



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

www.covington.k12.oh.us

November 2021

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CES Learning Experiences by Josh Long

Once again, our first graders went on a field trip to Brumbaugh Fruit Farms in Arcanum. They learned about different types of apples, how apples are picked and sorted, and how bees make honey.



CES Student Council News by Lauren Bell

Student Council members have been hard at work planning a fun-filled Red Ribbon Week. This year the focus for Red Ribbon Week was on the importance of making smart choices and encouraging healthy habits! Students were given a healthy habits challenge to take home each day and were entered into a drawing for prizes each time they completed a challenge.

Student Council also held a school-wide service project. Items were collected to be donated to a pet in need living at the Miami County Animal Shelter.

Covington JH/HS News by Josh Meyer

Every day I get the pleasure to work with a great group of students and staff at Covington Jr/Sr High School. Throughout this article of the "Covington Connection" you will read about many of the activities that our students have participated in so far this school year. From the Band of Bucc Pride competing at the OMEA State Marching Band Contest, to the achievements of our student-athletes during their fall season, to the Business Professionals of America hosting a "Distracted Driving Assembly", to the guidance department holding several activities, it has been a wonderful start to the 2021-2022 school year at Covington Jr/Sr High School.

Along with those accomplishments the FFA chapter under the leadership of Mrs. Jessica Helsinger continues to achieve at a high level. Recently the Covington FFA chapter held a "Farm to Fork" event for our elementary students and participated in "Cardboard City". The FFA chapter also attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 27 to 29 where they were recognized as a "3 Star" FFA chapter.

As you can tell, the staff at Covington Jr/Sr High School is truly blessed to work with such an outstanding group of young men and women on a daily basis! The high level of achievement and the numerous accomplishments of our students is a direct reflection of the amount of community involvement and support that we are lucky to have here in Covington!

Buccaneer Book Club by Bridgit Kerber

The CHS/CJHS Buccaneer book club is getting ready to start again for any student who loves to read in grades 7-12. Book club meets every Friday during A and B lunches in the HS library. The book club teams up with JR Clarke Public Library each year to provide books for the group, and students share discussion, treats, and social time. Between meetings, book discussions are carried on through Google Classroom, and students can share their favorite tidbits, quotes, characters, and plot twists. This year's first official meetings will begin in November, and any interested students should see Mrs. Kerber for details. It is never too late to join!

Fall Athletics Recap by Ashley Johnson

The student-athletes at Covington have had an outstanding fall season this year!

Sarah Slusher ended her high school golf career as the Three Rivers Conference Runner-Up in both the All-Conference standings and in the Three Rivers Conference tournament. For her accomplishments, she earned First Team All-Conference honors.

The boys' golf team finished third in the Three Rivers Conference tournament, and finished third overall in the Three Rivers Conference. Garret Fraley earned Second Team All-Conference honors, while Bryson Hite earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors. The boy's golf team also qualified for the District Golf Tournament at Beaver Creek Golf Club after finishing fourth in the Sectional Tournament.

The junior high volleyball teams both ended their seasons as runner-up in the Three Rivers Conference tournament.

The JV volleyball team ended the season with a conference record of 11-3, and the varsity volleyball team finished second in the Three Rivers Conference with a record of 11-3. The volleyball team had five players receiving All-Conference honors this year. Nigella Reck was voted Player of the Year and earned First Team All-Conference honors. Taylor Kirker also earned First Team All-Conference honors, Carlie Besecker earned Second Team All-Conference Honors, and Lauren York and Emmaline Kiser earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors.

The cross country teams hosted the 2021 Three Rivers Conference Cross Country Championships this year, and the high school boys' cross country team and the junior high girls cross country team brought home TRC Cross Country Championships! We had three junior high runners earn All-Conference honors: Caleb Ryman, Cassidy Turner, and Lucy Welborn. We also had twelve high school runners earn All-Conference honors. Asher and Elyza Long were both named TRC Runner of the Year after winning their respective races! Joining Asher and Elyza in earning First Team All-Conference honors are Johanna Welborn, Mic Barhorst, and Tyler Alexander. Beck Wilson, Tanner Palsgrove, Calub Hembree, Makayla Vanderhorst and Ella White earned Second Team All-Conference honors, and Devin Brummitt and Drew Gessner earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors.

The high school cross country teams had an outstanding district meet this year as well. Asher Long, Mic Barhorst and Elyza Long qualified to run at the Regional Cross Country Meet in Troy. Asher and Elyza both finished in the top 16 in their respective races at the Regional Cross Country Meet, earning them a trip to the OHSAA State Cross Country Meet in Columbus!

The junior high and high school football teams battled this year, and the varsity football team ended the season with a Three Rivers Conference record of 1-6. Jensen Wagoner, Jake Dilley, and Izaiah Sherman earned Second Team All-Conference honors, and

Connor Sindelir, Ricky Stephan, and Cameron Kirker earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors.

Congratulations to all of our student-athletes on a fantastic fall season!

Update from Ms. Brunswick's class by Susan Brunswick

We had a guest speaker, Chris Williams, from CropLife Ambassador Network come and speak to the 4th grade on Tuesday, October 26th. He talked about many agricultural topics including: biotechnology, GMO foods, uses for corn, and technology in agriculture. The students enjoyed the presentation and had many questions for Mr. Williams.



News from the CES PTO

The beginning of the year has been a busy time once again for the Covington Elementary PTO. We started off the school year with our annual Walk-a-Thon in September. We were so excited to start this back up after having to put it off last year with COVID restrictions. The students had such an amazing time. The weather was perfect and we had amazing volunteers. We had a three way tie for the spirit award-congratulations 1st, 3rd and 5th grades! Our students raised over \$10,000, the most we have ever brought in! Being our only fundraiser, this money is used for things like teacher-requested classroom materials and needs, as well as fun educational programs, such as the Starfall program. This money also allows us to help provide our students with field trips to Brumbaugh Fruit Farms, Victoria Theater, Carillon Historical Park and more. We also provide spirit tags for our teachers to hand out to the students. None of this would be possible without the support of the parents and community. Thank you for supporting the PTO and Covington Elementary!

During conferences we will once again have the Wishing Tree in the school lobby. If you are interested in purchasing a Christmas gift for your child's teacher, this is a great way to know what is needed in his or her classroom. In December, we will hold our annual Santa Shop once again. This is a great opportunity for students to shop for their family members and everyone always has a great time.

If you are interested in being part of the PTO, please come join us at our next meeting. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in K-2 pod.

Business Professionals of America **by Heidi Anderson**

On September 28th, the Business Professionals of America and the Covington Noon Optimist Club sponsored Leah Fullenkamp as a guest presenter in anticipation of Homecoming events. Her distracted driving campaign "In the Blink of a Fly" was a powerful reminder of the importance of driving safely. Leah's message to students included the perils of driving distracted, and how many people's lives are affected by carelessness behind the wheel.

We thank Mrs. Fullenkamp for sharing her personal story and for reminding our students about the dangers of distracted driving. Her message was very powerful, and we appreciate her work to help our students, and many other students, stay safe.

Band of Bucc Pride **by Emma Elson**

The Band of Bucc Pride worked very hard this season performing at all varsity football games and several contests. The Band started the season strong by placing third in Class C at the New Breman competition, and improved by placing first in their class at the Marion Local competition. This season, the band had one constant goal in mind, to earn a "Superior" rating, and qualify for the OMEA State Marching Band Contest. With the right attitudes and a lot of hard work, they did just that. After performing at Ohio State University, where the Band of Bucc Pride earned a "Superior" rating they were informed that they had qualified for the State competition. And after many tears were shed in celebration, the Band got into the state bound swing of things. Working day in and day out, the Band of Bucc Pride put multiple visuals into their show and worked on their musical talents in hopes to improve their show. Their hard work was rewarded when the Band received an "Excellent" rating at the OMEA State Marching Band Contest at Welcome Stadium on Sunday, October 31.

2021 Homecoming **King Garret Fraley and Queen Claire Fraley**



Photo by Ben Robinson

7-12 School Counseling Department Update **by Laura Ayres**

October has been a very busy month for the 7-12 counseling department. Mrs. Crawford and I have been busy meeting with students, conducting classroom guidance lessons, having small group sessions, organizing field trips and events, putting together a list of community resources, and so much more. A few events we'd like to highlight are our manufacturing month field trip and our Financial Aid and FAFSA workshop for seniors.

Every October, schools, businesses, and colleges throughout Ohio celebrate the manufacturing industry. The purpose behind this is to make students aware of the opportunities available in this in-demand industry. On October 15th, the sophomore class participated by going on a field trip. The counseling department partnered with the Troy Chamber of Commerce, and were able to tour 2 different local manufacturing facilities: Clopay and Stillwater Technologies. Students were able to get an up close look at what these facilities do, how they operate, and basic information about opportunities within the companies. The Troy Chamber of Commerce also provided lunch for all the students. We would like to thank the Troy Chamber of Commerce for their assistance in organizing the event, as well as Clopay and Stillwater Technologies for opening their doors to us!



Another event hosted by the counseling department was the Financial Aid and FAFSA Workshop. Covington hosted Steve Brown from Edison State Community College on October 18th. He gave a 30 minute presentation to senior parents, with an overview of the different types of financial aid available to students, as well as basic information about filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Once the presentation was over, parents and students were invited to stay and receive help completing their FAFSA. It was a great workshop and we look forward to hosting more events like it in the future.

**A Message from
Superintendent
Gene Gooding**

Outstanding fall season

It is clear from the accomplishments noted in the preceding articles that we have had a fantastic fall at CEVSD. Our students are excelling in the arts, in athletics, and in their many co and extra curricular activities. In addition, the field trips that our students have taken and the guest speakers that have been brought in during the first grading period have certainly enhanced their learning experience. Taken with the first rate instruction that is happening daily in each of our classrooms, it has truly been an excellent start to the school year for our great students!

Community and Local Support

I would like to thank the Covington community, our support organizations, and all of our local businesses for their continued support of our school district and our students. We are very blessed to have the financial support of so many organizations at Covington. Due to this support, we are able to provide our students with an exceptional educational experience that includes outstanding curricular resources, superb teachers and staff members, excellent facilities, and much, much more.

Just within the last few weeks, we have accepted almost \$20,000 in donations from the Covington Bucc Boosters, the Covington Noon Optimists, and the Covington Fraternal Order of the Eagles for the improvement of our weight room, which is used by our physical education classes and all of our sports teams. In addition, the Miami County Foundation approved three separate grants to sponsor our Muse Machine Program, our first grade intervention program, and an after school program for elementary girls.

It would be impossible for me to mention the many people, organizations, and local businesses that support our students in this short article. However, without their support, our students would not have many of the opportunities that they receive

while attending CEVSD. The generosity of this community is truly remarkable, and our students benefit everyday from this outstanding support!

Community Committees

Each year, Treasurer Carmen Seifring and I meet with members of the community who serve on our Business Advisory Council and our Financial Advisory Committee. These two groups are instrumental in advising the Board of Education and District Administration on matters that pertain to school finances and local finance. They also provide insight on what area businesses are facing, what skills are important for our graduates to possess, and how we can partner with local businesses to help our students and our community. If you would like to serve on either of these very important committees, please contact me at goodingg@covingtonk12.org or at 937-473-2249.

We have also created a Student Success Committee within our district. This committee focuses on providing our students with everything that they need to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. This group evaluates what we are doing for our students academically, socially, and emotionally, with the goal of making sure that we are providing every student with the best possible all-around education. This committee is currently made up of staff members, but will expand to include parents and community members by the end of this school year. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please feel free to contact me.

Moving Forward

I am confident that the second quarter will bring more successes for our students and our staff members. It is a great time to be a Buccaneer, and I look forward to watching our students grow in the classroom, and challenge themselves in all of their favorite co and extra curricular activities. It is clear to me that our students can reach unbelievable heights when given the opportunity!

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
