



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

May 2020

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return and Pick-up of Items

by CEVSD Administration

The current Coronavirus pandemic has affected almost every aspect of education during the last few months. This remains true as we attempt to return personal items to our students and retrieve their schoolbooks and Chromebooks.

The district administration and teaching staff will remove all personal items from cubbies and lockers and place them neatly in a bag for our students. The bags will be made of high quality paper and will have a handle for easy carrying. They will also be clearly marked with each student's name.

On the appropriate day, families will drive into the bus turnaround in front of the elementary school and stop at two stations. At the first station, staff members will return all personal items. At the second station, staff members will collect all textbooks, Chromebooks, and any other items borrowed from the school district, such as library books. The parents and students should never need to exit their vehicles during this process.

We are asking our families to come on the days marked below. If your assigned date does not work for you, please call Mr. Meyer or Mr. Long and they will work with you to find a time that fits into your schedule.

May 26 - Last name begins with A-E	2:00 to 6:00
May 27 - Last name begins with F-J	2:00 to 6:00
May 28 - Last name begins with K-O	2:00 to 6:00
May 29 - Last name begins with P-T	2:00 to 6:00
May 30 - Last name begins with U-Z	10:00 to 2:00

Thank you for your continued patience and support!

Thank You CES Parents and Students!

by Josh Long

As the end of the school year approaches, we wanted to take a moment to extend a thank you to all of the families and students for making the 2019-2020 school year a wonderful success. Obviously, the last portion of our school year wasn't traditional by any means, but we really feel everyone pulled together, and made the best out of the difficult situation. Our staff is truly blessed to be able to work with your students on a daily basis, and we certainly appreciate all your help and patience during the pandemic to make sure your students received the best education that we could offer during this time. We are extremely proud of all of our students and the terrific work that they did each and every day. As families, your efforts have been appreciated throughout the entire school year in helping provide a positive home-to-school connection, and we look forward to another great school year next year.

Josh Meyer, 7-12 Principal

I want to personally thank our students, parents, staff and community for their handling of the COVID-19 crisis. Our students have been very diligent in completing work and communicating with their teachers. The teaching staff at Covington Jr/Sr High School has been working on delivering instruction virtually via a distance learning model, along with frequently communicating expectations to students and parents. The parents and community have been tremendously supportive and understanding of our efforts during this trying time. While I know it isn't the way that anyone wanted the school year to end I feel that our students, parents, staff and community made the best of a bad situation.

We were able to recognize our students virtually in the following ways. The High School Honors Banquet was sent to students and families on May 7th. Ms. Brackman awarded numerous scholarships to graduating seniors via video on May 12th. On May 21st students that would have been recognized at the end of the year Awards Assembly were sent a video commemorating their achievements. The Jr. High students were sent their end of the year awards on May 20th. We also conducted a virtual art show this spring and our FFA chapter won numerous state awards as well. It is evident to anyone that works with our students that they continued to achieve at an elite level during the mandated school closure.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

CHS Valedictorians Named for the Class of 2020

by Karen Brackman

Covington High School is pleased to honor two valedictorians for the Class of 2020: Josie Schaurer and Hailey Weer. Both students have earned this distinction by graduating with an impressive perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Co-Valedictorian Josie Kate Schaurer is the daughter of Diana and John Schaurer. Josie will be attending Indiana Wesleyan University with a major in Art Education. Josie is looking forward to being an art teacher, as she envisions that “art teacher(s) get to be immersed in something they love all day, (and) they get to teach others how to love and appreciate something so important to our world.” Josie’s school activities included participation in Art Club, Drama Club, Key Club, Spanish Club, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Student Council, the PLUS Overnighter Team, and National Honor Society. She also attended the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Conference and volunteers often in the community, church, and at Covington Elementary School.

Co-Valedictorian Hailey Elizabeth Weer is the daughter of Rebecca and Bradley Weer. Hailey will be attending Miami University with a major in engineering. Hailey shares that she is “passionate about the STEM fields and looks forward to sharing her gained knowledge with other young females;” through her career journey, she also hopes to inspire young females to pursue STEM careers, which are currently typically dominated by males. During high school, Hailey served as both Vice-President (9, 10) and President (11, 12) of her class. She was also involved in Student Council, Art Club, Cheerleading, Drama Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, the PLUS Overnighter Team, SADD Club, Spanish Club, and Yearbook Staff. Further, she was chosen Homecoming Queen and selected for the following awards: the Bausch and Lomb Science Award, the Honda Ohio State STEM Award, the Junior Scholar Athlete Award, and a Cheer UCA All-American Award.

Congratulations to these two students on their outstanding contributions and achievements earned as students at Covington High School.



Josie Kate Schaurer



Hailey Elizabeth Weer

2020 Graduates

Nathan Dean Alexander
Maci Lee Arther
Marciana Lorain Auxier
Hailey Elizabeth Baker
Brock Alan Barga
Christian Zane Barhorst
Kirsti Jo Barnes
Sarah Lynn Barnhart
Anthony Josiah Brandon
Spencer Lee Brumbaugh
Andrew Jacob Cates
Josie Lynn Crowell
Teague McKinley Deaton
Logan Grant Engle
Hunter Nicholas Levi Evans
Marisa Michelle Fields
Jesse Chai Fisher
Austin Lee Flick
Colton James Francis
Joseph Coby Franke
Raven Michael Grilliot
Konnor Ray Hill
Zoey Madison Hitchcock
Hailey Madison Houshel
Matthew Austin Hulse
Seth Thomas Iddings
Sophia Marie Iddings
Nathaniel Gregory Steven Inman
Gavin Thomas Jones
Madison Elizabeth Kearns
Layklyn Kemp
Zaniel Gage Kerrigan
Morgan Paige Kimmel
Elizabeth Claire Kuntz
Zachary Douglas Kuntz
Joshua Jay Latimer
Makenzie Marie Long
Morgan Renee Lowe

Dylan Scott Lucas
Gavin Jacob Lutz
Kleyton Olen Maschino
Fletcher Harris Metz
Alexis Jade Meyer
Brenna Jane Miller
Olivia Nicole Mohler
Madison LaRae Otte
Andrew Ryan Parker
Kadin Michael Presser
Elizabeth Jane Randall
Keegan Odell Reck
Warrick Elsworth Reck
Autumn Nicole Rich
Michael Ray Schafer
Josie Kate Schaurer
Cade Andrew Schmelzer
Alex Anthony Shaffer
Winter Grace Sims
Mary Elizabeth Slusher
Courtney Marie Smidutz
Stephen John Sporek
Dylan Jacob Staudt
Morgan Denise Studebaker
Nicholas Richard Michael Swank
Bailey Nicole Tipps
Lucas Alan Tobias
Hayley Ann Triplett
Joshua Kristopher Wall
Bryce Matthew Weer
Dalton Robert Weer
Hailey Elizabeth Weer
Isaiah James Wendel
Maci Christine White
Brayden Matthew Wiggins
Hailey Jane Young
Hunter Levi Zell

Kindergarten Screening and Registration

by Josh Long

At this time we are still looking to reschedule kindergarten screening if possible. We hope to announce a date soon. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten next year, please contact Mrs. Benson at benisonl@covingtonk12.org. Once you contact Mrs. Benson you will be put on our kindergarten email and One Call Now list for incoming kindergarten students. This will allow us to communicate with you in regards to important dates and information. Thank you and we look forward to meeting your student soon.

2020 Commencement Speaker Announced

by Karen Brackman

The graduating class of 2020 will proudly celebrate its commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 24, 2020. The honored speaker for the 2020 commencement is 2001 graduate, Dr. Annie (Stacy) Thompson.

As a student at Covington High School, Annie impressively graduated as salutatorian of her class and was involved as a member of the National Honor Society and the yearbook staff. Annie was also a four-year member of the cross country and track teams.

After high school Annie chose to further her education at Colorado State University, from which she graduated with honors earning a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences, with a focus in Human Physiology and Nutrition and a minor in Coaching. After CSU she attended National University of Health Sciences, where she achieved a second Bachelor's Degree in Human Biology. From there, she continued her education, earning her Doctor of Chiropractic, with the honor of graduating Summa Cum Laude and being selected by the faculty as the class's most outstanding graduate.

While attending NUHS, Annie was selected for a fellowship in microbiology, and she was a teaching assistant for human anatomy cadaver dissection courses for both graduate and undergraduate students. During her time as an intern, she began specialized training in the chiropractic care of children and pregnant women, which over-time blossomed into an interest in supporting families during the childbearing years by working as a trained doula (birth coach).

Her post-graduate studies were in Human Clinical Nutrition, and she obtained her certification as a Clinical Nutritionist through the International and American Association of Clinical Nutritionists', Clinical Nutrition Certification Board.

Upon successful completion of her formal education, Dr. Thompson began an independent practice in Troy, OH and has remained at that same location for 12 years. She maintains a practice focus that includes a whole family model of wellness care including chiropractic care, clinical nutrition services, and preventive healthcare. She also focuses on bringing a spirit of love, friendship, and teaching into the lives of the people she serves. Dr. Thompson is specifically drawn to "stay the course" in helping the patients that feel otherwise abandoned or unsupported by the healthcare system.

Although she enjoys her work, she prioritizes her time with family by being in the workplace only three days each week. According to Dr. Thompson, she is "supported in her practice by a loving immediate and extended family, and (her) faith."

Annie resides outside of Covington with her husband Dale, also a graduate of Covington High School, who works as a firefighter/paramedic, their daughters Cole (10) and Naomi (7) who are home-schooled, and their son Ty who is 3.

In her spare time, Annie continues to enjoy running. She still prioritizes learning and reading and often achieves it by listening to audiobooks. Annie specifies that her "greatest topic of interest is in understanding the unconditional love of God and how to apply His wisdom to (her) life." With her family, she enjoys time outside and their farm work, where they raise grass-fed bison and pastured chickens for meat and eggs.

With her children she enjoys reading aloud, horseback riding with her girls, and playing board games. Annie is the daughter of Cindy and Lester Stacy.

We are very pleased to welcome back one of Covington's success stories to address the Class of 2020. Dr. Annie Thompson's credentials and accomplishments serve very well as motivation for our newest graduates.

Virtual Spirit Week

by Bridgit Kerber

Despite being quarantined, Buccaneers proved in April that they can still band together to maintain a positive connection with the school and student community. During the week of April 20-25th, several student organizations worked together to promote a Virtual Spirit week in honor of Earth day.

Advisors and students from high school Band, BPA, FFA, student council, and yearbook created promotional materials, organized submissions criteria, developed daily themes, made example photos, and created a slideshow from the submissions. Students from grades K-12 were encouraged to participate by submitting photos of themselves participating in themed activities, such as "selfie with your pet," "hug the Earth," "outdoor gym class," "family game night," "create a masterpiece," and of course, "Bucc Spirit Day." All submissions were then used in a slideshow that was posted to various social media outlets and sent via email to students and teachers.

While the work was made especially challenging by social distancing, the advisors and participants of the organizing groups went above and beyond for the students of Covington, just like they always do! One more reason to be proud to be a Buccaneer. #BuccsUnite2020

Pictured below: Gavin Hoying, Grade 1, "Create a Masterpiece" theme



A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding

Financial Information

Recently, many of our district residents have asked me how this pandemic has affected the school district financially. Just like with businesses and households, it is easy to say where we are today, but it is more difficult to predict the future.

On May 5, Governor DeWine announced significant cuts to the statewide education budget. This was surprising to everyone, because the cuts he announced were for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30. It was certainly disheartening to find out that the Covington Schools will lose \$132,235 of expected state funding during the current fiscal year.

However, thankfully, we will receive \$107,603 in federal stimulus money through the CARES Act. This creates an overall reduction of \$24,632 from our budget. While this amount is significant, we will be able to offset this year's reduction due to decreased expenditures, including bus fuel, substitute employees, utilities, etc. Therefore, for the current school year, our financial status has remained largely unchanged.

The financial picture for the 2020-2021 school year is less clear. We do anticipate a further cut to our foundation funding and we expect a loss in revenue from our income tax collection. However, it is still too early to tell what effect this virus will have on our

long-term financial outcome. We do not know how significant any losses in revenue will be, and we do not know how much state or federal aid we will receive to help offset those reductions.

Therefore, district wide, we will continue to monitor every expenditure and make sound financial decisions that are in the best interest of our students and our community. Like every household and business, we will continue to live within our means and spend every nickel wisely. And as always, our goal will be to provide our students with a well-rounded, excellent educational experience that our community can be proud of!

Unusual Year

This has obviously been a unique year for our school district, our community, and our country. Like most of you, until this pandemic hit, I could not have imagined closing the school district down, or cancelling so many important events and activities. This has been challenging for everyone, and I wish that it could have been different.

However, in spite of the challenges, our students, staff members, parents, and community members have pulled together and demonstrated a will to be successful. Our students, teachers, and parents have worked closely together to continue the process of teaching and learning. This is difficult under normal circumstances, but especially when all parties are spread throughout the community and the local area. I am truly grateful for the cooperation and understanding

that everyone has displayed during the 2019-2020 school year. Everyone involved should be commended for their outstanding efforts!

Good Luck CHS Class of 2020!

I would like to wish good luck to the CHS Class of 2020! This school year has certainly ended in a way that none of them could have envisioned. However, that does not take away from their outstanding educational careers or their amazing accomplishments. This class is filled with wonderful scholars, musicians, artists, athletes, and more. They have made a tremendous impact on our school district and they will be missed. Congratulations CHS Class of 2020! We are very proud of you!

Community Support

Over the last few months, we have received countless offers of help from our community members. They have offered to donate their time, money, resources, and more to help us serve our students. This is greatly appreciated and has made a tremendous impact!

Conversely, we understand that education is not the only challenge that our community members are facing right now. Our thoughts are with anyone who is out of work, ill, isolated, or working on the front lines of this pandemic. If this school district can help the community in any way, please reach out and let me know. This has been a true team effort and we want to do whatever we can to help this great community!

Thank you!

THANKS FOR ASKING!

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

Name: _____ Address: _____

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