



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

December 2020

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Buccs Give Back

by Bridgit Kerber

Following a year of travails like none other, and with COVID still threatening at the edges of every event, it becomes more important than ever for a community to come together in support of its people. The students of Covington Schools have found many ways to continue the spirit of service during this Holiday season.

The FFA recently held a very non-traditional Veteran's Day celebration in which students in grades K-12 lined Chestnut Street leading to the school and clapped out the veterans who paraded by in their vehicles. Their service to our country and community not forgotten, the heroes of a nation were honored and bolstered by the cheers of the next generation of leaders.

The Business Professionals of America also found a way to provide help to those in need by holding a sock, hat, and glove drive in which first period classes competed to provide these most necessary items. All the donated items will benefit local organizations who provide

(Continued on page 2)

Josh Meyer, 7-12 Principal

As we enter the winter months at Covington Jr/Sr High School, I would like to take some time to inform our students, parents and community members of some important items that our staff sees on a regular basis.

Please remind your student to bring their Chromebook to school charged and ready for class every day. Also, please keep in mind the expectation that district technology is to be used appropriately.

Speaking of technology, our teachers post their daily assignments on their individual Google Classroom page. Also, you are able to access Progressbook at home to check on your child's grades and assignments. If you need your parent login information for Progressbook please contact Ms. Mitchell in the 7-12 office at 937-473-3746 or via email at mitchella@covingtonk12.org.

In November, a representative from Upper Valley Career Center came to Covington HS to highlight the many great programs at UVCC. Any sophomore that is interested in attending Upper Valley Career

(Continued on page 2)

Testing Updates

by Bridgit Kerber

Despite it being the most challenging school year on record, the Covington Schools have been fortunate in staying open and providing in-person instruction to our students. Another way that we should be counting our blessings is that our fall required testing has been able to proceed as normal. The State did not make many exceptions other than extended time, which means that schools in a remote or hybrid environment experienced serious difficulties in determining how to get these State tests and benchmarks completed.

Thankfully, all of our community efforts to maintain in-person instruction has ALSO allowed us to administer required testing as normal.

Kindergarten, benchmark testing for early literacy, 3rd grade ELA, and gifted testing are all complete. In the first week of December, select high school students will also be participating in End of Course testing for graduation purposes. We fully expect to be able to complete these testing requirements in-person as well. Just another reason that we are lucky to be Buccaneers.

Buccs Give Back

by Bridgit Kerber

(Continued from page 1)

for the needy in our local area.

The high school student council is also helping out those in need who are right here in our community by partnering with the Stillwater Skilled Nursing Facility to provide some cozy holiday gifts for the residents. We all know that our elderly in care facilities across the state have experienced the most isolation in order to protect them from COVID-19, and the Student Council wanted to make sure that they knew they were still loved and cared for by the students of Covington.

National Honor Society is planning its annual food drive in cooperation with the local Amvets this year. That event typically runs between Thanksgiving and Christmas Break, and students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to donate canned and nonperishable items for the local food banks. This has always been an extremely important event, and they hope to be able to again support local families through this drive, as the need in many communities is greater than ever.

'Tis the season for giving thanks, and for giving back, and for lifting up those who need our support and our encouragement. Covington students always step up for each other and for the community.

Josh Meyer, 7-12 Principal

(Continued from page 1)

Center next school year needs to communicate with Ms. Brackman as soon as possible.

Also in November we had Parent/Teacher Conferences virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you to the many parents and family members who participated in conferences. We strive to keep the lines of communication open, so if you have any questions about your child's education, please feel free to contact teachers through their district email address found on the school webpage, or by calling the school at 937-473-3746.

Frequently at this time of year we are dealing with weather issues. Please check the district Facebook and Twitter pages for updates regarding school delays and closings. Also, if you have not subscribed to the "One Call" notification system please do so by contacting the 7-12 office.

Covington students have accomplished many great things this school year, and we look forward to continuing that success across all levels of the Jr/Sr High School this winter.

Go Buccs!

FFA State Soil Event

by Jessica Helsinger

October 20th was the Ohio FFA State Soils Career Development Event. Unfortunately, like many things this year, the Ohio FFA Career Development Events (contests) will be hosted virtually.

In a day of technological difficulties, our Covington FFA members owned the term "adversity." They were patient and respectful through the time-consuming wait that occurred in order to finish their contest.

All aspects of the contest were presented virtually. The students evaluated soil characteristics based upon video and oral descriptions by Ohio soil scientists, and filled-out their best management recommendations. The soil survey and knowledge test were still presented and completed by all FFA members.

In the Soil Survey Contest the team of Michael Hagan, Ali Gostomsky, Megan Rose, Payton Nicholas, Gavin Swank, Erika Gostomsky and Connor Sindelir placed 38th in the state in the "Rural or Agricultural Division".

(Continued on page 3)

FFA State Soil Event

by Jessica Helsinger

(Continued from page 2)

In the “Urban Division” Covington HS Sophomore Corey Turner placed in the Top 100 in the state as an individual. The team of Teylor Meyer, Mara Newhouse, Corey Turner and Vanessa Ashburn placed 43rd in the state in the “Urban Division”.

Congratulations to all of the FFA members that competed in the FFA State Soil Event. The next Career Development Event for the FFA is the Job Interview contest, which will be held virtually. Erika Gostomsky, and Connor Sindelir. The team placed 38th in the state.

Corey Turner placed in the Top 100 in the Urban division! The team placed 43rd and other team members included Teylor Meyer, Mara Newhouse, and Vanessa Ashburn.

Our next CDE will be the Job Interview contest in November, which will also be hosted virtually.



Lilly Hughes and Teylor Meyer won the National Agri-Science Fair in the Animal Systems, paired freshman division. Their research compared a dogs heart rate to the genre of music they heard in hopes of a nonmedicated ease in anxiety level for dogs!

A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding Veterans' Day

Unfortunately, we have been forced to cancel or postpone many great events over the last few months. One of those great events was our annual Veterans' Day breakfast and assembly. Even though we were unable to honor our Veterans in the usual manner, our FFA members put together a Veterans "clap out." Every student in grades K-12 lined the CEVSD property and clapped for our local heroes as they drove by in a mini-parade. Thankfully, the students were able to pay their respects to our Veterans, and let them know how much they mean to us, and how much they are appreciated! Thank you to the Covington FFA and everyone who participated in this event, and most importantly, thank you to our Veterans for your service to our country!

Winter Sports Update

During the winter sports season, Covington Junior High and High School students participate in cheerleading, basketball, and wrestling. As always, the student are working extremely hard this season, and we are very proud of them.

Even though many of you are unable to attend the contests, our student athletes know that you

support them and that you are rooting for them to be successful. On behalf of everyone involved in Covington athletics, thank you for supporting our kids and our sports programs.

Additionally, I would like to thank those of you who have attended the contests for following all of the safety regulations and requirements. Your cooperation has allowed our kids to continue to participate in the sports that they love!

COVID-19 Update

It is always difficult to provide an accurate COVID update in the Covington Connection. Due to the constantly evolving nature of the pandemic, sometimes the situation changes between the writing of this article and the day it is published. However, what I can say with 100% certainty is that I am very impressed with the cooperation that we have received from our students, our staff members, and our community. It has been a true team effort, and I am amazed at how this community has worked together to keep our school open for in-person instruction. At CEVSD, we will continue to do everything within our power to keep our kids safe and to provide them with an excellent, well-rounded educational experience!

Committees/ Community Input

Throughout the year, I meet with members of the community

to discuss a wide range of topics. I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions about the operation of the school district. I also encourage you to contact me if you have any interest in serving on the Business Advisory Council or the Financial Advisory Council. These two committees have been meeting jointly over the last few years, and are made up of local business leaders, local financial professionals, school officials, and community members who have an interest in the financial operations of the district. Their input and advice has been extremely valuable and has helped us in our efforts to maintain financial stability.

We are starting a new committee in January that will be known as the "Student Success Committee." This committee will focus on helping our students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally during their elementary, junior high, and high school years. It will also focus on what our students need in order to be successful after they graduate from CHS.

If you are interested in joining any of the committees listed above, please let me know. However, you do not need to join a committee to express your opinions or concerns. Please feel free to contact me at any time for a one-on-one conversation. I can be reached at 937-473-2249 or at goodingg@covingtonk12.org.

Thank you and Go Buccs!

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.
