

From the Nurses—Vaccination Requirements

School vaccination requirements are an important public health tool to aide in the prevention of vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccines can help decrease school days missed and protect students from diseases that can cause serious illness or may be life threatening. Ohio Department of Health immunization requirements for school attendance according to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 3313.67 and 3313.671 are as follows:

Kindergarten entry: 5-Dtap, 4-Polio, 3-Hepatitis B, 2-MMR and 2-Varicella, 7th grade entry: Tdap and MCV4 #1 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) and 12th grade entry: MCV4 #2

Letters have been sent out to next year's 7th and 12th graders as a reminder that the immunizations are needed. If you receive a letter and have presented the school with the updated immunization record, you can disregard the letter.

The 2019-20 immunization exclusion date is 9/16/2019. It is important that your student's immunization record is compliant prior to that date. Immunizations are mandated by the state and one of the roles of the school nurse is to oversee that these requirements are met within the schools. If you have concerns or questions, contact your child's nurse.

Teays Valley High School

New Program empowers and encourages Girls at TVHS



Schools are continuously looking for ways to encourage students and provide them opportunities to form positive bonds with their classmates. One way this is being done at the high school is through the addition of ROX, which stands for Ruling Our eXperiences. This program was introduced to TVHS by school counselor Mary Langenfeld.

ROX began as a research study in 2006 at The Ohio State University and is now the national non-profit leader in programming, research and education focused on girls. Years of working with girls in school and community settings showed Dr. Lisa Hinkelman that challenges, such as drops in self-esteem, dealing with girl bullying, unhealthy dating relationships and sexual violence, lack of strong friendships and support systems and limited academic and career expectations left girls at a disadvantage. ROX serves girls throughout the country by providing evidence based programming for them, professional development for educators and counselors and parent workshops. ROX is open to all TVHS female students in grades 9-11.

Langenfeld facilitated ROX groups in two districts prior to coming to TVHS and wanted to offer it to students here as well. "I saw amazing improvements in the girls that participated. ROX gave them a great support system and I wanted our girls to have that too," she said. "Being a part of the ROX organization, I also see the amazing things they do around Ohio to benefit parents and communities and I wanted Pickaway County to have that."

After participating in ROX, it is Langenfeld's hope that the girls will feel more confident and empowered. "All of the topics, in my opinion, are centered around girls feeling like they are worthy of the best and having the tools to make that happen for themselves," she said. Over the course of the program, I have seen the girls form tremendous relationships in the group built on trust and respect. The girls are understanding that they are strong and deserve respect."

Langenfeld is excited about the fact that ROX is expanding to East, Scioto and South Bloomfield next school year as well. "I think girls should be involved so that they can get a support system of other girls in the school that is centered on being uplifting and dedicated to creating a better environment for them," she said. "After this year, I would like to start a mentorship program with the ROX alumnae to be role models for younger girls in the high school, middle schools and elementary schools."

~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.

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The Talk at Teays

Proud to be a Viking

The grip of winter has lost its hold and I welcome the warm temperatures of summer. I know that parents are relieved to not be receiving those early morning calls about snow, fog and ice. In just a few more weeks we will be celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2019. I have known many of these students since kindergarten. It's hard to believe that 13 years has gone so fast.

This time of year is a time of reflection for me. I enjoy looking back over the past years and noting those things that we have done well. This year we started with the roll out of the 1:1 device program at the middle schools and high school. After a year of planning, this process went extremely well. We established Schoology as the learning management system for the district. We asked staff to put their "toes in the water" with it this year and many of them have taken off and have become champion swimmers.

Over the last three years we have increased the number of career pathways for our students. These pathways have given our students the opportunity to explore careers in business, technology, agriculture and engineering. This next year we will add a biomedical pathway. We have also been able to increase opportunities for students at the elementary level with afterschool STEM activities.

The Teays Valley Digital Academy has been continuously adding courses to give students a wide range of options. Most of the courses offered in the digital academy are written by Teays Valley staff and monitored by the same teachers. The digital environment allows many students to gain additional course credit, to obtain course recovery and often gives others a chance to be successful in a nontraditional environment.

In just a few more days Viking Stadium will consist of a new turf field and video scoreboard. This district has been fortunate to have almost the entire cost of the field covered by sponsorships. Most of these sponsorships come from businesses inside the district who have generously given to this project. Teays Valley will have a premier stadium beginning this fall sports season.

I am so proud to be a Viking. This is a district that works hard to do what is best for our kids and our community. The leaders in this district work tirelessly to create a culture that is safe, caring and supportive. The teachers, aides, bus drivers, custodians and secretaries all work to promote a positive environment. We refer to this culture as the "Viking Way."

Nobody represented the "Viking Way" better than former superintendent Benis Lutz. Mr. Lutz passed away on April 14, 2019. He was the Teays Valley superintendent for 25 years (1964-1989). During Mr. Lutz's tenure as superintendent, Teays Valley experienced a unique situation - split sessions. From 1971 until 1985, the middle school and high school students shared a building. The split sessions concluded in 1985 when the district opened the doors to the new Teays Valley Middle School. This was made possible after the passage of a levy that Mr. Lutz, along with many others, worked tirelessly to pass.

Mr. Lutz was a man of integrity and intellect. He had an outstanding memory and could chronicle much of the history of Teays Valley Schools. He was held in high esteem by the entire community. After his retirement he stayed active in the Teays Valley Educational Foundation and Ashville Kiwanis, and served faithfully in the Village Chapel Church. Ron Thornton, who succeeded Mr. Lutz as superintendent, said, "His presence will be felt in the Teays Valley area forever. What a legacy." Former superintendent Jeff Sheets said, "Mr. Lutz always made this community better, through his involvement in the schools, his church and countless other activities in which he was so generous with his time."

Thank you, Mr. Lutz, for all you did to make Teays Valley and this community a better place.

~Robin Halley, *Superintendent*

Important Dates

May

- 19 Commencement @ Viking Stadium, 3 p.m.
- 20 Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Last Day of School & End of 4th 9 Weeks
- 23 Teacher Work Day

June

- 28 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

July

- 22 Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Viking Academy

August

- 1 Viking Academy
- 2 Viking Academy
- 12 Teacher Work Day & Elementary Open House, 5:30-7 p.m.
- 13 Teacher Work Day
- 14 First Day of School
- 26 Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

September

- 2 No School
- 20 Two Hour Early Release Day

Board of Education

Charlie Morrison, *Pres.*

Kevin Archer, *V.P.*

Jimmy Gloyd

Karen Karshner

William McGowan

The last day of school is **May 22**. We will kick off the 2019-2020 school year on **August 14**. The full 19-20 calendar can be found on the Calendar tab at tvsd.us.

Have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer, Viking Nation!

Ashville Elementary School

Students expand Vocabulary through College Word of the Week



Although it might sound strange to hear “College Word of the Week” at an elementary school, Ashville believes it is never too early to start familiarizing students with new words to expand their vocabulary and enhance their writing. Each week, a word is introduced, then students are encouraged to look for it in their literature and utilize it in their writing.

“Increasing vocabulary is vital to reading and writing growth,” kindergarten teacher Rebekah Willis said. “My students have really been drawn to the college words of the

week. Some of the students jump right in the first day and begin using it in sentences and in their spoken language while others wait to become more familiar with the word as the week progresses and then attempt to use it in their writing.”

The words can be found posted throughout the building and in classrooms. Students are encouraged to use them and be on the lookout for them in books. In Willis’s classroom, when students use the words, she sends them to principal Gretchen Weiler to share with her.

“They are very excited to share their work with Mrs. Weiler and repeatedly ask me when they can share their work. They come back in the room beaming with pride after sharing their college word of the week writing with Mrs. Weiler,” she said. “When one student finished his writing he said ‘I love writing about the college word of the week because it makes Mrs. Weiler happy and I just know she will be so proud of me for extending my thinking.’”

“I love seeing the excitement students have when they share the words with me,” Weiler said. “This has been a positive way to expand their vocabulary and enhance their writing, while giving me the opportunity to spend time with the students recognizing their great work.”

Scioto Elementary School

Students spread Joy and gain Life Skills through Coffee Shop

A group of Scioto students with special needs are brightening the staff members’ days with their coffee shop on wheels. With the help of a few staff members, this student-run coffee shop provides treats and coffee to all of the staff members once a month. Through the shop, students are working on speech, life skills and/or social goals while delivering the orders to each classroom. They use a visual script to ask their customers what they would like to eat.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for students to work on life skills, speech and social interactions while bringing joy to all of Scioto,” kindergarten teacher Michelle Britt said. “We hope the students are able to gain confidence in interacting with others and build life skills that will carry on beyond their time at Scioto.”

The Scioto Cafe has also allowed the students to have a leadership role in the building.

“It is important for these students to know they are valuable members of Scioto. They love and look forward to the coffee cart each month,” Britt said.

The staff members have enjoyed this addition to Scioto as well, with many teachers giving “tips” to the students by giving them stickers or stamps to show their appreciation.

“The Scioto Cafe cart has been such a treat for the staff and positive interaction among our students and the teachers. It’s been enjoyable watching the students get excited about running their own coffee shop and the students’ communication skills have really grown,” Scioto 1st grade teacher Robyn Hatton said.



South Bloomfield Elementary School

Let Me Run Program introduced to Boys



While it has become common to see the 3rd-5th grade South Bloomfield girls running after school through the Girls on the Run program, the 4th and 5th grade boys have now joined into the fun through the Let Me Run program. Third grade teacher Michele Buxbaum and custodian Derek Dowdy brought this program to South Bloomfield. Buxbaum said the group was started after growing interest from the students.

“As a third grade teacher and GOTR coach, I was able to share information and my excitement with all my students, both boys and girl,” Buxbaum said. “The interest in the GOTR team grew and a

waiting list to be on the team developed, and that’s when several boys began asking why isn’t there a Boys on the Run team.”

Buxbaum then looked into it and discovered the LMR program and she and Dowdy attended a training session.

The LMR mission statement says “Let me Run inspires boys through the power of running to be courageous enough to be themselves, to build healthy relationships, and to live an active lifestyle.” In addition to encouraging physical activity, LMR also incorporates lessons and a community service component. During each practice, the boys write and receive a positive peer card from each other. Every practice concludes with a huddle cheering the LMR mantra, “Let me be me! Let me reach out! Let me run!”

At the conclusion of the seven week program, the team will participate in a 5K in Westerville.

“It is wonderful to see the excitement from the students participating in both programs,” principal Bruce Bryant said. “I am grateful to the staff members for spearheading these programs that not only encourage our students to get active, but instill in them a positive message and the importance of giving back to their community.”

Walnut Elementary School

Columbus Opera visits Walnut

Walnut students got a taste of opera music through a visit from Opera Columbus. The performance was a twist on the story “The Ugly Duckling.”

As a part of the visit, the school had the opportunity to have a group of students participate in the performance as well. Choral music teacher Cheryl Vorus worked with the students leading up to the performance. They served as the duckling chorus. Vorus practiced

with the students, using materials provided by the opera group. A representative from the opera also visited to work with the students on staging and rehearsed the pieces with them and the group arrived early on the day of the performance to work with the students.

“I think that most kids do not have any idea what opera really is and most will never see an actual opera performance. Programs like this allow schools to expose students to different experiences that they may only ever read about in a book,” Vorus said. “Opera Columbus has done a fantastic job of using music from operas and putting it to a story that the students are familiar with and able to follow.”

The performance allowed the students to experience the opera form of music and hear what actual opera singers sound like.

“The performance was about an hour long and kept their attention with a lot of humor, yet had a lesson to teach about how being different is okay. I hope that the students learned that opera is just another way of telling a story and that it can be fun to watch and enjoyable to hear the different way that the opera singers use their voices, without the use of a microphone,” Vorus said.



TV East Middle School

Staff Members honored during annual VIP Day



East celebrated a special group of staff members through their annual VIP day, which stand for Very Important People. Through this celebration, they honor bus/van drivers, custodians, aides, secretaries and cafeteria workers.

Each grade level plans its own unique way to celebrate these staff members. They made signs of appreciation and gave them gift cards, gift bags and food. A breakfast was also planned in their honor.

According to school counselor Ronna Brisker, in addition to the honorees feeling special, it is a positive learning experience for the students.

“Through days such as this, we hope to create even more appreciation, thankfulness and kindness in our students,” she said. “They enjoyed making our VIP’s day and remarked on how good it feels to give rather than to receive.”

She said the staff members expressed their appreciation for all of the gestures made throughout the day.

“They were blown away, to be honest. The VIP’s are so appreciative and thankful,” Brisker said. “One example, in the AM bus drop off at school, students met the bus drivers with a snack bag hand decorated by the LIFE group members and it included a juice and muffin. Their smiles could light up a room.”

“VIP day has become a day that the students, teachers and VIP’s look forward to,” principal Shannon Helser said. “This group of staff members do so much for us and are a vital part of our building. I was thrilled to see them feel appreciated and honored.”

TV West Middle School

Technology Team shows off Skills

A technology team made up of a group of students was created at West this year under the leadership of technology teacher John Hyder. They kicked off the school year by assisting with the distribution of Chromebooks and solving minor technology issues. Since then, they have added skills such as replacing batteries, screens, track pads and broken lids or hinges. When repairs are not being done, Hyder gives the students design challenges, which require them to problem solve their way to a solution. They use k’nex, software and even paper in pencil to work through these scenarios.

“This group has served as guinea pigs with certain software so that I can become more proficient and am able to effectively share with other teachers and my regular classes,” Hyder said. “They are currently working on coding drones to fly a pattern, updating our website, developing a lesson they would want to teach to their peers that they have learned and forming the plan for collection of devices at the end of the year. We rotate through these tasks daily.”

The drones have added an element of fun that also requires the students to think critically and use their skills. In the software they use to code the drones, there are speed and time variables that must be adjusted based on the environment in which they are flying. The task they have been given is to determine the safe range to operate the drones in for each environment.

The students are also excited to share their knowledge with their teachers and peers.

“One thing that they have been eager to do all year is help their classroom teachers to integrate some technology into their lessons,” Hyder said. “The kids absolutely were juiced when they were doing it. I had to slow them down a little because they were so eager to strut their stuff.”

