



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

January/February 2021

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Senior Student Named Presidential Scholar Finalist

by Karen Brackman

Recently, the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) announced that CHS senior student Bethany Weldy was named one of five finalists from Ohio for the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program.

Being named a Presidential Scholar is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students, and Weldy deservingly has been selected as a finalist for her outstanding ability and achievements demonstrated in the career and technical education field.

Weldy is a senior attending MVCTC in the Pre-Nursing program. Throughout high school, she has been very successful at both CHS and MVCTC. Academically, she has been taking college courses through the College Credit Plus program since her freshman year, becoming the youngest student from Covington to earn her associates degree while in high school. By the time she graduates in May 2021, she will have earned more than 100 college credit hours. Additionally, she has actively participated in sports, various clubs, volunteer opportunities, and community organizations. She has also held various leadership roles in the Covington-UVCC FFA, the MVCTC HOSA Chapter and the Ears to Tails 4-H Club. Overall, her contributions to her community and school are quite impressive.

After graduation from high school, Weldy plans to continue attending Sinclair Community College to become a Registered Nurse. Then she plans to enroll at The Ohio State University to earn her Bachelors of Science in nursing, with further aspirations of continuing her education to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

We are very proud to claim Weldy as a Covington Buccaneer. Further details on the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and Weldy's achievements may be found in the article featured on the MVCTC's website: <http://www.mvctc.com/news/article/1707>. Congratulations to Bethany Weldy on a very impressive accomplishment!

CES Kindergarten Registration for 2021-22 will be available soon!

by Josh Long

Covington Elementary is in the process of planning for our 2021-2022 kindergarten registration. Any child that will be five on or before August 1, 2021, is eligible to attend kindergarten.

Step One - Complete the online Registration Forms

- This will be available starting on the week of February 15.
- Go to the district website and look for the Kindergarten Registration Link located under school news.

Step Two - Visit us for an Appointment to drop off required documents

- After the online registration has been completed, Mrs. Benson will contact you to schedule a documentation appointment. The documentation appointment (15 minutes) is used to collect the required documents, and will be held at Covington Elementary. Parents/Guardians should bring/provide the following documents to the Covington Elementary Office for their scheduled appointment.
 1. Birth Certificate
 2. Proof of Residence (lease or deed) or utility bill
 3. Immunization Records
 4. All special education records/504 documents, if applicable
 5. Drivers License for identification
 6. Custody Papers (if applicable)

Step Three - Complete a Kindergarten Screening

- Once you have completed your online registration and the Covington Elementary office has the documentation listed above, then your child will need to attend Kindergarten screening on June 2 or 3. We will send out information on how to sign up for kindergarten screening through our website at a later date.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, February 11, from 1:30 to 9:00 p.m. Conferences will be virtual or by phone conference. We will have a two hour early dismissal that day for all students. There will be no school for all grades on Friday, February 12. We will be sending more information soon about when and how to sign up for a conference.

Covington Athletics Update

by Ashley Johnson

The Covington Athletic Department hosted the 3rd Annual Buccaneer Holiday Classic on December 28th and 29th. This basketball holiday tournament featured both the boys' and girls' basketball teams, and included Graham, Newton, and Milton-Union.

The varsity girls' basketball team was named the Buccaneer Holiday Classic champions for the third year in a row. They defeated Milton-Union on opening night, 63-37, and were led by Claudia Harrington and Carlie Besecker, scoring 25 points each. In the championship, the Lady Buccs defeated Graham, 57-42, and were once again led by Carlie Besecker with 22 points, and Claudia Harrington with 13. Claudia Harrington and Claire Fraley were named to the All-Tournament Team, and Carlie Besecker was named the Buccaneer Holiday Classic MVP.

Covington has also had two wrestlers reach milestone wins this season. Cael Vanderhorst started off the season winning his 150th match at the Northeastern Invitational. A few days later, Kellan Anderson won his 150th match vs. Versailles in a dual at Versailles. Go Buccs!

High School Student Educational Options for 2021/2022 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 are required to receive counseling prior to participating. Due to the covid pandemic, the counseling for this program will be done virtually this year beginning in February. Further information on how to participate in the counseling will be provided via email to all students and parents of students in grades 6-11 throughout the month of January. The district website also provides access to this information.

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 March 10, but will offer carry out dinners only this year due to the pandemic. On the evening of the event, pick-up times will be from 5:00 – 6:30 in the bus loop near the k-8 school entrance. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Covington Schools Scholarship Fund Program.

Each dinner will include Italian spaghetti with meat sauce, homemade coleslaw, garlic toast, and dessert. The cost of all dinners this year is \$5.00, and all dinners must be pre-ordered by Friday, March 5. Tickets must be provided when picking up dinners.

Tickets for pre-ordered dinners can be purchased one of two ways:

1. One method is to purchase tickets at Covington High School during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the main office beginning February 16 through March 5. Tickets may also be purchased at CHS on Thursday, February 11 from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
2. The second method is to email Karen Brackman the following information: buyer's name, the number of tickets to purchase, buyer's phone number, and the buyer's email address. Karen Brackman's email address is brackmank@covingtonk12.org.

Payment for these tickets must be mailed (no later than February 25) to Covington High School, Attn: Karen Brackman, 807 Chestnut St., Covington, OH 45318 or dropped off at CHS no later than March 5. If mailing the payment to the school, tickets will be emailed to the buyer from Karen Brackman.

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 \$67,000 in scholarships to the Class of 2020.

This scholarship program began at Covington in the mid-1980's; thus over the years, approximately 665 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 2021. 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 19, 2021. For more information, call 937-473-2856.

The community's continued support is greatly appreciated!

Job and Career Planning Tool Available to All

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.

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 journey.

FFA Members Honor the Veterans

by Jessica Helsinger

On November 12th, the Covington Schools held their annual Veterans appreciation event. Twenty-five veterans were honored with a "Veterans Clap-Out." Veterans lined up in their vehicles at Smith Field and drove down Chestnut Street, through the school lot, and exited onto US Route 36. All the K-12 students lined the sidewalk cheering and clapping for our veterans as they drove by. The students also waved flags and held supportive banners and posters made by the elementary student council. Another highlight was the Covington High School Concert Band playing a patriotic ensemble during the event to honor the Veterans.

Although the event had to look different due to 2020 restrictions, the FFA chapter felt it was important to honor our veterans in a year in which we had already lost so much.

Royalty Recognized

by Bridgit Kerber

The High School student council is pleased to announce that despite COVID restrictions, the 2020 Homecoming ceremony was a success. Covington High School student council crowned the 2020 Homecoming king Cael Vanderhorst, and queen Allison Garman, on Friday, December 18th before the varsity boys' basketball game versus Bradford. Congratulations to the entire court!



Homecoming
King Cael Vanderhorst
and
Queen Allison Garman



Homecoming Court
Sitting L to R: Allison Garman, Ella Warner, Alyssa Kimmel,
Tori Quinter, and Ellery Reck.
Standing L to R: Cael Vanderhorst, Cooper Jay, Jakob Hamilton,
Tyler Owens, and Jaden Barhorst

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, the High School Student Council sponsored a "Door Decorating Contest" for first period classes. Congratulations to Mr. VanSkyock and Mr. Shilt for winning this contest. The High School Student Council also sang Christmas Carols at Stillwater Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on December 23. The High School Student Council also put on a "Winter Homecoming". On Friday, December 18 at the varsity boys basketball game vs. Bradford, Cael Vanderhorst and Alli Garman were recognized as Homecoming King and Queen. Thank you to Mrs. Kerber and the High School Student Council for everything that they have done this school year.

At the Jr. High level the Jr. High Student Council also organized a few activities for the students prior to Christmas. The Jr. High Student Council sponsored a "Holiday Theme Dress Up Week" and an "Elf on the Shelf" contest for 7th and 8th grade students. Both of these activities were well received by our students and contributed to the positive environment at our school.

The Covington High School Band also performed Christmas songs for our students during lunch on December 22. Mrs. Moore and the Band continue to produce quality musical performances for our students and the community.

National Honor Society held a canned food drive in December that resulted in a donation of over 1,150 cans to area residents in need. Thank you to Mrs. Schmitz and the members of the National Honor Society for helping those in need.

Another achievement in the classroom comes courtesy of the FCCLA chapter led by Mrs. Young. Both Personal Financial Management classes finished the National Budget Challenge in December. Both groups represented Covington Jr/Sr High School very well by finishing 8th and 13th in the nation.

Athletically, congratulations to Cael Vanderhorst and Kellan Anderson. Early in the wrestling season both earned their 150th career win! And the Lady Buccs basketball team won the "Holiday Tournament" during Christmas break.

As you can tell, our students continue to achieve at a high level. Our staff appreciates all of the support that our community provides to our students.

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 page 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!

A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding

An unusual year...

The 2020-2021 school year has certainly been unlike anything that we have seen in the past. Our students and staff members have had to adapt to, what seems like, an ever-changing world with more uncertainties than ever before. Thankfully, they have done an outstanding job of meeting the challenges that have come with attending and operating a school during a global pandemic.

I would like to commend the students for remaining so positive, and for succeeding during this unusual time. They are truly remarkable, and their perseverance has paid off. Our students have excelled academically, musically, artistically, and athletically. Their learning environment may be slightly different, but as you can see throughout this publication, their achievements are as amazing as ever.

I would also like to recognize the teachers and staff members for their efforts this school year. They have provided an excellent educational experience for each of their students, and have taken great steps to keep their classrooms as normal as possible. Their caring and

supportive attitudes have helped our students adapt to the differences that they have encountered since returning to school in August.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents and community members for their continued support. Our goal has always been to safely keep our school buildings open for in-person instruction, and many parents and community members have had to make sacrifices in order for that to happen. Your efforts are not unnoticed, and they are greatly appreciated.

I realize that we all long for a day when COVID-19 is behind us, and we can return to business as usual at CEVSD. That day is coming, and I know that I speak for the entire school community when I say that it cannot get here soon enough. In the meantime, if we all continue to work together, we can continue to provide our students with fantastic in-person instruction, and allow them to participate in the curricular and extra-curricular activities that are so important to them.

Calamity Days

As I write this article, we have missed two days of school this year due to inclement weather. As in years past, the first five calamity days of the 2020-2021 school year will be traditional "snow days" that will not need to be made up. It is my hope that we will continue to have a

mild winter and we will not need to miss more than five days of school.

If we are forced to miss more than five days of school due to bad weather, we will use blizzard bags, or electronic learning days, to make up the time that we miss. More information will certainly be sent to all students and parents as we get closer to the five-day limit.

I will continue to use the district Facebook page, channels 2, 7, 22, and 45, and the "One Call Now" telephone system to communicate delay and closing information to all district residents.

Moving on to 2021!

It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of the Covington Exempted Village School District, and I am truly fortunate to get to work with such fantastic students and staff members. I am confident that 2021 will be another year full of great successes and accomplishments for our students! I look forward to working with everyone in our district to help make the 2021 calendar year one to remember.

If you have any questions about our district, or if you would like to share any suggestions, opinions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at goodingg@covingtonk12.org or 937-473-2249.

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.
