

Crooksville Exempted Village School District

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www.crooksville.k12.oh.us



Issue I, October 2020

A Note from the Superintendent

Dear Ceramics,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year has ended. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for everyone's continued support and patience as we navigate through this unprecedented time. I couldn't be more proud of our students and staff for their adaptability and creativity in providing exciting learning experiences. As the second quarter gets underway, we have now established expectations and daily routines. Through my classroom visitations, I have witnessed our teachers and students highly engaged in activities. It is clear that even though we are faced with difficult challenges, we continue to offer a high quality educational experience. Some of these activities and events are highlighted in this newsletter. This includes updates from each of our buildings, an athletic department update, among other school events and announcements.

In preparation for the school year, our maintenance and custodial staff worked extensively to provide health and safety precautions throughout our buildings. Some of their work included replacing all water fountains with water bottle fill stations, constructing protective screens for secretaries, teachers and special services and also reconfiguring our classrooms and cafeterias to provide adequate spacing.

As we prepare for the second quarter, we will make a few adjustments as we move towards transitioning back to our regular schedule. We will continue to utilize Wednesdays in a remote format during weeks that have five instructional days. For weeks that we have a scheduled day off, students will report to our buildings on those Wednesdays. Remote days have proven to be beneficial in providing twenty first century learning, offering professional development sessions and ex-

tending cleaning opportunities. These aforementioned measures have all been a proactive and responsible approach to protecting our students and staff from COVID-19. Please find the school calendar on our district website for a review of scheduled days.

As I begin my fifth year in the district, first as superintendent, I continue to be impressed with the amount of community pride that is displayed. It was unfortunate that we had to cancel our Open House event and that we can only permit a limited number of spectators to our sporting events, however the district still appreciates your encouragement and support. We must all work together to provide the best education possible for our students.

Your partner in education,

Kevin Smith

Staff Spotlight

The following article was intended to be a part of our Spring 2020 Newsletter.

Crooksville Exempted Village School District would like to again congratulate and honor RENEE EPPLEY for her service to our school community.

Renee Eppley
Third Grade Teacher



Crooksville Schools would like to highlight the career of Mrs. Renee Eppley. Mrs. Eppley taught 2nd grade for three years at Saint Nicholas School in Zanesville (now called Bishop Fenwick) before teaching third grade here

at Crooksville for 33 years.

After retirement Renee plans to continue private tutoring which is something she has done during the summer and afterschool for the last 20 years. She would also like to secure work somewhere part-time outside of her home. In addition, she wishes to volunteer within her community and/or parish. She plans to fill any off time with gardening, paper-crafting, reading, and working out. Renee and her husband Dave of 32 years plan to visit their sons, Drew and Grant, more frequently.

In reflecting on what it means to actually retire, Mrs. Eppley shared the following story:

"The two countries that have the most centenarians do not have a word in their language for retirement. In Okinawa the term is ikigai which means "My purpose for waking up" and the term in Costa Rica is plan devida which means "life plan" So I prefer to think I am not retiring - I am going to come up with a life plan for getting up each day."

When asked about what it means to her to have been a Ceramic for 33 years, she had the following to say, "My favorite part of being a Ceramic has been watching our community's journey over the years. I have seen hundreds of students grow into adults with careers and families that make me so proud to have been a part of their formation. The Ceramics I am most proud of have been the ones who show up for what they care most deeply about and have taken risks, knowing that it might mean trying again and learning from their mistakes. The Kodak Moments, as well as, the jagged edges have brought opportunities for mending and accomplishment. To me, that is what being a Ceramic is about." My favorite part of teaching our Ceramics is the enthusiasm our youth have for trying something new. If I could put all the "Ah-ha Moments" my students have had together in one package it would be an enormous, gorgeous fireworks show!"

Thank you, Mrs. Eppley, for your commitment to our students! You will be missed!

Crooksville High School Principal, Scott Searing

Ceramic Family,

The past six months have been a trying time for us as well as the nation. Our students have endured some difficult times; lost their Spring athletics, Prom, full graduation ceremony, were and have been unable to enjoy the full participation of a senior year, been forced to follow COVID policies in and out of the building, and much more. Through this all our students have shown tremendous resolve and been able to continue through with success. They have seen the few positives and latched onto them. They have learned to socialize, navigate ever changing technical difficulties, expand their abilities to learn remotely, and in general have kept a positive attitude. These young women and men have shown the Ceramic Toughness that Crooksville has always been known for.

Safety

Safety is a top priority for the students here at Crooksville High School. We have always strived to assure that students are in a safe environment to learn and flourish. The COVID Pandemic has added new precautions we must take to ensure our student's and staff's safety. Our safety protocols for the building are designed to keep students as safe as possible. Some of these protocols include; social distancing of no less than 3ft in classes & 6ft during lunches, masks worn at all times by staff & students, regular cleaning by our custodial staff and maintenance, separation in halls by using travel lanes, and limiting the amount of students allowed in areas. If you have been in the building for athletic events you have seen the signs and reminders throughout the building.



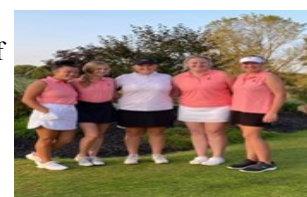
Athletic News

Ohio Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health have placed strict mandates on us as a district to maintain. Indoor and Outdoor Activities are limited to 15% capacity of seating areas, a mandatory mask policy, and limiting spectators to family. They have also been sending out Compliance Officers to assure we are meeting these standards. Our parents and athletes have done well regarding these policies and we have not had any major violations. It is a major learning curve for our student-athletes and band members however; they have done an admirable job of meeting these expectations.

Boy's Golf recently captured the MVL and Sectional Titles. They are led by three returning seniors; Blake White, Owen Carney, and Tanner Collins. They also have a new senior addition in Caden Sparks, Sophomores Vaughn Childress and Cooper Watts.



Girl's Golf recently captured the MVL and Sectional Titles and are looking to expand on their success from last year. They return their entire team from last year's District Finalist. The team consists of Seniors Allison Baughman, Kali Coffey, Emily Zartman, and Laken Taylor and Sophomore Riley McKenzie.



Cross Country is rounding out their season and looking to build on last year's success. Lone Senior Lee Osborne leads the way.



Volleyball has had a difficult run in a stacked MVL but never the less they continue to fight hard and strive for improvement. Playoffs begin for them at the end of October.



Football finished off the season with a record of 2-4. The Homecoming game was played on 9/18 and the Ceramics cruised by West Muskingum with ease.



Misc. News

Gear Up has set up multiple college visits for our students through virtual appointment. Please keep an eye on the Social Media Apps for the information.

K-8 Middle School Assistant Principal, Scott Houk

We are off to another fantastic year at Crooksville Middle School. Our students have been resilient following social distancing guidelines set by the state and local health departments. The teachers have worked very hard getting remote Wednesday's available to all of our students. They have done a great job preparing themselves and our students for virtual learning. We are offering remote learning to students that need to stay home during these pressing times. Our remote staff consists of: Adam Pontious, Kyle Lane, Amy Chamberlin, and Kristen Filkins. They have done an amazing job connecting with students and providing our students an education at home. The secretaries have been graciously working non-stop to reach out to students and parents and making sure this school year is a success. Thank you to all our custodians for taking the time to put down stickers in our hallways and lunchroom to make the transition easier for our students to follow and practice social distancing. The cafeteria workers have worked hard preparing meals during our remote learning Wednesday's.

**Thank
You**

In athletics, the football players and cheerleaders have been working hard each week and are showing signs of improvement. They had impressive wins over Morgan and River View. The volleyball teams are also coming together as the season is coming to a close. The 7th grade have won a match against Maysville while the 8th grade have won matches against: New Lex, Philo, Maysville, and John Glenn. All teams look forward to ending their seasons on a winning note.

Crooksville Middle School has a new addition to their teaching staff this year. We would like to welcome Nathan Van Meter as a sixth grade Intervention Specialist. Mr. Van Meter comes to us via Southern Local School District where he was an Assistant Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher. Nathan has been a baseball coach for our high school over the past few years. Nathan graduated from Crooksville High School in 2006 where he excelled as a student-athlete and was later inducted into the Crooksville High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. He attended college at Muskingum University and earned his degree in Education. Mr. Van Meter lives in our district and has 4 children with his wife Nikkia.

K-8 Elementary School Principal, John Toeller

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students and parents to the new school year. It certainly has been an interesting time for everyone adapting to all of the changes that have taken place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We, as a staff, are very proud of our student's efforts to wear face masks, social distance, etc. I would especially like to thank our parents for your patience as we have and will continue to work through issues that arise. These are trying times and we must continue to work together to provide our children with the best education possible. If you have questions or issues please call and we will do our best to help you.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we are unable to have assemblies or visitors in our building. With Halloween approaching we will be following recommendations from the Governor and our health department as we plan Halloween activities. We hope to wear costumes and pass out treats as outlined in these orders. As we get closer to Halloween we will send home more specifics about our plans.

As the weather changes it becomes more important for students to dress appropriately for the weather. Our students go out during the day for mask breaks and recesses. Please dress appropriately for the weather as we cannot do mask breaks inside.

Parent/Teacher conferences will need to be done virtually or by phone. We will be sending out information soon regarding this process.



iLearn News Joy Wolfel, iLearn Program Coordinator

The iLearn Program has started off with another great year. Our program began on Monday, September 28th. We are continuing to provide academic support, Problem Based Learning, Social-Emotional activities, family activities, and a variety of clubs. We are pleased to welcome back our Driver's Education and the ESport programs for high school students. ESports is rapidly growing across the state of Ohio and we are delighted to offer this sport to our students. We have a few changes this year that we would like to share with our families. This year all of our programs will end at 5:30 p.m. Students will be dismissed for bussing at this time. Our parent pick-up procedures have changed as well. The circle in front of the building will be for the district buses only. If your child is parent pick-up then you will pick up your child behind the K8 or high school building. The K8 families will call 740-469-1234 to notify the iLearn staff member of your arrival at the building. We will meet you outside with your child for dismissal. Please take a moment to view our video on Facebook and Twitter for this procedure. Elementary A.M. iLearn will continue to be in session from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in enrolling your child please download an enrollment sheet from the Crooksville EVSD website or contact Joy Wolfel at 740-982-7010 ext. 2326. We look forward to a great school year!



District newsletter is a publication of
the Crooksville Schools

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CHS Seniors—orders for caps and gowns need to be placed with Herff Jones no later than December 1, 2020. Packets for ordering are available from Mrs. Desguin. Orders may be placed online at Herff Jones website: herffjones.com



Mark Your Calendar

October 16	End of First Grading Period	
October 21	Students Attend	
October 23	No School	
October 27	Two Hour Early Out	
October 28	Remote Learning Day	
November 3	No School	
November 4	Students Attend	
November 11	Remote Learning Day	
November 18	Remote Learning Day	
November 25	Thanksgiving Break	
November 26	Thanksgiving Day	
November 27	PT Comp Day	
November 30	Thanksgiving Break	
December 2	Students Attend	
December 9	Remote Learning Day	
December 16	Remote Learning Day	
December 18	End of Second Grading Period/First Semester	
December 21-January 1	No School Christmas Break	
January 4	Return to School	

