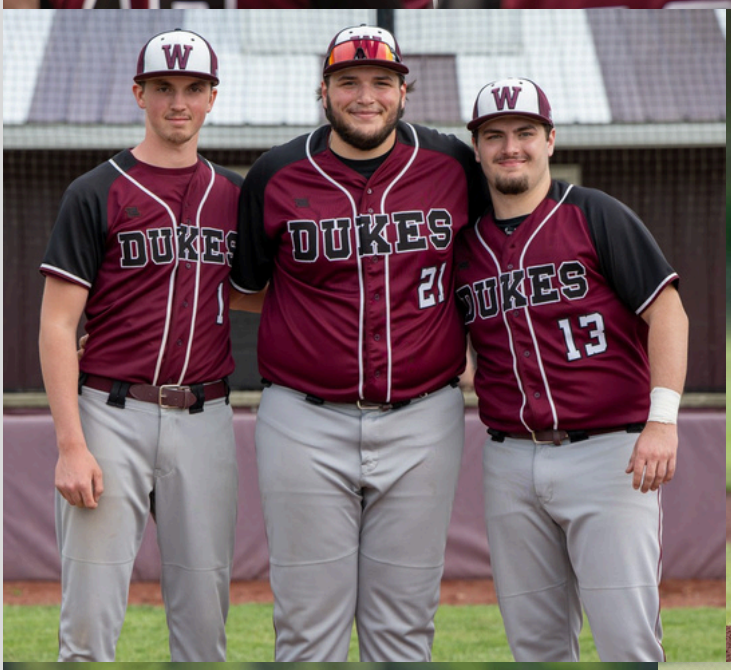
WELLINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Photo credit: Russ Gifford

BASEBALL ACTION





















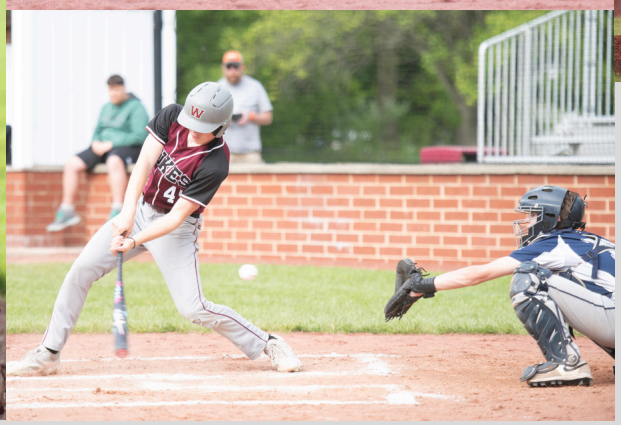


Photo credit:
Russ Gifford & Carrie Abbey

SOFTBALL ACTION

Photo credit: Carrie Abbey



















SOFTBALL ACTION

Photo credit: Carrie Abbey















