

# Crooksville Exempted Village School District

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[www.crooksville.k12.oh.us](http://www.crooksville.k12.oh.us)



Issue II, May 2021

## A Note from the Superintendent

Dear Ceramics,

It is remarkable that we have concluded the 2020 – 2021 school year. In August, with all of our planning and preparation, no one knew just how long our students would be able to remain in school. Having the ability to finish the year as we did would not have been possible without the tremendous support and cooperation we experienced from our families. I cannot thank you enough for your understanding, patience and flexibility as we navigated through this unprecedented year. This spring finally provided a sense of normalcy as we were able to provide students with hands on learning activities, end of the year outside activities and held a traditional prom and graduation ceremony.

As part of our learning recovery plan as the state department of education suggests, we have created summer learning programs for students at our schools. I encourage all students to take advantage of these great opportunities in helping recover any loss of learning due to the pandemic. If you are interested and have not yet signed up, please contact Joy Wolfel at 740-982-7010 Ext. 2326.

Throughout the summer we will continue to make building improvements, perform routine maintenance and prepare for our students to return in August. We will be experiencing a number of staff changes as we return next fall due to retirements, transfers and resignations.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy your summer with friends and family. We all deserve the time to wind down and relax after this past year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the administrative office throughout the summer at 740-982-7040.

Your partner in education,

Kevin Smith

## Staff Spotlight John Toeller

As I sit down to write a few words about John Toeller, it is fitting that it is early morning when the sun is just beginning to rise. I am calm just getting my day started and as I reflect, it seems appropriate that all is calm, collected and seemingly the way the world should be when we first rise for the day.

For as long as I can remember, for well over twenty years for me and over 40 years in the Crooksville Schools, John Toeller has brought the calm, the collected and the way it should be at Crooksville Schools. Every day John calmly leads our sometimes chaotic school world with his quiet, unassuming manner. Mr. Toeller leads all of us by gently nudging us to better ideals or shows us how to live by his own example.

John Toeller's favorite part of everyday is KIDS. Many, many days he has spent with kids in our cafeteria opening ketchup packets as he would help numerous kids with their lunches, but let's be honest; it was never about ketchup packets for Mr. Toeller. It was about his beloved KIDS. While he was trolling the cafeteria, John was getting to know his KIDS, sharing in their celebrations as they told him about getting a base hit or completing a project for school or learning their new sight words or writing their name for the first time. It was about relationships with his KIDS. Many times when he would hand his KIDS back their ketchup packet, you would see him give the child a pat on the back or a touch on the shoulder or a "Have a good day, buddy." in his calm manner that sent the message to his KIDS that said, "I care about you." He formed lasting bonds with his KIDS and one could recognize those bonds when KIDS would rush to him in groups for a hug or a little one sometimes wrapped around his leg. He would always reach down and give them a squeeze, encouraging them to "Have a good day." When those of us witnessed this show of love that often happened, we realized at that

moment the world was just calm, collected and the way it should be.

John helped keep all of us, even the adults in the building, calm and collected. He led us through state mandates, helped us research important educational topics and led much of our region with his knowledge of teacher evaluation. Many times when we would be making presentations at conferences or meetings, John would remain very calm and collected, sharing his professional knowledge and telling his story of his KIDS and his staff. He always shared with a sense of pride about his building and district. His humble nature about his leadership is what makes him an outstanding patriarch in our school district. John has walked the walk in our Crooksville Exempted Village School District for 40 years; what a blessing for each and every one of us. He has provided a safe, high quality environment for our kids, our staff and our community. He has offered and given his heart and soul to our district for teaching, coaching and leading as a service to our educational profession. We are all better people because he made us better. John Toeller brought the calm, the collected, and the way it should be in the world and in our school.

Am I nervous and scared about beginning next school year without him? Of course I am, but this I know; as I am writing, the sun is beginning to come up and I know that Mr. Toeller would want us to remember that each day is a gift just like he was to us and that as we prepare for our day and view that rising sun that somewhere he will be watching that same sunrise and thinking of us, his KIDS, his staff, his district and he will smile. Whether he is on the golf course, at the beach picking up shark's teeth or at an early morning tail gate for his Buckeyes he will know that he has carried us, kept us calm, kept us collected and we are forever thankful for his service.

We love you Mr. Toeller, go watch some sun rises with Jackie, your kids and grandkids and know you have completed an AMAZING career. Our love and gratitude are endless.

## Crooksville High School -Principal, Scott Searing

Ceramic Family,

Thank you to the class of 2021 for four great years. We are honored to have had a full graduation ceremony on the baseball field on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are proud that this class graduated many students that will attend 4 year colleges, 2 year colleges, trade schools, joining a military branch, and signing union contracts. This class was truly a special group of young adults.

Sports had a highly successful Spring Season. Our girls track team had two MVL Champions and numerous track athletes from the girls' and boys' team are still competing in District Finals at the time of this newsletter. Our softball team won the MVL small school division for the first time with an undefeated small school record and a winning record versus the large school division. Our baseball team won their first round game as they hosted Zane Trace.



A special message to all of our students & staff:

I am proud to have been your Principal during this Pandemic. As a whole, you were an amazing group of students that showed resilience through this troubling time. I cannot express enough gratitude to all of you for making this difficult time a rewarding one for all of us. Without your efforts, this school year would not have been as successful as it was.

**Thank  
You**



## **K-8 Middle School Assistant Principal, Scott Houk**

We have had a great year and our staff and students have been resilient throughout the process. Thank you parents for everything you have done with getting the students back to an in-person learning setting. All testing has been completed and students have been taking advantage of the weather during the month of May. Many teachers have been providing lessons outdoors so our students can get some fresh air. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Deerasic this month learning about the different kinds of wildlife and plants that our region is known for. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade team went to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio this month to attend Math and Science Day. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade had a field day consisting of many running events and a kickball tournament. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade recently booked a trip to Hocking Hills and visited Camp Oty'Okwa. The students were able to explore caves and learn about the Hocking Hills region. Thank you, to all staff and volunteers that made these opportunities available to our students.

The Ceramics track teams have completed their seasons and Coach LaBatte and Coach McIntyre were very excited about their performances. There were many athletes that earned All-MVL status at a recently completed league meet at Sheridan High School. The Ceramics had two champions from this meet Ashton Childress and Paige Frame that both won the discus. These two student-athletes also qualified for the state meet which is a rare feat in itself. Congrats to the coaches and all athletes on a successful track season. It looks like a bright future for Crooksville Track and Field in the years to come. Thank you to our students, staff, and community for all of their roles in making this a successful school year. Everyone's hard work and dedication is appreciated.

## **K-8 Elementary School Principal, John Toeller**

As the school year closes, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank students and families for making this a special year. With all the changes we had to make due to the pandemic, there were many unknowns such as how would remote learning work, students and staff being required to wear masks and social distancing just to name a few. Your children were amazing at adjusting to each and every change thrown at them. This is a credit to the entire community. While it's been difficult, it's been rewarding for our school to watch your children grow in spite of all that has been thrown at them. Thanks for all your help.

At the end of this school year I am retiring from Crooksville Schools. It has been an amazing journey for me personally to spend my career with this school district. During my forty years here I have worked with amazing people in a wonderful community. First and foremost I want to send a shout out to all my students past and present. I will miss each and every one of you. Thank you to all I have come in contact with during this time. I will always be close by and help any way I can.

**Go Ceramics!**

## **iLearn News iLearn Program Coordinator, Joy Wolfel**

We would like to thank all of our students who attended iLearn this school year. While things were a little different this school year we continued with our programs and provided services to all the students. Students had the opportunity to participate in problem based learning, social-emotional learning, clubs, and academic assistance. We appreciate all of our families for participating in our family events and helping to make them so successful. We ended our year with a family field trip to Twin City Opera House to view a movie. The elementary students joined virtually with the Perry County District Library to hear a librarian read a book and then complete a fun art activity. Our middle school students learned some basic skills for sewing and participated in several project based learning activities. The high school program continued with driver's education and 17 students earned their license through our partnership with Realistic Driving School. The bowling club is new to the high school program this school year. Several students participated in this club, had lessons from a bowling pro, and participated in scrimmages. Our ongoing partnership with the Children's Hunger Alliance provided meals for all of our students throughout the school year. iLearn has been busy preparing for six summer programs: Elementary Summer Splash, Middle School Summer Splash, High School Summer School, Outdoor Rec., Wrestling Camp, and Theater Camp. I hope that everyone has a safe summer and I look forward to seeing all the students return to iLearn in the fall!



District newsletter is a publication of  
the Crooksville Schools

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## Congratulations Class of 2021

