

## FROM THE NURSES

This school year, a great deal of our focus is on COVID-19. It is imperative that students stay home when they are exhibiting symptoms. While these symptoms can be similar to other ailments, such as allergies, it is important that we all err on the side of caution. See the graphic to the right for a list of symptoms to monitor for.

In order to keep our schools open and limit the number of students who contract the virus or have to quarantine, students are encouraged to stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms, wear their mask and wash their hands frequently. If your child is showing symptoms, contact his/her physician. Thank you for helping us to limit the spread!

**COVID-19 Symptoms**  
Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

**You may have COVID-19 if you:**

**Have one or both of these symptoms:**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

**Have at least two of these symptoms:**

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat

**Symptoms may be mild or severe and may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.**

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Keeping up with Graduation Requirements

As with many aspects of education, the schools are constantly working to keep up with new requirements from the State. They then work to keep the students and parents informed of these changes and new requirements. One of the focuses this year is on the changes to the requirements for students to receive a diploma. The class of 2023 and beyond need to meet the new graduation requirements, which include three areas. They must receive 21 credits for graduation, meet competency and meet demonstration. While the changes have affected students because they must now complete a section for competency and demonstration, the changes have not impacted the courses that are offered.

Terms such as competency and demonstration can be confusing for students and parents, so the guidance department has worked to create a PowerPoint presentation, a flyer and letters detailing the requirements and explaining these terms. The counselors sent home individual letters to every freshman and sophomore student. In addition, they created a PowerPoint presentation, which has been shared in the Class of 2023 and Class of 2024 Schoology groups. If parents are unsure how to access these groups, contact the guidance office. Information is also available from the Ohio Department of Education at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements>.

"We know it can be overwhelming for parents and students to keep track of the changes and understand terminology used in education, so we have worked to provide detailed information that is easy to understand. It is our hope that parents will sit down with their students to review this information to ensure they are doing all that is required to graduate," school counselor Julie Samlow said.

Another new requirement involves the parents. Parents are now required to complete a Graduation Commitment Form. This is done each year during the window when courses are being selected for the upcoming school year. Students are also responsible for completing a Success Survey, which helps students, parents and counselors identify trends of success and challenges, so they can discover any missing components for graduation earlier.

"It is vital that students and parents become very familiar with these requirements and review their achievements each semester to ensure they are on track for graduation." Samlow said. "Meeting graduation requirements will take a partnership with the entire school community, families and students. I encourage parents and students to stay connected with the student's counselor. The guidance department is here to answer questions and do what we can to help all students succeed."

~If you have questions about "The Talk at Teays" or if you would like to submit information for the next edition, contact Julie DeLisio, Director of Communications, at **740.983.5048** or at [jdelisio@tvsd.us](mailto:jdelisio@tvsd.us).

# ALL IN ON The Talk at Teays

NEWS FROM THE TEAYS VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2020 \* 2020/2021 ISSUE 2



## IMPORTANT DATES

### November

- 16** Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 25** Thanksgiving Break - No School Nov 25-27

### December

- 14** Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 18** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks
- 21** Winter Break - No School Dec 21-Jan 4

### January

- 1** No School
- 4** No School - Teacher Work Day
- 5** Classes Resume
- 18** No School

### February

- 2** Parent/Teacher Conferences @ Elem, 4-7 pm
- 4** Parent/Teacher Conferences @ MS, 4-7 pm
- 9** Parent/Teacher Conferences @ HS, 4-7 pm
- 11** Two Hour Early Release Day, HS & MS - 12:30 pm & Elem - 1:30 pm  
Parent/Teacher Conferences @ HS & MS, 1-4 pm  
Parent/Teacher Conferences @ Elem, 2-5 pm
- 15** No School

## Vikings Adjust and Adapt

I am writing this letter today at the conclusion of the first nine weeks grading period. Fortunately, we have made it a quarter through the 2020-21 school year with few COVID-19 instances. At the date this was printed, we only had two students and one staff member out due to testing positive. Taking into account that we have over 4,300 students and 500 staff members, the percentage is extremely small. I want to thank all of our staff, students and parents for doing their best to mask up, sanitize and social distance. These measures have been working for our district, and have allowed us to return to educating our students in person five days a week.

Although the number of cases in the county have been rising, the schools throughout the county have not kept the same pace. The number of students and staff contracting the virus from the school setting has been very few. The county superintendents recently met to discuss what our schools should do to keep educating our students even if the county levels change. We developed a system that will focus on the percentage of ill students in each building, rather than simply letting the color level of the county dictate our decisions. We have communicated with the Pickaway County Department of Health and they have collaborated with us in developing these plans.

The Teays Valley Board of Education recently approved a document that details the circumstances that will result in the district transitioning to the hybrid model. In the early stages of our reopening plans, we considered looking to the levels set by the governor to dictate our learning model (in person, hybrid or remote). However, we have learned that while Pickaway County may be labeled as red, our numbers may still be very low. Because of that, the board voted to transition to the hybrid model if 15% of the student population is out due to illness. This includes all illnesses, not just COVID-19. We believe this threshold is a more accurate depiction of our district's situation rather than following the county levels.

This letter also comes at the end of the fall sports season. Many of our athletic teams have done extremely well this fall in spite of the changes that have been imposed on our athletes and our spectators. Most of our spectators have been very cooperative and understanding of the new requirements and this has assisted our students in keeping the events moving forward. Our athletes have handled these changes well and I could not be more proud of them for their cooperation.

It has been a year of change for all of us. What we planned in July has had many revisions. A number of these changes in plans have been the result of mandates from the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Many of the adjustments in our plans have also been the result of learning what works and what does not. We have not experienced a pandemic prior to this so we really do learn as we move forward. Although these adjustments may at times be inconvenient, they have been necessary for learning how to live in a pandemic.

As we enter the second quarter of the year, most of our activities will move inside. I would like to encourage all of you to again be diligent to follow proper protocols for preventing the spread. As in the fall, attendance at events will be limited, but we will continue to do our best to live stream as many activities as possible. Things won't be perfect, but we will continue to do our best to serve our students and our community.

Robin Halley, *Superintendent*

### Board of Education

Kevin Archer, *President*

Charles D. Morrison, *VP*

Roxanne Davis, Karen Karshner & Bill McGowan, *Board Members*

### Coronavirus Data Dashboard

The Coronavirus Data Dashboard is available on the TV homepage at [www.tvsd.us](http://www.tvsd.us). Here, you will find a spreadsheet that includes information about current positive COVID-19 cases for both staff and students, as well as cumulative numbers since the start of the school year. For the direct link to the information, go to <https://bit.ly/2RIhO49>

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER \*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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Teays Valley Local School District



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## ASHVILLE ELEMENTARY

### Students choose 'One Word' for School Year Focus



Although students spent some time apart at the start of the year, they all took part in an activity to unite them. All students and staff participated in Ashville's second annual all school read. This year's book is "One Word for Kids" by Jon Gordon. After reading the book, students were asked to choose one word to focus on throughout the school year.

School counselor Ronna Brisker was introduced to this book after reading about businesses, sports teams and individuals reading it and discovering their one word for the year.

"I thought it would be a great way to start our elementary school year," she said. "This book was a perfect back-to-school book as it describes a boy named Stevie on his first few days of school and a special assignment his teacher gives him."

After reading the book, they all chose the one word they wanted to focus on this school year. Once they picked their word, they shared it, wrote it down and colored it. They chose words

such as strong, brave, happy, kind, fun, friend, believe, flexible, resilience, outgoing, warrior, courage, hopeful, creative and positive.

"Our hope is for students and staff to use their one word as a way to stay focused. With all the challenges of day to day life, especially this year, a simple one word can help us remember our goals," Brisker said.

Teachers will revisit the students' one word throughout the school year, as well as focus on them during morning meetings. They are also displayed around the school for students to see each others' focus.

"This was a great way to bring us back together as a school and provided us a way to discuss some goals for the school year," principal Gretchen Weiler said. "It's been fun to see all of the positive words the students and staff have chosen to focus on this school year."

## SCIOTO ELEMENTARY

### Students take part in 'ouR Time'

Before any traditional education takes place at Scioto, the students and staff kick off each day with a new initiative called "ouR Time". This is a 15-20 minute lesson where teachers and students engage in an activity or discussion about discipline driven behaviors and/or social emotional learning skills and tools. The lessons are personalized to the needs of each classroom. In addition, there is a school-wide lesson once a month. The "R" in ouR time is capitalized because Scioto has also introduced the students to the formula E+R=O, which stands for EVENT+RESPONSE= OUTCOME. They are stressing to students the only thing they can control is their R, or their response.

"We purposefully have ouR time in the morning to start our day on a positive note and get our minds right to tackle the events that will occur," assistant principal Kylie Ringhiser said. "Students engage in activities and discussions such as gratitude, connection, hope, empathy, mindfulness, grit, growth mindset, self-regulation, goal setting and kindness."

As a part of the lessons, staff members are reinforcing common language that is being used throughout the building this year. For example, they focused on reviewing the school's VBOs, which are our Values, Behaviors and Outcomes. Their values include teamwork, own the moment and passion for growth. Staff members stress that these values help shape their behaviors, which lead to positive outcomes.

Not only are students enjoying this time together each morning to develop a sense of community within their classroom, it is also instilling and reinforcing positive mindsets for the students.

"Mindset development is as important as academic development. It is our job to help students understand the social emotional pieces as well as the discipline drive behaviors to help them make choices that are skillful, intentional and on-purpose," Ringhiser said. "We know that to reach the minds of our children we must first reach their hearts. Helping them make 'on path' choices and have disciplined driver behaviors helps them be the best they can be. Through ouR time, they are learning skills that are essential as they continue their life journey."



## SOUTH BLOOMFIELD ELEMENTARY

### Students recognized for Making a Difference



At South Bloomfield, staff and students live by the motto that they should take care of themselves, take care of others and take care of their school. Through a system developed by the PBIS committee (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), students are recognized for demonstrating these qualities.

Staff members award students with a Viking Award when they witness them exemplifying one of these three qualities. Students receive a note recognizing what they were "caught" doing, as well as a small prize. At the end of each week, three of these students are chosen at random and receive a shirt, which says "Modeling Excellence - I Make a Difference."

"We are wanting to reward students for their positive behaviors. The positive reinforcement helps students see that they are making a difference in our school environment," 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Jason Mitchell said. "Our committee feels that these awards not only reward the students for their actions weekly, but also challenge

the students to make better life-skill decisions."

Students are rewarded for actions as simple as picking up a piece of trash at recess, to always raising their hand to be called on to helping up a student who may have fallen. They are also honored for more impactful actions such as helping out a friend who is getting bullied, to volunteering to help a student who is struggling or working through difficult situations in the classroom with a positive attitude.

"Students love this because we come into the classroom and announce the winners at the end of the week. The staff makes a big deal about it and the students love the small rewards. We then will announce the three winners on the morning announcements and the story of their achievement," Mitchell said. "The students look forward to the announcements because they are hoping to hear their name in front of the entire school. These awards are a great way to model to the other students positive behaviors and choices that students are making on their own."

"I am grateful to the staff for planning this positive rewards program for our students. I love seeing our students being rewarded for their positive actions, whether big or small," principal Allison Swanger said.

## WALNUT ELEMENTARY

### Striving to create HEROES

Since students spent much of the first 9 weeks with just half of their classmates, Walnut organized a spirit week the first week of full in person learning to build excitement and help to connect all of the students as they came back together. The theme for the week focused on the importance of good attendance.

"Each day's theme gave a reminder of how important being at school all day, every day, and on time is to their success," school counselor Niki Shaner said. Some of the themes included 'hippie day—don't let absences sneak up on you' and 'crazy hair/hat day—head for success by arriving on time.'

"I hope the students felt a sense of connection to the other students in their classroom. They've only been in class with half of their homeroom peers, so this was a way to bond the two groups together," Shaner said.

The week concluded with superheroes day, which was a transition into this year's school-wide theme, 'Be a Walnut HERO.' Walnut heroes are **H**ard workers, **E**ncouraging, **R**espectful and **O**ptimistic. Teachers will work on these character traits with students during daily morning meetings.

"During morning meetings, social and emotional skills are worked on. Problems are shared and solutions are worked out together, with the goal of building relationships amongst the students," Shaner said. "Having a dedicated time daily for the morning meeting gives a snapshot of the way we wish our school to be, a community full of learning, safe and respectful, and challenging for everyone. Through opportunities for students to practice social skills, we hope our students will become better listeners, have a greater attention span and develop cooperative interactions with their peers. By being a Walnut HERO, we can grow friendships and support each other to achieve individual goals this school year."



## EAST MIDDLE • WEST MIDDLE

### Libraries transformed to meet Unique Needs

Middle school librarian Jennifer Seebauer has transformed the East and West libraries into places that are used for more than simply checking out books. Like with many aspects of education this unique school year, she was forced to get creative with how the library serves the staff and students.

This year, they are utilizing a newly created virtual library to check out books, both digital and print, as well as to view a variety of booktalks. Through booktalks, students can view a digital summary of various books, organized by genre, to determine if that book will be a good fit. In addition, they provide readlikes in case a book they choose is unavailable. So far, Seebauer has created 131 booktalks spanning six genres, and will continue to add up to three per genre per week. In addition, she creates Snapchats about books that have been added to the library.

"The students love the interactive options Mrs. Seebauer has created. By offering them information through channels they enjoy, such as Snapchat, it helps to keep them engaged," West principal Mike Kauffeld said. "I am grateful to Mrs. Seebauer for getting creative to keep the

students interested and excited about reading."

Students also now have access to eBooks through Overdrive and JLG Digital, which gives them easier and constant access to books. These collections offer titles that are both eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Another way the library is working to provide safe options is by incorporating a self-hold system. Through this, students can place a hold on a book from the classroom or home, and as soon as the book is available, it is delivered to their ELA classroom.

"Our students love the virtual library. It is colorful, engaging and user friendly," West teacher Melinda Sauerbrun said. "They enjoy perusing the different genres while listening to the booktalks, utilizing the online reading options and placing books on hold. Students eagerly anticipate the daily book deliveries by Mrs. Seebauer and Mr. Borgman, and several students have commented that it's like a little bit of Christmas each day."

In addition, Seebauer has gotten creative to serve the needs of individual grade levels. While students used to search for books to check out to use for various projects throughout the year, this year she brought books directly to them. She pulled books that were applicable to individual projects and placed them in Ziploc bags so students could handle the bagged book. If they determined they wanted the book, it was removed from the bag for immediate check out. If they did not want the book, the bag was sanitized before another student could handle it.

"One of our top priorities this school year is keeping our students and staff safe, which has meant making adjustments to our typical procedures. I am sure many schools simply closed their libraries during this unique school year, but Mrs. Seebauer went above and beyond to come up with a safe way to still get books to our students," East principal Shannon Helser said. "This year definitely added new challenges to her role, but she strives to still meet the needs of all of our students and staff members."

According to Seebauer, the students have responded positively to the new digital library.

"I am noticing that students are more likely to email me via Google mail or Schoology this year than previous," she said. "They will ask questions, ask for recommendations and follow up on books out or on hold. A few students will comment when I see them in the hall about a silly Snapchat booktalk I've done. I am thrilled to see them excited and engaged."

"It was just so nice to see the kids get excited again about books," East teacher Courtney Emory said. "Books are such a vital part of a language arts classroom and without giving kids the choice to choose their own books they can't truly be invested in growing as a reader."

