



# COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,  
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

[www.covington.k12.oh.us](http://www.covington.k12.oh.us)

February 2020

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FFA Participates in Job Interview Contest

by Jessica Helsinger

In November, the entire Covington-UVCC FFA Chapter participated in a Job Interview Contest. The students followed the Ohio FFA Career Development Event guidelines for the event. The high school students completed a written job application, created a resume, wrote a cover letter, and participated in a one-on-one personal job interview. Following the interview, the students wrote a follow-up letter. The students had to select a career from ten different fictitious job listings in the agricultural field that represented all sectors of agriculture.

Job Interview divisions are designated based upon grade and years of experience in agriculture. Mara Newhouse won the chapter freshman division, Connor Sindelir won the sophomore division, and Elizabeth Randall won the senior division. First year member, senior Morgan Lowe, won the beginning category, and won the district competition. Junior Tori Quinter won the division level and the district level.

On December 7th, Tori Quinter traveled to the Ohio State University Ag. Engineering Building to compete in the State Job Interview Contest. After completing all aspects of the contest again, including an online application, Tori placed second in the entire state! Congratulations to Tori on this accomplishment and all of the students who competed. Covington is a satellite program of the Upper Valley Career Center. The National Organization works to develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.



From left to right: Morgan Lowe,  
Tori Quinter, Connor Sindelir,  
Elizabeth Randall, and Mara Newhouse.

## Covington Business Professionals of America Chapter

by Lauren King, student

On December 10, 2019, Covington High School's Business Professionals of America Chapter competed for the first time at the Region 3 BPA Competition. We recently attended the Region 3 BPA Awards Ceremony in Greenville on January 7th, 2020. It was a successful day for Covington Buccaneers.

There were six individuals who competed and placed in the top six. Zach Kuntz placed sixth in Business Meeting Management Test. David McCool placed sixth in PC Support & Troubleshooting. Carter Maxson placed fifth in Interview Skills. Emma Nash placed fourth in Extemporaneous Speech. Emma Naff placed third in Interview Skills. Kayla Mitchell placed first in Prepared Speech and will be advancing on to the state competition!

There were five teams who competed and placed in the top six. Avery Rench, Cooper Jay, Kyle Meyer, and Zane Barhorst placed second in Broadcast News Production Team. Claire Fraley, Lauren King, and Summer Anderson placed second in Presentation Management Team. These next three teams all placed first and will be advancing onto the state competition! Noah Kuntz and Corey Marion in Video Production Team. Garret Fraley, Gavin Fraley, Kody Nelson, and Caleb Miller in Administrative Support Team. Ayden Rench and Andrew Parker in Small Business Management Team. Congratulation to all competitors for all their hard work, and good luck to the four events advancing on to State!

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## It's Time 2 Organization

by Bridgit Kerber

On Monday, January 10th, students in grades 7-12 heard a presentation by Dr. Brian Ceccarelli, a former successful, local orthopedic surgeon turned student advocate, and founder of the ITSTIME2.org movement. Dr. Ceccarelli made the surprising switch to non-profit work because he felt called to serve youth in the Dayton area during the recent crisis of the opioid epidemic, and retired from his long-time practice to reach out to young people through the local schools. Mother Teresa claimed, "I cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to make many ripples," and that seems to be what Dr. Ceccarelli is doing - making ripples of change happen one school at a time through his student support organization since his presentation was seen by over 10,000 students in 2019.

Dr. Ceccarelli's message is one that focuses on ways students can become the solution to the problem of bullying. Instead of focusing on the negative, he talks about loving our neighbors, choosing to be on the side of good, and making the decision every day to do the right thing, and the long-term outcomes of our choices. He brought with him Jessica and Sam who have, after difficult times in their lives, embraced the message of ITSTIME2, and who shared their stories of personal struggle. Each of them served as a reality check to students regarding the long-term affects our words can have on others, and the importance of reaching out for help when we feel alone.

Students were challenged to choose to #bethesolution they want to see in their community and school, and given advice about ways that they can make choices that will have positive effects on each other. Dr. Ceccarelli even gave each member of the student body and staff a bracelet to wear that says "ITSTIME2SHOWBUCCPRIDE" as a reminder that our Buccaneer culture accepts others and promotes positive relationships. He challenged students to "put on that bracelet every day, and really think about what it means to show Bucc Pride by supporting others, and not tearing them down."

For more information about the organization, visit [www.itstime2.org](http://www.itstime2.org).

## Kindergarten Registration 2020/2021

by Josh Long

Covington Elementary School is planning for our 2020-2021 Kindergarten registration. Once again, we will be combining the registration, screening, and the results of the screening, so that parents need only come to the school one time. Kindergarten Registration and Screening will be held the days of April 1st and 2nd.

Any child who will be five on or before August 1, 2020, is eligible to attend Kindergarten. Parents need to call the Covington Elementary School at 473-2252 to schedule your child's screening/registration time. On the day of your appointment, please allow one and one-half hours; you will need to bring your child's certified birth certificate, record of immunizations, proof of residency and custodial papers (if applicable). Please call the school at 473-2252 if you have any questions regarding registration and to set up a specific time to register your child(ren).

Kindergarten teachers, Mr. Heffelfinger, Mrs. Pohlman, and Mrs. Reck will be available to respond to questions.

Please Note: A parent or legal guardian must be present during the kindergarten registration and screening process.

## FFA Competes in Parliamentary Procedure Contest

by Jessica Helsinger

On December 4th, the Covington-UVCC FFA Chapter competed in the District Parliamentary Procedure contest held at Greenville High School. This contest is designed to teach FFA members the proper techniques of running a meeting and handling items of business.

In the novice division students must be 7th, 8th, or 9th grade. Chairpersons were Ryan Rohr and Teylor Meyer; other members on the team included Mic Barhorst, Lillian Hughes, Charles Morrison, Brett Webb, Trey Kiser and Vanessa Ashburn. Morgan Kimmel was the chair for the advanced team for upperclassmen; team members included Haylie Jackson, Cooper Jay, Morgan Lowe, Brock Barga, and Ella Warner.

Both teams competed in the district contest and learned a lot through the entire experience.

## Job and Career Planning Tool Available to AI

by Karen Brackman

Teachers and school counselors have a useful online tool to guide students through job and career exploration. OhioMeansJobs K-12 is a free career planning resource that focuses on opportunities available in Ohio.

This resource allows students to create a profile of their interests relevant to setting career goals and practice for several tests including ACT, SAT, and Accuplacer. It also provides career information, a plan and a budget for education and training, and current data on possible occupations and potential salaries. Students can access all of these tools and more on the website: [www.OhioMeansJobs.com](http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com).

In addition to being useful in the school setting, this website offers numerous resources to recent graduates and other adults looking to further their education or establish new employment. For example, each month, a list of job openings in Miami County is generated from the data in Ohio Means Jobs and can be accessed in the guidance office at Covington High School. Further, the site design is current, recently launching updates that include mobile-friendly pages and a new landing page to better serve its users.

For anyone looking for simply a small part-time job to planning a life career, this site provides a wealth of information to help in that job search.

## PTO D.C. Fundraiser

by Josh Long

Students were recently rewarded for selling items for the Washington D.C. fundraiser. We transported 40 students, by limousine, to the Piqua Pizza Hut for lunch. The students enjoyed their fancy ride and consumed a large amount of pizza.





## Josh Meyer, 7-12 Principal

As we progress through the winter months I'd like to bring the Covington community up to speed on what our 7-12 students have been up to recently.

In late December, prior to Christmas break, students in grade 9-12 completed their first semester exams. The second semester began in mid-January and with that came several schedule changes to semester classes that our students and staff have handled very well.

Students in the Business Professionals of America chapter, led by Miss Fick and Mrs. Anderson, competed at their Regional contest and nine of our students qualified for the State competition later this year. Mrs. Young and the FCCLA chapter collected over 275 stuffed toys, hats and gloves for needy children at the "Teddy Bear Toss" held at the boys' basketball game against Franklin-Monroe in December. Also, the students in National Honor Society conducted the annual Canned Food Drive and collected 1,550 canned food items for area food banks. Thank you to those students and Mrs. Schmitz for organizing and carrying out a worthwhile activity.

At the 7th and 8th grade level, students attended a movie the last day before Christmas break as a reward for their hard work and diligence during the first semester. They also held a Spirit Week the week before Christmas break with theme days. Many students participated in these activities and it was a great way to end the month of December.

One area that our 7-12 students and staff have focused on since returning from Christmas break has been to reinforce our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) expectations. We have been reinforcing and re-teaching expected behaviors around the school building, including hallways, classrooms and cafeteria. Our hope is to continue to teach our students positive behaviors that they can use outside the school building as well.

Lastly, our maintenance and custodial staff performed several updates and preventative maintenance tasks over Christmas break, along with deep cleaning of many areas of the building. Thank you to those individuals for their hard work!

Frequently at this time of year we are dealing with winter weather issues. Please check the District Facebook and Twitter pages for updates regarding school delays and closings. If you have a young driver in your household please remind them to drive safely and allow

extra time to arrive at their destination during inclement weather. Also, if you have not subscribed to the "One Call" system to receive notifications please do so. Go Buccs!

## High School Student Educational Options for 2020-2021 School Year

by Karen Brackman

This is the time of year that students are beginning to plan academic courses and programs for next school year. In this day and age—even in a small school—there are several options for students to select from to attain their high school diploma and prepare for their future goals.

Students who are considering attending the **Upper Valley Career Center** next school year are currently submitting their applications. The application process is available online for these students. To be accepted, students need to qualify as a junior for the upcoming school year and need to have earned a minimum of 7 credits, including one credit in math, one in English, one in social studies, and one in science. Students who have not yet applied still can up until the beginning of next school year; however, many programs at the UVCC do fill up, so waiting can limit options.

Further, another program available to students is **College Credit Plus**. This program encourages students to attain college credits throughout their high school experience. Numerous rules, guidelines, requirements, and deadlines apply to this program, so all students and parents interested in participating in this program next year *need* to attend the annual informational meeting at the high school. This meeting is planned for **Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

Lastly, Ms. Brackman, the guidance counselor at the high school, will be meeting beginning in February with students in current grades 8-11 and having them **sign up for classes for next year**. All eighth grade parents are asked to sign off on their students' course selections, as it is their first year of high school and, in some subject areas, their selections can determine their academic path over the four years. The upperclassmen are given instruction as to their required courses for graduation and then permitted to select their own electives. All students are encouraged to discuss their course selections with their parents.

Given all the increased options for earning high school credit, careful

planning on the student's part is more important than ever. Further information on the programs mentioned above and other credit flexibility learning options can be obtained by viewing Covington High School's website. Questions regarding any of the above information can be directed to Karen Brackman, guidance counselor, at the high school.

## Spaghetti Supper

by Karen Brackman

The annual Covington High School Spaghetti Supper will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Serving times will be from 4:30-6:30 in the new K-8 school cafeteria. All proceeds from the dinner go into the Covington Schools Scholarship Fund Program.

The menu features all-you-can-eat Italian spaghetti and garlic toast. The meal also includes homemade cole slaw, dessert, and a drink. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, and \$3 for children under 12. Carryout orders will also be available.

As we have done the past few years, a CHS music concert will also be held at the high school gym that evening beginning at 7:00. All community members are invited to attend both events.

Also, the community scholarship fund drive is underway. Many individuals and organizations have continuously been supportive of this cause throughout the years. For instance, last year, we were able to award over \$78,000 in scholarships to the Class of 2019.

This scholarship program began at Covington in the mid-1980's; thus over the years, approximately 645 Covington graduates have benefited from this program. If you were one of those fortunate scholarship recipients, please consider "giving back" and showing your appreciation by supporting the Class of 2020. Donations to the scholarship fund should be sent to Karen Brackman at Covington High School, 807 Chestnut St., Suite A, Covington, Ohio 45318, through March 20, 2020. For more information, call 937-473-2856.

The community's continued support is greatly appreciated!

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

by Josh Long

Parent teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 13, from 1:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will have a two-hour early dismissal that day for all students. **There will be no school for all grades on Friday, February 14.**

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## **A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding**

### **Winter Walking Hours**

The school building is open for walking hours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:15 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. during the winter months. District residents are invited to use the hallways and gymnasiums to walk during these times. Door 28 will be unlocked at 6:15 and will remain open for the entire hour. Unfortunately, due to our many winter events (such as basketball games and practices, wrestling matches, Drama Club practices, youth sports, etc.) we cannot offer set evening hours. If evenings are the only times that work for you, please feel free to contact Mr. Long or Mr. Meyer and they will work with you to provide a suitable time for you to use the facility.

### **Projects and Upgrades**

When track season begins, you will notice new steps leading into the Smith Field home bleachers. The old steps were too steep, and many visitors to our facility had trouble entering and exiting the bleachers. The new steps have a much more gradual incline, and will make it safer and more comfortable for our fans to enter and exit the stadium.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Miami County Foundation, each of our buses is now equipped with a radio. These new radios will allow us to communicate effectively with our bus drivers in the rare case of an emergency. They will also improve the routine communication between our buses, our school offices, and our administrators. Thank you Miami County Foundation for your continued support!

During mid-January, the baseball backstop was replaced. The old backstop had been in place since the field was constructed and was certainly showing its age. The four-foot fences in front of each dugout were also replaced with six-foot high fences. These new, higher fences will keep the players from both teams safe from any foul ball that heads toward the dugout.

I am sure you have noticed that the CHS entry sign has been standing in a half-completed state for a few months now. Unfortunately, the company constructing the sign made a few errors that delayed work on the project. The most significant error involved improperly cutting the limestone pieces for the base of the sign. We are working closely with the company to make sure that the sign is completed correctly. The last sign stood for 45 years, and we want this one to be something that our community can be proud of for at least another 45 years.

### **Winter Weather, Delays, and Cancellations**

As a reminder, when we delay or close school for the day, I will notify district residents by using the "One Call Now" notification system, Facebook, Channels 2, 7, 22, and 45, and their corresponding radio stations. The earliest that I will send a One Call Now is 5:40 a.m.

As of the writing of this article, we have missed two days of school this year. Please remember that if we miss more than five days, we will begin making up those days. Possible make-up days are February 14th and April 13th. I certainly hope that the remainder of the winter season will be as mild as the beginning has been, and we will not have to use any of these make-up days.

### **Hall of Fame**

On December 7th, Jackie Siefing-Fickert, A.J. Oullette, Lane White, and Steve Dunn were inducted into the Covington High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Jackie, A.J., and Lane are 2014 graduates and Mr. Dunn is a 1984 graduate.

Each of these individuals excelled at their respective sports, but more importantly, they competed for CHS with class and dignity. They were fantastic Buccaneers and they have truly made our school district and the entire Covington community very proud! Congratulations again to our newest Hall of Famers! Thank you and Go Buccs!

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## ***THANKS FOR ASKING!***

I have a question about the Covington Schools or a suggestion for improving the schools.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail your questions or suggestions to: Mr. Gene Gooding, Covington EVSD, 807 Chestnut St., Suite B, Covington, OH 45318.*

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