



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

September 2021

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Covington K-6 Great Start!

by Josh Long

Thank you for a great start to the new school year. Students and teachers have spent the beginning of the school year getting to know one-another and learning classroom procedures, routines, and rules. With close to 400 students, parent drop-off and pick up have been extremely busy, but it has gotten better each day. We would like to thank everyone for their patience as we work to get the bugs out of our system.

We had our first PTO meeting on Tuesday, August 31 and the turnout was wonderful. This year's PTO has many events planned and would love volunteers. Our first major event will be our annual walk-a-thon, which is scheduled for Friday, September 24. If you are interested in participating in the PTO, please feel free to join us at our next meeting. The Covington Elementary PTO meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the K-2 pod.

It is hard to believe that this is our third school year now that is being affected by COVID-19. We truly appreciate how flexible all of our students and parents have been throughout this pandemic. We ask that you continue to *not send* your student to school if they are experiencing any type of illness. Obviously this means that student absences may start to add up quickly and because of this you may receive a truancy warning letter that we are required by the state to send. Please understand that we will continue to work with everyone regarding attendance during this unusual time.

Once again, thank you for a great start to our school year and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the elementary office.

Covington JH/HS News

by Josh Meyer

Students and staff at Covington Jr/Sr High School are off to a fantastic start to the 2021/2022 school year! It is good to return to a sense of normalcy during the school day. There is one thing that will always remain the same, and that is the dedication and commitment to providing our students with a terrific education.

The 7-12 students received their Chromebooks at Open House and have been using them daily. A few reminders concerning Chromebook usage:

- Please charge Chromebooks every night
- Please keep track of the Chromebook- never leave it unattended
- Keep the cases free of other materials

7th grade Orientation under the direction of Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Ayres was held on August 23rd. Junior High is an exciting time for students as they become more independent and the expectations that we as parents and staff have for them rise. As a former JH teacher I enjoy working with this age group and watching them mature through Junior High.

It was a busy summer at Covington Jr/Sr High School! We've added the following members to our teaching staff- Austin Morgan- 7-12 Social Studies, Erin Olson- 7th Grade ELA, Shayna Rauch- 7-12 Art, and Laura Ayres- 7-12 Guidance Counselor. Along with those new staff members, Nicole Crawford has moved from teaching 7-12 Art into a new role as a guidance counselor. I'm excited about the skills that our new staff members bring to Covington Jr/Sr High School and look forward to working with them and the rest of the staff to continue the terrific education our students receive here.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Covington community for the support they have provided to their children and the staff as we begin this school year. I am excited to begin the year and look forward to continued successes in academics, fine arts, and athletics.

Band of Bucc Pride

by Emma Elson; Senior Band Member

The Band of Bucc Pride is known for its excellence. This year they started off their season with a four day long band camp that lasted from 9 am to 9 pm every day. There, the new marching band members were taught how to march, and were shown the ropes of this small, but amazing group of people. They were introduced to many returning and new members, and within the first two days slowly started to get to know each other quite well. The Covington Band of Bucc Pride prides itself in knowing that it's members are constantly positive to one another and that they will help their fellow band members when they need it. So, even though band camp may have been a tiring beginning, they all made it through smiling, and even closer to one another than ever, showing that they truly wish to work hard and show that they really care about music.

The members of the marching band consider each other almost like a second family, and have many things they do that show that. Similar instruments are grouped together in "sections". These sections usually spend time during marching band practice, either working on show music or going over spots on the field. So, because of all the time spent together, members grow quite close, like a team within a team. Every week a section is rewarded based on how they have acted towards, not only their section, but others, and on how well they have worked together, and an individual Rookie is recognized for similar efforts. Every year, Mrs. Moore chooses an instrument that can no longer be used, and the winning "Section of the Week" gets to paint and display the instrument however they choose. This year, an old broken guitar is being passed through the band. The band's Rookie of the week is awarded with a goodie

bag and bragging rights, as well as getting to eat dinner first on game nights! Our featured rookies this year have been Emma Ouelette, Marin DuBois, Maggie Mullen, and Brad Marion. Way to go!

This year's marching band show is called *Groovitude*, a show mixed with Rock, Funk, and Jazz to create sounds that get you dancing in your seat! It's composed of three movements, each of them having their own unique sounds. The Band of Bucc Pride is back to competitions this season, participating in multiple OMEA events, where they will perform their show in front of many judges in hopes of getting superior ratings and having a shot to perform at state contest in November! The band has been working fantastically all summer on their show and because of their hard work, was invited to perform at the Buckeye Invitational at Ohio State University on Saturday, October 16th. With this invitational set in their books, and other competitions awaiting them, they continue to show just how truly they care for this sport. This year's band is ready to show their dedication and motivation to work hard to truly represent our school and the band program in the best way possible! We wish The Band of Bucc Pride good luck in its upcoming competitions and performances and hope they have a great season ahead of them!

Homecoming 2021

We Got the Beat

by Bridgit Kerber

At long last, this year's traditional Homecoming festivities are scheduled for the week of October 4th through the 9th, and will include the annual community pep rally, parade and crowning ceremonies, and will culminate in an evening of dancing and celebration. The 2021 Homecoming Court will be selected soon by the senior class in the coming weeks, and announced on September 27th. The ceremonies will include the 2020 King and Queen Cael Vanderhorst and Allison Garman.

The Community Pep Rally will be held at Smith Field on October 6th at 7:00 pm. This event is open to the public and free. Fall sports, cheerleaders, band performances, and another exciting Clash of the Classes competition are what is in store for Buccaneer fans. Should inclement weather occur, the Pep Rally will be on as scheduled in the High School Competition Gymnasium. We hope the community will come out en masse to kick off our celebrations.

The Homecoming Parade will be held on Friday, October 8th at 6:00 pm, and will begin at the high school lot, turn west onto Chestnut, turn south onto Wenrick, and east onto Maple, with all floats returning to the high school lot, except for the Court members. Spectators are encouraged to watch the parade from the green space that borders Chestnut Street.

The crowning ceremony will be held immediately following the parade at approximately 6:45 pm at Smith Field, and we will be crowning both King and Queen. The Covington High School Student Council is excited to present these community events, and hopes that everyone will be able to attend.

The Homecoming dance will be held in the Covington Cafe on October 8th from 8:00-10:30 pm, with doors opening at 7:45 pm. Students will be able to buy presale tickets during lunch, and before school, in the two weeks leading up to the dance for \$10 per person. No tickets will be sold at the door! This year's homecoming theme is We Got the Beat - so dust off your dancing shoes for an evening of fun with friends!



Kara Stephan, Kori Moore & Megan Rose

Covington FFA Attends FFA Camp

by Kara Stephan FFA Officer

Covington-UVCC FFA had three members attend Ohio FFA's Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, Ohio June 28 to July 2, 2021. The incoming sophomores included Kori Moore, Megan Rose, and Kara Stephan.

FFA Camp is a place where FFA members can interact with other members from across the state of Ohio. During the week there were multiple workshops and sessions with Ohio's State officers and a visitor from the National FFA Officer, Anna Mathis from Arkansas. During the leadership sessions members learned about themselves and life lessons and values.

During the week, members could try new activities such as motor boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, ping pong, 9 square, basketball, volleyball, rifle range, shot gun range, archery, corn hole, and of course swimming on Leesville Lake.

FFA Camp thrives to give students the opportunity to develop themselves as a person, a leader and an FFA member. On the trip, I learned that I am capable of meeting new people and making new friends.

Covington FFA chapter is a satellite program of Upper Valley Career Center and is advised by Mrs. Jessica Helsing. The chapter is extremely thankful to the numerous local businesses that donated towards the FFA camp experience for our members.

BPA's Buccs Bazaar

by Heidi Anderson

Hey Buccs! Come to Covington High School on November 13th from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm to support the Business Professionals of America's Buccs Bazaar. Check out a variety of vendors displaying and selling their unique items along with crafts, door

prizes, raffle baskets, food trucks and more. Admission cost is \$2 and free for children not in school. This is a great opportunity to do some early holiday shopping or buy something fun for yourself! If you or someone you know sells crafts or products and you would like more information on how to reserve a space, please email covingtonbpa@gmail.com. The money that is made from the Bazaar will go to funding our competition and travel costs. We hope to see you there!



Meet the New School Counselors

Nicole Crawford

Although I have been a Covington Bucc for 8 years as a High School Art Teacher, I am excited for this new opportunity to work with our students! Helping students reach their optimum potential has always been a passion of mine. In this position, I get to help all students figure out their futures, work on barriers that are preventing them from reaching their goals, and navigating the challenges of life.

As one of two 7-12 school counselors my responsibilities include implementing a social emotional curriculum, responding to data with appropriate interventions, counseling students individually, in small groups and classroom guidance lessons. In addition, I will be running part of the PBIS program, and Hope Squad, a peer-based suicide prevention and educational mental health program.

A little about myself and my family. My husband, Jeremiah, works at Crown Equipment in Troy. I have

three little girls, Mila, who is four and my twins Anya and Eva who are two. We like going on day trips, to parks, the zoo, and festivals. When not with my kids, I enjoy reading, painting, shopping, and exercising. I am so excited to continue working at Covington with our great staff, wonderful students, and supportive community. Go Buccs!

Laura Ayres

This will be my 5th year as a school counselor, and I am very excited to be a part of the Covington School District! I grew up in Plain City, Ohio and moved to Miami County in 2008 after graduating from the University of Dayton. I taught for 9 years at Franklin Monroe as a band and choir director, then moved into the counseling role at Franklin Monroe in 2017.

As one of two counselors for grades 7-12, my main areas of focus will be academics, career advising, and college credit plus. I will be working with students in many ways: through the use of classroom lessons, small groups, and individual counseling sessions. Helping students explore and plan for their futures is a passion of mine, and I am excited to bring many different career and college related activities to Covington!

In addition to my role as a school counselor for grades 7-12, I am also in charge of the Junior High Student Council and I am assisting Jessica Moore with the marching band. It has been so much fun getting to know the students and getting to use my skills and passion for music!

On a personal note, my husband Brian and I have been married for 12 years. He is the Director of Operations at Brukner Nature Center. We have 2 daughters: Ellie (5th grade) and Teagan (1st grade). Both are attending Covington Elementary this year, and are loving it! In our free time we love to travel, hike, and watch college football. We are all very excited to be Buccaneers!

A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding

The Start of a New School Year!

There is nothing like the excitement that comes with the beginning of a new school year. It is truly amazing to see the joy on our students faces as they return to school and reunite with their friends after a long summer break. The new school year also provides our students with a chance to make new friends, learn about their favorite subjects, and participate in the clubs, sports, and activities that they love. This is truly a great time of year, and everyone at CEVSD is extremely excited to be back!

We are also very happy that we have been able to return to school in a more normal manner this fall. It has been great having parents, families, and friends attend our events, and our students have enjoyed the reinstatement of outside events/field trips, such as the third grade trip to the Fort Rowdy Encampment.

It is my sincere hope that we can continue the normalcy that we have been blessed with during the first few weeks of school. Our students deserve the opportunities to expand their knowledge by participating in the wonderful educational field trips that they have been accustomed to in the past, and our sporting events, concerts, and performances are much more meaningful and enjoyable for our students when they are attended by our families and our community members. From Mrs. Kerber's article in this publication, you can tell how excited the students and staff members are to be planning a normal Homecoming that can be celebrated by all past and present Buccaneers. Reestablishing these great traditions certainly helps foster a strong sense of school and community pride!

For the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to do our best to provide our students with a superior educational experience that is in line with our community's values. We will also continue to challenge all of our students and help them reach their full academic potential. While doing this, we will strive to maintain a caring and safe learning environment that will meet the needs of all of our great students.

Thank you in advance for your support of our students and our school district. The 2021-2022 school year will be one full of great opportunities and many challenges. If we all continue to work together, we can help make this a fantastic school year that our students will remember forever!

Senior Citizen Athletic Passes

Please remember that the athletic department offers Senior Citizen passes to all district residents over the age of 65. This pass allows free entry into all regular season home contests. If you are eligible, please feel free to stop by CHS and pick up your pass from Athletic Director Ashley Johnson or Athletic Secretary Kim Shell.

Communication

I encourage all parents to establish communication with your child's teachers, coaches, and principals early in the school year. Please feel free to email or call our staff members any time that you have a question or a concern.

I also encourage community members to reach out to me if you have any ideas or suggestions to help improve our school district. Our schools are certainly stronger because of the support that we receive from our community, and input from our district residents is always welcome and appreciated. I can be reached by phone at 937-473-2249 or by email at goodingg@covingtonk12.org.

Thank you, have a great school year, 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
