



COVINGTON CONNECTION

The Newsletter Linking The Covington Schools,
Home & Community



Gene Gooding, Superintendent

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November 2020

COVINGTON EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Congratulations!

by Jessica Helsinger

Taylor Meyer and Lilly Hughes just found out that they earned top 3 in the nation for their Agriscience Fair project! Oct. 27th at 2:00 PM they will be on the NATIONWIDE LIVESTREAM of the convention to find out their placing! Between \$500-\$1000 are headed their way! Please congratulate these girls when you see them!



Harvest Day Creativity

by Jessica Helsinger

The Covington-UVCC FFA Chapter would usually have been busy preparing and presenting the annual Harvest Day activity for the elementary students in October. However, due to current restrictions the plan had to be changed. Instead, the FFA chapter purchased 200 pumpkins for the K-3rd grade students and created a pumpkin patch on the front lawn of the school! During their specials classes, the students in those grades came out and got to "pick" their pumpkin from the patch and take it home! Some of the elementary classes even completed activities and experiments with the pumpkins! The FFA chapter was happy to provide this fun time for the elementary students and can't wait to work with them in person again!



Homecoming Updates

by Bridgit Kerber

The High School Student Council is excited to announce that the 2020 Homecoming ceremony will take place this year during the HS boys basketball game against Bradford on December 18. The Homecoming Court will be selected prior to Thanksgiving break and announced on November 30. A series of fun and different events are being planned to highlight the Court members during the weeks leading up to the actual ceremony. Since this year's unprecedented event has had to undergo so many changes, and we are now planning during a different season in which convertibles and parade floats are impractical, there are some details that are undetermined. These will be shared with the community as soon as possible.

Due to the current restrictions and scheduling difficulty during the extremely busy winter athletic season, the Homecoming dance is still in the planning phase. No firm date has been selected due to shifting athletic schedules, and the uncertainty of not knowing when, or if, current restrictions will be lifted. The Student Council, its advisor, and the administration will actively follow the guidelines provided by the local Health Department and/or other government agencies, and only plan a dance when the safety of the students who attend can be assured. While it is our fervent hope that this group of students will be able to celebrate together at some point this school year, we recognize that our first priority is the health and safety of those same young people.

Fee Waivers for High School Programs

by Karen Brackman

Several programs that high school students opt to participate in offer fee waivers. Some of these programs include ACT testing, SAT testing, college applications and NCAA registration. The criteria to qualify for the fee waiver varies somewhat from program to program; however, most of them include the following requirements:

*Student participates in free or reduced-price lunch program

*Student is enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged

*Student resides in a foster home, is a ward of the state, or is homeless

*Student's family receives low-income public assistance or lives in federally subsidized public housing

*Family income is at or below the USDA levels for free or reduced-price lunches listed on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Website

The guidance counselor at the high school, Karen Brackman, is the staff member who typically assists students wanting to register for the programs mentioned above. If a student believes he/she qualifies for a fee waiver, the student or parent should contact Ms. Brackman at least one week before registering for these services. Upon providing proof of financial need, families will complete the application with Ms. Brackman to implement the fee waiver.

All qualifying information shared between parents, students, and Ms. Brackman will remain confidential and will be used strictly for the fee-waiver process. Ms. Brackman can be reached by calling 937-473-2856 or emailing brackmank@covingtonk12.org.

CES Safety Concerns

by Josh Long

Please remember to observe the "Drop-Off Zone" when bringing students to school. Pull over to the curb, have your child exit on the curb side, and pull out to make room for others to drop off their children.

Please make sure your student is not arriving at school before 7:50a.m. The

temperature will be dropping soon and we do not want them to be standing outside for an extended amount of time. Also, please do your best to send your child to school with a jacket and hat. They will still have outside recess when it is cold out.

CES Parent/Teacher Conferences

by Josh Long

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 12, from 1:30 to 9:00 p.m. Parents should have received a letter from their child's teacher regarding online conference scheduling. If you did not receive information from your child, please call the school at 937-473-2252. Due to the considerable amount of students, we highly encourage everyone to attend their conference at the pre-scheduled time.

There will be an early dismissal at 1:00p.m. on Thursday, November 12, for all students in the district. There will be no school on Friday, November 13.

Pride You Can See

by Bridgit Kerber

One thing is known- Buccaneer Pride is hard to stifle, even during a worldwide crisis, and it can be seen in the halls and classrooms of the K-12 building, on the fields and courts of our athletic endeavors, and in the hearts and minds of every student, staff member, community supporter, and alumnus. But one area where our pride was not prominently displayed was on the exterior of our buildings. Soon, when a Buccaneer, or a worthy adversary attending an event, approaches the entryways to the Home of the Buccs, they will see Buccaneer Pride on full display.

A visual promotion of our district culture will soon be installed on the entryways of the high school, elementary school, and Board of Education. The glass panels on every main entrance will be getting a makeover to better represent the culture of Buccaneer Pride that encompasses academics, athletics, the arts, conduct and more.

The door wraps were designed by local designers & printers VPP in Versailles, and their challenge was to prominently utilize the Buccaneer mascot, but also incorporate the Buccaneer ship that now represents the PBIS culture of the district in a way that maintains our fierce spirit. The results are awesome to see! The window wraps have the added bonus of provided security at the entrances, allowing those inside to see out clearly, but blocking the view into the building from the outside. The installation should begin soon if the weather holds, and will be paid for by a grant that supports the promotion and support of school cultural programs. This enhancement to our visual culture will only further promote the Buccaneer Pride that is so strong in the community, and perhaps instill trepidation in the hearts of those who dare to oppose us. Go Buccs!

State Convention

by Jessica Helsinger

The 89th Ohio FFA State Convention has drawn to a conclusion. As we take a look at the convention in review we are proud to honor those students who have transformed the future of agriculture and have earned exemplary awards.

Hunter Zell of the Covington-UVCC FFA Chapter was the 2020 state winner in the area of Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication. This award involves the design and construction of agricultural equipment and/or structures, and/or selection of the structural materials, and/or implementation of plans for utilizing concrete, electricity, plumbing, data communication cable systems, heating, ventilation, and/or air conditioning into agricultural settings. It may also include the development of new and emerging agricultural technologies such as engineering, remote sensing, precision agriculture, ag-robotics and other new technologies. Zell submitted his application to the national level and earned a Gold rating!

Jr/Sr High News

Josh Meyer, 7-12 Principal

Every day I get the pleasure to work with a great group of students and staff at Covington Jr/Sr High School. I would like to share just some of the successes that our students have had since the start of the school year, along with some of the activities that our students have participated in.

- The Band of Bucc Pride has performed at all of our home varsity football games this season. Along with that the Band of Bucc Pride played at the Stillwater Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility, participated in the Versailles Marching Band Festival, played at a JV home football game and a JH home football game! Thank you to Mrs. Moore for providing these opportunities for our students.
- The FFA chapter under the leadership of Mrs. Jessica Helsinger continues to achieve at a high level. Recently Teylor Meyer and Lilly Hughes earned top 3 in the nation for their Agriscience Fair project! Oct. 27th at 2:00 PM they will be on the nationwide livestream of the FFA convention and find out their final placing
- In the guidance department, representatives from Wright State, University of Findlay, Ohio Northern, and Bowling Green met with our seniors remotely. Also, Ms. Brackman hosted a Financial Aid night on October 14th. While this event looked different due to social distancing guidelines and capacity limitations, there was valuable information shared to the parents that attended.
- In fall athletics, the CC teams had a successful season. The HS boys team won the Miami County championship and the CCC championship, and have had consistently high finishes at invitationals. The volleyball team concluded their regular season with a winning record and began tournament play on Wednesday, October 21. The varsity football team had a great season and advanced to the third round of the state playoffs. 7th grade volleyball finished as CCC runner-up and the 8th grade volleyball finished the season as CCC champs.
- Students of the Month for September: 7th grade- Caleigh Gilpin, 8th grade- Jason McIntire, 9th grade- Kamryn Barnes, 10th grade- Mic Barhorst, 11th grade- Emily Daly, 12th grade- Ben Romie.

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! Go Buccs!

FFA

by Jessica Helsinger

On September 30, the Covington-UVCC FFA chapter had ten students participate in the first virtual Ohio Legislative Leadership Conference. Covington members that participated included Tori Quinter, Allison Gostomsky, Mic Barhorst, Ryan Rohr, Derrick Meyer, Audrey Tobe, Trey Schmelzer, Kara Stephan, and Lainee McMaken. 300 FFA members from across Ohio participated in the online conference. The focus of the event was teaching students about the lobbying and legislative process, as well the importance of advocating for yourself. State Senator Bob Peterson shared his belief in being a “lifelong learner” and State FFA President Bethany Starlin encouraged the members to always look for the “promise for future success.” Our students also heard from Ohio Farm Bureau leaders about the agricultural policies that are on the ballot this year. One of the most impactful messages was from Congressman Todd Balderson who stated that, “small changes make a difference.” We hope these members are encouraged to learn more about how to advocate for agriculture and themselves.



A Message from Superintendent Gene Gooding One Quarter Down

To me, it seems like the school year is just getting started. However, in reality, we are already one-quarter of the way through the 2020-2021 academic year. It is truly amazing how quickly each school year goes by.

The students and staff members have had a fantastic fall. They have experienced great success in the classroom, in athletics, in the arts, and in countless other ways. I am so grateful that the students have been able to return to school. While they may not have every opportunity that they have had in the past, they are getting to learn from their teachers, socialize with their friends, compete with their teammates, and challenge themselves in innumerable ways. It is truly an honor to get to work with this remarkable group of students.

Continuing Challenges

While I am grateful that we are back in school, like all of you, I still look forward to a day when all of these Coronavirus challenges are behind us. In the meantime, on behalf of the Covington School District Administration, I would like to thank the students, staff members, parents, and community members for being so patient, cooperative, and

supportive. During this pandemic, each of the mandated restrictions and guidelines has presented unique challenges. However, our students and staff members have been outstanding, and the members of this community have done everything within their power to keep our kids learning in the classrooms, participating in their clubs and activities, and competing in their respective sports. Thank you again for your help and for your dedication to the success of all Covington students.

OSBA Business Honor Roll

The Ohio School Boards Association recently honored four local businesses for their support of the Covington School District and the Covington Community. Each of these businesses was presented with a certificate and recognized at the September Board of Education meeting. The honored businesses are General Films, Harvest Land Cooperative, Marias Technology, and Mr. Sew and Sew's.

Our district is very fortunate to have such a supportive business community, and we could not provide the level of education that we do without that support. On behalf of the students and staff of the Covington Exempted Village School District I would like to thank General Films, Harvest Land

Cooperative, Marias Technology, Mr. Sew and Sew's, and all of the Covington businesses for all that they do for our school and our community!

Communication

I encourage every parent to schedule a parent/teacher conference appointment on November 12th. This afternoon and evening is set aside so parents and guardians can schedule appointments to meet with as many of their child's teachers as possible in one day. However, if this day is inconvenient for you, please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers and select another day to meet. Our teachers can also be reached via phone or email with any concerns that you may have regarding your son or daughter's education.

In addition, please feel free to reach out to your child's principal, bus driver, coach, or other appropriate school district employee with any concerns that you have. Strong two-way communication between parents and staff members is always beneficial, and can lead to greater student success.

Finally, if you have any questions for me, or if you would simply like to discuss the direction of the school district, please feel free to email me at goodingg@covingtonk12.org or call me at 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.
