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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAILER'S CHOICE

Community Connection

A Publication of Indian Valley Local Schools

SUMMER 2026

Superintendent's Message - Thank You

by Dr. Ira Wentworth, Superintendent



As many are aware at this point, I am retiring after 32 years in public education. The last 19 of those years have been at Indian Valley – five as Midvale Elementary School Principal and 14 as Superintendent. My time at Indian Valley has been very rewarding, and I have spent much time considering what to say in my final message to this wonderful IV community.

I reflect on all that has been accomplished during this time. My high school track and cross country coach always taught us to leave things better than we found them. I am grateful to say that is the case here in multiple areas of responsibility associated with leading a school district such as: school safety, academics, facilities, athletics, extra curricular activities, operations, technology, and professional development for staff.

However, when considering what to say in my final message, it all comes down to thank you.

Thank you to former Superintendent Randy Cadle for interviewing and then recommending me to be Midvale Elementary School principal in 2007.

Thank you to the 2007 Board of Education – Bob Hall, Larry Holmes, Francis Picchetti, Kathy Roth, and Gale Stull – for approving me to be the principal that would open the new Midvale building that fall.

Thank you to the Midvale Elementary teachers and support staff who helped this former high school math teacher, high school assistant principal, and high school principal learn the routines and curriculum of an elementary school. That knowledge and experience has been most beneficial during my tenure leading an entire K-12 school district.

Thank you to former Superintendent Bob Fogler for his confidence and encouragement to pursue the Indian Valley superintendency upon his retirement. I still draw upon his mentorship to this day.

Thank you to the 2012 Board of Education – Bob Hall, Larry Holmes, Francis Picchetti, Betty Quillin, and Kathy Roth – for selecting and trusting me with the honor to lead this great school district starting on January 1, 2013.

Thank you to all the Board members with whom I have had the pleasure to serve. In addition to those already mentioned, this includes Roger Bond, Eric Kinsey, Steve Leggett, Michele Carlisle, Kelsey Kochman-Davis, and Travis Stocker. While each person brings their own perspective and life experience to a Board of Education, the long term consistency with which this collective group of individuals have worked together to always keep students-first in their decision making is simply amazing.

Thank you to the community for consistently choosing Board of Education members who are running for the right reasons and not a personal agenda. The phrase "it starts at the top" is true, and your care for selecting a quality Board of Education is remarkable.

Thank you to former Treasurer Brad Maholm and current Treasurer Andrew Bache. Indian Valley has been blessed for decades with strong financial leadership, and a strong working relationship between a superintendent and treasurer is vital for a school district to flourish.

Thank you to the administrative leadership team. There has been minimal turnover this past 14 years. Their consistent pursuit of our mission, vision, values, and goals has been paramount in establishing the desirable school culture we have at Indian Valley.

Thank you to the teaching staff. They do it all – they care for the social and emotional needs of students while holding high standards for academic achievement, and it shows. They are willing to do things differently than many, and that makes Indian Valley a very special place.

Thank you to the support staff. They are the backbone of the school district making sure students get to/from school, have well maintained facilities, are well fed, and that the operations of the school run smoothly. Their work makes it possible for our Braves to learn.

Thank you for all the great memories. It has been my sincere honor and privilege to lead the Indian Valley Braves. I will continue to do so until my last day on July 31. Agape, IW

What's Inside

Student Achievement 2
Treasurer's Report 3
District News 3
Facilities Update 6
Technology and Services 7
High School News 8
Class of 2026 12
Athletics 18
Middle School News 19
Port Washington Elementary 20
Midvale Elementary 21
The Year in Pictures 22

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

Indian Valley Earns a 4.5 Star Rating on State of Ohio Report Card

by Dr. Ira Wentworth, Superintendent

The State of Ohio rates its traditional K-12 public school districts using a 5-Star rating system, similar to Google reviews. Of the 607 traditional K-12 public school districts in Ohio, only 47, i.e. – 7.8%, earned a 5-Star rating. 95 school districts earned a 4.5-Star rating, which accounts for 15.7% of all traditional public school districts.

Indian Valley Local Schools is proud to have been one of the 95 districts in Ohio to earn a 4.5-Star rating on the most recent school report card, which was tied for the top rating in Tuscarawas County. Also, the State of Ohio identifies districts that are most similar to one another based on a plethora of demographic and economic criteria. Indian Valley was tied for first among our ten most similar districts, as shown on the accompanying chart, but earned more total stars than the other 4.5-star schools.

Additionally, the list of Ohio schools that achieved a 4.5-Star rating includes many affluent and suburban type school districts too such as: Beavercreek, Brunswick, Green (Summit), Jackson (Stark), Lake, Lakota, Loveland, Medina, Mentor, North Canton, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Perry (Lake), Springboro, Strongsville, Sycamore, Troy, and Westlake.

It is interesting to note that among all the school districts located in one of Ohio's 32 federally designated Appalachian counties, that no school district earned a 5-Star rating. Among all the school districts in the federally designated Appalachian region, only 19 school districts received a 4.5-Star rating – of which Indian Valley is one.

Why do I share this? I want you, the Indian Valley Braves community, to feel good about your school district. Our teachers work together to maintain high expectations and ensure that our rural country school provides students with an education as good as anywhere in the state. Our teachers and academic administrators go above-and-beyond to impact students' learning. We will continue to work together in a model of continuous improvement to provide a rigorous standards-based learning experience so our young people learn to their fullest potential and to give you yet another reason to be proud to be a Brave!

RANK	DISTRICT	OVERALL
1.	**INDIAN VALLEY**	★★★★½
2.	BEAVER LOCAL	★★★★½
2.	NORTHMOR	★★★★½
4.	EASTERN	★★★★
5.	BARNESVILLE	★★★½
5.	CRESTVIEW	★★★½
5.	EDISON	★★★½
8.	WYNFORD	★★★½
9.	FRANKLIN	★★★
9.	PREBLE/SHAWNEE	★★★

I want you, the Indian Valley Braves community, to feel good about your school district. Our teachers work together to maintain high expectations and ensure that our rural country school provides students with an education as good as anywhere in the state.

Ira Wentworth, Superintendent

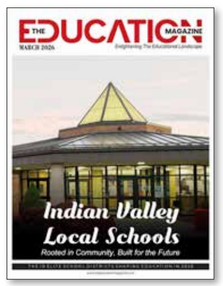
Indian Valley Recognized in a National Publication

by Dr. Ira Wentworth, Superintendent

Indian Valley Local Schools was invited to be featured in a special edition of The Education Magazine titled "The 10 Elite School Districts Shaping Education in 2026." This issue celebrates districts across the USA that demonstrate academic excellence, strong leadership, community impact, and notable student achievements.

Some key highlights that garnered IV's attention from The Education Magazine include:

- **High state report card performance:** Indian Valley achieved one of the top overall ratings among districts in Tuscarawas County, reflecting strong academic outcomes and continuous improvement efforts.
- **Outstanding school recognition:** Port Washington Elementary has been recognized as a **National Blue Ribbon School**, signaling exceptional academic performance.
- **Leadership excellence:** Leadership has earned statewide recognition for service and commitment to student success.
- **Student leadership and service:** Indian Valley High School's National Honor Society earned a **Character Award of Excellence** for student leadership and community engagement.
- **Teacher and student honors:** Multiple staff and students have been recognized through statewide academic and education partnership awards.
- **Strong academic outcomes:** The district maintains a **high graduation rate (~95%+)** and solid proficiency scores in key subjects compared to state averages.



To read The Education Magazine's online article titled, "Indian Valley Local Schools: Rooted in Community, Built for the Future," go to theeducationmagazine.com/indian-valley-local-schools/or scan the QR Code below:

To view the entire special addition, visit theeducationmagazine.com/the-10-elite-school-districts-shaping-education-in-2026/or scan the QR Code

Indian Valley Schools Receives Auditor of State Award

by Andrew Bache, Treasurer

At Indian Valley Local Schools, managing public resources responsibly is a commitment we take very seriously. Our goal is not simply to maintain compliance, but to thoughtfully deploy resources in a way that supports our academic vision of creating persistent academic and social problem solvers pursuing the career pathway of their choice.

This year, Indian Valley was honored to receive the Auditor of State Award from the Ohio Auditor of State's Office. This recognition is awarded to entities that demonstrate strong financial reporting, sound internal controls, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

While the award reflects strong financial systems and compliance procedures, it also speaks to the culture of accountability and stewardship across the District. Earning this recognition requires collaboration across all areas of the District, including classrooms, transportation, food service, buildings and grounds, student services, and many others, along with a shared commitment to accuracy, transparency, and responsible operational practices. The systems and reporting standards evaluated during the audit are only effective because of the people behind them and the District-wide commitment to doing things the right way.

At the heart of every decision is a commitment to students. Responsible stewardship allows the District to maintain financial stability while continuing to invest in opportunities that support student learning, growth, and future success.

At Indian Valley, we remain committed to ensuring resources are managed with care, accountability, and a continued focus on student learning.



New Superintendent: A Member of the Braves' First Graduating Class



The Indian Valley Board of Education has named Amy Wentworth as the next Superintendent of Indian Valley Local Schools, effective August 1, 2026.

Wentworth brings more than 15 years of administrative experience in public education, including five years as a superintendent, six years as an assistant superintendent, two years as a middle school principal, and two years as an elementary principal. Her career also includes nine years of classroom teaching. In total, she has dedicated 17 years of service to New Philadelphia City Schools, where she has held multiple leadership roles and guided districtwide instructional, operational, and strategic initiatives.

In addition to her extensive professional background, Wentworth has strong personal ties to the Indian Valley community. She attended Indian Valley South from kindergarten through 11th grade and was named co-valedictorian of the first graduating class of Indian Valley High School following the consolidation of Indian Valley North and Indian Valley South during the 1988–1989 school year.

"Indian Valley is extremely blessed to bring on Amy's leadership qualities and high standards," said Board of Education President Bob Hall. "The Board is confident in her ability to continue guiding Indian Valley as one of the premier school districts in the state."

Hall added, "We had nine high quality applicants for the position and we interviewed four. All four did a very nice job, but Amy was the only applicant with superintendent experience and in the end that stood out."

Wentworth currently serves as Superintendent of New Philadelphia City Schools and is widely recognized for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to transparent communication, and focus on student achievement and staff success. Her experience includes strategic planning, labor negotiations, legislative advocacy, curriculum leadership, and successful grant writing for student safety and district improvements.

"I am thrilled to return to my alma mater and be able to serve the Indian Valley community as Superintendent," said Wentworth. "I look forward to helping continue the great things that are taking place in the district as we work together to personalize a rigorous, standards-based learning experience for all students and prepare them for the career pathway of their choice."

Wentworth is actively engaged in professional leadership at the state and national levels. She currently serves as President of the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and has contributed to BASA through service on its Report Card Committee and Exceptional Children Committee. In addition, Wentworth serves as a Subcommittee Member of the Ohio State Board of Education Educator Standards Board, where she helped support revisions to Ohio's Superintendent Standards. She is also a frequent presenter at professional workshops and conferences.

Wentworth holds a Superintendent Licensure from Ashland University, a Principal Licensure from the University of Akron, and a Master of Arts in Education in Gifted Education from Muskingum University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education from Malone College.

Wentworth will succeed her husband, Dr. Ira Wentworth, who has served as Superintendent of Indian Valley Local Schools since January 2013 and will retire at the conclusion of the 2025–2026 school year, marking nearly 14 years of service to the district in that role.

The Board of Education partnered with the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center to conduct a thorough and deliberate selection process. The position was advertised statewide through four state level professional organizations, Ohio's education job board, and a listserv of Ohio's sitting superintendents. The Board is confident in Wentworth's experience, leadership, and ability to guide the district forward.

Transportation Update

by Jacob Glasgow, Transportation Director & Cafeteria Supervisor

Indian Valley is committed to keeping student safety at the center of everything we do—especially when it comes to transportation. As we head into the summer months, we continue preparing for the upcoming school year by focusing on routing, training, and equipment improvements that support our students and staff.

This year, our district is proud to be a recipient of the Ohio School Bus Safety Grant, which allows us to continue improving the safety and reliability of our fleet. Through this funding, Indian Valley Local Schools is upgrading bus lighting systems with modern LED technology. These brighter, more energy-efficient lights enhance visibility in all weather conditions and times of day, helping ensure that our buses are seen clearly by other drivers.

Our transportation team will also participate in a one-day, hands-on driver training session prior to the start of school in August. This focused training will include safety refreshers, emergency evacuation procedures, updated state guidelines, and practical exercises with equipment to ensure drivers and aides are prepared for the responsibilities of safely transporting students. This dedicated training reinforces our commitment to maintaining a safe and dependable transportation program.









The LED upgrades and targeted training are proactive steps toward reducing risk and enhancing the safety of every route. We appreciate the continued support of our families and community members in prioritizing school transportation safety.

Together, we can ensure every child arrives safely—every trip, every day.

This year, our district is proud to be a recipient of the Ohio School Bus Safety Grant, which allows us to continue improving the safety and reliability of our fleet. Through this funding, Indian Valley Local Schools is upgrading bus lighting systems with modern LED technology, which enhances visibility in all weather conditions and times of day.

New Menu Options Leads to Increased Participation in Food Service Program

by Michelle Mizer, Food Service Director



In my first six months as Food Service Director at Indian Valley, I am happy to say that participation in our breakfast and lunch programs has increased as we continue offering students exciting new menu items.

At the high school, we introduced a rotating pizza menu. Along with traditional pepperoni and cheese options, students can now enjoy white cheese pizza, buffalo chicken pizza, sausage, hot honey pizza, and chicken bacon ranch pizza.

At all school buildings, we offer fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as assorted muffins and donuts for breakfast.

At Port Washington and Midvale Elementary Schools, we hosted Wellness Wednesdays, which introduced students to a variety of new foods to try. Students also received a visit from Molly the Cow, who helped teach them about the importance of calcium and milk for healthy growth.

Next year, we plan to continue hosting fun cafeteria events such as Freaky Foods, Wellness Wednesdays, and visits from Molly the Cow. We will also continue adding new menu items with input from students through our food service survey in an effort to further increase participation.

As this school year comes to an end, I look forward to the next year as we continue expanding our menu options and encouraging even greater participation in our food service programs.







Learning Never Stops at Indian Valley

by Rachel Gibson, Director of Continuous Improvement

Behind every great school year is a team of educators committed to learning, growing, and refining their craft. During the 2025-2026 school year, our district staff came together for three impactful Professional Development days that focused on collaboration, strengthening instruction, and exploring new strategies and resources to better serve our students.

We welcomed a variety of presenters into the district to inspire and provide meaningful learning experiences to our teachers and staff members. With Ohio's Plan for K-12 Math being released mid-summer of 2025, we latched onto the opportunity to provide teachers with knowledgeable experts in the math field to initiate conversations about math instruction and provide instructional resources to our teachers. We were fortunate to be able to welcome not one, but two amazing math presenters throughout the 25-26 school year. One of which was Molly Kaplet from our local Educational Service Center (ESC) in New Phila. We continued our focus on strengthening instruction, by inviting Marina Colombo, also from our New Phila ESC, to provide the staff with high yield instructional strategies for vocabulary instruction, more specifically vocabulary routines and interactive activities that would benefit all students.

In addition to local presenters, we were pleased to welcome back to the district, Eric Curts, who is newly retired from the Stark Portage Area Computer Consortium. He provided AI professional development to our teachers last school year and worked to help familiarize teachers with all of the possibilities AI technology brings. This year, Eric focused on AI differentiation tools and showed our teachers how AI tools can support differentiation by helping teachers tailor instruction to meet the diverse needs of every student. In order to continue supporting the use of technology and AI, the staff also received virtual training on Screencastify, which is a screen-recording extension that teachers can use.

With Screencastify, teachers can record items like instructional lessons and student feedback for students and families to view when they need to. During our October Professional Development day, the teachers attended a virtual session to learn how they could enhance their instruction with Screencastify using their AI features. One of the things teachers learned was how they could easily add formative assessment questions to their recordings to check for understanding, in addition to how to access their video library of pre-made content.

For the first time, we welcomed Chris Beck and Dan Owolabi from Branches to the district. Owolabi led an inspirational keynote through a powerful story of perseverance, resiliency, and not giving up in the face of challenges. The staff then transitioned to breakout sessions, where once again they were led by Owolabi. During the breakout session, he reminded the staff of the importance of intentionally caring for their own well-being, so they can continue to show up fully for their students, colleagues, and families. His message of how quickly one can become drained without opportunities to recharge, hit home with each group. Owolabi encouraged the staff to create a list of activities that continue to restore their energy so they can be at their best every day.

Professional learning extended beyond our guest presenters, and provided opportunities for the staff to engage in meaningful district-led learning and collaborative planning. Teachers worked together on district priorities such as vertical alignment, curriculum timelines, and revision of their quarterly assessments to ensure a seamless educational experience for all Indian Valley students. The staff also benefited from two impactful sessions led by our own school psychologists, Shayla O'Donnell and Monika Marino. One session focused on equipping the staff with strategies to better understand and respond to the evolving academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. The second session centered on ways to improve how to support students so each learner receives the right level of support.

As the needs of education continue to evolve, so does our commitment to learning, growing, and showing up as our best for the students and families of Indian Valley every day.









Athletic Conference Changes Are on the Horizon

by Dr. Ira Wentworth, Superintendent

The Indian Valley Braves were grateful to join the Inter Valley Conference (IVC) when it expanded in the Fall of 2017. Buckeye Trail, Claymont and Tuscarawas Valley also joined the league at that time as well. A two division format began, with the Braves competing in the IVC South along with Claymont, Garaway, Hiland, Ridgewood, Sandy Valley, and Tusky Valley.

This past February, Claymont, Sandy Valley, and Tusky Valley submitted their notice that they will be leaving the IVC at the conclusion of the 2027-2028 school year. They will be joining some other schools who currently compete in the Principals Athletic Conference (PAC) and the Eastern Buckeye Conference to join a newly created athletic league that will begin competition in the Fall of 2028. The departure of these three schools leave only Indian Valley, Garaway, Hiland and Ridgewood to compete in the IVC south when the 2028-2029 school year begins.

In May, all the schools in the IVC North announced they too will be leaving the IVC at the conclusion of the 2027-2028 school year and forming their own new league that will begin competition in the Fall of 2028. Indian Valley administration is working to find a viable solution for scheduling athletic contests for the 2028-2029 athletic season. We have had positive conversations with the PAC, the Muskingum Valley League, and the Buckeye 8, but unfortunately they do not have any current expansion plans that will benefit our Indian Valley Braves.

As a final reminder, for the next two school years, the IVC will remain intact, and Indian Valley will continue to schedule and play the IVC teams that we have been playing. The planned changes to the IVC will not take place until the 2028-2029 school year. Please know that the administration will continue working to find the best possible solution available to serve our student-athletes and their families.

Indian Valley Schools Completes Facility Improvements Aimed at Enhancing Learning Environments

by Jimmy McPeek, Director of Buildings & Grounds

Last summer, Indian Valley Local Schools completed several facility improvements at Indian Valley High School and Port Washington Elementary aimed at enhancing learning environments and supporting long-term building needs.

At Indian Valley High School, two major facility improvements were completed. The Ohio Floor Company resurfaced the gymnasium floor, added a new floor design, and applied two coats of finish within a three-week timeframe. This marked the first refinishing of the floor in more than ten years and, combined with the LED lighting upgrades completed in recent years, has created a much brighter and more vibrant space for students and the community.

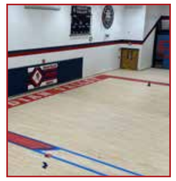
The high school also received a new roofing system. Portions of the original structure were updated to meet current code requirements, including improvements to insulation and roof pitch. New gutters and downspouts were also installed as part of the renovation. These improvements have corrected leaking issues and ponding water on the old roof.

At Port Washington Elementary, a new chiller system was installed after the previous unit sustained significant electrical damage during a spring storm. Due to the age of the system, insurance approved a full replacement. While awaiting the arrival of the new unit in late September, a temporary rental chiller was installed to ensure a comfortable and functional learning environment. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Port Washington staff for their patience and flexibility throughout the process.

Ongoing maintenance at our buildings – including Middle School and Midvale Elementary – this past year have addressed issues such as: HVAC, hot water and water treatment systems, kitchen equipment, and additional roof repairs. Our "new" school buildings are beginning their 20th year of use this August, and we are working hard to keep them looking and functioning like new.

These improvements reflect the district's ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality facilities that support student learning, school pride, and community engagement.

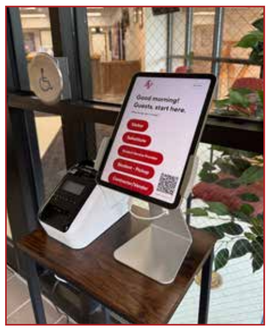



Visitor Management System Installed

by Ayushman Rajvansh, Director of Technology

At Indian Valley the safety and well being of our students, staff and guests is a top priority item. Guided by that mission, we implemented robust new security measures across the district this year, both online and offline. Our district-issued devices are now secured by an advanced, AI-powered web filter that ensures our students remain protected and free of distractions while browsing the web. Out in the real world, we have installed a Visitor Management System at all of our buildings to bolster on-site security.





All visitors are now required to use the check-in station in the vestibule area of our buildings to indicate the purpose of their visit. Guardians picking students up can simply choose the Student Pickup option on the kiosk and remain in the vestibule area while our front desk staff coordinates the rest. Once the information is entered, our new system will check to ensure the person is authorized to pick up the student in question and inform the front desk receptionist accordingly. Student drop off follows a similar procedure.

Visitors seeking entrance into the building, past the vestibule area, are now required to present a valid form of state-issued identification. Once presented, this ID is used to run a background check against state and federal security databases, as well as our own district watchlist. The guest is only allowed entry if the system doesn't flag them as a potential threat. By making this process mandatory for all visitors, including vendors, contractors, student service providers, interviewees, and new staff hires, we aim to create a safer learning environment for our students.

Your cooperation as a community has been invaluable during this transition from pen and paper logbooks to a digital kiosk. We want you to feel entirely confident in your child's safety when you send them to Indian Valley. With your continued support, we will keep making improvements to honor that promise to all our families.

Future-Ready Braves: Innovation in Action

by Brandy Grant, Director of Teaching & Learning

From stepping into future careers to chatting with colonial characters and creating AI-generated media campaigns, Braves students are experiencing innovative learning in exciting new ways. Thanks to a $30,000 TechCred Grant focused on Artificial Intelligence credentialing and professional learning, educators across the district are exploring meaningful ways to integrate innovative technology into teaching and learning.

Earlier this year, participating staff members engaged in hands-on professional learning focused on responsible technology use, student engagement, and innovative instructional strategies. Teachers also gained access to *AI & You!*, a ready-to-use student course introducing AI concepts, digital literacy, and future workforce connections.

Teachers across the district are already applying this learning in authentic classroom experiences. Sixth grade mathematics teachers Julia Kneuss and Lauren Miller created a financial literacy project where students explored careers, salaries, budgeting, taxes, savings, and investments while using technology to visualize future professions and career pathways. Seventh grade social studies teacher Rebecca Hicks has utilized innovative technology to bring history to life through interactive Colonial Regions Character Chats, allowing students to engage with AI-generated historical characters, journal entries, storybooks, and personalized learning experiences.

At the high school level, ninth grade social studies teacher Blair Emler incorporated AI into student-created projects, including promotional pie sale videos and collaborative movie productions.

These experiences continue to help students build creativity, collaboration, communication, and digital literacy skills while preparing Braves for future opportunities beyond the classroom.











Educational Aides: The Heart of Indian Valley

by Megan Heath, Director of Student Services

The educational aides at Indian Valley provide invaluable support that directly impacts student success and school culture. These dedicated professionals work alongside teachers, families, and administrators to create welcoming learning environments where every student can succeed.

Every day, our aides do important work. They provide academic support to students with unique needs, manage classroom materials, and help students move smoothly through daily transitions throughout their school day.

Beyond the classroom, they serve as mentors and encouragers. They offer encouragement when students face challenges and also are there to celebrate their victories. They build strong relationships with students, often becoming trusted adults who help connect home and school. What makes outstanding educational aides special is their genuine care, ability to adapt, and commitment to our students. They show patience during frustrating moments, find creative ways to help different learners, and stay calm and collected when juggling many tasks.

Our aides also help build a positive school culture by encouraging friendships among students, supporting good behavior and creating spaces where all students feel welcome and valued. They go above and beyond comforting an anxious student, organizing materials for upcoming lessons, and being there for all the extras that come up throughout the day.

We are truly grateful for the educational aides throughout the district. Their kindness, hard work, and steady support make a real difference in our students' lives and in our school communities.








Indian Valley High School Launches New B.E.S.T. Day Program to Build Student Leadership and Character

by Robert Clarke, High School Principal

Indian Valley High School is introducing a new student development initiative during the 2025-2026 school year aimed at strengthening character, leadership, and personal growth among the sophomore and junior high school students.

The new program, known as B.E.S.T. Days, is being led by Melanie Glazer and focuses on helping students develop important life skills through lessons inspired by Stephen Covey's well-known book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

The acronym B.E.S.T. stands for **Belonging, Empowerment, Self-Awareness**, and **Teamwork,** four key principles school leaders believe are essential to student success both inside and outside the classroom.

Throughout the school year, students participated in activities, discussions, and lessons designed to encourage positive decision-making, leadership development, communication skills, and personal responsibility. The program also aims to strengthen relationships among students while creating a school culture where every student feels valued and supported.





According to school officials, B.E.S.T. Days were developed to provide students with opportunities to grow socially and emotionally while reinforcing the importance of character and community.

"Programs like B.E.S.T. Days help students understand their value and potential," Mr. Clarke shared. "We want every student to feel connected, empowered, and prepared to become successful leaders in their future careers and communities."

Despite its rural setting and modest size, Indian Valley High School continues to prioritize individualized attention for students. Indian Valley High School focuses on creating an environment where students are known personally by teachers and staff members.

Administrators say the smaller school environment allows programs like B.E.S.T. Days to have a meaningful impact because students are encouraged to build strong relationships with peers and educators while developing confidence in themselves.
The initiative also reflects Indian Valley High School's broader commitment to preparing students for life beyond graduation by focusing not only on academics, but also on leadership, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills.

School officials believe the program will help students recognize that they are part of something greater than themselves.

"At Indian Valley, we aren't just building students," Mr. Clarke said. "We are building the next generation of effective, self-aware leaders." Mr. Clarke would also like to recognize Mrs. Glazer for her hard work, organization, and creativity in bringing the B.E.S.T. Days program from an initial concept to a reality for Indian Valley students. School officials say her dedication and leadership have played a key role in developing meaningful experiences that will positively impact students for years to come. "Mrs. Glazer has invested countless hours into planning and organizing this program," Mr. Clarke said. "Her vision and commitment to our students have helped create opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and connection that truly reflect the values of Indian Valley High School."

High School Industry Tours

by Aaron Haney, High School Assistant Principal

The Indian Valley School District is proud to continue offering Industry Tours that connect our students with real-world career opportunities. Since their launch in 2017, these tours have become an essential part of preparing our students for successful futures.

Each year, sophomores participate in a career interest survey at the beginning of the school year. Using this information, students are matched with industry tours that align with their interests, helping them explore potential career pathways. In addition to tours, we also provide valuable job shadowing opportunities for deeper, hands-on experiences.

Throughout the year, College and Career Navigator Polly Stark works closely with a wide range of industry partners to thoughtfully plan and coordinate these experiences.







Her dedication ensures that students gain meaningful exposure to careers in healthcare, manufacturing, education, public service, and more.

This past year, students visited organizations such as Tusco Manufacturing, Gradall Industries, Allied Machine & Engineering, and ProVia, among many others. These experiences allow students to see workplace environments firsthand, meet professionals, and better understand the skills needed for various careers.

We are grateful for the continued support of our community partners who make these opportunities possible and help inspire the next generation of the Indian Valley workforce

Indian Valley High School Launches New Military Recognition Activities for Students

by Robert Clarke, High School Principal

Indian Valley High School is expanding opportunities for students interested in military service by introducing new activities designed to celebrate and recognize the military enlistment pathway after graduation.

The initiative was inspired and led by Mr. Charles Blake, a preferred substitute teacher at Indian Valley High School whose extensive military background has already made a lasting impact on students throughout the district.
Mr. Blake retired from the United States Army with the rank of E9 Sergeant Major after a distinguished military career. During his service, he was selected for Special Forces training, earned the prestigious Green Beret designation and later served as an instructor within the Special Forces program.

Wanting to share his experiences and help students better understand military opportunities, Mr. Blake proposed the creation of a military club at Indian Valley High School. The club was designed to educate students about military careers, leadership development, scholarship opportunities, and postsecondary pathways connected to military service.

Since the club's formation, students have participated in a variety of hands-on learning experiences and presentations. Mr. Blake organized several guest speakers representing different branches of the military, giving students firsthand insight into military life, enlistment options, and career opportunities. Students also learned about enrolling in ROTC programs while attending college and how those programs can help prepare them for military leadership roles.

In addition to informational sessions, the club has focused on experiential learning. Mr. Blake coordinated a simulated boot camp experience that introduced students to the physical fitness expectations commonly associated with military training. Students also participated in an American flag-folding activity and learned the proper process for respectful flag disposal.

This spring, Indian Valley High School also created its first annual Military Signing Day ceremony to honor graduating seniors committing to military service or military-related programs after graduation. Four students were recognized during the event in front of family members, friends, school staff, and community supporters.

The special guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General Ed Reeder, a two-star general from Fayetteville, North Carolina, who shared words of encouragement and appreciation for the students' commitment to serving their country.

Students honored during the Military Signing Day ceremony included:

- **Dakoda Devore** — United States Navy
- **Grady Kinsey** — United States Air Force Academy
- **Breanna Latella** — United States Army
- **Hunter Stukey** — Military enlistment pathway

Principal Robert Clarke says the new activities not only recognize students who choose military enlistment after graduation but also help educate the entire student body about the discipline, service, and leadership connected to military careers.

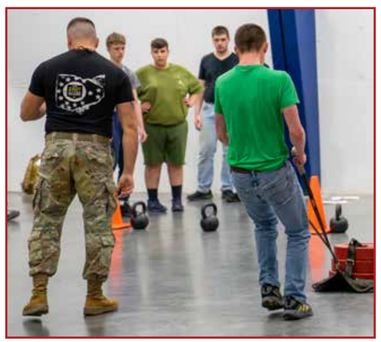
Indian Valley High School administrators praised Mr. Blake for his dedication to students and his commitment to expanding opportunities for young people considering service to their country.

The military club is already planning future community projects, including a "Field of Flags" display for Veterans Day to honor local veterans and active military members. Community members interested in supporting the project may donate through the following fundraiser:
IVHS Military Club Field of Flags – Fundraising for Disabled American Veterans

Through these new programs, Indian Valley High School continues to support multiple post-graduation pathways while honoring those who choose to serve in the armed forces.







Indian Valley High School Implements Clifton Strengths-Finder Program with 9th Grade Students

by Robert Clarke, High School Principal

Indian Valley High School introduced the Clifton StrengthsFinder program during the 2025–2026 school year, providing freshmen with an opportunity to better understand their natural talents while applying those strengths through hands-on activities and community involvement.

At the start of the school year, all ninth-grade students completed the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment, which identifies each student's top five unique strengths from a list of 34 talent traits. Among the strengths students may discover are Achiever, Strategic, Learner, Communication, Empathy, Discipline, Relator, and Analytical.

The talent traits are organized into four broader domains that help students recognize how they naturally approach tasks and relationships:

- **Executing** — getting things done
- **Influencing** — persuading and leading
- **Relationship Building** — connecting with others
- **Strategic Thinking** — analyzing and planning

The program was organized this year by freshman grade-level leader Mr. Blair Emler, who developed a variety of projects and activities designed to help students utilize their dominant strength domains in meaningful ways throughout the school year.





Students participated in several collaborative and service-oriented projects, including creating a haunted school bus for the high school's Trunk-or-Treat event for elementary students, making chocolate-covered pretzels for local nursing home residents, and writing personal notes and letters to accompany the treats. Freshmen also worked together to organize and conduct a class pie sale fundraiser.

According to school officials, the activities were designed to allow students to see how their individual strengths contribute to teamwork, leadership, creativity, organization, and communication in real-world situations.

"The program gives students the opportunity to recognize what they naturally do well and apply those talents in positive ways," Emler said. "It also helps students understand how different strengths work together to accomplish a common goal."

Indian Valley administrators say the StrengthsFinder initiative supports the school's broader effort to help students build confidence, leadership abilities, and career readiness early in their high school experience.

Plans are already underway to expand the program during the 2026–2027 school year. Future goals include helping students gain a deeper understanding of their individual top five strengths and exploring how those traits may connect to future careers and professions in which they are naturally suited to excel.

Student-Created Photo Backdrop Leaves Lasting Legacy at Indian Valley High School



by Robert Clarke, High School Principal

What began as a simple idea from a retiring teacher has transformed into a lasting symbol of pride, creativity, and student achievement at Indian Valley High School.

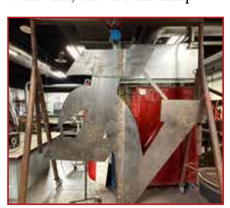
Mrs. Polly Stark, senior class advisor and longtime educator at Indian Valley, wanted to create a special photo backdrop that students and alumni could enjoy for years to come. As Mrs. Stark prepares to retire after 33 years of teaching, she envisioned a project that would leave a meaningful legacy for future generations of Braves.

After sharing her vision with Mr. Lestock, the high school metals instructor, the idea quickly gained momentum. Mr. Lestock introduced Mrs. Stark to two students, Audri Harding and Allie Watson, who were searching for a challenging project to complete during the school year.

When Mrs. Stark explained her concept, both young ladies immediately embraced the opportunity.

Together, Audri and Allie took the project from concept to completion. The students designed, measured, cut, constructed, and welded the entire backdrop themselves. Their impressive creation features the iconic IV logo and stands an incredible 7 feet, 11 inches tall and wide, with a depth of just over 2 feet. The finished structure weighs more than 400 pounds.

The project not only showcased the students' technical and artistic skills but also demonstrated dedication, teamwork, and craftsmanship.



Audri and Allie expressed tremendous pride in what they accomplished together, while Mrs. Stark shared how excited she was to see her original vision transformed into a centerpiece that students will enjoy for years to come.

"This is something that future students and alumni can gather around, take pictures with, and feel proud of," Mrs. Stark said.

Indian Valley Local Schools would also like to recognize Steve Mitchell and the employees of USP Signs and Graphics for donating professional custom paintwork that helped complete the installation and bring the project to life.

The IV logo backdrop now stands as more than just a photo display — it represents school spirit, student talent, and the lasting impact educators and students can make when working together.

Thank you to Mrs. Polly Stark, Audri Harding, and Allie Watson for creating a beautiful art installation that will leave a lasting legacy at Indian Valley High School for generations of students to enjoy.

Art Students Excel

by Sara Dittfeld, High School Art Teacher

Indian Valley High School art students demonstrated exceptional artistic achievement at the 2026 Northeast Ohio Scholastic Art Awards, earning an impressive total of seventy-five honors, including a National Silver Medal in Photography, three Gold Key Portfolios, eight Gold Keys, nineteen Silver Keys, and forty-five Honorable Mentions. Among the most notable accomplishments, senior Lily Johnson received a National Silver Medal in Photography, placing her in the top 1% of students selected for Scholastics nationwide.

Indian Valley High School art students also earned significant recognition in the 56th Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition, with eight works selected for the state show. Senior art student Melody Sprowl's painting was chosen to represent District 51 in the Ohio House of Representatives High School Student Art Exhibition at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in Columbus, where it will be displayed for two years. Sprowl also had an animation selected from a statewide competition for the COSI museum, where it is currently on display with the museum's Pixar exhibit.

Senior Ashlynn Bolon was the Tuscarawas County Art Guild's county selection for their annual scholarship and also earned first place in the Tuscarawas County High School Art Exhibition. Melody Sprowl was additionally selected as a 2026 Tuscarawas Arts Partnership senior art scholarship winner.

Indian Valley art teacher Sara Dittfeld received a national award from the Scholastic Art Awards and was also nominated for Arts Educator of the Year by the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership.















Congratulations!
Class of 2026
Where they are headed



Jocelyn Adam
Employed
Pirl and Co. Salon
Cosmetologist



Brock Albright
Employed
Utility Lineworker



Elektra Arnold
Employed
Undecided



Taylor Bair
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Finance



Olivia Bamfield
Enrolled
West Virginia University
Wildlife and Fishery Resources



Deagan Beaber
Enrolled
Malone University
Nursing



Seth Beaber
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Undecided



Teegan Benson
Employed
ProVia



Baylee Berlyak
Enrolled
Kent State University
Interior Design/Architecture



Carson Blumenauer
Employed
Auto Collision



Ashlynn Bolon
Enrolled
Ohio University
Graphic Design



Arian Braun
Employed
Energy Operations/
Heavy Equipment Operator



Madison Brown
Enrolled
Ohio University
Biology/Animal Science



Zacariah Carpenter
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Game Design



Lily Cecil
Employed
Blush and Company
Hairstylist



Lucas Cross
Employed
First Class Transport
Diesel Mechanic



Dakoda Devore
Enlisted
United States Navy
Nuclear propulsion systems



Cale Dinger
Employed
Battle Cattle Co.
Farmhand



Amanda Domer
Employed
Auto Technology



Aubrey Elliott
Enrolled
Ohio University
Wildlife and Conservation Biology



Aubrie Fawcett
Enrolled
Kent State University
Nursing



Dakota Ferguson
Employed
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken
Cook



Breanna Flickinger
Employed
Thee Signature Salon
Cosmetologist



Hayden Freeland
Employed
Owner/operator of J&S Camping
Adventures/Construction



Makenna Freeman
Employed
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Cadet Candidate Program



Ryker Gambs
Employed
ProVia, Strasburg



Mason Gano
Enrolled
Bowling Green State University
Music Education



Sarah Gardner
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Social Work



Ashlyn Gerstung
Employed
Park Village Health Care Center
PCA



Jayden Gibson
Employed
Dollar General
Customer Service



Rachel Glazer
Enrolled
Muskingum University
Integrated Social Studies/Music



Rose Glazer
Enrolled
Muskingum University
Journalism



Hunter Goedel
Employed
Loyal Excavating
Truck Driver/Laborer



Nathan Gordon
Enrolled
Zoo and Wildlife Biology



Gavin Green-Stringer
Employed
Masonry



Dillon Gunn
Employed
American Line Builders
Apprenticeship and Training (ALBAT)



Azalie Halman
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Criminal and Justice Studies



Koy Haney
Enrolled
Walsh University
Biology/Pre-Medicine



Ethan Harrington
Employed
Olde Towne Tavern
Kitchen Staff



Grayson Heath
Employed
Hilscher-Clarke Electric
Pre-Fabrication Electrician



Brenden Mahaffey
Employed
Taco Bell
Service Champion



Bayli McConnell
Enrolled
Ashland University
Accounting



Ashton McCreery
Employed
Electrical Systems and
Construction Technology



Austin McCreery
Employed
ProVia Strasburg
Bander



Rene McKinney
Enrolled
The Ohio State University
Architecture



Reid Heller
Employed
Trinity Twin City Hospital
Security



Rayden Henry
Employed
ProVia, Walnut Creek



Winter Hilson
Employed
Park Village Health Care Center
CNA



Nathan Hunter
Employed
ProVia, Strasburg



Lily Johnson
Enrolled
Bowling Green State University
Theatre



Addisen McPeek
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



Logan McPeek
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Business Management



Garry McTavisch
Employed
Utility Lineworker



Brody Meade
Employed
ProVia Strasburg



Alexie Menefee
Enrolled
West Virginia University
Forest Resources and Conservation



Robert Jones
Employed
Tuscarawas County Road and
Bridge Department - Laborer



Natalie Kerns
Enrolled
Buckeye Career Center Adult
Education - Nail Technician



Grady Kinsey
Enrolled
The United States Airforce Academy
Management



Kennedy Kreider
Enrolled
Ohio University
Social Work



Breeanna Latella
Enlisted
United States Army



Haylie Menefee
Enrolled
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Biological Engineering



Cassie Miceli
Enrolled
College of Central Florida
Ocala Campus
Equine Massage Therapy



Charles Morris
Employed
Energy Operations



Jacob Moss
Employed
Brandywine Construction



Addison Nalley
Enrolled
University of Mount Union



Brooklyn Lehigh
Employed
A Cut Above Salon
Nail Technician



Logan Long
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Business Management



Carter Love
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



Aubrey Lute
Employed
Bob Evans Restaurant
Hostess/Cashier



Braxton Lynch
Employed
Brotherhood HVAC
HVAC Service Technician



Torie Napier
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



Kooper Naylor
Employed
Olde Towne Tavern



Carter Neff
Employed
Superior Tank and Trailer



Broderick Nelisse
Employed
Hilscher-Clarke Electric
Electrician



Brogan O'Connor
Employed
Precision One Windows

INDIAN VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS - COMMUNITY CONNECTION SUMMER 2026



Nikolas Ohler
Employed
R & J Cylinder and Machine
Welder



Terry Ore
Employed
Taco Bell
Crew Member



Sophia Otte
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Nursing



Entrinity Parrish
Employed
Jersey Mike's Subs
Manager



Mairen Pauley
Enrolled
Dominican University
Accounting



Monica Pauley
Enrolled
Hope College
Music Performance &
Pre-Medicine



Jadyn Petry
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Information Technology



Rowan Piccin
Enrolled
Ohio University
Health and Physical Education



Xander Radcliff
Employed
Brotherhood HVAC
HVAC Technician



Ridge Reichman
Employed
ProVia Strasburg
Bander



Cadyn Riggs
Employed
Rock Bottom Solutions
Landscaping



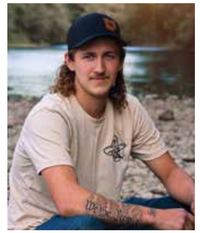
Camryn Robinson
Employed
Independent Tattoo Artist



Kylee Rogers
Employed
Park Village Health Care Center



Landen Schindler
Employed
ProVia, Strasburg



Joshua Shank
Employed
Panhandle Oil and Gas



Nicholas Shaw
Enrolled
Kent State University Tuscarawas
Engineering Technology



Grady Shepherd
Enrolled
The Ohio State University Newark
Computer Science - Cybersecurity



Landon Shepherd
Employed
Beaver Constructors
Construction



Abigail Simmerman
Enrolled
Malone University
Psychology



Avery Simmerman
Employed
Utility Lineworker



Jordan Spillman
Employed
ProVia, Strasburg



Melody Sprowl
Enrolled
West Liberty University
Art Education



Jacquelynn Steiner
Employed
Park Village Health Care Center
STNA



Hunter Stukey
Enlisted
United States Air Force



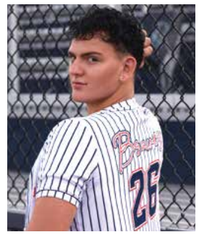
Chandler Sullivan
Employed
Indian Valley Schools
Custodian



Rylee Sutton
Enrolled
The Ohio State University Newark
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Anthony Swaney
Enrolled
West Liberty University
English: Rhetoric and Writing



Adam Thomas
Employed
Park Village Health Care Center
CNA



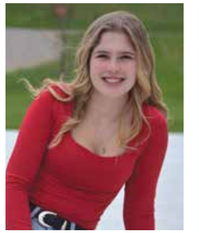
Ginna Thornton
Enrolled
West Liberty University
Psychology



Deakin Trimmer
Employed
ProVia, Strasburg



Kyler Vosick
Employed
Utility Lineworker



Sienna Warfield
Enrolled
Kent State University
Diagnostic Sonography



Elisabella Weaver
Enrolled
Kent State University
Tuscarawas
Finance



Abigail West
Employed
Culinary Arts



Caidyn White
Employed
ProVia



Jacob Williams
Employed/Enlisted
Built Brother Construction
Utility Lineworker/United States
Army - Aviation Mechanic



Hayden Wilson
Enrolled
Kent State University
Tuscarawas
Early Childhood Education



Kiya Wilson
Employed
ProVia



Cadek Wood
Employed
Dollar General
Sales Associate



Lucas Woods
Employed
Tappan Lakeside
Shift Lead, Groundskeeper

Cassidy Wright
Enrolled
Lansing Community College
Conservation and
Sustainability

Jaylyn Young
Employed
Information Technology

Indian Valley Athletes “Build The Brand”

by Zach Golec, Athletic Director

The mantra of Indian Valley Athletics is to “Build the Brand” and our student-athletes most definitely lived up to that. With a plethora of team and individual successes our district was recognized statewide for stellar performances. Once again, without the support of Braves Nation, none of this would be possible. Everywhere we go our district shows up in waves for our student-athletes and it does not go unnoticed.

Highlighting the year in team sports were both our football and boys golf teams who made it to the state tournament in their respective sports. Our football team lost a tough game in the state semifinal to the eventual state champions, capping a magical two year run. The boys golf team made history as they won a district championship and also placed 5th at the state tournament behind All-Ohio performances from Hayden Beaber and Brody Meade. Collectively, our athletic teams were IVC Champions or Runners-Up nine times throughout the year.

Individually, there were a plethora of accomplishments from our student-athletes, but one that has never happened in our district or county before was Grady Kinsey winning the Mr. Football Award in the state of Ohio. This is only the third time this prestigious award has seen a winner from either Eastern or Southeastern Ohio. Along with shattering many school and state records, Grady also received the Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year Award.

Our student-athletes did not only shine on the playing surface, but were leaders in the classroom as well. Between Academic All-Ohioans, IVC Scholarship Winners and IVC Scholar-Athlete award winners, there were over 20 of our student-athletes who received recognition which is a true testament to our district as a whole.

Carsen Hostetler capped off the Braves 2025-2026 athletic campaign as state champion in the 300 meter hurdles at the OHSAA Division 3 State Track & Field Championships. This phenomenal performance came shortly after he earned All-Ohio honors by placing 3rd in the 110 meter high hurdles. It should also be noted that at the regional championship meet, Hostetler posted the second fastest 300 meter hurdle time in Ohio this season, regardless of division.

We could not be more proud of our student-athletes who were able to “Build the Brand” through competition, in the classroom and in the community.

GO BRAVES !!!!









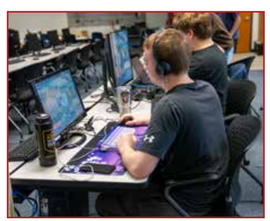
E-Sports and Clay Sports Highlights 2025-2026

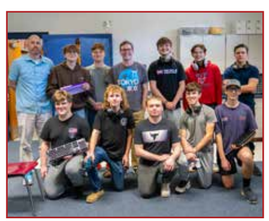
by Zach Golec, Athletic Director

The Indian Valley Athletic Department is pleased to announce the addition of esports and Clay Sports for the 2025-2026 school year. Both of these have been approved by the Indian Valley Board of Education and competition will begin in the fall.

Esports has two seasons throughout the year. There will be a two month season in the fall and then a small break with a second season beginning mid-winter and running through the spring. Indian Valley will be participating in the E-Sports Ohio league. Esports Ohio is an educational nonprofit esports organization.

The Clay Sports team will be participating in the Ohio High School Clay Target League. The League is an extracurricular coed and adaptive activity for safety-certified student athletes. They will also operate during two different seasons: one in the fall and one in the spring.







Both esports and Clay Sports will be operating from their designated home location the majority of the time and sending in scores to their respective organizations. Sign-ups exceeded our expectations, and we’re thrilled to launch these exciting new opportunities for our students.

Cultivating Compassion: Indian Valley Middle School’s Advisory Philanthropy

by Trent Couts, Middle School Assistant Principal

At Indian Valley Middle School, education extends far beyond the state standards. Through their Advisory classes, students are learning the impact of community service by engaging in monthly philanthropy projects.

These hands-on initiatives not only support a variety of important causes but also foster deep empathy and teamwork among the student body.



Each month, the Advisory classes take on a new challenge to ensure a wide reach of support. During the holidays, students craft heartfelt Christmas Cards for Nursing Home patients, bringing joy to the elderly. They also show gratitude to deployed military personnel by gathering Treats for Troops.

Health and wellness are major focuses, demonstrated by their Change for the Cure coin drives and their highly successful Bake Sales for the United Way. When the weather turns cold, students actively collect/make Blankets for the Homeless and the Humane Society, providing vital warmth to vulnerable people and shelter pets alike.

The students’ creativity in giving is truly remarkable. To support inclusive recreation, they collect used baseball gear for the Challenger Baseball program. In one of their most uniquely thoughtful initiatives, students gather quarters for the homeless, specifically so they can easily do their own laundry with dignity.



Through these diverse, monthly projects, Indian Valley Middle School is doing more than just helping those in need—they are actively shaping the next generation of compassionate, community-minded citizens.

Indian Valley Middle School Goes Back-to-Back to Win 2026 Tuscarawas County Math Tournament

by Brent Carter, Middle School Principal

IVMS goes back to back in the 2026 Tuscarawas County Math Tournament! IVMS defended our county math team championship in dominant fashion this school year with a number of IVMS students placing first!



The math tournament is organized by the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center and brings together students in grades 5 through 8 across all school districts in our county.

Participants compete in multiple rounds covering all anchor math standards covered in Ohio public schools. The school that accumulates the most points in all categories is the winner of the coveted John Evanosky Trophy, which will shine bright at IVMS for another year. Placing first in 8th grade for the Braves were Jack Kinsey, Olivia McMillen, Blake Bickford and Evan Gray. 7th grade students who placed first were Zayne Kukwa and Legend Portillo. First place finishers in grade 6 were Kinsey Walker and Avery McCoy. The Braves also had 23 students placing 2nd through 6th place in various categories!

We are very proud of our students who participated and placed! We are also very appreciative of our IVMS math teachers for their hard work with our students throughout this school year!



Port Washington Elementary Celebrates Outstanding School Year

by Troy Page, Port Washington Elementary School Principal

Port Washington Elementary had a tremendous 2025-2026 school year and once again earned a 5-Star Award from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Our tradition of each grade level inviting family members in for a family engagement activity during the school year continued. Students always enjoy this opportunity of sharing school with a loved one.

The accelerated reader (AR) program continued to grow. The AR program allows students to earn points for taking comprehension quizzes over the books they read. This year, Port students passed 50,764 quizzes and earned 31,309 points. At the end of the year, students in grades K-2 get to pick a prize with the students who have earned the most points getting to pick first. Students in grades 3-5 had an auction to spend their points on unbelievable prizes.

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 also earned throughout the year. This year's building rewards included: picnic lunch outside, Jim "Basketball" Jones Assembly, Glow Dance Party and Root Beer Floats with extra recess. Students earned more than 14,392 Port Pride Passes during the school year!







In partnership with OhioGuidestone, the Takin' It To The Schools program continued for our 4th and 5th grade students. This program provided 7 sessions throughout the year to help improve our student's social and emotional well-being.

As always, the Port PTO was very active throughout the year and provided our students many special events including: Santa's Workshop, Father/Daughter Dance and the annual Spring Carnival.

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, practicing their math facts and keeping up with homework, they always step-up when volunteers are needed for the special activities students are provided at the school. We can't wait to see what the 2026-2027 school year brings and what new opportunities we can provide our students.

Port Washington Students Travel "Off Campus"

by Troy Page, Port Washington Elementary School Principal

The 2025-2026 school year was Port Washington's year to take grade level field trips. This opportunity rotates each year between Midvale and Port Washington which helps ensure all students get the opportunity to learn 'off-campus' at least a few times during their elementary years.

Our Kindergarten and 3rd grade students traveled to Deerasic Park Education Center in Cambridge. The 3rd grade students went in the fall and the kindergarten students went in the spring. Both groups of students got to connect with the outdoors through activities and recreation that hopefully developed a better appreciation of the outdoors for our students.

Our 1st grade students traveled to the Kent-Tusc Performing Arts Center in New Philadelphia for a performance by the singing zoologist in which they learned about life cycles of plants and animals through song.



Our 2nd grade students traveled to the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum in Canton. The students experienced the planetarium along with other exhibits and demonstrations that help bring history and science to life.

Our 4th grade students traveled to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. This is always a favorite of the football fans but also the science gurus. The movement and motion presentation related force / push & pull to football experiences. In addition, teamwork is highlighted which reinforces part of Port's daily announcements of 'always being part of the team.'

The 5th graders traveled to Coshocton and visited Historic Rosco Village. They had the opportunity to do some hands-on learning to bring history to life. Unfortunately, the canal boat ride had to be cancelled due to the lack of rain in the fall but it was still a great adventure for our kids.

Midvale Year in Review: From Halloween Parades to Carnival Kicks

by Ryan Wells, Midvale Elementary School Principal

As the 2025-2026 school year winds down, we can officially report that Midvale students have consumed their weight in popcorn, mastered the workforce, and casually made history.

The absolute peak of the spring semester was the annual Spring Carnival. Families flooded the grounds for a day of high-stakes carnival games and heavy family engagement.

The real MVP of the day? The popcorn machine, which worked harder than a student the night before finals. But the fun did not just start in the spring. This year was packed with community spirit, starting all the way back in October with our massive Halloween Parade at Kelley Field. Families gathered to watch an amazing display of costumes, proving Midvale's family engagement is a year-round event.

Meanwhile, we kept our eyes on the future. The 2025-2026 calendar saw the continuation of the beloved Buckeye Career Day, sparking big ambitions in our future professionals. We also hit a major milestone as we celebrated the grand 250th anniversary of the United States this year. For the occasion, we welcomed special guests—including past teachers—who came to Midvale to share the incredible history of how our town connected to the Statue of Liberty.

We wrapped it all up by crushing Right to Read Week. Embracing the theme LEADERS, the school welcomed Indian Valley staff, energetic IVHS students, and our local law enforcement officers to read to classrooms. It's been a legendary, historic year to be a Midvale Difference Maker!





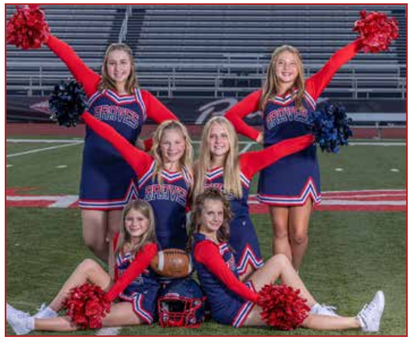








THE YEAR IN PICTURES

















INDIAN VALLEY 2025 - 2026















INDIAN VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bob Hall, President
Eric Kinsey, Vice President
Michele Carlisle
Kelsey Kochman-Davis
Travis Stocker

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 3	6th Grade Orientation-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 4	Midvale Kindergarten Open House-8:15 a.m.
Tuesday, August 4	7th & 8th Grade Schedule Night-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 5	Fall Sports Parent Meeting in the High School Gym-6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 6	Port Washington Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Meeting-6:30 p.m.
Monday, August 10	Teacher In-Service Day
Monday, August 10	Midvale Open House-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11	Teacher Workday
Tuesday, August 11	Port Washington Open House-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 12	First Student Day
Monday, August 17	Buckeye Career Center First Day of School
Thursday, August 20	High School Fall Picture Day
Thursday, August 20	Middle School Fall Picture Day
Wednesday, August 26	8th Grade Washington D.C. Parent Meeting-6:30 p.m.
Monday, September 7	Labor Day- No School
Friday, September 11	Port Washington Fall Picture Day
Monday, September 14	Midvale Fall Picture Day
Friday, September 25	Teacher In-Service Day-No School
Saturday, October 3	IVHS Homecoming Dance-7:00 p.m.

www.ivschools.org

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